

THE 2022 NUTCRACKER GARY TAYLOR DANCE

Story Summary

Act 1 opens to a holiday party, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Silberhaus and their children. Daughter **Clara** leads the children in the opening dance, while guests from many lands including Spain, Russia, and the Middle and Far East look on. While the adults are dancing, Clara's godfather, **Drosselmeyer** and his nephew, the **Prince**, arrive, seemingly by magic. The Prince brings a candy cane for Clara and Drosselmeyer brings gifts and entertainment for all, including three life-sized, dancing dolls: **Harlequin**, **Columbina**, and **Brighella**. Drosselmeyer then presents Clara with a very special gift, a Nutcracker. She loves it immediately, but wishes Drosselmeyer could make it grow bigger, like the dancing dolls.

Late in the evening, unable to sleep after all the sweets and excitement, Clara slips downstairs to see her Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, a big, scary looking rat creeps up and tries to steal the Nutcracker from Clara! Drosselmeyer arrives to shoo the rat away, but then strange things begin to happen. Is the room growing, or is Clara shrinking? Soldiers appear to help defend the **Nutcracker** from the rats and their leader, the **Rat King**. The battle begins with a cannon shot*. During the fight, the Nutcracker is stabbed, and all hope seems lost. In desperation, Clara grabs her candy cane from under the tree and hits the Rat King, killing him. But is the Nutcracker dead, too? Once again, Drosselmeyer appears and uses his magic, and the Nutcracker is revived. But it's not the Nutcracker at all, it's Drosselmeyer's nephew, the Prince! Grateful for Clara's rescue from the Rat King, the Prince takes Clara to meet the **Snow Queen and King**. The Snow Queen crowns Clara and sends her with the Prince on a journey to the Land of the Sweets!

Act 2 opens with Clara and the Prince seated at a feast of treats and entertainment in the Land of the Sweets, hosted by the **Sugar Plum Fairy** and her **Cavalier**. **Spanish chocolate**, **Russian licorice**, **ribbon candy**, **marzipan**, **Chinese tea**, **Arabian coffee**, and **petit fours** are served and enjoyed with delight. Clara has never been so happy, but all too soon the fun comes to an end and she falls asleep. Clara wakes up in her living room, with her Nutcracker. And her crown?! Was it just a dream or was it real?

* Sound sensitivity notice

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Character Guide

Clara
Silberhaus



Drosselmeyer



Prince



Harlequin



Columbina



Brighella



Nutcracker
& Rat King



Snow Queen
& King



Sugar Plum Fairy
& Cavalier



Spanish
Chocolate



Russian
Licorice



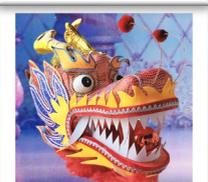
Marzipan



Ribbon
Candy



Chinese
Tea



Arabian
Coffee



Dew Drop
& Petit Fours

