

CINDERELLA
and
the
GLASS
SLIPPER

A Pantomime by
Daniel O'Brien

Original Music and Lyrics by
Annemarie Lewis Thomas

© Daniel O'Brien July 2007
72 High Street
Ashwell
Baldock
Herts
SG7 5NS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CINDERELLA	-A poor Kitchen Maid
ANGELIKA	-Her fairy Godmother
COUNTESS GRIMALLOVA	-Her wicked Stepmother
GLADYS GLASNOST	-Her Ugly Stepsister
PRUDENCE PERESTROIKA	-Her other Ugly Stepsister
BUTTONS	-Her Best Friend
PRINCE CHARMINSKY	-A handsome Prince
DANDINOVSKYA	-The Prince's Sister

There are also two Singers/Dancers who play the following parts

CHIEF STEWARD	- of Castle Charminsky
BABA YAGA	-A wicked witch
TSAR TURNITOFF	-The Ghost of the Prince's father

The place is Russia.

The Time is a time when horses pulled sleighs and snow fell deep in the winter..

ACT ONE

Scene 1

- A Street outside Castle Charminsky

*The Overture starts, there is a flash and a Cossack
Dancer/Acrobat appears. He dances and flips around the
stage performing acrobatic acts of ever increasing agility.
Gradually the whole company enters and sings:*

**Dobrey Den, Dobrey Den
It's a well known Russian saying Dobrey Den
We'll translate, if we may – it's the way us Russian people
say good day.**

**Welcome to Russia the home of the Tsar
Sometimes our language can sound a bit bizarre if you're
not
Russian like we are too Soviet too care
Cossacks keep dancing kick your legs up in the air – Oi!**

Dai dai etc.

**High art adores us in ballet we're the best
Nutcracker homeland we're culturally obsessed**

**When you're Russian Moscow keeps calling and Glasnost
is the key
Empowering the people to live like bourgeoisie**

Dai dai etc

**Sing songs in Russian
No group discussion
Kremlin a-calling
No time for stalling when you're**

**Speaking in Russian where niet's used for no
Speaking the language can help your status quo so won't
you
Join in this song don't know the words just follow me
Don't know the tune just take a breath and pick a key**

Dai dai etc

**Soviet nation
Causing a sensation
Drink Schnapps together
Wards off cold weather cos we're Russian**

**So Dobrey Den we say goodbye to you and welcome to
Russia on this Christmas Rendezvous. Dobrey Den**

*At the end the cast disappear leaving our first dancer to do a
final acrobatic routine. He finishes, bows and gestures up –
The stage darkens and a snowy owl flies leaves its perch
above the SR proscenium and flies across the stage. He
returns to his perch and the stage lightens again.*

*ANGELIKA appears and our dancer looks at her with
sadness in his eyes. Then he backflips off leaving her the
stage. She moves forward and speaks over the first scene
change. Music underscores her lines. In fact music features
heavily all the way through.*

ANGELIKA

A handsome man, a loving wife
A little girl, contented life.
All is peaceful, right and grand
In this snow bound Russian land
The world before them, bids them prosper.
But doom waits
At their gates

The lady fair, she ails and dies,
And joins her maker in the skies
The father mourns, his jet black hair
Turns white with ageing and despair
The world it mocks, it taunts them so
And doom waits
At their gates
Years pass.....

She turns and disappears.

Scene ends.

Scene 2 - The Kitchen in the House of Grimallova

BUTTONS enters looking for CINDERELLA.

BUTTONS Cinderella! Cinderella! Where are you Cinders?

GRIMALLOVA [off] Cinderella!

He goes off looking. From off we hear.....

GLASNOST Cinderella! Cinderella! I need you Cinderella!

BUTTONS reappears still looking

BUTTONS Cinderella! Cinderella! Where are you Cinders?

GRIMALLOVA [off] Cinderella!

He goes off looking. From off we hear.....

PERESTROIKA Cinderella! Cinderella! Come here Cinderella!

BUTTONS reappears still looking

BUTTONS Cinderella! Cinderella! Where are you Cinders?

GRIMALLOVA [off] Cinderella!

He goes off looking. From off we hear.....

GRIMALLOVA Cinderella! Cinderella! Where are you, wretched girl?

BUTTONS reappears still looking

BUTTONS Cinderella!

GRIMALLOVA [off] Cinderella!

GLASNOST [off] Cinderella!

PERESTROIKA [off] Cinderella!

VOICE 1 [off] Cinderella!

BUTTONS Cinderella!

VOICE 2 [off] Cinderella!

GLASNOST [off] Cinderella!

PERESTROIKA [off] Cinderella!

GRIMALLOVA [off] Cinderella!

BUTTONS Cinderella!

VOICE 3 [off] Cinderella!

GLASNOST [off] Cinderella!

PERESTROIKA [off] Cinderella!

GRIMALLOVA [off] Cinderella!

CINDERELLA enters. She has attitude

CINDERELLA All right, give me a break I'm coming!

BUTTONS Oh there you are Cinders.

CINDERELLA Hiya Buttons!

BUTTONS Hiya Cinders!

ALL [off] Cinderella!

CINDERELLA Biya Buttons!

BUTTONS Biya Cinders!

And off she goes. For the first time BUTTONS notices the audience.

BUTTONS It's always the same in this place. You just find yourself alone in a room with someone wicked, not bad wicked, good wicked, and then two or three or even four not-so wicked people start screaming for her!

ALL (OFF) Cinderella

You know what I mean? Course you do. You're not stupid. I bet you know the whole Cinderella story already don't you? *[Yes!]* I said 'don't you'? *[Yes!]*. See if you can fill in the gaps. My name is ... *[Buttons!]* and that was... *[Cinderella!]*. She's really fit but has two really gross, ugly... *[Sisters!]*. You got it! See! Except that she's not really called Cinderella. Her real name's Vasilissa Anya Kirochka Ella, but it's a real mouthful to pronounce so we just call her Cinderella, the Ella who sleeps in the cinders of the fireplace. Sad, but true. And my name's so not really Buttons. Like my parents went 'I know let's call him Buttons!' As if! I'm only called that cos of the clothes I wear. Have you ever seen a

jacket with so many buttons on it? Good job this isn't a now story otherwise I'd have been called Zip! Never mind, they only get worse, the gags. They do really! Let me introduce myself properly. *[All in one breath]* The name's Boris Bogdanovitch Bendikt Bublik Bronislav Baba Baisha Baryshnikov Bretislav Bogoroditskoi Burukha *[like verucca]* Buttonovitchski. But you can call me Buttons pure and simple. Cos you're pure and I'm simple! Hey but as we're in Russia we should learn how to say Hello to each other in Russian. Do you know what to say? *[No]* No? *[No!]* Oh well when I say Preevyet kids, which means Hi kids, you just yell back Preevyet Buttons which is Hi Buttons in Russian. Shall we give it a go? *[He does until it is loud enough!]*. Now where was I? Oh yes I know I was telling you about Cinderella. She's had a well bad time. Her Mum got poorly and died. The Count, her father, married the horrible Countess Grimallova who came to live here at the Manor with her disgusting daughters Gladys Glasnost and Prudence Perestroika. And they're lazy and lardy and make her do all the chores and sleep in the ashes by the kitchen fire. And then her Dad got poorly and died too. And it's so not fair cos Cinderella is well fit and buff and she deserves better. It's not that I love her or anything poor like that. It's just that she's.... well.....she's....

CINDERELLA has entered during the end of this speech.

BUTTONS now sees her and tails off.

CINDERELLA Preevyet Buttons

BUTTONS Preevyet Cinders

CINDERELLA Preevyet Kids

BUTTONS Yeah I really like that one too. "So I got home, and the phone was ringing. I picked it up, and said 'Who's speaking please?' And a voice said 'You are you plonker.'"

CINDERELLA That's stupid too. And this one's....

She bursts out laughing

BUTTONS What do you call a judge with no thumbs.

CINDERELLA I don't know, what do you call a judge with no fingers?

BUTTONS Justice Fingers

CINDERELLA is nearly out of control and each gag

BUTTONS delivers makes her hoot even more.

BUTTONS So I rang up my local swimming baths. I said 'Is that the local swimming baths?' He said 'It depends where you're calling from mate.'

CINDERELLA snorts

Hey Cinders, why are pirates so wicked?

CINDERELLA I don't know Buttons, why are pirates so wicked?

BUTTONS They just arrrrrrr!

CINDERELLA Stop Buttons please!

BUTTONS What do you call 30 animals with long furry ears jumping backwards in row?

CINDERELLA What?

BUTTONS A receding hare line! What do you get if you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?

CINDERELLA Stop! Stop!

BUTTONS Hot cross bunnies!

CINDERELLA Buttons stop, please stop!

BUTTONS Why couldn't Dracula's wife get to sleep?

CINDERELLA Buttons!!!!

BUTTONS Because of his coffin

They are both now helpless with laughter and don't notice COUNTESS GRIMALLOVA entering. The lights go green and there is smoke. She speaks with a heavy Russian accent

GRIMALLOVA So, my darlinks. You have time to laugh no? Life is so easy and pleasink you have time for jokink no?

CINDERELLA We were only having a bit of fun stepmother. We meant no harm.

GRIMALLOVA What you are meanink and what you are doink, two different thinks no?

BUTTONS We're really sorry aren't we Cinders?

CINDERELLA Are we? Oh yeah whatever!

GRIMALLOVA You lucky. Today I'm beink in a good mood. Today we're
receivink invitation to Castle Charminsky for Ball to
celebrate Prince's comink of age. Charminskys always have
big balls. Very excitink! You, Vasilissa Anya Kirochka Ella,
go help your sisters. And you Boris Bogdanovitch Bendikt
Bublik Bronislav Baba Baisha Baryshnikov Bretislav
Bogoroditskoi Burukha

CIND/BUTT & GRIM Like verucca

GRIMALLOVA Buttonovitchski go and mend Troika carriage. Then polish
with spit, so I can see face in it. Go now!

*They both start to go. As they leave CINDERELLA turns to
BUTTONS*

CINDERELLA I've got a joke Buttons. My stepmother was bitten by a dog
yesterday?

BUTTONS How is she now?

CINDERELLA She's fine.....but the dog died!!!

They burst out laughing once more and exit

GRIMALLOVA All is good. Tonight we go Ball. Tonight, beautiful daughters
Glasnost and Perestroika Grimallova will meet Prince
Charminsky. He will fall for their charms and whole Tsardom
will be mine, mine, all mine! Oh yes it will. *[Oh no it won't]*
Oh yes it will. *[Oh no it won't]* Oh yes it will. *[Oh no it
won't]*. Silence, or I make Stroganov from fingers and Borsch
from toes!

She laughs a wicked laugh

And now to find my little darlinks! Glasnost! Perestroika!
Where are you my lambs? Come to Mama!

And off she goes calling the girls

Scene Ends