

# Cinderella



## Visual Story

This visual story is written to help you prepare for your visit to the Festival Theatre, to see the pantomime Cinderella. We're really looking forward to welcoming you.

This guide will help explain the story through pictures and words. It will also help you get to know the theatre and what you can expect when you visit.

If there's anything you're worried about, let your teachers know and they can get in touch to see how we can help.

We hope you have a magical time at the Ball!

# Arriving at the theatre

This is the Festival Theatre, where you will be watching the show.



You might travel here by bus, car or taxi. It's important to be very careful when crossing roads, and to listen carefully to your trusted adults.



For many schools, the first space you will see will be our foyer:



You will see our staff. They will be wearing black or blue t-shirts. They are here to help if there's anything you need.





Our staff will take you to your seats. Some schools will be sitting downstairs. This area is called the Stalls:



Some schools will be sitting upstairs. This area is called the Dress Circle:



The toilets are just outside the auditorium, on each level. Our staff will be happy to show you the way.

You'll know that the show is about to begin when the music starts and the performers come on stage.

The lights will go a little darker, but you will still be able to see around you.

We know that watching the show can be a noisy and some of you might find this a bit overwhelming. You can ask for ear defenders if you like:



Our panto stars love to hear you laugh, boo and maybe even shout "he's behind you!", but we understand that some of you might like to enjoy the show in a more quiet way. That's fine too!

There are break-out spaces outside of the auditorium if you'd like to watch the show in a quieter space, or if you'd like to enjoy another activity like colouring-in.



# The Pantomime

Now it's time to tell you the story of the show!



# The characters

## Faerie May



Faerie May is our fabulous Panto Dame. She's here to help tell the story. She'll also make sure there are plenty of chances to giggle and join in, if you want to.

She wears big sparkly and colourful costumes and likes to make fun of the baddies.



# Baroness Hibernia



The Baroness is Cinderella's evil stepmother. She wants a rich husband and isn't afraid to play nasty tricks to find one. She is also the mother of Vindicta and Manipulata, Cinderella's wicked stepsisters. The Baroness wants Prince Charming to marry one of her daughters, not Cinderella. If you like, you can give her a big "BOO!" whenever she's being nasty.

# Buttons



Buttons is Cinderella's best friend. At times he pretends to be a character called Dandini, one of the Prince's Royal Advisors. Buttons is one of the friendliest panto pals and helps to make sure that everything works out fine in the end. He's very energetic and loves nothing more than saying a big "HIYA PALS!" to everyone in the room. He loves it when you say "HIYA!" Back



# Cinderella



Cinderella is a kind girl who lives at Hardup Hall with her father, the Baron. She falls in love with Prince Charming after meeting him at the Enchanted Forest, and then seeing him again at the Ball. The Baroness Hibernia and her wicked stepsisters are very mean to Cinderella and try to stop her from meeting the Prince.

# Baron Hardup



The Baron is Cinderella's father. He is tricked into marrying the nasty Baroness, who does not treat him or Cinderella well. The Baron is a kind man who wants his daughter to be happy.



# Prince Charming



The Prince lives in the palace and falls in love with Cinderella, even before he knows her name! The Prince meets Cinderella in the Enchanted Forest and decides to throw a Ball at the palace so that he can see her again.

# Vindicta and Manipulata



Vindicta & Manipulata are Cinderella's wicked stepsisters. Their mum, the Baroness, wants them to marry Prince Charming. They are very mean to Cinderella, and you might want to "BOO!" to tell them off!

# The Story

## Act One

It's time for the show to begin!

First, we see the Auchterreekie Faeries. They're surrounded by a sea of stars and an ocean of mist. The faeries sing a lovely welcome song to let us know that the story is about to begin.



The Faeries introduce us to Faerie May. This is Cinderella's Faerie Godmother. She's going to help tell the story of the pantomime. She'll say a big "hello!" to you all, and you can say "hello!" back, if you want! She sings a song about how fun it is to be a faerie.



It's time to meet a very important character – Cinderella!

Cinderella sings us a song about a magical place called New Town. Listen carefully – you might recognise some of the place names!



Faerie May casts a magic spell to make Prince Charming appear. The Prince worries that his father – the King - will be cross that he has left the Royal Palace without a guard to look after him. The King thinks the city is full of baddies.



Faerie May asks the Prince to meet her at the Enchanted Forest, later that night. She says she wants to “make the impossible possible”.

We meet Cinderella's wicked stepmother – the nasty Baroness Hibernia. She drives onto the stage in a big green car. The Baroness tells us that she is looking for a new husband. All her other husbands have died mysterious deaths after eating poisonous mushrooms.



We meet the Baroness's daughters, Vindicta and Manipulata. They tell their mother that they think they have found her a new husband - Baron Hardup. He lives in a big house called Hardup Hall, so they think he probably has lots of money for them to steal.





After the Baroness and her daughters leave, a bicycle rides onto stage, pulling a carriage of pumpkins. Suddenly a character bursts out of the carriage; it's Buttons!



Buttons is a bit silly but very friendly. He'll say a big "HIYA PALS!", and you can say "HIYA!" back if you want to.

Buttons tells us that he loves Cinderella but that he's scared to tell her. Faerie May tells Buttons that she has an idea how he could make Cinderella happy: He should dress up and pretend to be one of the Prince's Royal Advisors. Buttons thinks this is a good idea. He'll pretend his name is Dandini.

Now we meet Cinderella's father, Baron Hardup. He works at the Royal Palace but his boss, the King, is mean and doesn't pay him well. Buttons tells Cinderella that he wants to help her father make money by growing lots of pumpkins. He thinks this will make the Baron very rich.



The Baroness overhears that the Baron has become rich. She quickly forces him to marry her. Now she's going to be Cinderella's stepmother. This means Vindicta and Manipulata will become her stepsisters.

They plan to steal the Baron's money. They also want to force Cinderella to leave school and take over tidying the house. Poor Cinderella!



We visit the special Enchanted Forest and meet Prince Charming. He sings a song about wanting to find somebody to love. Cinderella joins in; she's also looking for someone to love!



Prince Charming and Cinderella are excited to meet each other, but they can't talk for long – Cinderella isn't supposed to be out after midnight! Scared that she will get in trouble, Cinderella runs home to Hardup Hall.

Prince Charming explains to Faerie May and Buttons that he has met the girl of his dreams, but that he doesn't know her name.

The Prince asks why Buttons is pretending to be a Royal Advisor. Faerie May explains that in disguise, Buttons can help Prince Charming to find out more about this girl.

Faerie May sings a song about her Christmas wish – she wishes she could be younger!





Faerie May has another idea for how the Prince could meet the girl again: He could throw a big party, called a Ball. If they invite everyone in the Kingdom, the girl is sure to come! The Prince is very excited, and they decide to host the Ball that very night.



The Baroness hears about the Ball. She wants Prince Charming to invite her daughters. She asks him to give her four tickets, so that she, Vindicta, Manipulata and Cinderella can all go to the Ball. She promises to deliver the invitation safely to Cinderella. Do you think the Prince should believe her?



The Baroness and the stepsisters decide to go shopping. They need new outfits to wear to the Ball. They sing a song about all the shops they might visit. Listen closely – do you recognise any place names?



The Baroness tells Cinderella about the Ball. The Baroness is very nasty to Cinderella and makes her tear up her invitation. This means that Cinderella can't go to the ball.



Cinderella and Faerie May meet for the first time. Faerie May tells Cinderella that she's her fairy godmother, here to help make the impossible possible! Faerie May uses her magic to make a new invitation to the Ball appear.



Faerie May also gives Cinderella a beautiful dress to wear and a very special pumpkin carriage to take her to the Ball - watch closely when it comes on stage!

Faerie May explains that the magic spell will stop anyone from recognising Cinderella. She also tells Cinderella that the spell will end at midnight, so she must leave the Ball before then! Buttons drives the carriage to take Cinderella to the Ball. If you'd like to wish Cinderella a happy time, you can wave, cheer or clap as she flies through the sky!



# The Interval

It's now time for the show to take a break. This break is called The Interval. This is a good time to go to the toilet if you need. You can also have a walk in our break-out spaces, or enjoy an ice cream at your seat. Make sure you stay with your teachers if you are leaving your seats.





# Act Two

It's time for the show to start again. Take your seats when the music starts playing.

It's time for our pantomime characters to go to the Ball! First to arrive is Baroness Hibernia. She sings a song about how much she loves to hear people "boo!" You're welcome to join in the boo-ing, if you want to.



Prince Charming asks Faerie May and Buttons to keep everyone distracted while he finds Cinderella. They decide to do a magic trick and Buttons gets to wear a very silly costume!



Finally, Prince Charming and Cinderella find each other!





They decide to run away together, but before they get the chance, they realise that it's nearly midnight. The magic spells runs out at midnight!

Scared, Cinderella runs away. The Prince will ask for your help in finding her. You can help by pointing, if you like.



The Prince can't find Cinderella, but he does find one of her crystal slippers.



Back at Hardup Hall, Faerie May and Buttons decide it would be fun to challenge the Baroness to a dance off. They change into colourful dance costumes! They will ask you to cheer and clap for your favourite dancer – you can join in, if you'd like!



At the end of the dance-off, we see Cinderella again. Cinderella is very sad that the magic wore off and she didn't get to say goodbye to Prince Charming.

Buttons tries to cheer Cinderella up by sharing his favourite teddy with her. She tells Buttons that she loves him like a brother. Buttons is upset and steals his teddy back.

Buttons comes back to apologise to Cinderella for stealing Teddy. He sets Teddy down on the stage, and to everyone's surprise, Teddy begins to talk! Teddy sings a song about how Buttons will always be his best friend.



Back at Hardup Hall, Vindicta and Manipulata are speaking about the Ball. They've heard that a mysterious girl left a crystal slipper behind and that the Prince is going to every house to try and find its owner. The Prince has fallen in love with the girl who was wearing the slipper.

Buttons – pretending to be Dandini – visits Hardup Hall with the crystal slipper. It doesn't belong to her, but Manipulata uses a fake leg to pretend that the slipper fits her foot. The Baroness tells everyone that this means the Prince must marry her daughter. Oh no!





Cinderella enters, holding the other slipper. She was the girl at the ball. She is the girl the Prince should marry!



The wicked stepsisters don't want the Prince to know the truth, so they lock Cinderella in the cellar. Buttons can't find her. Can you help Buttons by pointing to the cellar?

With all your amazing help, Buttons can ask his friend Teddy to use his magic to open the cellar door. Cinderella is free to be reunited with her Prince!



Prince Charming arranges for the palace police to arrest the Baroness and the stepsisters.

The Baroness, however, has escaped the police! Faerie May challenges the Baroness to a fight. Faerie May wears a funny red costume and fights the Baroness using big colourful batons. You can cheer your favourite on to win, if you like!



May wins the fight!

Prince Charming and Cinderella are very happy to be together. Together, everyone sings a song to celebrate good winning over evil.



We're nearly at the end of the show, so it's time for a special song where we can say thank you and goodbye to our pantomime friends. Some people like to clap, cheer or dance, but you can join in however you like.



## The End

At the end of the show, please stay in your seats until your teachers tell you it's time to leave. You'll soon be going back to school. This is a nice time to talk about the things you loved best.

We hope you had a wonderful time at the pantomime!