

SCInderella

A Science Pantomime

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CHARACTER & PLOT SYNOPSIS

The traditional story of Cinderella with a scientific twist...

Prince Charming is on the hunt for the girl of his dreams but the mean ugly sisters, Positivia and Negativia will try their best to stop Cinders from making it to the Ball. Along the way the audience and the characters learn all about pollination, separating mixtures, circuits, light and forces. With lots of audience participation, a fairy godmother and, like all good fairytales, a happy ending!

This script is written for a small cast of 5 actors and is designed for performances by schools or touring educational companies.

Run time: 1 hour and 15 minutes.

CHARACTER NOTES

Cinderella*Female*

The heroine of the tale who spends much of the day and night scrubbing and cleaning!

Buttons*Male*

The loveable link man character. Cheeky, clever and a close friend and confidante to Cinders. Always ready to play a trick on the horrible ugly sisters.

The Ugly Sister(s)*Male*

Positivita and *Negativita*. This small cast script has been written for one performer to play both sisters. As such, only one sister ever appears onstage at any one time. A change of wig / or minor costume item denotes a different sister. Mean, bullying and a bit dense!

Prince Charming*Female*

The royal love interest.

The Fairy Godmother*Female*

The traditional fairy who weaves her magic to ensure that Cinders gets her fella'!

THE PLOT

Scene One - The Garden outside Hardup Hall

Featuring: *The Fairy Godmother, Buttons, Cinderella and the Ugly Sister (Positivia)*

A brief introduction from the Fairy (in rhyme) sets the scene. We meet Buttons tending the garden. He talks about how hard he and Cinders have to work and how nasty the Ugly sisters are. Cinders comes on and bemoans her lot in life and they are then joined by Positivia who send Cinders off to the forest to collect firewood and then demand Buttons supplies her with flowers for her boudoir.

Finding a bee in one flower she tries to squish it but Buttons explains how important Bees are for the garden and their role in **Pollination**. (*Science Topic 1 – Plant pollination and fertilisation (including the role of insects)*) Members of the audience are brought onto the stage to assist with the demonstration. Buttons leaves and the Ugly Sister decides to squirt the bee with insecticide after all but is chased off by a swarm of bees.

Scene Two - The Garden outside Hardup Hall (later)

Featuring: *Prince Charming and Cinderella*

The Fairy once more introduces the scene and we meet Prince Charming who is out in disguise hoping to meet some ordinary people. He bumps into Cinders and there is an obvious mutual attraction at first sight. Pretending to be the Prince's servant, he gives her invitations to the ball but she leaves without him learning her name.

Scene Three - The Kitchen of Hardup Hall

Featuring: *The Ugly Sisters (Negativia and Positivia), Buttons, Cinderella and the Fairy Godmother*

Cinders returns to the house and shows the Negativia the invitations. Negativia decides that Cinders can't possibly go and she sets Cinders and Buttons a challenge. She throws a bag of grain into a bucket of ash from the fire grate and instructs Cinders to separate the grains from the ashes within a fixed time, then she will have her invite.

The Fairy arrives in disguise and helps them with **Separating Mixtures** (*Science Topic 2 – Filtration and separation of mixtures*) She explains how the grain and the ashes can be separated with the help of dissolving the mixture and using the technique of filtration. Other techniques such as distillation, evaporation and chromatography, which are not suitable given the mixture, are also discussed / mentioned briefly and discarded as not possible. They separate the grains just in time but Positivia returns and rips up the invitation anyway in a fit of temper.

Scene Four - The Ugly Sisters' Boudoir

Featuring: *The Ugly Sister (Negativia) and Buttons*

Negativia prepares to leave for ball and needs Buttons to assist. After plenty of slapstick and silliness she announces that her battery operated hairdryer is broken and Buttons needs to fix it. We have a sequence on **Electricity and Circuits** (*Science Topic 3 – circuits and flow of electricity*) with members of the audience used to create a circuit. Negativia gets bored and starts ripping out wires and fiddling with the hairdryer creating an **Electromagnet** (*Science topic 4 – Electromagnets and magnetism*) which causes a brief bit of mayhem. The scene ends with more slapstick and Buttons covering Negativia with face powder.

Scene Five - The Kitchen of Hardup Hall

Featuring: *Cinderella and the Fairy Godmother*

Cinders has been left all alone on the night of the ball. The Fairy Godmother comes to the kitchen in disguise and asks to warm herself by the fire. Cinders is nice and kind to her. The Fairy Godmother reveals herself and announces that Cinders shall go to the ball! She reveals that her magic is based on **Light** (*Science Topic 5 – Lights, prisms and the colour spectrum*) and she works a magic spell and Cinders provides the pumpkin prop.

The Fairy will explain the light spectrum and that she splits the spectrum to create the coach. The transformation effect is achieved by the outline of the coach painted in UV paint on the set. When the spell is cast the set is lit in UV and the coach outline revealed.

Cinders also gets a nice dress and new invite for the ball and off she goes!

Scene Six- Prince Charming's Ball

Featuring: *Buttons, the Ugly Sister (Positivia), Prince Charming and Cinderella*

Buttons has been employed as toastmaster at the ball. Positivia arrives and tries to chat up the Prince, but is rebuffed. Cinderella arrives and the Prince dances with her. Positivia just cannot understand it and we have a section where she and Buttons discuss **Genetics** (*Science topic 6 – Genetics and inherited characteristics*) involving the audience in tongue rolling! Midnight strikes and Cinders runs off leaving slipper. The Prince declares he will only marry the girl whose foot fits the slipper.

Scene Seven - On the way home

Featuring: *Buttons, the Ugly Sister (Negativia), and one performer / stage hand as 'the Ghost'*

Buttons and Negativia are walking home having missed the last coach and find themselves in a scary place. This is the traditional 'behind you' scene when they sing to keep their spirits up while being stalked by a ghost. Buttons is scared off but then when the ghost sees the Ugly sisters face, it runs away.

Scene Eight - The Kitchen of Hardup Hall

Featuring: *Cinderella, Buttons, the Ugly Sisters (Positivia and Negativia), the Fairy Godmother and Prince Charming*

Returning from the ball, the Positivia, who has been scoffing all night, has got food all the way down her posh frock. She insists that Buttons and Cinders clean it for her while she supervises. They embark on some **Washing** (*Science Topic 7 – Enzymes and their use in washing powder*) and of course it ends up with Positivia soaked and covered in foam.

The Prince arrives outside and Positivia locks Cinders in the larder so she can't interfere, placing a heavy box in front of the door. Buttons tries to free her but cannot succeed. The Fairy arrives once more in disguise and helps Buttons with **Forces** (*Science topic 8 – forces, gravity, and friction*). Eventually he succeeds in opening the door.

The Prince and others enter. Negativia tries on the slipper and fails despite attempting to cheat, Cinders tries the slipper and it fits and they all live happily ever after. Happiness prevails!