

Cinderella' incorporates comedy and magic in Children's Theatre production

By Carol Ankenman

This month, Cinderella and her prince are finding it a little difficult to be nice.

In the upcoming Children's Theatre production "Cinderella," the unfortunate young woman is played by junior Carolyn Valentine who said that although Cinderella may seem to be an easy role, she found it challenging to make her sweet without becoming "syrupey."

The difficulties

"It is a difficult job to be so simple and nice," Valentine said with a smile. "It's very exhausting to be so sincere."

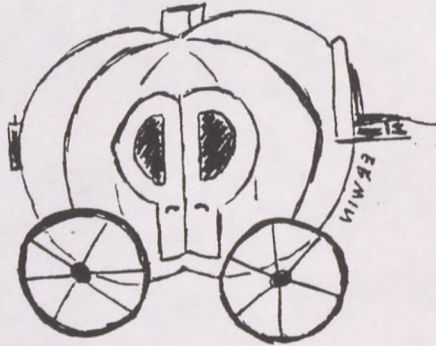
"I tried out for the stepsister because I like the idea of playing the mean one because it is more fun. But playing Cinderella is a lot of fun, too. It is very magical," Valentine said.

The prince, played by Ben Hodges, also a junior, sympathized with his fictional bride. "I find it much harder to play someone perfect than to play the one who gets the laughs," he said.

Hodges added that he has mostly been cast in comedic roles at Otterbein. He purposely auditioned for the part of the prince to get experience with a more serious role.

"I've had enough laughs. I did a lot of comedy in high school as well. I actually am a little insecure about myself in this role because it is a new type of part for me," Hodges said.

Cinderella and the prince both admitted it is sometimes difficult not to laugh at the antics of the other characters. In this production, there is plenty to laugh at.



The comedy

One comedy "team" includes the two stepsisters who get laughs from their characters, from their costumes and from their interaction together.

Junior Colby Paul plays one "mean" stepsister and partly found "what fit her character" by making faces in the mirror.

"One thing that is fun about this part is that not much is given from the script (about the stepsisters' physical characteristics)," Paul said.

"I decided to be pigeon-toed and walk awkwardly, and it is important to be consistent, because you can't fool children."

Freshman Nicole Rabel is debuting with Otterbein Theatre as the second "mean" stepsister. Rabel said that she worked with several ideas before she found a combination of characteristics that suited her role. One characteristic is a high-pitched, giggling voice.

"I thought to myself, 'Oh God, this so annoying—it's perfect!'" Rabel said.

Another comedy "team" includes two men from the royal court who provide the production with a subplot.

Alex Chatfield and John Barrett play Galafron and Curdakin, two courtiers who plot against the prince and are acrobatic and hilarious, bumbling their own plans. At the prince's ball, the two courtiers are paired with the stepsisters, and the results are outrageous.

Director Petie Dadrill has directed "Cinderella" three times, but says that she is

especially excited about this year's production.

"This whole production is the most elaborate we've ever done. We have a very strong cast, and I'm very excited about the sets," Dadrill said.

The special effects

She added that "Cinderella" was "one of her favorites" because of the special effects. "Special effects take a lot of practice, and it is a very complicated process. Making magic is actually a very technical and practical process, but it has to appear to be the exact opposite—easy and "magic,"

Production stage manager Zele Avrado-poulos, a senior, said special effects will include flying slippers, flying pumpkins, a pumpkin changing into a coach and Cinderella's instant change from rags to a ball gown.

Freshman Amy Patton is cast at the center of the magic with the role of the fairy godmother. Other roles include Michael Hayes as Roland, Kellyanne Pearman as Cinderella's mother, Anastasia Klimaszewski as the queen and Laura Hagan as Felicia.

"Cinderella" opens Friday at 7:30 p.m. with shows on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Matinees will be held today at 9:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. These shows are not open to the public, but Otterbein students should be aware of potential parking problems due to schoolbuses.

Correction

Last week's article on theatre workshops incorrectly identified Dr. Charles Dadrill as theatre department chairman. As of July 1, 1989, Dr. Donald W. Seay assumed this position.