



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

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** DBE

# THE NUTCRACKER

BALLET IN TWO ACTS

Choreography **PETER WRIGHT** after **LEV IVANOV**

Choreography Act I Battle Scene **WILL TUCKETT**

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,  
GARY AVIS, SAMANTHA RAINE**

Arabian Dance adapted by **GARY AVIS**

Repetiteurs **DEIDRE CHAPMAN, SIAN MURPHY**

Principal Coaching **LESLEY COLLIER**

Benesh Choreologists **MAYUMI HOTTA, GREGORY MISLIN,  
ANNA TREVIEN**

Conductor **KOEN KESSELS**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Concert Master **SERGEY LEVITIN**

Directed for the screen by **PETER JONES**

Production supported by

**Van Cleef & Arpels**

Generous philanthropic support from

**JULIA AND HANS RAUSING, SIR LLOYD AND LADY  
DORFMAN, KENNETH AND SUSAN GREEN, LINDSAY AND  
SARAH TOMLINSON, MELINDA AND DONALD QUINTIN  
and THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND**

The 2021/22 Royal Ballet Season generously supported by  
**AUD JEBSEN**

Broadcast live from the Royal Opera House  
**THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2021**

## APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

ACT I 55 minutes

ACT II 55 minutes

## CAST

Herr Drosselmeyer **CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS**

Clara **ISABELLA GASPARINI**

Hans-Peter/The Nutcracker **LUCA ACRI**

The Sugar Plum Fairy **YASMINE NAGHDI**

The Prince **CESAR CORRALES**

### ACT I

Drosselmeyer's assistant **DAVID YUDES**

Dr Stahlbaum **GARY AVIS**

Mrs Stahlbaum **CHRISTINA ARESTIS**

Fritz **SASHA DOBRYNIN-LAIT**

Clara's partner **STANISŁAW WĘGRZYN**

Grandmother **HANNAH GRENNELL**

Grandfather **PHILIP MOSLEY**

Maiden Aunts **CAROLINE JENNINGS, SUE NYE**

Housekeeper **BARBARA RHODES**

Dancing mistress **KRISTEN MCNALLY**

Captain **TOMAS MOCK**

Harlequin **KEVIN EMERTON**

Columbine **CHARLOTTE TONKINSON**

Soldier **BENJAMIN ELLA**

Vivandière **MARIKO SASAKI**

Mouse King **LUKAS B. BRÆNDSRØD**

Snowflakes **ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET**

### ACT II

Spanish dance

**NADIA MULLOVA-BARLEY, AIDEN O'BRIEN,  
CHARLOTTE TONKINSON, GIACOMO ROVERO,  
GINA STORM-JENSEN, KEVIN EMERTON**

Arabian dance **MELISSA HAMILTON, LUKAS B.  
BRÆNDSRØD**

Chinese dance **LEO DIXON, CALVIN RICHARDSON**

Russian dance **JOONHYUK JUN, HARRISON LEE**

Dance of the Mirlitons

**MICA BRADBURY, KATHARINA NIKELSKI,  
ROMANY PAJDAK, AMELIA TOWNSEND**

Rose Fairy **YUHUI CHOE**

Her escorts

**JOSEPH AUMEER, DAVID DONNELLY,  
FRANCISCO SERRANO, JOSEPH SISSENS**

Leading Flowers

**OLIVIA COWLEY, LETICIA DIAS, HANNAH GRENNELL,  
ISABEL LUBACH**

Flowers **ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET**

Angels and Children

**STUDENTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL**

Students of The Royal Ballet School appear by kind  
permission of the artistic director **CHRISTOPHER POWNEY**



Supported using public funding by

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ENGLAND**

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## 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

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## THE ROYAL BALLET

Director **KEVIN O'HARE** CBE

Music Director **KOEN KESSELS**

Resident Choreographer **WAYNE MCGREGOR** CBE

Artistic Associate **CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON** OBE

Administrative Director **HEATHER BAXTER**

Rehearsal Director **CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS**

Clinical Director Ballet Healthcare **SHANE KELLY**