

THE

2024 MAJOR PRODUCTION

CINDERELLA

PRODUCTION & AUDITION
INFORMATION PACK



EMPIRE

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA



PRODUCTION & AUDITION INFORMATION PACK

Please read the following information and complete the online registration form by

8am, Thursday 23rd November 2023

Register for your audition via our website

<http://www.empiretheatre.com.au/audition>

Auditions will be held at the Church Theatre, 54 Neil Street Toowoomba.

Please follow signage upon arrival.

AUDITIONS FROM 25TH TO 29TH NOVEMBER 2023

AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD

Saturday 25th November

9am to 4pm

Sunday 26th November

9am to 6pm

Monday 27th November

5.30pm to 9.30pm

Tuesday 28th November

5.30pm to 9.30pm

CALL BACKS & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Role call backs will be held as necessary over the audition period.

All auditionees must be available for call backs on **28th & 29th November 2023**.

If needed, Call backs may continue into the occur on **Saturday 2nd December**.

Cast will be announced publicly on **Wednesday 13th December 2023**.

Applicants will be emailed with their confirmed time to attend their audition.

The audition process may take up to 10 minutes for sing/act and 45 minutes for dance.

Roles are open to people aged from 16 years and up.

Auditionees must have turned 16 by 1 December 2023.

There are no children/youth roles in this production.

THE TEAM

Director	TIM HILL
Musical Director	CRAIG RENSHAW
Choreographer	TESS HILL

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION

FOR AN ONSTAGE ROLE

Each person auditioning for a principal role or ensemble (including dancers) will be asked to sing two own choice songs, read a section of a supplied script and take some stage direction from the panel, and take part in a movement/dance audition. Most roles in [Cinderella](#) require on stage cast to sing, act and dance. Select roles require less dancing but may still require movement.

SINGING

Please prepare two songs in the musical theatre style. It is suggested that auditionees choose songs that will best show their singing abilities. **Do not** choose a song from [Cinderella](#).

You should prepare approximately 32 bars of each song (approximately 1 minute per song is a good guide). The Panel may not hear both songs at the audition. Be prepared to be stopped and started throughout your song, and to take both musical and acting direction from The Panel.

If you are only interested in auditioning for the backstage singing chorus you will not be required to do the acting and dancing sections of the audition.

BACKSTAGE SINGERS

We will be conducting a group audition on **Sunday 26th November at 4pm** for backstage singers. The Musical Director will check harmonies, mix and range in potential backstage singers at this audition. There will be no need to prepare a song especially as music will be given out on the day.

If you would like to be considered for both on-stage and backstage singers then you will have to still do an individual audition as well as the group audition.

To register your interest, please fill out a cast application form (photo and measurements not necessary) and just tick the “Backstage Singing Only” box.

ACCOMPANIMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL AUDITIONS

- You may bring your own piano accompanist, or
- Use the supplied facilities to play your CD or digital backing track (via 3.5mm jack). Ensure there are no vocals on the track.

Please contact us if you require the details of an experienced accompanist. There is usually a small charge for this service negotiable with the individual accompanist. A rehearsal is highly recommended before your audition day.

ACTING SCRIPT

Excerpts from the script will be forwarded to you with your confirmed audition time. Please peruse the character breakdown below and learn the pieces relevant to roles for which you wish to audition. Due to time constraints, you will only be able to audition for a maximum of two roles in the audition process.

If you do not wish to audition for a particular role, you will still be required to prepare one excerpt. While it is not essential, auditionees are better able to show their abilities when lines are thoroughly memorised.

DANCE

A movement/dance group audition will be held separately to your singing/acting audition in small groups. Please ensure you wear appropriate clothing and footwear i.e. no short skirts, tight jeans or sandals.

There is no need to prepare anything for this audition, it will be taught to you by the choreographer on the day.

THE PANEL

You will be auditioning for a panel made up of the creative team including Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, and Producer. Please be aware that other individuals including production staff may be present at some stages of the process.

ORCHESTRA

To submit an expression of interest in being part of the [Cinderella](#) orchestra, please send a brief email outlining your instrumental and ensemble experience. A guide to the required instrumentation is listed on page 6 of this document.

Please email: orchestra@empiretheatre.com.au to submit your interest.

BUILD AND CREW

If you are interested in helping sew, cut, paint, light, lift, or iron the wonderful costumes, sets and special effects that make up the magical [Cinderella](#) world then drop us a line. We are always looking for volunteers interested in making magic happen. Please let us know where your skills and interest lie.

Please email: productions@empiretheatre.com.au to submit your interest.

YOUR COMMITMENT TO REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

All people auditioning should be prepared to commit to attending rehearsals and performances on the dates listed below.

MEET AND GREET

Our meet & greet will take place at The Empire Theatre at a time to be advised. This is when the cast and crew get together for the first time to see the design presentation.

Here you will get your scripts, read through the show, and meet the Team.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

A rehearsal schedule listing required cast members for specific scenes will be issued. Not all cast will be required at all rehearsals. A lead role commitment may be higher than for smaller roles and ensemble. A schedule detailing this and any other required times over production week will be distributed at the start of rehearsals. We must have full commitment to attend all of these rehearsals in order for you to be involved.

FROM SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY REHEARSALS WILL BE HELD

Saturday	10am to 5pm
Sunday	10am to 5pm
Monday	6pm to 9.30pm
Thursday	6pm to 9.30pm

DRESS REHEARSALS

Tech and Dress rehearsals will be scheduled from Saturday 9th March 2024. These scheduled rehearsals must be attended by all members of the Company.

PERFORMANCES

Performance #1	19:30 Hrs	15 th March 2024
Performance #2	19:30 Hrs	16 th March 2024
Performance #3	14:00 Hrs	17 th March 2024
Performance #4	19:30 Hrs	21 st March 2024
Performance #5	19:30 Hrs	22 nd March 2024
Performance #6	19:30 Hrs	23 rd March 2024
Additional performances may go on sale to meet demands.		

ROLES

PRINCIPAL ROLES		VOCAL RANGE
Ella	Idealistic and hopeful young lady with the kindest heart in the kingdom and an infectious generosity of spirit. She dreams of seeing the world and helps the prince discover who he truly is.	Soprano B3 – Eb5
Topher	The prince of the kingdom leads with heroic bravado but deeply naïve and not always quick on the draw. A misguided, lost, yet kind-hearted man who longs to do something important with his life.	Baritone C#3 – A4
Madame	Ella's selfish stepmother. A vain and tyrannical woman only concerned with her wealth and social standing.	Mezzo-Soprano C4 – D5
Sebastian	Prince Topher's Lord Chancellor. He actively shields the Prince from what is occurring in his kingdom and revels in maintaining his own power.	Tenor C3 – F4
Marie	A friend to Ella and the town's crazy lady and beggar who also happens to be a Fairy Godmother. Warm with a spark of wackiness she lifts the magic in the show and highlights what is possible!	Soprano A3 – Ab5
Gabrielle	Ella's stepsister and daughter of Madame. Begins aligned with her materialistic mother and sister but her kindness and thoughtful nature emerge as she finds camaraderie with Ella and love interest John-Michel.	Soprano C4 – G5
Charlotte	Ella's stepsister and daughter of Madame. Deeply self-involved, attention seeker. Loud, brash and delights in being cocky. Lacks self-awareness and often the last one in on the joke.	Mezzo-Soprano B3 – F5
Jean-Michel	An enthusiastic revolutionary determined to make a difference, especially for the starving peasant class. Energized and on his way to becoming a leader, on the way he falls in love with Gabrielle.	Baritone C3 – G4
Lord Pinkleton	Sebastian's second-in-command and the herald for all balls and events. Announces royal balls, banquets and even the weather. Excellent comic timing is essential.	Tenor D3 – A4
ENSEMBLE		VOCAL RANGE
Female Ensemble	Interchanging parts including Fox, Raccoon, Footman, Coachman, Knights, Peasants, townspeople, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court, etc.	Sopranos C4 – Bb5 Altos Bb3 – F5
Male Ensemble	Interchanging parts including Fox, Raccoon, Footman, Coachman, Knights, Peasants, townspeople, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court, etc.	Tenors D3 – Bb4 Basses Bb3 – F4

For further information please email: auditions@empiretheatre.com.au

CINDERELLA INSTRUMENTATION

Reed 1 (Piccolo, Flute, Alto Flute)
Reed 2 (Clarinet, Bass Clarinet)
Horn
Trumpet
Trombone
Drums/Percussion
Keyboard 1

Keyboard 2
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Bass

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- Overture
- Prologue
- Me, Who Am I?
- In My Own Little Corner
- Now Is the Time
- The Prince Is Giving a Ball
- Cinderella March
- In My Own Little Corner (reprise)/Fol-De-Rol
- Impossible/It's Possible
- Gavotte
- Ten Minutes Ago
- Waltz for a Ball
- Ten Minutes Ago (reprise)

ACT II

- Entr'acte
- Stepsister's Lament
- The Pursuit
- He Was Tall
- When You're Driving Through the Moonlight
- A Lovely Night
- A Lovely Night (reprise)
- Loveliness of Evening
- Announcing the Banquet
- There's Music in You
- Now Is the Time (reprise)
- Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?
- The Shoe Fits/The Proposal
- Finale

THE PLOT

ACT I

A young woman named Ella lives with her stepmother and stepsisters, who treat her like a servant girl ever since the death of her late father. Because she sits by the fireplace and is dirty from the cinders, they call her "Cinderella". Ella dreams of a better life ("Prologue").

The prince of the kingdom is named Topher (short for Christopher); his parents have died, and he is advised by Lord Chancellor Sebastian. Though an expert at slaying dragons, griffins, gargoyles and giants, he feels uncertain about how he will rule as king when the time comes ("Me, Who Am I?"). Prince Topher and Ella meet as he is on his way to the palace. She offers him a drink of water, and they share a moment before he departs. Ella then speaks with two of her friends: Jean-Michel, an erstwhile revolutionary, and Crazy Marie, a woman who lives at the edge of the forest and gathers what others throw away. Soon arrive Ella's stepmother Madame and stepsisters, the demanding Charlotte and the meek Gabrielle. After they go inside, Ella again reflects on her dreams of a better life ("In My Own Little Corner").

In the palace, Sebastian and his henchman, Lord Pinkleton, persuade the Prince it is time for a Royal Wedding; a big ball will be held to find the bride. Pinkleton goes to the town square to make the announcement and finds Jean-Michel rallying the townsfolk to raise their voices in protest of the government's policies ("The Prince is Giving a Ball" / "Now Is the Time").

Madame's cottage is a whirl of activity as the stepmother and stepsisters prepare for the ball. They leave Ella behind, but Jean-Michel arrives to argue that Prince Topher needs to know more about the people of his kingdom. He teases Ella that she should put on a pretty gown and tell Topher that times are about to change. Crazy Marie jokes with Ella about how life could be better ("In My Own Little Corner" (reprise) / "Fol-De-Rol"). Marie reveals herself to be Ella's Fairy Godmother and transforms a pumpkin and animals into a carriage with a footman and a driver; she turns Ella's rags into a beautiful gown ("Impossible"). She sends Ella to the ball with one caveat – the magic will expire at the stroke of midnight ("It's Possible").

The ball features magnificent dancing ("Gavotte"). Ella enters in her white ballgown, but no one recognizes her. Her kindness and sense of fairness fascinate Prince Topher, and their song becomes a grand waltz ("Ten Minutes Ago" / "Waltz for a Ball"). Too soon, the clock begins to strike midnight. Ella had just enough time to tell the Prince that all is not well in his domain. She races down the stairs and trips, losing a shoe, but she quickly retrieves it and dashes off.

ACT II

The Prince is determined to find the mysterious woman who spoke so honestly about the kingdom. The women of the court, led by stepsister Charlotte, bemoan that the Prince had not chosen any of them to be his love ("Stepsister's Lament"). A wild chase ensues, and the prince and his guards search high and low; they almost catch Ella ("The Pursuit").

Once again dressed in rags, Ella returns to the cottage and remembers how wonderful the Prince was ("He was Tall"). Madame, Charlotte and Gabrielle soon return in state of dejection. Ella tells them what she "imagines" the night at the palace must have been like ("When You're Driving Through the Moonlight"), including dancing with the Prince ("A Lovely Night"). Madame and her daughters and stepdaughter have a moment of shared emotion, for once. Soon, shy Gabrielle and Ella are left alone, and Gabrielle realizes that Ella was the woman at the ball. Gabrielle reveals herself to be not only an ally, but also in love with Jean-Michel, the firebrand. They vow to keep their secrets ("A Lovely Night" (reprise)).

Prince Topher continues his search ("Loneliness of Evening"), gradually realizing that Sebastian had been leading him down the wrong path. Topher decides to hold a second event to find the woman of truth. The night of the banquet arrives, and Gabrielle gives Ella her dress to attend the feast. Jean-Michel arrives at the house and confesses his love to Gabrielle. However, Madame catches them and also sees Ella in Gabrielle's dress. She tears the gown to shreds and kicks Gabrielle and Jean-Michel out of the house, telling them never to return. Madame then takes Charlotte to the banquet. In the nick of time, the Fairy Godmother produces perfect attire and helps Ella build her confidence for another frank talk with the Prince ("There is Music in You").

At the palace, Ella tells the prince how he could be a great king, and he immediately announces an election for Prime Minister between Jean-Michel and Sebastian. Topher is now ready to be a leader and knows the partner he needs in love and life ("Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful"). Suddenly, the clock begins to chime midnight. Ella races down the stairs but pauses and purposely leaves a shoe behind.

The Prince gives all of the women of the kingdom a chance to try on the glass slipper. Everyone is unsuccessful until Ella tries it on, and it fits her foot perfectly. Madame apologizes to Ella for her cruelty, and Ella forgives both her and Charlotte. Gabrielle and Jean-Michel's relationship is approved by Madame, and she welcomes her daughter back into her life. Jean-Michel is elected Prime-Minister, Topher and Ella wed, and they all live happily ever after (The Wedding: "There is Music in You").