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# Cinderella

**GROUP:**
[Tennessee Repertory Theatre](#)
**LOCATION:**

[Tennessee Performing Arts Center--Polk Theater](#)  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville

**HOURS:**

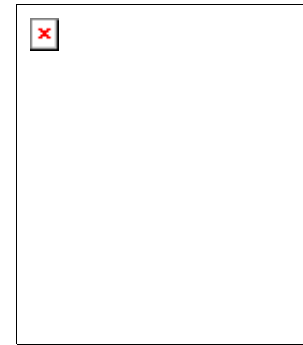
Wed-Sun, Dec 2-20  
Wed, 6:30 pm  
Thu-Sat, 7:30 pm  
Sat-Sun matinees, 2:30 pm

**PURCHASE TICKETS:**

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Even though I haven't seen either of them in probably 25 years, the impressions from the original TV production (with Lesley-Ann Warren in the title role) or the Disney animated version of *Cinderella* are what stick in my mind. When it doesn't live up to what's in my mind, that's not all Tennessee Repertory Theatre's fault.

That's probably as it should be. While it's not marketed as such, the Rep's current production works best as a children's show. If your inner child needs a lift, then by all means, catch this

show.

The talent level of this cast is pretty amazing, starting with Shelean Newman as Cinderella. Newman's voice is clear and pure, and her girlish enthusiasm genuine. Miles Aubrey as the Prince complements Newman well.

Connie Florence as the Fairy Godmother may be the best thing about the show. While, ideally, it *shouldn't* be an issue, people are likely not used to seeing a fairly young African-American woman in a role normally given to matronly white-bread types. TRT is to be commended for casting Florence, a jazz and pop singer whose comic presence gives the show a real lift.

Matt Carlton and Carolyn German as the King and Queen bring wonderfully understated charm. Martha Wilkinson, as the joyless stepsister Joy, offers some of the show's best comedy.

The ensemble gives the show's musical numbers the energy they need. Tim Fudge and Brian Mathis in a variety of roles are particularly funny.

David Kay Mickelsen's costume design is, with one exception, grand and elegant. I must say that Cinderella's gown was, at least to my eyes, underwhelming.

The excellent set, including the pumpkin coach, is the work of Anne Mundell, whose giant storybook is the centerpiece that sets the tone from the show's beginning. If the show seems predictable, well, that's probably because *we know the story*. But if "happily ever after" is what you're after, then *Cinderella* is a good choice for the holidays.--Shelton Clark