

SCOTTISH BALLET



Scottish Ballet's *The Nutcracker* 2024/25 synopsis

ACT 1

On Christmas Eve, the Colonel and Lady Stahlbaum host a grand party for their children, Clara and Fritz. The room comes alive as friends and family gather, including the children's godparents and their eccentric aunts. The children's faces light up when the Christmas tree is revealed, and they receive their presents.

The mood is transformed when the mysterious Drosselmeyer arrives, accompanied by three magical entertainers. Drosselmeyer brings a very special gift for the family — a strange nutcracker in the shape of a handsome prince. When Fritz breaks the nutcracker in a playful tussle, Drosselmeyer swiftly repairs it and gives it to Clara, who becomes enchanted by this curious gift.

As the party ends, the lights dim, and the room falls into eerie darkness. Clara falls asleep, clutching her nutcracker and her parents carry her to bed. At midnight, the room fills with giant mice searching for the nutcracker. Clara awakens, snatches back the nutcracker, and watches in awe as Drosselmeyer brings the nutcracker to life in the form of a Prince. The Nutcracker Prince leads toy soldiers in a fierce battle against the evil King Rat and his army of mice. With Clara's brave help, the Prince defeats the King Rat.

As a reward, Drosselmeyer sends Clara and the Prince on a wondrous journey to a shimmering land of snow. They meet the graceful Snow Queen and her Snowflakes, who dance with the Nutcracker Prince, while Clara is surrounded by swirling Snowflakes. The Snow Queen gives Clara a sleigh, and the journey continues as they wave goodbye.

ACT 2

Clara and her Nutcracker Prince arrive in the dazzling Land of Sweets, where the enchanting Sugar Plum Fairy greets them. She orders a magnificent banquet of dances from around the world. The celebration closes with a delightful Waltz and a breathtaking grand pas de deux performed by the Nutcracker Prince and the Sugar Plum Fairy.

As the festivities end, Clara begins to drift off to sleep. The Land of Sweets magically transforms back into her familiar drawing room. Her parents find her asleep on the floor, still holding her beloved nutcracker. The Colonel gently lifts her to bed, but as Drosselmeyer suddenly reappears, we wonder: did it really happen, was it all a dream, or was it another of Drosselmeyer's mysterious tricks?