



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
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
Répétiteurs SIAN MURPHY, SAMIRA SAIDI
Principal Coaching DARCEY BUSSELL,
ANTHONY DOWELL, EDWARD WATSON
Benesh Choreologist DANIEL KRAUS

Conductor ANDREW LITTON

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Concert Master MAGNUS JOHNSTON

Directed for the screen by PETER JONES
Production supported by

Van Cleef & Arpels

Exceptional philanthropic support from
Royal Opera House Principals JULIA AND HANS RAUSING

Generous philanthropic support from
YLEANA ARCE FOUNDATION, KENNETH AND SUSAN
GREEN, SANDRA AND ANTHONY GUTMAN and LINDSAY
AND SARAH TOMLINSON

The 2023/24 Royal Ballet Season Generously supported by
AUD JEBSEN

Broadcast live from the Royal Opera House on
TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.15 PM

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

PRE-SHOW 15 minutes
ACT I 55 minutes
INTERVAL 30 minutes
ACT II 55 minutes
CURTAIN CALL 10 minutes

CAST

The Sugar Plum Fairy ANNA ROSE O'SULLIVAN
The Prince MARCELINO SAMBÉ
Herr Drosselmeyer THOMAS WHITEHEAD
Clara SOPHIE ALLNATT
Hans-Peter/The Nutcracker LEO DIXON

ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET
Singers LONDON ORATORY JUNIOR CHOIR, THE SCHOLA
CANTORUM OF THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL
Director CHARLES COLE

Students of The Royal Ballet School appear by kind
permission of the Artistic Director CHRISTOPHER POWNEY

All casts subject to change. For full up-to-date casting,
find the full cast sheet online.

Tweet your thoughts about tonight's performance
before it starts, during the intervals or afterwards
with #ROHNUTCRACKER

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 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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