



Visual Guide

# Introduction

This visual guide is designed for any audience members who would benefit from familiarising themselves with what to expect from Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker! before they get to the theatre. It contains images and information about the characters, story and the production in general. We hope this resource makes your visit more enjoyable.

If you have any comments, or would like this resource in larger print, please get in touch at [office@new-adventures.net](mailto:office@new-adventures.net)

# Show Notes

## Themes within the show:

Love, Growing Up, Adventure, Dreams

## Please be aware:

- At the start of the show, the Dross family are not very nice. They sometimes do horrible things but the performers are just pretending to be mean.
- There is a fake gun that is used in the show.
- There are a lot of bright colours in the show, from the costumes to the set.
- The dancers playing the characters in this guide may not be the same dancers on the day you see the show, but the character costumes will be the same.
  
- During the interval you can stay in your seat or leave the auditorium to get a drink or use the toilet.
- There will be loud clapping just before the interval and at the end of the show. People might stand up to clap at the end, and there may be some whistling or shouting.

# Meet the Characters

The story centres around:

- Clara
- Nutcracker
- Mrs Dross **who becomes** Queen Candy
- Dr Dross **who becomes** King Sherbet
- Sugar **who becomes** Princess Sugar
- Fritz **who becomes** Prince Bon Bon

There are lots of other characters in the story too. Here are some of them:

- The Orphans
- The Cupids
- The Gobstoppers
- Knickerbocker Glory
- Allsorts
- The Marshmallows

# The Orphans

The story starts in an orphanage. Here are some of the characters you will see. All the orphans are dressed in dull grey outfits.



# Clara and The Nutcracker

Clara is one of the orphans and we follow her journey in the show. Here she is with her Nutcracker doll.

Clara wears different outfits as the story progresses, starting in the grey outfit and changing into the blue outfit on the right in Sweetieland.



# Mrs Dross and Dr Dross Queen Candy and King Sherbet

The Dross Family runs the orphanage, and they are not very kind to the orphans.

Mrs Dross is married to Dr Dross. In the show, Mrs Dross turns in to Queen Candy and Dr Dross turns in to King Sherbet.



# Sugar and Fritz

## Princess Sugar and Prince Bon Bon

Sugar and Fritz are Dr and Mrs Dross' children.

In the show, Sugar turns in to Princess Sugar, and Fritz turns in to Prince Bon Bon.





# The Cupids

Two of Clara's best friends from the orphanage turn in to Cupids. They guide Clara on her journey.



# The Skaters

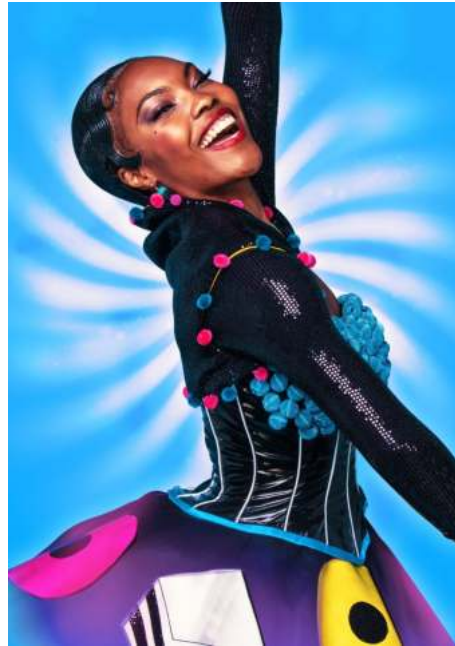
At the Frozen Pond, we meet the skaters. You might notice that some of these characters are played by the same dancers as the orphans.



# In Sweetieland we meet:



**Knickerbocker Glory**



**The Allsorts**



**The Marshmallows**



**The Gobstoppers**

# The Story

If you don't want to know what happens in the show, stop reading now!

The story begins on Christmas Eve in an orphanage which is run by Dr and Mrs Dross. They have two children called Sugar and Fritz. In the orphanage, we meet Clara and her friends.



The orphans are preparing for a visit from the governors. They are ordered to clean and decorate the room with Christmas decorations including a wreath and a small Christmas tree.



The governors arrive and bring a basket of toys. All the children pick out a toy. Clara is last in line and finds a Nutcracker doll, which makes Fritz and Sugar jealous.



As soon as the governors have left, Dr and Mrs Dross take away all the toys and tear down the decorations. They turn the lights off and leave.

Clara sneaks out of bed to find her Nutcracker doll. Sugar does the same, because she wants the doll for herself.

The clock shows that it is now midnight. Sugar goes to the wardrobe at the back of the room and opens the doors to reveal... a life-sized Nutcracker! Clara's toy has turned into a real person!

The Nutcracker walks around the room and scares the children but then they realise that he is trying to help them escape. The Dross family returns, and Fritz shoots his gun to try and stop the children from escaping but it doesn't work.





The children escape and Clara is left alone on stage, looking for the Nutcracker. He returns, now as a human, and they escape together.



Clara and the Nutcracker arrive at the Frozen Pond where she meets the skaters. Sugar is there too, as Princess Sugar, and is skating with the others.



Princess Sugar pretends to hurt her ankle and the Nutcracker comes to her rescue. Together they glide away, leaving Clara alone again.

# Interval

The interval will be **20 minutes**.

You can stay in your seat or leave the auditorium. You might want to buy a drink or snack or use the toilet in the interval.

Clara tries to follow the Nutcracker but gets lost. The Cupids find her, give her a brand-new blue dress and guide her towards Sweetieland.



Meanwhile, Princess Sugar has convinced King Sherbet and Queen Candy that she loves the Nutcracker, and they decide to get married.

Clara arrives at the doors to the palace, but the entrance is blocked by a Humbug doorman who won't let her in without an invitation to the wedding.

Clara tries to sneak into the palace amongst other guests, including the Gobstoppers, Allsorts and Knickerbocker Glory.



Eventually, she manages to sneak inside!

She tries to confront Princess Sugar, who is getting ready for the wedding, but is stopped by Prince Bon Bon.



The wedding ceremony begins, and a huge cake is unveiled, with the guests assembled on the tiers as decorations. Princess Sugar and the Nutcracker enter to get married.



Clara tries to stop the ceremony but doesn't succeed. During the celebrations, Clara falls to the floor and suddenly she is back in the orphanage.

Clara is holding the Nutcracker doll and throws it to the floor and climbs back into bed, confused. But under the covers, the human Nutcracker is back! He leads her to the window, and they escape together for real, finally together.

**THE END**