

Plays for Young Audiences

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY-MINNEAPOLIS
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Cinderella

By
Charles Way

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Character List:

Cinderella	Kendyl Smith
Prince Sebastian	Evan Turner
Aloysia	Cali Joachim
Constanze	Katlynn Howley
Marta	Laken Mosler
Maria	Jessica Freeman
Sigmund	Taurean Hackbush
Wolfgang	Stratus Smith
Fairy Godmother/Bird	KT Smith
King Leopold	Jesse Mann
Liesl	Brooke Culler
Greta	Taquoia Hackbush
Elsa	Jada Lee
Sophia	Adia Eggering

Setting: The play is set in a fictional representation of Mannheim, Germany, where Mozart vainly tried to become Court composer in 1777. Mozart's music should accompany the play.

Act One: Scene 1

Music. A dance with masks. Lights fade. A heavy tick-tock of a pendulum clock can be heard. A light rises on a figure dressed in 'ghostly' white — this is Cinderella's Fairy Godmother. She carries a cage inside which is a white dove.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Tick tock, tick tock

COMPANY

Time slips by,
Sometimes it jumps.
Sometimes it flies,
Sometimes it waits,
As if for ever,
Sometimes it stops,
Altogether.
(The ticking stops)

PAUSE

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Ah — this is one of those times.
(A bell tolls distantly)

GRETA

A sad time

ELSA

An in between time

SOPHIA

A time of tears.

Enter Cinderella, she rushes from one side of the stage to another as if trying to get out of a cage. Eventually she rushes into the arms of her father.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/COMPANY

Oh yes, once upon such a time
There was a Clockmaker.

(Cinderella pulls away from her father)

LIESL

And the Clockmaker had a daughter

ELSA

They lived in a beautiful town
On the banks of a flowing river

SOPHIA

In the shadow of a fine castle.

The bell tolls.

WOLFGANG
But all is not well.

GRETA
The town lay in the grip of a terrible sickness

LIESL
For which there seemed to be no cure.

ELSA
The sickness was so bad that many people died.

GRETA
One of these was the young girl's mother.

Cinderella kneels.

Exit Father.

The lights rise slowly. It becomes morning and the air is full of birdsong but the grief-stricken Cinderella barely notices.

SIGMUND
The child was struck down by grief,
She felt as if her tears would never end
And would flood the world.

The Fairy Godmother climbs on a box that looks like a big rock

CINDERELLA
It's you again. The same bird every day, spying on me, flying around my head, like a — like a wasp.
Have you no respect? Go away wasp — go away.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD
There's no need to be rude.

Cinderella looks around, startled.

CINDERELLA
Who's there? Is there anyone there?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD
Yes — me.

CINDERELLA
Where are you? Why do you hide?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD
I'm not hiding. I'm in full view. It's me — that's right.

CINDERELLA
You?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

A wasp am I?

Bird comes off of the box and Cinderella backs away.

Don't be frightened. I won't sting you. I'm a bird.

CINDERELLA

A talking bird.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

Stranger things have happened, and will again, I assure you.

The Bird comes near Cinderella

Close your mouth, and stop staring. It's rude and makes you look like a fish.

CINDERELLA

Why haven't you talked before?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

I was waiting, for the right time. I've been waiting for the past year.

Hesitates

I have something to ask you. May I?

CINDERELLA

Yes.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

I need your help.

CINDERELLA

How can I help you?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

This garden used to be so beautiful. Your Mother was so happy here.

CINDERELLA

My mother?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

She and I were good friends. She used to look after the garden — not like you.

Look how bare it is. It's not a Garden anymore — it's a graveyard.

CINDERELLA

(Chases the bird) How dare you talk about my mother. Go away you wicked creature. Go away.

(She cannot catch the Bird and she collapses in tears)

CINDERELLA

What would you have me do? Bury her in one of those big pits along with everyone else who died of the sickness? No. This was her garden — she belongs here, with me.

Silence.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

I understand.

CINDERELLA

You're a bird what do you know, about anything?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

I know one thing. This garden needs a tree.

CINDERELLA A tree? What for?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD It's a bird thing. Somewhere for me to sit of course.

CINDERELLA

Why should I help you?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

For your mother. It's what she wanted. Plant it in her memory — plant it here.
It will give us all shade in the summer and shelter in the winter. Please.

The Bird fetches a hazel twig.

CINDERELLA

What kind of tree will it be?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

Hazel.

Next to her mother's grave, Cinderella plants a twig of hazel.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

Close your eyes.

Cinderella closes her eyes. Music. The Fairy Godmother removes the twig and magically a tree replaces it.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

You can open your eyes now.

CINDERELLA

Ah! It's — it's so beautiful.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

(proudly) Isn't it just?

CINDERELLA

But how — who — what — did it?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

Don't ask me, I'm a bird. What do I know of anything?

CINDERELLA

What are you, exactly?

GM/BIRD

A friend. I think your mother would have liked it.

CINDERELLA

Yes, yes she would. Will it flower

GM/BIRD

Perhaps, one day, if –

CINDERELLA

If? –

GM/Bird

If time moves on. It generally does.

A boy in rags(Prince Sebastian in disguise) has entered

We have a visitor.

CINDERELLA

Who are you? What are you doing? Get out. Get out.

PRINCE/BOY

Are you talking to me or the bird?

CINDERELLA

Go away, go away!

She chases the boy, he laughs and runs away

PRINCE/BOY

So you want to play?

CINDERELLA

No. Get out – please.

PRINCE/BOY

I didn't mean to upset you.

CINDERELLA

Well, you have. Now go — this is a private place — private.

PRINCE/BOY

And you were talking to that bird, in private of course.

CINDERELLA

No I wasn't.

PRINCE/BOY

It looked like it from a distance.

CINDERELLA

You've been spying?

PRINCE/BOY

You've been lying. Is this your tree?

CINDERELLA

Yes, now get out.

PRINCE/BOY

This tree wasn't here yesterday.

CINDERELLA

You were here yesterday?

PRINCE/BOY

And the day before, and the day before that. Every day I hear crying from the other side of the wall, so today I climbed the wall and came in. Why do you cry like that?

Prince/boy runs hand along some of the branches

CINDERELLA

Leave the tree alone.

PRINCE/BOY

Did you plant it?

CINDERELLA

Yes.

PRINCE/BOY

No, this tree is older than you.

CINDERELLA

Please stop —

PRINCE/BOY

You couldn't have planted this tree.

CINDERELLA

I did plant it.

PRINCE/BOY

When?

CINDERELLA

Just now.

PRINCE/BOY

And, it just grew...just now?

CINDERELLA

Yes.

PRINCE/BOY

I like tall trees — and tall stories too.

CINDERELLA

I don't care what you like, or dislike I just want you to —

The Bird flies to him

PRINCE/BOY

It's beautiful.

CINDERELLA

Don't harm it.

PRINCE/BOY

Why would I harm it?

CINDERELLA

How should I know? There isn't always a reason, is there?

PRINCE/BOY

Can it really talk?

CINDERELLA

Why are you so persistent? Have you no one else in the world to talk to?

Silence

PRINCE/BOY

No, not really. My father is confined to his bed...

CINDERELLA

Your mother?

PRINCE/BOY

She died, four years ago. She liked trees too.
She liked gardening...she like dancing...she liked all kinds of —

CINDERELLA
Please, leave me alone.

PRINCE/BOY
Shall I come back tomorrow?

CINDERELLA
No.

PRINCE/BOY
Perhaps the bird will talk to me tomorrow.

CINDERELLA
Don't be silly, birds don't talk.

PRINCE/BOY
You really don't want to be friends?

CINDERELLA
No.

PRINCE/BOY
I'll go then — but only if you tell me your name.

CINDERELLA
You promise?

PRINCE/BOY
Cross my heart.

CINDERELLA
My name — (music) — is Cinderella.

He exits.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD
(Aside) The very next day the boy returned, and again Cinderella chased him and turned him away. But the boy would not give up. Why, he did not know. He came every day for a month.

CINDERELLA
Go away, go away.

PRINCE/BOY
One of these days Cinderella...I will make you laugh — I promise you.

CINDERELLA
You must go — really.

PRINCE/BOY
What's the reason today?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

And one day she could not think of a reason.

PRINCE/BOY

I'll stay then.

CINDERELLA

If you want.

PRINCE/BOY

Do you want me to?

Cinderella nods, she is still not smiling. An awkward silence follows.

PRINCE/BOY

Do you have any other friends?

CINDERELLA

Do you?

PRINCE/BOY

One — Wolfy.

CINDERELLA

Wolfy?

PRINCE/BOY

He's a laugh. Likes music. Your question — if you want?

CINDERELLA

Where do you live?

PRINCE/BOY

In the castle, (*hastily*) I work there.

CINDERELLA

Really? What kind of work?

PRINCE/BOY

Kitchen — work.

CINDERELLA

What's your name?

PRINCE/BOY

They just call me Boy. Boy come here and clean the pot. Boy, stir the soup...Boy, sweep the floor...has anyone seen that good for nothing Boy?

CINDERELLA

Have you ever seen one of the parties they hold, where they dance all night in the great hall?

PRINCE/BOY

Loads of times — from a distance.

CINDERELLA

Tell me, everything.

PRINCE/BOY

Well...there are big lights.

CINDERELLA

Chandeliers.

PRINCE/BOY

And —

CINDERELLA

And an orchestra?

PRINCE/BOY

Yes, and the men and women bow and curtsy — and dance.

CINDERELLA

How do they dance?

PRINCE/BOY

I don't really know. I'm a kitchen boy.

CINDERELLA

Well, try and remember, please.

PRINCE/BOY

Well, they put one hand here and the other here and they put their heads to one side like —

CINDERELLA

Like - ?

PRINCE/BOY

Yes, and they smile like their teeth are glued together. Yes, just so.
And they start to dance as if they really did not care to dance at all.

They begin to dance. A magical moment — their eyes meet.

CINDERELLA

Now you really must go.

PRINCE/BOY

But there's something I have to tell you —

CINDERELLA

My Father! Go — Go!

The boy exits, as Sigmund enters.

SIGMUND
Cinderella.

CINDERELLA
What is it? What's happened? Why are you smiling?

SIGMUND
News. Good news. It's about time we had some good news isn't it?
What's this?

CINDERELLA
It's a tree. What news?

SIGMUND
It wasn't here before.

CINDERELLA
It's been here for ages, Father. Perhaps if you visited more often, you'd have noticed. What news?

SIGMUND
It's time Cinderella.

CINDERELLA
Time?

SIGMUND
Time to move on. You are fast becoming a young woman. You'll need help...guidance.
You need a mother. I need a wife.

CINDERELLA
What are you saying?

SIGMUND
I have met someone — who has agreed to be my wife.

Cinderella attacks him. He restrains her gently.

SIGMUND
Please, please try to understand.

(She pulls away)

CINDERELLA
How could you? How could you?

SIGMUND
Cinderella, its time for us — for you, to stop crying.

CINDERELLA

Never.

SIGMUND

Life is too short —

CINDERELLA

How could you even think of marrying someone else? And so soon...

SIGMUND

It's been a year.

CINDERELLA

A year?

SIGMUND

Time has stopped for us, now we must progress, you need a mother.

CINDERELLA

I have a mother. A mother who loves me, go away, go away!

He is about to turn away, when the Bird flies to him. It lands on his arm, turns him back.

SIGMUND

You are very young Cinderella. You have time on your side.
I am getting older and time seems to be slipping through my fingers faster than ever.
I need company — friendship, love.

CINDERELLA

But father, I am your friend, your company —

SIGMUND

Of course you are.
But you won't want to stay with me forever.
You'll leave — make a life of your own.

CINDERELLA

Leave? No, I'll never leave. Please Father, don't marry again. I'll never leave you.

SIGMUND

Cinderella, I knew this would be your reaction...so...

CINDERELLA

So?

SIGMUND

So, I have already married — this woman. Her name is Maria and she's coming, to be with us.

CINDERELLA

How could you do this?

SIGMUND

I know this has come as a shock to you but perhaps a shock is what you need. You can't grieve forever.

CINDERELLA

I can grieve for as long as I want!

SIGMUND

Calm yourself. Listen to me, you spend so much time alone... Maria has daughters. They can be your friends, your new sisters.

CINDERELLA

Sisters? I don't want any ugly sisters!

SIGMUND

These girls are very nice. They come from Heidelberg. They are charming, friendly. Aloysia has a wonderful singing voice, Constanze dances and Marta is, well, Marta is young. They will — occupy you.

CINDERELLA

I will never forgive you for this — never.

SIGMUND

Time will tell...but now you must come with me and meet them.

CINDERELLA

I will not.

SIGMUND

I am your Father.

CINDERELLA

In name only.

SIGMUND

(Losing his temper) Then in name only, follow me!

CINDERELLA

I won't betray you Mother. Not like him. I will never let you go.

The Bird flies around in an agitated way.

SIGMUND

Come.

FAIRYGODMOTHER/BIRD

Cinderella. Trust me — and do as your father asks.

Fairy Godmother makes a spell, which changes the scene.

ACT1: SCENE 2

Cinderella's house. Music which brings with it Maria, Constanze and Aloysia. Maria steps forward, leaving the girls, in a frozen pose, holding heavy bags.

SIGMUND

Maria! Welcome. Where are the girls?

MARIA

Bringing the bags.

SIGMUND

I'll help them.

MARIA

No, it's fine. The exercise will do them good. It's a beautiful little house.

SIGMUND

I know it's not what you've been used to...

MARIA

I'm sure we'll manage. Such a lovely clock? Why has it stopped? What - ?

SIGMUND

It stopped the moment my first wife passed away.

MARIA

Why don't you fix it? Mr. Clock-fixer.

SIGMUND

Somehow I —

MARIA

Haven't found the time? It's very beautiful, as I'm sure was your first wife. Where is Cinderella?

SIGMUND

She's washing her face. I'll call her.

He steps to one side. A light rises on Cinderella who kneels in front of the kitchen fire.

SIGMUND

Cinderella — please. Your Stepmother is here. I urge you to come out.

CINDERELLA

I can't.

SIGMUND

Why not?

CINDERELLA

I have dirt on my face. *(She deliberately covers her face with soot)* I'm not presentable.

Sigmund turns to Maria.

SIGMUND

She won't be long. I'll show you around the house.

MARIA

I'm sure that won't take long either. Sigmund and Maria smile at each other nervously

MARIA

A joke.

Exit Sigmund and Maria. Constanze, Aloysia and Marta move into the scene, collapsing under the weight of the bags. Constanze and Aloysia are twins.

ALOYSIA

This is it, sister, our new home. Quaint.

CONSTANZE

It's not quaint — it's tiny. It's a doll's house.

ALOYSIA

We'll get used to it.

CONSTANZE

I don't want to get used to it. I want to go home to our big house in the country

MARTA

With the big roaring fire in the big hall.

ALOYSIA

Look at me, sisters. Our old life is over.

CONSTANZE

No.

ALOYSIA

We're not the first to fall on hard times. Mother has done the best she could for us.

CONSTANZE

Don't tell me — we're lucky not to be out begging on the streets.

ALOYSIA

Indeed we are. We can be happy here, if we make the best of things.

CONSTANZE

I know, I know. *(They embrace warmly)*

ALOYSIA

A new life.

MARTA
A new start.

CONSTANZE
I wonder what he'll be like — our new father.

ALOYSIA
He's a Clockmaker.

CONSTANZE
Yawn.

ALOYSIA
We'll be alright as long as we stick together.

(Constanze pulls away)

CONSTANZE
I don't want to be stuck together. Oh, Aloysia, how can you be so cheerful?

ALOYSIA
Practice. I wonder where mother is?

CONSTANZE
She's probably upstairs with her new husband.

ALOYSIA
Don't be rude.

CONSTANZE
It's not rude — it's ML.

ALOYSIA/MARTA
ML?

CONSTANZE
Married life.

ALOYSIA
Oh poor dear father — I miss him so much.

CONSTANZE
So do I.

MARTA
So do I.

ALOYSIA
I know you do.

CONSTANZE
I miss you as much as you.

(They embrace again and this is how Cinderella finds them.)

CONSTANZE
Hello, a servant?

ALOYSIA
Things are looking up.

CONSTANZE
But she looks down...how sweet. I am Constanze.

(She dances a few steps.)

ALOYSIA
And I Aloysia.

(She sings her name)

MARTA
And I Marta

(crosses her arms)

ALOYSIA
And you are?

Silence.

CONSTANZE
Mute?

ALOYSIA
Can you speak? How strange?

CONSTANZE
Perhaps she has no tongue.

ALOYSIA
(Slowly) Can you speak?

Cinderella nods.

MARTA
Then why don't you?

CINDERELLA
I had nothing to say.

ALOYSIA
That doesn't stop us.

CONSTANZE
In fact it spurs us on.

ALOYSIA
The less there is to say, the greater the urge to speak, don't you find?

CINDERELLA
No.

ALOYSIA
How long have you worked here?

MARTA
Do you know Cinderella?

ALOYSIA
What's she like?

CONSTANZE
Is she ugly?

ALOYSIA
Is she pretty?

CONSTANZE
Like me.

ALOYSIA
Hush.

CONSTANZE
You're pretty too.

ALOYSIA
Yes?

CONSTANZE
Pretty ugly.

(They laugh in unison)

Not that it matters.

ALOYSIA
What do looks matter?

CONSTANZE
Nothing in your case.

(They laugh in unison)

ALOYSIA

Does she have a sense of humor?

CONSTANZE

That's important in times like these.

ALOYSIA

One has to laugh.

MARTA

Or one would cry.

ALOYSIA

And that would never do.

CONSTANZE

Would it?

CINDERELLA

What?

CONSTANZE

Do.

CINDERELLA

Do what?

CONSTANZE

Do tell us about Cinderella.

ALOYSIA

We're rather nervous you see.

MARTA

Meaning she is.

ALOYSIA

It's not everyday you get a new Sister.

CONSTANZE

Off the shelf as it were.

ALOYSIA

We're twins you see.

CONSTANZE

You see.

ALOYSIA
And we're very used —

CONSTANZE
To it being just —

ALOYSIA/CONSTANZE/MARTA
US.

ALOYSIA
Why don't you speak?

MARTA
Why don't you wash?

ALOYSIA/CONSTANZE/MARTA
Well?

CINDERELLA
Well what?

ALOYSIA
Tell us about Cinderella?

CONSTANZE
Is she looking forward to meeting us?

CINDERELLA
No.

ALOYSIA/CONSTANZE/MARTA
No?

CINDERELLA
She's very used to it being just her.

Enter Sigmund and Maria

SIGMUND
Ah, here she is — Cinderella. (*Notices her face*) These are your new sisters.

Cinderella Curtsies.

SIGMUND
And this is Maria — your new Mother.

MARIA
Cinderella, it's a beautiful name...and I'm sure behind that smut you're a beautiful girl. Indeed you are.

SIGMUND
She's been working in the kitchen —

*Maria extends her hand to Cinderella to kiss. Cinderella approaches slowly and bites Maria's hand.
Maria shouts out, the twins scream.*

What on earth - ?

MARIA
She bit me — she bit me!

SIGMUND
Cinderella?

CONSTANZE
You little vixen.

ALOYSIA
So you want to bite, do you?

CONSTANZE
Playing tricks —

ALOYSIA
We've got teeth too.

(they all snarl in unison)

MARIA
Stop it girls. Stop it.

SIGMUND
Apologize to your Mother.

CINDERELLA
She is not my Mother.

MARIA
It's alright, husband, Please — Cinderella, I know how you must feel.

CINDERELLA
No one knows how I feel.

MARIA
I understand...please...let us all be calm. You may call me Maria, and I hope that in time, we can become friends. (pause) But never — ever bite me again.

The sisters snarl.

MARIA
Stop it. Take your bags to your rooms.

SIGMUND
Room. They will have to share.

ALOYSIA/CONSTANZE/MARTA
Share?

CONSTANZE
With — her?

ALOYSIA
We can't

CONSTANZE
She bites people.

SIGMUND
You may have the room to yourself. Yourselves — I mean.

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA/MARTA
Thank you Stepfather.

Exit with Maria

CINDERELLA
My bedroom? My own bedroom?

SIGMUND
What else could I do after such a display? How could you behave like this?

CINDERELLA
How could you?

SIGMUND
Go to the kitchen Cinderella — make your bed there, and lie in it.

Exit Sigmund. Cinderella goes to the kitchen hearth and washes her face, so that it looks as if she has been weeping. The Fairy Godmother lands the Bird close by.

CINDERELLA
Go away, go away. *(She weeps)*

Enter GRETA, LIESL, ELSA & SOPHIA

GRETA
(Aside) Cinderella sat down in the kitchen hearth and wept.

LIESL
Never had a girl been so poorly treated.

ELSA

If only her mother was there to see her plight, but she was not.

SOPHIA

Cinderella was alone, or so she thought.

GM/BIRD/LEISL/GRETA/ELSA/SOPHIA

(sings a lullaby as Cinderella cries herself to sleep)

Time will pass and time will tell,
Time will sweep your cares away,
Time will sweep your cares away,
Time will dry your tears and say,
All's well, all's well, all's well.

Godmother waves her wand and the scene changes.

ACT 1: SCENE 3

The Castle.

The King's Bedroom.

Enter a large bed, in which sits King Leopold, shouting and ringing his bell. The bed is filthy — as is the King's nightwear.

LEOPOLD

SEBASTIAN — SEBASTIAN! Has anyone seen that good for nothing boy?

Enter Prince Sebastian at pace

SEBASTIAN

Yes, Father.

LEOPOLD

Where have you been?

SEBASTIAN

For a walk.

LEOPOLD

A walk, at this time of night?

SEBASTIAN

But it's —

LEOPOLD

Where did you walk?

SEBASTIAN

(Looks down) In the castle garden.

LEOPOLD

Don't lie to me

SEBASTIAN

The town. I went into town.

LEOPOLD

(Apoplectic) You — you — stupid — oh, if I could get out of bed I'd tear you to pieces, because that's what they'd do — the "people" if they found you, the 'prince' strolling around like —

SEBASTIAN

I was in disguise.

LEOPOLD

(Apoplectic) In Disguise? You — You — How dare you disguise yourself? You are the King's son. You are what you are and the people hate what you are.

SEBASTIAN

That isn't true.

LEOPOLD

Oh, I suppose you know the people better than I?

SEBASTIAN

I didn't say —

LEOPOLD

I know the people. When the sun shines, it's 'Long live the King'. When it starts to rain it's 'Off with his head' — huh, walking around the streets at midnight.

SEBASTIAN

Father, it isn't midnight, it's midday.

LEOPOLD

Don't be ridiculous. You think I've lost track of time, just because I've been in bed for a few years.

SEBASTIAN

Four years.

LEOPOLD

It's midnight! Open the curtains and you will see the stars.

Sebastian opens the curtains and a shaft of light hits the King in the face.

LEOPOLD

Turn that blasted light off.

SEBASTIAN
It's midday, Father.

LEOPOLD
Midday?

(Suddenly a complete collapse in confidence)

Perhaps I'm sick. Perhaps I'm going to die of the sickness, like the rest of my people. I deserve it.

SEBASTIAN
No Father, you don't have the sickness.

LEOPOLD
Oh listen to him, he's a doctor now.

SEBASTIAN
Open your mouth.

LEOPOLD
What for?

SEBASTIAN
To see the color of your tongue. Open —

Leopold sticks out his tongue. It's bright red and gives Sebastian a shock.

LEOPOLD
What?

SEBASTIAN
Your tongue is bright red.

LEOPOLD
Sherbet...Strawberry — So what? So what? So what?

SEBASTIAN
You're perfectly well.

LEOPOLD
Nonsense...if I was perfectly well I'd get out of bed. Don't look at me like that, as if the sickness was my fault.

SEBASTIAN
No one blames you for the sickness.

LEOPOLD
Oh, they do, I can see it in their eyes. The cook, the chambermaid they all looked at me — that's why I sacked them.

SEBASTIAN
Sacked them?

LEOPOLD
Sacked them all. Sent them home, what else could I do?

SEBASTIAN
All of them?

LEOPOLD
Don't look at me.

SEBASTIAN
You mean we have no servants?

LEOPOLD
Well — no. Oh my son what am I going to do?

Fairy Godmother/Bird flies into the room.

SEBASTIAN
Look Father — you have a visitor come to cheer you up.

LEOPOLD
Get it out! Get it out!

SEBASTIAN
It's only a bird, it must have followed me.

LEOPOLD
Followed you? From where?

SEBASTIAN
From the town.

The Bird lands on the end of the King's bed.

LEOPOLD
Why would it follow you? Does it belong to someone? Well does it?

The Bird looks at Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN
Well — I -?

LEOPOLD
Does it?

The Bird nods.

Who? Who were you with in the town?

SEBASTIAN
No one.

The Bird nods no

LEOPOLD
Don't lie.

SEBASTIAN
A girl.

The Bird nods yes.

She was talking to this bird — it was very strange.

LEOPOLD
Wait, what kind of girl?

SEBASTIAN
An ordinary girl, a Clockmaker's daughter.

LEOPOLD
(Apoplectic) You — you !

*(He comes to the end of the bed, making it clear that he is physically able to get out of bed if he wants to.
He hits out at Sebastian with a rolled up paper and hits the Bird instead)*

How many times must I tell you, not to talk to ordinary girls? You're a Prince. If you want to talk to a girl, you have to talk to a Princess, come here.

Sebastian approaches warily

LEOPOLD
Do you love her? This Clockmaker's daughter? Do you?

Sebastian shakes his head. The King looks at the Bird, the Bird nods yes.

SEBASTIAN
No —

LEOPOLD
You — You — Don't know how dangerous love is? It upsets everyone. It upset me for years.

(He swipes again and hits the Bird again.)

Sudden burst of music from the courtyard below, where Wolfgang has been waiting.

LEOPOLD
It's him — he's back.

(He goes under the bedclothes)

SEBASTIAN

It's Wolfy. With a new hairstyle!

LEOPOLD

Tell him I've got no money and to go away.

SEBASTIAN

Wolfgang is my best friend.

Do you want me to live here, completely alone, with no one to talk to in the whole world?

LEOPOLD

How dare you approach me...I'm the King...Send him up.

SEBASTIAN

You may come up Wolfy.

Enter Wolfgang, with an outrageous wig. The King tries to gather his composure, which includes putting on his crown. Wolfgang ignores him.

WOLFGANG

Sebastian!

SEBASTIAN

Wolfgang! They embrace

SEBASTIAN

My friend.

WOLFGANG

As long as I live. The King coughs.

WOLFGANG

I see your father has not yet found his way to the edge of the bed.

LEOPOLD

Kneel. Kneel. KNEEL.

WOLFGANG

You mistake me, sir. My name is Wolfy — Wolfy — Wolfy.

LEOPOLD

Yes — Ha, ha. Your sense of humor is a menace to western civilization.

I mean kneel as in get on your knees.

(Wolfy kneels)

It is customary to greet the King before the Prince.

WOLFGANG

It is also customary to save the best dumpling till last.

LEOPOLD

What do you want? Apart from a new hairdresser.

WOLFGANG

To be of service.

LEOPOLD

Then don't play any of your music. It upsets everyone. It's upset me for years.
Sebastian —

SEBASTIAN

Yes Father.

LEOPOLD

I'm about to upset you. Ready?
You will not see this...ordinary girl...this clockmaker's daughter ever again.
You see, I understand young people. You're upset.

SEBASTIAN

But Father.

LEOPOLD

You will do as you are told. Now I will speak to your friend alone, Go.

Sebastian takes Wolfgang to one side.

SEBASTIAN

What am I going to do?

WOLFGANG

You've met someone

SEBASTIAN

Yes, I think so.

WOLFGANG

My friend, at times like this there is only one thing to do — listen to your heart, and do as it commands. If it tells you to disobey your father, then do it. Do it now!

SEBASTIAN

That's easy for you. I am the Prince. It's my duty to obey the King — my Father.

WOLFGANG

You also have a duty to yourself.

LEOPOLD

Go! Go! You stay.

Exit Sebastian.

WOLFGANG

Ah kids.

LEOPOLD

Shut up. They tell me you're a genius. And you are my son's best friend.

WOLFGANG

That is my happy condition.

LEOPOLD

Speak plainly yes or no.

WOLFGANG

Plainly yes.

LEOPOLD

Then you may be of some service. Sebastian appears to be falling in love.
We have to stop it, before it's too late.

WOLFGANG

Stop it, why?

LEOPOLD

Because — oh child prodigy — she's not a princess. If he doesn't love a princess, then everything will collapse around our ears. No Kings, no Princes, no castles — no more music Herr composer.
You will stop him, you're a genius. Think of an idea, think of it now!

The Bird lands on his arm.

WOLFGANG

I have one.

LEOPOLD

Just one?

WOLFGANG

One more than you.

LEOPOLD

Speak.

WOLFGANG

We'll have a dance — a ball. And to this ball,
we'll invite every princess for a thousand miles — a hundred miles.

LEOPOLD

What for?

WOLFGANG

Sebastian will, I am sure, meet someone else.

LEOPOLD
Music?

WOLFGANG
Music, my King, is the key that unlocks the beating heart from my chest.

LEOPOLD
Rubbish, speak plainly, yes or no.

The Bird lands on the King's arm.

LEOPOLD
I love my son, his happiness is my concern.
For him we shall have the greatest ball ever seen on earth.
See to it Herr Composer, see to it!

He rings the bell by the side of his bed and the bed swivels round and vanishes. Beautiful music fills the air.

ACT 1: SCENE 4
Cinderella's house.
Enter Aloysia clutching her throat and gasping for water.

CONSTANZE
What have you done to my sister?

MARTA
What have you done?

ALOYSIA
Water, water –

Marta exits

CINDERELLA
Does your throat burn? Much?

Enter Marta with a glass of water, hands to Constanze

ALOYSIA
Water

Constanze in a panic, throws the water into Aloysia's face. Cinderella laughs. She laughs and laughs. Constanze, Marta and Aloysia stare at her in amazement

CONSTANZE
It's not funny

CONDERELLA

No?

CONSTANZE

She hasn't laughed in a year sisters and the first thing that causes her any mirth, is your discontent.
What have you done?

CINDERELLA

She asked for mustard

ALOYSIA

Custard – not mustard, custard.

CINDERELLA

Both yellow aren't they?

Constanze much to her own surprise, slaps Cinderella's face, not hard, but enough to shock them both.

CONSTANZE

Turns to her sister, but points at Cinderella

She made me do it.

ALOYSIA

Still rasping What have I ever done to you?

CONSTANZE

Cinderface

MARTA

Cinderbutt

CONSTANZE

Cinderosleep

ALOYSIA

Forever

CONSTANZE

Cinderbacktowheresheshecamefrom.

ALOYSIA

Hades.

CONSTANZE

Hades is full of Cinders.

CINDERELLA

Something good has come of it then.

Silence.

CONSTANZE

(In total disbelief) What did you say?

CINDERELLA

You heard.

CONSTANZE

(Now full of indignation) My sister has the finest voice in all Germany.
The King's own composer said she sang — *(She clicks here fingers at her sister)*

ALOYSIA

(Rasps) Like an Angel.

MARTA

Like an Angel

CONSTANZE

Sing Aloysia, sing — like an Angel.

ALOYSIA

I can't.

CONSTANZE

Sing, sing, sing, sing...

Aloysia tries to sing but fails.

CINDERELLA

That's an Angel? No, that's a dog howling at the moon.

CONSTANZE

How dare you.

CINDERELLA

Only the dog would howl in tune.

ALOYSIA

AHH!

CONSTANZE

You sing then.

ALOYSIA

Cindertongue

MARTA

You sing —

ALOYSIA

Show us your talent.

CONSTANZE
If you're so great.

CINDERELLA
I can't sing, I never said I could sing —

ALOYSIA
Scared are you? That I'm better...

CINDERELLA
No.

ALOYSIA
Go on then, sing.

CONSTANZE
Sing —

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA/MARTA
Sing, sing, sing,

The Fairy Godmother/Bird gives Cinderella a note and she sings beautifully.

CINDERELLA
(Sings)
As I was walking one morning in May
I heard the sweet voice of a boy who did say
Come be my true love, come be my wife,
And I'll love you truly, all of my life.

The sisters stand mouths open, then almost unconsciously Constanze slaps Cinderella for having such a beautiful voice. Then she looks down at her hand in disbelief.

CONSTANZE
She made me do it, she made me do it.

Enter Maria who has been watching.

MARIA
That's quite enough girls, go to your rooms...room.

They exit, enter Sigmund.

SIGMUND
What's all this shouting about?
I'm trying to work — and if I don't work then there's no money — no money, no food.
We are poor people and I must work, but all I hear is shouting, squabbling as if there was a war going on.

MARIA
How perceptive you are Sigmund.

CINDERELLA

Send them away father, I beg you, send them all away.

SIGMUND

My child, I can't.

MARIA

You are right Sigmund — there is a war and it must end.

SIGMUND

What do you suggest?

MARIA

I suggest that Cinderella stays below stairs — in the kitchen, and leaves the rest of the house to my girls.

SIGMUND

But —

MARIA

They are three, she is one — they need more space and it will keep the warring factions apart. More importantly, cooking and cleaning will occupy her mind, which is what you wanted, isn't it.

SIGMUND

Yes, I suppose —

MARIA

That's settled then. Cinderella, from now on you will not come upstairs, unless to bring us food of course.

There is a sudden scream of delight offstage, then Constanze/Aloysia/Marta enter at speed with an invite.

CONSTANZE

Mother —

ALOYSIA

Have you heard?

CONSTANZE

Look — the royal seal.

MARIA

Calm yourselves girls, let me read.

CONSTANZE

It's an invite father — you don't mind if we call you father, do you?

SIGMUND

I'd be honored.

MARIA

An invite to a grand ball.

ALOYSIA

To be held in honor of Prince Sebastian.

MARIA

Ahh.

CONSTANE/ALOYSIA

Mother?

MARIA

It means that the Prince is looking for a wife.

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA

ML!!

CONSTANZE

In a castle, with a Prince.

ALOYSIA

We'd be separated forever. *Constanze grins from ear to ear.*

MARIA

Come, we must make preparations.

Exit Maria and Constanze/Aloysia/Marta. Sigmund is left standing, as if in shock.

SIGMUND

Cinderella...

Cinderella raises her hand as if to say she does not wish to talk to him.

SIGMUND

I didn't think it would be like this...but it will all work out well in the end, I think.
Time, you see, no one understands it (sees the clock) not even me — but — it sorts things out.
It just takes a little — time...

(He exits) The Fairy Godmother/Bird sings in the garden. Lights rise on the Hazel Tree and Cinderella goes into the garden. Sebastian enters, dressed as a poor boy.

PRINCE/BOY

You've been crying.

CINDERELLA

So? *(She looks at him)* What's the matter? Why don't you speak?

PRINCE/BOY

I have to tell you something.

CINDERELLA

Bad news, I recognize the face.

PRINCE/BOY

Yes.

CINDERELLA

Well say it then — unless you're too scared.

PRINCE/BOY

Cinderella — I can't come here again, not ever.

CINDERELLA

So? Why should that be bad news? I'm used to people leaving and not coming back, I don't care.

PRINCE/BOY

You don't mean that.

CINDERELLA

Yes, I do, I mean...it's not as if we love each other, is it?

PRINCE/BOY

No.

CINDERELLA

Then go, go — I don't need you, go...

PRINCE/BOY

Please, Cinderella — let me explain...

CINDERELLA

No, just go — go go go go (*She forces him out*)

No, please, don't go, please, please come back....come back

(She falls to her knees in tears) The Bird approaches

Tell me.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

What, dear child?

CINDERELLA

When will things start to get better?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

Oh, Cinderella, they already have.

CINDERELLA

What's that?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

He left his shoe behind.

CINDERELLA

So...? What good is that to me? How is that going to make anything better?
What do I want with a boy's smelly shoe?

She exits

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

(Aside) This really is a very difficult occupation for which one gets no thanks.

The Fairy Godmother/Bird makes a spell and the scene changes.

ACT 1: SCENE 5

The Kings Bedroom.

Enter the King in bed, shouting and ringing his bell.

LEOPOLD

SEBASTIAN — SEBASTIAN! Has anyone seen that good for nothing boy?!

Enter Wolfgang and Sebastian, still in rags. Wolfgang pulls Sebastian to one side.

SEBASTIAN

I can't see him — not dressed like this.

WOLFGANG

You went to see her?

SEBASTIAN

Yes.

WOLFGANG

Excellent friend, you disobeyed him, at last. *(He embraces Sebastian)* You told her that you loved her and that nothing else matters in the world?

SEBASTIAN

No, I told her that I could never see her again. I could not disobey him — I'm a Prince — things are expected of me. Don't look at me like that.

WOLFGANG

One of these days — you will have to stand up to him, our friendship relies upon it.

LEOPOLD

SEBASTIAN!

WOLFGANG

I'll see him.

Exit Sebastian

LEOPOLD

Where is my son? I told him not to leave the castle — if he has disobeyed me...

WOLFGANG

Was there something you wanted?

LEOPOLD

Don't use that rebellious tone with me. I ordered some food.
I waited and waited, thirty seconds passed and it still hasn't arrived, where are the servants?

WOLFGANG

You sacked them.

Silence

LEOPOLD

I still need to eat, I still need breakfast.

WOLFGANG

Breakfast?

LEOPOLD

You know, breakfast, porridge, not too thick, egg, not too runny — soldiers — not cut too thin. Breakfast.

WOLFGANG

It's six o'clock in the evening, Breakfast is over.

LEOPOLD

You — ha ha! It is six o'clock in the morning.

Wolfgang pulls back the curtains and a red shaft of light hits the King as before.

LEOPOLD

Sunrise?

WOLFGANG

Sunset.

LEOPOLD

It's a trick — it's a trick — a plot to overthrow me.
The sickness is not my fault, Herr Composer, its not it's not its not!

WOLFGANG

No, your majesty, it's not.

LEOPOLD

Then why's it here? Why doesn't it go away? Why does it strike down my people, whom I love — I love?
Every night and every day I hear their sorrow. Children weeping for their mothers.

Where does it come from? Why does it not take me?

Don't look at me, go back to bed, Herr Composer, don't you know what time of day it is?

WOLFGANG
Yes, your majesty.

LEOPOLD
How are preparations for the ball?

WOLFGANG
Everything is arranged.

LEOPOLD
Good. *(pause)* Change of venue, we'll have it in here.

WOLFGANG
Have what in here?

LEOPOLD
The ball — the dance — the party. You remember Herr Composer — the plan.
My son will meet someone else and forget this ordinary girl, the non-princess.

WOLFGANG
What do you mean, in here?

LEOPOLD
In here — half wit.

WOLFGANG
This is a bedroom.

LEOPOLD
Yes, my bedroom — the King's bedroom — we'll have the ball in here.

WOLFGANG
In your bedroom?

LEOPOLD
YES.

WOLFGANG
We have a thirty six piece orchestra and two hundred princesses, how are we going to fit into your
bedroom?

Silence.

LEOPOLD
I thought you were a professional.

WOLFGANG
Perhaps if you were to pay me, I might call myself a professional, once again.

LEOPOLD

How dare you raise your voice at me —
just because you wrote, 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star', when you were two weeks old.
You are plotting to overthrow me — you and this ordinary girl, why do you all hate me so much?

WOLFGANG

I don't hate you, your majesty.

LEOPOLD

Don't you? Why not? What have I done for the people? *(grabs Wolfgang)*
What can I do Herr Mozart-to help my people?

WOLFGANG

Have you ever thought about getting out of bed?

LEOPOLD

Get out of bed?

WOLFGANG

It's simple really...just pull back the sheets... *(he does so)* and get out of bed.

LEOPOLD

(pulls back the sheets) Never.

WOLFGANG

Your Majesty —

LEOPOLD

Revolt, treason, insurrection and sheet pulling!

WOLFGANG

(His hands are black) Your bed — your sheets — your night gown...

LEOPOLD

What...

WOLFGANG

Are filthy, they haven't been washed for years.

LEOPOLD

So? The people live and die in filth. So should I.

WOLFGANG

You must wash...wash... *(They struggle over the sheets)*

LEOPOLD

Wash? I will not wash — I hate washing. I will not get out of bed — and I will not wash.
(He pulls back the sheets finally)

The ball will be held in this bedroom.

If you are not happy with the arrangement — cry about it.

He pulls the bell by the side of his bed, which then swivels round, and he exits on it.

ACT 1: SCENE 6
Cinderella's House

CINDERELLA
Father, father are you there?

Dark music — enter Maria

CINDERELLA
Where's father? I want to see him.

MARIA
You can't, he's working and asked not to be disturbed, may I help?

CINDERELLA
No.

MARIA
I know what you want Cinderella — you want to go to the ball?

(Silence)

And you're jealous that you can't?

CINDERELLA
I will if I want to.

MARIA
No, not on this occasion. *(Comes face to face with her)*
You will not! *(She withdraws)*

Please try to understand...my girls have lost everything in the past two years.
Their father, their house, their friends, the future they thought was theirs.
This ball at the King's place is an opportunity for them — to go forward in society — an opportunity you don't need, because — you and Father have always been poor and never expected to be anything else —
but for Aloysia and Constanze...do you understand?
No, you don't, because you really are a most selfish child.

Exit Maria.

Cinderella hears the girls approaching and leaves. Enter Aloysia and Constanze who go to the chest.

ALOYSIA
You can't do this, Constanze.

CONSTANZE
No?

ALOYSIA
It doesn't belong to you.

CONSTANZE

Our new father says, everything in the house belongs to us.

ALOYSIA

It has a big C on the lid.

CONSTANZE

Cinderella?

ALOYSIA

Then it's hers, don't open it.

CONSTANZE

What? Are you scared of her? That little weevil who mopes around as if she's the only person who has ever suffered anything, who has made our lives misery, playing tricks on us, putting coal in your bed, pins in my slippers-? Not me.

ALOYSIA

But why do you want to open it?

CONSTANZE

It's got a dress in it.

ALOYSIA

You've already looked?

CONSTANZE

I didn't look, I peeped.

ALOYSIA

Same difference.

CONSTANZE

No, a peep is like...

(She peeps inside and shuts lid)

and a look is like...

(She opens the lid fully and a golden light shines out. They gasp and Constanze pulls out a golden dress).

ALOYSIA

Oh that's gorgeous.

CONSTANZE

Yes, and I shall wear it to the ball.

ALOYSIA

Why should you wear it, Sister? I have as much right.

CONSTANZE

You? You wouldn't even open the box. I found it — I wear it.

(She holds the dress up to herself and dances around.)

ALOYSIA

I know what you want, Sister. *(She stops)* You want to leave me.
You want to meet some prince in a castle and get married and never see me again.

CONSTANZE

(Gently) I'll always want to see you, but we can't spend our whole lives together, can we?

ALOYSIA

Can't we?

CONSTANZE

No — no.

ALOYSIA

I can't bear to think of life without you. When you leave the room, I find it hard to breathe.

CONSTANZE

Don't talk like this Aloysia, it suffocates me. Who knows, perhaps you'll meet someone before I do.

ALOYSIA

Perhaps I will.

(She grabs the dress and begins to dance.)

CONSTANZE

Give it back, give it back. As they fight over the dress

Cinderella enters. They stop.

CINDERELLA

That's my mother's dress.

CONSTANZE

Your Father said I could wear it — to the ball.

ALOYSIA

Did he?

CONSTANZE

Yes.

CINDERELLA

Your mother has hired dresses for you. You can't wear it.

ALOYSIA

Don't you talk to my sister like that.

CINDERELLA

My box of special things — how dare you — how dare you...? Give me the dress.

They all grab hold of it, then pull

ALOYSIA

What do you want it for?

CONSTANZE

You can't go to the ball.

ALOYSIA

You're not invited.

CONSTANZE

They don't invite kitchen staff.

CINDERELLA

I will go to the ball. I will. I will.

The dress rips, they fall back. Cinderella stares at the dress.

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA

You made us do it! You made us!

They run out. Cinderella is left weeping into the dress.

Enter the Fairy Godmother with the Bird. The Bird flies around her head.

CINDERELLA

Go away. Go away. Can't you see how miserable I am?

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

Yes, I think therefore, it's time for a little more magic. Please close your eyes and count to ten.

CINDERELLA

No.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

I see.

She waves her wand and Cinderella falls into a trance, and counts to ten.

During the spell, the Fairy Godmother puts the Bird back into the cage and transforms herself into a visible entity.

Cinderella opens her eyes and sees her.

CINDERELLA

Who are you?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

A friend.

CINDERELLA

(sees the Bird in the cage) I don't understand —

FAIRY GODMOTHER

I'm not really a bird, it's just so much easier to get around as a bird.
It's a — a disguise. Everyone has one.

CINDERELLA

You're a witch?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

NO, no — I'm you're — your Fairy Godmother.
I'm here to look after you until such time, well, until such time. There's no need to be frightened.

CINDERELLA

I'm not. I should be, but I'm now.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Good. Now we have work to do. I understand that you wish to go to the ball-at the castle.

CINDERELLA

Not really, I just said that because — they were going.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

What do you want then?

CINDERELLA

I want my mother back — that's what I really want. Can you bring her back? Can you?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

No my child, that is the one thing I cannot do.
But I know this — your Mother would want you to be happy, to enjoy life.
To live and love.
Now every young girl in her secret heart of hearts wants to go to the biggest, brightest party in town —
it's perfectly normal.

CINDERELLA

But I can't go, I'm not a princess, I'm a serving girl, a kitchen maid.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Tush — tush —

CINDERELLA

I have no dress, no carriage, no coachman.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

You have a pumpkin by the hearth. Some mice in a cage and a nice big rat behind the skirting.
(She pulls it out) Now then, close your eyes and count to ten.
(She pulls it explosion and a plume of smoke from which emerges a Coachman with big whiskers. The rat disappears. Another explosion and the coach and hear the whinny of horses.)

And finally...

(Another explosion, Cinderella emerges out of the smoke in a beautiful dress.)

Yes, Cinderella, you shall go to the ball.

Music — Lights Fade.

ACT TWO: SCENE 1

Music — Lights rise to reveal Cinderella at the castle gates.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

There is one very important thing you must remember. Are you listening?

CINDERELLA

Yes.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

You must come home before twelve o'clock. If the clock strikes twelve and you're not home, everything will return to its own shape. Time is of the essence —

CINDERELLA

Before twelve.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Yes.

She makes a spell.

An explosion, more smoke and Cinderella has gone.

ACT 2: SCENE 2

The Castle.

Enter Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

It's a disaster.

WOLFGANG

Of course it's a disaster. I have to fit an entire orchestra into the King's wardrobe.

SEBASTIAN

It's not my fault.

WOLFGANG

Of course it's your fault, you never stand up to him.

SEBASTIAN

He's the King.

WOLFGANG

What kind of King stays in bed for four years, without even changing his sheets.

And now this — ball in a bedroom, I've never been so humiliated.

SEBASTIAN

Then you stand up to him.

WOLFGANG

Oh that's rich coming from the rich.
I am poor Sebastian — everything I own is borrowed.
If I speak my mind, I'm out, I'm sacked.
How would you know what it's like to have nothing.

SEBASTIAN

I know what it's like —

WOLFGANG

Just because you wandered round the town in disguise, and what happened?
You fell in love with a poor girl and dumped her the moment your father confronted you —

SEBASTIAN

I have a duty Wolfgang, how would you understand that?

WOLFGANG

You'll probably fall in love with someone else tonight and forget her.

SEBASTIAN

I will never forget her. Never.

WOLFGANG

You are a weak, spineless, spoilt brat.

(Sebastian draws his sword)

— With a pointy sword.

SEBASTIAN

I thought you were my friend.

WOLFGANG

Friends tell each other the truth.

(Pulls out his baton)

En Garde.

Sebastian lunges at Wolfgang.

Music.

They fight.

*Sebastian is disarmed by Wolfgang whose baton breaks in two.
Enraged, they then grapple hand to hand falling on the floor.*

Music.

Sebastian freezes.

The Fairy Godmother waves her wand.

Enter Cinderella.

CINDERELLA

Excuse me —

She exits, Sebastian, in a trance, follows her out. Wolfgang is also affected.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Herr Composer. Your baton is broken.

WOLFGANG

Yes.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Please accept this, because your music is the key that unlocks the beating heart —

WOLFGANG

From the chest —

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Use this baton tonight and you will conduct the most beautiful music ever heard on earth.

WOLFGANG

Thank you.

(He takes the baton/wand from her)

FAIRY GODMOTHER

I understand there is no room in the King's bedroom for your orchestra.

WOLFGANG

No.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Be Calm — I will see to it.

(She makes a spell)

The orchestra I shall make small but great shall be their sound
and every note they play tonight shall be for heaven bound.

*(She then produces a tray which holds a miniature orchestra. She retreats but watches.
Wolfgang, in a trance holding the orchestra as Aloysia, Constanze and Marta enter in hired dresses.)*

ALOYSIA

My breath is wrenched from my chest.

CONSTANZE

I can't breath

MARTA

The large size of the castle.

ALOYSIA
The thickness of the walls.

CONSTANZE
Even the gargoyles are handsome.

ALOYSIA
It's like our old home.

MARTA
Where we grew up.

CONSTANZE
When Father was alive.

ALOYSIA
Do you remember, sister — the parties we used to have in the great Hall?

CONSTANZE
And we would watch Mother and Father dancing.

ALOYSIA
They were so beautiful.

They dance together for a moment.

ALOYSIA/CONSTANZE/MARTA

Herr Composer Wolfgang comes out of his trance. They curtsy elaborately, he bows extravagantly.

ALOYSIA
It was so kind of you to invite us. You remember my sister Constanze.

WOLFGANG
Of course —

CONSTANZE
And my baby sister Marta.

The Fairy Godmother waves her wand. Music. Aloysia and Wolfgang stand staring at each other.

CONSTANZE
That's me, Constanze. I'm a dancer.

WOLFGANG
I remember you sang at Potsdam.

ALOYSIA
Yes.

WOLFGANG
Like an angel.

ALOYSIA
(Aloysia bursts into song)
Now is the month of Maying

Constanze — pulls her away)

ALOYSIA
What?

CONSTANZE
Herr Composer, perhaps you would show us the way to the great big hall
where the great big ball is to be held.

WOLFGANG
Ladies....

(Aloysia sweeps her sister to one side.)

Ladies...

ALOYSIA
I do believe you're jealous.

CONSTANZE
Jealous? Of him and you. Hah!

MARTA
He's Handsome

ALOYSIA
He's beautiful.

CONSTANZE
He's a penniless muskier.

WOLFGANG
Ladies — the ball —

CONSTANZE
And look at its hair — been struck by lightning.

ALOYSIA
I thought you wanted me to find someone...

CONSTANZE
Not before me, sister, please...I'll be left alone — I —

ALOYSIA

Let go, let go. He's trying to tell us something.

CONSTANZE

What? What? What? Spit it out man.

WOLFGANG

The Ball is to be held in the King's bedroom...

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA/MARTA

In the King's bedroom?!!??

WOLFGANG

Perhaps I could show you the way?

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA/MARTA

No.

They pull and tug to get free from each other but somehow cannot and end in a heap. They exit as one.

WOLFGANG

(pointing towards the other direction) It's — it's that way.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

No Herr Composer — play — play

ACT 2: SCENE 3

Beautiful music fills the air.

Enter the King, as ever on his bed.

Enter Aloysia, Constanze and Marta still struggling to be free of each other.

CONSTANZE

Let go.

MARTA

You let go.

ALOYSIA

It's you who won't let go of me.

The King enters, as ever on his bed. Enter Sebastian.

MARTA

Ughh, the smell.

ALOYSIA

The stench.

CONSTANZE

The sheets.

ALOYSIA
The King?

LEOPOLD
(Halts the music)

My dear people, you may wonder why, at this time of sorrow and sickness,
I choose to hold a ball. We must look to the future when a new King will be on the bed — throne.
My son Sebastian.

CONSTANZE
Oh —

ALOYSIA
Don't be ridiculous.

LEOPOLD
Will need to marry.

SEBASTIAN
Father, please.

LEOPOLD
He will need to fall in love —

CONSTANZE
Oh —

SEBASTIAN
Father —

LEOPOLD
With a princess.
As for me, don't worry about an old, sick, bedridden King.
My son will usher in a new healthier age.
Dance while you may, for time is yet a flying.
Dance. Dance. Dance.

*Beautiful music fills the air. The three sisters proceed to dance with three soldiers.
Sebastian dances with a female. Hence, there are four pairs, creating a swirl of movement.
With a neat movement, Constanze dumps her soldier and deposes the female dancing with the Prince.
A spot light hits them.*

CONSTANZE
Prince.

SEBASTIAN
My lady?

CONSTANZE
Constanze — what a big castle you have.

SEBASTIAN
Well — it's inherited.

CONSTANZE
All the best things are. My nose I inherited from my mother, my humor I inherited from an aunt in
Dresden — all the qualities to make one fall in love with one — if one wanted to,
does one?

SEBASTIAN
One what?

CONSTANZE
Want to fall in love?

*Aloysia with a neat maneuver of her own sweeps Constanze away and
dances with the Prince. a spotlight hits them.*

ALOYSIA
Prince.

SEBASTIAN
And you are?

ALOYSIA
My sister's sister.

SEBASTIAN
Ah...

ALOYSIA
We're twins.

SEBASTIAN
Identical?

ALOYSIA
Hardly ever.
Tell me Prince, do you really want to marry —
or is it something your father says you have to do?

SEBASTIAN
I —

ALOYSIA
Because one really should follow one's heart. As I am following yours now.

(She pulls him close)

Oh, such a pulse it feels like thunder.

Aloysia is swept aside by Constanze

CONSTANZE
Prince.

SEBASTIAN
You — again.

CONSTANZE
Forgive and forget my sister.

SEBASTIAN
Well — I —

CONSTANZE
She never learnt to dance, even her heart has no rhythm and when she sings,
it's like a dog howling at the moon, so I've heard.
But what about me, I hear you ask -

She is swept aside by Aloysia.

ALOYSIA
It's best not to ask, she can talk about herself for years on end, never has such a small subject been so
extensively aired.

She is swept aside by Constanze.

CONSTANZE
There — saved you again, Prince — once my sister has her claws in a man she never lets go.
Her last boyfriend jumped off a very tall building just to get away from her.

She is swept aside by Aloysia.

ALOYSIA
Poor Constanze, she's had such a hard time since she came out of the hospital for the insanely jealous —
I would leave her —
but someone has to help her to the toilet.

CONSTANZE
WHAT!!

ALOYSIA
You made me say that — you made me.

*Sudden pause as a sustained note, held by Wolfgang, the conductor with the help of the Fairy Godmother,
brings on Cinderella. The Prince takes her hand and they begin to dance.*

CONSTANZE
Who is she?

ALOYSIA
Look at her.

CONSTANZE
Looking at him —

ALOYSIA
Looking at her.

CONSTANZE
Looking at him.

ALOYSIA
Where did she come from?

CONSTANZE
As if out of nowhere.

ALOYSIA
In that dress

CONSTANZE
It's so —

ALOYSIA
So —

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA
Beautiful.

CONSTANZE
Hired —

ALOYSIA
A hand me down.

CONSTANZE
A theatrical costume.

ALOYSIA
Not that I'm jealous...

They snarl and with the soldiers dance around Cinderella and the Prince, who is staring at Cinderella.

SEBASTIAN
I wonder — would you like to dance?

CINDERELLA
Forgive me if I'm wrong, but I believe we're already dancing.

SEBASTIAN
Ah yes.

CINDERELLA
The music is lovely.

SEBASTIAN
Yes, I — I thought I heard something in the background.

CONSTANZE
We have to stop them.

ALOYSIA
Stop them — how?

CONSTANZE
As Father used to say: Attack is the best means of defense.

ALOYSIA
Attack?

CONSTANZE
Attack!

The two sisters sweep down on the pair, separating them, leaving the Prince dancing with a soldier. The Fairy Godmother intervenes and the two sisters find themselves dancing with each other.

SEBASTIAN
I thought I'd lost you.

CINDERELLA
And you are?

SEBASTIAN
Sebastian — Prince.

The King stops the Music.

LEOPOLD
Announce yourself, young woman — you are — the Princess of — of

CINDERELLA
I am — *(she looks at the Prince)*

SEBASTIAN
Father, perhaps you would allow us to dance on the balcony?

LEOPOLD
Dance on the balcony? What a ridiculous... — *(Fairy Godmother casts a spell)* — ...sly wonderful idea, excellent place for a polka, danced out there myself once — on a Christmas night with your mother — long time ago.

(As he speaks the other characters retreat until they are left staring out of the window as it were on to the balcony).

LEOPOLD

The stars were out and shone so brightly it was as if you could reach up and touch them, and they were mirrored in her eyes, like jewels. Jewels.

The balcony — they dance and it begins to snow.

ACT 2: SCENE 4

CINDERELLA

Ah, it's snowing.

SEBASTIAN

Perhaps we'll have a white Christmas.

CINDERELLA

Yes, the first one since —

SEBASTIAN

Since the last one.

(They laugh and dance together)

Why wouldn't you say your name just now?

CINDERELLA

I couldn't...

SEBASTIAN

Will you say it now?

CINDERELLA

No — not now.

SEBASTIAN

Where do you come from?

CINDERELLA

I can't tell you that either.

SEBASTIAN

What can you tell me?

CINDERELLA

That I'm happy — for the first time in ages, but I don't know why.

It must be you —

I feel as if I know you.

SEBASTIAN
Yes, I feel the same. (*They dance.*)

CINDERELLA
Look at the town.

SEBASTIAN
It's pretty from up here.

CINDERELLA
Yes. (*Her face darkens*) But appearances can be deceptive.

SEBASTIAN
What's the matter?

CINDERELLA
You're a prince, you wouldn't understand.

SEBASTIAN
You mean the sickness.

CINDERELLA
Yes. But tonight I can forget everything, can't I?
Here with you — dancing beneath the stars -- like a dream, a crazy wish made real.
What is it? Is there something wrong?

SEBASTIAN
Princess, whoever you are, whatever your name — I must tell you now, before I —

CINDERELLA
What?

SEBASTIAN
I love...I love...someone else.

(*Silence.*)

CINDERELLA
That's alright, so do I, but he doesn't know — because I haven't told him...
And I didn't tell him because —
Because I didn't know myself, until now.

SEBASTIAN
It would be wrong then, for us to continue.

CINDERELLA
Oh yes, very wrong.

SEBASTIAN
And it would be wrong, if we —

CINDERELLA
If we kissed.

SEBASTIAN
Yes.

CINDERELLA
Very wrong indeed.

They are about to kiss, when the clock strikes.

CINDERELLA
What time is it?

SEBASTIAN
It's nearly twelve? What's the matter?

CINDERELLA
I must go.

SEBASTIAN
Wait, wait. Please. *(He takes her arm.)*

CINDERELLA
You must let me go.

SEBASTIAN
Tell me your name.

CINDERELLA
No.

SEBASTIAN
Let me see you again.

CINDERELLA
Never.

SEBASTIAN
Please...

The clock begins to strike down to twelve.

She bites his hand and runs off.

*Image — she runs in slow motion,
as she runs her clothes turn back to rags.*

ACT 2: SCENE 5
The King's bedroom.

LEOPOLD
Well? What happened?

SEBASTIAN
She uh, she bit me. Where is everyone?

LEOPOLD
Gone home to bed, where do you think?
Not going to wait for you, dancing around out there for hours on end, being bitten.

SEBASTIAN
Hours?

LEOPOLD
Ah, I see, time lost its grip for a moment, eh lad. You know what that means?
Not bitten but smitten.
Well, don't look so glum...
It means Sebastian, that you won't have to worry anymore about that Clockmaker's daughter.
What's the name of this princess?

SEBASTIAN
I don't know...I never shall.

LEOPOLD
Never shall? Nonsense.
Go after her, chase her, catch her, bring her back.
Don't let her get away — your happiness my boy, depends upon it.
Go on --- Run.

SEBASTIAN
No.

LEOPOLD
RUN!

SEBASTIAN
No.

LEOPOLD
You disobey me?

SEBASTIAN
Yes Father, I do. I disobey you. And I will not obey you again, till you get out of bed — and wash.

The King shrinks back in terror.

LEOPOLD
WASH?

Exit Sebastian. Enter Wolfgang holding a glass slipper.

WOLFGANG
The strangest evening, your majesty.
First this ghosty-type woman gives me this silver baton —
and then she shrinks my orchestra down to the size of toys, really.
And then, just now I was in the castle gardens with — with a friend —
and this woman went by in a fine coach...
suddenly there was a noise like —
and the coachman fell off and —

LEOPOLD
And?

WOLFGANG
Turned into a rat...

LEOPOLD
A rat?

WOLFGANG
A fine rat. And the coach then exploded like — and turned into a — a —

LEOPOLD
A -?

WOLFGANG
A pumpkin.

LEOPOLD
You, you, you. (*swipes out at him*)
As if I don't have enough to deal with — you expect me to listen to one of your opera plots.
There are more important things, Herr Composer. Your plan failed.
Sebastian is still in love with the Clockmaker's daughter.
What's that?

WOLFGANG
Then it all disappeared except this slipper, made of — made of glass.
It's one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen and was not made in this world...

LEOPOLD
Give it to me, Herr Composer...Wolfgang...Wolfy...

WOLFGANG
Yes?

LEOPOLD

My son has disobeyed me. The time has come.
I will get out of bed and I will wash.

Wolfgang waves casually at his miniature orchestra, who produce a fanfare.

This slipper...is the secret to my son's happiness. We must find him, before it's too late.

The King gets out of bed. Wolfgang brings a bowl of water.

What's that?

WOLFGANG

That's water.

LEOPOLD

Agh.

(He shrinks back in terror)

WOLFGANG

Don't worry, your majesty. It will only take a moment.

*Wolfgang forcibly washes the King.
The bed exits with the King screaming in terror.*

ACT 2: SCENE 6

*Cinderella arrives home in tears.
Enter Constanze and Aloysia*

CONSTANZE

Cinderella. Take my cloak.

ALOYSIA

Take my hat.

CONSTANZE

Take my sister and boil her in turkey fat.

ALOYSIA

Cat.

CONSTANZE

Brat.

ALOYSIA

I hate you sometimes.

CONSTANZE

I hate you all of the times.

ALOYSIA

That's the worst thing you ever said.

CONSTANZE

No it's not...I wish you were —

Enter Maria.

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA

Mother?

MARIA

Girls, girls. Tell me about your success at the ball. Which of you will marry the Prince?

(Silence)

You did dance with the Prince?

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA

Yes.

MARIA

Yes?

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA

But every time I danced with him, she got in the way.

Cinderella is taking off their shoes.

CONSTANZE

Ow, you clumsy idiot. Can't you see my feet are sore?

ALOYSIA

Leave her alone.

CONSTANZE

You're always defending her, you love that smutty kitchen mouse more than me.

Maria screams. The two sisters are shocked.

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA

Mother?

MARIA

All my life I have struggled, when your father was away fighting one of his pathetic wars...

I was with you, preparing you for tonight — for your chance.

I taught you to sing and you to dance.

Tell me, daughters, that I have not wasted my life.

Tell me that you took your opportunity, that you did not spend the whole time arguing!
Aloysia?

ALOYSIA

She told the Prince I made men throw themselves off buildings just to get away from me.

CONSTANZE

She told the Prince I was insane and needed help going to the toilet.

MARTA

I tried to stop them

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA

She made me do it, she made me do it.

MARIA

(Coldly) Sometimes, I despair.

MARTA

It wasn't their fault, Mother.

ALOYSIA

It was the other woman...

CONSTANZE

...Who came unannounced.

ALOYSIA

Uninvited.

CONSTANZE

A princess.

ALOYSIA

Out of nowhere.

CONSTANZE

In a dress that was —

MARTA

And hair that was --

ALOYSIA

With eyes that shone like —

CONSTANZE

And a smile so —

ALOYSIA

She bewitched him.

MARTA
She is a witch.

ALOYSIA
They burn witches.

CONSTANZE
We'll burn her.

ALOYSIA
Not that we're jealous.

CONSTANZE
I'm not jealous.

ALOYSIA
Of the princess...

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA
With no name.

MARIA
Go to your rooms — room. Go!

They exit except Marta

GO!

Marta leaves

Oh, Cinderella, what a fool I am. I would do anything for my girls, anything.
I could probably do something very bad on their behalf, because — *(She sees the glass slipper)*
I love them.
What's this?

CINDERELLA
Dressing up clothes — for play.

MARIA
I used to like dressing up, when I was young. It was a game.

(She puts the slipper in the chest)

Sadly, it no longer is.

The Fairy Godmother enters with Bird and flies around Maria's head.

A friend of yours?

CINDERELLA
Yes.

MARIA

I don't like it. Cage it...cage it.

She exits. Enter Sigmund.

Cinderella appears to be talking to the Bird.

SIGMUND

Talking to yourself again?

CINDERELLA

Yes. You don't come and see me anymore, so I talk to myself.

SIGMUND

Cinderella — Are you still angry with me?

CINDERELLA

Yes.

SIGMUND

Then we're equal. Now, let's put our anger to one side, and be friends.

CINDERELLA

Never. Not until you get rid of her — of them all.

SIGMUND

(Losing his temper)

You'll not make demands of me, you will not.

I too have a right to live, and —

(The Bird lands on his arm)

Hush now, hush. I didn't come here to shout at you.

CINDERELLA

Maria hates me, Father.

It's true, she'll do anything for her daughters, anything,

however bad...she told me, she warned me —

and she'll use me, and you.

She does not love you.

SIGMUND

You're young, you think that love is heart shaped. That's nice, that's good.

I too loved like that, once upon a time.

No one can replace your mother. No one.

Forgive me, Cinderella, for even thinking it.

They embrace. The clock, that has not worked since Cinderella's mother died, suddenly chimes again.

Ha! And yet time moves on...you see — you see.

The clock. It begins again, as if, by — It's a sign, Cinderella.

CINDERELLA

A sign?

SIGMUND

That all can be well, if we open our hearts.
Please Cinderella, accept Maria, Aloysia, Constanze and Marta into our lives.

CINDERELLA

You don't understand Father, either they leave — or I leave.

SIGMUND

You're growing up Cinderella. You must follow your heart.

(He exits.)

CINDERELLA

Father?

Cinderella runs out into the garden and falls at the foot of the tree.

ACT 2: SCENE 7

The Garden.

CINDERELLA

Oh, what should I do? I feel such hope and yet such danger? If only you were here.

Music.

*The Hazel Tree comes into flower.
(A mesh blanket of flowers is laid over the tree.)*

Mother?

*The Bird lands on Cinderella's arm. The Fairy Godmother turns and becomes visible to Cinderella.
(Disappointed)*

It's you.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

How was the ball?

CINDERELLA

It was beautiful.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

And the Prince?

CINDERELLA
He was — charming.

FAIRY GODMOTHER
Then why have you been crying?

CINDERELLA
Because it was all a dream — when the clock struck twelve —
my dress turned into this — everything disappeared.
Anyway, the Prince is not in love with me, he's in love with someone else.

FAIRY GODMOTHER
He told you?

CINDERELLA
Yes, and I told him.

FAIRY GODMOTHER
Told him what?

CINDERELLA
And even if he did love me, it wasn't me —
it was me dressed up, like a princess — but I'm not a princess am I?

FAIRY GODMOTHER
Oh Cinderella — don't they teach you anything at school these days?
Every girl is a princess, and every boy is a prince.
You just have to believe it — and the moment you do — your dreams come true.

CINDERELLA
Mother used to say that. It was nonsense then too. Dreams don't come true, they just don't.

FAIRY GODMOTHER
Hush your mouth — how dare you say that to me after all my hard work,
turning rats into coachmen and mice into — and me into a, a pigeon — at my age.
Someone's coming.

CINDERELLA
Time to take flight.

FAIRY GODMOTHER
(Outraged)
Oh.

She turns and becomes the Bird again.

CINDERELLA
Mother?

Sebastian enters dressed once more in rags.
You?

SEBASTIAN
Cinderella.

CINDERELLA
You said you could never come back.

SEBASTIAN
You said you didn't want me to.

CINDERELLA
Well — I — was angry.

SEBASTIAN
It was my father, he told me not to see you again.

CINDERELLA
You don't do everything you're told, do you? I don't.

SEBASTIAN
It isn't easy for me...My father is — is the — He is the —

CINDERELLA
But you're here, you've disobeyed him.

SEBASTIAN
Yes! Yes I have.
Cinderella, I'm so confused.
Last night I met...someone...someone else.

CINDERELLA
And you love this — someone else?

SEBASTIAN
Yes, but I don't know how...I only met her for a moment. It was as if —

CINDERELLA
Say nothing else...so did I...

SEBASTIAN
What?

CINDERELLA
Met someone else.

SEBASTIAN
No — no.

CINDERELLA
And I — I —

SEBASTIAN
Kissed him?

CINDERELLA
Almost.

SEBASTIAN
Who is this person? I'll kill him, I'll rip out his heart.

CINDERELLA
Are you jealous?

SEBASTIAN
No — YES.
Aren't you?

CINDERELLA
Yes — YES.

SEBASTIAN/CINDERELLA
Who is s/he?

CINDERELLA
A prince — but I turned him down because when I looked into his face — I —

SEBASTIAN
When did you meet this prince?

CINDERELLA
Last night — at his house — castle.

SEBASTIAN
You danced? Outside the King's bedroom?

CINDERELLA
On the balcony.

SEBASTIAN
It began to snow.

CINDERELLA
You?

SEBASTIAN
You?

Wolfgang enters at pace.

WOLFGANG

Ah — (*sees Cinderella*) AAH!

SEBASTIAN

Wolfy.

CINDERELLA

Who?

WOLFGANG

Mademoiselle, I am charmed, most definitely charmed... nice tree...

(he pulls Sebastian to one side)

There's something you should know.

SEBASTIAN

Not now!

WOLFGANG

Important news.

SEBASTIAN

It can wait.

WOLFGANG

It can't wait — it's not waiting, it's coming in this direction.

CINDERELLA

Excuse me...

(pulls Sebastian to her)

WOLFGANG

(Pulls Sebastian back)

Excuse me back.

SEBASTIAN

What is it?

WOLFGANG

Your father has risen from the dead — bed.

SEBASTIAN

He's up?

WOLFGANG

He's up, washed, dressed and looking for you.

CINDERELLA

Excuse me...

(She pulls Sebastian back to her)

WOLFGANG

No, no — excuse me.

(He pulls Sebastian back)

He has some plan to find the missing princess whom you love...
but perhaps you don't want to find her if you have now proclaimed your love for this kitchen girl —
oh perplexions.

Cinderella pulls Wolfgang away from the Prince.

CINDERELLA

With respect, sir, we are in the middle of an important conversation.

SEBASTIAN

Bad timing, Wolfy.

CINDERELLA

Go away.

WOLFGANG

Ah... *(Pulls Sebastian to one side)* She's nicer than the princess who ran away I think.

SEBASTIAN

Go and keep a look out. Go. Please — my friend.

Wolfgang climbs the tree and is thus hidden from view.

Distant Fanfare

We haven't got much time — my father is looking for me.

CINDERELLA

Your father?

SEBASTIAN

The King.

CINDERELLA

Your father is not the King. Why do you lie to me?

SEBASTIAN

I'm not — what I seem. I am Sebastian...Prince...

CINDERELLA

It can't be true — it can't be.

SEBASTIAN

Why Cinderella? Why can't it be true? Look at me —

WOLFGANG

Someone's coming.

Enter Maria, accompanied by a dark foreboding sound.

MARIA

Who is this urchin? What's he doing in my garden?

CINDERELLA

Your garden? Will you take everything from me?

MARIA

You've been crying?

SEBASTIAN

Cinderella, believe me...

CINDERELLA

No. I cannot.

MARIA

Go back to the kitchen, wait for me there.

SEBASTIAN

Please... MARIA Go. (*Cinderella goes.*)

SEBASTIAN

Cinderella! (*Maria bars his way.*)

MARIA

Whoever you — whatever you are — (*looks him up and down*)
Even my stepdaughter deserves better...

SEBASTIAN

I am Prince Sebastian.

MARIA

Ha! (*She bears down on the Prince*)

My daughters have danced with the Prince and I assure you he is twice as tall as you,
twice as handsome as you and twenty times better dressed.

SEBASTIAN

I am the King's son. Will no one believe me?

MARIA

The King is a bedridden old fool whom no one respects.

Enter King Leopold with fanfare.

Except myself — of course.

LEOPOLD

Sebastian...So this is where you've been hiding? This garden?

SEBASTIAN

Yes

LEOPOLD
How small is it?

SEBASTIAN
It is an ordinary garden, with an ordinary sized house; the type ordinary people live in.

LEOPOLD
I am the King. I know how people live. I do not need you to tell me how people live.

MARIA
You majesty, you are most welcome. (*She curtsies very low*)

LEOPOLD
Madam, please... (*He helps her up*) This is my son

MARIA
Your son?

LEOPOLD
My son the Prince in disguise as a — well a —

MARIA
A nobody.

LEOPOLD
He has been coming to this garden — nice tree — to be with a kitchen girl called...

MARIA
Cinderella.

LEOPOLD
Are you the girl's mother?

MARIA
In all but name.

LEOPOLD
The wife of the Clockmaker?

MARIA
(*Looks down*) Yes.

LEOPOLD
Whose daughter has so confused my son.

MARIA
Confused us all — most wickedly.

LEOPOLD
Dear Lady...I am about to upset you. Ready...
Cinderella cannot marry my son.

MARIA
I understand.

LEOPOLD
It is not my desire to hurt your daughter's feelings.

MARIA
Nor mine.

LEOPOLD
You will, by royal command, do everything in your power to stop her from seeing my son ever again.

MARIA
Yes, yes.

LEOPOLD
Why is this so easy?

MARIA
You are the King.

LEOPOLD
Be kind of course.

MARIA
Of course.

LEOPOLD
Sebastian shall marry a princess with whom he has fallen in love.
And I shall find her for you, because — because I love you. Yes, quite.

SEBASTIAN
But Father —

(Fanfare.)

LEOPOLD
I hereby proclaim that the girl whose foot fits this unrealistically slim glass slipper, shall have my royal blessing and marry my son. Ha! Now that's what I call a plan.

At the sight of the glass Slipper Maria catches her breath. At this moment, she is the only one who knows the identity of the missing princess.

LEOPOLD
Dear woman, are you quite well?

MARIA
It's such a beautiful slipper.

SEBASTIAN
But Father —

LEOPOLD

Did you not say, if I were to get out of bed you would obey me?

SEBASTIAN

Yes.

LEOPOLD

Then do so. Return to the castle and prepare yourself to meet your princess.

Go. GO!

(Exit Sebastian.)

LEOPOLD

You see that — he went. I am the King. I am not some bedridden fool whom no one respects.

Exit the King.

Maria is left alone.

The lights darken as evil thoughts fill her mind.

MARIA

Cinderella.

The white Bird/Fairy Godmother enters and flies around her head. Lights rise on Cinderella in the kitchen.

Maria goes to the kitchen and opens the chest. She takes out the slipper and stares at Cinderella.

CINDERELLA

My shoe.

MARIA

You? He will not marry you. He will marry whoever the fits the shoe —

CINDERELLA

Father!

(Maria gags Cinderella.)

MARIA

I'm sure it will fit Aloysia or Constanze — one of them — it will fit.

Maria proceed to tie Cinderella's hands, as she does so the Bird/Fairy Godmother flies around her head.

MARIA

How you deserve this, Cinderella. You have made my daughter's lives a misery.

You never tried to accept them. You made them feel like strangers.

You put pins in their shoes, mustard in their food, fleas in their clothes —

and you have tried to come between your father and I.

You will not succeed...

I told you to cage that bird.

Maria opens the chest and puts Cinderella inside. The Bird pesters her.

And you — who are you?

Maria captures the Bird and puts it in the chest, (this includes the Fairy Godmother) with Cinderella and closes the lid.

Aloysia, Constanze and Marta enter.

MARTA
Mother?

ALOYSIA
We thought we heard a cry.

Constanze
It sounded like Cinderella.

MARTA
Where is she?

MARIA
She's gone — perhaps forever.

CONSTANZE
Forever?

ALOYSIA
Don't frighten us, Mother.

MARIA
Sit!

(They sit on the chest.)

MARIA
Aloysia — put on this slipper.

ALOYSIA
(She tries) I can't...it won't fit.

MARIA
Constanze?

CONSTANZE
(Tries it on) It's too small.

MARIA
Too small?

CONSTANZE
It won't fit.

Maria roars in anguish.

ALOYSIA/CONSTANZE
(Both terrified)
Mother?

MARIA
Whoever fits the shoe marries the prince.

ALOYSIA
But — we can't make it fit.

CONSTANZE
If it won't fit, it won't fit, and it won't —

ALOYSIA
Will it?

MARIA
IF you love me, you will make it fit.
Make it fit, make it fit, make it FIT!

(The girls Exit.)

Now we shall see.

*(She exits. The following conversation, comes from within the box.
It could be pre-recorded, thus giving Cinderella the time to make a magical change into a princess.)*

CINDERELLA
What's happened?

FAIRY GODMOTHER
What's happened? We're stuck in a chest that's what's happened.

CINDERELLA
It's so dark, it's like...can't you get us out?

FAIRY GODMOTHER
Oh, I see, click my fingers and out we jump. It's not as simple as that, you know.
This wasn't — ow — planned for.
Turning pumpkins into carriages was planned for, not being stuck in a chest — ow — at my age.

CINDERELLA
What about your magic stick?

FAIRY GODMOTHER
I gave it to that composer with the hair.

CINDERELLA
Wolfy? But he's at the castle.

FAIRY GODMOTHER
Right then, we'll just have to go there.

CINDERELLA
Go there? How?

FAIRY GODMOTHER
How? How?

CINDERELLA
Yes, I'm going to suffocate — how?

FAIRY GODMOTHER
We'll fly, that's how — how else?

CINDERELLA
Fly?

FAIRY GODMOTHER
Yes, it's a bird thing.

Music. After a few moments wings protrude from the chest. There is a scream from within, as it flies to the castle.

Exit chest.

ACT 2: SCENE 8

The final and largest change of scene back to the castle.

The Great Hall. A chair is placed center stage and the glass shoe in front of it. The music ends as the chest enters, just before the characters.

LEOPOLD
My people, my friends.
Nice chest —
I am restored to health. Today is a healthy day.
I hereby declare that today everyone — the whole country, shall WASH.
Well, quite — that's enough Politics for today.
Herr Composer.

WOFLGANG
Your majesty.

LEOPOLD
Is the orchestra ready?

WOLFGANG

Yes, your majesty. I seem to have written a special piece on my way to the palace, it's called...

LEOPOLD

Bring on the princesses.

WOLFGANG

Yes?

*Mozart's music fills the air. Sebastian enters, dancing with a masked princess as before.
He sits her in the chair and tries on the shoe.*

LEOPOLD

Does it fit?

SEBASTIAN

No my Father, it does not.

LEOPOLD

We will find her Sebastian — I promise —

SEBASTIAN

But Father — I

LEOPOLD

Another princess please.

Leopold silences him and Sebastian brings on a whole line of masked princesses. He tries the shoe on each.

LEOPOLD

Does it fit?

SEBASTIAN

No.

LEOPOLD

No? More princesses — more — more

SEBASTIAN

There are no more.

(Enter Maria with Constanze and Aloysia in fine dresses.)

LEOPOLD

Ah! Wrong again. This is a little more like the real thing, your name?

ALOYSIA

Aloysia.

LEOPOLD

The singer. (Aloysia sings a scale in an incredibly high voice.)

LEOPOLD

Thank you. Please try on the shoe.

(Music.)

MARIA

It fits, it fits.

SEBASTIAN

It fits?

LEOPOLD

At last, Sebastian...here is the girl you love, but I have found her for you.

SEBASTIAN

Wait, there's blood in the shoe, your foot is bleeding.

LEOPOLD

What have you done?

ALOYSIA

Oh my King, I am in such pain.

LEOPOLD

Tell me the truth.

ALOYSIA

I so wanted to please my mother, who loves us with a vengeance
that I cut off one of my toes so the slipper would fit.

MARIA

(Horried)

Oh Aloysia, Aloysia.

(She hugs her daughter.)

LEOPOLD

Good Heavens! Cut off her toe, um, you — step forward.

(Constanze steps forward, with a pronounced limp.)

You are?

CONSTANZE

Oh, I am - I am — Constanze

LEOPOLD

The dancer.

(Constanze dances a few steps, with a limp her Mother's face drops.)

LEOPOLD
Thank you, Try on the shoe.

(Music.)

MARIA
It fits, it fits.

LEOPOLD
Ah.

SEBASTIAN
Wait, there's blood on the shoe. Your foot is bleeding.

MARIA
Constanze — what have you done?

CONSTANZE
In my heart, I knew the shoe wouldn't fit...and I so wanted to please you Mother so I — I

ALL
What?

CONSTANZE
Sliced off a part of my heel.

MARIA
Constanze, no — no.
(*Maria hugs Constanze.*)

LEOPOLD
Poor girls, Sebastian, there are no princesses left in the land.
My son, I have failed you.

CINDERELLA

(*From inside the chest*)

There is one, your majesty.

LEOPOLD Who said that?

CINDERELLA
Your Majesty.

LEOPOLD
Was that you?

WOLFGANG
No —

MARIA
It came from —

(She recognizes the chest)

SEBASTIAN
From inside the chest.

LEOPOLD
Inside the - ? Good heavens!
Come out, come out, as I am the King — come out.

SEBASTIAN
It's locked, Father.

LEOPOLD
Locked?

MARIA
This chest is very dangerous your majesty, we should...

LEOPOLD
Shut up.

CINDERELLA
Your majesty.

LEOPOLD
All of you, shut up. Let the King think.

(He thinks a note of music)

Music, perhaps...music.

WOLFGANG
(Simultaneously)

...is the key that unlocks the beating heart from — the chest.

LEOPOLD
Herr composer.

WOLFGANG
Your majesty.

*Beautiful music.
Wolfgang opens the chest.
Cinderella comes out of the chest in her mother's dress.*

LEOPOLD
Please...try on the shoe.

SEBASTIAN

Wait. Promise me, father, whomsoever the shoe fits, whether she be rich or poor...Father.

LEOPOLD

Yes, yes, I promise...try on the shoe.

(Music.)

SEBASTIAN

You.

CINDERELLA

You.

Sebastian puts the shoe on Cinderella, it fits.

SEBASTIAN

It fits.

LEOPOLD

It fits! It fits!

SEBASTIAN

It fits!

LEOPOLD

And you are?

CINDERELLA

An ordinary girl. *(To Sebastian)* And you are?

SEBASTIAN

A kitchen boy — a prince. How can I make you believe?

Cinderella brings out the shoe he'd left behind in the garden.

LEOPOLD

What's this?

SEBASTIAN It's alright, father.

Music.

Sebastian swaps places with Cinderella and tries on the shoe.

CINDERELLA

It's you, it's you.

(She flings her arms around the Prince)

LEOPOLD

And you are?

CONSTANZE/ALOYSIA/MARTA
Cinderella.

SEBASTIAN
Is she not every inch a princess?

LEOPOLD
Do you love her?

SEBASTIAN
I do.

LEOPOLD
And you?

CINDERELLA
Yes.

LEOPOLD
Then be happy, and may life grant you good fortune and — and — quite.

(Leopold takes each of them by hand.)

The Prince and the —

(Maria falls to her knees at Cinderella's feet.)

MARIA
Cinderella, forgive me.

CINDERELLA
Maria, make my father happy, and I will be forever in your debt.

(Exit Maria in haste.)

LEOPOLD
Once again, the Pr —

Constanze/Aloysia/Marta fall at Cinderella's feet.

CONSTAZNE/ALOYSIA/MARTA
Forgive us, forgive us.

CINDERELLA
No, forgive me, sisters.

They wait and hug until Leopold coughs loudly.

LEOPOLD
Once again, the Prince and the —

WOLFGANG
Congratulations both.

LEOPOLD
Oh lord —

SEBASTIAN
My loyal friend.

CINDERELLA
Wolfy?

WOLFGANG
My name is Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus M —

LEOPOLD
(Gives him a bag of money)

Just play the tune — Now — The Prince and the Princess will dance, dance, dance.

Music. A grand dance begins.

The two sisters dance with soldiers, as before. They limp, of course.

Then there is a pause in the dance. All freeze except Cinderella.

GRETA
Time passed.

ELSA
Every day the King rose from his bed and washed

SOPHIA
and the terrible sickness that had afflicted his Kingdom

LIESL
left forever.

(Cinderella approaches. The bird lands on her arm.)

FAIRY GODMOTHER
It's time for me to say goodbye, Cinderella, time flies — and so must I.

CINDERELLA
Goodbye — and —

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD
Hush now, hush.

(The bird flies away.)

CINDERELLA

Goodbye.

GRETA

And the bird flew away with all Cinderella's sorrow

LIESL

and she grieved no more

SOPHIA

but remembered her mother with joy.

(She makes a spell, a light rises on Wolfgang, poised with his magic baton)

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BIRD

And of course, she and the Prince lived happily ever after.

The dance continues for a moment and then the whole image fades.

Cinderella and Sebastian are on the balcony once more dancing in the snow.

THE END