

Education Pack 2021



NEW
THEATRE
ROYAL
PORTSMOUTH



AN INTRODUCTION...

A visit to the Pantomime can be a child's very first experience of theatre or live performance, and if it is captivating enough, it will leave an inspiring long lasting impression.

We have created this Education Pack to help introduce to young people, the stories, ideas and traditions that you expect from a visit to the pantomime and to help them get as much out of their trip to the theatre as they possibly can. All the ideas and activities have been designed to be used before, after or even independently from a visit to see Cinderella.

Don't forget, we can offer educational theatre tours and workshops on most aspects of drama throughout the year. For more information, please get in touch with us on boxoffice@newtheatreroyal.com.

We hope you find this pack helpful to use alongside a visit to see Cinderella on stage at the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth.

COMPETITION TIME!

Don't forget to enter our **Poster Design Competition**. There are more details at the end of this Education Pack. The winning pupil or school will get the chance to Meet and Greet the cast on the day that they are seeing the show.

Entries close on the 31 November so start thinking about those designs now.

Looking forward to seeing you at the New Theatre Royal soon.

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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.



HISTORY OF CINDERELLA

"Cinderella" or "The Little Glass Slipper", is a folk tale embodying a myth-element of unjust oppression and triumphant reward. Thousands of variants are known throughout the world. The title character is a young woman living in unfortunate circumstances, that are suddenly changed to remarkable fortune.

The story of Rhodopis, recounted by the Greek geographer Strabo sometime between around 7 BC and 23 AD, about a Greek slave girl who marries the king of Egypt, is considered as a possible source due to some similarities. An eagle takes the sandal of Rhodope while she is bathing. The eagle takes the sandal to the Pharaoh, who vows to marry whomever fits the sandal. He searches all of Egypt until he finds Rhodope.

The first literary European version of the story was published in Italy by Giambattista Basile in his *Pentamerone* in 1634; the version that is now most widely known in the English-speaking world was published in French by Charles Perrault in *Histoires ou contes du temps passé* in 1697.

The Brothers Grimm did a gruesome take on the story in 1812, where the Ugly Sisters are so desperate to marry the Prince that they cut off bits of their feet to fit into the shoe!



CINDERELLA – THE STORY

Once upon a time there was a kind and beautiful girl, whose name was Cinderella. She lived with her cruel stepmother and stepsisters where she was treated as a servant and spent her days cleaning, tidying and waiting on them hand and foot.

One day an invitation to a royal ball arrived. The Prince was looking for a bride and everyone in the kingdom was invited.

The wicked stepmother immediately ordered new gowns to be made for herself and her daughters. Cinderella worked day and night to prepare the new dresses in time.

On the day of the ball, as they were preparing to leave, Cinderella came down the stairs in a dress she had made for herself. Her stepmother and stepsisters were so angry to see her looking so beautiful they tore up the dress and left without her.

Left alone, Cinderella began to cry when suddenly, her Fairy Godmother appeared.

Her Fairy Godmother waved her magic wand and at once Cinderella's rags turned into a beautiful new ball gown. When everything was ready, Cinderella waved goodbye to her Fairy Godmother who said, "*The magic will only last until midnight. You must reach home by then.*"

When Cinderella entered the ballroom, the guests were struck by her beauty and her stepmother and stepsisters did not know who she was. The Prince asked Cinderella to dance and she was overjoyed.

The Prince and Cinderella danced all evening until Cinderella noticed the clock approaching midnight and she remembered her godmother's words. "*I must go*" she told the Prince as she fled from the ballroom.

As she ran down the steps of the palace, one of her glass slippers fell off, but Cinderella did not stop to pick it up.

She returned home just as the clock struck twelve. Her ball gown turning into rags once more. Her stepmother and stepsisters arrived home shortly afterwards and were full of talk of the beautiful girl who had danced all night with the Prince.

The Prince had fallen in love with Cinderella the moment he saw her, but he did not even know her name. He picked up her glass slipper from the steps and declared *“I will marry the girl whose foot fits this slipper.”*

The Prince and his servants took the glass slipper to every house in the Kingdom, but it did not fit any of the women who tried it on.

Cinderella’s stepsisters tried to squeeze their large feet into the dainty shoe but the Prince was afraid it might break.

Cinderella’s stepmother would not let her try on the slipper, but the Prince said *“Wait! Let her try it!”*.

The slipper fit Cinderella’s foot perfectly and the Prince realised this was the beautiful girl he had danced with at the ball.

The Prince had found the girl he was looking for. They were married and both lived happily ever after.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although the story's title and main character's name changes in different languages, in English-language folklore Cinderella is the archetypal name. The word Cinderella has, by analogy, come to mean one whose attributes were unrecognised, or one who unexpectedly achieves recognition or success after a period of obscurity and neglect.

Cinderella

THE 'TRADITIONAL' CHARACTERS

Traditional Pantomimes are easily recognisable these days for their use of stock characters, scenes and audience participation. In the story of Cinderella, you will be able to spot all the typical pantomime characters. These are our performers.

THE HEROINE - Cinderella

Traditionally the heroine was innocent with very feminine qualities, and often becomes a Princess at the end of the story.

In recent years, Pantomimes have moved more with the times and the heroines have been updated to be individual, powerful female characters that can affect the story and save the day for themselves.



THE PRINCIPAL BOY – Prince Charming

In traditional pantomime, the principal boy was played by a female actor, although in recent years some pantomimes cast a young male actor. The principal boy is brave, heroic and adventurous. They will often be drawn into a quest to rescue the heroine of the story, defeating the villain along the way.

THE GOOD FAIRY - or Fairy Godmother

In every Pantomime story, the Hero has a magic helper, who guides them on their journey and provides some helping magic. Most stories have a Good Fairy, who uses their powers to support the Hero and help to save the day. The Good Fairy always wears a very sparkly, glittering costume and often has a tiara or embellished jewellery.



THE DAME – Cinderella has two!

Traditionally, an older female character played by a man, who is usually very comic and over the top. The best Pantomime Dames are recognisable as men playing a woman, rather than a man attempting to pass as a woman.

Jack Tripp, a well-known and experienced Dame, said that he should be clearly seen “as a nice man being a nice lady”.



The role of the Dame has increased over the years. Where the Dame would originally have worn a hat and shawl throughout the performance, the actor may now have up to 15 exotic costume changes!

THE VILLAIN - Or in our case Villains – as we have two Ugly Sisters

Every Fairy-tale and Pantomime story has a bad character that the Hero or Heroine must defeat to save the day. The Villains are often driven by greed and a desire for power, and usually either use bad magic or are in some way grotesque/mean.

THE COMIC CHARACTER - Buttons

Every pantomime has a silly character that tries to help the Hero or Heroine but gets everything wrong along the way.

They can often be the Dame’s child and need a lot of help from the audience during the show.

The Comic Character is often played by professional comedians, comic actors or clowns.



DID YOU KNOW?

In Pantomime tradition, the Good Fairy will always enter from Stage Right (the left as the audience see it) and the Villain will always enter Stage Left.



CLASSICAL 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.

Song Sheet

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.

“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!”



12 MONTHS OF CINDERELLA ... The making of a Pantomime

<p>JANUARY This year's pantomime story is announced Writer, Director and Designers are hired</p>	<p>JULY Actor auditions take place</p>
<p>FEBRUARY The writer begins to write the script</p>	<p>AUGUST Final casting is announced A read-through of the script happens</p>
<p>MARCH Tickets go on sale to schools and group bookers, before going on sale to the public Some Lead performers are cast</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER The Writer, Director and Designers have a production meeting to discuss set and costume designs</p>
<p>APRIL The first Pantomime advert goes in the Brochure The first draft of the script is submitted</p>	<p>OCTOBER Flashing Items are found to go on sale and in Goody bags Most of the songs are decided</p>
<p>MAY A Production Meeting takes place, where the production team discuss the styles and themes of the show. The design of the costumes and set begins</p>	<p>NOVEMBER Rehearsals start Pantomime Workshop practitioners start visiting schools The Pantomime is ready to open</p>
<p>JUNE Casting Calls are issued for the cast</p>	<p>DECEMBER It's Panto time! "Oh no it isn't" "Oh yes, it is!"</p>

Cinderella

ACTIVITY – BE AN ACTOR

Actors must be good at remembering their lines and moves on the stage.

They also must be able to change the way they act to play different roles.

Actors must be good at speaking clearly so that the audience can always hear what they are saying; otherwise they won't be able to follow the story.

Practise being an actor, by acting out some of the script from our Pantomime.

Remember - where things are written in italics (*like this: italics*) then that means it's an instruction for what the actors should do, not something they should say.



Think about how your character might talk and how they might move.

Try out lots of ideas to see what works.

Remember; everyone will have different ideas, so you will need to work together.



AN EXAMPLE OF A PANTOMIME SCRIPT...

Buttons: *(Shouting into the wings)* Well you can have my Piggy Bank. It's empty anyway because I've spent all my money buying a present for Cinderella.

(He gets it from the wings) Now Cinderella's the Barons real daughter and she's really pretty and ever so nice and ... I love her very much indeed.

I keep trying to tell her but every time I do, I mess it up 'cos I'm shy ...

So I made my very own Cinderella to practice saying it to. Would you like to see her?

(He brings on a very much 'home made' effigy of Cinders.)

Here she is boys and girls. Isn't she gorgeous. Cinders I love you.

(Cinders has entered behind Buttons)

Cinderella: Hello Buttons

Buttons: *(Who is looking at the doll)* Aarrgh!! It's alive .. it spoke!! Did you hear that, did you? *(To Cinders)* .. Did you?? Err. Hello Cinders??

Cinders: Buttons, what on earth is that?

Buttons: Oh, er, nothing .. er .. just a friend. *(edging dummy off to the wings)*

Cinders: Good. I'm glad you're making new friends .. *(she turns to go)*

Buttons: Ah Cinders wait a moment ... That wasn't a real friend ... not a special friend ... like you.

Cinders: Oh Buttons you are silly ...

Buttons: In fact you are such a special friend that I've bought you a special present.

Cinders: Oh Buttons you shouldn't have.

Buttons: *(Bringing on a Teddy Bear from the wings)* Here you go.

Cinders: Oh you are so thoughtful. What's his name?

Buttons: Ted ...

Cinders: Oh ..

Buttons: I thought of that myself??

Cinderella: What a lovely name for a wonderful gift Buttons.
Thank you so much.

(She blows him a kiss which sails towards him. He catches it and puts it in his pocket)

Buttons: I'll save that for later. Thanks

Cinderella: Buttons this really is a lovely present, but I have to go now and go to the forest to gather some wood for the fire.



A FEW TECHNICAL NOTES

LX = Short for Electrics and refers to lighting

FX = Short for special effects

Pyro = A special effect involving a firework

Music Cue = when music should begin

DSR = Down Stage Right

Tabs = Main curtain separating the stage from the audience

A QUICK LESSON IN THEATRE LOGIC

In is Down & Front is back

Out is Up & Up is back

Off is Out & On is in

And of Course –

Left is right and right is left

A drop shouldn't and a Block and fall does neither

A Prop doesn't and Tripping is OK

A running crew rarely gets anywhere

A purchase line buys you nothing

A trap will catch nothing

Strike is work (in fact a lot of work)

And a Green Room, thank goodness, isn't

Now that your fully versed in theatrical terms.

Break a leg

But not really....



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)



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Early Level P1\Nursery:

- Draw your favourite character
- Turn Home Corner into Cinderella's House Match\sort clothes with the character

1st Level P2-4

- Draw your favourite character and explain why this is your favourite
- Design/make Cinderella's carriage
- Discuss/draw what other objects the Fairy Godmother could change into items for Cinderella to use
- Make puppets and act out the story

2nd Level P5-7

- Draw your favourite character and explain why this is your favourite
- Write the story from a particular character's point of view
- Dramatise the story to show to younger classes, perhaps making and using puppets
- Write an alternative ending or write a modern version of the story
- Listen to Peter and the Wolf then choose a musical refrain for each of the main characters in Cinderella.



ACTIVITY CINDERELLA WORDSEARCH

C	G	O	D	M	O	T	H	E	R	O	G	U
W	I	T	C	H	Z	K	L	E	T	T	I	G
M	N	N	B	V	C	X	I	C	Y	N	L	L
P	Q	O	D	A	N	D	I	N	I	A	N	Y
U	W	R	T	E	Y	U	K	I	G	P	B	S
M	O	A	S	D	R	I	J	R	U	S	Q	I
P	Z	B	X	C	B	E	H	P	I	O	W	S
K	Y	H	U	T	B	M	L	F	D	P	E	T
I	V	G	N	U	I	O	G	L	L	A	B	E
N	Q	S	N	O	T	T	U	B	A	S	R	R

Can you find the following words?

CINDERELLA BUTTONS BARON UGLY SISTER GODMOTHER
PRINCE BALL PUMPKIN DANDINI PANTO

Cinderella

COMPETITION TIME!

DESIGN YOUR OWN CINDERELLA POSTER AND GET THE CHANCE TO MEET THE CAST!

We are giving one lucky school the chance to win a **Meet and Greet** with the cast of Cinderella at New Theatre Royal by entering our poster design competition.

In addition to meeting the cast, all the entries and the winning poster will be printed and put on display in the Theatre during the run of Cinderella.

To enter simply submit a poster, on an A4 portrait piece of paper, either one per class or one per pupil to:-
Leah, New Theatre Royal, Guildhall Walk,
Portsmouth PO1 2DD,
to arrive by the 31 November 2021
at the latest.

OR

Photograph your entries and send them to marketing@newtheatreroyal.com by the 31 November 2021.



The school group with the winning design will be invited to meet members of the cast, in the auditorium after the performance that their school is attending.

Good Luck