

The Princess and the Pea - Pre-show Notes

Prepared by Stephanie Phang and Eleanor Ee for Singapore Repertory Theatre

Introduction

Welcome to this introduction to *The Princess and the Pea*, an interactive children's musical presented by Singapore Repertory Theatre's The Little Company.

The audio described performance is at 2:30pm on Friday, 8 November, and runs for about 57 minutes with no interval. The touch tour will begin at 1.15pm. Please aim to arrive fifteen minutes before the tour. The audio description will be delivered through the Sennheiser MobileConnect app on your phone. Please download the app ahead of time and bring your own earphones. Your audio describers will be Stephanie Phang and Eleanor Ee.

Synopsis

You think you know the story of The Princess and the Pea? Well think again! It's time to tell the REAL story!

When a bedraggled princess arrives at the palace seeking a bed for the night, the Queen decides to use the Princess Pea Test to ensure she has the ideal princess attributes before allowing her to marry her lovesick son. But this princess is not your typical princess! Instead of spending the night tossing and turning on a mountain of mattresses, she is out beating baddies, defeating dragons, and rewriting fairytale endings.

But the princess has yet to confront her biggest, greenest foe yet—the PEA, a rogue computer that refuses to believe princesses can be heroes or that 'happily ever after' can be redefined. With the prince's inventions and the queen's support, the trio works together, learning not to judge a book by its cover, discover heroes in unexpected forms, and with the support of friends, rewrite their story to create their own happy endings.

Filled with catchy songs, colourful characters, and a ninja fighting princess, *The Princess and the Pea* is a modern musical re-telling of Hans Christian Andersen's well-loved story full of action-packed adventures and epic escapades.

Creative Credits

The Princess and the Pea is directed by Daniel Jenkins.

The writer is Rachel Barnett-Jones.

The composer is Holly Mallett.

The choreographer is Gaby Rae.

The production designer is Laura McEwen.

The sound designer is Teo Wee Boon.

Dorothy Png is the Lighting Designer.

Cast, Characters, and Costumes

The show features three cast members playing out the three main characters. In the initial introduction scene, the actors first appear as storytellers, or narrators, before changing into their main costumes.

The Princess is played by Cheryl Ho. As a storyteller, we first see her in an orange T-shirt with royal blue accents and brown shorts with maroon and cream suspenders. She also has on bright neon yellow and blue striped leggings and red combat boots. As Princess, she puts on a two toned purple floor length princess gown with puffy sleeves, white lace trim and a gold belt and collar over her storyteller outfit. Later, this purple gown is deconstructed to become a sleeveless, knee length dress with a tutu skirt comprising pink and yellow layers of tulle fabric. She also sometimes sports a shiny, multi-coloured superhero cape that is bright orange, blue and red with a yellow star on its back.

The Prince is played by Andrew Marko. As a storyteller, he first appears in a two tone green striped T-shirt, khaki shorts with a medium brown trim, brown and white striped suspenders, dark purple leggings and a pair of brown boots. As the Prince, we see him mainly in a long sleeved forest green top with a gold collar and accents along the buttons, sleeves and shoulders. There is a red velvet sash with a gold embroidered crown that runs from his left shoulder to right hip. He also has on gold pants with red trimming, a black leather belt with a gold buckle and the same leggings and boots as before.

The Queen is played by Daisy Mitchell. As narrator, she first appears in a light purple T-shirt with red trimming, navy and purple panel shorts with yellow trimming, yellow and black striped suspenders, bright red leggings and deep green boots. As Queen, she dons a large maroon velvet crown that is bejeweled and trimmed with black and white spotted fur. She mainly wears a black and white checkered puffy sleeved top with a red high collar, a gold and red panel in the front and red accents at the sleeves and shoulders. Besides the red leggings and dark green boots from before, she also has on a pair of red and gold patterned silk brocade pants and a red apron with gold embroidered details like a crown and the initials HRH, which stand for Her Royal Highness.

Other characters include Squirrel and Bunny, the Princess' friends who appear as gray, furry puppets and P.E.A, the Plot Extraction Assistant computer invented by the Prince.

Set and Setting

The Princess and the Pea is set mainly in the Queen's castle. As the story of the princess unfolds, the characters move between the different rooms of the castle - the main entrance, library, bedroom and laboratory. They also venture outside to the castle garden and forest near the castle. The set pieces are in a 2D paper cutout style, which open up to reveal different locations of the castle.

Five large panels line up across the back of the stage, layered with bright orange, pink and blue cutout set pieces that double up as both trees and entrances. The outline of the cutout set pieces can light up in different colours.

In front of the outermost panels on the left and right are two large shelves shaped like a castle door with an archway on top. These shelves can open up to transform into different rooms of the castle, such as a laboratory and a library. The panel next to these shelves have corridors that are entrances for the characters to enter and exit through. The center panel has a door that can slide up, and works as the main door to the castle. It has two hidden square windows, one at the top centre and the other at the middle left of the door, which can also become a peephole for the characters.

The set is framed by two 2D tree set pieces on either side. The tree on the left has a hidden square window above its lowest branch, only big enough for two hand puppets to fit within. Characters can enter and exit the space behind this set piece.

The tree on the right is movable, and can be shifted to the center to become a tree in the garden or the forest.

There are certain moments in the forest which incorporate shadow puppetry. When this happens, a white cloth is extended from the tree on the left to the tree in the center, to form a white screen for the shadow to be projected on.

Setting 1: Main Entrance

A cutout chandelier appears at the top of the set, with the outline of the cutout set pieces lit up in warm colours. At night, stars also appear at the top of the set.

Setting 2: Bedroom

A bed is wheeled out of the entrance of the second panel from the right to transform the set into a bedroom. The bed has a fuzzy maroon blanket, pillow and skirting across the bottom. A red chest is attached to the foot of the bed. Mattresses are added to the bed as the play progresses.

Setting 3: Library

The shelf in front of the outermost panel on the right opens up into a library, with cardboard cutouts of books lined across the shelves. A sign saying library is dropped on top of the library shelf. A short red ladder and two short orange rectangular bookshelves are rolled out. On top of the shorter bookshelf is a circular green computer-like contraption labelled P.E.A., which has small light bulbs surrounding its green center that light up, and wheels, gears and buttons attached to the top.

Setting 4: Laboratory

The shelf in front of the outermost panel on the left opens up into a laboratory. Buttons, cables, gears, test-tubes and musical instruments line the inside of this shelf. Some of the buttons can light up and make sounds when pressed.

Access Information

SRT aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.

For accessible booking options, please contact us at 6733 8166 from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

The nearest parking options are Robertson Quay Hotel, located at 15 Merbau Road, Singapore 239032, opposite the theatre's front door, or the Robertson Walk Carpark at 11 Unity Street, Singapore 237995.

For Public Transport options, the nearest Bus Stop is B13211.

The nearest MRT stations are Clarke Quay (NE5), on the Northeast Line and Fort Canning (DT20) on the Downtown Line.

KC Arts Centre, the home of SRT, is guide dog friendly. It is also accessible for wheelchair use from both the front and rear entrances. There is currently 1 wheelchair space on row Q in the theatre stalls.

If you require a wheelchair space, or would like to understand more about transferring options, please contact our venue team via email at boxoffice@srt.com.sg or call 6733 8166.

We at SRT look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!

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