


National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

BALLETJÖRGEN

# Cinderella



February 23, 2023  
North Peace Cultural Centre– Fort St. John, BC

Akari Fujiwara; Photo by Kristie Jones.

## Message from the Artistic Director



*Cinderella* is one of those timeless stories that has been with us since the Pharaohs of Egypt. Over the years it has been retold and reshaped by cultures around the world. I was struck and inspired by the simple beauty of the many classical versions of Cinderella that existed long before Disney defined this story, and I have tried to capture some of the qualities from earlier stories in our production. Our heroine Cinderella is not perfect but, then again, who is? Our stepsisters are perhaps a bit more human than we care to admit. The magic, as in stories past, springs from the seed of a tree and is broken by a kiss. In the end, good transcends evil and love is, as in any fairy-tale, 'forever after'.

I am indebted to The Michael Young Family Foundation for their extraordinary financial support of this production and Ballet Jörgen. This performance is made possible by National Presenting Partner BMO Financial Group, The Canada Council for the Arts and the Bruendl Foundation. Support for Ballet Jörgen's Western Canada Local Participant Program is provided by Scotiabank.

Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

Warmest Regards,



Bengt Jörgen C.M.

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## Synopsis

### Act I

#### *At Cinderella's House*

An invitation to the Great Ball given by Prince Charming has arrived at Cinderella's house. While the Tall Stepsister reads the invitation, the Short Stepsister fights to see it. In the ensuing battle, the invitation ends up in Cinderella's hands. The Stepsisters quickly unite to rip it away.

Once again, the Stepsisters squabble and the Short Stepsister's feelings are hurt. Cinderella attempts to comfort the younger sister but is rudely rejected. The Short Stepsister laughs in her face and demands Cinderella act like the servant she is. A dejected Cinderella picks up her broom and is soon lost in a daydream.

Cinderella's Stepmother is furious to discover Cinderella lost in her thoughts. Cinderella jumps back to work but the Stepmother continues her scolding. The Stepsisters join in the ridicule and Cinderella loses her temper, lashing out at the three of them. Just as the Stepmother is about to hit her with the broom, an Old Woman enters, looking for a place to rest. Cinderella takes pity on the Old Woman although the Stepmother insists she send her away. The Stepmother attempts to hit the woman with the broom, but Cinderella rushes in to take the blow. Suddenly, everyone but Cinderella and the Old Woman freeze. The Old Woman predicts a bright future for Cinderella. She gives Cinderella a seed to plant explaining that when it is grown, a fairy will emerge and grant her one wish. The Old Woman disappears and all returns to normal.

Two Suitors arrive to escort the Stepsisters to the ball. Alone, Cinderella feels dejected but then remembers the seed and plants it in a pot. Strangely comforted, Cinderella falls asleep on the hearth, her world dissolving, leaving large trees in its wake. Fairies emerge out of the trees. The Lead Fairy awakens Cinderella from her sleep and the Fairies bestow upon her everything she needs for the ball. The Fairies warn Cinderella not to kiss or be kissed by anyone, or the magic will be gone. After promising to heed the warning, Cinderella is swept away to the ball.

–INTERMISSION–

### Act II

#### *At the Ball*

Cinderella's Stepsisters and their Suitors, along with the other guests, arrive at the ball. The Prince enters, and the female guests fawn over him. Cinderella enters and, enchanted by her beauty, the Prince asks her to dance, causing much gossip and jealousy among the guests.

Prince Charming and Cinderella dance joyfully together while the jealous Stepsisters demand attention of their own. The Prince and Cinderella finish their dance, gazing into each other's eyes. The Grand Waltz plays and all the guests are swept up in the moment. The Prince steals a kiss and the spell is broken. Cinderella flees from the ball before her stepsisters can recognize her. As she runs out, she drops one of her slippers.

### Act III

The Prince and the two Suitors set out to find Cinderella, travelling through the enchanted forest. Neither of the Suitors can resist the Fairies' magic and fall asleep. Prince Charming survives the Lead Fairy's test, proving his love for Cinderella. The Fairies point the way and he continues his search.

At Cinderella's house, Cinderella awakens in the kitchen, thinking it all a dream. When she realizes she is wearing the remaining beautiful slipper, she hastily hides the slipper in the flowerpot.

Cinderella's Stepsisters enter just having woken, feeling that they made quite an impression at the Ball. At the sight of Cinderella, they stop their musings and berate Cinderella for her shortcomings and lack of proper respect for her esteemed stepsisters.

The Prince arrives at the house and the Stepmother tries to hide Cinderella from view. The Stepsisters do everything they can to convince the Prince that there is no one else living at the house. The Stepsisters attempt to squeeze into the slipper and win the hand of the Prince, but to no avail. Cinderella runs to retrieve her remaining slipper and the Prince realizes he has found his match.

In love, Cinderella and her Prince dance together. The curtain closes on them content and at peace in each other's arms.

## The Cast

In order of appearance, program & cast subject to change.

CINDERELLA	Momoka Matsui
PRINCE	Omar Hernández
TALL STEPSISTER	Esther Zignaigo
SHORT STEPSISTER	Akari Fujiwara
STEP MOTHER	Bengt Jörgen
SUITOR 1	Adrián Ramírez Juárez
SUITOR 2	Callum McGregor
OLD LADY	Taisiia Zamula
LEAD FAIRY	Hannah Mae Cruddas
FAIRIES	Sakura Kawamura & Lydia-Laure Germain
*TREE FAIRIES & BALLROOM ATTENDANTS	Ella Brooks, Ava Nabseth, Sophie Soderberg, Zoey Mytron
COURTIERS WOMEN	Ana Zamora, Lydia-Laure Germain/Taisiia Zamula, Sakura Kawamura, Hannah Mae Cruddas
COURTIERS MEN	Hiroto Saito/Adam Davidson, Daniel Da Silva, Leandro Prado, Márcio Teixeira

*\*Local Youth Participant Role*

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Márcio Teixeira & Valentina Polanco;  
Photo by Kristie Jones.

## Meet Your Dancers



Hannah Mae Cruddas  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
Company Member  
since 2012



Daniel Da Silva  
São Paulo, Brazil  
Company Member  
since 2009



Adam Davidson  
Zephyr, Ontario  
Company Member  
since 2019



Márcio Teixeira  
São Caetano, Brazil  
Company Member  
since 2019



Ana Zamora  
Havana, Cuba  
Company Member  
since 2022



Esther Zignaigo  
Lima, Perú  
Company Member  
since 2021



Akari Fujiwara  
Nagoya, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2017



Lydia-Laure  
Germain Montréal,  
Québec Company  
Member since 2022



Omar Hernández  
Pinar del Rio, Cuba  
Company Member  
since 2022



Taisia Zamula  
Moscow, Russia  
Apprentice



Victoria Collier  
Georgia, USA  
Junior Company Member



Estelle Tang  
Hong Kong  
Junior Company Member



Adrián Ramírez Juárez  
Mexico City, Mexico  
Company Member  
since 2014



Sakura Kawamura  
Nagoya, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2022



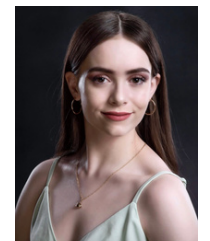
Momoka Matsui  
Fukuoka, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2015



Chabi Arauz  
Panama City, Panama  
Mentorship Student



Adrianna Cote  
Saskatoon,  
Saskatchewan  
Mentorship Student



Aria Lara Wilton  
Kingston, Ontario  
Mentorship  
Student



Callum McGregor  
Glasgow, Scotland  
Company Member  
since 2019



Leandro Prado  
Altamira, Pará,  
Brazil Company  
Member since 2016



Hiroto Saito  
Kobe, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2007



Clea Iveson  
Toronto, ON  
Principal Character Artist  
Company Member  
1992 - 2012



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## Production Credits

Choreography Bengt Jörgen, C.M.  
Additional Concept Development  
Donald Dawson  
Music Sergi Prokofiev  
Costume Design Robert Doyle  
Set & Lighting Design Glenn Davidson  
Scenic Carpentry Hamilton Scenic  
Specialty & Paragon Theme  
Trees The Rabbits Choice  
Drafting by Daniele Guevara  
Costume Design Robert Doyle  
Costumes Industry Costumes &  
Margaret Lamb  
Cutter/Costumer Kim Crossley  
Costume Construction Kamila Kayser,  
Gionilda Stolee, Elizabeth Copeman,  
Danica Gulin, Patricia McNally & Debbie  
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Lydia-Laure Germain~, Omar  
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Adrián Ramírez Juárez~, Sakura  
Kawamura  
Momoka Matsui~, Callum McGregor~,  
Leandro Prado, Hiroto Saito,  
Márcio Teixeira~, Ana Zamora,  
Esther Zignaigo  
Apprentices Taisiia Zamula  
Junior Company Members  
Victoria Collier, Ryusei Nagafuchi  
Estelle Tang, Taisiia Zamula,

Mentorship Students Chabi Arauz~,  
Adrianna Cote~, Aria Lara Wilton~  
Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson  
Resident Choreographer Hanna Kiel  
Resident Stage Director Heinar Pillar  
Production Manager Patrick Florin  
Resident Lighting Designer & Assistant  
Production Manager Madhu Seran  
Technical Director Jacob Gagnon  
Stage Manager Kayla Ado  
Wardrobe Supervisor Glenna Foerster  
Artistic Working Group Hannah Mae  
Cruddas, Daniel Da Silva & Hiroto Saito  
Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer  
~George Brown Dance Graduate

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Local Youth Participants:  
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Soderberg, Zoey Mytron

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Nicole Inica Hamilton, Dr. Lisa Liang,  
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Esther Zignaigo & Sakura Kawamura; Photo by Kristie Jones.

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All of our volunteers that made this production possible.

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160 Kendal Ave, Bldg. C, Rm. 126 Toronto, ON Canada M5R 1M3

Office: 416-961-4725 | Fax: 416-415-2865

info@balletjorgen.ca | jorgendance.ca

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