

Audition Packet

Cinderella with the Grace Theatre Guild - Fall 2025



Creative Vision: Set in the 18th century French “pastoralism” artistic movement, this classic story uses the 2013 Broadway revival script to emphasize the message that magic comes from kindness and strength comes from community.

Open auditions will take place on September 5th and 6th. All are welcome, regardless of age or ability. Families are also welcome to audition together. Our goal is for this community theater production to be a true reflection of the community. We hope to welcome you this fall!

Cast Expectation: Be earnest and ready to create something beautiful that exemplifies community both in the story and the atmosphere of the group. There will be a contract to sign upon acceptance of a role between auditions and the beginning of rehearsals to ensure authentic participation, including a short conduct guideline and an agreement to not drop out of the show unless in the case of an emergency.

There will be a short dance call as part of the audition process so dress accordingly.

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Character Breakdown

ELLA – Though she often hides from scorn behind her rags and quiet demeanor, she is opinionated, charismatic, passionate, beautiful in soul, idealistic and hopeful. She courageously challenges the prince to change the policies in his kingdom – and helps him discover who he truly is. Always her late father's daughter, she is determined to see the good in everyone despite her hardships and suffering. We see her blossom into a confident woman who challenges not only her cruel stepmother but the cruelty of society and inspires those who meet her to choose kindness as well.

TOPHER – After a life spent far away and isolated, he returns to claim his throne feeling lost for who he truly is and longs to do something important with his life. Though brave and heroic, he feels lonely and unfulfilled. Charming but NOT a stereotypical ladies man, he is thoughtful, appealing, and innocent – with an unforced goofy streak. Moral, genuine, and kindhearted, he is at a crossroads and must take control of his kingdom and his future.

MARIE – A forest fae who has taken an interest in human affairs. A friend and motherly figure to Ella and the town's resident crazy lady and beggar woman. She is wise, warm, otherworldly, and charming but also unafraid to be seen as ridiculous. Marie reveals the power Ella holds through the magic found in kindness. She is the carrier of the message of the show that community should be more important than self service.

MADAME – The epitome of vanity and fashion. A ravenous social climber who values wealth, status, and material possessions above all else, even her own daughters. She has known heartbreak but flees those painful memories by seeking to put herself above others. She is the personification of the kingdom's high society's values. Her villainy comes from how she reflects the real world, not cartoon cruelty. She is the foil of Marie in many ways as a mother figure to Ella who shows the converse of the show's message.

SEBASTIAN – Though he is Topher's trusted advisor and Lord Protector since the king and queen died, he is devious and selfish. Using propaganda and dishonesty, he keeps Topher isolated and in the dark about his kingdom. Sebastian rules without regard for the lower class, or anyone other than himself – and truly believes he deserves to rule the kingdom and will keep Topher controlled in order to maintain that power.

CHARLOTTE – Brash, self-centered, materialistic, snooty, loud, sassy, and bratty, she has a ridiculously high, but unfounded, opinion of herself. She never passes up an

opportunity to be the center of attention, especially because Madame pushes her aside in favor of Gabrielle. The audience should wonder at the end of the story if all of that brashness was truly her or if it was an act in order to win her mother's approval.

GABRIELLE – She is Madame's favorite and is lavished with praise and attention because of Madame's plans for social climbing through her, but she knows that all that "love" would just as soon turn to scorn should she reveal her own opinions and desires. She confides in Ella who understands the need to hide from Madame's attention. They become friends through the story. She unenthusiastically joins her mother and sister in their abrasive behavior but longs for a quiet life of altruism with Jean-Michel. Quietly passionate, empathetic, and witty, she is ironically aware that she doesn't fit in in either world, townspeople or nobility.

JEAN-MICHEL – A feisty, passionate peasant determined to make a change for the starving townspeople. A firebrand, but lacks authority and isn't taken seriously as a revolutionary. Has a crush on Gabrielle, though their courtship is forbidden because they are from different social classes and he is insecure that she will not return his feelings because of this.

LORD PINKLETON – Sebastian's right-hand man. Announces royal balls, banquets, and even the weather to the villagers. Humorous and good natured.

ENSEMBLE

Knights (Topher's adoring entourage who chase after Ella's carriage and dance-fight with the fox and raccoon), Peasants/Townspeople (the suffering but vibrant community Ella fights for), Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court (the nobility of the kingdom who feel trapped into expectations of behavior including the game of Ridicule that Ella replaces with kindness), Fox and Raccoon (Dancers/Puppets who are Ella's friends and escorts to the ball. Mischievous and magical.)

Swing/understudy (Normally a part of the ensemble but prepared to jump in to perform as any of the main characters if a main character's actor has to drop out of the show in the case of an emergency. Two swings will be cast, one man and one woman.)

Character Sides -

The goal of this portion is to see your unique interpretation of the characters you portray and see how you adjust to direction. You will be called on for multiple characters and pairings. Make bold choices and be expressive. Don't try to be like everyone you've seen before, make these characters your own. Look at the character breakdown for ideas on who these people are but feel free to expand from there.

You might not be called to read for every character but that does not mean you are not considered for that role.

ELLA

Prince Topher!

TOPHER

You're here!

ELLA

I'm sorry I'm late, I'm so glad-

TOPHER

I knew if I had a banquet you would come!

ELLA

And I'm sorry I ran away before—

TOPHER

And you're even more beautiful than I remembered.

ELLA

Did you really have this banquet just for me?

TOPHER

I would have a hundred banquets to find you.

ELLA

Really? And the thing about me being more beautiful than you remember, that's real, too?

TOPHER

Yes, yes, of course.

ELLA

Wow. What do you know about that?

TOPHER

I've been thinking about you. And I've been thinking of what you were saying about the people having their homes taken away. The court tells me I should just ignore such talk but—

ELLA

But, you know that if you're going to be king, you have to pay attention to things that people tell you to ignore.

TOPHER

Yes, yes. I want to meet all of my people, not only the ones that Sebastian lets me see. I just don't know how, it's impossible.

ELLA

Oh, that's going to be more possible than you can even imagine. My friend Jean-Michel and my sister Gabrielle are headed here right now with some of your people. They want to talk to you!

TOPHER

Talk to me? But— if things are as bad as you say they are then they'll be angry with me.

ELLA

I think if you can do battle with a giant or a dragon, you can handle a person who just wants to talk to you.

TOPHER

Okay, you're good.

ELLA

Just be yourself. They'll see the man that I see –

TOPHER

Wait, what's your name?

ELLA

Just trust me, because I am your one true friend.

Friends, come meet Prince Topher.

(Break - Conversation with the townspeople)

TOPHER

And now everyone, rich and poor, into the castle for a free banquet!

ELLA

You did it!! I knew you could!

TOPHER

I did do it! And I think I know who I am now!

ELLA

You're smiling. I've seen you smile before, but never like that.

TOPHER

I know the king that I can be. Just, fair. Kind-hearted. I've found myself and you showed me the way.

ELLA

You seem so sure of yourself. So sure of everything.

TOPHER

I feel like I can answer any question that gets thrown at me!

ELLA

You can!

TOPHER

With you I can. There's only one question I don't have an answer for. Do I love you?

(Song "Do I Love You")

TOPHER

And now I feel we can really change the world. You and I.

ELLA

To the banquet?

TOPHER

To the banquet!

(Clock Chimes)

ELLA

What time is it?

TOPHER

Only midnight, why?

ELLA

Midnight! I have to go!

TOPHER

Again? Why?

ELLA

I- (The clock continues to strike midnight) I must go -

TOPHER

How can you leave me? Why do you leave?

ELLA

If you knew who I really was, you'd never want me.

TOPHER

Don't leave me!

ELLA

I don't want to, but I have to.

TOPHER

Wait! Guards, anyone, help! (She runs off. He chases her) Stop!!

Someone stop her!!

(ELLA runs down the stairway, then stops and looks up at TOPHER, ELLA takes of her glass slipper and places it on the staircase. TOPHER picks up the slipper and looks at it then up to where she ran off.)

TOPHER

Ha!

ELLA

So what if I do have a dream to see the Prince again? And tell him what life in his kingdom is really like? And what it could be.

MARIE

Exactly. And then to have him fall in love with you.

ELLA

No one will fall in love with me. Why do you come to visit me tonight?

MARIE

I just knew I would find you in the same little chair in the pale pink mist of a foolish dream.

ELLA

I am being foolish.

MARIE

Then be foolish with me. What would you dream of?

ELLA

Why, an invitation to the ball, I guess.

MARIE

(Produces invitation)

Right here. There's an invitation.

ELLA

What? But it's torn.

MARIE

Don't wait for everything to be perfect, just go! Now, what else would you dream of?

ELLA

Oh, a white gown, I imagine. A beautiful white gown sewn up with pearls. And jewels.
And a tiara of diamonds.

MARIE

And on your feet?

ELLA

Why, the most beautiful grosgrain pumps, I'd imagine.

MARIE

No. Better. The Venetian glass that your stepmother so loves in her trinkets and
baubles. An entire pair of shoes made only of Venetian glass.

ELLA

Oh, how silly. I'd be the envy of all. But how would I get to the ball?

MARIE

Well, that pumpkin over there?

ELLA

Yes?

MARIE

I'll turn it into a golden carriage.

ELLA

And horses?

MARIE

Those mice? Trapped in the cage.

ELLA

And a fox as a footman, and a raccoon as a driver. Oh, you are crazy, Marie. Why, in order to do that, you would have to be a fairy godmother.

(Marie transforms into her fairy-self)

ELLA

Marie! But you're a crazy woman! What are you doing in that beautiful gown?

MARIE

You'd be surprised how many beautiful gowns have crazy women in them.

ELLA

Are you really my fairy godmother?

MARIE

But of course, my child. Actually, I'm everyone's fairy godmother. But you are the only one who's given me charity. Generosity. And kindness. And now, I must make all the dreams we joked about come true.

ELLA

But that's so improbable. Implausible.

MARIE

Impossible!

SEBASTIAN

A royal wedding.

TOPHER

Wow. And does that work?

SEBASTIAN

Like a dream every time.

TOPHER

But, who will get married?

SEBASTIAN

Well . . . you.

TOPHER

That's just silly. I don't know any girls. I went to an all-boys school off in the woods. And then attended an all-male university, on an island. Why did you do that to me?

SEBASTIAN

For this happy day—I am going to find you a bride - oh, happy the day!

TOPHER

This is nonsense. How will you find me a bride?

SEBASTIAN

We shall have a magnificent ball. Dancing.

TOPHER

What?

SEBASTIAN

Every eligible young woman who can afford a gown will attend. That is a wonderful selection process right there. If you can't afford a nice dress, you don't have any business marrying a prince. Now. All the guests will be in masks. You will dance with every girl. At the stroke of midnight, everyone will remove their masks and you will have found your bride.

TOPHER

That's fast.

SEBASTIAN

King and queen on the throne. I am there to guide you through all your decisions. It's really a win-win.

TOPHER

How would any woman fall in love with me so quickly?

SEBASTIAN

A valid question, which we will answer sometime soon. Now, Lord Pinkleton. I want you to tell this to all — a pronouncement -- an announcement.

MADAME

Who can that be and at this hour? Everyone clear out of here while I get rid of this imbecile. Cinderella, get that dress on Charlotte!

(Another knock.)

MADAME

What brand of idiot would — Why, Sebastian, what an unexpected delight.

SEBASTIAN

Madame, I have but a moment. I invite you to hang upon my every word.

MADAME

Invitation accepted.

SEBASTIAN

Tonight's ball shall be in masks. The Prince will be in the white mask. What color mask will your daughter Gabrielle be wearing?

MADAME

Why, pink.

SEBASTIAN

If the daughter is anything like the mother, I think the pink mask and the white mask should meet and fall in love.

MADAME

Are you implying what I am inferring?

SEBASTIAN

Your daughter is all part of my master plan.

MADAME

You are brilliant.

SEBASTIAN

You are perceptive. I shall see you at the ball. Together we shall make this so.

(Exits.)

MADAME

Come daughters, come! Oh Gabrielle, my Gabrielle, just look at you. You too, Charlotte, but really look at Gabrielle! Cinderella, fetch the orange box.

GABRIELLE

You speak such kind words to me all the day long. And what of the soup kitchen this evening?

JEAN-MICHEL

Our first responsibility is with the poor. Then we shall march to the palace steps and I shall speak with the Prince. We only have one thing to worry about.

GABRIELLE

What's that?

JEAN-MICHEL

That he'll even speak to me.

GABRIELLE

Well, Ella might be a help, you know she's talked to the Prince.

JEAN-MICHEL

What?! Ella talked to the Prince?!

GABRIELLE

She went to the ball! They were talking about the kingdom and how to make things better. And tonight, she is going to the banquet.

JEAN-MICHEL

The world is upside down!! But don't you know what this means? If she really talked to the Prince, then I can talk to him and he'll be open to my suggestions. What do you call this feeling I have?

GABRIELLE

Optimism.

JEAN-MICHEL

Optimism. I have to do this more often.

GABRIELLE

You can march up to the Prince and talk to him.

JEAN-MICHEL

I can march up to the Prince and talk to him.

GABRIELLE

You can be a leader!

JEAN-MICHEL

I can be a leader!

GABRIELLE

You can be my boyfriend!

JEAN-MICHEL

I can be your boyfriend. Whoa, left turn! What are you doing?

This looks very counter-revolutionary.

GABRIELLE

I like the man who wants to change the world, but I also like the man who brought me flowers.

JEAN-MICHEL

Who brought you flowers? Oh, I did. No, I couldn't.

GABRIELLE

You just said so. Optimism.

JEAN-MICHEL

Optimism?

GABRIELLE

Let yourself go

JEAN-MICHEL

I could be your boyfriend?

GABRIELLE

Yes! Yes! Yes!!!

JEAN-MICHEL

Yes! Yes! Am I your boyfriend?

MADAME

Now, when you try on the shoe, make eye contact with His Highness. For our family, you shall try the shoe on first.

CHARLOTTE

Don't you mean only? No one has seen Cinderella since you yelled at her two nights ago. You got rid of Gabrielle because she likes that guy who might be our new Prime Minister - wow - good call there!

MADAME

I don't know what is going on in this world. Everything I felt was holy and true is trash. That which meant nothing to me now appears to mean everything.

CHARLOTTE

Here goes nothin'. (To TOPHER) Me again. Hey. (Tries on the slipper)

Of course it doesn't fit. I'm not the girl the Prince has fallen in love with. None of us are that girl.

Song Selections

The goal with giving you selected songs from the show rather than you bringing a song of your own choosing is that we can see your specific voice in the show's specific style. If the character you are mainly auditioning for is not in any of these numbers, choose the song that is stylistically close to what they would sing elsewhere in the show. You can sing the song as the intended character, your choice of character, or as yourself.

Please choose one out of the following four song options:

1. Women Lyric - *He Was Tall*
Full Song - three pages
2. Women Comedic - *Stepsister's Lament*
First page through to instrumental break at page 4
Sing for both "Charlotte" and "Solo"
3. Men Lyric - *Loneliness of Evening*
Starts at instrumental pick up at half page
Sing for lower "Topher" when upper "Ella" begins
(people auditioning for Ella may learn this upper harmony line for the case that callbacks are deemed necessary)
4. Men Comedic - *Me Who Am I*
Pick either lower Knights or upper Topher line

Our pianist will be prepared to accompany you using the included sheet music:

📎 Audition Sheet Music