

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

A Tale from the Brothers Grimm

Adapted by Iosif Scheiderman and Aaron Weir Kelstone
For Cleveland Signstage Theatre

Pre show: Scene 1

The show is based on a concept of actors as wandering minstrels and use of mime work. The stage is bare. There is pre show music (Classical).

[**Music changes**, more upbeat, festive style]

Actors enter through the audience. One actor will have a drum and make sound effects. Another actor may have a horn in the Harpo Marx tradition. All will be dressed as clowns and will have business to do with the audience on their way to the stage. When they arrive on stage they will do juggling and other types of physical action. As they become aware of the audience they will alert each other to this fact. When all are fully aware they will form a line and do a variety of silly bows to the audience.

Scene 2

Minstrel 4

We are the wandering minstrels. We travel through many countries and we perform many stories for your enjoyment. So what will we show them?

Minstrel 1

Cinderella?

Others

No!

Minstrel 1

Little Miss Riding Hood?

Others

No!

Minstrel 2
(Woman Character)

[Visually suggests a princess]

Snow White?

Others
[Look at each other and nod affirmatively]

Finally now we will perform Snow White.

Minstrel 1

[Gets bag with props]

[Assigns props to each actor]

[Clown 1 lines the others up]

[Assigns names]

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Prince & Snow White

Others

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Prince & Snow White

[Again]

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Prince & Snow White

[Again]

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Minstrel 1

STOP!

ALL

Excuse me...Excuse me....Excuse me...

Scene 3

[While this is going on the other clowns set up the stage]

[Some pantomime fly in of black cyc]

[Castle with one spec. light hitting center]

[Fly in window]

[Get Stool and move on mirror]

Minstrel 1

What!

Minstrel 3

Why was she called Snow White and what's the story about?

Minstrel 1

Once upon a time in the middle of winter

[A very little amount of snow falls]

A queen sat at her window working on her needlepoint. Suddenly quite by accident she pricked her finger and 3 drops of blood fell onto a newly fallen snow.....

[Lights come up to reveal the queen sewing]
[Some actors depart off stage]

[Narrator Fades] [Queen Sits]

Queen 1 **[Green lighting]**

[In the act of sewing the queen accidentally pricks her finger. (**Light effects????**) indicate three drops of blood fall onto the snow]

Oh!...A child to have, white as snow, red as blood, black as night

Minstrel 1

And as it so happened on the eve of the first snow of winter Snow White was born. She was as perfect as any newborn could be. The only surprise was that she was deaf.

Scene 4

[Lights go down, quick transition, **new music]**
[Actor-minstrels return from various areas off stage]
[Music, chant like, deep bass or drum underlying sound]

All

And happen it did

A daughter had she
Skin like snow
So white and pure
Lips red as blood
Hair black as blackest night
Ears silent as the grave

Minstrel 1

eve of the first snow she was named Snow White

Snow White
[Catches a snow flake]

My name, what? Snow White.

All [Continue song]

And when she was born
Was born, was born, was born
The Queen mother died.
she died, she died, she died.
Skin like snow, skin like snow, skin like snow
so white and pure
lips red, lips red, lips red, as blood
hair black, hair black, hair black
as blackest night.
Blackest night.
Blackest night
ears silent as the grave.....

Scene 5

[Mirror prop drops into place from Stage Right wing.]
[move mirror out a bit]

Minstrel 1

The King was sad for a long time but a year later he met and married a beautiful woman.

Minstrel 2

A woman so beautiful

Minstrel

But proud, rude and so very vain

Minstrel

No one is allowed to be more beautiful than she

Minstrel 6

A magic mirror she had

Minstrel 3

Everyday she stood in front of it, looking long and carefully and then she would say...

[Mirrors stays in place]

Scene 6

Queen 2 [**reddish lights**]

Mirror, mirror on this wall
Tell me now
In all the world
Who is the most beautiful of all?

You, only you
Are most beautiful of all.

Minstrel 5

The queen, she was happy, she knew that the mirror lies, not!

[Light slowly fades]

Minstrel 6

Time passed
Snow White grew up
To become a young woman
Beautiful as her queen mother
She was more beautiful
Than anything known in all the world
And all the while she was learning sign language too.

All
[Music and Chanting]

Skin like snow, skin like snow, skin like snow
so white and pure
lips red, lips red, lips red, as blood

[Mirror prop appears]

hair black, hair black, hair black
as blackest night.
Blackest night.
Blackest night
ears silent as the grave.....

Scene 7

[Light Changes]
[Snow White appears]
[Dances]

Queen 2 [**reddish lights**]

Mirror, mirror on the wall
Tell me now
In all the world
Who is the most beautiful of all?

You, only you
Are most beautiful.
It has been true, but
Snow White
She is more beautiful than you

[Queen sees Snow White dancing]
[Approaches, circling her, showing a wide range of emotions]

Queen 2 [**reddish lights**]

You! Why you? More beautiful than I? No! More ugly than I!

[Snow White sees Queen talking to her]
[Does not understand]
[Signs to Queen]

Snow White

Dance with me?

Queen

What! Are you teasing me? I don't understand anything you are saying.

Servant (as an interpreter)

She wants to dance.....

Scene 8

Queen

Dance with me! No, No, No!

[Gestures servant to leave]
[Grabs Snow White by ear and banishes her]

Huntsman! Huntsman!!

Huntsman

Yes, my queen?

Queen

Take Snow White away now.

Huntsman

[Takes a hold of Snow White]

But Why? What has she done?

Queen

Your duty is to obey my commands. If you think your yourself you'll find your head on a plate.

Huntsman

Indeed I honor your wishes.

Queen [reddish lights]
[Begins as a command, changes to a chant]

I command you.. that child...

[music begins]

to the woods, to the woods, to the woods
she must go, she must go, she must go
You with her, only you, only you
Return from the woods only you, only you
I command that you
Bring back her heart, her heart, her heart
That I will know, know, know
No more Snow White will I see
No more Snow White will I see
No more Snow White will I see
Banished she will be
To blackest night, blackest night.....

[eerie laugh]

Huntsman

Is this true my queen? Do you mean what you say?

Queen 2

Ask me again, not! Go into the woods! Leave her body there but bring her heart back to me.

Scene 9

[Exits Stage Right with Mirror]
[Delay trees until Queen fully exits]
[Trees and Drop appear now]

Snow White

Hello, you--me..talk/sign

Huntsman
[Draws dagger to stab Snow White]

Snow White
[Gesture] No, No, No....
Oh dear Huntsman, do not take my life.

[Huntsman does not understand her signs]
[Draws dagger to stab Snow White]

[Snow White gestures "I love You"]
[Gestures "A" to Huntsman]
[Gestures "B" to Huntsman]
[Gestures "C" to Huntsman]

[Huntsman]

Oh! I understand. This is the hand alphabet for the deaf.

[Aside by Snow White]
See it's easier than you think. I want to teach you A-B-C. You and I will have a special secret.
Please spare my life!

Huntsman

True you now teach me signs
Through your hands you show me you have life
Deep in the woods now I have been commanded
To end that life

Snow White

Please, just leave me here. Deep in the woods who will ever find me? The queen will never know.

Huntsman

But I've been commanded to bring back your heart. (Pause thinking) Wait! There are many animals in this forest. I will kill a boar and bring that heart back to the Queen. She will think it is your heart.

Snow White
Thank you, Thank you. You have saved my life.

Huntsman

That's the most I can do. You are a good girl. Bless you and may your journey be safe.

[Snow White again shows sign for "I Love You"]

[Huntsman responds back "I Love You"]

[Hunter and Snow White play out "I Love You"]

[Gestures for Snow White to follow]

[Starts journey through woods]

[Forest panels move to give illusion of long journey into the woods]

[Eventually finds the home of the 7 dwarves]

Scene 10

[While the journey begins a servant brings out a throne chair]

[A King sits on it and a special light is put on him]

[His son the prince appears]

King

Son, I worry that when I grow old you will need a good queen to rule with you. I know a good princess in the next kingdom that will marry you. So you must go to that castle by horseback and make a proposal to her.

Prince

Good King, my father, I understand and thank you for your concern for my future when I become King. However, I am sorry my father, I cannot marry the princess in the next kingdom because she can hear and I cannot. I want to search throughout the realm for a princess who is deaf like myself.

King

I am your father, deaf the same as you. I married a hearing Queen and it worked out fine. You can do the same. I command you to go and propose for marriage to the princess I have told you about.

Prince

Good Father, please, I know you love me and I know you seek happiness for me. Please allow me to search for myself.

King

Where in the world will you find someone of royal blood who is deaf like you?

Prince

I have heard rumors of a princess who is deaf like me. The wandering minstrels have spoken of her and tell me she lives in a castle beyond the Misty Range. With your permission I will go seek this princess they have spoken of.

King [Aside]

It is true I want my son to be happy. If he can find someone who is deaf like himself perhaps it would be best.

[To Prince]

I accept your proposal. But, do not delay long in your search. If you do not find the deaf princess that you seek then I will expect you to follow my first wishes.

Prince

Thank you Father, I will depart immediately.

Scene 11

[Journey of Snow White and Prince combines
[As both wander in the woods they nearly meet]
[As they almost meet and miss Snow White discovers the house]
[House fly in #1 appears]
[Trees will be blocked to form a distraction for setting up house]
[Goes to the door, starts to knock but the door
swings open with a light touch of her knuckles]

Scene 12

[She looks in, stamps her feet]
[Knocks on the door loudly]
[House fly out #2]
[Finds food, samples them]
[Cleans up the mess in their house to musical sounds]
[Finds beds, samples them, picks smallest bed]
[sleeps, there is a light left on in the window]
[House Fly in #3]

Scene 13

[**Lights down**, scene change]

[Dwarves march through the audience to the stage]

[Dwarves have shovels and other strong wooden instruments]

[These will be used to create musical sounds]

All Dwarves [stomp style song]

Work, work, work
Our work is done
done, done, done
The day is gone
gone, gone, gone
Now to home,
home, home, home
we go, we go, we go
Dig, dig, dig we have done
Gold, gold, gold we have found
work, work, work
our work is done
done, done, done
the day is gone, gone, gone
Now to home, home, home
we go, we go, we go
dinner is there, there, there
our beds are there, there, there
the fireplace is there, there, there
Now to home, home, home
we go, we go, we go
we go....we go.... we go.....

Scene 14

Sunday

Look, a light is on in the window!

Monday

Great, who left the light burning?.

Friday

Or maybe it's a burglar.

Saturday

Only one way to find out

[House fly out # 4]
[all enter house]

Sunday

Look Monday, someone's cleaned our house!

Monday

And look Tuesday, someone's cleaned MY plate.

Tuesday

And look Wednesday, someone's eaten a slice from our bread loaf.

Wednesday

And look Thursday, someone's cleaned my pipe!

Thursday

And look Friday, someone put everything away!

Friday

And look Saturday, swept the floors..

Saturday

And look Sunday, someone put away the cups.

Sunday
[Looking around]

And someone made my bed?

All
[Quickly survey their beds]

Mine bed too, mine too, mine too mine too, mine too, mine too

Sunday

[Sees Snow White, gestures to others “Shhhhhh!”]

[All gather around her bed]

[Someone Sneezes]

[Reactions, agreement to tiptoe off to their beds]

[Morning arrives, the dwarves arise, make loud morning sounds]

[Sunday notices Snow White sleeps through it all]

Sunday

She has not awakened? Could she be dead?

Friday

Dead? I hope not.

Monday

Maybe she is just a sound sleeper? Let me find out.

[Wakes Snow White]

[voices]

Who are you?

[Snow White does not understand, indicates cannot hear]

Tuesday

[signs]

Are you deaf?

Snow White

Yes, I am deaf. How did you learn sign language?

Tuesday

Oh many years ago a traveler passed through the woods, he taught me a few signs. But, go slow, my signing is rusty.

Monday

I am curious ask her why are she is here? [**Sunday is interpreting**]

Snow White

I have a step mother who is a queen and ordered the huntsman to go deep in the woods to kill me. I taught him some signs and the huntsman saved me by letting me go in the woods. I wandered a long time and found this house. I am sorry to have bothered you. I will leave now.

[Monday]

No, no don't go. Stay a while and teach us more signs. This is fun! We are the seven dwarves and we can learn anything fast!

Scene 15

[Snow White will interact with the audience and the set props to teach signs]

[music starts]

Snow White

[Signs back, as Sunday and Snow White sign the others pick it up]

[Soon all are signing]

All

Sign, see, sign, see
Today we see the world
Not through our ears
Sign, see, sign, see
Today we see the world
with our hands
sign, see, sign, see
We thank you so much
We thank you so much
Sign, see, sign, see
Suddenly the world seems
so different today
sign, see, sign, see
When we look with our hands
And we look with your eyes
Oh what a beautiful sight
Thank you so much

Thank you so much
Thank you so much

Wednesday

I have an idea. If you stay and keep the house in order for us, sweep some, and cook some then you can stay as long as you like.

All

Yes, indeed, yes, a wonderful idea, yes, yes , yes

Thursday

What do you say Snow White?

Snow White

(Thinking) I would not mind it at all.

ALL

Yes, Yes, Snow White will stay.

Monday

Well, It is time for us to go to work, so, off to work we go. But beware of the queen. She is a bad woman and I fear she will know soon you are not dead.

Sunday

So don't let anyone into the house.

Friday

We will return at the end of each day. Watch for our lanterns. When you see them through the window you can open the door for us.
Let us show you what we mean.

Scene 16

All

Work, work, work
Our work has begun
begun, begun, begun
The day is new
Off we go,
we go, we go, we go
Dig, dig, dig we will
Gold, gold, gold we will find
work, work, work
our work is begun
the day is new so off we go
we go, we go, we go
picks and shovels are there
work is there, there, there
for us to do, do, do, do
off we go,
we go, we go, we go
we go....we go.... we go.....Bye!!!!!!!

Scene 17

[Mirror appears as dwarves march off]

Queen **[reddish lights]**

Mirror, mirror on the wall
Who in all the world
Is most beautiful of all?
You, only you queen
Are most rare of all
But deep in the forest
Snow White lives!
She, only she, is a thousand times
more beautiful than you

[Special light on Snow White in action of sweeping house]

[stage fog, queen becomes peddler woman]

Queen
[Pacing in anger]

I don't understand. I already ate her heart. How can Snow White be alive. The Huntsman lied!
Snow White still lives.

[To Servant]
Go bring me the huntsman's heart. I will have it for supper.

Servant
I, I, I'm sorry. I beg your forgiveness, but I don't know where he is. He's gone. He has left, he's
not here, he's disappeared, He.....

Queen
[To Servant] Out!
A plan! I must think of a plan.

Scene 18

[Queen makes a potion]
[Dips hair brush in magic potion]
[stage fog]
[Queen becomes an old woman and goes to the woods]

[Fly in House #5]
[Knocks at dwarves door]

Queen/Peddler

For sale, fine things for sale, fine things for sale!

Snow White
[At window]

Oh, look at all the beautiful things. So pretty, surely she means no harm to me.

[goes to door, lets peddler in]
[Play in front of the house]

Queen/Peddler

How beautiful you are! I have something that is perfect for you.
[Shows hair brush]

Try it. See how beautiful you can be.

[Snow White brushes her hair and falls]
Queen

Now you are no longer most beautiful

[eerie laugh]

Scene 19

Dwarves

work, work, work
our work is done
done, done, done
home we go, we go, we go.....

Sunday

No! Something has happened to Snow White

[Dwarves gather around, removes hairbrush]
[Snow White revives]

What happened?

Friday

Oh my! That brush is poison. You're lucky. If you had brushed your hair anymore than you did, it would have killed you.

Snow White

A peddler woman came by selling many beautiful things. I was talking to her. She showed me that beautiful brush and that's the last I remember.

Wednesday

It was none other than the Queen.

Thursday

Don't ever let anyone in when we are not here!

Scene 20

[Dwarves make busy work]

[Mirror appears]

Queen **[reddish lights]**

At last! The mirror will tell me what I wish to hear...

Mirror, mirror on the wall
In all the world
Who is most beautiful of all?

You, only you queen
Are most rare of all
But deep in the forest
Snow White lives!
She, only she, is a thousand times
more beautiful than you

[Special Light on Snow White showing her smelling a flower]

Scene 21

Queen

[Paces again in greater anger]

A plan, a perfect plan I must create.....Snow White must die!

[Goes to food tray, picks up an apple, poisons half of it]

[stage fog, queen becomes a different sales woman]

[House fly in #6]

[Goes to open window]

Snow White

[Exits out down to front of house]

Queen/Peasant

Oh my sweet dear./ Your coloring is so pale. Eat this luscious apple and your cheeks will be rosy and beautiful. here, eat, eat, eat...

Snow White

Oh, I'm sure the apples will make my face rosy and beautiful, but I am afraid you mean to harm me. I dare not let you in, the dwarves told me not to.

Queen/Peasant (Signs)

All right, I can easily sell my apples elsewhere. But, please allow me to leave you just one.

Snow White

No, I dare not accept anything.

Queen/Peasant

Are you afraid of poison? Watch, I will cut the apple in half. I will eat one half and you can have the other half.

[reaches out, takes apple, bites, falls to floor]

Queen/Peddler

[Shakes Head]

White as snow, red as blood, black as blackest night..DEAD!

[eerie laugh]

This time the dwarves will save you, not! Only the kiss of a special Prince can save her and he lives in this kingdom, NOT!

Scene 22

[Queen arrives back to mirror] [**reddish lights**]

At last! The mirror will tell me what I wish to hear...

Mirror, mirror on the wall
In all the world
Who is most beautiful of all?

You, only you queen
Are most rare of all
But deep in the forest
Snow White lives not!
You, only you are most beautiful.....

[Queen does strange mean type dance]
[Begins journey back through the woods to castle]

Scene 23

[Another part of the stage the prince appears wandering]
[He meets the huntsman]

Prince

Kind sir, can you tell me where to the find the castle?

Huntsman
[Understands that he is deaf]
[Tries to sign]
[Points directions to castle]

Prince

Where did you learn to sign?

Huntsman

The princess Snow White who is deaf taught me.

Prince

Where can I find this princess you call Snow White?

Huntsman

I am sorry to say she is lost somewhere deep in the woods.

Prince

Why is that so?

Huntsman

Her step mother hates her for being deaf and beautiful too. The queen ordered me to bring her deep into the woods to kill her and I was supposed to bring back her heart. I do not know what to do and I'm am sorry but I left her alone in the woods. I do not know where she is now.

Prince

I will go deeper into the woods in search of her.

Huntsman

God Speed! I hope you are successful. Farewell and good luck!

Scene 24

[Prince continues journey into the woods]
[dwarves begin journey back to house]

Dwarves

work, work, work
our work is done
done, done, done
home we go, we go, we go.....

[smell soup cooking]

Saturday

AH! That smells good! I hope Snow White has cooked some delicious soup.

Sunday

No! It's not good at all. Look!

[Dwarves gather around]

This time I fear the worst for Snow White

Friday

This time we are too late.

[Fly out house #6]

[All dwarves surround Snow White and lift her onto the table]

[Chant begins]

Skin like snow, skin like snow, skin like snow
so white and pure
lips red, lips red, lips red, as blood
hair black, hair black, hair black
as blackest night.
Ears silent as the grave
Silent as the grave

Silent as the grave.....

Scene 25

[Dwarves gather to mourn]

Prince
[To Audience]

My father the King wanted him to marry and many a beautiful maiden was brought to me. I rejected them all because I wanted a princess like myself, who can not hear. The King was angry with me and sent me out of the kingdom to search for my own bride and the King commanded: DO NOT RETURN UNTIL YOU HAVE FOUND THE WOMAN THAT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY!

[Trees come in to mask striking of furniture]
[Move table down stage to make a table/beir for Snow White]
[Trees placed as part of outside scene till end of show]

So I have journeyed far and many a day have I traveled, many a woman I have met, yet none were like me. I have begun to despair and in my gloom did not pay attention to where I was going. As I traveled deep into the woods I became lost. Soon I stumbled onto what later I would learn was the home of the seven dwarves...

Prince
[Enters]
[Sees Snow White]
[Dwarves challenge Prince in voice]
[Prince signs]

Please be not afraid of me! I am the prince of this kingdom. Tell me the story of the lady and why she lays here. I may be able to help you with this problem.

Monday

Look, a prince who signs.

Prince

I have done so all my life. Alone have I been and in despair I have traveled far to find others like myself.

Tuesday

Search no further for what you seek lies there

Wednesday

Yet, you arrive too late, she too like you used signs but now is dead

Prince

No! I have searched too long and far for you to tell me this.

[He approaches table]

[He kisses Snow White]

[She coughs out a piece of apple]

Friday

Again, she is so lucky. If she had swallowed that piece of apple she would be dead but it stuck in her throat. That apple must be poison and that means the bad queen has been here again.

Snow White

Where am I?

Prince

Are you all right?

Snow White

Who are you? What happened?

Saturday

More dirty work by the queen. We thought you were dead.

Wednesday

This prince came. We thought we should keep him away. He kissed you and you awoke.

Snow White

Kissed me!

Prince

And now you are awake.

Snow White

Wait!! You sign!

Prince

And like yourself I hear not. I want you by my side and no one else in all the world. Come home with me to my father's castle and you shall be my bride.

Minstrel 1

So, off they went and a great wedding was planned.

[A wedding scene forms
[Mirror appears]

Scene 26

Queen [**reddish lights**]

Mirror, mirror on the wall
In all the world
Who is the most beautiful of all?

You, only you
Have been most beautiful
Yet the bride to be is a thousand times
More beautiful than you

[Special light on both Snow White and the Prince at a wedding]

Queen

How can this be? I must stop Snow White once and for all.

[**Queen goes to table**]

[**Frantically mixes poison cup and a regular cup**]

[**The queen is in a fury, trying to quickly prepare the poison**]

[**In the confusion she picks up the wrong cup and drinks the poison herself**]

[**We see double scene of regular queen and wicked queen appear and disappear**]

AHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[Queen dies]

Scene 27

[Elaborate wedding scene continues]

Wandering minstrel

[Brings bag out, costume props are removed]

[music begins]

[Dance, acrobatic stuff, etc]

[Minstrels line up and do silly bows similar to top of show]

[Finale Bow]

[Fade to black]

FINI