



NEW MEXICO YOUNG ACTORS

present

Enchanted Sleeping Beauty

Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur

Book by Vera Morris

TEACHER STUDY GUIDE

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to New Mexico Young Actors' production of *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty*. We are offering this study guide to help you prepare your classes for our upcoming production and your experience at the theater. Included in this guide are a **synopsis** of the musical, a **list of characters**, a **vocabulary list** and **curriculum ideas**, and some **audience protocol** reminders.

We always enjoy hearing from you and your students and look forward to receiving any pictures, stories, or comments about the production after your field trip. Thank you for your support of New Mexico Young Actors. We look forward to seeing you at the KiMo Theatre!

SYNOPSIS

Our story opens in the fairytale kingdom of Never Nod, with the announcement of the recent birth of **Princess Briar-Rose**, to **King Rudolph** and **Queen Eleanor**. The **Minstrel**, **Lady Jessica**, and **Baroness** are spreading the good news to all the citizens of the royal kingdom, in the opening number, "Hear Ye."

Back at the castle, Queen Eleanor is giving a flurry of instructions to her personal assistant, **Quill**, about all the details of the party they will be throwing in honor of the birth of the Princess. The **King** and **Prime Minister** join in planning the all-important guest list, which will of course include invitations to the **Wise Witches** and **Wise Wizards** of the kingdom. The royal **Chef** shares his extravagant plans for the feast. The royal **Nursemaid** is delighted to share how advanced and intelligent the two-week old baby Princess already is. All is going well – until the Chef reports that one of the royal golden plates has gone missing! There are only six golden plates, and seven wise witches and wizards! One will have to be excluded. The Prime Minister quickly announces that **Evilina** will not be invited to the party, since he never liked or trusted her anyway!

Now we meet Evilina at Tumbledown Castle, flanked by her two familiars, the **Black Cat** and **Spider**. She's not very likeable, and even her helpers seem to barely tolerate her. She realizes she hasn't been invited to the party for the Princess, and she decides to crash it! She vows to give a gift to the Princess that will ensure the kingdom never forgets who Evilina is again!

At the party for the Princess, we meet **Queen Samantha**, of the neighboring kingdom, who has also just given birth to royal offspring. Her son, **Prince Alexander**, will one day marry Princess Briar-Rose. All six good witches and wizards arrive, and each bestow a special gift on the Princess. Everyone is heading to the birthday feast when lightning and thunder strike, announcing the unexpected arrival of Evilina. She curses the baby, casting a spell that will cause her to prick her finger on a spinning wheel spindle on her 16th birthday and die!

To save the Princess, the Prime Minister instructs the **Baron** to destroy all spinning wheels in the kingdom, and the **Seamstress** is brought in, so that all clothing can be mended by hand! The good witches and wizards also work together to change the curse from that of death to sleep. If the Princess does prick her finger on the spinning wheel, she will merely sleep, and the rest of the castle with her, until the kiss of true love breaks the spell.

Sixteen years pass. The Princess is now grown up, and we see that she and Prince Alexander love each other and are excited to be wed. Evilina hasn't forgotten her curse, and arranges to have the last spinning wheel in the kingdom magically transported to the castle on Princess Briar-Rose's 16th birthday. Tired of being pent up in the castle, and deeply curious about the world outside the castle walls, Princess Briar-Rose gives in to her curiosity when an old crone (really, Evilina in disguise) invites her to try out the mysterious spinning wheel in the tower. She pricks her finger, and falls into a deep sleep, as do all the other members of the royal kingdom. The good witches and wizards must locate Prince Alexander (who is under a spell too, cursed by Evilina to believe he's a frog) and tell him it is his duty to wake the Princess!

On his way to wake her with the kiss of true love, Prince Alexander must fight several apparitions conjured by Evilina – the **Wall of Thorns**, a **False Princess**, and the fearsome **Dark Knight**. Finally, he prevails. He kisses the Princess, she wakes, and all of the kingdom awakes. They all live happily ever after, except for Evilina, who storms off to make mischief elsewhere!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Minstrel: The royal musician of Never Nod

Baroness: A lady of the court

Lady Jessica: Another lady of the court

Queen Eleanor: Queen of Never Nod, mother to our heroine

Quill: The queen's fast-moving, extremely efficient secretary

King Rudolph: King of Never Nod, father of our heroine

Prime Minister: Court advisor, an overbearing, bossy old man

Chef: An overly emotional cook of the court

Nursemaid: The princess's caretaker who dotes on her every move

Evilina: The bad witch, delighted by her own evilness

Spider: Evilina's trusty sidekick

Black Cat: Evilina's other sidekick

Queen Samantha: Queen of the neighboring kingdom and mother to our hero

Baron: A loyal soldier of the king

Blue Witch: A good and wise personage. The leader of the other wise ones

Green Witch: A good and wise personage

Red Witch/Wizard: A good and wise personage

Orange Wizard: A good and wise personage

Pink Witch: A good and wise personage

White Witch: A good and wise personage

Seamstress: Her life is needle and thread

Princess Briar-Rose: Our heroine; lovely both inside and out

Prince Alexander: Gallant hero who is in love with Briar-Rose

Wall of Thorns: A magical wall of thorns that tries to stop Prince Alexander

False Princess: A ghostly mirage who attempts to entrap the prince

Dark Knight: A fierce warrior who fights the Prince

CONTENT VOCABULARY AND TERMS

Cherish

Delicacies

Foretold

Gracious

Hag

Insight

Monarch

Proclamation

Realm

Scholarly

Shrewd

Spindle

Spinning Wheel

Suitable

Vengeance

THEATRICAL TERMS TO KNOW

Actor
Acts/Scenes
Balcony
Box Office
Curtain Call
Costumes
Director
Lobby
Musical Theater
Orchestra
Pit

Overture
Play
Playwright
Producer
Program
Props
Scenery/Set
Stage
Stagehand
Usher

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION (PRE-PERFORMANCE)

1. How many of you have experienced a live dramatic performance? What did you see?
2. What are some of the differences between seeing a live performance and watching television or going to a movie?

- Theater features live actors on-stage. They have spent many weeks rehearsing for the performance.

- The audience is a very important part of the performance. Appreciation and enthusiasm for the performers is shown by close attention and participation and applause at the proper times. The success of the play often depends on the audience.

- The atmosphere of a live performance is entirely different from your home, where the television is always available.

- It is easy to identify with live actors. You can see how they use their bodies and voices to convey different emotions.

- Actors wear costumes and make-up to help create the impression of the characters they play.

- There is much more to most live performances than actors. Special sets, effects, lighting, music, costumes, and of course, the audience add to the total experience.

THEATER ETIQUETTE

Discuss the role of the audience and proper theater etiquette.

Arrive on time so that you do not miss anything and so that you will not disturb the rest of the audience. Lights may go out before the performance begins and seating is very difficult after that time.

The KiMo Theatre is a historic building. Please respect and preserve the beauty of the KiMo by not bringing food and beverages (including gum and candy) into the theater. These items are permitted in the lobby only.

It is easier for you (and the rest of the audience) to see and hear the performance if you stay in your seat and listen very carefully. Try your best to remain in your seat once the performance has begun.

There is no intermission during the performance of *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty*, which is one hour and fifteen minutes in length.

Although you may wish to say something to the actors, you need to hold your thoughts, as you will disturb their concentration. Sing or participate if and only if you are invited to do so. Your participation is often very important.

Listen to how the music sets the mood and affects your own feelings. Show the cast and crew your appreciation for their hard work with applause. Do this when you like a song, dance, or joke.

Be sure to turn off all electronic devices and cell phones. Do not text during the performance. This is very inconsiderate to the performers and distracting to your fellow audience members.

CLASSROOM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (PRE- or POST-PERFORMANCE)

- Read aloud or listen to an audio version of the original fairytale, *Sleeping Beauty*. How does the musical differ from the story in prose? What are similarities?
- Create a “talk show” as a class. Have students act as journalists interviewing characters from the story. Ask questions you have always wanted to ask of Evilina, Princess Briar-Rose, or Prince Alexander.
- Create a class mural of the musical. Include scenes from the story such as the castle of Never Nod, Tumbledown Castle, the tower with the spinning wheel.
- Draw a picture of a favorite scene or character.

- Re-create the castle using clay forms in a box or using cardboard. Label the locations that are featured in the story.
- Draw an advertisement or program cover for the musical.
- Ask the students to identify musical instruments that they heard in the musical. Discuss other instruments that could have been added for greater effect.
- Can you identify any recurring musical themes or motives in the music?
- How did the music express the action or emotion of the story (tempo, volume, range of notes, etc.)?
- Discuss how dance adds to the storytelling of a musical.
- Schedule a movie day and show one of the classic *Sleeping Beauty* films. Compare and contrast the film and the musical.

OTHER RESOURCES

Children's Books

Sleeping Beauty by Adèle Geras

Sleeping Beauty by Margaret Early

Sleeping Beauty by Cynthia Rylant

Sleeping Beauty by Alison Sage

Internet

Access the free online collection of books at the Gutenberg Project, for downloadable versions:

The Fairytales of Charles Perrault

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/29021>

The Sleeping Beauty by C.S. Evans

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/25451>

The Sleeping Beauty and Other Fairy Tales from the Old French

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/51275>

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