

Cinderella

Presented by Missoula Children's Theatre

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About Musical Theater

A **musical**, sometimes called “Musical Comedy,” is a unique Twentieth Century American art form. For centuries there were operas based on famous stories. In operas every word is sung, and the main emphasis was on music. Stories and characters were merely excuses for song.



During the 1880's, in Chicago and New York, “Musical Extravaganza” shows were produced. In “Extravaganzas” there was singing, speaking and dancing. The emphasis was on beautiful sets and costumes along with big crowd scenes and special effects. As in opera, stories and characters were not as important.

By 1904, “Musical Extravaganzas” changed into “Musical Comedies.” “Musical Comedies” were a series of comedy routines, song and dance numbers tied together with simple silly stories. Most of the time, the story stopped or was forgotten so that the actors could perform a popular song and/or dance. “Musical Comedies” became **variety shows**.

In 1927 Florence Ziegfield produced Show Boat, a big musical based on a famous novel about race relations in the South. Although many of the musical numbers had little to do with the story, Show Boat was one of the first musicals to take its story and characters seriously.

Oddly enough it was movies for children that made the first big change in musicals. Walt Disney’s 1938 film Snow White, and MGM’s 1939 Wizard of Oz, used all their songs to help tell their stories.



In the early 1940's, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein wrote Oklahoma! This was the first musical where the story and characters had top priority. Songs and dances were only used if they helped advance the story or show the audience something important about the characters. The songs were as important to understanding the story as the spoken dialog.

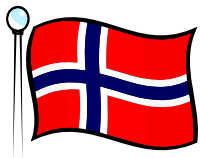
In the show you will see, look for answers to some of the following questions and discuss them as a class afterwards:

1. What did we learn about the characters from their song that we didn't learn from their spoken words?
2. Were there other scenes where a song might have been used? Give an example.
3. Can you think of any stories you've already read or movies you've seen that could be re-told as musicals? Use your imagination and try to think of some examples.

Cinderella Stories around the World

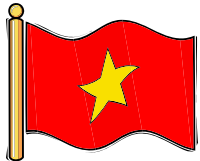
Cinderella is based on the well-known European Cinderella tale. Did you know that there are actually many such stories from around the world? Here are three other Cinderella stories you might like to read:

Katie Woodencloak (Norway)



This story is about a princess whose stepmother, the Queen, was cruel to her while the King was away at war. She made the princess tend a herd of cows and didn't feed her. One of the cows was magical and gave the princess a cloth that would make food magically appear when laid out flat. Later, the princess and bull run away from the kingdom through dangerous woods to come upon a different kingdom ruled by a prince.

The Story of Tam and Cam (Vietnam)



In this story, a young girl's father believes the bad things Tam's stepmother says about and is also mean. When she and her sister Cam are sent to catch fish, Cam steals Tam's fish knowing that she will be punished for bringing nothing home. Tam cries and a blue-robed goddess appears and helps her. This story also includes a big party which Tam was not allowed to attend, much like the European Cinderella. The goddess even gives Tam a pair of glass slippers which a prince later finds. Later Tam is transformed into a bird, then a tree and finally back to a person.

Rashin-Coatie (Scotland)



In this story there is no stepmother; the girl's parents are simply mean to her and nice to her sister. They make her tend to the cows like the story of Katie Woodencloak. Here, a calf takes her to a cottage in the woods that has wonderful food for her to eat. Later the girl and the calf run away to another castle and the girl works in the kitchen. The calf gives her a beautiful dress to wear to a party. She loses her shoes when she leaves the party early and a handsome prince uses them to try to find her.

After reviewing these stories, answer the following questions:

1. In what ways are these stories similar to the Cinderella story you know? How are they different?
2. Which of the stories can you most relate to?
3. Thinking about your own life and **culture**, would you be able to write your own Cinderella story? If so, what sort of elements would be included (like the glass slipper, evil stepmother, etc.)

You can find many more Cinderella stories from around the world at the library.

Word Search

C H N O B F L A N T C E B I G
A I N B D Q E W Z C P L K F O
R B N P D E E R C L O C K A D
R P O D J A R M I C E T U M M
I O P R E P U M P K I N P M O
A M B V R R R E J K G D S Y T
G J B R H I E A M C O I T J H
E M N R W N L L N V M J E R E
J N K N B C R T L M U S P C R
X G H V T E J C D A S V M I U
B N O U Y V D I U M I D O S A
A Z R W H V M A G I C C T S Y
I U B D N E X S W Y U J H M Q
Y O U R L I G B F S G O E U Y
S L I P P E R M N F A I R Y P

CARRIAGE
CINDERELLA
CLOCK
FAIRY
GODMOTHER
GOWN
MAGIC
MUSIC
PRINCE
PUMPKIN
SLIPPER
STEPMOTHER
*All 12 words are
hidden in the puzzle*

Vocabulary

- audience** the group of spectators at a public event
- culture** the behaviors and beliefs of a particular social or ethnic group
- musical** a play or movie that contains musical numbers
- variety shows** a show with a variety of acts, often including music and comedy skits

References

Katie Woodenloak: Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe, Popular Tales from the Norse, translated by George Webbe Dasent, pp. 357-372