



Image: Principal dancers Bethany Kingsley-Garner and Jerome Anthony Barnes – but which one is *Cinders*?

Cinders FAQs!

Breaking with tradition in theatre is a tradition in itself, from Matthew Bourne's all-male *Swan Lake*, right up to next year's West End production of *Dorian Gray* performed by Sarah Snook. This year, Scottish Ballet aims to surprise and delight audiences as on some nights the lead character of *Cinders* will be a woman, swept off her feet by her Prince, and on others, *Cinders* will be a man, swept off his feet by his Princess! Audiences will discover which 'Cinders' they will experience on the night when the curtain rises.

Will audiences know in advance which gender *Cinders* will be?

No, we think the surprise will add to the fun for everyone! The names of the two dancers playing the leading parts will be posted, but not who is who.

Will the costumes differ?

No – the Princess who sweeps *Cinders* off his feet will wear the same sensational dress that the female *Cinders* will wear to the ball in her performances. There will be the same sparkle and glamour in every show!

Will the choreography differ?

Some small sections will, and you might notice some interesting nuances in movement/delivery, which is something we're enjoying exploring. Look out for content being posted on Scottish Ballet's social media, interrogating this more.

Will there be an LGBTQ+ coupling?

Not this time around for *Cinders*, but there is a gay love story blossoming in the background for a couple of the other characters.

Guest Principal Dancer Jessica Fyfe said:

“Working with Christopher Hampson on his new Cinders for me personally has been very exhilarating. To give this new fluidity to the leading roles means exploring ways in which the character Cinders, traditionally the ‘poor’ Cinderella, can be a person of grit, determination and strength, which ultimately leads to them creating their own happy ending. I hope the audience enjoys this new twist on a beautiful classic, which now highlights how anyone can have a hand at shaping their own future. It’s not just for fairy tales.”

Scottish Ballet Principal Dancer Bruno Michiardi said:

“What I’ve found most interesting about swapping the roles of the Cinders leads is just how different and new it’s made the ballet feel. We all know and love the classic story of Cinderella, but this new version means we’re suddenly working in this amazing upside-down realm, where the male part (previously a more traditionally stoic character) is a complex mixture of vulnerability and resilience, and the female role (usually quite timid and downtrodden for most of the original ballet) is empowered and full of charisma... I’m excited at the prospect of exploring this further and sharing that with the audience!”