

It's a cosy Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum's house...

ACT I

Their house is decorated with beautiful Christmas ornaments, wreaths, stockings, mistletoe and in the centre of it all, a majestic Christmas tree. As they prepare for their annual Christmas party, their children, Fritz and Clara, wait anxiously for family and friends to arrive.

When the guests finally appear, the festivities begin. A mysterious guest arrives, nearly frightening Fritz, but not Clara. Clara knows he is Uncle Drosselmeyer, the magical toymaker. His surprise arrival is warmly accepted and the children continue to dance and carry on with laughter. Drosselmeyer presents gifts to the children and brings some magic to the party.

Fritz is given a trumpet, but Clara is given the best gift of all, a Nutcracker doll. Fritz grows jealous and snatches the doll from Clara and it breaks. Clara is upset, but Drosselmeyer repairs him. The party grows late and the children become sleepy. Everyone generously thanks the Stahlbaum's before they leave.

Unable to sleep, Clara creeps downstairs to find her Nutcracker doll. On the stroke of midnight, Uncle Drosselmeyer reappears and the magic continues. Suddenly Clara finds herself in the middle of a battle between pirate rats and toy soldiers. With her help, her Nutcracker doll defeats the King Rat and his army. Uncle Drosselmeyer appears and with his magic turns the Nutcracker into a Prince. Clara and the Nutcracker Prince dance together after their victory and the room transforms into a Winter Wonderland with the Snow Queen and snowflakes dancing around them.

Uncle Drosselmeyer whisks Clara and the Nutcracker Prince away in his sleigh to the enchanting Land of Sweets.

ACT II

As the sleigh makes its way across the land, Clara is filled with anticipation and excitement of what's to come. Finally arriving in the Land of Sweets, Clara can't believe her eyes; cupcake mountains topped with whipped cream whiter than snow, sweetly glazed candy poles and butter-cream frosting everywhere she looks.

They are warmly greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy. As they re-enact the night's events, the Sugar Plum Fairy becomes impressed with Clara's bravery and the Nutcracker's heroism.

In their honour, the Sugar Plum Fairy throws a lavish festival in the Candy Castle where they are treated like royalty. Shortly thereafter, the dancing begins. Clara is delighted by dances and tempting treats from many lands and as a beautiful vine of roses entwine the stage, Clara is invited to join them. The Nutcracker Prince then escorts the Sugar Plum Fairy to the centre of the room and the captivating pair dance lighter than air.

The festival concludes with everyone coming together on the court for one final dance. Even though she wishes the adventure would never end, it's time to say goodbye. Uncle Drosselmeyer and Clara return to the sleigh and make their way home.

