

Queensland Ballet

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LEANNE BENJAMIN

Cinderella

My First Ballet

20 - 29 JUNE 2024
TALBOT THEATRE
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From the Artistic Director

Cinderella has it all: humour, love, and a touch of magic. As one of the world's most beloved fairytales, it is the perfect introduction to ballet.

Most of us are familiar with the story of *Cinderella* – the young woman whose life is transformed by a fairy Godmother and a handsome Prince. It's a timeless classic, a battle of good versus evil, with a fairytale ending that leaves us all with a feeling of hope and joy.

Matthew Lawrence (Ballet Master, Queensland Ballet) has reworked the delightful full-length production by Ben Stevenson OBE (with his permission) into a ballet for children and families. Retaining the beauty, artistry, and important choreography of the original, Matthew has added a narrator and other elements and choreography to this adaptation. It is the perfect addition to our My First Ballet series — filled with pantomime, extravagant costumes, rich characters, and many comedic moments.

Cinderella's enchanted world is re-imagined by a talented creative team, including Tracy Grant Lord and Thomas Boyd whose sparkling costumes and set designs help bring the story

to life. Lighting, video and sound design by Cameron Goerg, Craig Wilkinson and Wil Hughes respectively, further enhance the production. Narration by Sarah McIntosh is a welcome addition to the storytelling aspect for children, and audiences will no doubt be delighted by composer Sergei Prokofiev's captivating score. I'd like to thank the entire team for their vision and creativity.

Thank you also to Queensland Ballet's supporters, including the Australian and Queensland governments, our Partners, and our generous donors who enable us to share our art form with as many people as possible.

And finally, to our audience: whether you've been charmed by *Cinderella* before, I'm delighted to welcome you to our home for this enchanting fairytale ballet.



L Benjamin

Leanne Benjamin OBE AM
Artistic Director

From the Stager

It is easy to think that fairytales – with their fairies, dragonflies and princes – are not grounded in real life. Of course, this is not the case. The story of *Cinderella* is based on our everyday, and asks us many important questions: How do you cope with sadness? What is the best way to deal with bullies? Who are the special people in your life, that make you feel strong when times are hard? Is someone looking over us from above? Do the clothes we wear, make us the people we are?

In this shortened account of *Cinderella* – adapted from Ben Stevenson's well-loved version – I have our youngest audience members in mind. As such, the Fairy Godmother will act as your narrator and guide. And as a dad, I have not forgotten the adults; there are moments for you too! Be sure to look your best, as you never know, you might just meet the Prince!



Matthew Lawrence
Stager

Credits

Stager and additional choreography adapted for My First Ballet (with approval from Ben Stevenson OBE)

Matthew Lawrence

Music

Sergei Prokofiev

Costume Designer

Tracy Grant Lord

Set Designer

Thomas Boyd

Lighting Designer

Cameron Goerg

Video Designer

Craig Wilkinson

Sound Designer

Wil Hughes

Narration

Sarah McIntosh

Duration: Approximately 60 minutes, no interval.

Production performed to recorded music.

Queensland Ballet acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we train and perform. Long before we arrived on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our First Nations Peoples. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made and continue to make to the cultural landscape of this country.

The Characters

Cinderella

Kind-hearted, honest, and with a quiet inner-strength even she doesn't fully realise, Cinderella dreams of escaping her life of endless chores and servitude.



Fairy Godmother

Mysterious and magical, the Fairy Godmother believes in good conquering evil. She looks over Cinderella and weaves spells of enchantment to help make dreams come true.

Fairy and Dragonfly

Enchanted helpers who stir up ancient magic .



Prince

Charming and handsome, the Prince is also keenly intelligent and searching for genuine love.



Stepmother

Not what she initially seemed, Stepmother's true spirit is jealous, cruel, and cold. She forces Cinderella to do all the housework, while ignoring her own two daughters' wickedness.

Stepsisters

The two Stepsisters are vapid, lazy, and mean-spirited young women. They enjoy tormenting Cinderella and bully her mercilessly.



Father

Cinderella's father is a gentle man who is heartbroken after the death of Cinderella's mother. He loves his daughter, but shies away from conflict.

The Story



Cinderella finds herself on a journey with many challenges before her. Sadly, her dear Mother had passed away many years ago. Her gentle Father remarried a widow with two daughters of her own. At first her Stepmother seemed to fulfil their dreams, but soon revealed her true cruel nature.

Our story starts in their home kitchen where Cinderella stops her stepsisters from roughly teasing her father, but reveals a pair of special shoes, a gift from her dearly missed mother. The stepsisters return and snatch the shoes away.

An old woman enters, begging for food. Stepmother scornfully gives her the precious shoes instead, but the woman returns them to Cinderella. Stepmother then receives a surprise invitation to the royal ball, where they will meet the Prince!

The dancing master arrives to prepare the stepsisters for the royal dances. Cinderella is left at home to do the chores. The mysterious beggar returns; and magically changes into her Fairy Godmother and the kitchen transforms into an enchanted forest.

Cinderella meets the Fairy Godmother's magical friends – a flighty dragonfly and fairy – who help create magic with their dancing. Her rags are transformed to a beautiful gown and a pumpkin grows into a carriage to take her to the ball. But the Fairy Godmother warns Cinderella, her magic will only last till the chimes of midnight.

Upon arriving at the palace, the Prince gallantly invites each of the stepsisters to dance, much to the amusement of all. Festivities are interrupted by the arrival of Cinderella. She is so beautiful and graceful, the Prince is immediately smitten.

The Prince and Cinderella dance together long into the night, and then, the clock chimes twelve times; it is midnight! Cinderella's clothes turn to rags as she rushes from the ballroom, leaving one slipper behind in her haste. The Prince searches far and wide for the beautiful woman who had stolen his heart.

Trumpets herald the entrance of the Prince and courtiers, who are still searching for the owner of the lost slipper. The stepsisters try to fit the slipper in vain, and then the Prince notices Cinderella sitting shyly by the fire. The second slipper falls from her pocket, and he is overjoyed to find his love. Returning to the enchanted forest, Cinderella and the Prince

**happily
ever
after.**



Colouring-In Activity

Queensland
Ballet

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LEANNE BENJAMIN



Costume designed by: _____

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Clayton Forsyth



Kayla Van Den Bogert

Jette Parker Young Artists



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Ballet Master

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Ballet Mistress

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We gratefully acknowledge all who have supported Queensland Ballet so far. Our family of supporters all play a vital part in helping Queensland Ballet enrich lives through the beauty and joy of ballet. Philanthropy is what enables us to share the gift of ballet with communities in Queensland and beyond, to make the greatest impact, and to create a legacy for future generations to access and enjoy ballet.

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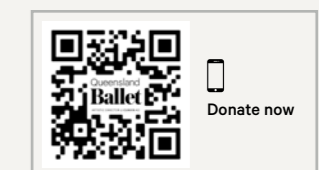
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On Yuggera and Turrbal Country


From its beginnings in 1908 as a boot and shoe factory, the heritage-listed Thomas Dixon Centre has been transformed into a world-class performing arts destination and cultural precinct, abundant with stories and home of Queensland Ballet. It features a state-of-the-art theatre, stunning public art, community dance studios, and will soon unfold a beautiful café, and bars. The Thomas Dixon Centre is aiming to achieve the highest WELL accreditation score, with health and wellbeing at its heart.

The Talbot Theatre at the Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary performance space, where stories are shared, creativity flourishes, and connections between artists and audiences are forged.

The revitalisation of the Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary story of passion, tenacity and altruism. Queensland Ballet, a not-for-profit arts company, chose to refurbish its heritage home, not only to house its own artists and arts workers for years to come, but to create a vibrant space for its neighbours, sector and wider community.

Discover more about the Thomas Dixon Centre at thomasdixoncentre.com.au and see stories unfold.

 @thomasdixoncentre

 Thomas Dixon Centre

We are welcoming and accepting of people from diverse backgrounds and identities, and strive to create an accessible and inclusive environment for all.

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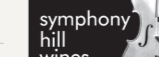
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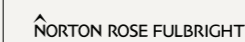
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Pick Me!

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LEANNE BENJAMIN



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