



# Cinderella

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In Education and Pacific  
Northwest Ballet

## Jobs at the Ballet

Many jobs go into making each performance of *Cinderella* a success.

**Dancer:** learns and performs ballets

**Choreographer:** creates and teaches ballets

**Artistic Director:** selects dancers and ballets to perform

**Stager:** a former dancer who teaches ballets when a choreographer is unavailable

**Pianist:** plays piano for classes and rehearsals

**Conductor:** leads the orchestra musicians during performances

**Orchestra:** group of 60 musicians who play the music during performances

**Stage Manager:** coordinates backstage activity, giving directions to the stage crew and calling the dancers to the stage

**Stage Crew:** changes sets, lights and curtains during performances

**Set Designer:** designs set pieces, backdrops and props for performances

**Carpenter & Painter:** builds and paints the set pieces

**Costume Designer:** creates designs and drawings for costumes

**Seamstress:** sews and fits costumes

**Lighting Designer:** decides what types of lighting to use for ballets

**Marketing Staff:** creates posters and ads for performances

**Development Staff:** raises money for the ballet

**Teacher:** teaches young students who aspire to be professional dancers

### About sets, backdrops and props

Nearly 40 backstage crew members are responsible for set changes, lighting changes, backdrop and curtain changes, audio and preparing props. The Stage Manager is responsible for coordinating all this activity, as well as calling dancers to and from the stage. A system of headsets and microphones ensures that all of the cues are heard backstage.

It takes over one year of planning, drawing, painting and building to create the set for a full-length ballet such as *Cinderella*. The creation of a set is a highly collaborative process involving the artistic staff, choreographer, designers and technicians. Props and scenery are difficult to create because they must not hinder the choreography in any way.

Choreographers and lighting, set and costume designers must work together to achieve a unified whole. The best ballets look and feel cohesive because of this collaborative effort.



Maria Chapman and Seth Orza in *Cinderella*.  
(Photo © Angela Sterling)

What kinds of steps would you expect to see at Cinderella's home and at the castle?

Create different steps and movements for Cinderella, her stepsisters, her father, her Fairy Godmother and the Prince.

**Music:** What kind of music do you think would best set the tone for *Cinderella*? Put together a soundtrack for your class ballet or create your own music.

## Straight to the Pointe: Fun facts about the ballet

🌀 Cinderella's filigreed 23-foot carriage took two carpenters six months to build.

🌀 Over 120 costumes and 30 wigs are used in each *Cinderella* performance, and elaborately decorated sets and backdrops drape the stage.

🌀 More than 112 ropes backstage raise and lower backdrops and scenery at McCaw Hall.

🌀 PNB has its own orchestra, consisting of approximately 60 musicians. What instruments would you expect to find in their orchestra?



(Photo © Angela Sterling)

### About costumes

The PNB Costume Shop staff sews many things by hand, including detailed trim, headpieces, masks and sometimes footwear. Because costumes are expensive and time-consuming to make, they are used year after year and fitted to more than one dancer with multiple sets of hooks and eyes. After performances, costumes are cleaned, repaired and carefully stored and filed until the next time they are needed. For a large-scale, evening-length ballet, it is not uncommon to start planning and creating costumes a year in advance.

### Create a ballet in your classroom

Create your own *Cinderella* ballet as a class. Use the following prompts to guide your work.

**Costumes:** Think about how the costumes of Cinderella and her stepsisters would differ.

How would you make Cinderella's costume change from what she wears at home to her gown for the ball?

Draw a sketch for a character in *Cinderella* — don't forget about the Fairy Godmother and the Prince!

**Set:** Create a sketch of the ballroom scene. What would the backdrop look like? What props or set pieces would be included in your design?

Design a model of Cinderella's carriage using pieces of newspaper.

**Dance:** How do you think the different characters in *Cinderella* might move?



Louise Nadeau and Carrie Imler in *Cinderella*.  
(Photo © Angela Sterling)



Inspiring Students To Learn

To locate chapters of this series in the newspaper, visit [seattletimes.com/nie](http://seattletimes.com/nie).

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On February 11, at 11:30 a.m., the Pacific Northwest Ballet will host a student matinee of *Cinderella*. The performance is a one-hour adapted version that includes excerpts from the ballet, live music and open set changes. For more information or to inquire about tickets, please call the box office at 206/441-2424 or visit [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).

This is the final part in this series. Thank you for joining us!