

Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm

Act I 50 minutes

Cinema interval

Act II 49 minutes

The live relay will end at approximately 9.50pm

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

2015/16 Live Cinema Season

RHAPSODY/THE TWO PIGEONS TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2016

LA TRAVIATA THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2016

BORIS GODUNOV MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016

GISELLE WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2016

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016

FRANKENSTEIN WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2016

WERTHER MONDAY 27 JUNE 2016

Digital Programme

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ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL BALLET

DIRECTOR KEVIN O'HARE

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

CHOREOGRAPHER 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

PRINCIPAL COACHING ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, CHRISTOPHER CARR,
LESLEY COLLIER, JONATHAN COPE, CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS
BENESH NOTATORS MAYUMI HOTTA, ANNA TREVIEN

CONDUCTOR BORIS GRUZIN

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER PETER MANNING

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY ROSS MACGIBBON

LIVE FROM THE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2015, 7.15PM

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

Cast

HERR DROSSELMEYER **GARY AVIS**
CLARA **FRANCESCA HAYWARD**
(HIS GOD-DAUGHTER)
HANS-PETER/THE NUTCRACKER **ALEXANDER CAMPBELL**
(HIS NEPHEW)

Act I

Scene 1: Drosselmeyer's workshop, early evening

DROSSELMEYER'S ASSISTANT **LUCA ACRI**

Scene 2: A street outside the Stahlbaums' house

Scene 3: The Stahlbaums' living room

DR STAHLBAUM **CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS**
(CLARA'S FATHER)
MRS STAHLBAUM **ELIZABETH MCGORIAN**
(CLARA'S MOTHER)
FRITZ **SACHA BARBER**
(CLARA'S BROTHER)

Scene 4: The Battle

MOUSE KING **NICOL EDMONDS**

Scene 5: The Land of Snow

Act II

Scene 1: The journey to the Kingdom of Sweets

Scene 2: The Sugar Garden of the Palace

ROSE FAIRY **YASMINE NAGHDI**
THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY **LAUREN CUTHBERTSON**
THE PRINCE **MATTHEW GOLDING**