



ROYAL
BALLET

News Announcement

1st December 2020

The Royal Ballet announces casting for The Nutcracker

The Royal Ballet announces casting for the forthcoming run of *The Nutcracker* which opens on **Friday 11th December 2020 and runs until Sunday 3rd January 2021** with 17 magical performances.

This much-loved production returns to the Royal Opera House, in a COVID-safe restaging of **Peter Wright's** celebrated two-act production. Enjoy the much-loved elements of this cherished classic, from the magical growing Christmas tree, to the enchanting Dance of the Snowflakes and spectacular duet with the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince in the Kingdom of Sweets.

New for The Royal Ballet's 2020 production is a battle scene between the Nutcracker, the Mouse King and their armies, choreographed by **Will Tuckett**. Combined with **Tchaikovsky's** sumptuous score, performed live by the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, and charming designs by **Julia Trevelyan Oman**, this classic ballet is not to be missed.

Following strict guidelines, The Royal Ballet has created dancer bubbles enabling us to share with you the magic of *The Nutcracker*. Stars of the Company performing the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Prince include **Marianela Nuñez, Vadim Muntagirov, Laura Morera, Federico Bonelli, Sarah Lamb, Ryoichi Hirano, Akane Takada, Alexander Campbell, Yasmine Naghdi, Matthew Ball, Fumi Kaneko, William Bracewell, Natalia Osipova, Reece Clarke** and **Francesca Hayward**. Exciting debuts will be made by **Anna-Rose O'Sullivan, Marcelino Sambé** and **Cesar Corrales**.

The roles of Clara and Hans-Peter/The Nutcracker will be performed by: **Anna-Rose O'Sullivan, James Hay, Meaghan Grace Hinkis, Valentino Zucchetti, Isabella Gasparini, Luca Acri, Ashley Dean, Benjamin Ella, Sae Maeda** and **David Yudes** with debuts by **Romany Pajdak, Leo Dixon** and **Joseph Sissens**.

The role of Herr Drosselmeyer will be performed by **Gary Avis, Christopher Saunders, Thomas Whitehead** and **Bennet Gartside**.

The Nutcracker casting:

Friday 11th December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Marianela Nuñez
THE PRINCE	Vadim Muntagirov
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Gary Avis
CLARA	Anna Rose O'Sullivan
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	James Hay

Saturday 12th December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Laura Morera
THE PRINCE	Federico Bonelli
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Gary Avis
CLARA	Anna Rose O'Sullivan
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	James Hay

Sunday 13 December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Marianela Nuñez
THE PRINCE	Vadim Muntagirov
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Gary Avis
CLARA	Anna Rose O'Sullivan
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	James Hay

Tuesday 15th December at 7pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Laura Morera
THE PRINCE	Federico Bonelli
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Gary Avis
CLARA	Meaghan Grace Hinkis
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Valentino Zucchetti

Wednesday 16th December at 7pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Sarah Lamb
THE PRINCE	Ryoichi Hirano
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Gary Avis
CLARA	Meaghan Grace Hinkis
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Valentino Zucchetti

Thursday 17th December at 7pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Akane Takada
THE PRINCE	Alexander Campbell
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Christopher Saunders
CLARA	Meaghan Grace Hinkis
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Valentino Zucchetti

Saturday 19th December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Yasmine Naghdi
THE PRINCE	Matthew Ball
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Christopher Saunders
CLARA	Isabella Gasparini
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Luca Acri

Monday 21st December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Sarah Lamb
THE PRINCE	Ryoichi Hirano
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Christopher Saunders
CLARA	Isabella Gasparini
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Luca Acri

Tuesday 22nd December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Yasmine Naghdi
THE PRINCE	Matthew Ball
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Christopher Saunders
CLARA	Isabella Gasparini
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Luca Acri

Wednesday 23rd December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Akane Takada
THE PRINCE	Alexander Campbell
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Thomas Whitehead
CLARA	Ashley Dean
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Benjamin Ella

Thursday 24th December at 12:00pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Anna Rose O'Sullivan*
THE PRINCE	Marcelino Sambé*
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Thomas Whitehead
CLARA	Ashley Dean
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Benjamin Ella

Tuesday 29th December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Fumi Kaneko
THE PRINCE	William Bracewell
HERR DROSSELMEYER	Thomas Whitehead
CLARA	Sae Maeda*
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	David Yudes

Wednesday 30th December at 2pm

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Anna Rose O'Sullivan
THE PRINCE	Marcelino Sambé
HERR DROSSELMAYER	Thomas Whitehead
CLARA	Sae Maeda
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	David Yudes

Thursday 31st December at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Natalia Osipova
THE PRINCE	Reece Clarke
HERR DROSSELMAYER	Bennet Gartside
CLARA	Romany Pajdak*
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Leo Dixon*

Friday 1st January at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Francesca Hayward
THE PRINCE	Cesar Corrales*
HERR DROSSELMAYER	Bennet Gartside
CLARA	Romany Pajdak
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Leo Dixon

Saturday 2nd January at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Natalia Osipova
THE PRINCE	Reece Clarke
HERR DROSSELMAYER	Bennet Gartside
CLARA	Meaghan Grace Hinkis
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Joseph Sissens*

Sunday 3rd January at 2pm

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Francesca Hayward
THE PRINCE	Cesar Corrales
HERR DROSSELMAYER	Bennet Gartside
CLARA	Meaghan Grace Hinkis
HANS PETER/THE NUTCRACKER	Joseph Sissens

*Role Debut

-Ends-

Please note that all ROH performances and participating artists are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The performance will last approximately 2 hours including one interval.

Notes to Editors

THE ROYAL BALLET: THE NUTCRACKER

11, 12, 13, 19, 21, 22, 23, 29, 30, 31 December, 1, 2, 3 January 2pm GMT

15, 16, 17 December 7pm GMT

24 December 12pm GMT

Tickets: £5 - £100

The Royal Opera House, London, WC2E 9DD

Please find images [here](#)

For more images, interviews and further information, please contact

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About The Royal Ballet

Under the directorship of Kevin O'Hare, The Royal Ballet unites tradition and innovation in world-class performances and is a driving force in the development of ballet as an art form. Based at the

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together today's most dynamic and versatile dancers with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers, conductors, directors and creative teams to share awe-inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. The Company's extensive repertory embraces 19th-century classics, the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan and the compelling new canon of work including pieces by Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon.

About the Royal Opera House

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House we aim 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. We hope to welcome back socially distanced audiences in the near future.

The Royal Opera House has a commitment 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