

CINDERELLA
A Fairytale Retold
By Dale and Laura Ahlquist

Cast of Characters

22 Females; 11 Males; 8 Either

<u>CINDERELLA:</u>	A servant to her stepmother.
<u>STEPMOTHER:</u>	Cinderella's stepmother.
<u>USTACIA:</u>	One of Cinderella's ugly stepsisters.
<u>GRUNHILDA:</u>	One of Cinderella's ugly stepsisters.
<u>LADY FOSSILUS:</u>	Noblewoman.
<u>LADY POSTHUMUS:</u>	Noblewoman.
<u>LADY DUNSTOP:</u>	Noblewoman.
<u>LADY TREMORS:</u>	Noblewoman.
<u>LADY CONTRA:</u>	Noblewoman.
<u>QUEEN:</u>	Queen Verona, mother of the Prince.
<u>KING:</u>	King Henry, father of the Prince.
<u>PRINCE:</u>	Prince George, son of the King and Queen.
<u>ASTRID:</u>	Princess Astrid, sister of the Prince.
<u>CELESTE:</u>	Princess Celeste, sister of the Prince.
<u>DUKE:</u>	The Duke of Willoughby.
<u>JACK:</u>	A stable boy at the Palace.
<u>HELEN:</u>	A royal servant.
<u>GRACIE:</u>	A royal servant.
<u>STACIE:</u>	A royal servant.
<u>LACIE:</u>	A royal servant.
<u>HERALD:</u>	The royal herald.

<u>NELSON:</u>	The Prince's companion.
<u>FISH VENDOR:</u>	A village fish vendor.
<u>BAKER:</u>	A village baker.
<u>COBBLER:</u>	A village cobbler.
<u>VEGGIES VENDOR:</u>	A village veggies vendor.
<u>1ST VILLAGER:</u>	Villager.
<u>2ND VILLAGER:</u>	Villager.
<u>3RD VILLAGER:</u>	Villager.
<u>4TH VILLAGER:</u>	Villager.
<u>5TH VILLAGER:</u>	Villager.
<u>JANE:</u>	Dressmaker.
<u>MARY:</u>	Dressmaker.
<u>HORACE:</u>	A thug, Constable's son.
<u>BORIS:</u>	A thug, Constable's son.
<u>TORK:</u>	A thug, Constable's son.
<u>CONSTABLE:</u>	The village constable.
<u>OLD WOMAN:</u>	A mysterious old woman.
<u>FAIRY GODMOTHER:</u>	Cinderella's Fairy Godmother.
<u>SPARKLE:</u>	The Fairy Godmother's fairy-in-training.
<u>STARDUST:</u>	The Fairy Godmother's fairy-in-training.

Scene Breakdown

ACT I

- Scene 1 – A Garden Near Cinderella’s House
- Scene 2 – The Palace of The King And Queen
- Scene 3 – A Forest
- Scene 4 – A Village Market
- Scene 5 – A Village Road
- Scene 6 – Cinderella’s Home

ACT II

- Scene 1 – The Palace
- Scene 2 – The Palace, The Next Day
- Scene 3 – The Village Square
- Scene 4 – Cinderella’s Home
- Scene 5 – The Village Square

Approximate Length

75 minutes

Time

Late 1700’s to Early 1800’s

Place

A kingdom

Scene 6

Setting: Cinderella's home. There is a wardrobe and a window, and a mirror frame without the glass. There is also an empty fireplace, and an empty vase.

At Rise: STEPSISTERS face the audience and are looking in the "mirror" trying to make themselves look pretty. They are taking turns pushing each other out of the way.

STEPMOTHER

(Pacing frantically back and forth)

Cinderella, Cinderella!!!

(Enter CINDERELLA)

Have you found Ustacia's silk gloves?

CINDERELLA

Yes, Stepmother. Here they are.

STEPMOTHER

What about Grunhilda's silk stockings that you washed this morning? Are they dry?

CINDERELLA

Yes, Stepmother. She's wearing them.

STEPMOTHER

Don't you get cocky with me, Cinderella.

CINDERELLA

Sorry, Stepmother.

STEPMOTHER

And Cinderella, have you called a coachman?

CINDERELLA

I have, Stepmother.

STEPMOTHER

Oh, I almost forgot. My shawl. Did you press it?

CINDERELLA

I did, Stepmother.

STEPMOTHER

Where is it?

CINDERELLA

It's by the front door. Stepmother, if I may...

STEPMOTHER

(Irritated)

Now what do you want?

CINDERELLA

If you have everything you need, may I be excused?

STEPMOTHER

(As if she's granting a great favor)

Well, I suppose. But don't forget to have a fire waiting for us when we return.

CINDERELLA

Yes. Yes, I will. Thank you, Stepmother.

(Exit CINDERELLA)

USTACIA

Mother, Grunhilda keeps putting her big fat head in front of the mirror, and I can't see what I'm doing. I've tried putting on my lipstick three times.

GRUNHILDA

It will probably take you three more times because you have such a big mouth!

USTACIA

Well, you'd better get another gallon of flesh-tone paint to cover your pimples.

GRUNHILDA

Well, you're going to need something more than paint to cover *your* face. Unless you're hoping to frighten the Prince.

USTACIA

Ha ha. Very funny. But it's better to have to work on one face than two chins. When the Prince sees you, I don't know if he's going to laugh or puke.

STEPMOTHER

Girls, girls. This is no time to quarrel. The most important evening of your lives is about to take place and you must start collecting your thoughts. You have a chance to be the future Queen. You must act like such. You must practice the art of deportment.

GRUNHILDA

The department of what?

USTACIA

Deportment! Not department.

GRUNHILDA

I'd like to deport you.

STEPMOTHER

Girls. Posture. You must always hold your head up high, shoulders down, backs straight, stomachs in, hands together. Now smile.

(The STEPSISTERS look like they are in pain)

USTACIA

I can't. I feel like I'm going to faint.

GRUNHILDA

I feel like I'm going to throw up.

USTACIA

Why, did you look in the mirror?

STEPMOTHER

Girls! You must be ladies. A lady never lets on that she is in pain. Even if her corset is crushing her ribs and her shoes are stabbing at her feet — she is always poised and relaxed and at ease.

(The STEPSISTERS attempt a desperate smile but the effect is frightening)

Now let's practice your curtsy.

(They curtsy in a clumsy, horrible way)

USTACIA

Like this?

STEPMOTHER

No, no, no. You must not lower your upper body.

GRUNHILDA

But Mother, how is it possible to bow without bowing?

STEPMOTHER

Bend from your *knees* not your waist. Only your head bows.

(They bump heads)

USTACIA

Mother! Grunhilda's fat head got in the way again!

STEPMOTHER

Now let's talk about how to talk.

GRUNHILDA

But we already know how to talk.

STEPMOTHER

How to talk to the Prince, Grunhilda.

GRUNHILDA

Doesn't he understand English?

STEPMOTHER

When you talk to the Prince, don't sound too anxious, be a little removed. Pay attention to him, but pretend that you don't care. Smile, but not too much. Be serious but cheerful...act natural...but above all, do not be yourselves.

(The whole time the STEPSISTERS are trying with different ridiculous facial expressions to mimic her advice. Finally they give up.)

USTACIA

Mother, you have to make up your mind. This is too confusing!

STEPMOTHER

Oh! Never mind. I'm afraid that you may be too young to understand the delicate nuances of coquetry.

USTACIA

Coquetry? Is that like badminton?

GRUNHILDA

You're thinking of croquet.

USTACIA

I know what croquet is. It's not at all like badminton. And why would we be playing badminton with the Prince?

STEPMOTHER

Let's run along and do your best to not embarrass me.

(Enter CINDERELLA with her new dress. All gasp.)

USTACIA and GRUNHILDA

Mother!

STEPMOTHER

Cinderella, what is the meaning of this?

CINDERELLA

I...I have found a dress, Stepmother. And I have done all my work. May I go to the ball?

GRUNHILDA

Mooother! She can't go to the ball.

USTACIA

Mooother! Do something!!

STEPMOTHER

Cinderella. May I ask where you got that dress?

CINDERELLA

It is gift from my friends at the market. They have been so kind and generous.

STEPMOTHER

You lie!

(CINDERELLA shakes her head in panic)

And I know you are lying because I recognize that dress.

USTACIA

Cinderella!!! That dress was mine. How dare you wear a dress that was made especially for me. How *dare* you!

(Begins tearing the dress up)

Give it back to me.

GRUNHILDA

You have a lot of nerve.

(Tears another chunk off)

USTACIA

It's mine!

GRUNHILDA

Yes, it's hers!

(They tear the dress to shreds)

STEPMOTHER

Girls, that's enough. Come. We are going to be late.

(Exit STEPMOTHER and STEPSISTERS pompously. CINDERELLA is on her knees crying, with her hands covering her face.)

CINDERELLA

I can't anymore. I can't. I can't. I can't keep hoping. I can't keep forgiving. Some things are unforgivable. My poor friends...all their hard work...all for nothing. I just can't do it anymore. Some things *are* hopeless.

(A magical sound)

GODMOTHER

(Offstage)

Ah! But that's where you're wrong, Cinderella. Things are never hopeless and nothing is unforgivable.

CINDERELLA

(Looking up, a bit nervous and confused)

Who is here?

(Enter FAIRY GODMOTHER)

GODMOTHER

I am your fairy godmother!

CINDERELLA

My what?

GODMOTHER

Your fairy godm—

(Enter SPARKLE and STARDUST, who look around with wide-eyed anticipation. SPARKLE waves her wand at a table. Magical sound. Suddenly flowers appear. STARDUST waves her wand at the fireplace. A fire starts.)

CINDERELLA

How did you do that?!

SPARKLE and STARDUST

Magic.

GODMOTHER

(With a controlled motherly tone)

Sparkle. Stardust. Be more prudent, please. The wands are not toys. They are tools.

CINDERELLA

Who are *they*?

GODMOTHER

This is Sparkle and this is Stardust. They are fairy godmothers in training. You don't mind, do you?

CINDERELLA

(Not sure if she minds or not)

No....

GODMOTHER

Now we must hurry, or you'll be terribly late for the ball.

CINDERELLA

The ball. Oh! Godmother, I'm not going to the ball. I'm staying here by the fire as usual.

GODMOTHER

But don't you want to go? Don't you want to meet the Prince?

CINDERELLA

Yes, I want to go, but it's not the Prince I want to see there.

GODMOTHER

Good heavens girl, then who is it that you want to see?

CINDERELLA

Oh! He's just a stable boy...who talks like a prince.

(The three FAIRIES look at each other)

SPARKLE

Is this going to be worth it?

STARDUST

She wants to go to the ball to meet a stable boy.

GODMOTHER

(Pauses)

Well, if that's what she wants, then that's what we'll help her do. After all, this stable boy talks like a prince.

CINDERELLA

I liked him a lot. But I'll probably never see him again.

GODMOTHER

Don't be Sillerrenda, Cindy — I mean, don't be silly, Cinderella. Of course you're going to see him again.

CINDERELLA

But...how?

GODMOTHER

Sparkle? Stardust? Now, what are we going to need?

STARDUST

A dress.

GODMOTHER

Of course.

SPARKLE

Accessories.

GODMOTHER

Yes.

(Pause. They're thinking hard.)

How is she going to get to the ball?

STARDUST

We could just make her appear at the ball. I've been working on that spell. Watch, I'll demonstrate on Sparkle!

(STARDUST zaps SPARKLE with her wand. Magic sound. SPARKLE suddenly has a long Pinocchio nose.)

SPARKLE

(Feeling her new nose)

Wha—? What did you do?

STARDUST

It didn't work.

GODMOTHER

(Teacherly)

No, it didn't, Stardust. Please don't try a spell without asking me. And besides, it was not a good idea. We can't have Cinderella suddenly appearing at the ball. She has to arrive in style!

STARDUST

A coach!

GODMOTHER

Exactly.

SPARKLE

What about my nose?

CINDERELLA

I don't believe this! I *can't* believe this!

GODMOTHER

Someone once said, "Faith means believing the incredible, or it is no virtue at all."

CINDERELLA

Who said that?

GODMOTHER

Well, maybe he hasn't said it yet. But it is absolutely true. And fairy godmothers, well, we specialize in the incredible. Because sometimes the incredible is just what is needed for the hopeless. Now let's talk about your dress.

CINDERELLA

Oh! I don't think it can be fixed.

GODMOTHER

Oh, it can be fixed, but why would we want to do that? It's not really right for the occasion. Now this is what they're wearing in Paris this season.

(GODMOTHER waves her wand. Magic sound. Dress appears inside wardrobe.)

CINDERELLA

Oh!! I...I can't believe it.... It's beautiful!

(She runs to take the dress down)

GODMOTHER

Sparkle, Stardust. Accessories!

(SPARKLE and STARDUST wave their wands. Magic sounds. A pearl necklace and glass slippers appear in the wardrobe)

CINDERELLA

Oh my goodness! A pearl necklace! And...

(In awe)

...glass slippers. I've never seen anything so wonderful.

GODMOTHER

And now for the wheels. Sparkle, Stardust. I'm going to show you an old trick of mine that is just the thing for these occasions. How to turn a pumpkin into a coach.

STARDUST

Where are we going to find a pumpkin this time of year?

SPARKLE

It would be easier just to find a coach.

GODMOTHER

Hmm. It has to be a pumpkin.

SPARKLE

Can you turn something into a pumpkin?

GODMOTHER

I suppose, but I've never done it that way.

STARDUST

Let me try!

(Waves wand. Magic sound. Cabbage appears.)

GODMOTHER

That's a very nice cabbage.

SPARKLE

Let me try!

(Waves wand. Magic sound. Pumpkin appears.)

GODMOTHER

Very good, Sparkle! And no one got hurt. Now then, put the pumpkin right there, and watch this! Here's the spell to turn—

SPARKLE

Wouldn't it be better to turn the pumpkin into a coach—

GODMOTHER

That's just what I'm going to do, Sparkle.

SPARKLE

...outside?

GODMOTHER

Oh, yes, that's a good idea. Sparkle, run the pumpkin outside.

(Exit SPARKLE with pumpkin)

Now as I was saying, watch this!

(GODMOTHER waves her wand. Magic sound. Light flashes. A coach can be seen outside the window)

CINDERELLA

(In absolute awe)

How did you do that?

STARDUST

Magic!

CINDERELLA

A magnificent coach, drawn by six white horses!

SPARKLE

(Offstage)

What about my nose?

GODMOTHER

Oh good grief!

(Waves her wand again. Magic sound. SPARKLE returns with a more normal sized nose.)

CINDERELLA

Oh, Godmother, it's all so beautiful. The dress, the pearls, the glass slippers, the coach! This must all be a dream.

GODMOTHER

Well, it is like a dream, I suppose, because it won't last forever. It all goes "poof" at eleven o'clock.

SPARKLE

Eleven o'clock!

GODMOTHER

Oh, eleven-thirty, then.

STARDUST

Eleven-thirty!

GODMOTHER

Alright, midnight! But that's it!

CINDERELLA

Poof?

GODMOTHER

Poof! Gone, vaporized, adios. The spell will be broken. Your carriage will turn back into a pumpkin.

SPARKLE

People will be amazed to see that. A pumpkin this time of year.

GODMOTHER

The point is, Cinderella, you'd better be home by midnight or, well...you'll have a pretty embarrassing story to tell your grandchildren. If you know what I mean.

CINDERELLA

Oh Godmother, I will do what you ask! And I don't know how I will ever thank you.

GODMOTHER

Just be home by midnight. And promise me one more thing.

CINDERELLA

Yes, Godmother, what is it?

GODMOTHER

Promise me that you will never again lose hope.

CINDERELLA

I promise. Oh! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

(Hugs GODMOTHER, SPARKLE, STARDUST)

GODMOTHER

Now go, child! You want to get there before your dress goes out of fashion!

(Exit CINDERELLA. They wave goodbye)

BLACKOUT