

T Jackson
Stage Manager &
Special Effects

CINDERELLA
A DRAMA IN THREE ACTS
WRITTEN BY
ACCIDENT

FALSE CURTAIN

Essential Props: 4 empty manfood Boxes
1 Basket Sledge 1 primus (filled)
1 meths can 1 box matches
1 cat 1 glass 1 scales

CINDERELLA (ACT ONE)

NARRATOR

Stage set in drapes as simple as possible but provide something to sit on
Stage left

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like you to fly on the wings of fancy far back in time, to a great Baronial Hall, and there look upon the opulence of its interior, the rich pictures that decorate its marble walls, the long tables filled with happy retainers, feeding on the choicest dishes, the sound of the minstrel's song from a box in the corner, the table of fair illuminated manuscripts at its end, and the rich hangings depicting all the countries of the known world.

But then, oh, then, I ask you to turn away from all these good things to the filthy hovel behind it that comprises its kitchen, and look upon the miserable wretches who toil there.

It is here that our story begins, where, clothed in the foulest of rags, trying to extract a meagre warmth from a tiny flame, sits a beauteous maiden.....

CURTAIN OPENS, AND THE FIGURE OF CINDERELLA IS SEEN, AND PREFERABLY SMELT ALSO, IN A SUIT OF OLD WINDPROOFS, TRYING TO LIGHT A PRIMUS. AS THE CURTAIN IS DRAWN FULLY BACK, THE STOVE FLARES UP.

CINDERELLA Oh, fuck.

ENTER THE UGLY SISTERS

U S I What the hell's this gash like? It must be at least an hour since you scrubbed the tunnels out last!

U S II And I was short 1.435 grams of sugar in my tea this morning.

U S I So you'd better get on with it. We don't want to be bothered with noisy gashies when we get back from the ball.

CINDERELLA The ball? Is there a ball?

U S I You wouldn't know anything about it. It's the Prince's ball.

U S II They say the Prince's ball is the finest in the land.

U S I Even though he only has one.

CINDERELLA If only I could go to the ball!

U S II YOU go to the ball! You're too smelly to go any ball. Princes don't invite grotty little gits like you to a ball.

U S I I wouldn't go if you were invited. You look as if you'd been rolling in the seal pile.

CINDERELLA I have been rolling in the seal pile

U S I Pool

EXEUNT UGLY SISTERS

CINDERELLA Alas! Wee is me! They keep me on permanent gash, permanent cook, permanent scrubout, and I also have to feed the dogs and do night net. I also have to polish the turdicle twice a week. Sometimes they even threaten me with the Bondu Bar.

/This what my sisters.....

CINDERELLA This is what my sisters have left for me to do today:

Start 0430 Dig out Met. shaft

0500 Chop seal

0600 Fuel run

0630 Make breakfast

0700 Clean lounge and wash up glasses

0800 Take round breakfast in bed

0830 Dig out melt cavern

0900 Clean and polish Huskeg to take sisters to ball.

0930 Dig out tunnels, wash up breakfast, make bread

1000 Dumps

1100 Serve snake in bed

1115 Cash run

1200 Measure accumulation

1230 Make soup

1300 Wash sisters' windproofs

1330 Serve lunch

1400 Wash up and clean out Baronial Hall

1500 Clean silver

1530 Fit shaft top

1600 Prepare snake

1630 Serve snake

1700 Feed dogs and dig out garage ramp. Make scragge

1900 Serve scragge

1930 Wash up

2000 Dig out Met. shaft again

2030 Show film, serve drinks at bar, Ent. sched.

2400 Night net.

They keep me working every minute! Never a second to sly off for a jar or lurk away for a gonk. Not for me the feasts of goodies in the dining room or the pissups in the Bondu Bar! Only a meagre bar of nutty for me scragge. (TAKES UP BAR OF NUTRICAN) Oh! What a life! What a life! (WEEPS)

ENTER FAIRY GODFATHER

FAIRY G 'Ere, what's all this 'ere? What are you crying for, my pretty one?

CINDERELLA Oh, sir, I can't go to the ball! By the way, who the hell are you, and what are you doing here?

FAIRY G Well, in these here Fairy stories, then what's in the title role usually's got a Fairy Godmother. This 'ere's being run on a tight budget, and I'm the only one that'd do it for the money, so you got a Fairy Godfather, 'cos I was out of a job at the time.

CINDERELLA Well, you can't win them all. Oh, Fairy Godfather, why can't



Full Lights

CINDERELLA I go to the ball ?
FAIRY G Cinderella, you shall go to the ball! Let me wipe those pearly drops from off of your minces with this 'ere 'andkerchief. (WIPES HER EYES) 'Ere, arf a no. (EXIT? RETURNING WITH SCALES) WRINGS OUT HANDEKERCHIEF INTO GLASS AND WEIGHS IT) Yorn. 35 grams. (writes it down) Right then, ball. Now then, what are we going to do about the ball ? You can't go to a ball like that. You look as if you had been rolling in the coal pile.
CINDERELLA We've been through this before. I have.
FAIRY G Right then, first of all, you've got to look nice even if we can't do anything about the smell, then you've got to have a nice carriage, and beautiful snow white horses or something, and maybe a glass slipper or two, and a nice ball gown.
CINDERELLA But I haven't got any of those things. My sisters keep me in rags. They've taken the only decent keg and I'm not allowed to use an I.H.
FAIRY G We'll have to use what we got. I got me Fairy Godfather's H Union card you know. You got any pumpkins, and a few white mice ?
CINDERELLA I'm afraid they're not on the indent. We can manage a few feed boxes and Dillon.
FAIRY G That'll have to do for the moment, but I can't promise much.

Let's see them.

(THEY LAY OUT SEVERAL FOOD BOXES IN A LINE AND BRING ON DILLON)

FAIRY G Gawd 'elp us. 'Ere goes. Now, what's the magic words ?
Abracadabra....(STAGE WAIT)....NEK No, that's not it.
Rumpelstiltskin!.....No, that's not it either. Let's try..
SPIDON!

(DOWN LIGHTS. CLOSE CURTAINS. SOUND OF TRAIN. FLASHING LIGHTS. Various noises, STEEL CORNERS AND MAGIC WORDS UNTIL CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE. LAST SOUND EFFECT SHOULD BE DOGS.)

CINDERELLA Is that it ? (CURTAINS OPEN. ON STAGE, LOADED SLEDGE. SOUND: DOGS) Amazing!

FAIRY G Well, that's yer lot. Off you go, but remember, your activity card runs out at 2400, So get yourself out by then, unless you fancy standing among all the nobe in your soaly gear, clutching four feed boxes and your pussy.

CURTAIN

*Essential props Apr earphones
1 Greenland Boot*

CINDERELLA (ACT TWO)

NARRATOR → Ah, these gracious days of long ago! Now we must revisit that old world of fair ladies and brave knights and noblemen as they gather, a glittering throng, beneath the immense chandeliers of the Palace ballroom, among all the feudal magnificence of a Royal reception. We must prepare our ears for stately music and our eyes for a visual feast of beauty and chivalry. The Prince's Ball.

from (CURTAIN OPENS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, LOUD FRENETIC MUSIC. STAGE DRAPED. NO FURNITURE. ON STAGE, COURTIERS I & II AND UGLY SISTERS DANCING TO THE MUSIC.)

ENTER DARDINI

DARDINI Turn that fucking thing down for Christ's sake! (MUSIC DONE)
PRINCE → THAT'S better. How the hell am I supposed to announce the Prince through that racket? (CLEARS HIS THROAT) My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, His Most Royal Magnificence, Supreme Arbiter of Life and Death, Defender of the Weak and Feeder of the Poor.....

ENTER PRINCE

PRINCE All right, all right, never mind that lot,-- where's the booze? Where's the women?

DARDINI Your Highness, may I present these charming ladies....

PRINCE Hell's bells! Is that the best you can do? What a pair of scrubbers!

DARDINI What do you expect? This is Halley Bay, not Hollywood. If you'd been listening to the first act instead of bolting the Glenfiddich, you'd know we couldn't even get a Fairy Godmother.

PRINCE A hell of a night this is going to be!

ENTER CINDERELLA

Prince (Going to CINDERELLA). Vision of delight! Come to my arms! Music!
→ (AS BEFORE, LOUD MUSIC. ALL DANCE, EXCEPT DARDINI)

Dardini For fuck's sake will you turn the bloody thing down? How the hell are they going to hear the dialogue if you play it that loud?

ENTER SOUND EFFECTS MAN

S E M Are you looking for a brawl?

DARDINI They can't hear the dialogue!

S E M What the bloody hell do they want to hear the dialogue for? It's the worst dialogue in the world. Anyway, they're all too pissed to make head or tail of it!

PRINCE Let's get on with it. I could be onto a good thing here!

EXIT SOUND EFFECTS MAN. DOWN MUSIC.

U S I Is the Prince going to dance with her all night?

U S II It looks like it. I don't know what he sees in her.

U S I Who is she, anyway?

Courtier I Search me? Missus. I never seen her before. How about you, Joe?

COURTIER II No, never seen her. I'm only here for the beer.

COURTIER I Not much of that going tonight by the looks of it.

COURTIER II No. He's got his eye on getting his leg over. He'll probably forget to order.

U S II He hasn't come near us once.

COURTIER I Not likely to either, is he, Missus? (Guffaw)

COURTIER II Fuck this for a game of soldiers, Fred. I'm off for a pint.

COURTIER I RIGHT! (DANDINI FALLS THROUGH STAGE)

EXEUNT COURTIERS

PRINCE (to CINDERELLA) How about it then?

CINDERELLA Oh, Your Highness, how about what?

PRINCE A quick nip up to the old State Apartments for a bit of slap and tickle.

CINDERELLA But the time! 'Tis nearly Midnight! I must fly!

EXIT CINDERELLA AT SPEED. CHIMES

Prince What the hell's going on?

ENTER COURTIERS

COURTIER I That bird, Boss, she's gone.

COURTIER II Inever seen anything like it, Boss. She dropped a glass slipper as she was running out.....

COURTIER I/ And just as Joe was going to pick it up.....

COURTIER II Midnight struck.....

COURTIER I And it turned into this old Greenlander!

PRINCE Fucki' 'ell!

WITH ALL GAWPING AT GREENLANDER,

CURTAIN

CINDERELLA (ACT THREE)

AS ACT ONE THE KITCHEN. AS BEFORE, CINDERELLA CROUCHED OVER PRINUS. FAIRY GODFATHER CAN BE SEEN LEERING AND WIPING ROUND CURTAIN. LOW MUSIC.

U S I (off) And that dreadful Lady Ballscover! Wasn't she disgraceful?
ENTER UGLY SISTERS

U S II Disgraceful! My dear, what... (to CINDERELLA) What the hell are you doing lurking about here? The gash bucket hasn't been emptied for at least half an hour, and its tins you cleaned the dog spens.

U S IX And the Lounge is like a chitcheouze.

CINDERELLA But aren't you going to tell me about the ball?

U S II What do you want to know about ball for? Balls aren't for the likes of you. Balls! Anyway, you'll have to get this place cleaned up.

U S I Yes. The Prince will probably be coming here this morning.

CINDERELLA The Prince!

U S II Yes, the Prince. (to USI) I didn't think he was such a fool.

U S I Pissed out of his mind as likely as not.

CINDERELLA Why should he come here?

U S II He's going all round the town looking for some woman.

U S I That's nothing new.

U S II She was at the ball last night. Nobody knew who she was.

U S I Eezy little gate crusher. Probably has a nose for a pissup.

U S II She left at midnight, but she left a glass slipper behind.

U S I The Prince says he's going to marry whoever it fits.

CINDERELLA It might fit me.

U S II Figs might fly. Get on with the gash.

CINDERELLA Why do I have to do all the gash myself? Can't I have someone to help me?

THEY BOOF HER OUT STAGE RIGHT

U S II Eezy greasy little fucker, that Prince.

U S I I agree. I wouldn't have him given.

U S II Not on your Nellie.

ENTER CINDERELLA

CINDERELLA The Prince is coming! The Prince is coming!

U S II Dirty beast!

ENTER PRINCE & DAVIDINI. USS PUT ON OILY WHISKEY AND CURTAIN

U S I Oh, Your Highness!

U S II Oh, Your Magnificence!

Essential props:

1 Greenland boot
1 Cushion

Stage set as for Kitchen
Provide something to sit on
Stage left

PRINCE Aye....

DANDINI We have come to try on the glass slipper that was left at the ball. Unfortunately, at midnight it turned into a dirty old Greenlander, but whoever it fits, the Prince will marry.

PRINCE Aye.....

U S I I am the lady of the house, Your Beautifulness.

U S II No your'e not, you rotten bitch! 'Tis I Your Majesty.

PRINCE I'm not marrying either of these scrubbers even if it does fit!

DANDINI We must go through with it, Your Highness.

PRINCE Why can't I keep my big gob shut ?

DANDINI Bring on the glass slipper!

ENTER COURTIERI, WITH GREENLANDER ON A CUSHION.

COURTIER I Gob it in. (U S I TRIES BOOT)

COURTIER II No go, Boss. This birb couldn't get her plate into the Royal Barge.

PRINCE Thank God for that.

COURTIER I (to U S II) C ome on then, Missus, let's 'ave yer.

COURTIER II Fuckin' rotate!

U S II It fits! It fits!

COURTIER I Come off it, love, we've seen it all before.

COURTIERII Like peein'into an oil drum, Boss, room and to spare.

PRINCE Right, that's it. Back to the Palace and let's have a drink.
(to DANDINI) Slip down to the Archbishop and tell him to start the Thanksgiving Service. God! Mothers-in-law!

ENTER FAIRY GODFATHER THUNDER

FAIRY G 'Ere, arf a mo.

DANDINI What? What?

FAIRY G There's one 'ere wot you ain't not tried with that there boot yet.

DANDINI Who's that? Speak up, man.

FAIRY G ME!

FAIRY GODFATHER TRIES ON BOOT

ALL It fits!

PRINCE Darling! (THEY EMBRACE)

EXEUNT OMNES, WHILE

CINDERELLA Its not fair! Its not supposed to end like this!

FAIRY G You go and complain to the Union, love. I'm all right.

CURTAIN

DIM LIGHTS

HOUSE LIGHTS.