

play writes

Cinderella

*Gainesville Community
Playhouse*

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away . . . How far away? It's so far away that a young girl will still wait for a handsome prince to come whisk her away to happy ever after. And it's so far away that, after a little suspense, a handsome prince arrives and does just that.

The story begins when a courier announces that the prince is giving a ball. Everyone in town is very excited. Everyone except Cinderella, who isn't going. She wants to go, who wouldn't? But her stepmother, who isn't really wicked, just self-centered and vain, won't even consider it. So, Cinderella is rather disappointed.

Then her godmother arrives to cheer Cinderella up. Then it turns out her godmother is really a *fairy* godmother. And then . . . well, you know the rest.

Cinderella may not be Rodgers and Hammerstein's most significant musical, but it is consistently witty and engaging. They clearly had a fun time writing it. And the high points, especially "In My Own Little Corner" and "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?" are as good as anything they've written.

This production by the Gainesville Community Playhouse is lively and especially notable for the colorful costumes by Peggy Rumble Rasnick, Andrea Stivinger and Debbie Yarbrough, as well as an inventive and efficient

set design.

Alison Regan is a pretty and plucky Cinderella and Doug Mackenzie makes the "love at first sight" prince suitably romantic. Yvonne Dell, Marcia Brown and Melanie Hughes ham it up as, respectively, the stepmother and her two daughters, Portia and Joy. And except for one or two fluffed lines by minor characters, the entire cast is quite good.

The direction by Peggy Rumble Rasnick is clean, direct and keeps the action flowing smoothly. All in all, it would be hard to think of a quicker way to put yourself in a happy holiday spirit than *Cinderella*. Tickets are \$6 and the show is playing Dec. 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20 with a matinee on the 20th.