

Cinderella programme notes

The MAC and their partners, award-winning children's theatre company Cahoots, is delighted to present Cinderella, The Midnight Princess.

Creator & Director: Paul Bosco Mc Eaney

Writer: Charles Way

Composers/Sound Designers: Score Draw Music

Characters and Cast

Cinderella played by Corrie Earley. Cinderella is a pretty young woman with long wavy brown hair that cascades down her back. When working in her house and garden Cinderella wears a white shirt with a purple shawl over her shoulders. She has a long, full maroon skirt, that is sometimes hitched up to show a green petticoat underneath.

When dressed for the ball she wears a beautiful blue sleeveless gown with thin straps, a tight bodice and an ankle length taffeta skirt - and beautiful glass slippers with a small heel for dancing. Her hair is pinned back with a silver tiara. Later she wears the dazzling pink dress that belonged to her mother. It has lots of sequins, so it sparkles when she moves.

The Fairy Godmother is played by Jayne Wisener. When we first meet the fairy godmother she is messy and a bit wild looking. She has straggly blonde hair, a black bodice, and long, uneven, raggedy skirts. The fairy godmother sometimes appears as a little, magic bluetit. When she is the fairy bird, the fairy godmother holds a little bird puppet in her hands and manipulates it so it can flap its wings and tweet. Later the fairy godmother is transformed. Her hair is pinned back and she wears a stunning white dress that catches the light and sparkles.

Prince Sebastian is played by Conor Quinn. He is a handsome young man with thick brown hair. At first, he appears in Cinderella's garden, disguised as a kitchen boy. He wears a loose white shirt, a brown waistcoat, brown trousers and sturdy brown shoes. He wears a flat cap and a checked scarf. Later, dressed as the prince, he wears a white shirt, a white waistcoat and a blue cravat. He wears blue trousers tucked into knee length brown boots. At the ball he has a blue ruffle at his neck and a sparkly blue jacket with ruffled sleeves.

Constanze played by Philippa O'Hara. A young woman with long, dark hair, Constanze wears a knee length, puffy skirt with a bold purple and gold pattern. She has a matching top with purple sleeves and purple shoes.

Eloysia is played by Catriona McFeely. She is also young with long, dark hair. She wears a long, feathery yellow skirt with purple trim, and a purple top with feathery yellow sleeves. At the ball, the sisters wear purple and gold dresses with lots of draped skirts and layers.

Wolfy is played by Edalia Day. Wolfy is skinny and tall, with a white, powdered wig. They wear a sparkly, purple bolero jacket with sparkly, purple trousers and shoes and a pink shirt with a big pink bow at the neck.

Sigmund, Cinderella's father, is played by Morgan Cooke. He is the town clock maker. Sigmund wears a blue shirt, grey trousers and has a sturdy red apron.

Maria, played by Allison Harding, is Sigmund's new wife, Cinderella's stepmother. She is a sharp faced woman with dark hair. Maria wears extravagant purple robes - a long velvet cape with wide sleeves and gold edging, over a gold satin dress, with a gold turban and purple gloves.

King Leopold is played by Richard Croxford. At first, he is in bed, with mad, messy hair, a dirty grey nightshirt and an old purple dressing gown. Later, he appears in military dress – a red jacket with lots of gold braid and buttons, neat black trousers and shiny shoes and a black hat with gold trim.

The ensemble are the villagers, a collection of men and women who wear rough peasant clothes, long skirts, loose shirts and shawls for the women and heavy overcoats, baggy shirts and flat caps for the men.

The magic mouse coachmen wear formal three piece suits with frock coats and dangling out the back are long, thick mousey tails.

Set

The set has two levels. On the bottom is the main stage of black flagstones where most of the dancing and action takes place.

About half way back on this level is a raised dais, with a stone edge. It is curved, and at the back sits under a stone archway that is almost like being under a bridge. There are arched doorways to the left and right where characters come and go.

The back wall has a screen where special effects are projected, including the fairy silhouette, the magic tree, the fairy bird, Cinderella's coach, fireworks and stars. The magic tree is beautiful with lots of leaves and it all glows bright silver. Cinderella's coach is made of golden lights.

On the raised dais there are sometimes small model houses with lit up windows to represent the village. This dais also sometimes has the kitchen in Cinderella's

house. It has a chunky wooden table and two chairs and a large wooden grandfather clock that doesn't work.

At other times the dais is the king's bedroom. The king's bed is made of wood, with a carved footboard that faces the auditorium, and a sturdy wooden headboard at the far end. There are grubby sheets and a red bedspread. Long red drapes are hung down when Prince Leopold first goes to the king's room.

On the left and right of the stage matching stone steps curve up to the top level. The steps have chunky stone pillars holding an intricate wrought iron balustrade. Sometimes the small model houses are placed on the stone steps.

At the top of the steps is a model castle. It's big - about half the height of a person - and has pointy roofs, towers, battlements and lots of windows that are brightly lit up.

In front of the castle on the top level is a flat space where characters can look down on the action below and where Cinderella and the prince dance together on the balcony.

At the start of the show the town clock hangs down from the ceiling. It is large at about three feet in diameter and has a white face, black numbers and the hands are stopped. Later it is lowered into a cradle, so it is almost like a big carriage clock.

During the ball, sparkly crystal chandeliers hang down above the bedroom dance floor.

Cinderella has a wooden chest where her most precious belongings are kept. It is green with two leather straps and metal handles on the sides. There is an embossed label on the lid with a C on it.

When the glass slipper is presented to be tried on it is brought in on a table with a crown motif and a red top, sitting on a trap with a red velvet cushion. The girls sit on a piano stool with a red velvet cushion to try on the slipper.

Audio description today is by Amy Stewart, for NI Sightlines.