



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

27 November 2020

#OurHouseToYourHouse

The Royal Opera House presents a festive month of design, craft and making for all ages



The Royal Opera House today unveils a suite of five unique, easy-to-achieve online craft activities, calling on enthusiasts of all ages to make their very own Christmas craft masterpieces.

Beginning on 1 December and released in weekly instalments, the craft activities will be led by five professional artists and makers including animators, prop makers and paper artists.

The online resource will include how-to videos, top tips and follow-along opportunities, with children and adults invited to try their hand at bringing the much-loved characters of *The Nutcracker* to life by creating a stop-motion animation film, a fun spinning top toy or their very own *Nutcracker*-inspired snow globe, rustling up delicious 3D gingerbread Christmas trees or making beautiful pop-up Christmas cards.

Jillian Barker, Director of Learning and Participation, said: ‘Following the success of our home learning activities over the summer, we are delighted that Create and Learn returns with these *Nutcracker* -

themed activities. This Christmas – more than other Christmases – we hope to inspire the creativity of children, adults and families across the nation.’

Launching on 1 December, the first activity will invite participants to make their own beautiful pop-up Christmas card. This activity has been designed by Tracey Bush, a British artist who works with paper, and whose portfolio includes a wonderful range of artworks – from paper sculptures and drawings with collage, to artists’ books. To find out more about Tracey’s work, visit her [website](#).

On 8 December, we will invite budding toymakers to make their own spinning top. This activity was created by Reza Ben Gajra, a visual artist living and working in London and who runs art and animation workshops for children, families and adults around the capital, also leading interactive cine-literacy cinema sessions at the BFI. His paintings and silverpoint drawings can be viewed on his [website](#).

In the week before Christmas, from 15 December, why not make your own snow globe? In this activity, devised by the Royal Opera House’s very own Sarah Waterman, you will learn how to create a fun *Nutcracker*-themed Christmas decoration. Sarah is Project Manager of the Royal Opera House’s Design and Make and Design Challenge programmes, as well as ROH Bridge Programme Manager.

For the fourth activity, on 22 December, you are invited to make your own stop-motion animation inspired by *The Nutcracker*. This activity has been devised by Skidaddle Films, a visual arts partnership, consisting of John Harmer and Shelly Wain. John and Shelly are social engagement artists with a specialism in animation. Find out more on their [website](#).

Christmas wouldn’t be complete without some delicious gingerbread. The fifth and final festive activity, rounding off Create and Learn Christmas, invites you to make your very own iced gingerbread decorations to hang on your Christmas tree – though we don’t expect they will be there long before someone eats them! This activity was devised by creator [Zoe Philips](#).



You are invited to share images and videos of your *Nutcracker* spinning tops, snow globes, decorations, cards and animations using #OurHouseToYourHouse. A selection of our favourite submissions will be in with a chance of winning some prizes from the ROH shop, and we will share them for all to admire on the Royal Opera House's social media channels.

You can find more details of the project and how to take part on the [ROH Learning Platform](#).

With generous support from the Mohn Westlake Foundation



Ends

Notes to Editors

Images:

Please click [here](#) for images and video of the first activity 'Make a pop-up Christmas card', and [here](#) for images and video for the rest of the activities in this series.

Links to the 'how to' videos:

Christmas card- https://youtu.be/HqezN_U7emw

- Snow globe - <https://youtu.be/SOhZ6HKNF44>
- Spinning top - <https://youtu.be/FYE5pT1SHLY>
- Stop motion animation - <https://youtu.be/vamPp9g5jY8>
- Gingerbread trees - <https://youtu.be/sRlrPAVMzmY>

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About the Royal Opera House

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House our vision is to give everyone access to exceptional ballet and opera.

Since closing our doors due to the global pandemic in March 2020, the Royal Opera House has continued to bring together the world's most extraordinary artists and curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme of 19 streams, 4 socially distanced live concerts and a suite of online content that has been viewed over 315 million times in 183 countries.

The Royal Opera House continues its #OurHouseToYourHouse programme this autumn, bringing audiences the best of the ROH through a new series of live performances, cinema screenings, Friday Premieres and cultural highlights in partnership with the BBC and Sky Arts.

The Royal Opera House is committed to widening participation and deepening learning for all ages. This summer we launched Create and Learn, offering free online home-learning opportunities for children and young people. In addition, The Royal Ballet partnered with Cast and Doncaster Council to support

Doncaster residents with online resources and remote direction to create a unique community dance film, Doncaster Dances.

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 with our Recovery Campaign to bring artists back to our stages. roh.org.uk/donate