



CINDERELLA

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

The Fairy God Mother appears and introduces the audience to the story. The Prince is in his castle. He expresses to two of his royal assistants that he wants the castle to be open to the common people as well as rich people. The royal assistants try to discourage him and suggest he focus on finding a Princess to marry. The Prince decides to throw a ball and invite everyone in the kingdom, no matter their status. In the Kingdom, Cinderella is at her house cleaning up after her cruel step-sisters, Glucinda and Euphronia. Stella (Cinderella's step-mother) tells Cinderella that if she does not clean the house before the afternoon company arrives (Mrs. Thigg and her daughter Julia) she will not be allowed to eat for a week. Ralph (a mouse) introduces himself to Cinderella and volunteers (with the other mice) to help her clean the house if she will sneak some cheese for them. The mice have not been able to find anything to eat on account of Cinderella always cleaning. Cinderella agrees. At the castle, the Prince shows his assistants the invitations he wrote for the ball and sends the royal messengers to deliver them. After the Prince exits, Strombolo (the King's chamber-man who dislikes commoners) enters with his two assistants. Strombolo discusses that he switched the Prince's invitations with his own - to invite the wealthy and exclude commoners. The Prince's sister (Sissy) overhears Strombolo discussing his plan. Sissy finds some of the original invitations on the floor and decides to find common people to give them to in order to help the Prince. Sissy visits a farm on the edge of town where some commoners are discussing how nice it must be to be wealthy. One of the commoners mentions that her cousin used to always talk about leaving the farm and becoming wealthy. Sissy gives the commoners the invitations to the ball. In the village, Strombolo visits Cinderella's home to deliver invitations. Euphronia, Glucinda and Julia all attempt to impress Strombolo. Mrs. Thigg tells Strombolo about Stella's third child (Cinderella) in attempts to embarrass Stella. Strombolo gives Stella a third invitation. Stella rips up the invitation telling Cinderella that she is not allowed to attend. Back on the farm, the commoners discuss how they will ask proper ladies to dance and prepare to leave for the ball.

ACT TWO

At Cinderella's house the mice are thankful for the cheese Cinderella gave them. One of the mice shows Cinderella that she found an invitation to the ball on the floor and gives it to Cinderella. Cinderella states she can not attend because she has nothing to wear, but thanks the mice for trying to help. At the castle, the Prince prepares for the ball with red plastic cups and rodeo style costumes. Strombolo confirms with his assistants that his plan is working and only the wealthy are going to attend the ball. In the kingdom, Mrs. Tack (a seamstress) visits Cinderella's home as Glucinda and Euphronia try on their ball gowns. The mice surprise Cinderella with a dress but Glucinda and Euphronia destroy it. Stella, Glucinda and Euphronia leave for the ball. Two robins visit Cinderella and after seeing how sad she is decide to help her. The robins go to the Fairly Good Helper camp in the forest and tell the Fairy God Mother that Cinderella needs help. The commoners also visit the camp and learn to dance. The Fairy God Mother visits Cinderella with her two Fairly Good Helpers and

uses magic to help Cinderella get ready for the ball. At the castle, the commoners sneak into the ball. The Prince gets nervous and tells people that his royal assistant is the real Prince and he is only the band leader. The real Prince attempts to get people to dance to folk/square dancing music but no one wants to. Strombolo makes the band play a waltz. The commoners dance with many of the wealthy ladies. The Prince is sad because he thinks no commoners have come to the ball. The Prince dances with Cinderella. Strombolo enters and tells everyone who the real Prince is. Cinderella gets nervous, notices it is midnight and leaves - but drops her shoe in her hurry. The day after the ball the Prince is still sad that no commoners attended the ball. He orders his assistants to find Cinderella by trying her shoe on every lady in the kingdom. The commoners (after getting a taste of wealthy life) visit Cinderella's home and mention that they have decided to start a dessert cheese business. The royal assistants arrive with the shoe. They try it on Glucinda and Euphronia but it does not fit them. They try it on Cinderella and it fits. One of the commoners recognizes Cinderella from the ball. The royal assistant tastes the commoners dessert cheese (cheese cake) and asks them to come to the castle as well. Cinderella and the commoners leave with the royal assistant. At the palace Strombolo wakes the King who is sleeping on his throne. When Cinderella arrives, the Prince tells the King he will marry her. The King, who is hard of hearing and a little looney tells the Prince he may do whatever he likes. The Prince fires Strombolo. One of the commoners recognizes Strombolo and discovers that he is actually his/her long lost cousin in disguise. Strombolo admits this. The commoners are hired to be chefs at the castle and Strombolo is ordered to be their assistant and clean up after their cows.

SAMPLE

SCENE BREAK DOWN

Full Running Time: 90-120 minutes (pending scene changes and intermission)

SCENE 1: Throne Room in the Prince's Castle.

SCENE 2: Throne Room in the Prince's Castle.

SCENE 3: Cinderella's House.

SCENE 4: Throne Room in the Prince's Castle.

SCENE 5: Farm - just outside of town.

SCENE 6: Cinderella's House.

SCENE 7: Farm - just outside of town.

INTERMISSION (suggested) - with many short scenes intermission can fall as needed for timing purposes

SCENE 8: Cinderella's House.

SCENE 9: Throne Room in the Prince's Castle.

SCENE 10: Cinderella's House.

SCENE 11: Forest - where the Fairly Good Helper training camp is located.

SCENE 12: Throne Room in the Prince's Castle.

SCENE 13: Garden - outside Cinderella's House.

SCENE 14: Throne Room in the Prince's Castle - set up for the Harvest Ball.

SCENE 15: Throne Room in the Prince's Castle.

SCENE 16: Cinderella's House.

SCENE 17: Throne Room in the Prince's Castle.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Flexible cast of 50 to 88 (9M, 21F, +20 to 48 that can be either).
Many of the roles can be combined, doubled or split into two roles for even more characters.

LEAD and SUPPORTING ROLES

CINDERELLA (F).....Sweet and kind to all people and animals.
STELLA (F).....Cinderella's step-mother. Acts cruelly towards Cinderella.
GLUCINDA (F).....Cinderella's step-sister. Snobby and conceited.
EUPHRONIA (F).....Cinderella's step-sister. Snobby and conceited.

PRINCE (Palation) (M).....Kind and wise. Wants to invite commoners into the castle.
REYNALDO (M).....Prince's royal assistant. Helps the Prince.
RENEE (E).....Prince's royal assistant. Helps the Prince.

FAIRY GODMOTHER (F).....Sweet and majestic. Occasionally acts as the narrator.

STROMBOLO (M).....King's Chamber-Man and Head of Security. Dislikes commoners.
BERNARD (E).....Strombolo's Assistant
BERNERD (E).....Strombolo's Assistant

SMITH (M).....Commoner who lives on a farm. Never wants to do his chores.
APPLE (M).....Commoner who lives on a farm. Quotes Shakespeare.
DUDD (M).....Commoner who lives on a farm. (Could be played by a female.)
RUNT (E).....Commoner who lives on a farm.

MRS. THIGG (F).....Friends with Stella. Aristocrat. Always trying to one-up her.
JULIA (F).....Mrs. Thigg's daughter. Snobby. Conceited.

ENSEMBLE ROLES

NOTE: Almost all ensemble roles may be played by either males or females with some minor name changes. Ensemble roles may be combined, doubled or split to fit the needs of your cast size.

If combining lines it is suggested to have approx. ten MICE, five FAIRLY GOOD HELPERS and FOUR COMMONERS. With minor exceptions MICE can double as the ROYALTY, FAIRLY GOOD HELPERS, LADIES and COMMONERS.

KING (M).....Prince's father. Hard of hearing and a bit looney.
MISSY (F).....Prince's snobby sister. Dislikes commoners.
LISSY (F).....Prince's snobby sister. Dislikes commoners.
SISSY (F).....Prince's sister. Kind. Likes commoners.

KRISTEN (E).....Palace messenger.
KIRSTEN (E).....Palace messenger.
CHRISTINE (E).....Palace messenger.
SUE (E).....Palace messenger.
SERVANT 1-2 (E).....Palace servants. Help set up for the ball.

FAIRLY GOOD HELPER 1 (E).....Helps Fairy God Mother at Cinderella's house.
FAIRLY GOOD HELPER 2 (E).....Helps Fairy God Mother at Cinderella's house.

FAIRLY GOOD HELPER 3-16 (E).....	Fairy God Mothers in training.
RALPH (M).....	Mouse. Can have a New York accent.
LENNY (M).....	Mouse. The not so smart one.
BECKY (F).....	Mouse. Kind and girly.
LENA (F).....	Mouse. Independent, possibly with a french accent.
LUCY (F).....	Mouse. Youngest of the lead mice. Sweet.
SQUEAKERS (E).....	Mouse. Some featured lines. Wears a "I (heart) Cheese" t-shirt.
SWISS (E).....	Mouse. Some featured lines.
MONTEREY (E).....	Mouse.
CHEDDAR (E).....	Mouse.
PEPPER JACK (E)	Mouse.
GOUDA (E).....	Mouse.
COLBY (E).....	Mouse.
PARMESAN (E).....	Mouse.
BRIE (E).....	Mouse.
QUESO (E).....	Mouse.
MOZZARELLA (E).....	Mouse.
MARBLE (E).....	Mouse.
MUENSTER (E).....	Mouse.
MASCARPONE (E).....	Mouse.
OAXACA (E).....	Mouse.
RICOTTA (E).....	Mouse.
COTTAGE (E).....	Mouse.
BLEU (E).....	Mouse.
HARVARTI (E).....	Mouse.
GORGONZOLA (E).....	Mouse.
MR. GOAT (E).....	Commoner dad. (Could be changed to a mom.)
JENNY-JOE (E).....	Commoner kid.
PEGGY-SUE (E).....	Commoner kid.
PETER-BOY (E).....	Commoner kid.
WALTER-GENE (E).....	Commoner kid.
SALLY-MAE (E).....	Commoner kid.
BILLY-BOB (E).....	Commoner kid.
ELLIE-KAY (E).....	Commoner kid.
NORMA-GENE (E).....	Commoner kid.
LAURA-ALICE (E).....	Commoner kid.
STACEY-SUE (E).....	Commoner kid.
LADY PULLPIPE (F).....	Lady at the ball.
LADY MULBLBERRY (F).....	Lady at the ball.
LADY BARRELFORD (F).....	Lady at the ball.
LADY LAXINGTON (F).....	Lady at the ball.
LADY PUMPERNICKEL (F).....	Lady at the ball.
LADY PUMPERSAUCE (F).....	Lady at the ball.
LADY NORTHINGTON (F).....	Lady at the ball.
LADY TRUFFLE(F).....	Lady at the ball.
MRS. TACK (E).....	Dress Maker. Going blind.
BOBBIN (E).....	Mrs. Tack's Assistant.

ROBIN 1 (E).....Helps Cinderella go to the ball.
ROBIN 2 (E).....Helps Cinderella go to the ball.
ROBIN 3 (E).....Helps Cinderella go to the ball.

SAMPLE

SUGGESTIONS FOR SET PIECES

As much imagination and creative liberty can be taken with the sets for this production as is desired.

THROWN ROOM

Thrown: A thrown can be made from wood and painted gold or any large chair can be used.

Banners hung on flats, from rigging above the stage or placed on “T” shaped dowel rods (built on small platforms so they stand) can help to quickly give the appearance of a royal palace.

CINDERELLA’S HOUSE

Furniture: Any type will work. A small sofa with a couple chairs is ideal. If a living room set can not be obtained than a dining room set could be used instead with a table and three or four chairs. End tables can be used to dress up the stage further. Flowers in vases can be set on the tables to make the set look nicer.

FARM

Anything rustic can be used to give the impression of the farm. Some type of seating is ideal. Seating could be rugged looking chairs, tree stumps, boxes, hay bails, etc.

A couple small fences and a wheelbarrow off to one side or brought on and off by Mr. Goat can also help to give the impression of a farm.

FAIRLY GOOD HELPER CAMP

Faux rocks, bushes, trees and flowers can be set around the stage to give the appearance of a forest.

CINDERELLA’S GARDEN

Bench: Some type of garden bench or outdoor seating is ideal. Faux rocks, bushes, flowers, etc. set around the stage can also give the appearance of a garden.

CINDERELLA'S DRESS CHANGE

License the production for instructions on an option for achieving Cinderella's dress change on stage. A specially designed skirt/dress will be required to achieve the proper effect.

SAMPLE

CINDERELLA

SCENE 1

(In the Castle's Throne Room. It is a large stone room with round pillars and glittering banners. An equally sparkling throne sits center stage. PRINCE Palatino sits on the floor of the Throne Room in shadow. He is building a model of the castle with colorful toy blocks. Two MICE creep onto the stage. They stop when they reach center and stand up straight. The spotlight comes up on them but remains dim on the PRINCE.)

SQUEAKERS: This is the story of the big cheese!

SWISS: No it's not.

SQUEAKERS: It's not?

SWISS: *(Laughing.)* No! This is the story of Cinderelli!

SQUEAKERS: Ohhhhh. This is the story of the big cheese named Cinderelli!

(We hear a sparkling sound effect.)

SQUEAKERS and SWISS: *(Listening.)* Ooooooh!

FAIRY GODMOTHER (FG): *(Entering.)* Perhaps I should tell the story.

SWISS: But we came all the way from Cinderelli's house.

FG: *(Sweetly.)* You did!

SQUEAKERS: Uh, huh!

FG: Well then you better scurry back. Cinderella will be needing your help soon.

SWISS: She will?

FG: Of course she will! You're the mice aren't you? Now, run along.

(The mice scurry across the stage. FG begins again, very whimsical. Speaking to the audience.)

FG: Not exactly how you expected the story to start, is it? But then, this isn't the story of Cinderella that most people are familiar with. This story, starts with a Prince!

FAIRLY GOOD HELPER (FGH) # 3: *(From offstage.)* A Prince?!

FG: Who's hiding back there?

FGH # 4: *(Coming out from hiding.)* We are Fairy Godmother.

FH: Ahhhhh. My Fairy Good Helpers. *(Back to audience.)* Or Fairly Good Helpers as I like to call them. *(To Fairly Good Helpers.)* Now what are you doing here? You should be in class.

FGH # 5: We wanted to know if we were in the story too.

FG: Of course you are!

FGH # 4: We are?!

FG: *(Smiling.)* Yes.

FGH # 3: All of us?

FG: All of you. But not until later. So run along.

FGH # 5: *(Exiting with the other FAIRLY GOOD HELPERS.)* We're in the story! We're in the story!

FG: Now, where were we? Oh yes, the Prince. *Our* story of Cinderella begins with a Prince. He isn't the most brave Prince you've ever seen, or the most muscular. But he is one of the wisest. For this Prince believed that every person was as good as the next. In fact, there he is now. But I'm getting ahead of myself. I'll let them tell the story themselves. *(Exits.)*

SCENE 2

(Same as Scene 1. Full stage lights come up as the FG exits.)

PRINCE: Hmm. *(He stands and looks at his building.)* No... *(Rearranges a few of the blocks.)* Hmm. *(Stands*

and looks at the building.) No...

(As the PRINCE looks at the blocks for a third time REYNALDO and RENEE, the PRINCE's assistants, enter. REYNALDO is wearing a jack-o-lantern over his head, he sneaks up behind the PRINCE and taps him on the shoulder trying to scare him.)

REYNALDO: *(Attempting to scare the Prince.)* RaaAhh!

PRINCE: *(Jumps up surprised. Then sees it's just REYNALDO.)* Halloween's over Reynaldo.

RENEE: Hey, I worked hard on that.

PRINCE: Am I supposed to be impressed?

REYNALDO: *(Takes pumpkin off his head. Sarcastically.)* I guess it's not nearly as impressive as that block castle you're building. *(Belittling.)* How old are you?

PRINCE: You don't get it Reynaldo. I'm planning the renovation of this castle!

RENEE: This place? What's wrong with it?

PRINCE: Everything. It's all closed off.

REYNALDO: It's a castle. It's supposed to be closed off. Castle means closed off.

PRINCE: Well, when I'm King, I'm going to tear down the front gate and open it up to everybody!

RENEE: Everybody?

PRINCE: Everybody! A castle is supposed to represent an entire kingdom. That means the common people should be able to come in and enjoy it too! Just think of it!

REYNALDO: Common People? You mean like guys who wear flannel, drive tractors, and walk around with sheep and pigs all day?

PRINCE: Exactly! I'm even working on a new Royal Banner.

RENEE: What's wrong with the current banner? I *like* the current banner.

PRINCE: Oh, it's great, don't get me wrong. I just don't think it's inclusive of the common folk.

REYNALDO: *(To RENEE.)* Goat and pig people.

PRINCE: *(Correcting.)* Common people. I propose something like this! *(He holds up a drawing of a yellow and red triangle that represents the 'slow' sign seen on the back of a tractor.)*

RENEE: You really *do* want pigs running through the castle!

(As RENEE is talking, MISSY and LISSY enter catching the end of the conversation. They are followed by Sissy who trails a few steps behind).

MISSY: Pigs! In the castle? Eww!

LISSY: That is soooo gross!

PRINCE: Uhhh, I thought I told you three to stay out of here today.

MISSY: You can't boss us around!

LISSY: It's our castle too. If you try to kick us out, then I'm telling Daddy!

PRINCE: *(To MISSY and LISSY. Taunting.)* When I'm King I'm going to have pigs, sheep and every other kind of farm-yard animal live in the palace gardens. I think I'll even put the pigs feeding trough in the Royal Dressing Chambers.

MISSY: *(Exiting with LISSY.)* Eeeeeek! Daddy! Palatino's being mean to us again!

SISSY: *(To PRINCE.)* I wouldn't mind sharing my closet with the pigs.

PRINCE: You wouldn't?

SISSY: *(Shakes her head no, smiling.)* I like pigs. I think their cute!

LISSY: *(Calling from offstage.)* Sissy, come on!

SISSY: Bye. *(Exits.)*

PRINCE: *(Calling after SISSY, excited.)* You just wait, Sissy! I'm going to tear down that front gate and...

RENEE: Woah, hold up Princey. If you leave the front gate open, you're practically inviting the livestock to leave cow pies in your bedroom.

PRINCE: Huh? *(Thinking.)* Well, we'll constrain them to the kitchen then!

RENEE: *(Eye roll. Sigh under her breath.)* That's not the type of pies I'm referring to.

REYNALDO: Listen to me, Princey, if you want to be King one day, you need to stop playing with those *(Indicating the blocks.)* and start playing with this. *(REYNALDO holds out his sword. The PRINCE smiles and takes it from him.)*

PRINCE: Unguard! *(He goes towards REYNALDO waving the sword crazily in the air as STROMBOLO enters.)*

STROMBOLO: I see his majesty has developed the fine art of swordsmanship.

PRINCE: *(Thinking he did well.)* Thank you, Strombolo. *(Gives the sword to REYNALDO.)* Here, hold this. *(To STROMBOLO.)* Now about the Harvest Festival coming up, I'd like to invite all the kingdom's common people.

STROMBOLO: *(Confused.)* Common people?

REYNALDO: Sheep and pig people.

STROMBOLO: I see. Impossible! We have never done that.

PRINCE: The times are changing, Strombolo.

STROMBOLO: They have not changed that much. How dare you consider bringing those dirty peasants into your father's castle.

PRINCE: It's my castle too. And when I'm King....

STROMBOLO: You are not King yet, and until you are we are living under the old rules. No common people and certainly no - barn yard animals.

PRINCE: We'll just see about that!

REYNALDO: *(In STROMBOLO's face.)* Moo!

STROMBOLO: You three can huff and puff all you like, but I suggest, Young Prince, that you learn to use a royal sword and act like a man for once. *(He leaves.)*

REYNALDO: We may not have cows and pigs your highness, but as long as *(Mocking.)* Strombooboo is around, there is *one* breed of barnyard animal living within the palace gates. *(Makes donkey noise.)*

PRINCE: *(Soft laugh.)* Thanks, Reynaldo. But he's right. As long as my father has Strombolo in charge of security and defense, there's no way a commoner will get past that gate.

RENEE: So get out there and stop him.

PRINCE: Huh?

RENEE: Get out there and stop Stombozo from being in charge.

PRINCE: Stand up to Strombolo? You saw my swordsmanship skills.

RENEE: You don't need a sword, your highness. What you need is a princess.

PRINCE: A princess?

RENEE: A real life princess. An elegant, classy lady. Once you get married, *you'll* be King. *(Walking up to him and throwing her arm over his shoulder.)* Hello, princess! Goodbye, Strombolo!

PRINCE: Hmm, there are lots of pretty women out there.

REYNALDO: Aye, sir.

PRINCE: That's it, Renee, you're a genius! I'll have a ball, a Harvest Festival ball.

REYNALDO: Now you're talking!

PRINCE: And since it's my ball, I can invite whomever I choose!

RENEE: Whomever!

PRINCE: Including commoners, right into the King's Ballroom!

REYNALDO: *(Puts head in hands.)* Uhh...

PRINCE: I'll show that evil Strombolo.

RENEE: Just one question, your highness. Are you really going to invite the goats and pigs?

SCENE 3

(CINDERELLA's House. It is a typical house of wealthy stature. The walls are patterned perhaps, with paintings on them and there is a living room and dining room setting. GLUCINDA walks on stage with a mirror in one hand and a canister of face powder in the other.)

GLUCINDA: *(To the audience.)* What are you looking at? *(Opens powder. Mock sweet.)* Euphronia! Euphronia!

EUPHRONIA: *(Enters.)* Yes, dear sister?

GLUCINDA: *(Snotty.)* You stole my face powder, you thief.

EUPHRONIA: Thief? Are you talking to me *(Bats her eyelashes.)* dear, sister?

GLUCINDA: This jar is half empty. So stop calling me dear sister, dear sister.

EUPHRONIA: I'd say it's half full.

GLUCINDA: Well it was ALL full last time, and you stole some. *(She blots EUPHRONIA in the face with the powder puff.)*

EUPHRONIA: How dare you accuse me!

GLUCINDA: Well the cat didn't take it! And you're the only one here with a complexion so ugly that you need a half jar!

EUPHRONIA: Take that back! *(She grabs the powder away.)* Or I'll dump this all over your perfect complexion.

GLUCINDA: *(Through gritted teeth. She raises her hands in a boxing gesture.)* Give it back, dear sister!

EUPHRONIA: *(Copying the gesture.)* I don't think so, dear wart face!

GLUCINDA: *(Charging towards EUPHRONIA.)* Ahhhhhhhhhh! *(They begin to fight, slapstick style, pulling hair, slapping each other's hands, the fight finally ends when one dumps the face powder onto the other.)*

GLUCINDA & EUPHRONIA: *(Pointing at each other.)* Look what you've done! *(Screaming to the air.)* Cinderella!!!

CINDERELLA: *(Enters, happily.)* Good morning, sisters!

GLUCINDA: Where have you been!?!?

EUPHRONIA: Look at this Mess!

GLUCINDA: Sweep it up at once!

CINDERELLA: I'll just get the broom. *(She makes to exit, but is stopped by the next line.)*

EUPHRONIA: Have you sorted my hair ribbons yet?

CINDERELLA: I just finished.

EUPHRONIA: Autumn colors left hand drawer? Spring colors right hand drawer?

CINDERELLA: Of course!

EUPHRONIA: Well, I changed my mind. I want Autumn on the right.

GLUCINDA: Who cares about your hair ribbons? She was supposed to be polishing my bureau.

CINDERELLA: I was on my way to do it when you called. I can't do both at once.

EUPHRONIA: *(To GLUCINDA.)* Next I suppose she'll say she can't do any work at all.

GLUCINDA: It's true what Mama says, some people won't do any work.

STELLA: *(Entering.)* There you two are. Hurry up. Mrs. Thigg and her daughter will be arriving any moment.

GLUCINDA: Mama-

EUPHRONIA: But-

STELLA: *(Motherly.)* Now, now, no time for bickering, off you two go. *(EUPHRONIA and GLUCINDA exit.)*

Cinderella I told you we have guests coming in an hour. Why is this floor still a mess?

CINDERELLA: I'm sorry, ma'am. *(Pause. Softly. Standing up for herself.)* But it's not entirely my fault.

STELLA: No?

CINDERELLA: I already washed it once this morning.

STELLA: I think you have an attitude young lady.

CINDERELLA: *(Sad.)* No ma'am. It's just that, I already cleaned it once –

STELLA: *(Interrupting.)* If you already cleaned it, it wouldn't be dirty.

CINDERELLA: Yes, ma'am. *(CINDERELLA stays in place and looks at the ground, thinking.)*

STELLA: Well?

CINDERELLA: *(Knowing she's walking on coals.)* It's just, there's so much to get done. I've been working since dawn, but it's such a big house, maybe if everyone pitched in, just a little...

STELLA: *(Emphasis on "you".)* If you don't have this house spick-and-span by the time the Thiggs arrive, you won't have anything to eat for a week. *(Through gritted teeth.)* Now get moving. *(Starts to leave, then turns*

back to CINDERELLA. Sweetly.) Oh, and Cinderella.

CINDERELLA: Yes?

STELLA: Sweep. Up. This. Mess. *(Exits.)*

CINDERELLA: *(Drops to her knees and begins to wipe up the face powder. After a moment she stops. Talking to herself while looking at a locket.)* I've done everything they've asked me father. But nothing ever gets better. What am I doing wrong? I know you built this home for us to live in. But sometimes, I wish I had the nerve to leave this place.

RALPH: *(Talking from his hiding place.)* Well, why don't you got it?

CINDERELLA: Why don't I got what?

RALPH: The noive.

CINDERELLA: The noive? Oh, you must mean nerve.

RALPH: Nerve, Noive. Why don't you got the noive to run away?

CINDERELLA: I don't know. *(Shaking her head. Curious. Getting up off the floor.)* Who am I talking to?

RALPH: The name's Ralph!

CINDERELLA: And where are you Ralph?

RALPH: Down here.

CINDERELLA: *(Giggles.)* Oh my, you're a mouse.

RALPH: Of course I am.

LENNY: *(Appearing from hiding spot – or emerging from offstage.)* Ralph! Ralph! Ralph! Ralph! Ralph!

RALPH: What is it Lenny?

LENNY: I found me a cheese!

RALPH: Is that so? Let me see it?

LENNY: Ralph. It's the biggest hunk you ever seen.

RALPH: Alright, alright let's have a look! *(He takes the cheese from Lenny.)* This isn't cheese Lenny. It's cotton.

LENNY: But it's yellow.

RALPH: Fluffy though. It's fluffy. Next time you see something, you think it's cheese, you gotta check and see if it's hard. Like cheese is hard.

LENNY: Oops.

BECKY: *(BECKY enters followed by MONTEREY, CHEDDAR and PEPPER JACK. In a whisper.)* Ralph, Lenny, you're talking in front of that girl.

RALPH: I know, but it's just old Cinderello. She wouldn't hurt anyone.

CINDERELLA: How do you know my name? I don't remember telling you my name was Cinderella.

BECKY: You didn't have to Cinderelli. We mice know all.

CINDERELLA: So, you know everything that goes on in this house?

BECKY: Oh yeah, we mice get around.

MONTEREY: We can travel through the walls and the ceilings.

MONTEREY: We crawl under the tables

CHEDDAR: And around the chairs.

PEPPER JACK: We pop out from the walls.

MONTEREY: But only in pairs.

CHEDDAR: We can creep through the house.

PEPPER JACK: Without being seen.

CHEDDAR: Except by the cat.

PEPPER JACK: And he's really mean!

CINDERELLA: *(Giggling.)* He is a mean old cat isn't he? You poor mice.

BECKY: Oh, don't worry about us. We're much faster than that old cat. But we have been having trouble finding food lately.

RALPH: Yeah, usually we snag some cheese or crumbs or whatnots off the floors.

BECKY: But not anymore. The house is so clean, we mice can barely survive.

CINDERELLA: You're hungry! My step mother makes me polish and sweep all day long; of course you can't find anything to eat.

RALPH: We're starting to thin out. Haven't had a decent meal in weeks and weeks.

CINDERELLA: Well, I'm sure I can help, but not until later. I won't get anything to eat myself unless this house is clean in the next hour.

BECKY: Maybe we could do something to help you. (*LENA and LUCY enter.*) Lena, Lucy this is -

LUCY: (*Running up hugging her.*) Cinderello!

CINDERELLA: You mice do know everything.

LENA: And why are you talking to her!

RALPH: She's all right, Lena!

LENA: She's a girl, and a murderer.

CINDERELLA: I may be a girl but I don't think I've ever murdered anyone.

LENA: Humph. We mice have rights you know? You set the traps do you not?

CINDERELLA: Traps?

RALPH: Them big springy things you got laying around. Lena caught her arm on one of those a month ago.

LENA: And it still hurts!

CINDERELLA: Oh dear, I guess I did. I'm very sorry, Lena.

LENA: Umph. I doubt it.

CINDERELLA: I'll try to make it up to you. All of you. When I go to set the table, I'll snag some cheese and drop it on the floor.

RALPH: You'd really snag some cheese for us?

BECKY: We'd be grateful.

LENA: Don't listen to her, it is a trap. She is going to feed us to her cat.

LUCY: I think she looks nice. Come on Lena, let's give her a chance.

LENA: All right. I suppose dinner is only thirty minutes away.

CINDERELLA: Thirty minutes! I'll never get the house clean before the Figgs arrive!

LUCY: Why don't you let us help?

MICE: Eeek, eek, eeeek!

CINDERELLA: It's kind of you to offer but, I don't think there is anything you can do. You're only mice.

RALPH: Only mice! You don't know what a bunch of only mice can do. We may be small in stature, but we're large in number! (*Laughing.*) Only mice. Did you hear that fellows?

(The rest of the MICE enter squeaking happily. They circle around CINDERELLA.)

BECKY: All right, mice. Cinderelli here needs some help cleanin'. Are we gonna help her?

MICE: Yes we are!

BECKY: Good. Now, you mice scrub the floor. And you mice clean the entry way. Lena, Lucy, you're in charge of the fireplace. And Lenny, you can change the kitty litter!

LENNY: (*Excited.*) Oh, Boy! I'm gonna help Cinderello!

CINDERELLA: Maybe I should change the kitty litter.

BECKY: Suit yourself. All right mice. Get to work!

(MICE and CINDERELLA begin to clean the house. CINDERELLA hums while the MICE Eek along.)

GLUCINDA: (*Calling from off stage.*) Cinderella!

CINDERELLA: Oh, no! My step-sisters are the ones who make me leave the traps. You have to hide, quickly!

BECKY: There's no time for that. Mice, freeze! (*All the MICE freeze in place.*)

GLUCINDA: (*Entering. She walks towards the sofa and sits down. She tosses her feet up onto the arm and lays her head back, right on top of the mouse who has frozen in place on the sofa.*) Cinderella, I used to have this really beautiful hair ribbon. I suppose you lost it.

EUPHRONIA: (*Entering from the other side.*) Cinderella, are you going to bring my hat boxes down from the attic? (*GLUCINDA stops and stares at EUPHRONIA.*)

GLUCINDA: What's wrong with you?!

EUPHRONIA: You're, you're...

GLUCINDA: I'm what?

EUPHRONIA: You're, laying on a -

BABY BELL: *(From underneath EUPHRONIA's head.)* Eek! Eek! Eek! Eek!

GLUCINDA: *(Jumping up.)* Ahhhhhhhhhh! Mama, I touched a mouse! *(Runs off stage chased by a group of mice.)*

EUPHRONIA: *(Laughing.)* Hahahaha.

PROVOLONE: *(Tugging on her skirt.)* Eek! Eek! Eek! Eek!

EUPHRONIA: Ahhhhhhhhhh! *(Runs off stage after her sister.)* Mamma! Mice! They're invading the house!

MICE: *(Following EUPHRONIA, who is being chased by another group of mice.)* Eek! Eek! Eek! Eek!

(As soon as the last mouse exits the stage, GLUCINDA runs across in the other direction, chased by the mice closely behind.)

RALPH: Charge! For Cinderello!

SAMPLE