

MADE BY
EXETER
NORTHCOTT



EXETER NORTHCOTT THEATRE AND LE NAVET BETE PRESENT

CINDERELLA

Two mice sitting on the letters of the word 'CINDERELLA'.

VISUAL STORY

Visual Story – Cinderella

Introduction

This visual story will let you know exactly what happens in our and Le Navet Bete's show *Cinderella*.

We'll be going over:

- The cast (page 3)
- The characters (pages 4-7)
- The set (pages 8-14)
- Show times (page 15)
- The story (warning: this section contains spoilers!) (pages 15-19)
- Any moments in the show that may be a little bit brighter, louder or more unexpected than others. There aren't many, but we want you to know when they are (pages 20-21)
- Chill out spaces (page 21)
- Relaxed performances (page 22)

If you would like to visit the Northcott, see the set and meet the company before you come to the show, please call us on 01392 72 63 63 or email us at access@exeternorthcott.co.uk and we'll do our best to make this happen.

If there is anything else that you would like to know about the show that we don't cover in this visual story, please get in touch via boxoffice@exeternorthcott.co.uk and we'll try to help as best we can.

The Cast

There are 9 actors in Cinderella, with 6 young people sharing the role of Quackers the Duck. Al, Matt and Nick from Exeter-based theatre company Le Navet Bete are joined by Nicci, Mo, Aaron, Tamsin, Bryony and Jodie. Quackers the Duck will be played by Sebastian, Amelie, Lamees, Isla, Ruby and Nate.

Le Navet Bete have been making shows together for over 10 years. Cinderella is the third time that they have collaborated with actors outside of their company, having done so previously on pantomimes *Dick Whittington* and *Robin Hood*.

The actors are supported by the Northcott's technical team. Our technicians make sure that the show runs safely and smoothly, but you probably won't see them on stage.

Some of our technicians sit in the technical box, behind your seats, where they operate the lights and the sound. Other technicians will be above and at the sides of the stage, helping to raise or lower curtains, move scenery, and help actors change costumes during the show.



Nicci Ashford



Nick Bunt



Mo Crook



Al Dunn



Aaron Dart



Matt Freeman



Tamsin Lynes



Bryony Maguire



Jodie Micciché



Sebastian
Bristow



Amelie
Campbell



Ruby
Lovell



Nate
Payne



Lamees
Rashid



Isla
Shabytah

The Characters

The 9 actors play 23 different characters in Cinderella. In each performance, one of the young people will play the role of Quackers the Duck.

They will be wearing lots of different costumes and speaking in lots of different accents.

You can learn more about the main characters that each of the actors play in Cinderella below. You can also learn about the minor characters in the play. They may only appear once or twice on our stage for a short amount of time.

Cinderella Characters (in order of appearance)



Matt Freeman plays one role:
Cinderella's Fairy Godmother.



Bryony Maguire plays one main
character: Dandini.

Dandini is Prince Farming's servant,
helping him with all the problems the
Prince faces.



Aaron Dart plays one character: Prince Farming.

Prince Farming is the Prince of the Kingdom but is more interested in farming and animals!



Nick Bunt is playing two characters: Buttons (a friend of Cinderella) and Bonjela, one of Cinderella's stepsisters.



Al Dunn plays two characters: Poppers (a friend of Cinderella) and Sue de Creme, Cinderella's other stepsister.



Nicci Ashford is playing the titular role of Cinderella.

She lives with her stepsisters Bonjela and Sue de Crème, and her stepmother, Countess Wear.

Matt Freeman will be playing one character: Cinderella's Fairy Godmother.



Jodie Micciché will be playing two roles: the Countess Wear and The Sage.

The Countess Wear is Cinderella's stepmother, and the Sage is a mysterious character from Haldon Forest!



Mo Crook is in our ensemble cast and will be playing 7 characters throughout the show. Mo will be playing a Townsperson, the Town Crier, a Guard, a Delivery Person, a Cleaner, a Courtier and Sailor Twift.



Tamsin Lynes is also in the ensemble and will be playing 6 characters in the show. Tamsin will be playing a Townsperson, a Guard, a Delivery Person, a Cleaner, a Courtier and a Vicar.



Amelie Campbell, Seb Bristow, Isla Shabyta, Ruby Lovell, Lamees Rashid and Nate Payne will be rotating through the run of the show. They will be performing 8 roles: Townsperson, Quackers the Duck, Air-Horn Kid, Courtier, Graham/Julie the Manager, Referee and Gregory/Georgina.

The Set



The sides of the stage look like ornate columns, covered in snow. They are very sparkly.

The set on the stage is changed at different times during the show to look like different locations. To make up the locations, we're using set pieces, props and showcloths. Showcloths are backdrops that cover the whole width and height of the set, and are illustrated to provide a background that can look like it's far off in the distance.



Outside with the castle in the distance

A big illustration covers the whole stage on a showcloth. There are trees with lanterns hanging from them and two chandeliers. Everything is covered in snow and ice. In the centre is the title of our show: Cinderella.



The marketplace / ice skating rink

There's a big staircase leading up to heavy doors, all covered in snow. In the background there's a showcloth that shows the town in the distance. At the start of the show, there's also a big snowman.



The basement in Cinderella's house

In the centre, there's a big fireplace. There's a lot of shelves all the way around on the sides and over the top, with all kinds of jars, bottles, boxes, crockery and food.



The Guildhall

A big illustration covers the whole stage with a showcloth. In the middle is a very tall door with ornate chandeliers on either side. Heavy blue curtains are draped all around.



Inside the forest – the Sage’s lair

A forest completely covered in icicles. There are two statues of women blowing horns and lanterns hanging from the trees. A sign reads “this way to the Sage”. On the other side is a tall wooden throne, two young trees with branches at either side.



The Stepsisters' bathroom

In the centre of the stage is a huge bathtub with bubbles. In the background on the showcloth are shelves with beauty products, and a vanity with a mirror. The wallpaper has pink and purple stripes and there are pink and purple drapes.



Outside under the starry sky

Twinkling lights on a black cloth illustrate a starry sky. There's lots of smoke to add to the atmosphere.



The ballroom at the castle

There is a grand staircase in the back that people can walk up and down. There are two ornate chandeliers on either side of the stage, as well as a very tall clock. There are lots of sparkles all around.



Inside the castle (game show set-up)

The showcloth used for the Guildhall is in the background. There's a small pink stage with its own little background that says 'Does the Shoe Fit?'. There are light bulbs all the way around it. On the little stage is a swiveling chair.



The snowy forest

A different showcloth shows the forest as a magical wonderland, still covered in snow, but there's no more ice.

About the show

How long is Cinderella?

Cinderella is performed in two parts with a short break (interval) in the middle so that you can grab a drink from our theatre café, pop to the loo or stretch your legs. The first half of the show is approximately 55 minutes long. The interval lasts around 20 minutes. The second half of the show is approximately 55 minutes long. The total length of Cinderella, including the interval, is approximately 2 hour and 10 minutes.

How do we tell the story of Cinderella?

Cinderella is a pantomime show. This means that, at times, the actors will talk directly to the audience and help explain what is happening on stage. There will also be moments when the actors ask the audience to be part of the show. They might throw objects into the audience for you to catch, ask you to make sounds or respond to their questions.

Cinderella – Scene by scene

The following pages contain spoilers for Cinderella. If you would like to keep the show a surprise, do not read any further. We warned you!

Act 1

Prologue

Location: Outside with the castle in the distance

The Fairy Godmother welcomes the audience to the Exeter Northcott Theatre! As it starts to snow, the cast will sing *Don't Stop Me Now*.

Scene 1

Location: The marketplace

The Fairy Godmother meets the audience. Everyone is having a lovely time until the Countess Wear arrives who reveals that she has frozen the whole kingdom, and the ice will never thaw. She admits to the Fairy Godmother that this is all part of a big plan, but she leaves before revealing anything further. The Fairy Godmother reassures everyone that she will help save Exeter and the whole Kingdom.

Scene 2

Location: The basement

Cinderella is hoovering Rougemont Hall, where her stepmother, Countess Wear, makes her live in the basement, doing everything the Countess demands. The Countess scolds Cinderella for not making more winter clothes for the Countess' Clothing Stall and threatens Cinderella that if she doesn't get back to work, she'll be thrown out onto the street. Buttons and Poppers run into the room and the Countess orders them to get knitting too. Quackers the Duck arrives and Cinderella gives them the only piece of bread she has. Poppers and Buttons leave to distract the Countess, so Cinderella can sing to cheer herself up. Cinderella and Quackers sing *Roar*.

The Fairy Godmother, disguised as a farmer, gives Cinderella more wool to help with the knitting. Together, they knit a whole new row of jumpers.

Scene 3

Location: The marketplace

The Prince and Dandini are running late to the town meeting to discuss the snow and ice. The Prince is nervous and thinks Dandini would make a much better public speaker than him, but Dandini convinces the Prince that he must speak to the people.

Scene 4

Location: The Guildhall

Dandini and the Prince arrive at the town meeting and the stepsisters are fixated with how beautiful the Prince is. Meanwhile, Countess Wear declares that there is a wise Sage living in Haldon Forest, who will be able to tell the Prince how to get rid of the ice. The Prince agrees to visit the forest after stopping at the Countess' stall and finding some warmer clothing for the journey.

Scene 5

Location: The clothing stall

Buttons and Poppers are working on the clothing stall with Cinderella when the Prince and Dandini arrive. Cinderella is initially distracted folding clothes but when she turns around, it is love at first sight for them both. The Fairy Godmother, disguised in ski gear and using a German accent, appears and asks the Prince and Dandini lots of questions about the wise Sage of Haldon Forest. The Prince and Dandini leave to find the Sage, pulled by a sleigh team of sheep.

Scene 6

Location: The Sage's lair in Haldon Forest

The Prince and Dandini arrive in Haldon Forest and meet the Sage, who informs them that to break the curse the Prince must find true love. The Sage advises the Prince to throw a ball and invite all eligible people across the Kingdom. The Countess tells the audience that she will only end the big freeze if the Prince falls in love and then sings *Get This Party Started*.

Scene 7

Location: The Stepsisters' bathroom

The stepsisters make mean comments to Cinderella about not going to the ball and missing her favourite singer Sailor Twift. They give Cinderella an invitation, but then make her tear it up. Cinderella leaves the room in tears. The stepsisters call for a stylist for the ball and the Fairy Godmother answers. She gives the stepsisters a number of awful treatments, including smelly body lotion and bad fake tan, and then she leaves. The stepsisters aren't very happy. Cinderella returns with Quackers and some cleaners, who clean the stage whilst they sing *Shake It Off*.

Scene 8

Location: The basement & outside under the starry sky

Cinderella tells Quackers how she would love to go to the ball and see Sailor Twift, but she doesn't have an invite. The Fairy Godmother appears to tell Cinderella that she will help her go, but Cinderella is angry that the Fairy Godmother hasn't helped her before. She apologises to Cinderella but reminds her that she deserves to have a fun evening.

The Fairy Godmother transforms Cinderella's outfit, produces a Pumpkin Swan Barge, and sends her on her way – warning her that she must be back by midnight when the magic wears off.

INTERVAL

Act 2

Scene 1

Location: The ballroom at the castle

The Fairy Godmother introduces all the guests. The Countess introduces the Prince to her daughters, who try to flirt with him – but he's not very impressed. Cinderella arrives but the Prince is too nervous to make a good impression. Sailor Twift starts her performance but leaves after her voice doesn't work in the cold weather. Dandini asks if anyone else can provide entertainment and Cinderella nervously volunteers to sing.

She sings a medley of *I Wanna Dance with Somebody* and *Shut Up and Dance* and everyone joins in. The Prince and Cinderella chat until the bell strikes midnight and Cinderella runs out, leaving her shoe behind. The Countess is furious with her daughters because the Prince didn't fall in love with them. She vows to destroy the beautiful Princess that he spoke to.

Scene 2

Location: Inside the castle

The Prince has fallen in love. Dandini finds the shoe that Cinderella accidentally left behind and starts to ask everyone in the Kingdom to try it on and see if it fits, but this is taking far too long. Luckily, the Fairy Godmother arrives, disguised as TV Host Cilla Phane, to stage a game show and play 'if the shoes fits'. Her first contestants are Sue De Creme and Bonjela but the shoe doesn't fit either of them. Finally, Cinderella tries on the shoe, and it fits. Her identity is revealed to the Prince, just as the Countess reveals she was the Sage all along and this has all been part of her plan for the Prince to fall in love with one of her daughters. Unless the Prince marries one of the Countess' daughters, Exeter will remain a frozen wasteland. Sadly, the Prince agrees to this.

Location: Gladiator rink

Countess Wear challenges Cinderella to a gladiator fight. Cinderella wins the fight and the Countess threatens to banish her from Exeter.

Scene 3

Location: Ice skating rink

Cinderella sings *I Wanna Dance with Somebody* whilst ice skating. Buttons and Poppers arrive, followed by Dandini and the Fairy Godmother – who all want to make

sure that Cinderella is okay. Together, they ice skate, and, by the end of their dance, Cinderella feels much better. With the sound of bells ringing, the wedding is about to begin – so the whole group rushes to the castle to stop the Countess.

Location: Outside with the castle in the distance

The Countess is still scheming to get rid of Cinderella and sings *One Way or Another*.

Scene 4

Location: The ballroom at the castle

The Prince waits at the altar with Dandini, still not knowing which sister he is marrying, when they both arrive in wedding dresses! They argue so much that the Countess rules that they will both have to marry him. Just as the Prince is about to say his vows, Cinderella, the Fairy Godmother and Quackers burst in and demand that the wedding is stopped. Cinderella asks the Prince to follow his heart, saying that the people of Exeter will respect him more if he stays true to himself and that the city will survive even if it stays frozen. The Prince agrees. Angered, the Countess tries to freeze Cinderella but accidentally freezes Bonjela and Sue De Crème, and then even herself. The Prince and Cinderella are reunited.

Scene 5

Location: in the snowy forest

Dandini and the Fairy Godmother are happy that everything has turned out well. Buttons and Poppers are now official royal courtiers and Quackers lives on the Royal Duck Pond.

The Fairy Godmother is working with Buttons and Poppers to find the best song for the city marketing campaign. The Fairy Godmother suggests the audience joins in and they have a competition to see which side is loudest. Everyone sings *You'll Be Skiing Straight Down Fore Street* (to the tune of 'She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain') and the Fairy Godmother declares that everyone wins. To celebrate, the Fairy Godmother, Buttons and Poppers run out with water pistols, spraying the audience.

Location: The ballroom at the castle

They rush off to the castle for a big party and the whole cast sings *Everybody Needs Somebody to Love*. They sing a medley of *Shake It Off* and *Don't Stop Me Now* to end the show.

Moments in Cinderella you might want to know about

Audience interaction

There are a few moments of direct audience interaction in Cinderella. In certain moments of audience interaction, the actors may move off the stage and come out into the auditorium rows and seats (where you're sat).

Act 1 – Prologue: Snowballs will be thrown into the audience. These are made from light, hollow plastic and will not hurt if they hit anyone.

Act 1 – Scene 1: The Fairy Godmother will speak to a member of the audience.

Act 1 – Scene 2: Cinderella will encourage the audience to sing along with her.

Act 1 – Scene 7: Feathers will be blown on stage and may enter the audience.

Act 2 – Scene 5: The audience will be encouraged to sing along. At the end of the song, the cast will fire water pistols over the audience.

Lighting

There are a few moments where the lighting changes suddenly during the show. They are only very brief and don't last more than 10-20 seconds at most. We'll also turn off our house lights (which illuminate the area where you're sitting) during the show.

At the beginning of the show, there will be pyrotechnics. Pyrotechnics are small, controlled explosions. The technical team have practiced this safely, many times.

When Countess Wear enters and every time she casts spells, there will be flashing lights.

There will be LED batons along the front of the stage, pointing at the ceiling.

A few of the characters enter from the auditorium at different times. They will have lights shining on them.

There will be flashing lights and a black-out during Cinderella's makeover.

Sound

There are some moments in the first and second half of Cinderella which are a little bit louder than others. We've listed these moments below. Don't worry, it's ok to cover your ears at these points. There will also be music playing between the scenes.

At the beginning of the show, there will be pyrotechnics. Pyrotechnics are small, controlled explosion. The technical team have practiced this safely many times.

Act 1

There will be loud thunder sounds as the Countess enters the stage.

There will be a loud air horn and a bell will be rung.

There will be loud crashing sounds offstage, after the Fairy Godmother cycles off stage.

Act 2

There will be a loud, striking clock sound.

There will be loud bell sounds.

At the end of the show, there will be a confetti canon.

Other things you may want to know

Poppers is hit by Buttons on the head with a frying pan, but he is not hurt.

The Fairy Godmother gets an electric shock, but she is not hurt.

The Stepsisters will go into wooden boxes with a window at the front, where water and foam will be thrown at them, and smoke will come out the box, but they are not hurt.

The Fairy Godmother cycles off the stage and there are loud crashing sounds. She then returns onto the stage in a wheelchair, but she is not hurt.

The Fairy Godmother is frozen by the Countess and falls over, but she is not hurt.

Chill-out spaces

If you need to take a break from the show for any reason, we've made two chill-out spaces: one outside Door 2 (The Pink Room, a spacious and bright room with large windows) and one outside Door 4 (a smaller room with less light, and access to an accessible toilet and lift).

Cinderella relaxed performance

There will be a relaxed performance of Cinderella on Sunday 15th December at 11am.

Relaxed performances are a lot more casual than a regular theatre performance:

- You are welcome to leave the auditorium and re-enter as needed. There are some moments where the auditorium doors will be used by the cast, so you may be asked to momentarily wait until they've gone in, but our staff will be able to assist you with this.
- Our house lights (which illuminate our auditorium seating area) will be dimmed, but not completely darkened, to allow you to see and move around more easily.
- The performance will be tailored to accommodate those who may be sensitive to sound or lighting. The volume of the performance will be lower than usual, and there will be no lighting blackouts, sudden explosions, sudden crashes or loud bangs.
- Performers will have a more relaxed attitude to audience behaviour. There is no expectation for audience members to remain silent or still during the performance.

You can familiarise yourself with the Northcott Theatre building before you arrive at <https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/your-visit/getting-around-our-theatre/>.

You can read more about access performances at the Northcott at <https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/your-visit/access-performances/>. If you have any access needs, please contact us via email on access@exeternorthcott.co.uk, or by phone on 01392 72 63 63, and we'll gladly assist.