

Cinderella: The Real Story

A new play by Rayven Craft, John Maclay,

Austin Nelson, and Emma Swain

Commissioned in 2020 by the Orlando Repertory Theater

CAST

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

Chorus 3

Chorus 4

Cindy

Laurel (Fairy Godmother)

Arthur (Prince Charming)

Monty the Rat



Dad

Stepmom

King

Steward

Step Sister 1

Step Sister 2

CHORUS 1

Once upon a time

CHORUS 4

Really? That's how we're starting?

CHORUS 2

In a land far, far away.

CHORUS 4

It wasn't that far.

CHORUS 3

Lived a young woman named Cinderella.

CHORUS 4

No there wasn't.

CHORUS 1

What are you doing?

CHORUS 3

Yeah, stop it!

CHORUS 2

It's not cool.

CHORUS 1

I know it's your first day in our chorus, but we have a particular way of doing things so maybe just watch and listen today.

CHORUS 4

I'm not trying to be a jerk. I just think we should tell the true story.

CHORUS 1

That's what we're all trying to do!

CHORUS 2

Yeah!

CHORUS 4

Are you kidding me? You didn't even get her name right. No one calls themselves Cinderella. That's the name the bullies gave her 'cause she always had to work with the cinders, you know -- the fireplace? which is why she was so dirty? You might as well call her FilthyElla. It's a nickname and it's mean.

CHORUS 3

Then what is her name?

CHORUS 4

Cindy. Just Cindy.

CHORUS 1

Cindy?

CHORUS 2

If we call her Cindy, will you let us tell the story?

CHORUS 4

Of course! If you tell it right...

CHORUS 3

FINE! We'll start over.

CHORUS 2

I know I didn't have this much attitude on my first day. Ok. Let's go.

CHORUS 1

Once upon a time.

CHORUS 4

That's still pretty cliché.

CHORUS 2

In a land far far away.

CHORUS 4

It really wasn't that far. An hour, maybe two.

CHORUS 3

Lived a young woman named... Cindy.

CHORUS 4

Much better.

CHORUS 1

There was also a Kingdom. And more than anything else, the King wanted his son, Prince Charming, to marry and live happily ever after.

KING

More than anything else, I, the King, want you, my son, Prince Charming, to marry and live happily ever after.

CHORUS 1

Very good.

CHORUS 2

The Prince thought that sounded delightful.

PRINCE CHARMING

That sounds delightful!

CHORUS 1

So the King did everything to find a suitable match.

KING

I did everything I could to find a suitable match!

CHORUS 1

He threw parties, he held contests, but no one seemed to be the right fit for the Prince.

CHORUS 2

Finally, the King said he was throwing a ball and inviting the entire Kingdom. The plan was that by the end of the ball the Prince would be engaged.

CHORUS 3

Everyone was so excited to go to the ball. Everyone except...Cindy. For you see, Cindy would not be going to the ball.

CHORUS 1

Her mother had died and her father had remarried a very unpleasant woman with two even more unpleasant daughters.

CHORUS 2

And then he died too,

CHORUS 3

Which left Cindy with this trio of unpleasantness.

CHORUS 2

The step sisters bullied her, they teased her, and they called her Cinderella because the cinders from the fireplace left her face and clothes dirty with ash.

CHORUS 1

Right. Her real name was Cindy, but they wouldn't listen to her.

STEP 1

Cindy? More like Cinders, you filthy girl.

STEP 2

I think we will call you Cinderella.

STEP 1

That's amazing. Now back to work, Cinderella. Cindy soot face!

CHORUS 1

When news arrived of the great ball to find the Prince a partner, the stepsisters were thrilled . They had attended every party, entered every contest, but had never been quite able to win the Prince's affection. But they were determined.

STEP 1

This year is my year.

STEP 2

Or maybe it's mine!

STEP 1

As long as it's one of us.

STEP 2

We can move into the palace!

CINDY

That sounds nice.

STEP 1

I bet it does Cinder-ella.

STEP 2

But sadly no ball for you.

CHORUS 1

So the sisters went to the ball, leaving Cindy behind.

CHORUS 2

Fortunately she had the ability to talk to animals including some mice.

CHORUS 2

So she did have a few friends.

MONTY THE RAT

Hi Cindy! Let us help you! We will do whatever it takes to help you get to that ball!

CINDY

Thank you, kind mouse!

MONTY THE RAT

You are so welcome.

CHORUS 1

Cindy also had a willow tree planted in the background that she watered with her tears till it grew tall and beautiful. Somehow, this tree embodied the spirit of her dead mother and could grant her wishes, and so she wished for a beautiful dress with glass slippers and went to the ball.

CHORUS 2

There, Cindy and Prince Charming danced and fell in love. But before he could learn her name, she ran off because her dress was going to turn back to normal at midnight, which was what happens when you make wishes on your dead mother's tree.

CHORUS 3

BUT she left a glass slipper behind. And so the next day, the Prince visited every house in the Kingdom to see who would fit the slipper.

CHORUS 1

The stepsisters tried so hard, but they could not get their feet into it. But it fit Cinderella and then they got married.

CHORUS 2

She moved to the palace and lived happily ever after.

CHORUS 3

Thank you all! Until next time! Let's get going to Snow White, y'all!

[Everyone starts to pack up and exit the stage, except CHORUS 4]

CHORUS 4

Whoa!

CHORUS 2

What?

CHORUS 4

You just said a lot of crazy stuff right there! That doesn't even make sense.

CHORUS 3

Like what? What doesn't make sense?

CHORUS 4

Um... most of it?

CHORUS 2

Give an example!

CHORUS 4

Well for starters, or rather for enders, they did not live happily ever after. But before that, so many things are wrong; you actually got a lot more wrong than you got right.

CHORUS 1

Yeah, right!

CHORUS 2

Prove it.

CHORUS 4

You don't believe me? Ask them.

CHORUS 3

Ask who?

CHORUS 4

Them. *[talks to MONTY]* Hey you! Is that how the story went?

MONTY THE RAT

Are you speaking to me?

CHORUS 3

Can you do that?

CHORUS 4

Do what?

CHORUS 2

Talk to the characters!

CHORUS 4

Oh sure. I do it all the time. That's how I always know the real story. You've gotta check your sources.

So, hey -- is that how the story happened?

MONTY THE RAT

Not really. I mean.. we aren't even mice. We're rats. We really don't enjoy being called mice. Rats are infinitely superior to mice and it's a gross mischaracterization, plus the stereotypes-

CHORUS 4

But the story! Is the story accurate?

MONTY

Not even close. It didn't even mention our sensational rap.

CHORUS 2

Sorry?

MONTY

Our sensational rap. You know- like when we were like-

He's so famous but he's nameless

What's a Charming? That's alarming

CHORUS 3

Ok. I think we get the idea.

DAD

Could I say something?

CHORUS 3

Now they're all talking!

DAD

I just wanted to say that I was not dead. I just wasn't...really around.

STEP 1

And we weren't evil!

STEP 2

Plus we were like barely in your version.

STEP 1

We are central characters.

DAD

Listen, I'm not saying I was the best father, OK? But, hey, look at it from my point of view. I'm sitting there and my wife has just died of the plague and I've got this daughter to raise who I don't really know that well. And I'm trying to run a small business here with very few customers left. The plague had wiped out most of my best regulars -- the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, you know -- and so I had to travel to get any business. It takes up a lot of my time, OK? So did I marry right away so that someone would take care of my daughter? Maybe. But I thought I was doing the right thing.

CHORUS 1

Why are you saying all of this?

DAD

I just feel like you weren't giving some important context. I was doing my best.

STEP 1

So were we. Look, I'm not saying I was nice to Soot face. But we didn't ask for this.

STEP 2

No we did not. Not at all!

STEP 1