

“Snow White” Audio Description

Pre-Show Notes

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SHOW INFORMATION

Snow White is a pantomime theatre show based on a Brothers Grimm fairy tale from 1812. There have been many stage adaptations of Snow White including a 1969 musical adapted from the 1937 Disney movie, and a pantomime production in 2011. Bonnie Lythgoe Productions first hosted a production of Snow White in July 2014.

Set in an enchanted kingdom called Sydonia, Snow White is born to the king & his wife. After her birth parents die, her aunt, Grismalda becomes the queen and strips Snow White of her royal status. Fearing Snow White will become queen if she marries a prince, Grismalda sets out a plan for Snow White to die as she after she takes refuge in the forest.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director and Executive Producer – Bonnie Lythgoe

Writer, Executive Producer and Head of Production – Christopher Wood

Choreographer – Neale Whittaker

Musical Directors – Nigel Hogg and Olly Ashmore

Head of Wardrobe – Jennifer Hall

Lighting Designer – Christopher Wilcox

Stage Manager – Jessica Twells

SET AND PROPS

The Riverside Theatre is a traditional proscenium arch venue, with 761 seats across three levels: the stalls, the circle and the gallery. The architectural design is based on the common European Opera House concept to provide a warm, intimate and live performance space. The stage is approximately 12 metres wide by 5 metres deep and is raised above the audience floor level.

Before the show starts, a transparent curtain with sparkling circles all over it covers the space. This will be known as the gauze. A black curtain is behind this before the show begins. The show title & stars are projected onto it.

Snow White takes place in an enchanted kingdom with various settings including a palace & forest. Most of the scenes have a different backdrop which is flown in from above.

Sydonia Village

The backdrop here is the view from the edge of the forest through the village. At the very back is a mountain range, grass plains and a river in the centre. Moving forward, the royal palace is located up on a plateau on the left, with a smaller castle on the right at ground level. A row of pine trees surround the plateau & smaller castle. At the front is a two story house on the left and a cottage on the right split by a dirt path. In front of the backdrop are tall green trees on either side.

Palace Corridors

At the top of this backdrop is a semi-circular roof with baby angels on clouds in the sky painted on it. On each side are two purple marble columns separated by arches in front of a white wall. In the centre is a set of open double doors.

Forest

There are two settings for the forest. The edge, and deep. For the forest edge backdrop, there is a lake in centre with trees, flowers & shrubs surrounding it. For the Ghostbusters scene, a wooden bench is located in the centre of the space.

For the deep forest, the backdrop is dimly lit trees with a dirt path weaving between them. At the base of the trees are small flowers and green grass.

Queens Chamber

The backdrop here looks down towards a staircase leading up to a door. There are two levels here. The upper level has cross patterned fences with arched windows behind them, while the lower level has red curtains with gold hem along the wall. Stretching from the ground to the arched roof are a series of white marble columns in front of the walls.

In front of the backdrop are four more white marble columns, each separated by a marble arch with grey bricks around them. There is a total of three arches. In the final scene, a long wooden box is located on the left of the space. The box has white veils and pink roses on the sides & a white pillow on the top.

CHARACTERS & COSTUMES

Snow White

Snow White, played by Eliza Sunderland, is a princess who loses her mother at a young age and later lives in exile from her aunt, Queen Grismalda. She has wavy, chest length brown hair with a red head band, and wears a blue bodice top with red ovals on the sleeves, over a yellow knee-length dress, and black high heeled shoes. At the start of the show, over her right shoulder, she wears a purple sash with blue jewels in the centre & gold braids on the end. When assigned as a maid, she wears a yellow apron over her dress and uses a straw broom with a wooden handle.

Prince Sebastian

Prince Sebastian, played by Tim Maddren, comes from Melbournia and is in search of a wife. He has short brown hair and wears a purple coat with a white floral pattern & gold braided stitching at the cuffs & down the lapel with gold buttons. The jacket is worn over a white long sleeve shirt and jabot, tan trousers, tall white socks & black shoes.

Queen Grismalda

Queen Grismalda, played by Debora Krizak, is the wicked villain of the story and rules over the kingdom with an iron fist. She has shoulder length blonde hair held back by gold tiara with black jewels. In most scenes, she wears a long, purple & black jacket with a raised collar & black torso band, a matching skirt with open front over black trousers & black high heeled shoes.

Other costumes for the queen are a white dressing gown over a short black dress & stockings when seducing the prince. In act two, she disguises herself as a crone where she carries a black full body robe with hood over a black dress. Here she carries a woven basket with red apples in it.

Muddles

Muddles, played by Mark Jones, is the queen's court jester and a close friend of Snow White. He has short brown hair and wears a yellow shirt with white stars, red & yellow striped trousers held up with red braces, white and blue striped socks & multi coloured sneakers. In the finale, he also wears a multi-coloured quilted jacket.

Chambers

Chambers, played by Barry Pearl, is of the queen's servants. He has white hair and glasses, and wears a white jabot and black vest with gold outlines over a white long sleeve shirt, black trousers and black shoes

Magic Mirror

The magic mirror flies in from above in the palace scenes and hangs two metres above the ground in the centre. The mirror's shape is a two-metre-tall rectangle with an oval shaped bronze frame. The frame has a square in each corner and a gold emblem in the centre of each side. The mirror has two personalities, enchanted and disgruntled. Enchanted Mirror, played by Sir Cliff Richard, wears a white suit with a light gold tie and has a blue background with stars. Disgruntled Mirror, played by Kyle Sandilands, has grey hair parted to the right & wears a black shirt. He is in front of a red background with flames.

The Seven Courtiers

They are the equivalent of the seven dwarfs in the Disney film. The seven courtiers were loyal to Snow White's birth parents, but later banished to the forest by Queen Grismalda. Their names are Alejandro, Blusher, Dozy, Grouchy, Noisy, Skipper and Smiler. They all wear different coloured vests and shorts over a white long sleeve shirt, tall white socks & black shoes. Some of them also wear a beanie on her head. In act one, they each carry a silver lantern.

Before the courtiers are introduced, they are townspeople with a different coloured shirt under their vests.

Female Ensemble

There are three female ensemble members who switch rolls depending on the scene to back up the main characters. As townspeople, they wear a dress of a single colour, blue, yellow & pink. As backing vocalists in Only You, they each wear a full body black leotard with a red belt. In Hall of Mirrors, they each wear a purple dress over their black leotards and hold a square mirror with a black frame.

– End of pre-show notes –