



Music by **Richard Rodgers**
Lyrics by **Oscar Hammerstein II**
Directed by **Matthew Caron**
Musical Direction by **Nick Wayne**

New Book by **Douglas Carter Beane**
Original Book by **Oscar Hammerstein II**
Choreography by **Elizabeth Albenesius**

Performance dates: April 10-12 and 17-20, with an additional matinee performance for Mankato 5th graders on Friday, April 11 at 9:00 am.

Rehearsals begin February 24

About the play:

In a long time ago in a distant kingdom, Ella, a kind young woman mistreated by her stepmother dreams of a better life. Meanwhile, noble Prince Topher struggles with finding his purpose before becoming king. After an encounter where he witnesses Ella's kindness, the prince returns to the palace as political radical, Jean-Michel, rallies the poor against the rich. At the same time, Ella's stepfamily prepares for a royal ball where the Prince seeks a wife.

With the help of her Fairy Godmother, Ella magically transforms to attend the ball, where she captivates the prince with her kindness. Despite their growing connection, she must flee before midnight, leaving behind a glass slipper. Prince Topher searches for her, and after some setbacks, Ella's true identity is revealed. Inspired by her, Topher initiates an election to address inequality. The two confess their love, and Topher proposes to Ella, leading to a happily ever after.

This timeless and magical tale explores themes of kindness, transformation, and self-belief. It emphasizes the transformative power of love and compassion, highlighting the importance of inner beauty over external appearances.

Character descriptions:

Ella: Though no one notices her beneath her rags and quiet demeanor, she is opinionated, charismatic, passionate, beautiful and funny. 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.

Topher: A misguided and lost prince who 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 crossroads and must take control of his kingdom and his future.

Madame: Ella's selfish stepmother. The epitome of vanity and fashion. A ravenous social climber who values wealth, status, and material possessions above all else. Unapologetically dismissive, and sometimes cruel, Madam schemes her way to up the social ladder.

Sebastian: The kingdom's Lord Chancellor. Though he is Topher's trusted advisor, 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 kingdom.

Marie: A friend to Ella and the town's resident crazy lady and beggar woman, Marie is actually a fairy godmother in disguise. Wise, warm otherworldly and charming, Marie rewards Ella for her kindness by making her dreams a possibility.

Gabrielle: Ella's stepsister and daughter of Madame. Encouraged by her mother and sister to value material wealth and social status, she unenthusiastically joins them in their abrasive behavior. Quietly passionate, empathetic, and witty, she is drawn to Ella and Jean-Michel. Ironically aware she doesn't fit in.

Charlotte: Ella's stepsister and daughter of Madame. 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.

Jean-Michel: A feisty passionate peasant determined to make a change for the starving class. Impetuous. 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.

Lord Pinkleton: The Lord Chancellor's right-hand, man. Announces royal balls, banquets, and even the weather to the villagers.

Other Roles: Fox (puppet), Raccoon (puppet), Footman, Coachman, Knights, Peasants, Serfs, Townspeople, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court, Servants, etc.

Intimacy and Violence Notices:

Light, fantasy violence

Light, tasteful intimacy involving embraces and light kissing. Character may kiss hands and cheeks. Gabrielle and Jean-Michel may share a romantic kiss. Ella and Topher will share a romantic kiss at their wedding.

Audition Information:

Auditions will be held on **Monday, February 3**

- Please prepare **16 bars** of a Rodgers and Hammerstein song or some other classic musical in the same musical style as Cinderella.
- Please also prepare a **30-second** cutting of any fairytale to be presented with dynamism and enthusiasm.
- A general dance call will be held after singing auditions conclude. No preparation needed.

A sign-up sheet will be posted online about one week before the audition date.