

The Three Princesses

By Jeremy Mason

Cast of Characters

Brier Rose

The cousin of Jill and Cinderella. Is a natural leader.

Cinderella

A feistier version of the classic Brother's Grimm tale.

Princess Jill

Very self absorbed and shallow. Loves herself.

Witch

Hates Rose because of her beauty. Is obsessed with power and is quite evil.

The Troll

Quite jealous of his cousin and will do anything to be better than him. A sorcerer.

Pricilla & Drucilla

Cinderella's stepsisters. Quite mean to Cinderella, but not exactly evil. Almost identical, but Pricilla is slightly more of the leader.

Frog Prince

Jill's Prince. Turned into a Frog by his cousin, Troll.

Prince Charming

Cinderella's Prince. Very charming and suave.

Prince Brave

Rose's prince. He is a brave prince who loves adventure.

The Trees (Oak, Doug Fir, Jack Pine)

Protectors of the forest, it is their job to watch over those who travel into their land. is their elder and leader he is stoic and wise. Doug and Jack are much younger and impulsive and as such are very playful.

The Dwarves (Sniffles, Cheerful, Un-Cheerful, John)

They live in a mine in the mountain and work all day looking for diamonds. Snow White no longer lives with them and as such they are quite lonely.

Marina, the Little Mermaid

Trapped in a lake at the top of the mountain she is always willing to help. Can't get back to the ocean to find her love.

The Goblins

The Troll's henchmen. Not exactly the sharpest tools in the shed. Try hard, but rarely succeed.

The Pigs (Hamma, Spamela, Kosher)

They travel door to door selling chocolate for donations.

The Fish

They live in the same lake as Marina. Very playful.

Production Notes

The aim of *The Three Princesses* is to be as flexible as possible especially in terms of casting. It is meant for as few as twenty and as many as forty. It's also meant to fit into any specific school's needs. Some schools may have large budgets and others will have much smaller budgets therefore stage directions are merely guiding points. Production teams are welcome to do whatever is in their budget to create the desired effect. For schools with smaller budgets some suggestions follow:

Set

Elaborate set builds are welcome but not necessary. It has always been my belief that less is more. Using simple techniques, settings can be created, while the audience's imagination fills in the rest.

The castles could be created using a few strategically placed banners and regal looking furniture. Also, the use of "heralds" or "doormen" can create the ambiance as well as add some smaller roles.

Lighting can be used to create the cave scenes, where a bright white light would be the outside cave and once they step across the stage a blue light could represent the inner cave. Their lanterns could be dressed flashlights.

The lake could simply be a large piece of blue fabric manipulated by running crew or other actors to give the effect of waves. Marina would be "floating" in the center or just behind this fabric.

Lastly backdrops and murals are a great way to give an overview of the world. For instance there could be a painting along the back that has a landscape of the forest, mountain, castle, etc. Or possibly the cover of a book of fairy tales.

Costumes

The least expensive way to go would be having actors wear "blacks" or "basics" and have them add on small costume pieces (hat's, aprons, crowns, etc.) to allude to their character, allowing the actor to create the rest through physicality.

Props

A minimalist by nature, I have tried to limit the amount of props to those that are absolutely necessary to the story. That being said production teams are more than welcome to add props to fill out characters.

These are merely suggestions that schools can use as a springboard or as law. Other thoughts and inspirations are always welcome to create the world that *The Three Princesses* is set in. Good luck!

SCENE ONE

(At the top three acting circles are lit. In circle one is CINDERELLA, PRINCE CHARMING, and the two STEPSISTERS, PRICILLA and DRUCILLA. In circle two is PRINCESS JILL, the FROG PRINCE, and The TROLL. The third circle holds BRIER ROSE, PRINCE BRAVE, and the WITCH. As they speak it is underscored.)

ALL: Once upon a time...

PRINCESSES: There were three maidens...

CINDERELLA: One was poor.

JILL: One was spoiled.

ROSE: One was sleeping.

PRINCESSES: They all needed help.

PRINCES: That's where we come in. *(They all coif their hair.)*

CHARMING: One was rich and charming!

BRAVE: One was strong and brave

FROG: The other...a frog.

(CHARMING and HANDSOME snicker.)

Guys don't laugh. Come on. It's not my fault.

ALL: As with every story there's good.

MEANIES: And bad.

STEPSISTERS: *We're* not really bad, more like...mean spirited!

WITCH: Pft. I am bad. And I like being bad...that's what witches do.

TROLL: You may not remember me...I'm the Troll. I change one thing into something completely different. You know ducks into swans, beans into beanstalks, princes into frogs, the usual.

WITCH: Show off.

STEPSISTERS: We want powers too.

TROLL: Cut it out...the audience is still watching.

STEPSISTERS: Oh right.

ALL: Each story had its own beginning, middle and end.

PRINCESSES: Those stories were fine.

PRINCES: This story is better.

ALL: Our story begins at each of their ends.

CIND/CHARM: First there was ours.

(The lights snap down on circle two and three. The Stepsisters have just tried on the shoes and it didn't fit.)

PRICILLA: Oh please, kind Prince!

CHARMING: Well...

PRICILLA: Tell him Drucilla.

DRUCILLA: Okay Pricilla. Please kind Prince, one more chance!

CHARMING: Now ladies you've already had your chance and the slipper didn't fit.

BOTH: Fine!

PRICILLA: But, there's no point in trying Cinderella's foot.

DRUCILLA: Yeah, she just cleans all day. She could never be a Princess.

BOTH: Ever!

CHARMING: I must try everyone's foot in the kingdom, no matter their station.

CINDERELLA: Really?

CHARMING: Yes.

(He bends to one knee and slides the slipper onto her foot. Magical chimes are heard.)

CINDERELLA: Does this mean—?

CHARMING: Yes. You are now a Princess.

CINDERELLA: Yes!

STEPSISTERS: Not fair.

ALL: Then there was them.

(The lights snap out on acting circle one and snap up on acting circle two. PRINCESS JILL sits and the FROG PRINCE hops forward.)

JILL: Okay let me get this straight, if I kiss you...

FROG: Yes.

JILL: You'll transform...

FROG: Yes.

JILL: Into...a dog.

FROG: A Prince, a handsome and wonderful prince. I'm a frog now and if you kiss me, I'll turn into a prince.

JILL: But why should I kiss you. What am I going to get out of it?

FROG: Don't you see? If you kiss me then you'll learn to do something for someone besides yourself.

JILL: Oh...I see. But I just don't get why you're a frog.

FROG: The Troll, he was jealous of me so he turned me into a frog to teach me not to be so vain. If I show you the same lesson then I'll be free. Please, kiss me.

JILL: Well...okay.

(She leans in for a kiss at the last second she kisses her hand and puts it on his cheek.)

FROG: Hey, what gives?

JILL: My mom is watching. She'd kill me if I kissed a boy...even if he was a frog.

FROG: Fine.

(As the kiss is planted we hear the magic chimes and he transforms into a Prince.)

I'm back. I'm me again.

JILL: Hey, you *are* kinda cute.

FROG: Told you. Will you be my Princess?

JILL: Well...okay!

ALL: And last but not least...

(The lights snap out on acting circle two and snap up on acting circle three. BRIER ROSE sleeps. PRINCE BRAVE enters slowly and slightly winded as if he has just hacked through a giant thorn bush.)

BRAVE: The old man was right. The legends were true. A sleeping beauty, known as Brier Rose. Put under a spell by a nefarious witch, forced to sleep a hundred years. A hundred years as the thickest and wildest forest of thorns grew around this once beautiful castle. Many a brave knight and prince have forged into this forest never to return.

Yet, I, the young Prince Brave, am standing here right next to the Sleeping Beauty. Hip, hip, hurray for me! Now, according to legend one kiss from a young prince will awaken the young maiden and break the spell. A kiss, I can do that. Let's see here.

(He fumbles into his pocket and takes out a little breath spray and sprays it in his mouth.)

Okay, now all minty fresh and ready to go. One small step for a prince, one giant step for...for...more princes.

(He leans in for a kiss and she turns her head. He looks out to the audience, then re-positions himself. He goes in for another kiss and she turns again. Finally...)

Hehehe...awkward! Pst. I think I'm supposed to kiss you.

ROSE: I can't, my mom's here too. Hi mom *(she waves into audience.)*

BRAVE: You're awake.

(Once again the magic chimes are heard as she rises from her sleep.)

ROSE: Thank-you fair prince.

BRAVE: It was nothing.

(All three acting circles light up, all are visible.)

ALL: And they all lived happily ever after...

MEANIES: Or did they?

ALL: Our stories end and begin...with a kiss. Enjoy our story.

SCENE TWO

(The Stepsisters are scrubbing the floor.)

PRICILLA: This is terrible.

DRUCILLA: So terrible.

PRICILLA: And unfair.

DRUCILLA: So unfair.

PRICILLA: And cruel.

DRUCILLA: So cru—

PRICILLA: If you repeat me one more time, I'll make you do *all* the dishes.

DRUCILLA: Sorry.

PRICILLA: Ever since Cinderella married the Prince, our life has been a nightmare.

DRUCILLA: I know. If I have to clean another thing, I'm going to freak out! *(Thinking.)* Hey, I've got a great idea.

PRICILLA: You do?

DRUCILLA: Yeah, why don't we hire a maid?

PRICILLA: That's your great idea? And how are we going to pay for this maid?

DRUCILLA: Mm. Didn't think about that.

PRICILLA: Just keep scrubbing.

DRUCILLA: If mother finds out we're slacking like this we'll never hear the end of it.

PRICILLA: Yeah. *(Thinking.)* You know, I still can't believe Cinderella's foot fit in that slipper.

DRUCILLA: So unfair! And now she's going on a trip to visit her cousins.

PRICILLA: Royalty and new family. She thinks she's so much better than us.

DRUCILLA: But she's not.

PRICILLA: I wish there was a way to get back at her.

DRUCILLA: I wish there was a way to win over Prince Charming.

BOTH: I wish.

(There is a poof of smoke as WITCH enters holding her broom.)

WITCH: You rang?

PRICILLA: Are you...our fairy godmother?

WITCH: Pft. Hardly. I'm a witch. Can't you tell? I'm holding a broom.

DRUCILLA: I thought you were the maid.

WITCH: Well I'm not. I'm a witch, I'm *the* witch. I'm the one you read about in "Bad Guys: Quarterly."

BOTH: *(Look at each other.)* Our hero!

WITCH: Why thank-you!

PRICILLA: But why are you here?

WITCH: Well, to be honest...I feel for you. Yes, it's true even a witch has *some* feelings. I know what it's like to sit back and watch a Princess get all the glory. People have to know that being bad is very tough work.

DRUCILLA: You said it sister.

WITCH: Truthfully, I see something in you two.

BOTH: You do?

WITCH: Oh yes. In fact, I've been planning very carefully and I think you could help me.

PRICILLA: And what do *we* get out of it?

WITCH: You get what you wished for...revenge on Cinderella and...you can keep Prince Charming. Now if you need some time to think about it I understand—

BOTH: Done.

WITCH: That was quick. Very well, hop on my broom. We need someone else's help.

BOTH: Who? Who? Who?

WITCH: Someone I hoped I wouldn't had to have seen ever again.

(They exit.)