

The Spoiled Princess: A Grimms Fairy Tale

a new play with audience participation for four or more actors
written by Brian Guehring adapted from a classic Grimms Brothers Fairy Tale

Characters:

PRINCESS	a pretty, but spoiled princess
PRINCE ROUGHBEARD/MINSTREL	a kind, talented, but plain looking prince
FAIRY GODMOTHER	a magical guardian and narrator
KING of BLIZZBLANDIA	the princess's father
CINDERELLA	the servant girl with the heart of gold
STEPMOTHER	her nasty stepmother
CINDERELLA's PRINCE	a handsome, young prince
FOOTMAN	Prince Roughbeard's servant
QUEEN of GEHUDAHUDIA	The prince's mother

Audience Participation Roles:

LADIES IN WAITING	the friends of the spoiled princess
PRINCES	Suitors of the Princess
PIGS	Gehudahudia livestock
SERVANTS	Gehudahudia servants

For a four person play, the suggested casting is

ACTRESS #1: FAIRY GODMOTHER/ LADY IN WAITING/ PEDDLER/ SERVANT/ COOK/
QUEEN OF GEHUDAHUDIA
ACTRESS #2: PRINCESS/CINDERELLA
ACTOR #1: PRINCE ROUGHBEARD/MINSTREL/CINDERELLA's PRINCE
ACTOR #2: EVIL STEPMOTHER/ KING of BLIZZBLANDIA/ FOOTMAN/ CHEF

SETTINGS

Cinderella's home
the royal palace and the royal pigsty in Blizzblandia
a simple hut, the royal kitchen, and the royal ball room in Gehudahudia

TIME

Once upon a time

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CONTACT THE AUTHOR TO get a copy of the large youth cast script.

Scene 1: The Shoe Fits

(Scene opens with CINDERELLA'S PRINCE trying on the glass slipper on the STEPMOTHER The FAIRY GODMOTHER is watching from outside the house)

STEPMOTHER

If it won't fit my daughters, then maybe I should try it on....

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

But ma'am, you aren't the age of....

STEPMOTHER

You said that you would try the slipper on ALL of the eligible maidens. I am a widow, which makes me eligible.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE grimaces and tries on the slipper. It won't fit.)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I'm sorry, but the slipper won't fit.

STEPMOTHER

Because you are not trying hard enough. Shove that slipper on my foot!

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

We don't want to break the slipper.

STEPMOTHER

I'll shave off some of my heel to make it fit.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

That won't be necessary. Are there any more young maidens in the home?

STEPMOTHER

NO!

(FAIRY GODMOTHER waves her wand and a huge crash is heard off-stage)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

What was that?

STEPMOTHER

Nothing. Probably the cat.

(CINDERELLA rushes on stage.)

CINDERELLA

I'm so sorry, Stepmother. The cabinet just flew open and the dishes fell to the floor. I don't know how that happened....

STEPMOTHER

Clumsy girl. Go clean it up! Now!

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Wait!

(CINDERELLA notices PRINCE)

CINDERELLA

I'm so sorry, your highness. I didn't know you were here.

(CINDERELLA curtsies)

Please excuse my rudeness.

(CINDERELLA turns to leave)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Before you go, I would like you to try on this slipper.

STEPMOTHER

We assure you, Cinderella was *not* at the royal ball last night. Leave, Cinderella!

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

No. First, she must try on the slipper.

(CINDERELLA tries on slipper.)

STEPMOTHER

The glass slipper fits! How is that possible? How could you have gotten to the ball?
How could you have gotten nice clothes?

CINDERELLA

With a little magic.

(CINDERELLA winks to FAIRY GOD-MOTHER)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Will you be my queen?

CINDERELLA

I would love to.

(CINDERELLA and PRINCE hug)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Our carriage awaits!

(CINDERELLA pauses)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

My love?

CINDERELLA

One moment.

(SHE runs to FAIRY GODMOTHER)

Thank you. Thank you for everything!

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Of course, dear! Now go run off. And live happily ever after.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER waves wand and the other three characters freeze in a happy ending statue. SHE sighs)

FAIRY GODMOTHER

It makes me so happy to see a happy ending. *(SHE then waves her wand and sends the three actors backstage. FAIRY GODMOTHER begins to exit, then sees the audience).* Oh my! I didn't see you there. *(SHE turns to the stage)* Oh, dear, you just missed the story of.....*(SHE uses magic wand but characters don't return).* Oh, fiddle, fiddle! And now its too late. The happy ending already happily ended. And the characters are too busy enjoying their ending to return yet. *(to audience)* You know you really should have come earlier. And it is such a good story, too. It is truly a shame you missed it. I wish there was something I could do....

What am I thinking? I am a fairy godmother. I can show you another story. I've helped create so many happily ever afters. Ooooh! A story about a princess and prince and fairy tale magic. And *(looking at the audience)* for this audience, maybe a story that you are not familiar with. How exciting! That is what I'll do!

Now, let's see, which one to show?

(FAIRY GODMOTHER waves her wand and a memory box is thrown on stage. It is overflowing with pictures, trinkets and other souvenirs from her stories. SHE starts pulling out different trinkets)

No..... not her....Or that one...Maybe?.... No....Ah, ha! The Spoiled Princess. This is one of my favorites.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER closes box)

Scene 2 *The First Suitor*

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Once upon a time, there was an King.

(she waves her wand and KING of BLIZZBLANDIA comes out to throne)

who had a daughter who was beautiful beyond measure.

(she waves her hand and PRINCESS enters).

She also had a lot of friends who agreed with everything the princess said.

(she waves her wand, but nothing happens. She shakes her wand and ACTOR #1 comes out in a tall Lady in Waiting hat).

Oh, no dear. I'm going to need you for another part.

(ACTOR #1 takes off silly hat and gives the hat to her.)

Well, yes, I could play one of her friends, but I can't play all 4.

(ACTOR #1 looks backstage. There is nobody else there. He shrugs his shoulders)

There is nobody else? Well are there any mice back there? Or puppies? Anything I can turn into the princess's friends?

(ACTOR #1 looks, and again shrugs his shoulders)

Well, now where can I find some small living things to turn into her friends?

(ACTOR #1 points to audience)

Oh, my. Well I guess that is possible. With adults and animals, I usually don't ask first, but with you I think I should. Are there three young girls out there who would be willing to be turned into the Princess's Ladies in Waiting? Wonderful.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER selects three young ladies)

Thank you for helping us out. Here is a costume.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER puts on hats on volunteers)

Now when I wave my wand, we will become the friends of the Princess and we'll agree to everything she says.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER waves her wand to bring scene to life)

PRINCESS

Oh, there you are, my ladies in waiting! Don't I look wonderful today?

FAIRY GODMOTHER and LADIES IN WAITING

Yes!

PRINCESS

Isn't my dress wonderful?

FAIRY GODMOTHER and LADIES IN WAITING

Yes!

PRINCESS

Isn't my hair perfect?

FAIRY GODMOTHER and LADIES IN WAITING

Yes!

PRINCESS

Don't my fingernails look perfect.

FAIRY GODMOTHER and LADIES IN WAITING

Yes!

PRINCESS

I have the best friends in the whole world!

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

Yes, daughter, you look lovely today.

PRINCESS

Of course.

FAIRY GODMOTHER (as LADY IN WAITING)

Your new suitor is coming today?

PRINCESS

Yes. The Prince of Gehudahudia.

(LADIES of the COURT squeal again)

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

When is the last time you saw him?

PRINCESS

I haven't seen him for years. We were such good friends growing up.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

My daughter certainly is growing up quickly. And the Prince of Gehudahudia is so rich.

FAIRY GODMOTHER (as LADY IN WAITING)

The Prince of Gehudahudia is here!

(PRINCE ROUGHBEARD enters. As PRINCE talks to the KING, the PRINCESS and LADIES IN WAITING primp and get ready to greet him)

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

Young Prince, it is good to see you again.

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

The privilege is all mine.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

How were your adventures?

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PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

I have learned much of the world in my travels. But after so many years, I look forward to going home.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

You haven't returned to your own kingdom, yet?

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

No, sire. I wanted to stop here to visit your daughter, before I returned home to my mother. And also to offer my condolences, I am sorry to hear that the queen passed away in my absence. She was a wonderful woman and kind queen.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

Thank you, young Prince. Yes, the loss of her mother has been very difficult on my daughter.

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

It is never easy to lose someone you love.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

So, what are your intentions with my daughter?

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

King, I have thought of her often on my travels. I dream of making her my wife.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

She is the most beautiful young woman you have ever seen, isn't she?

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

She was beautiful when I left and I have heard her beauty has only increased in my absence.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

Do you love her?

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

With all of my heart. She can be so sweet and kind.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

And she returns your affection?

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

I hope so.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

And you will make my youngest daughter happy?

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

I will do everything I can to do so.

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KING of BLIZZBLANDIA
You should ask her to marry you today.

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD
Today?

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA
There is no need to wait! Ask her today or I will bring in other suitors.

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD
As you command.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA
Daughter.
(PRINCESS steps up)

PRINCESS
Father.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA
Princess, the prince has something to ask you.
(KING of BLIZZBLANDIA waits. PRINCE ROUGHBEARD looks at him. KING of BLIZZBLANDIA gets the hint and exits)

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD
Princess, it is good to see you again. And you are more beautiful than ever.

PRINCESS
I am!

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD
Princess, you are more beautiful than all the flowers in the kingdom. You make me smile and happy. Will you marry me?
(PRINCE ROUGHBEARD takes out a ring. LADIES of the COURT giggle)

PRINCESS *(happily)*
Oh! To you?

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD
Yes. We are good friends and I will do anything for you.

PRINCESS
No. I could never be married to you.

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD
You know I am kind and thoughtful.

PRINCESS
I have made my decision.

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

I am talented, I can sing and dance.

PRINCESS

I don't care. I think you should leave and never return. Right, Ladies in Waiting.

FAIRY GODMOTHER and LADIES IN WAITING

Yes.

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

But why?

PRINCESS

Look at you! You are not handsome enough for me.

PRINCE ROUGHBEARD

What do looks matter? I will make you happy.

PRINCESS

No. You are too ugly. Prince Roughbeard. The Princess has made her decision.
(PRINCESS returns the ring. PRINCE ROUGHBEARD exits as the PRINCESS laughs. KING of BLIZZBLANDIA enters)

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

Where did the prince go? Did he not ask you to marry him?

PRINCESS

He did ask for my hand in marriage. But I can't marry him.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

If he can't make my daughter the happiest girl in the kingdom, then he wasn't good enough for you.

PRINCESS

Thank you, Daddy.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

Daughter, we shall have a ball in your honor.

PRINCESS

Yes. A princess deserves everything I wish!

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

We shall invite the most illustrious men in the kingdom. We shall find the perfect man for my daughter.

PRINCESS

Thank you, Daddy.

KING of BLIZZBLANDIA

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I must find someone who can take care of my perfect daughter and make her happy.
I just need to find someone as perfect as she.

PRINCESS

And I need the servants to make me a new dress and fix my hair and my nails!
(FAIRY GODMOTHER waves her hand and the scene freezes. She waves the actors off.)

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Let's give a big round of applause to our ladies in waiting! Didn't they do a wonderful job? It isn't easy to pretend to be friends to someone that spoiled.