



THE ROYAL BALLET

Director KEVIN O'HARE CBE
Founder DAME NINETTE DE VALOIS OM CH DBE
Founder Choreographer SIR FREDERICK ASHTON OM CH CBE
Founder Music Director CONSTANT LAMBERT
Prima Ballerina Assoluta DAME MARGOT FONTEYN DB

The Nutcracker

Ballet in Two Acts

Choreography PETER WRIGHT after LEV IVANOV
Music PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY
Original Scenario MARIUS PETIPA after E.T.A. HOFFMANN'S *Nussknacker und Mausekönig*
Production and scenario PETER WRIGHT
Designer JULIA TREVELYAN OMAN
Lighting Designer MARK HENDERSON
Production Consultant ROLAND JOHN WILEY
Staging CHRISTOPHER CARR, SAMANTHA RAINE
Arabian Dance adapted by GARY AVIS
Senior Répétiteur SAMIRA SAIDI
Répétiteurs SIAN MURPHY, ZHAN ATYMTAYEV
Principal Coaching ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, DARCEY BUSSELL, STUART CASSIDY, OLGA EVREINOFF, ISABEL MCMEKAN, CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS, EDWARD WATSON, ZENAIDA YANOWSKY
Benesh Choreologist DANIEL KRAUS

Conductor KOEN KESSELS

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House
Principal Guest Concert Master by arrangement with Trittico VASKO VASSILEV

Exceptional philanthropic support from Royal Ballet and Opera Principal JULIA RAUSING TRUST
Generous philanthropic support from KENNETH AND SUSAN GREEN, SANDRA AND ANTHONY GUTMAN, ALAN AND CAROLINE HOWARD and HUO FAMILY FOUNDATION
In memory of GEORGE SIMON
The 2025/26 Royal Ballet Season is generously supported by AUD JEBSEN
Production supported by

Van Cleef & Arpels

The role of The Sugar Plum Fairy is generously supported by MIMI AND ALISTAIR MACRAE-YAN and ALEXANDRA AND SAM MORGAN

Saturday 22 November 2025 at 12.30PM
General Rehearsal

Approximate Timings

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes, including one interval.

ACT I 50 minutes
INTERVAL 30 minutes
ACT II 50 minutes

Cast

The Sugar Plum Fairy MARIANELA NUÑEZ
The Prince VADIM MUNTAGIROV
Herr Drosselmeyer THOMAS WHITEHEAD
Clara BOMIN KIM
Hans-Peter/The Nutcracker TAISUKE NAKAO

Act I

Drosselmeyer's assistant EMILE GOODING
Dr Stahlbaum BENNET GARTSIDE
Mrs Stahlbaum CHRISTINA ARESTIS
Fritz TOBIAS MCGOWAN
Clara's partner CASPAR LENCH
Grandmother MADDISON PRITCHARD
Grandfather DENILSON ALMEIDA
Housekeeper BARBARA RHODES
Aunts CAROLINE JENNINGS, CLARE LUMLEY
Dancing mistress ANNETTE BUVOLI
Captain TÉO DUBREUIL
Harlequin GIACOMO ROVERO
Columbine CHARLOTTE TONKINSON
Soldier FRANCISCO SERRANO
Vivandière AMELIA TOWNSEND
Mouse King AIDEN O'BRIEN
Snowflakes ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET
Singers THE SCHOLA CANTORUM OF THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL, LONDON ORATORY JUNIOR CHOIR
Chorus Director CHARLES COLE

Act II

Spanish dance MICA BRADBURY, VALENTINO ZUCCHETTI, OLIVIA FINDLAY, AIDEN O'BRIEN, GINEVRA ZAMBON, BLAKE SMITH
Arabian dance HANNAH GRENNELL, FRANCISCO SERRANO
Chinese dance HARRISON LEE, CASPAR LENCH
Russian dance DENILSON ALMEIDA, MARTIN DIAZ
Dance of the Mirlitons ELLA NEWTON SEVERGNINI, VIOLA PANTUSO, MARIANNA TSEMBENHOI, YU HANG

Waltz of the Flowers

Rose Fairy MEAGHAN GRACE HINKIS
Rose Fairy Escorts BRAYDEN GALLUCCI, JOSHUA JUNKER, JAMES LARGE, MARCO MASCIARI
Leading Flowers HANNA PARK, JULIA ROSCOE, SUMINA SASAKI, AMELIA TOWNSEND
Flowers ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

Actors ACTORS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

Students of The Royal Ballet School appear by kind permission of the Artistic Director, IAIN MACKAY

Synopsis

Drosselmeyer, a timeless magician and creator of mechanical toys and clocks, was once employed in a royal palace where he invented a trap that killed off half the mouse population. In revenge the wicked Queen of the Mice cast a spell over Drosselmeyer's nephew, Hans-Peter, which transformed him into an ugly Nutcracker Doll. The only way to break the spell was for the Nutcracker to defeat the Mouse King, thereby committing an act of great bravery, and for a young girl to love and care for him in spite of his awful appearance.

When Drosselmeyer is invited to entertain the guests at a Christmas party that his friends, the Stahlbaums, are giving, he decides that this could well be the opportunity he has been looking for.

Their daughter, Clara, is a little younger than Hans-Peter imprisoned in the Nutcracker, and what better time than Christmas, when the mice are busy stealing the leftovers, for a confrontation between the Mouse King and the Nutcracker? He decides to put the Nutcracker in the tender care of Clara and makes a special Christmas Angel to guide her through her task.

When all the guests have departed and the house is asleep, Clara, in search of the Nutcracker, creeps downstairs and discovers Drosselmeyer waiting for her. He draws her into his own special world of fantasy where time is suspended, and exerts all his powers to transform the living room into a great battlefield and summons the Mouse King. In the ensuing fight between the mice and the toy soldiers the Nutcracker defeats the Mouse King, but only through the intervention of Clara, who, out of compassion, saves the Nutcracker's life. Transformed into his real self, he dances with Clara and they find themselves in the Land of Snow. Drosselmeyer then sends them on a magic journey to the Sugar Garden in the Kingdom of Sweets where they meet the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince.

Freed at last from his imprisonment inside the Nutcracker, Hans-Peter recounts to the Sugar Plum Fairy his great adventure and how Clara saved his life. They then join in a magnificent entertainment put on by Drosselmeyer to honour them for their bravery.

Returning to reality, Clara runs out into the street in search of Drosselmeyer and encounters a strangely familiar young man, while back in his workshop Drosselmeyer prays that his efforts will be rewarded. His nephew returns; the spell has indeed been broken.

— Peter Wright

The Royal Ballet

Director KEVIN O'HARE CBE
Music Director KOEN KESSELS
Resident Choreographer SIR WAYNE MCGREGOR CBE
Artistic Associate CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON OBE
Administrative Director HEATHER BAXTER
Rehearsal Director CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS
Clinical Director Ballet Healthcare SHANE KELLY

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