



Cinderella

The title 'Cinderella' is written in a large, dark blue, cursive font with a white outline. Above the letter 'i' in 'Cinderella' is a small, golden carriage icon. The background is a warm, orange-to-yellow gradient with several white starburst effects around the text.



**BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
& PAVILION ARTS CENTRE**

EDUCATION PACK

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Buxton Opera House's Pantomime Education Pack for our 2019 production of Cinderella!

The Christmas Pantomime is a huge highlight in the Opera House programme, and one which we look forward to sharing with you every year.

A visit to the Pantomime may be a child's very first experience of theatre or live performance, and if it is captivating enough, it will leave an inspiring lasting impression. At Buxton Opera House, we are committed to capturing the hearts and minds of children across the Peak District, so we have designed this Education Pack to ensure your students get as much out of their trip to the theatre as they possibly can.

Offering both entertainment and education, this pack contains reference information, resources, fun activities and creative tasks that will help to further your students' understanding and enjoyment of our production of Cinderella. Please feel free to use it as you wish!

We hope you enjoy exploring this much-loved tale as much as we have, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Opera House soon!



HISTORY OF PANTOMIME

Pantomime is a type of theatre production intended for family entertainment which includes music, dance and comedy. Pantomime found its heart, and developed in the United Kingdom, where it is performed typically during the Christmas and New Year season.

These days, Pantomime is often seen as a quintessentially British tradition, but the origins of this form of theatre actually stem from much warmer parts of Europe!

One of the first recorded references to Pantomime was in Ancient Greece; the Greek words “pan” meaning “all”, and “mimos” which translates as “imitator” described a group who “imitate all” – the performances would feature songs, music and comedy.

Many of the Pantomime traditions can be traced back to Italian influences found in Commedia Dell'arte; a travelling group of performers who made up stories and taught moral lessons to their audiences. They changed characters at each location, basing them on traditional stock character types including lovers, fathers, an intelligent and a silly servant.

Typically, the modern, British Pantomime can be distinguished by its dramatisation of classic fairy-tales, incorporating song, dance, slapstick, cross-dressing and audience participation.

STOCK PANTOMIME CHARACTERS

Very much like Commedia D'ellarte, Pantomimes are made up of similar and recognisable characters in each story. These are known as 'Stock Characters'. Some of these include:

The Dame

A female character that is traditionally played by a man, the Dame is often the comedic driving force behind the pantomime who encourages audience participation throughout. Typically, The Ugly Stepsisters are the Dames in a Cinderella Pantomime.

The Principal Boy

The Principal Boy is the hero of the story and has a friendly relationship with the audience – Traditionally this character was played by a woman, but in more recent versions, male actors play this part. In Cinderella, The Prince is the Principal Boy.

The Principal Girl

The Principal Girl is always played by a woman and is often the main focus of the story. The Principal Girl usually ends up marrying the Principal Boy and they live happily ever after! The Principal Girl in Cinderella is, of course, Cinderella!

The Villain

Traditionally in pantomime, the baddie always has a scheme to defeat the hero. Their plans may be to steal the heart of the prince, cause misery for the hero or claim some much sought after treasure. This character is often met with a chorus of boos and hisses from the audience.

The Chorus

Most Pantomimes have a chorus of singers and dancers who are used to portray the background characters in big, group scenes. The Chorus in Cinderella will be used to play the villagers and the guests at the ball, for example. Each year we hold auditions to find 20 talented children from the local area who make up our Juvenile Chorus.

Did You Know?

Traditionally, Good characters enter from stage right and evil characters enter from stage left! This tradition goes back to echo medieval times, when the entrances to heaven and hell were placed on these sides.

CLASSIC FEATURES OF PANTOMIME

Audience Participation

This is one of the many ways in which Pantomime differs from other types of theatre. By breaking down the 'fourth wall', Pantomime characters often address the audience directly. The audience are encouraged to hiss, boo, cheer and talk back to the characters – they often respond to an actor's appearance on stage with a greeting learned at the beginning of the show, such as “HELLO BUTTONS!”

Song and Dance

Music and dance are used throughout Pantomimes to highlight events in the plot. Some Pantomimes use very well-known pop songs throughout their production, whereas others have original songs written especially for them. Usually towards the end of a Pantomime, after the main bulk of the drama has finished, the audience is encouraged to sing along for the 'song sheet' section, where lyrics are provided on a big screen and three children from the audience are invited up on stage!

Slapstick/Physical Comedy

Most of Charlie Chaplin's work is an excellent example of Physical Comedy. This is where humour is created through exaggerated movements or behaviours; things like slipping on banana skins or a bucket of water tipping onto someone's head. This type of performance requires a very skilled, physically trained actor.

The Slosh Scene

An extension of the slapstick humour used in Pantomime, the Slosh Scene involves the characters getting very messy with something such as cake, cream, water, flour or bubbles. This scene is usually right before the interval so that there is enough time to clean the stage before the action continues!

“He's Behind You!”

Also known as the Ghost in the Gloomy Wood scene, this is a recurring moment throughout Pantomimes where the characters are tormented by the presence of a ghost, or cheeky animal, or another character that they cannot see. The audience is encouraged to shout the location of the mysterious character, such as “He's behind you!”

Cinderella



Cinderella is one of the most popular pantomime titles of all time, and thanks to Walt Disney, pretty much everybody knows the modern-day Cinderella story. But not many people know where the origins of this story lie!

The oldest known version of Cinderella is the ancient Greek story of Rhodopis; a beautiful Egyptian woman whose sandal was snatched by an eagle and taken all the way to Memphis where it was dropped into the lap of a king! The king, struck by the beauty of the sandal, and the peculiarity of the event decided he would marry whoever owned the shoe.

The story as it is most commonly known was first published by French author, Charles Perrault in 1697. It is in this version that we are introduced to the Fairy Godmother, the pumpkin carriage and the glass slipper. In this version there is a happy ending for Cinderella AND her stepsisters, whom Cinders finds husbands for.

The first stage appearance of Cinderella was based on Perrault's tale, and took place at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in 1804 as part of the 'New Grand Allegorical Pantomime Spectacle'.

The modern Pantomime version of Cinderella tells the story of a young, beautiful girl whose mother has died and whose father has recently re-married a Wicked Stepmother who has two daughters, known as the Ugly Stepsisters. With the help of her friend Buttons, Cinderella meets the Prince in the forest who has switched places with his right hand man Dandini. The Prince immediately falls for Cinderella, and wants desperately to see her again, so he invited the entire village to a ball. In an attempt to stop Cinderella from attending, the Ugly Stepsisters rip up her invitation, but Cinders gets help from her Fairy Godmother, who creates a carriage from a pumpkin and a beautiful ball gown on the condition that Cinderella must return home by midnight. At the ball, Cinderella meets the Prince and discovers his true identity. When the clock strikes midnight, she runs away and leaves her glass slipper behind. The Prince vows to marry whoever the shoe fits, and despite her Ugly Stepsisters best efforts, the Prince finds Cinderella and they live happily ever after!

CHARACTERS in order of appearance

FAIRY GODMOTHER

A kind-hearted fairy who looks after Cinderella and helps her to meet the Prince

CINDERELLA

A young girl who is treated badly by her two step-sisters

BUTTONS

A servant at Cinderella's home, Hardup Hall. He loves Cinderella

BARON HARDUP

Cinderella's dad

IVANA

One of Cinderella's not-so-nice step sisters

MELANIA

Cinderella's second step sister, who is even meaner than Ivana

PRINCE CHARMING

A royal prince who falls in love with Cinderella

DANDINI

A servant who helps the prince

INTERVIEW with Cinderella Costume Designer Jo Deville

How did you learn about costume design?

I've made dresses since I was a young girl. I started making costumes at a theme park, Alton Towers.

Who inspired you to make costumes?

The lady who supervised me at Alton Towers had worked on films like Star Wars and she taught me everything she knew.

Who is the nicest person you have ever made a costume for?

For the past four years I've dressed our Dame, James Holmes (who played Clive in 'Miranda'), and he couldn't be nicer.

When and how do you plan the costumes?

I plan the costumes after talking to Philip Dart the director and carefully reading the script. I make all my own patterns and often experiment till something works.

What is the first step?

It's often the hat that gives me the inspiration for the rest of the costume. It certainly works that way with the Dame's outfits.

How long does it take?

I usually start thinking about the first set of costumes in April, when we are planning to take pictures for the poster and leaflet. There are lots of late nights while I'm making all the costumes, but once the first public performance is over I can usually relax a little!

Why do children like pantomime costumes so much?

Young children love colour and sparkle. All kids love dressing up, and it's great for them to see grown-ups wearing fabulous, fantasy costumes. They especially love the silly Dame costumes.

What has been difficult when making costumes for Cinderella?

I always find the Ugly Sisters quite hard to design for. Although they are different sizes, and have different characters, their dresses need to fit together. Their costumes also need to be much bigger and funnier than other Dame characters, so it can be difficult to come up with ideas.

Have you ever had any disastrous or funny costume making stories that prove the 'show must go on?'

Over the years there have been times when people have put on the wrong costume, but we usually manage to get them dressed and on stage in time. My golden rule for the backstage people helping the actors is 'Wear lots of safety pins on your jumper!'

What's the secret of a quick change?

We only use buttons for decoration. If you want to take put on or take off a costume quickly, you need Velcro, which is a double ribbon with tiny plastic hooks on one side that stick to the 'eyes' on the other side.

ACTIVITY: Cinderella says

Cinderella has two step-sisters who are cruel to her. They are called the “Ugly Sisters” because being horrible has made them ugly on the inside.

Cinderella thinks you should never say something nasty when you can say something nice. See if you can change some of the words used by the Ugly Sisters to words that Cinderella might use.

THE SISTERS SAY...	CINDERELLA SAYS...
Ugly	
Horrible	
Stupid	
Boring	
Bad	
Annoying	

Imagine your friend is feeling sad, and write five good things about them that will cheer them up:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

ACTIVITY: Write an acrostic poem

An ACROSTIC poem is a poem where the first letters of each line spell out a particular word. See if you can create an Acrostic Poem to spell out the word CINDERELLA!

C

I

N

D

E

R

E

L

L

A

ACTIVITY: Write a pantomime limerick

A Limerick is a 5 line poem with a rhyme scheme of AABBA – this means that lines 1, 2 and 5 all rhyme with each other, and lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other.

Here is an example of a limerick:

There was an old lady from Derry,
Who swallowed a magical berry,
In more than an hour,
Her head grew a flower,
And on each petal then grew a cherry!

Try writing your own limerick about one of the pantomime characters...

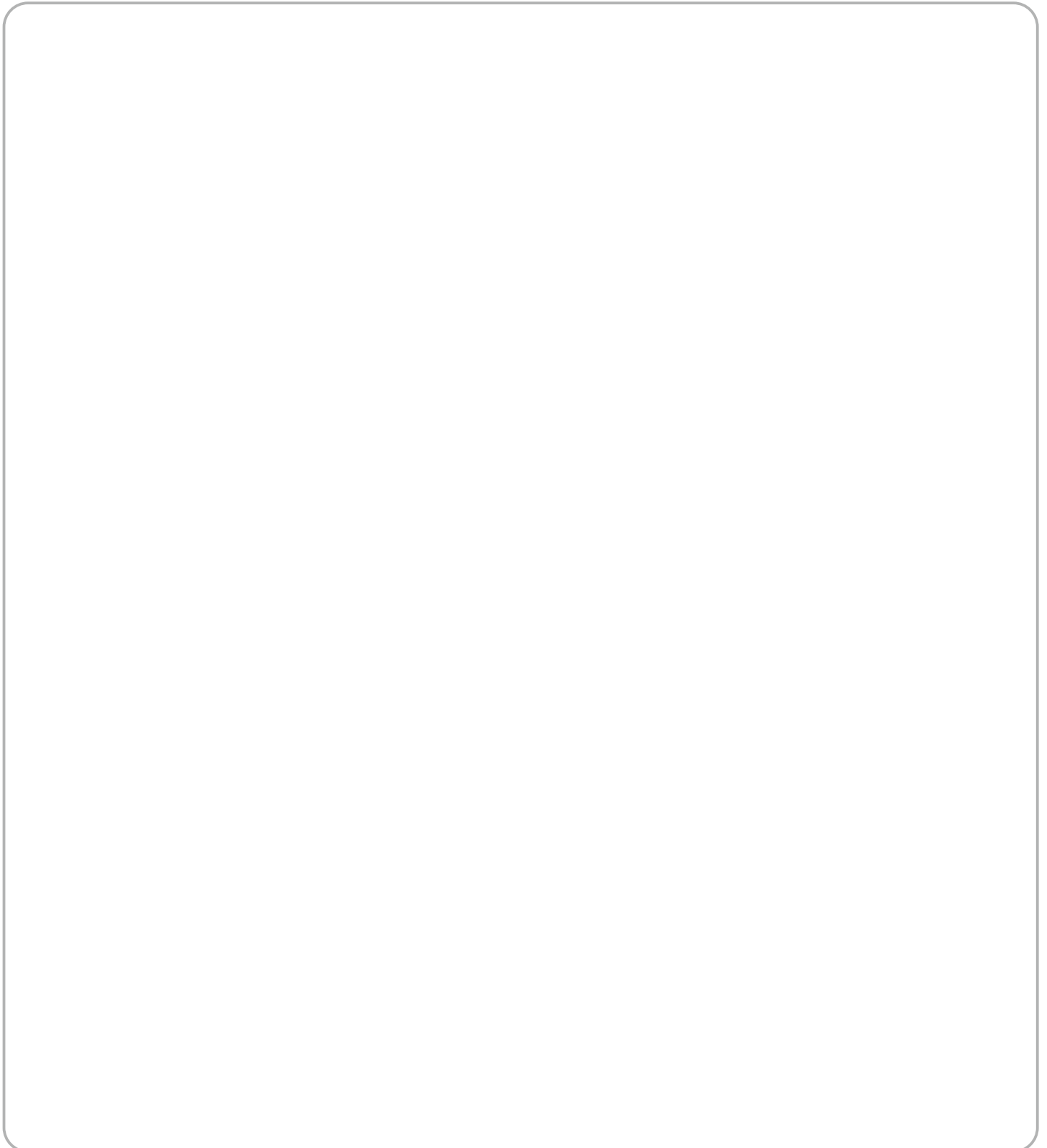
There was...

ACTIVITY: Design your own Cinderella poster

Can you design an exciting and eye catching poster for Cinderella at Buxton Opera House?
What information do you think you need to include?

Have a think about what characters and colours you might use to make the post stand out!

We would love to see your posters! Email your final design to kallsop@boh.org.uk and we will share a selection of them on our Social Media pages throughout December.



ACTIVITY: Cinderella's Slipper

Cinderella has lost her slipper! Can you design her a new one?

Does your slipper have any magical powers?



ACTIVITY: Match the adjectives to the characters that they describe

BRAVE

KIND

OLD

STUPID

FUNNY

DETERMINED

MOTHERLY

MANIPULATIVE

FRIENDLY

JEALOUS

WISE

SELFISH

LOVING

MAGIC

VAIN

DITHERING

POWERLESS

SILLY

CRUEL

CINDERELLA

BUTTONS

UGLY STEPSISTERS

FAIRY GODMOTHER

THE PRINCE

DANDINI

THE BARON