



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 **ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, DARCEY  
BUSSELL, OLGA EVREINOFF, ISABEL MCMEEKAN,  
CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS, EDWARD WATSON**

Benesh Choreologist **DANIEL KRAUS**

Conductor **ANDREW LITTON**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Concert Master **MAGNUS JOHNSTON**

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**

Production supported by

Van Cleef & Arpels

GENERAL REHEARSAL

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2023 AT 11.30AM

## APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

The performance lasts about 2 hours 10 minutes, including one interval.

**ACT I** 50 minutes

**INTERVAL** 30 minutes

**ACT II** 50 minutes

## CAST

The Sugar Plum Fairy **FRANCESCA HAYWARD**

The Prince **ALEXANDER CAMPBELL**

Herr Drosselmeyer **GARY AVIS**

Clara **MARIANNA TSEMBENHOI**

Hans-Peter/The Nutcracker **GIACOMO ROVERO**

### ACT I

Drosselmeyer's assistant **MARCO MASCIARI**

Dr Stahlbaum **THOMAS WHITEHEAD**

Mrs Stahlbaum **LARA TURK**

Fritz **ADRIAN VOINESCU**

Clara's partner **STANISLAW WĘGRZYN**

Grandmother **ISABEL LUBACH**

Grandfather **HARRY CHURCHES**

Housekeeper **BARBARA RHODES**

Maiden aunts **SUE NYE, CAROLINE JENNINGS**

Dancing mistress **ANNETTE BUVOLI**

Captain **KEVIN EMERTON**

Harlequin **JOSHUA JUNKER**

Columbine **SOPHIE ALLNATT**

Soldier **HARRISON LEE**

Vivandière **LETICIA DIAS**

Mouse King **AIDEN O'BRIEN**

Snowflakes **ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET**

Singers **LONDON ORATORY JUNIOR CHOIR, THE SCHOLA  
CANTORUM OF THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL**

Director **CHARLES COLE**

### ACT II

Spanish dance

**NADIA MULLOVA-BARLEY, DAVID DONNELLY**

**HANNA PARK, STANISLAW WĘGRZYN**

**ISABEL LUBACH, JOSHUA JUNKER**

Arabian dance **HANNAH GRENNELL, HARRY CHURCHES**

Chinese dance **MARTIN DIAZ, HARRISON LEE**

Russian dance **DIACHI IKARASHI, MARCO MASCIARI**

Dance of the Mirlitons

**SOPHIE ALLNATT, MADISON BAILEY**

**VIOLA PANTUSO, GINEVRA ZAMBON**

Waltz of the Flowers

Rose Fairy **MELISSA HAMILTON**

Her escorts

**DENILSON ALMEIDA, LEO DIXON, JAMES LARGE,**

**FRANCISCO SERRANO**

Leading Flowers

**MICA BRADBURY, CHISATO KATSURA,**

**MADDISON PRITCHARD, YU HANG**

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**

---

## 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**

---

## GUIDELINES

Photography and filming are prohibited during performances in any of our auditoriums. You are welcome to take pictures throughout the rest of the building and before performances and share them with us through social media. Commercial photography and filming must be agreed in advance with our press team.

Larger bags and backpacks need to be checked into our complimentary cloakrooms. Unattended bags may be removed. Please do not place any personal belongings on the ledges in front of you.

Only bottled water and ice cream purchased from the premises can be taken into the auditorium. If you arrive late to the auditorium or leave during a performance, you will not be allowed back to your seat until the interval or a suitable break.

Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on the premises.

The safety of our visitors, staff and artists is still our priority. To help us provide a comfortable experience for everyone, please be mindful of others and their personal space.

Our staff are committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect and we ask that you show them and your fellow audience members respect too. We adopt a zero-tolerance approach in response to anyone who interacts with our staff or with fellow audience members in an intimidating, aggressive or threatening manner.

---

## SUPPORTING THE RECOVERY OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

We are so glad to welcome our artists back to our theatres to perform for you the opera and ballet you love. During the pandemic we lost £3 in every £5 of our income and we continue to feel the impact as we recover. Sustaining the future of ballet and opera has never been so important. Please consider making a donation to the Royal Opera House community today and help support the future of ballet and opera.

[roh.org.uk/donate](https://roh.org.uk/donate)