



MERRYLAND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
DRAMA CLUB 2025 – 2026
ELLA IN THE CINDERS

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION OF THE FEMALE CHARACTERS

ELLA: Though no one notices her beneath her rags and quiet demeanour, she is opinionated, charismatic, passionate, beautiful, and funny. Idealistic and hopeful, she courageously challenges the prince to change the policies in his kingdom – and helps him discover who he truly is. Always her late father's daughter, she is determined to see the good in everyone despite her hardships and suffering. We see her blossom into a confident woman.

MADAME: Ella's selfish step-mother. The epitome of vanity and fashion. A ravenous social climber who values wealth, status, and material possessions above all else. Unapologetically dismissive and sometimes cruel, Madame schemes her way up the social ladder.

MARIE/ FAIRY GOD MOTHER: A friend to Ella and the town's resident crazy lady and beggar woman, Marie is a fairy godmother in disguise. Wise, warm, otherworldly, and charming. Marie rewards Ella for her kindness by making her dreams a possibility.

CHARLOTTE: Ella's step-sister and daughter of Madame. Brash, self-centred, materialistic, snooty, loud, sassy, and bratty, she has a ridiculously high, but unfounded opinion of herself. She never passes up an opportunity to be the centre of attention.

GABRIELLE: Ella's step-sister and daughter of Madame. Encouraged by her mother and sister to value material wealth and social status, she unenthusiastically joins them in their abrasive behaviour. Quietly passionate, empathetic, and witty, she is drawn to Ella and Jean-Michel. Ironically aware that she doesn't fit in.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION OF THE MALE CHARACTERS

TOPHER: A misguided and lost prince who longs to do something important with his life. Though brave and heroic, he feels lonely and unfulfilled. Charming but NOT a stereotypical ladies' man, he is thoughtful, appealing and innocent – with an unforced goofy streak. Moral, genuine, and kind-hearted, he is at a crossroads and must take control of his kingdom and his future.

SEBASTIAN: The kingdom's Lord Chancellor. Though he is Topher's trusted advisor, he is devious and selfish. Using propaganda and dishonesty, he keeps Topher isolated and in the dark about his kingdom. Sebastian rules without regard for the lower class, or anyone other than himself – and truly believes he deserves to rule the kingdom.

JEAN-MICHEL: A feisty, passionate peasant determined to make a change for the starving class. Impetuous. A firebrand, but lacks authority and isn't taken seriously as a revolutionary. Has a crush on Gabrielle, though their courtship is forbidden because they are from different social classes.

Cinderella

The protagonist of the story, usually portrayed as kind, gentle, and mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters. She dreams of attending the royal ball and finding true love.

Script:

"Oh, how I dream of a life beyond these dusty walls. A life filled with laughter, love, and dancing at the royal ball. Despite the hardships, my heart remains hopeful, yearning for a chance to find true happiness. With every step I take, I believe that dreams can come true. And so, I sing, 'A dream is a wish your heart makes,' and hope that someday, my dreams will lead me to my happily ever after."

Song:

When will my life begin from Tangled <https://youtu.be/kRXmAIHYQR4>

Prince Charming

The dashing and charming prince who falls in love with Cinderella at the ball. He is usually portrayed as noble, brave, and determined to find the girl who fits the glass slipper.

Script:

"In my kingdom, I search for the one who will capture my heart. A lady of grace, beauty, and a spirit that shines brighter than the stars. I am determined to find her, for my heart longs for true love. With courage in my stride, I invite all the maidens to the grand ball, where destiny may reveal her face. Will you join me on this quest for love, and dance your way into my heart?"

Song:

Against all odds <https://youtu.be/CEdoVTr47uc>

Fairy Godmother / Marie

A magical character who helps Cinderella by transforming her rags into a beautiful gown, providing a carriage, and ensuring she attends the ball. The Fairy Godmother is typically portrayed as wise, kind, and with a touch of whimsy.

Script:

"Behold, for I am the Fairy Godmother, the weaver of dreams and the bringer of magic. In a world filled with sorrow, I offer hope and transformation. With a flick of my wand, I can turn pumpkins into carriages and rags into gowns. But remember, true beauty lies within, and it is the power of kindness and love that can change lives. Will you let me guide you through a world where dreams come true?"

Song:

A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zye-4GGANzw&list=RDZye-4GGANzw&start_radio=1

AUDITION LINES:

Ella (Cinderella)

(To the Prince's men who are trying to take Crazy Marie) No! Please don't harm her! Good sirs, that is merely Crazy Marie. She lives in the woods and comes to town only to gather what others throw away. She is gentle in every way. Sweet and delicate, but nuts. *(The prince and his men wave goodbye as they exit)* Thank you! Goodbye! *(To Crazy Marie)* What?! Marie, that cannot be! I cannot believe THAT was Prince Topher! That man? A world leader? But he appears to have a heart, mind, and soul...it can't be. Marie, you're crazy.

Madame (Wicked Step-Mother)

CINDERELLA! Come finish Charlotte's corset! Then we must move on to Gabrielle's hair. I fear it is beginning to look like a Bavarian pretzel. Cinderella! Cinderell- *(Stops and chuckles throughout)* Cinderella. It IS a most amusing name. I crack myself up. She sits by the cinders of the fire, and her name is Ella. So, I call her Cinder-ella. *(Becomes overcome with laughter, then says in her sigh)* Why don't I have any friends? *(Thinks slowly)* I suppose I *am* well-versed in the art of ridicule. I *do* have a flair for it, don't I, *actual* daughters? Watch and learn! Cinderella, hurry, get dressed, get ready for the ball, you're going to find a husband! *(Cracks up again)* Ridicule! Who caught it?!

Marie (Fairy Godmother)

And as promised, in our laughter... glass slippers. *(MARIE holds up the glass shoes, places them on the ground, and ELLA eases into them.)* But Cinderella—I must tell you—all this magic is very powerful, but it will end at midnight tonight. Now go—to the ball. In the name of every girl who has ever wished to go to a ball in a beautiful dress. In the name of every girl who has ever wanted to change the world she lived in. Go! With the promise of possibility!

Charlotte (Wicked Step-Sister)

(Dancing with Prince Topher at the masked ball but does not know it is him) So, which one is he? You know, the Prince? You see, I've got marrying royalty on my mind. So, which one is he...certainly not YOU. You're not a prince. You're...ordinary. I mean, we're doing a gavotte and you can't even keep the beat. When we get to the waltz, you're gonna trip over your two left feet and land on your flat little bottom. End of discussion. *(Steps away)* I've moved on. *(Her mother pulls her off to the side and whispers in her ear that she was just dancing with the Prince)* You're kidding! *(Sarcastically)* Well THANKS FOR THE HEADS UP!

Gabrielle (Step-Sister)

Let me help you with that. *(Grabs Ella's hand)* Your hand is so callused and rough from work. Just like the hand of the woman I shook this evening. Who danced with the prince. *(Gasps)* It was you tonight, wasn't it? It WAS you! How did you dance in glass shoes? Please - don't be angry with me. I promise I will never tell Madame or Charlotte! And I will confess a secret to you. I never loved the Prince. Or even liked him. There's someone else that I want. Well, Madame hates him, which makes things...difficult of course. Listen...if I promise to keep your secret of the Prince, can you keep my secret of my forbidden love? It's Jean-Michel. The firebrand. He wants to change the world and make it a better place. You gotta love a guy like that!

AUDITION LINES:

Prince Topher

(in a confused, slightly bewildered tone): Married? That's just silly. How would I even find a bride? I don't know any girls. I went to an all-boys school off in the woods. And then attended an all-male university. On an island. Why did you do that to me? *(Sighs, then looks up, alarmed, as if something just occurred to him)* Sebastian...this magnificent ball you wish to have...please don't say it will include dancing! *(Groans audibly)* Why is there always dancing?!

Sebastian (Advisor to The Prince)

(in a haughty, snotty tone): (to Ella) You there! Impoverished person! Fetch us some water! *(to the Prince)* How do I know she's poor, you might ask? Look at her - she's filthy! Give her some money. Go on! It's charity! You have things, and she doesn't. You're going to give her *some* of your things so she doesn't have a revolution and take *all* of your things.

Jean-Michel (Political Revolutionary)

(In an overly-excited, strong, eager tone): And do you know why the poor are the kindest, Ella and Crazy Marie? Because it is a corrupt system, with a smashed moral compass. Today I will be going alone to the castle to protest the corruption that riddles our government! Gabrielle, you must come with me! I shall shout to the prince! He will have no choice but to listen! I have a vision for what this kingdom could be.

Lord Pinkleton

(Announcing in the town square): Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Eight o'clock and all is well. A great day in the kingdom. In one month will be our first free election for Prime Minister of the land. The candidates are Jean-Michel and our current Lord Protector, Sebastian. But tomorrow, all women, come to the palace and try on the glass slipper. Whosoever fits it shall be married to the Prince! This is the biggest news cycle I have ever shouted. I'll be back at eleven with local weather and sports. HEAR YE!

If auditioning for a LEAD ROLE: Choose the monologue from the lines above. It MUST be memorized. Include actions, incorporate voices - do your best to convince us that you ARE the character. Remember to practise with strong diction, facial expressions, and volume!