THE NUTCRACKER AND I

ALEXANDRA DARIESCU I ROMANIA

CITY RECITAL HALL

19 JANUARY

55 MINS

Performer and Producer Alexandra Dariescu

Director Nick Hillel

Art Director and Director of Animation Adam Smith

Choreography (Live and Animation) Jenna Lee

Ballerina Désirée Ballantyne

Technical Producer Sander Loonen

Video Design Yeast Culture

ABOUT THE SHOW

A reimagining of Tchaikovsky’s enchanting Christmas tale merging piano, ballet and state of the art digital animation.

REPERTOIRE

Arrangements for The Nutcracker and I, by Alexandra Dariescu

All pieces composed by Tchaikovsky

1. Scene Tchaikovsky

2. Miniature Overture arr. Stepan Esipoff

3. Opening Act One arr. Gavin Sutherland

4. March arr. Mikhail Pletnev

5. The Battle arr. Gavin Sutherland

6. Intermezzo arr. Mikhail Pletnev

7. Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy arr. Mikhail Pletnev

8. Tarantella arr. Mikhail Pletnev

9. Arabian Dance arr. Stepan Esipoff

10. Russian Dance (Trepak) arr. Mikhail Pletnev

11. Chinese Dance arr. Mikhail Pletnev

12. Dance of the Reed Flutes arr. Stepan Esipoff

13. Pas de deux arr. Mikhail Pletnev

14. Flower Waltz arr. Percy Granger

15. Finale Act Two arr. Gavin Sutherland

ALEXANDRA DARIESCU

Pianist Alexandra Dariescu dazzles audiences worldwide with her effortless musicality and captivating stage presence. In addition to numerous international ensembles she has forged relationships with key UK orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, performing in venues such as London’s Royal Albert Hall, Southbank Centre, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and New York’s Carnegie Hall. After the highly acclaimed premiere of Dariescu’s own production The Nutcracker and I at Barbican’s Milton Court in December 2017, Alexandra has taken the Nutcracker on a world tour, performing across Europe at the Wiener Konzerthaus, Laeiszhalle Hamburg, Bozar Brussels, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Konserthuset Göteborg and King’s Place London, amongst others, as well as touring China, Australia and the United Arab Emirates.

Dariescu’s 2018/19 season marks a special focus on works by female composers in important milestones, including her debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and James Gaffigan, performing Nadia Boulanger’s Fantaisie variée at London’s Barbican and a return visit to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Jessica Cottis, performing Germaine Tailleferre’s Ballade for piano and orchestra. Alexandra studied with Sir András Schiff, Imogen Cooper, Nelson Goerner, Alexander Melnikov, Mark Ray, Dina Parakhina and Ronan O’Hora.

A Cultural Ambassador of Romania, Alexandra is patron of Music in Lyddington and an Honorary Associate Artist of the Royal Northern College of Music. In spring 2018, Alexandra received the “Officer of the Romanian Crown” from the Royal Family and was selected as a Young European Leader (YEL40) by Friends of Europe.

DÉSIRÉE BALLANTYNE

Born in Toronto, Canada, Désirée trained at the Royal Ballet School and English National Ballet School. She joined the English National Ballet in 1999 and was promoted to Soloist in 2007. During her time with ENB Désirée danced in all the major classical repertoire, including the roles of the Lilac Fairy in Sleeping Beauty, Myrtha in Giselle and Clara in The Nutcracker, as well as working with choreographer’s including Akram Khan, Russell Maliphant, David Dawson and Itzik Gallili.

Since 2016 Désirée has gone on to dance with companies including the Michael Clark Company (To a simple, rock ‘n’ roll ... song), toured internationally as the principal ballerina with Raymond Gubbay (Strauss Gala Tour) and created the original role of Clara in the groundbreaking multimedia The Nutcracker and I by Alexandra Dariescu.