

Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm; ballet begins at 7.30pm

Act I 55 minutes

Interval

Act II 55 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 9.50pm

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

This production is available to buy on DVD and Blu-ray

roh.org.uk/shop

POINTE SHOES APPEAL

Each year The Royal Ballet dances through more than 6,000 pairs of pointe shoes. A gift of £5 to the Pointe Shoes Appeal could buy enough ribbon for five pairs. Donate online.

roh.org.uk/pointe

2017/18 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

RIGOLETTO TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2018

TOSCA WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018

THE WINTER'S TALE WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2018

CARMEN TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2018

BERNSTEIN CENTENARY TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018

MACBETH WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2018

MANON THURSDAY 3 MAY 2018

SWAN LAKE TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018

roh.org.uk/cinema



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

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 MASTER RICARDO CERVERA

BALLET MISTRESS SIAN MURPHY

ASSISTANT BALLET MISTRESS HELEN CRAWFORD

PRINCIPAL COACHING ALEXANDER AGADZHANOV, GARY AVIS, LESLEY COLLIER,

VIVIANA DURANTE, JONATHAN HOWELLS, CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS

BENESH NOTATORS LORRAINE GREGORY, MAYUMI HOTTA, ANNA TREVIEN

CONDUCTOR BARRY WORDSWORTH

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER PETER MANNING

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY ROSS MACGIBBON

LIVE FROM THE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017, 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 DROSSELMAYER	GARY AVIS
CLARA	FRANCESCA HAYWARD
HANS-PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	ALEXANDER CAMPBELL
THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	SARAH LAMB
THE PRINCE	STEVEN MCRAE

ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET

STUDENTS OF THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

Students of The Royal Ballet School appear
by kind permission of the Artistic Director, Christopher Powney

CASTING IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING.
DETAILS OF LIVE PERFORMANCES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
REFER TO YOUR DIGITAL PROGRAMME FOR THE FULL CAST.

FREE DIGITAL PROGRAMME

Royal Opera House Digital Programmes bring together a range of specially selected films, articles, pictures and features to bring you closer to the production. Use promo code FREENUT to claim yours (RRP £2.99).

roh.org.uk/publications