

SNOW WHITE

balletLORENT

Visual Story Pack

John Ellerman
Foundation



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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Welcome

Hello, we hope you're looking forward to watching **balletLORENT's** Snow White.

These notes are for you to read before you see the show. They tell you what happens in the dance and what to expect when you visit the theatre.

Arriving at the theatre

As you arrive at the theatre you will come into the foyer. It could be busy and loud in the foyer and box office areas. You can put your hands over your ears. There will also be toilets that you can use before you enter the auditorium.

You may hear loud bells ringing and announcements in the foyer before the performance. Don't worry about this – it is just to let the audience know the performance will start shortly.

Once you have your tickets you can make your way to the auditorium. Sometimes the doors to the auditorium will be closed until just before the performance is due to start, but you can wait near the doors until they are opened by an usher.

There may be ushers there to check your tickets, help you find your seat and answer any questions you may have.

When you enter the auditorium you will see the stage in front of you with the set for the first act of the show all set up. Only the performers and stage technicians are allowed to go onto the stage and touch the set.

When the performance is about to start the doors to the auditorium will close and the lights in the auditorium will go darker.

About the show

Snow White is a dance theatre production performed by **balletLORENT's** professional dancers. They will be joined by a young cast from the local community who are aged between 6-10yrs.

The performers tell the story of Snow White through dance theatre. The performers mostly dance to tell the story, but they will also sometimes act. They will not talk throughout the performance.

The performance is split into two acts – the first will last approx. 44 minutes and the second will last approx. 40 minutes. There will be a break between acts of approx. 20 minutes. During this time the stage technicians will enter the stage and move the set into a different position. The audience are welcome to walk around, go to the toilet, and talk during the break. Loud bells and announcements in the foyer areas will let the audience know when it is time to take your seat for Act 2.

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There is music throughout the whole performance which sometimes gets loud. There is also a recorded narration with a female voice. This is to help you follow the story. The lights will change lots of times throughout the performance – sometimes they will get darker, but it will only go fully dark at the start and end of Act 1 and Act 2. If it gets too bright, or too noisy you can cover your eyes or ears. If you would like to go out into the foyer you can with your parent or carer.

In the centre of the stage you will see the large set which rotates during the performance to show different settings, including the palace, forest and Miners' camp.

There are many characters in Snow White. Most of them are human, and some are animals. As the dancers play the different characters they will move in different ways. Some dancers play more than one character.

Here are the main characters:



Snow White



The Queen



The King



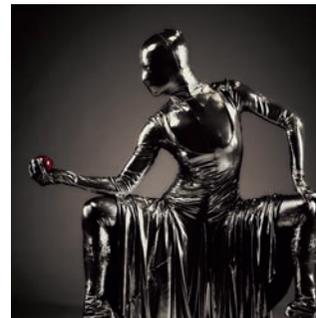
The Huntsman



Miners



The new King



**The Mirror /
Reflection**



Animals



Villagers

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Story Notes

These notes describe what happens in the performance, so do not read any further if you would rather not know!

If there are any sudden sounds, actions or changes you will see this symbol !

When text is narrated, it will be shown in orange

Any other notes are shown in green



Act 1

! The lights will go dark in the auditorium and on stage !

The sound of a bell is followed by the music starting.

The Queen and King are in their palace.

They are clearly very happy and in love with each other.

In the cold heart of winter, when snow fell as though the sky was a story that had been ripped into a thousand pieces, a beautiful Queen sat by her window sewing a doll. She was admiring her own reflection in the glass, when she noticed the children outside dancing with the snow.

She pricked her finger with the needle and three drops of blood fell upon a cuff of snow on the window-sill. The red looked so pretty against the white that the Queen suddenly thought to herself, 'How charming it would be to have a child as white as snow, as red as blood and as black as the wood on the window-frame.'

As the queen is sewing, it starts to snow. Children play with their friends and parents in the frozen winter gardens, throwing snowballs, jumping, and sledging.

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The Queen and King dance together, often watching from their window as children play.

The seasons pass. Winter turns to spring. Children play in the warmer glowing afternoon sun, picking flowers and flying kites. Spring gives way to summer.

The Queen had her wish: a little daughter who was as white as snow, with lips as red as blood and hair as black as ebony. She was named Snow White.



The Queen and King show off their new baby daughter to all the villagers, who dance in jubilation at the wonderful news! Children gather around the palace, admiring the beautiful baby – Snow White.

Suddenly, the King falls ill and collapses.

! The performing is acting and is not really ill !

The villagers rush to help, and the King is carried away.

The Queen watches on, anxious and concerned.

But soon after her birth, the King died and the Queen came to rule the palace on her own.

! The lights go dark except for the dim night light on the Queen !

The Queen, grieving for her husband, wanders alone through the palace grounds as villagers gather for the procession for the late King's funeral.

As night falls, the Queen returns to the palace with baby Snow White and settles her to sleep in her cot. Time passes.

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Snow White is now a young child. She loves dancing with her mother, who teases her with an apple, and they dress up together.

More years pass. The Queen no longer grieves, and Snow White has grown up. They love each other very much and do everything together!



As Snow White grew up, her mother, the Queen, made sure to teach her to love pretty things and to learn how to look gorgeous at all times. When she looked at her daughter, the Queen saw a little image of herself- perfect, pretty, pouting. It was the happiest of times for the Queen as she danced with Snow White.

The Queen and Snow White dance and play affectionately in the palace. They play in the palace grounds, skipping, leaping and whirling!

In the underground caves and tunnels beneath the palace were rich mines, crammed with diamonds, minerals and precious oils. Every day, jewels, coal, oils and other products had to be delivered to keep the Queen and her household warm and beautiful, wealthy and well-groomed.

! The lights go dark except for head torches which may appear to flash as the performers move !

! Sudden music change and loud banging !



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Seven Miners, including the Queen's Huntsman with bright head torches scramble through the mines with axes and shovels, breaking open piles of rocks and boulders on the hunt for valuable jewels and minerals. The busy, but playful troupe are not afraid of hard work, banter and mischief in the dark, dingy, hot caves.



The Miners strike gold! At the end of the long day, they carefully gather the precious finds together and make their way back through the dark tunnels.

The workers had to live where they could out in the forest and only the Head Worker, who was also the Queen's Huntsman, was allowed to live in the palace, on a bed of straw in the kitchens. A good, reliable, plain man if not a handsome one.

! The lights go darker !

The Huntsman presents the Queen with a basket of the hard-earned jewels before returning to the squalid back rooms of the palace. The Queen fixates on the beauty of the precious jewels, then climbs the stairs to the Hall of Mirrors, and peers at her own reflection.

(The Mirror is played by another performer appearing from behind shiny silk fabric.)



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In the Hall of Mirrors, there was one special mirror, a magic mirror that had been dug out of the mines. The Queen went to this mirror and asked it:

‘Mirror, mirror, on the wall,
who in this palace is fairest of all?’

And the mirror replied:

‘Queen, your beauty is still there,
even though you dye your hair.’

She asked again:

‘Mirror, mirror, on the wall,
who in this palace is fairest of all?’

And the mirror answered:

‘Queen, your beauty is a gift
from scissors, surgery, face-lift...’

The Queen considers the Mirror’s words carefully.



One day, when Snow White had reached 18, the Queen decided the time was right to find herself a new husband. So she sent the Huntsman to visit the King in the neighbouring region and gave him a portrait of herself to present to him.

Snow White helps the Queen dress, as the Huntsman is summoned. The Huntsman carefully takes the old, dusty portrait and hastily heeds the Queens instructions. The Queen retires to her bedroom to listen to music, before falling asleep.

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! The lights change to a dream state with bright colours. The stage will look as though it's sparkling for the next few scenes as a light shines on a mirror ball !

As the Queen sleeps, she dreams of the handsome new King serenading her and dancing joyfully, romantically together in front of happy villagers. In her dream, the Queen is played by the Mirror; a perfect, more beautiful vision of herself.

Some time later, as the new King arrives at the palace, he finds Snow White playing on her swing, eating the brightest red apple.

When the King saw her picture - painted before Snow White had been born - he was smitten by the sweet beauty of her face. The King arrived at the palace in great style and splendour; but the first woman he saw was Snow White and he thought that this sublime young woman was the Queen in the portrait.

The Queen hosts a ball for the Royal visitor, who presents himself graciously. As Snow White watches on from her swing, villagers dance alongside the Queen and her guest, the new King. However, the new King's full attention is not with the Queen as he constantly looks back towards the younger, prettier Snow White.

At the welcoming ball - and even when he realised his mistake - he was no more than civil to the Queen and kept asking only Snow White to dance. Snow White had grown into a kind and compassionate young woman and did not

wish to hurt her mother's feelings. So she politely declined the King's persistent requests and repeatedly indicated that a King should dance with a Queen.

Snow White and the Queen politely take turns to dance with the new King as villagers waltz around them. The new King is increasingly drawn to Snow White, spending more and more time with her, whilst the Queen's frustration grows. As the party draws to an end, the Queen is left all alone, dismayed and upset by the new King's clear rejection of her.

The poor Queen was distraught, for she had fallen in love with the King the moment she saw him.

The Queen returns to the Hall of Mirrors.

'Mirror, mirror, on the wall,
who in this palace is fairest of all?'

'Queen, lies are wrong and truth is right;
therefore, my answer is... Snow White.'

Then the Queen collapsed on the ground and turned yellow and green with envy and despair. She was not beautiful enough for the King. From that moment, whenever she looked at Snow White, vanity and resentment coiled round her heart like bindweed. She sent the King away, but could get no peace day or night.

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The Queen crumbles to the ground and dances as though her heart is broken. Her movement is stilted, wiry and slow. She is in disbelief at the Mirror's revelation, and is unsure what to do next.

In despair she takes two hunting swords hanging on the palace walls and hands them to the Huntsman, with strict new orders.

! The swords are not real – they are stage props and will not hurt anyone !

At last, she sent for the Huntsman: 'Take Snow White into the forest. Kill her- and fetch me back her heart to eat it.'

The Huntsman reluctantly takes the swords, turns and heads out of the palace in search of Snow White. He appears hesitant and nervous, but fears he must follow orders.

The Queen is distant and guarded around Snow White, who has no idea about the Queen's plan. Snow White plays as innocently as she ever has with her mother.

! Set change – the set will be moved to change from the palace setting to the forest !

At night, the Huntsman leads Snow White out of the palace by torch light, and into the dark forest. She has been friends with the Huntsman for many years, and has no hesitation in following him. The Huntsman leads Snow White further and further until they reach the deepest darkest corner of the forest. Only now, in the dark, does Snow White begin to get scared.

! The lights go darker – the stage is lit by a single torch !
! Sudden music change – loud and frantic music !

The pair clamber through thick, knotted tree branches, which catch and snag Snow White as she climbs in search of a view of the palace.

(The tree branches are played by performers who move in twisted, spindly ways across the stage.)

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The Huntsman draws his sword but hesitates to take any action as he watches Snow White tend gently for young forest animals who scuttle into the nearby clearing.

(The animals are played by performers and children who move in animalistic ways – they are dressed as forest creatures.)

But as she truly was so kind and beautiful, the Huntsman took pity on her and said, ‘Lovely girl, run away.’

! Sudden music change – loud and frantic music !

! The next scene may be scary for some people – the Huntsman chases Snow White before killing a young deer – the performers are all acting and no one is hurt – you can close your eyes if you want !



Without thinking, the panicked Snow White rushes through the forest desperately searching for safety. The Huntsman is torn between his loyalty to the Queen, and his friendship with Snow White. He chases Snow White, thrashing his swords to cut a way for her to escape. Startled forest animals rush through undergrowth and clearings. Snow White’s movement is rushed, anxious and indecisive. She is scared and alone, stumbling through the dark forest. The Huntsman’s movement is increasingly frantic, and vicious. He lunges towards animals who leap away. He is feeling very guilty for banishing Snow White and causing her such upset.

The Huntsman is surrounded by young forest creatures trying to protect Snow White. Eventually, in sheer panic and fright, he captures a young deer, throws it to the ground, and kills it with his sword.

! The young deer is played by a child. The performers are acting, and no one is hurt !

He slaughtered a young doe and cut out its heart and took it to the Queen to prove that Snow White was dead.



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Small animals snuggle close to Snow White, who is alone and afraid in the forest

! The lights go darker !

! The next scene may be scary for some people – The Queen appears to eat a heart – the heart and blood are not real – they are stage props – you can close your eyes if you want !



Back at the palace, the Queen sits at a dimly lit table as the Huntsman presents a silver dinner tray. He lifts the lid to reveal a blood-soaked heart. As the Queen slowly takes a bite, fresh blood runs down her.

! The lights on stage go dark and the auditorium lights will come on !

Interval

The performance will start again in 20 minutes.

You may see the stage crew changing the set ready for Act 2

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Act 2

! The lights will go dark in the auditorium and on stage !

A single torch light appears in the dark night. Miners are seen slowly wandering through the forest. Animals scuttle through the dark.

Bent double, waving their sticks, a band of stunted miners came towards Snow White.

Snow White is still afraid, and in her panic she tries to run away from the Miners. The Miners' movement is stilted, stiff and hunched, and some use sticks to help them move about.

She thought she had never seen such ugly creatures and span round and round trying to escape, but there was no way out. The creatures surrounded her and trapped her and bore her through the dark forest to where they lived.

Eventually, Snow White gives in, and goes with the Miners back to their camp, where she finally sees a familiar face – the Huntsman – and she realises that she is now safe.

She did not know that the Huntsman had told everything to the miners and had sent them to search for Snow White.

Then they told her that she need not be afraid any more and that they would take care of her. They explained that they had to work hard for a living in the mines beneath the palace and that she must contribute her share.



The Miners set about their chores of cooking and cleaning in the most fun of ways! Snow White does her best to help, and gets to know her new friends better, dancing, cheering and laughing as they go. Snow White is made to feel very welcome in the Miners' home.

! The lights go darker – the scene returns to the Hall of Mirrors in the palace !

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Meanwhile, the Queen was dreaming of sending again for the King and went to the mirror.

‘Mirror, mirror, on the wall,
who in this palace is fairest of all?’

The mirror answered:

‘Queen, you are fairest without a doubt,
for you are in and Snow White out.’

‘What did you say?’ hissed the Queen.

The mirror continued:

‘Queen, you are fairest in this palace,
but your heart is dark with malice.
And deep in the wood, where miners dwell,
Snow White is beautiful, alive and well.’

The Queen was horrified because she knew that the mirror never lied and that the Huntsman had tricked her. Her twisted mind thought and thought how she might get rid of Snow White- for so long as Snow White was more beautiful, the Queen would have no chance with the King she loved.

When at last she had thought of a plan, she stained her face and dressed up like an old pedlar-woman, so that not even the mirror would know her.

The Queen takes a mask and red ribbon from a chest.

! The lights go darker – the scene shifts back to the Miners’ camp !

The Miners warned Snow White never to open the door to a stranger, for her life was in danger. But they did not tell her that it was the Queen who envied her.

And so each day the Miners set off to work in the mines and Snow White stayed behind to look after the home. But she struggled with the gloomy, cramped conditions and missed all the pretty, luxurious things she had been brought up to love by her mother. She had to comb her hair with a sharp stone and clean her teeth with coal-dust. Her fancy dress grew ragged. She longed for all the jewels and ribbons and bows that she’d valued since childhood.

Snow White looks at herself in a mirror – she feels tired and messy. She is anxious and frustrated to be here in a strange place, alone, without her usual belongings.

A dark, shadowy figure appears from the forest, carrying a basket and showing off attractive wares.

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The Queen rapped on the low door and croaked out, 'Pretty things for sale, very cheap, very cheap.'

Even though the Miners had told Snow White never to open the door to a stranger, she could not resist asking what the pretty things for sale were. After all, she was her mother's daughter.

Snow White doesn't recognise the Queen in disguise. She lets the old lady into the house, and is tempted by a beautiful bright red ribbon.

Then the old woman said, 'My dear, what a sight you are! Come here and let your new friend lace your ribbon for you.'

The old woman laced so quickly and viciously and tightly that Snow White could not breathe and fell down as if she was dead.



! The performer playing Snow White is acting and is not harmed !

'Now I am the most beautiful,' crowed the crone and hurried away.

The Miners return from a hard day of work.

Soon afterwards, when night fell, the miners came home and were terribly distressed to see Snow White lying on the ground.

The Miners are desperately sad and try to loosen the ribbons around Snow White. They are relieved and happy when Snow White awakens.

! The lights go darker – the scene shifts to the forest !

When the Miners heard what had happened, they said, 'Do as we say and be careful. Let nobody in when we are not with you.'

The Miners leave Snow White in their house once more.

! The lights go darker – the scene shifts to the palace !

The Queen approaches the mirror again, convinced she will hear of Snow White's terrible fate.

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‘Mirror, mirror, on the wall,
who in this palace is fairest of all?’

‘Queen, you are fairest in this palace,
but your heart is dark with malice.
And deep in the woods, where miners dwell,
Snow White is beautiful, alive and well.’

The Queen trembled and shook with misery and insecurity. She went into a quiet, secret, lonely room where no-one ever came, and there she made a very poisonous apple.

! The poisonous apple is not real – it is a stage prop !

The Queen is now desperate to find a way to get rid of Snow White.

Then she painted her face and disguised herself as a farm-woman. But she made the mistake of checking her disguise in the mirror and when the mirror saw the apple, it knew at once that it was poisoned. The mirror reached out a hand to seize the bad apple, but as it did so, the Queen fell into the mirror and the reflection tumbled out.

‘Now you will see the worst of yourself,’ said the reflection, ‘and you must watch what you were about to do.’

The Queen is now trapped behind the mirror whilst her reflection creeps away to find the Snow White at the Miners’ camp.

! The lights go darker – the scene shifts to the forest !

Snow White looks wistfully out of the window and sees an old woman selling apples. The old woman is the Queen’s reflection, crawling through the undergrowth like a withering animal.

The old woman calls out:

‘Pretty things for sale, cheap, cheap. Pretty things for sale, cheap, cheap.
Pretty things for sale, cheap, cheap. Pretty things for sale, cheap, cheap.’



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Snow White longed for the tantalising fruit - so like the fine fruit her mother had fed her in the palace.

The old woman tempts Snow White with the large red apple. Snow White can't resist, climbs out of the window and takes it.

But as soon as she'd taken a bit into her mouth, she fell down dead.

! The performer playing Snow White is acting and is not harmed !

Snow White lies alone with the apple.



The reflection returns to the mirror where the Queen, still trapped, has been watching helplessly as the terrible event unfolded.

The imprisoned Queen was in anguish on the wrong side of the mirror- for now she saw how selfish and cruel she had been and her grief for her daughter was too much to bear. In her burning shame, her shoes turned to red-hot metal so that she had to dance, dance, dance in an ecstasy of guilt and remorse.

The Queen and the Mirror's bodies begin to shake – their movement is tense and frantic, wild and chaotic. As the Queen becomes more and more upset, the Mirror whirls and twists – her movement contorts, as if reflecting the Queen's emotions. In all the chaos the Queen smashes the mirror.

! The lights go darker – a dim light shines on Snow White !

The Miner's come home shocked to find Snow White lying dead. They lay her gently in a tomb and drape a cover over her. They are all very sad. The Huntsman stays as small animals (played by children) appear from the forest, laying flowers by Snow White and saying goodbye to her.

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When he saw Snow White lying there the Huntsman's heart filled with love.



The Huntsman dances with all his heart. He is terribly sad that Snow White has died. He holds her, and dances with her softly. He is very emotional and doesn't want to let Snow White go.

He lifted her head and shoulders up and kissed her cold lips. As he did so, the movement dislodged the piece of poisonous apple in her throat and it came out. Snow White opened her eyes, sat up, and asked 'Where am I?'

'You are with me,' he replied.



Snow White and the Huntsman look at each other – they are both in shock but are delighted that they are both ok and well. As Snow White recovers her strength, they fall into each other's arms and dance together. They are falling in love.

The Miners see the pair dancing and are overjoyed that Snow White is alive. They rush to the palace, capture the Queen and bring her out to the forest clearing. They are angry with her for what she tried to do to Snow White and lash at her with their mining tools. The Queen is afraid.

! The performers are acting and no one is harmed !

Suddenly, Snow White confronts the Queen, pointing a sword at her.

! The sword is not real – it is a stage prop and will not hurt anyone !

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The Queen dropped to her knees before Snow White and begged her forgiveness. Snow White said that she loved and forgave her mother and that she had found love where she had least looked for it and would marry the Huntsman.

Preparations get underway for a wedding party! Snow White's huge wedding dress floats as she appears to fly with the Huntsman. Villagers join the celebration, dancing and cheering!



Back at the palace the party continues long into the night. Snow White and the Huntsman embrace as the Queen gifts them a doll... just like the one she had many years ago...



And so they all lived quite beautifully ever after - pretty much.

! The lights go darker as show is ending !

At the end of the show, the lights will come on again. The performers will come to the front of the stage to bow. You can clap your hands to show that you enjoyed the show if you want to.

**! As other members of the audience clap, it may be loud.
You may cover your ears if you want to. !**

The lights will come on in the auditorium and it will be time to leave.

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CAST:

Snow White - Virginia Scudeletti
Queen - Caroline Reece
King & Miner - Geoff Hopson
New King & Miner - Toby Fitzgibbons
Huntsman & Head Miner - Gavin Coward
Mirror/Miner - Aisha Naamani
Miner & Ensemble - Natalie MacGillivray
Miner & Ensemble - John Kendall
Miner & Ensemble - Berta Admetlla
Miner & Ensemble - Montaine Ponceau
Miner & Ensemble - Tassia Sissons

Photo credits: Bill Cooper, Iolo Penri,
Luke Waddington & Ian West



CREATIVE TEAM:

Direction & Choreography - Liv Lorent

Scenario Writer - Carol Ann Duffy

Music composed - Murray Gold

Narrator - Lindsay Duncan

Costume Design - Libby El-Alfy

Costume Design - Nasir Mazhar

Set Designer - Phil Eddolls

Lighting Designer - Malcolm Rippeth

Rehearsal Director - Debbi Purtill

Dramaturg - Ben Crompton

Movement contribution by the dancers

Production Manager - Callum Graham

Stage Manager - Andrea Scrimshaw

Assistant Stage & Wardrobe Manager - Lou Duffy

LX1/Relighter - Michael Morgan

Rehearsal Assistants - Alicia Meehan & Rosie Macari

Music performed by Northern Sinfonia

Music Editing - Obodo

Set Build - Northern Stage Workshops,
Wood Hub CIC & Newton's Ladder

Production Carpenter - Simon Henderson

Production Electrician - Sam Vivash

Scenic Painting - Trish Mayes

Logo design - Lee Callaghan



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