

CINDERELLA: A CLASSIC FAIRYTALE OPERA

Adapted from the operas *La Cenerentola* by Rossini
Cendrillon by Massenet
And the original fairytale by Charles Perrault

Written and Adapted by Joshua Borths

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Scene 1

The house of Don Magnifico, Cinderella's father, in the age of fairytales.

Music begins. Cinderella enters the room, overburdened with laundry, dresses, and various baubles. She has been working non-stop since the very early morning. She dumps the items on the table and takes the opportunity to make some tea and grab some food. Maybe—just maybe—she will have a moment for herself.

However, right as she is about to take a bite, the piercing voice of her Stepsister is heard offstage. She enters, only partially ready for the ball, as she sings. She is in the middle of a fashion crisis.

STEPSISTER

WHERE DID YOU GO,
DEAR CINDERELLA?

She sees Cinderella sitting at the table.

DON'T SIT DOWN—NO DON'T YOU DARE!
YOU ARE NOT DONE WITH MY HAIR!

Kindly, Cinderella swallows her annoyance and graciously helps her stepsister with her hair.

THAT'S RIGHT.
MAKE SURE IT'S GOOD AND TIGHT.

FATHER

Entering, in a panic also only partly dressed I NEED YOU NOW!

WHERE DID YOU GO?
Seeing Cinderella, out of breath ALL THIS RUNNING TO AND FRO...

... IS THE WORST FOR MY DIGESTION
WHEN I CALL IT'S NO SUGGESTION!

STEPSISTER

To her father I YELLED FIRST, DEAREST DAD.
Aside HE CAN REALLY MAKE ME MAD!

FATHER

To Stepsister, bratty THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO.
SHE CAN'T CATER JUST TO YOU.

BOTH

CINDERELLA! CINDERELLA!

QUICKLY HURRY AND GIVE YOUR ALL
FOR TONIGHT'S THE PRINCE'S BALL!

FATHER

To the Stepsister Oh, yes! Tonight the Prince will choose his bride. My dear, *you* will soon become queen while I become the real power behind the throne. That's the plan!

Cinderella is appalled while her Stepsister clearly does not understand all of the machinations of her father.

STEPSISTER

Matching his energy and turning to the audience What he said!

CINDERELLA

To her sister What he said? How can you just go along with this?! This whole ball is silly. Besides, if I had the ear of the Prince, I certainly wouldn't waste my time batting my eyes at him. I would tell him what I really think.

I would say this kingdom could be so much better if we all worked together. If we were kind to one another. If our King and Prince really saw—

STEPSISTER

Cinderella, I'm bored! Besides, you're not as special as I. *You* wouldn't understand how glorious a ball can be.

CINDERELLA

But don't see how—

FATHER

Cinderella, that is enough! You are so disrespectful.

CINDERELLA

Disrespectful? But Mother always said that speaking out for what you believe—

FATHER

How dare you evoke her name. I said enough!

Their Father gives a chore for Cinderella to do. While she obeys his will, she turns to her sister using a different tactic.

CINDERELLA

BUT THIS PRINCE YOU'VE NEVER MET...
SHOULD YOU TALK?

FATHER/STEPSISTER

WHO CARES... AT ALL!

Father leaves exasperated.

STEPSISTER

NO ONE CARES IF YOU APPROVE.
HE'S A PRINCE, SO I'LL PURSUE!

CINDERELLA

THAT SO SILLY—
There is a knock on the door.

STEPSISTER/CINDERELLA

WHO IS THAT... AT THE DOOR?

Cinderella opens the door. The Prince enters disguised as a beggar. The Prince isn't a great actor, so he overdoes it a little. Cinderella immediately feels a connection with him and takes pity.

CAN YOU HELP SOMEONE IN NEED?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP ME?

PRINCE

The Stepsister is horrified.

YOU LOOK AWFUL AND BIZARRE!

STEPSISTER

Taking pity on him YOU HAVE TRAVELED, OH, SO FAR!

CINDERELLA

YOU LOOK AWFUL AND BIZARRE!

STEPSISTER

Cinderella sits him down and starts to give him food and drink. The Stepsister is now fuming and trying to sabotage everything Cinderella does.

I'M SO SORRY, MY DEAR MAN.
I WILL ALWAYS LEND A HAND.

CINDERELLA

YOU'RE THE FIRST I'VE COME ACROSS
WHO HAS HELPED ME WHILE I'M LOST.

PRINCE

As the trio below begins, the Prince starts helping Cinderella. She's taken aback. No one has ever helped her before. They also have a moment where they touch and feel a connection. At the last possible moment, the Prince is almost ready to cast off his disguise but is stopped by new action. The Stepsister gets aggressive. Have fun staging this intricate trio.

STEPSISTER
Interrupting SILLY MAN JUST GO AWAY—NOW!
YOU'RE NOT WELCOME IN THIS BIG HOUSE.

Defiant DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO DEFY ME.
I CAN REALLY MAKE YOU SORRY!

YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO I AM YET.
DON'T DO SOMETHING YOU'D REGRET!

PRINCE
To Cinderella I WILL NOT JUST GO AWAY—NOW!
WHEN THERE'S KINDNESS IN THIS BIG HOUSE.

Insinuating I'D THINK TWICE IF YOU DEFY ME.
I CAN REALLY MAKE YOU SORRY!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM YET.
DON'T DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET!

Aside THIS SWEET STRANGER IS GENTLE, KIND, AND WISE.
I SEE IT IN HIS EYES.

CINDERELLA

To Prince YOU HAVE UNTIL MY COUNT OF TEN
TO LEAVE AND NOT COME BACK AGAIN.

STEPSISTER

THIS SWEET STRANGER IS GENTLE, KIND, AND WISE>
I SEE IT IN HIS EYES.

CINDERELLA

STEPSISTER

YOU HAVE UNTIL THE COUNT OF FIVE
IF YOU AIM TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE!

Breaking away from the Prince and calling offstage DEAREST DADDY,
COME AND SEE!

FATHER

Entering WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Seeing the Prince WHO IS HE?

STEPSISTER

Tattling HE WAS LET IN BY CINDY!

CINDERELLA

Pleading with her father HE NEEDS HOSPITALITY—

PRINCE

Defending Cinderella WHICH SHE KINDLY OFFERED ME.

STEPSISTER/FATHER

Telling her to shut up CINDY!

CINDERELLA

Getting desperate CAN'T YOU TELL HE'S GOOD AND KIND?

PRINCE

Totally in love AND WE'RE SINGING IN HALF-RHYMES!

As Cinderella and the Prince look at each other, the Father has clearly had enough. He gets very frustrated and attempts to take control of the situation. He separates Cinderella and the Prince. The Prince is pushed to the ground.

FATHER

That is it! I leave for one moment and my house has been invaded and my world turned upside down! *Getting himself under control* Right. first things first. *To the Stepsister* Come here!

OH, DEAREST, LOVELY, LITTLE DAUGHTER IT IS TIME
TO WIN THE PRINCE'S HEART—IT'S TIME TO SHINE!

SO, I COMMAND NO DAUDLING AROUND.
IT'S TIME TO WIN—WIN YOU THE CROWN.

Turing on Cinderella and the Prince AND AS FOR YOU TWO FOOLS,
OBEY MY RULES!

To Cinderella DO WHATEVER WE SAY:
SEND HIM AWAY.

YOU ARE TOO GENEROUS.
BE MORE LIKE US!

FATHER/STEPSISTER

BE MORE LIKE US! BE MORE LIKE US!

STEPSISTER

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS.

CINDERELLA

A beggar has arrived and needs our help. You just want to throw him out? This is exactly what I was talking about!

FATHER

Cinderella, we have no time for this!

CINDERELLA

JUST LET HIM STILL EAT—

FATHER/STEPSISTER

To the Prince OUT ON THE STREET!

CINDERELLA

THAT'S SO UNFAIR!

FATHER/STEPSISTER

To Cinderella BUT, WE DON'T CARE!

The Prince is ignominiously thrown out of the house. Cinderella is heartbroken. However, as her Sister and Father begin barking orders, Cinderella complies. She helps them both finish getting dressed and clean everything up.

FATHER/STEPSISTER

CINDERELLA, MOVE IT, NOW!

CINDERELLA, HELP ME NOW!

CINDERELLA, TO THE RIGHT.

CINDERELLA, TO THE LEFT.

CINDERELLA, OVER HERE.

CINDERELLA, OVER THERE.

CINDERELLA, CLEAN THIS UP.

CINDERELLA, TAKE THIS DOWN.

CINDERELLA, I AM RIGHT.

CINDERELLA YOU ARE WRONG.

CINDERELLA

CINDERELLA, OVER HERE.

CINDERELLA, OVER THERE.

CINDERELLA, CLEAN THIS UP.

CINDERELLA, TAKE THIS DOWN.

CINDERELLA, TO THE RIGHT.

CINDERELLA TO THE LEFT.

CINDERELLA, I AM RIGHT.
CINDERELLA, YOU ARE WRONG.

FATHER

To Stepsister EVERYTHING IS
GOING WELL.
YOU LOOK LIKE A MAGIC SPELL.

IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO SHINE
AND TO MAKE THIS KINGDOM
MINE!

YES, YES, IT'S MINE!

IT IS TIME FOR HER TO GO
AND MAKE OUR POWER GROW.

I WILL MAKE THEM ALL CRAWL
WHEN I AM KING OF ALL!

STEPSISTER

To Father ROYAL BALLS ARE JUST
THE BEST.
I AM READY FOR THE TEST.

I CAN ALWAYS BREAK IT DOWN
IF IT MEANS I WIN THE CROWN!
I WEAR THE CROWN!

YES, YES, IT'S MINE!

IT IS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE.

I'M SO HAPPY I COULD CRY.

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE.

WHO NEEDS MAGIC UP THEIR
SLEEVE?

I HAVE POWER TO ENTHRALL
AT THE ROYAL PRINCE'S BALL!

I WILL GIVE MY ALL
AT THE PRINCE'S ROYAL BALL!

CINDERELLA

To herself OH, MY FAM'LY'S SO
SELFISH.
TO MAKE THEM KIND'S MY
GREATEST WISH.

TO MAKE THEM KIND AND SEE THE
LIGHT
WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD—
TRANSFORMING WRONG INTO A
RIGHT!

THEN I SAY TO YOU, "GOODBYE."

I'M SO ANGRY I COULD CRY.

IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE.

I'VE NO MAGIC UP MY SLEEVE.

I MUST SOMEHOW STAND UP
TALL,
EVEN THOUGH THEY THINK I'M
SMALL! I'LL STAND TALL!

FATHER

As the Stepsister leaves Now, my lovely daughter, have an amazing time. I will be here when you get back, and I want to hear *all* about it! Have fun!

Cinderella, I'm going upstairs. Clean up this mess up.

Cinderella is frustrated and alone.

To be continued...

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