



Performance Notes for Contest of the Fairies

THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

1. Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom. Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
2. Students can perform the play in the classroom. Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
3. Students can perform the play on stage. Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



COSTUMES

- NARRATOR — Dressed to impress in nice clothes.
- FAIRIES-All FAIRIES — Bright colored leotards and tutus (or big skirts). To differentiate the FAIRIES, you can assign each fairy a specific color or colors. If possible, wings and glitter. You can buy costume wings, or make wings out of... You can sprinkle glitter on the wings, and anywhere else on the costume.
- CARRIAGE FAIRIES — The same attire that they wore as FAIRIES but with vests that say "FAIRYLAND CARRIAGE SERVICE". Vest can be made from paper bags (by cutting a neck hole in the closed end up the bag and arm holes on the sides), and the words can be done with bright paint and glitter. Decorate vests in any other way you'd like.
- 6 NURSEMAIDS — White aprons overtop their princess costumes. (They also play the role of the 6 PRINCESSES and the 6 WEDDING GUESTS- see below for those costumes.)
- PLUCKY PURPLE — A purple dress or outfit and a crown.



- CARING CHERRY — A bright red dress or outfit and a crown.
- FUNNY FUSCHIA — A fuchsia dress or outfit and a crown.
- BRAVE BLUE — A blue dress or outfit and a crown.
- WISE WINTERGREEN — A dark green dress or outfit and a crown.
- OUTGOING ORANGE — An orange dress or outfit and a crown.

*Note: 6 PRINCESSES all wear crowns. You can buy crowns or make them out of construction paper.

- 6 BEES — Yellow shirts and black shorts or pants, to be worn under other costumes. (BEES also play FAIRIES and CARRIAGE FAIRIES so it may be easiest to wear the BEE costume as the bottom layer). Antenna headbands, made by wrapping pipe cleaners around headbands.
- PRINCE MILIFOR — A crown, a cape, a dress shirt and black pants. Adds a tie and pins a flower to his cape for the wedding in Scene 6. To make this easy, stagehands can bring on a clip-on tie and a clip-on flower, and assist with putting them on.
- KING LOUIS — A sleeping gown for Scene 2, which can be worn over his other costume. For the rest of the play, a crown, red robe, dark pants, and dark shoes.
- KING HENRY — A sleeping gown for Scene 2, which can be worn over his other costume. For the rest of the play, a crown, red robe, dark pants, and dark shoes.
- QUEEN LOUISE — A robe or nightgown in Scene 2, which can be worn over her other costume. For the rest of the play, a crown and a red robe over a long dress.
- QUEEN HENRIETTA — A robe or nightgown in Scene 2, which can be worn over her other costume. For the rest of the play, a crown and a red robe over a long dress.
- PRINCESS ROSANELLA — A dark pink dress and a crown. Adds a veil and for the wedding in Scene 6. To make this easy, a stagehand can bring on a clip-in veil and assist with putting it on.
- WEDDING GUESTS — Nice, somewhat “dressy” clothes. There should be enough time to have them change out of their princess costumes into another costume. If so, 3 MALE WEDDING GUESTS can wear black or brown pants and a light colored button-up shirt and 3 FEMALE WEDDING GUESTS can wear light colored dress or outfit. If not, they can wear new costume over top, OR just add new pieces to their



princess costume to make it obvious it is a different character. If it makes things easier, they can all be FEMALE WEDDING GUESTS.

- PAINTER — A white oversized shirt, with a large bow tied under the collar and a beret, if possible.



PROPS

Scene 1

- A large cup and popcorn bucket for FAIRY SPARKLE. You can make these out of cardboard. They do not have to be 3D, as long as one side is painted to look like the item- you can paint both red and white.

Scene 2

- 2 blankets and 4 pillows to cover the beds.
- 2 hairbrushes, one for each QUEEN.
- A pink rose in a vase to place on QUEEN LOUISE'S night table. You can use a cup (no glass on stage) and make a flower out of pipe cleaners and construction paper.
- Two candles- one for each KING to blow out. If you have access to fake LED candles, you can use these. When the KINGS each leans over to blow out their candle, they can flip the switch to turn the candle off.
If you don't have LED candles, you can make candles out of construction paper and flashlights. Wrap white or yellow construction paper around a flashlight. Cut out a hole for the flashlight on-off switch. When it's time to blow out the candle, the KINGS can just turn of their flashlights.
- Two scrolls- one for each KING to read. These can be made from white or brown construction paper.

Scene 3

- A handkerchief for QUEEN LOUISE to use.
- 6 baskets. Each basket has a different colored blanket or piece of fabric draped over the sides of it. The blanket colors should correspond to the names of the princesses just as their dresses do. See costume notes.

Scene 4

- Wind chimes to be heard offstage.
- A large carriage. This can be cut out from a large piece or several pieces of cardboard. Draw the shape of a carriage, making sure to draw out where the window will be. Cut the carriage out, and cut the window out.



Note: The cut-out should be big enough so that FAIRY CONSTANCE and FAIRY FLIGHT can walk on the back side of it and be seen through the window cut-out.

Attach handles at the front end and back end so it can be carried by the 4 CARRIAGE FAIRIES. You can duct tape broom handles on the backside of the carriage that no one will see. 2 FAIRIES carry the handles at the front and 2 FAIRIES carry the handles at the back.

Cut wheels out of cardboard and attach to the bottom of the carriage.

Paint the carriage any color you want, and add anything else you'd like to fancy it up. Below is an example of a shape and style you could make:



Scene 5

- Wind chimes to be heard offstage.

Scene 6

- Streamers and flowers to decorate the garden with. These can be brought on by WEDDING GUESTS and/or stagehands, and taped to the fountain and the bench. Another option is to have WEDDING GUESTS or stagehands hold up the banner(s).
- Optional: Cardboard cut-out of carriage from scene 4 with banner that reads “Head of Fairyland” draped across it.
- Two wedding gifts, one for FAIRY DAISY and one for FAIRY ROSE. These can be small boxes wrapped in nice paper with a bow.



SETS

To make scene changes easy, the stage can be divided in two. One half of the stage will be the castle bedrooms. Divide this side into two sections, one for KING LOUIS and QUEEN LOUISE and one for KING HENRY and QUEEN HENRIETTA.

The other half of the stage is the royal garden.

You can make a backdrop to show the different locations, or just rely on the set pieces. Scene one, Fairyland, will take place at the front of the stage, in front of the other set pieces.

- **Scene 1** – Fairyland is indicated by 4 mushroom stools, which FAIRIES sit on. They are placed in front of the other sets.
 - The stools can be made covering milk crates with brown construction paper on the sides and brightly colored pillows on top.
 - Optional: A few small bushes and/or trees made from cardboard. You can put them in flower pots so that they will stand and be scene.
 - Note: At the end of Scene 1, the mushroom stools and greenery is removed. They can be taken off by the fairies as they exit, or stagehands can help when scene is done.

- **Scene 2** – One half of the stage is the two royal bedrooms, each represented by a bed and a nightstand next to the bed. You can use a small table as a nightstand. You can use chairs and milk crates to make the beds. You will need four chairs and four crates altogether. (You can use the same crates from the previous scene if it's not too difficult. Stagehands or FAIRIES can move the crates at the end of Scene 1 to their place in front of the chairs, covering them with the bedding.)
 - For each bed, push two chairs together and place two crates in front of them, ottoman-style. Cover the chairs and crates in some blankets/sheets or some type of fabric. Place pillows and a blanket on top. Do this for both bedrooms.
 - On QUEEN LOUISE'S side, there is also another small table. There is a brush and a vase with a pink rose on the table.
 - Optional: A stonewall backdrop. You can make this by dipping sponges in gray paint and stamping a piece of cardboard. You can make the two bedrooms have slightly different backdrops.
 - Note: To give the affect of two separate bedrooms, you can angle each



“bed” out, away from the other one. You can also make a short divider out of cardboard to place in between the two “beds”.

- **Scene 3** – The other half of the stage is the Royal Garden. A cardboard cutout of a water fountain sits in the center, with a bench in front of it.

Optional: Cardboard cutouts of flowering bushes. You can put them in flower pots so that they will stand and be scene. If you make bushes and trees for Scene 1, you can use them here as well. Have stagehands move them from the front of the stage to the garden after Scene 1.

Note: In this scene, the 6 NURSEMAIDS will place the baskets in a semi circle in front of the QUEEN, who will be sitting on the bench. To make the placement of the baskets easier, tape the spots where each one will go, in the order that they will be brought on. You can use a small piece of masking tape on the floor and use a marker to put the corresponding color on the tape, so that each NURSEMAID will know where to put their basket.

- **Scene 4** – Royal Garden, same as previous scene.

Optional: In order to show the passing of time, and to show the overall despair in the Kingdom, you can replace the greenery and flowering plants with browning and flowerless plants. One way to do this would be to hide the browning/flowerless plants behind the fountain until the end of Scene 3. Stagehands can come on and swap out the plants, or actors can do so before they exit. Another way to do this would be to make cardboard plants green and flowering on one side, and brown/flowerless on the other. Stagehands can come on at the end of Scene 3 and turn the plants around, or actors can do so before they exit.

- **Scene 5** – Royal Garden, same as previous scene.

- **Scene 6** – Royal Garden, same as previous scene. Decorations are brought on for the wedding. (See prop notes.)

Note: If you swapped out the plants for Scene 4, change them back to the green/flowering plants for this scene. Stagehands or WEDDING GUESTS can do this right before Scene 6.