

Snow White, the Evil Queen and the Three Slobs

By Edith Weiss

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Snow White is a dirt-smudged stable girl, innocent to the point of cluelessness, whose stepmother, the Queen, must be the most beautiful woman in all the land. But when the Magic Mirror informs the Queen that Snow White has the gift of inner beauty, the Queen goes beserk with jealousy. The Magic Mirror and the castle servants comically thwart the Queen's first attempts to poison Snow White.

Fleeing into the woods, Snow White finds the House of the Three Slobs. Therein live Grouchy, Snivelly, and Slacker. They don't want to let her in, but she promises to help with the housework. Hauling water one day, Snow White meets a Prince searching for true love. But he believes he must marry a princess and she can't tell him she is royalty, so they part.

Snow White finally stands up for herself to the Slobs, but the Queen is after Snow White with a poisoned apple. Snow White is rescued by the Mirror and the Slobs, but the Queen's murderous act has made her ugly to all who look at her and she flees into the woods forever. Finally, the Prince decides he loves Snow White, whether she is royalty or not.

This highly actable version premiered at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities in Denver, Colorado.

CHARACTERS

(2 m, 4 w, 1 flexible)

(Seven actors play 12 characters)

ANNABELLE: a handmaiden at the castle
HENRI: the chef at the castle
BARTHEL: the gardener of the castle
MIRROR: the Magic Mirror
SNOW WHITE: an innocent, naïve, sweet girl
QUEEN: incredibly neurotic, obsessed with her looks
SUZETTE: the Queen's lady-in-waiting and French tutor
HUNTSMAN: very old
PRINCE EDWARD: an honorable young prince
GROUCHY: a slob, cranky
SLACKER: a slob, a skateboarder
SNIVELLY: a slob, a hypochondriac

Suggested double casting:

The same actor plays BARTHEL, HUNTSMAN and the PRINCE.

The same actress plays ANNABELLE and SLACKER.

The same actor plays HENRI and GROUCHY.

The same actress plays SUZETTE and SNIVELLY.

The actors in the roles of SNOW WHITE, the QUEEN and the MIRROR never double.

Performance time about 75 minutes.

SOUND EFFECTS

bell
barking dogs
Annabelle voice-over (may be done live)

SETS

Sets may be minimal. The first set is the interior of the castle with two entrances. Portraits of the Queen hang everywhere. There is a throne for the Queen and a stool for Snow White. There is a bell or bellpull. The exterior and interior of the house of the three Slobs may be represented on the stage at the same time. There is one door, a recliner, a couch and an indescribable mess.

COSTUMES

Costumes may be suggestions or as fairy-tale elaborate as you wish. Snow White has a dress of rags, but changes into a beautiful gown later. The Queen is dressed regally. She later wears a bush costume with poison berries and a place for her head to be seen. She then changes into a beggar-woman disguise. Suzette is dressed as a handmaiden and later changes into a disguise as an old man.

PROPS

atomizer
flowers
rings
scissors
roast pig on platter
bouquet of black balloons
tea pot and service
poisoned flowers, poisoned crumpets, and poisoned marmalade
a wrapped gift box with a spider inside
small table and extra chairs as needed for the tea scene
pillows
newspaper for Grouchy, skateboard for Slacker, hat for Snively
huge bucket of water with ladle or cup
two little bells (or one may be shared)
tissues
handbag
apple
hand mirror

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The interior of castle. Portraits of the Queen hang everywhere. There is a throne for the Queen and a stool for Snow White. There is a bell or bell-pull. BARTHEL is arranging flowers in a basket. Enter ANNABELLE, with atomizer. Enter HENRI the cook, who takes a flower from Barthel's basket, flirts with Annabelle. Enter MIRROR, harried.)

MIRROR: She's up!

ALL: She's up?

MIRROR: Yes! She's up, she's awake, and she's very cranky!

HENRI: I haven't even begun roasting the pig!

MIRROR: Don't panic, Chef Henri.

HENRI: Well, I can't very well serve raw pork!

(HE rushes off.)

BARTHEL: The flowers aren't near ready!

MIRROR: Barthel, relax! Now listen, people –

ANNABELLE: I haven't perfumed the castle yet!

(SHE sprays her atomizer.)

MIRROR: People, please!

(ANNABELLE accidentally sprays the MIRROR's face. HENRI rushes across the stage.)

HENRI: The beef! I must baste the beef!

(HE rushes off.)

MIRROR: People. People, your attention please! The Queen has issued another edict. From now on, we have to lie flat on the floor when she approaches. Edict number 546: All shall lie prostrate at the approach of the Queen.

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BARTHEL: How can I throw the flowers for the Queen when I'm lying prostate on the floor?

MIRROR: Prostrate, Barthel. Not prostate.

ANNABELLE: Someone's coming!

BARTHEL: My flowers!

ANNABELLE: The perfume!

(HENRI rushes back on.)

HENRI: My pig! My pheasant!

MIRROR: Don't panic!

ANNABELLE: Lie down! Prostate!

MIRROR: Prostrate!

(ALL lie down flat on the floor. Enter SNOW WHITE. She is a mess, dirty hair, rags, smudged face.)

SNOW WHITE: Good morning – *(BARTHEL throws flowers.)* What are we all doing? Can I help?

(ALL get up.)

BARTHEL: It's not the Queen. It's Snow White. Now I've got to pick up all the flowers!

(SNOW WHITE helps.)

MIRROR: Good morning, Snow White.

SNOW WHITE: Good morning, Mirror! I'm off to clean the horse stables before the Queen gets up.

MIRROR: She's up.

SNOW WHITE: Oh, I better hurry. You know how upset she gets if we're not here when she's ready for us. I'll see you all later.

(SNOW WHITE goes off.)

HENRI: Snow White should not have to clean the stables! It's a disgrace!

End of Freeview

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