

# *Cinderella*

## ***Visual Story***

Hello. We're looking forward to welcoming you to Oxford Playhouse to watch our pantomime, *Cinderella*. These notes are for you to read before you come to our theatre, so that you know what to expect. Enjoy!

## ***Where do I go when I arrive at the theatre?***

When you come to the theatre, our ushers will need to check your tickets. Our ushers are friendly and smartly dressed, mostly wearing black clothing, and will have ticket scanners in their hands. They will need to scan your ticket, and then they will tell you where your seat is.

Our seats at Oxford Playhouse are very comfortable, and very colourful! This is what it looks like inside.



## ***Who can I go to for help at the theatre?***

If you need help when you are at the theatre, you can find our ushers at the entrance doors throughout the performance. Remember, they will be dressed in black clothes, and can help you with lots of different things, such as:

*Where is the toilet?*

*Where can I buy a drink or a snack?*

*Where can I buy a programme or a souvenir?*

They will be very happy to help!

# TRIGGER WARNINGS

There are lots of fun things that occur in this show, but there are a few trigger warnings you may want to be aware of.

To make our show special, we use lots of different lights and sounds.

*Lighting effects:* during the performance, there are lots of different lighting effects and occasional *strobe lighting*.

*Sound effects:* There are lots of different sound effects during the show. Most of them are fun or funny and a few of them are *loud*.

## ***How long is the performance?***

Our pantomime is split into two parts. The first part will last for approximately 60 minutes. There will then be a 20-minute interval – during this time you can eat a snack or stretch your legs outside, if you need to. The second part of the pantomime will last for approximately 50 minutes. Then it will be time to go home.





## ***What happens during the performance?***

Our pantomime takes place on stage. There will be acting, singing and dancing. There is also a 'pit' in front of the stage, where our musicians play music for the show.

Sometimes the actors will speak to everyone in the audience. They might ask questions, which you can answer out loud, or they might teach you a song, which you can sing along to. The people sitting around you might join in, and you can too, if you like.

Sometimes the actors will walk through the auditorium where you will be sitting. They might come close to you, but don't worry, they won't touch you.

# Characters

Let us introduce to you the characters that you will meet in *Cinderella*. In our story, some of our characters are heroes, and some are villains. Everyone does lots of singing and dancing throughout the performance.





## PRINCE CHARMING

Prince Charming is a young man, innocent and feels a bit intimidated in taking the throne. He intends to find a wife in order to be crowned King. He falls in love with Cinderella, despite Dandina's efforts to marry him instead. Eventually, he stands up to Dandina. You can cheer for Prince Charming when he comes on stage.





## **CINDERELLA**

Cinderella is our heroine; she wants to be the Top Songwriter of Oxland. She is an excellent singer – and dancer! – and opposes Dandina, the villain currently ruling Oxland. Cinderella falls in love with Prince Charming, and they must find a way to be together. You can cheer for her when she comes on stage.

## DANDINA

Dandina is the villain of our story. She has been ruling Oxland since the King and Queen died, until the Prince is old enough to take over. She plans to overrule Prince Charming and rule Oxland forever! She even tries to trick the Prince into marrying her. When you see her onstage, you can give her a loud 'boo!'





## **BUTTONS**

Buttons is a mouse and Cinderella's best friend. She roams around with Poppers and Zip, her two 'Super Mice' sidekicks. They LOVE cheese! We like Buttons, she is funny, full of energy and helps Cinderella on her journey!



### **BELLINA (on the left)**

‘Belly’, for short, she is one of Cinderella’s ugly sisters. She and Smelly make Cinderella do lots of chores and are mean to her.

### **SMELLINA (on the right)**

‘Smelly’, for short, the other ugly sister. Although they are mean, they are also funny and throw sweets into the audience, so make sure you keep your eyes peeled for them.

## THE FAIRY

The Fairy is magical! Before the beginning of our story, the Fairy made a promise to Cinderella's parents to keep an eye on her after they died. He will pop up in many parts of the show, helping guide good towards victory. He has many disguises, including a butler, an Uber driver and a badger... but his real name is Alan.





## **TIBBLES THE CAT (on the left)**

Tibbles is an obedient cat, belonging to the ugly sisters, Belly and Smelly. The sisters use Tibbles to chase Buttons, Poppers and Zip out of their kitchen.



## ***Other characters***

There is also a chorus of different characters, played by professional actors and a company of young people.

Overall, the cast has 16 performers in it, so you'll see lots of people on stage.

# ***The Story***

Before the show starts, you'll hear an announcement from an actor, asking the audience to turn their phones off.

At the very beginning of our story, you will see Dandina come onstage and present a monologue, telling us some helpful information about the story – feel free to BOO her!

There will be a change in lighting, and you'll hear some music start to play. It's time for the story to start...

## **It's a Beautiful day!**

In our first song, we will introduce you to the main characters of our story. Lots of actors will come on stage, with Cinderella singing in the centre. We give her a big cheer! During this song, Cinderella explains the difficulties in her life and the things she hopes will happen. There is lots more singing and dancing, before the end of the song when we have lots more colourful lights. A huge celebration to start our show! After the song, everyone awaits the Prince's arrival, with excitement. Instead, Dandina arrives... and takes the people's money!



## **OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM**

Next, we meet the Fairy (disguised as an Uber driver), who brings Prince Charming to the outskirts of the Kingdom. Prince Charming likes puzzles but feels worried about finding a wife. He meets the Mice, who direct him to the palace.

## **MICE MICE BABY!**

In between this, we meet Buttons, Poppers and Zip! The mice of the Kingdom. They sing a song about themselves, and you can join in too if you like.





## THE PALACE

Next, we come to evil Dandina in her palace. She is using the people's money for her own gain. When Prince Charming arrives, he confronts her and instead of explaining herself, she tries to trick him into marriage! The Fairy arrives and encourages you to hiss and boo (you can do so if you like!)

When this plan fails, and a Royal Ball is agreed, Dandina sets a new evil plan in place... We also hear the Kingdom's National Anthem... all about her.





## **CINDERELLA AND THE PRINCE**

Cinderella and Charming bump into each other (with a little help from the Fairy) and immediately fall in love. Prince Charming disguises himself as a man called Gareth. They sing a duet together. You will see lots of light changes and there will be music alongside the song.

At the end of the scene, 'Gareth' convinces Cinderella to attend the Ball.

If you look at the painting behind the actors during the scene, you'll see we are in the forest in this scene. There are trees and sunlight, and this is Cinderella's favourite place.





## **ITS ABOUT THAT TIME!**

In our next scene, we meet the ugly sisters, Belly & Smelly, in their home. They receive invitations for the Royal Ball and decide to dress up and 'get fabulous!'.

They make Cinderella do all the work round the house, and try to stop her going to the Ball. Luckily, Buttons comes to the rescue!

In this scene, you'll see a cat and mouse chase, but don't worry, it's just pretend!





## YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL

The ugly sisters are dressed up, ready for the Ball, and Cinderella comes out in her own make-shift ball gown. The sisters won't let her go to the Ball and rip her invitation. Cinderella starts to cry (don't worry, it's just pretend!)

Luckily, the Fairy comes to the rescue. With magic (and a song!) we see our world transform into a flying pumpkin, in which Cinderella rides to the ball.





## Interval

There is now a 20 minute interval. You can go to the bathroom, get a drink or snack or just have a rest.



## THE ROYAL BALL

We are back in the story and the Fairy welcomes us to the Royal Ball. Lots of characters are on stage and a big dance occurs. After this, Prince Charming and Cinderella try to find each other and a quick search occurs with lots of people rushing around onstage. There is silly music to accompany, until they finally bump into each other.

Cinderella finds out 'Gareth' is actually Prince Charming, but forgives him and they dance. However, Cinderella has to leave at the stroke of midnight and accidentally leaves her glass slipper. Prince Charming picks it up and confronts Dandina, telling her he will never marry her, so she locks him in the dungeon.







## **BACK AT CINDERELLA'S HOUSE**

Smelly and Belly are making pancakes, but they are terrible cooks and make A LOT of mess! There is even a water fight – watch out, you might get a little wet too. Buttons accidentally lets slip that Cinderella went to the Royal Ball, even though Belly and Smelly told her not to go. So Belly and Smelly lock Cinderella in the attic – Oh no!

Then the ugly sisters call for Tibbles to chase away Buttons, Poppers and Zip. They run through the audience, and might even say hello to you as they pass.



## **SLIP AWAY**

Prince Charming is locked away in the dungeon and Cinderella is locked away in the attic. They sing a duet about loneliness and love. It will feel sad and heartfelt. But don't worry... Help is on the way!



## THE ESCAPE SCENE

Cinderella, the Fairy, the ugly sisters and the mice go on a mission to save the Prince...

In this scene, we will see the rescuers overcome different obstacles and reach the Prince. During this, you will see lots of lighting and different sound effects.

Some of their obstacles include a GIANT wall of cheese, a HUGE mirror that they must try to break through, a laser maze that Buttons must try to climb and duck through, and a jigsaw puzzle that Prince Charming must solve – but they'll need your help along the way!

Trigger warning: this scene contains strobe lighting and flashing images.







## THE ROYAL WEDDING

The wedding is here and Dandina is about to get her own way.

A random person from the audience is chosen to come on stage to pretend to be Prince Charming, so that Dandina can marry them and become Queen.

But... Prince Charming and his friends arrive to save the day! Dandina is stopped, arrested and sent to the dungeons.

Cinderella asks Prince Charming for his hand, and they agree to get married.  
Oxland is saved!



## **OXLAND!**

Before the end of our story, it's time to sing the Oxland song one more time. The words of the song will appear on stage and you can sing along if you wish, but you don't have to.





## THE BOWS

During the next scene, there will be lots of clapping. This is where we celebrate our actors, and say well done for performing so well! You can choose if you would like to join in with the clapping or not. When we have welcomed all our characters back to the stage, we begin the final dance. Our Fairy will bring a special message from David Attenborough, offering Buttons, Poppers and Zip the chance to appear on TV.

Then we will say goodbye to our cast with one final wave and bow!





***Thank you for coming!***

