

Cinderella: A Dream Come True

*By
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DEDICATION

To Holly, Haley, Kyley, Bryce, Dawson, Emily, and Rylee for being a constant source of inspiration. And to Jane Bailey who told me I should do this in the first place.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Here is a classic re-telling of the rags-to-riches fairytale of a young girl forced to live with her cruel stepmother and her equally cruel stepsisters. Cinderella's kind and gentle nature, despite her surroundings, makes her a favorite with the three feisty mice who have also taken up residence in the house. Their motto? "Get 'em and bite 'em and beat 'em up!"

Meanwhile, in another part of the kingdom, a somewhat childlike King and his Queen are zealous in their pursuit of grandchildren. A ball, a ball is thing wherein they'll capture a daughter-in-law and make a grandfather of the King! Rest assured, they will get no help from their son, who is more interested in traveling than finding a wife, but there's nothing to fear with Jacques on their side. Jacques, a "master storyteller, juggler and jester extraordinaire," narrates the tale from the very beginning, all the while confounding the King's right-hand man and beleaguered servant, Bernard. Throw in a forgetful Fairy Godmother, a tired dog, and the audience's participation, and higglety-pigglety-hobblety-hoy, get ready for an evening of classic fairytale fun!

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The original production took place at the historic Star Theatre in Willow Springs, Missouri, in March, 2004.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Large, flexible cast. Much doubling possible.)

JACQUES (Jhock): Jester extraordinaire and storyteller.
MONSIEUR RENAUD (Ray-no): Loving father to Ella.
MADAME RENAUD: His second wife, Ella's cruel stepmother.
CINDERELLA (ELLA): Gentle and kind dreamer.
ODETTE: Cinderella's stepsister. Spoiled and cruel.
ADELAIDE: Cinderella's stepsister. Spoiled and cruel.
ALGERNON: Faithful, yet sleepy canine.
REMI: Mouse. Protective of Cinderella.
COLLETTE: Mouse. Protective of Cinderella.
ANOUK (Uh-nook): Oldest mouse. Keeps the others in line.
HERALD: Royal emissary, news bearer.
KING HENRI: Almost childlike King.
QUEEN ISABELLA: Queen.
BERNARD: Beleaguered servant and right-hand man to the King.
PHILIPPE (Fil-eep): Down-to-earth Prince.
FAIRY GODMOTHER: Kindly, somewhat scatterbrained.
EMILLIENNE (Eh-mee-lee-en): Whiny-voiced princess wannabe.
GENEVIEVE: Talkative singer and princess wannabe.
OLIVIE (Olivia): Incessant chatterbox and princess wannabe.
ANTOINETTE: Servant at the palace.
CHILD ELLA / MARIE: Small, younger actress to play both roles.
MINISTER: Conducts wedding ceremony.

ADDITIONAL ROLES (Some non-speaking)

MADAM RENAUD: Ella's loving mother in opening mime.
DOCTOR: Confers with Monsieur Renaud.
PAGES: Royal attendants.
COMTE DUBOIS (Du Bwa): Stuffy courtier.
COMETESS DUBOIS: His wife.
BARONE DU CHAMPE (Du Shawmp): Stuffy courtier.
BARONESS DU CHAMPE: His wife.
PRINCESS WANNABES: Insipid girls vying for the Prince's attention.
VENDORS: Villagers who sell fruit, beads, cloth, flowers, etc.
VILLAGERS: Villagers/paupers in the marketplace.
PALACE GUARDS: Extras.
COURTIERS: Extras.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: In front of curtain. Jacques' introduction.

Scene 2: Kitchen at the Renaud house.

Scene 3: Kitchen and courtyard at the Renaud house.

Scene 4: Palace terrace.

Scene 5: Marketplace.

Scene 6: The next day. Renaud kitchen and pumpkin patch.

ACT II

Scene 1: Palace ballroom and terrace.

Scene 2: After the ball in the ballroom.

Scene 3: Kitchen in the Renaud house.

Scene 4: Ballroom.

SETTINGS

Introduction: Can be done with a bare stage in front of the curtain. A simple miming of the action with the King and Queen on one side and the Renauds on the other.

Renaud Kitchen: There is a large hearth USC with a small wooden stool just to the left. A small table and chairs sits just to the right of the hearth. USR is a small cupboard with serving trays and a variety of dishes. The impression of a courtyard is given by a bench, tree, shrubs etc. situated DSR. If desired, a door may also be placed DSR leading into the courtyard. For the transformation scene, a pumpkin patch can be placed DSL.

Marketplace: Vendor carts, piled with goods, are placed about the stage. There are crates piled SR with room for the Prince, Jacques and Bernard to sit.

Ballroom: Painted backdrop or flat to look like a elegant ballroom. Thrones are USC. Flowers and other decorations can be added for the ball and wedding.

Palace Terrace: Extreme DSR or DSL in front of the curtain. A bench, trees and other shrubs complete the look.

ACT I
Scene 1

(A SPOTLIGHT shines on CS as JACQUES enters through center curtain.)

JACQUES: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen! My name is Jacques, and I am a master storyteller, juggler and jester extraordinaire. What is that you say? 'Tis a story you would like to hear? Ah, I know many, for I have delighted the ears of kings and queens all over the world. I have tickled the fancies of children young and old. But what story shall I tell to you? Shall it be one of pigs and wolves? *(Pause in thought.)* No. How about one of magic beans? Hmmm ... no. Or perhaps a story of joy and woe which happened once a long time ago. Listen well as once upon a time, we begin our story of love sublime.

(HE sits on the edge at SL to begin his story. The LIGHTS come up and MUSIC plays softly as the ACTION is mimed upstage.)

Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away, there ruled a King, a Queen and a Prince. And in this kingdom, there lived a gentleman and his wife. Monsieur and Madame Renaud were an extraordinary couple in that they were extraordinarily good, extraordinarily kind, and very much in love. And so it was that they were filled with great joy when they learned they were to have a child. Everyday was spent in preparation for the happy event, and on that wonderful day, the chateau was filled with celebration as young Ella was introduced to the world. Not long after her birth, however, sorrow filled the house as Madame Renaud fell gravely ill and soon after died. Monsieur Renaud was filled with such sorrow that it was many days before he was persuaded to eat or drink.

JACQUES: *(Continued.)* But soon the cries of his daughter brought him out of his grieving and gave him the strength to live on. And so he did.

(Celebration is mimed as RENAUD gives a wooden flute to CHILD ELLA.)

After many years, Monsieur Renaud felt that there was only one thing his daughter was missing. *(A DOCTOR ENTERS miming grave news to RENAUD.)* It soon became apparent to him that he should provide a mother for his child, and so, leaving her in the servant's care, he waved goodbye to his cherished Ella and set out to find a wife. Weeks later, he returned bringing with him, not only a wife, but her two young daughters as well.

Now to the eye, Madame Renaud was a stately woman of good family and stature, but the truth was that she was a proud and haughty woman with little feeling for anyone save her daughters. Unfortunately, her daughters shared her humor, but nothing of the wife's true nature was known, until one fateful day, tragedy once again struck the house of Renaud.

And while Ella was still grieving over the loss of her father, Madame Renaud's true colors asserted themselves, and she stripped Ella of all that was once hers and banished her to work as a servant in her own home. And so Ella was left to make her place among the cinders on the hearth in the kitchen with only one possession – the flute her father had carved for her.

End of Scene

End of Freeview

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