

Cinderella

By Vern Adix

From the story by Charles Perrault

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Here's unconventional, humorous, and easy-to-stage treatment of the famous fairy tale. Rather than one huge ball to find his future Princess, the Prince has met eligible ladies of the kingdom at smaller, separate gatherings called "Choose a Princess Parties." Now, after 118 parties, where the Prince has danced with "364 clods," the Zanzibany family has finally received its invitation. The formidable sisters Wartzella and Bageena, along with their domineering mother, go to the party escorted by Cinderella's meek father and their clumsy farmhand. Cinderella is left behind to finish countless more chores.

Soon Cinderella's fairy godmother, who is really her Aunt Hetitia, appears to adorn Cinderella's simple dress and provide glass slippers. Aunt Hetitia also has two neighbor children with her whom she dresses as mice. (After all, no one would dare bother them being escorted to a party by a pair of king-sized mice!)

The story ends happily with the Prince literally crawling on his knees to ask the kindhearted Cinderella to be his bride!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 m, 6 w, 2 flexible, extras)

ELMER ZANZIBANY: Cinderella's father. Cautious to not cross his domineering wife.

CINDERELLA ZANZIBANY: Lovingly called Cindy by her father.

MAGORA ZANZIBANY: Cinderella's stepmother.

WARTZELLA ZANZIBANY: Magora's daughter.

BAGEENA ZANZIBANY: Magora's second daughter.

ORINK GLERK: Elmer's swineherd and general handyman.

AUNT HETITIA ZANZIBANY: Elmer's sister.

KING GEORGE: King of Bratislava.

QUEEN MARY: Queen of Bratislava.

PRINCE ALBERT: Crown Prince of Bratislava.

SIR BRENTON HARPCORD: Prime Minister of Bratislava.

MOUSE #1: Gender flexible part.

MOUSE #2: Another.

SERVANTS OF THE KING: Non-speaking roles.

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SETTING

The action of the play takes place in and around the Zanzibany household and the Royal Palace of Bratislavia. This can be staged either as a proscenium, arena, or modified arena production.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1 - Cinderella's Home
Scene 2 - The Palace
Scene 3 - Cinderella's Home
Scene 4 - The Palace
Scene 5 - Cinderella's Home
Scene 6 - The Palace
Scene 7 - Cinderella's Home
Scene 8 - The Palace
Scene 9 - Cinderella's Home.

PROPERTIES

Food – seemingly copious amounts for the “girls”
Place settings for 4 people
Food item to throw
Oversize playing cards
Party invitation on scroll/ ribbon
Bucket for Prince to soak feet in
Little book for Prime Minister
Horrible “hog swilling boots” for Orink/ribbon ties
Carpet bag for Hetitia
Magic stuff and decor for Cinderella's costume
Gerbils and cage
Bouquet of flowers (magic type)
Shiny tray for mirror
Mouse costumes
Masks for Cinderella and Hetitia
Fancy slippers for Cinderella
Quill pen and invitation for King to write upon
Tray of goodies for ballroom scene
Drink glasses for ballroom scene
Costume pieces that pull off (Velcro)
Coins and coin purse for Hetitia

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Cinderella's Home. ELMER, MAGORA and two sisters, BAGEENA and WARTZELLA are eating a meal. Elmer is the only one who eats in an intelligent, normal, human manner. Magora, Bageena and Wartzella eat more like animals.)

MAGORA: *(Screams.)* Cinderella!

CINDERELLA: *(Comes running in and curtsies to MAGORA.)* Yes! Stepmama!

MAGORA: Hurry with the food! Poor Wartzella and Bageena are starving.

(CINDERELLA exits.)

ELMER: Starving! They'll never starve. They eat constantly. They never stop eating.

MAGORA: Elmer! That's enough. *(Gestures with knife as SHE leans over the table.)* I'd talk if I were you! *(She sits down again and discovers that she got food on her dress when she leaned over. She wipes it off as best she can.)* My darlings are angels compared to that ragamuffin of yours.

ELMER: If Cindy's a ragamuffin it's because that rag she has on is her only dress. You skimp on her while you dress those two young oxen of yours in gorgeous frills and silly lace.

MAGORA: That's enough! Cover your ears, girls. I'll not have you offend my delicate darlings.

ELMER: Delicate! They're about as delicate as two fat sheep.

(THEY are obviously offended and frightened and crowd together holding onto one another.)

WARTZELLA and BAGEENA: *(Weep in an affected manner.)* Ooh! Mama! Pop doesn't love us anymore.

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CINDERELLA: *(Comes in just as this exchange is going on.)*
Please, Father, don't argue with StepMama.

MAGORA: *(To CINDERELLA.)* Well don't just stand there like a knobby stick. Fill Wartzella and Bageena's plates again.

CINDERELLA: Yes, ma'am.

(SHE begins to heap food on the plates which the GIRLS eat as if they were starving to death, Cinderella then exits.)

ELMER: I've had it. *(Gets up from table.)* The way you treat those kids of yours one would think they were a pair of princesses.

MAGORA: Well, there's certainly no more beautiful girls in this land than my two daughters. *(Pause, smile.)* They come by their beauty naturally, of course, inherited from their mother. *(Preens in front of an imaginary mirror.)*

ELMER: Oh, boy! Now I've heard it all! I'm going to slop the hogs. There's some real beauty in the hog pen. Besides, hogs don't talk back. *(Begins to exit.)*

MAGORA: That's where you belong, with your hogs. Maybe you'll feel at home there. With you out the house my dears won't have to swallow insults with their food.

ELMER: When they've finished they can come watch the hogs. Maybe they can learn some table manners from the old sow.

MAGORA: Oh!!!! Get out!

(MAGORA throws something at ELMER. He stoops to fix his shoe. ORINK has come in and is immediately behind him. The object smacks him and he falls to the floor. CINDERELLA comes in. She sees Orink on the floor.)

CINDERELLA: Are you all right? Poor Orink! StepMama, you shouldn't throw things at poor Orink.

MAGORA: I meant it for your Father.

ORINK: *(Who has been helped up by CINDERELLA and ELMER.)* Beg pardon, ma'am, what else would you like?

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