



**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

RECORDED 2016

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

Ballet Mistress

SAMANTHA RAINE

Ballet Master

JONATHAN HOWELLS

Assistant Ballet Mistress

SIAN MURPHY

Principal coaching

**ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, DARCEY
BUSSELL, CHRISTOPHER CARR, RICARDO
CERVERA, LESLEY COLLIER, JONATHAN
COPE, VIVIANA DURANTE, JONATHAN
HOWELLS** and **CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS**

Benesh notators

MAYUMI HOTTA and **LORRAINE GREGORY**

Conductor **BORIS GRUZIN**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Concert Master **PETER MANNING**

Directed for the screen by

ROSS MACGIBBON

RECORDED LIVE AT THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2016



APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

ACT I

55 minutes

ACT II

55 minutes

CAST

Herr Drosselmeyer

GARY AVIS

Clara

FRANCESCA HAYWARD

Hans-Peter/The Nutcracker

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL

The Sugar Plum Fairy

LAUREN CUTHBERTSON

The Prince

FEDERICO BONELLI

ACT I

Drosselmeyer's assistant

LUCA ACRI

Dr Stahlbaum

CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS

Mrs Stahlbaum

ELIZABETH MCGORIAN

Fritz

CASPAR LENCH

Clara's partner

TRISTAN DYER

Grandmother

KRISTEN MCNALLY

Grandfather

ALASTAIR MARRIOTT

Dancing Mistress

CHRISTINA ARESTIS

Captain

JOHANNES STEPANEK

Harlequin

FERNANDO MONTAÑO

Columbine

LETICIA STOCK

Soldier

MARCELINO SAMBÉ

Vivandière

MAYARA MAGRI

St Nicholas

LUKAS BJØRNEBOE BRÆNDSRØD

Mouse King

NICOL EDMONDS

Snowflakes

ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

Singers

LONDON ORATORY JUNIOR CHOIR

DIRECTOR, CHARLES COLE

ACT II

Spanish dance

**CHRISTINA ARESTIS, JOHANNES STEPANEK,
TARA-BRIGITTE BHAVNANI, ERIC UNDERWOOD,
TIERNEY HEAP, FERNANDO MONTAÑO**

Arabian dance

**ITZIAR MENDIZABAL, RYOICHI HIRANO,
REECE CLARKE, NICOL EDMONDS**

Chinese dance

LUCA ACRI, MARCELINO SAMBÉ

Russian dance

TRISTAN DYER, PAUL KAY

Dance of the Mirlitons

**MEAGHAN GRACE HINKIS, MAYARA MAGRI,
EMMA MAGUIRE, LETICIA STOCK**

Rose Fairy

YUHUI CHOE

Her escorts

**MATTHEW BALL, JAMES HAY,
TOMAS MOCK, VALENTINO ZUCCHETTI**

Leading flowers

**CLAIRE CALVERT, HELEN CRAWFORD,
HIKARU KOBAYASHI, BEATRIZ STIX-BRUNELL**

ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

STUDENTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOLS

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 slay 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 slays 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**

Music Director **KOEN KESSELS**

Resident Choreographer **WAYNE MCGREGOR**

Artistic Associate **CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON**

Administrative Director **HEATHER BAXTER**

Rehearsal Director **CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS**

Clinical Director Ballet Healthcare **SHANE KELLY**

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE RECOVERY CAMPAIGN

Live performance is a shared experience, and our audiences are at the heart of what we do on our stages, backstage, online, in cinemas and in our communities. This year's global pandemic has affected all arts organisations across the world. We have lost £3 in every £5 of our income, and any Government loan will take us only part of the way. We need your help to bring artists back to our stages.

Please consider making a donation to the Royal Opera House Recovery Campaign.

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