

SLEEPING BEAUTY – A Show Guide

For anyone who might prefer to know about any surprises that might happen within the show.

Sleeping Beauty is about a princess who is cursed by a bad fairy called Carabosse at a party to celebrate the princess's birth. Carabosse curses her to prick her finger on a spinning wheel on her eighteenth birthday and die, but this curse is softened by a good fairy present, so she will instead sleep for a hundred years.

The princess's father, King Hugo, banishes all spinning wheels from the kingdom, and Princess Belle grows up alongside her friend, Prince Valiant and they both eventually fall in love with each other before Belle's eighteenth birthday and it looks like they will be happy together. But Carabosse manages to sneak a spinning wheel to Belle's eighteenth birthday party, with help from her sidekick, Grunge.

Belle pricks her finger on the spinning wheel, and falls into a deep sleep. The spell also causes everyone inside the castle to fall asleep too. Prince Valiant, Muddles the Jester and Nanny Fanny McWheeze with help from the good fairy, Azuriel travel a hundred years into the future, fighting baddies along the way, to save the sleeping princess.

Pantomime involves a lot of participation, so there will be bits where the audience are encouraged to join in.

Some examples of this include:

When some of the characters on stage shout 'Oh no it isn't' you shout 'Oh yes it is' (or vice versa).

Sometimes when something scary is behind the characters on stage the audience can shout 'He's/She's/It's behind you!'

When you can shout something a cast member tells you to shout when something happens on stage.

You can boo or hiss at the bad character when they come on stage or do something bad, and you can cheer the good character.

A Scene By Scene Breakdown

You will have an introduction to the show from Iain, who plays Nanny Fanny McWheeze in the show, who will give you an idea of what to expect. If you find any of the show scary, or would like to take a break from it, the doors to the auditorium will be left open so you can go and sit outside, watch the performance on specially set up screen or just have a sit down and do some colouring or play with fidget toys.

At the beginning of the show

The show opens with live music from the music pit and the good fairy Azuriel appears on stage, with her school of little fairies on stage. There will be a bright spark and bang to signal her arrival – but Iain will show you what to expect in his introduction. Whenever Azuriel appears, there is a bright spark.

Carabosse, the bad fairy also appears, but we're going to be turning the sound effects that accompany her down a little bit – this sound effects will happen whenever Carabosse appears.

The show cloth (the big stage curtain which says 'Sleeping Beauty' on it) flies out to reveal King Hugo and Queen Hyacinth having a big party for the birth of their daughter.

Act I

Scene 1

King Hugo and Queen Hyacinth are having a big party for the birth of their daughter. We also meet Muddles the Jester.

Muddles the Jester will perform song and dance routine on the stage.

All the good fairies begin to give their gifts to Princess Belle, the evil fairy Carabosse appears with thunder, lightning and some loud noises. She curses baby Belle to prick her finger on a spinning wheel on her eighteenth birthday, and die, and says that the Queen will die before Belle is grown up, and then disappears.

However, one of Azuriel's fairies who is yet to give her gift softens the curse, saying that if Belle pricks her finger, she and those inside the castle will fall asleep for a hundred years.

Muddles is left with Baby Belle and he finds it difficult to stop her crying, but thankfully, Nanny McWheeze also appears in this scene to help. She also brings 'Morag' a Scottish version of Alexa with her. Morag is an information device that hangs from a mannequin that looks like a woman.

Scene 2

This scene takes place 18 years after the first one.

We are introduced to Prince Valiant and a grown-up Princess Belle. They are in love with each other, and sing a song on stage.

Carabosse appears and tell Princess Valiant and Princess Belle about the curse.

We are also introduced to Grunge, who is Carabosse's sidekick. Grunge is quite loud and not very clever, and he laughs a lot. When Carabosse appears, there is thunder and lightning, but if you don't like this, remember the doors are open and you can go outside into the chill out zone if you need to.

Scene 3

This is the 'slosh' scene, where members of the cast get messy. Nanny McWheeze and Muddles decide to make a cake for the princess's birthday and enlist some help to do so.

Someone from the audience is picked (don't worry, it won't be you – we have a special selection process) to help as well, and they get dressed up in a special outfit and will get covered with 'slosh', which in this case is used to try to ice the cake.

Scene 4

King Hugo shows Nanny McWheeze the garden and his special drink.

Grunge, Carabosse's sidekick tries and fails to disguise a spinning wheel that Carabosse wants to sneak into the kingdom. Carabosse tells Grunge off a lot.

Scene 5

This is a big party scene with lots of the cast on stage. There is a funny part with Nanny McWheeze and Muddles on the stage, where they do a ballet-style dance which involves a balloon – this balloon eventually pops.

The party is going well, but then Carabosse's voice sounds out across the stage (although we do not see her). The lights on stage change.

Belle is lured away by this voice and led to a spinning wheel. Everyone begins to look for Prince Valiant, Nanny McWheeze and Muddles check the grounds.

Princess Belle pricks her finger on the spinning wheel and falls into a deep sleep, as do the rest of the castle. As Prince Valiant, Nanny McWheeze, and Muddles weren't in the castle at the time, they don't fall asleep.

Azurial appears (with a flash) and tells them that there may be a way to save Belle through a time portal in Carabosse's lair.

Interval

There is then an interval of about 20 minutes. During this time you can stay in your seat, or you can go out of the auditorium, buy an ice cream or go to the toilet. It is just a short break in the show.

Act 2

Scene 6

This is a bit scary as it takes place in Carabosse's lair. Nanny McWheeze is dressed as a chicken in this scene.

This scene is the 'It's behind you scene' where with a song where sprites hide behind the three main characters, as they sing a song. This is the part where you can shout 'It's behind you!' The heroes are captured.

There is also a big song and dance performance from Grunge and the sprites.

The heroes manage to break free, and a dragon suddenly appears (this is a scary part) – but thankfully Prince Valiant defeats him.

Scene 7

This scene is where Prince Valiant, Nanny McWheeze and Muddles travelling through time – there are lots of clocks projected on to a gauze curtain on the stage, and they move a lot.

Scene 8

This is a scene outside the palace where the characters sing a song about what they would be if they were not in pantomime. There is also a movement routine that goes alongside this, meaning that it's very likely someone in the cast might get hit, especially Muddles.

Scene 9

Prince Valiant is able to gain access to the Grand Throne Room, where the princess and inhabitants of the castle have been asleep for 100 years. He kisses Belle and wakes her and everyone else wakes up too. They are happy and celebrate.

Scene 10

There is a song sheet that is lowered from the ceiling. The lyrics are

Baby shark do do do do do do

Mummy shark do do do do do do

Daddy shark do do do do do do

Grandma Shark do do do do do do

Grandpa Shark do do do do do do

It's the end do do do do do do

You can sing along here if you would like to – and Nanny McWheeze and Muddles will help you.

Scene 11

This part of the show is called the walk-down, when all of the cast change into new sparkly outfits (except for Carabosse, Azurial and her little fairies) and you can clap as they come out on to the stage.