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# Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans:

Book and lyrics  
by  
Karen Zacarías

Music  
by  
Deborah Wicks La Puma



# Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans: A Salsa Fairy Tale

"This contemporary rap salsa musical has a delightful story based on a fairy tale that is familiar to us all ... [it] is about popularity, about being one's self, respect for yourself and for others ... this is a wonderful show."

—SalsaChicago.com

**Musical. Book and lyrics by Karen Zacarías. Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma. Cast: 2m., 2w., 1 either gender and chorus, both optional.** What will happen to Cinderella at the ball ... game? That's the surprising climactic question in this contemporary Latin-American Cinderella musical, which delightfully turns the classic fairy tale on its head, telling the story from both Cinderella and the "stepsister's" perspective. Cinderella, a newcomer from Puerto Rico, comes to visit her "stepsister," Rosa, in the United States. The catch ... Cinderella only speaks Spanish and Rosa only speaks English. Will these two girls be able to reach an understanding at the (basket) ball game? With a fairy godfather and other delightful twists to the original story, *Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans: A Salsa Fairy Tale* crosses language and gender barriers, weaving a subtle lesson on empathy, sportsmanship and respect. Boys and girls will be cheering in their seats. Lauded by audiences, theaters, schools and academics, *Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans: A Salsa Fairy Tale* is a groundbreaking bilingual children's musical from the award-winning team of playwright Karen Zacarías and composer Deborah Wicks La Puma. Commissioned by Imagination Stage. *Area staging. Approximate running time: 1 hour. Code: CE6.*

Cover photo: Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences, Chicago, Ill., featuring Star Alexis Velazquez, Desmin Borges, Brandon Anthony Prather and L'Oreal Jackson. *Photo: Lara Goetsch. Cover design: Jeanette Alig-Sergel.*

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# **CINDERELLA EATS RICE AND BEANS:**

## **A Salsa Fairy Tale**

Book and Lyrics By  
KAREN ZACARIAS

Music by  
DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA



**Dramatic Publishing**

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Music by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

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(CINDERELLA EATS RICE AND BEANS: A Salsa Fairy Tale)

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*CINDERELLA EATS RICE AND BEANS: A Salsa Fairy Tale* was originally commissioned by Imagination Stage, Bethesda, Maryland.

The musical premiered at Imagination Stage in February 2003. The director was Kate Breyer. The cast was as follows:

PADRINO . . . . . Mando Alvarado  
CENICIENTA . . . . . Michelle Vignoli  
ROSA . . . . . Patricia Penn  
JOEY . . . . . Ricardo Frederick

# CINDERELLA EATS RICE AND BEANS: A Salsa Fairy Tale

## CHARACTERS

- CINDERELLA (also known as CENICIENTA) . . . . .  
a sixth-grader from Puerto Rico  
visiting the United States to learn English
- ROSA . . . . . the wicked cool “stepsister. Loves pop music,  
basketball and being popular
- JOEY . . . . . Rosa’s best friend and head of the pep squad  
(also voice for NARRATOR)
- PADRINO . . . . . The Almost Fairy Godfather
- SETTING: Padrino’s house and Pumpkin Grove Elementary (or Middle/Junior High) School in the United States.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

- Fairy Tale Opening . . . . . Cinderella, Rosa
- Ya Vino El Padrino . . . . . All
- Rosa’s Rules . . . . . All
- Dos Por Dos . . . . . Cinderella, Padrino
- Zapatos Magicos . . . . . Cinderella
- The Weekend . . . . . All
- Comparison Rap . . . . . Rosa, Padrino
- In Your Shoes . . . . . Rosa, Cinderella
- Ya Vino Finale . . . . . All

# **CINDERELLA EATS RICE AND BEANS: A Salsa Fairytale**

## **SONG: FAIRY TALE OPENING**

NARRATOR (*voiceover, stuffy, standard*).

Once upon a time, in a land right about there  
There was a young girl from Puerto Rico named  
Cenicienta: Cinderella—

*(ENTER CINDERELLA, prim and proper, with a broom.)*

CINDERELLA.

LA LA LA LA LA

NARRATOR. Once upon a time, in a land right about here,  
there was a young girl from the United States named  
Rosa—

*(ENTER ROSA, with attitude and perhaps a basketball.)*

ROSA.

YO YO YO YO YO

NARRATOR. Destiny had placed these girls in different  
parts of the world...with different languages and cus-



toms. Neither girl knew it, but one person would change their lives forever.

ROSA. Forever?

CINDERELLA. Para siempre?

*(The girls EXIT or freeze in tableau.)*

NARRATOR. That super-doooper magical force, of course, is the wonderful, the marvelous, the beautiful FAIRY GODMOTHER!!!

*(Searching spotlight. Applause. PADRINO, in a bathrobe, is caught in the spotlight. He's eating something.)*

Wait a minute! *(MUSIC screeches to a halt.)* Where's the fairy godmother?

PADRINO. Oh, she's out of town. At a spa, with some other fairy godmothers. She works so hard, she needed to relax. Soy su marido.

NARRATOR. Her what?

PADRINO. I'm her husband. The Almost Fairy Godfather. El Padrino.

NARRATOR. But we need her for the story! We left messages!

PADRINO. Messages! *(He looks through his pockets and pulls out crumpled pieces of paper. Reads.)* No, that's the cable bill. "Remember to feed the cat." I think I did that. Oh, lookey here—I wrote this—"Fairy Godmother: Somebody called to make sure you are there for the Cinderella story." Caramba! I guess I forgot to tell her!

NARRATOR. What??? The story has already started and Cenicienta is traveling from Puerto Rico to Pumpkin Grove Elementary (or Middle) School in the United States right now! Oh no!

PADRINO. OK! OK! I'll call her! (*Beat.*) No! This is her first vacation in years! I can't mess that up.

NARRATOR. We need a fairy godmother!

PADRINO (*pause*). OK—I'll go. I can do that. I can smooth things over, keep the fort down, tend the farm... What am I supposed to do?

NARRATOR. You know! Transform. Make things better. Shoes! Don't you know the Cinderella story?

PADRINO (*unsure*). Of course I do... (*A Disney Cinderella book plops out of the sky.*) Ah—

NARRATOR. Do you know magic?

PADRINO. Me? A little bit. See my tiny little wings? I haven't passed my fairy godfather test. But don't worry...

NARRATOR (*worried*). Oooh!

PADRINO. —Let me just get my stuff together. Disguises! Doritos! My magic remote. What else could I need? (*Another book drops down. The PADRINO looks at it.*) “Fairy Godparenting for Dummies: a reference for the rest of us.”

NARRATOR. Maybe we should call your wife and—

PADRINO. No! Everything is under control. Bajo control. (*Begin MUSIC.*) Just don't worry my wife. I know exactly what I'm doing (*flings the Dummy book away. Regrets it for a second*) ...kinda sorta.

**SONG: YA VINO EL PADRINO**

PADRINO.

YA VINO EL PADRINO  
 FAIRY GODFATHER IN TOWN  
 YA VINO EL PADRINO  
 HERE TO TURN YOUR STORY AROUND  
 YA VINO EL PADRINO  
 EL DADDY GRANDE—THE BIG POP  
 YA VINO EL PADRINO  
 TO GET THINGS GOING  
 UNTIL THEY STOP.

FAIRY GODFATHER ES EL HOMBRE,  
 I'M THE MAN TO BE  
 AND MY MAGIC WILL SOON BE SUPER  
 FABULOSO, YOU'LL SEE  
 ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES OVERLOOKED  
 I WILL SOON BE OVERBOOKED  
 FOR WISHES AND BALLS  
 AND FAIRY AUDITIONING CALLS

YA VINO EL PADRINO  
 ALTHOUGH I'VE NOT PASSED MY TEST  
 YA VINO EL PADRINO  
 WHILE MY WIFE IS AT THE SPA  
 I'LL JUST DO MY BEST

*(Looking in the Disney book.)*

So who is this Cinderella girl, anyway?

*(ENTER CINDERELLA.)*

CINDERELLA.

CENICIENTA DE PUERTO RICO  
 ISLAND OF THE SEA

WILL BE A STUDENT Y LEARNING ENGLISH  
EN EL BIG CITY  
CENICIENTA IS SWEET,  
SI, TAN DULCE, SO NICE  
BUT TAKES ORDERS TOO WELL  
SHE CLEAN EVERYTHING TWICE

PADRINO (*looking through the book*). Oh, I need to find  
some kind of stepsister.

(*ENTER ROSA and JOEY.*)

ROSA & JOEY.

*ROSA PEREZ IS WICKED COOL  
GOES TO PUMPKIN GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SHE LOVES HIPPIITY HIPPIITY HOP  
ROCK AND BURNIN' FUNK  
AND ON THE COURT SHE'LL RESORT  
TO A MEAN SLAM DUNK  
WITH HER GOOD PAL JOEY  
THEY'RE THE POP IN POPULAR  
THERE AINT NO STOPPIN' HER  
I'M (SHE'S) CALLIN' THE SHOTS*

ALL.

CENICIENTA IS SO MEEK

CINDERELLA.

CENICIENTA SPANISH SPEAK

ALL.

AND ROSA THINKS SHE'S SMOOTH

10 CINDERELLA EATS RICE AND BEANS:

ROSA.

ROSA'S GOT THE FUNK AND GROOVE

ALL.

CENICIENTA IS TOO NICE

CINDERELLA.

CENICIENTA EATS BEANS AND RICE

ALL.

AND ROSA IS A TRIP

ROSA.

ROSA'S FRIENDS THINK SHE IS HIP

ALL.

CENICIENTA  
AND ROSA  
CENICIENTA  
AND ROSA  
CENICIENTA  
AND ROSA

PADRINO.

*VAMOS AL CUENTO!*

*(End of song.)*

*Class bell. Pumpkin Grove Elementary (Middle) School.  
ROSA and JOEY are walking through the halls.)*

ROSA (*to herself*). Imagine the ball. Dribble. Dribble. Pivot. Shoot. And the crowd goes wild! Rosa Perez is awesome...again!

JOEY. Hey, Rosa, what's up?

ROSA. Just being a legend in my own time in my own mind. What's up?

JOEY. For sixth period, Mr. Dinkledoodle is sick today! You know what that means!

ROSA & JOEY (*high-fives*). Substitute!!!

JOEY. And I hear we have a new kid in our class! A girl that only speaks Spanish!

ROSA. A sub *and* a new kid? Wow—we are going to have fun!

PADRINO. That new kid must be Cinderella. She must be the one I need to help! I know, I'll disguise myself as one of these powerful substitute teachers and go to her class.

*(PADRINO begins to dress as a substitute teacher. His cell phone rings. The real world freezes.)*

I hate it when that happens at a performance! (*He answers in mid-silly disguise.*) Mami? Good! Mud bath! Sounds relaxing! Me? Nothing! Just thinking of feeding the cat. I sound funny? 'Cause I'm a funny guy. Of course I'd let you know if there's a problem. Yo te quiero muchisimo. No, yo, te quiero mas. Adios.

*(PADRINO hangs up. JOEY and ROSA unfreeze. We are in the classroom. PADRINO pretends to be the substitute teacher.)*

All right class...settle down...settle down... Your regular teacher, Mr. Dinkledoodle, is sick...and I will be your substitute teacher. Before we talk about the homework. I would like to introduce to you...

*(ENTER CINDERELLA wearing flowers in her hair and a simple yet folkloric top and shorts.)*

...The fairest of them all: the smart, the beautiful, the wonderful, and very kind Cenicienta.

CINDERELLA. Hola.

JOEY. Ceni-what?

ROSA. Cinderella is Cenicienta in English. Can you believe it? Her name is Cinderella!!

*(Laughter.)*

PADRINO. She is an exchange student from Puerto Rico.

ROSA. Can we exchange her back if we have a receipt?

*(JOEY and ROSA high-five each other.)*

PADRINO *(to ROSA)*. And you are?

*(JOEY stands and begins to cheer.)*

JOEY. That's Rosa! *(To the audience.)*

GIMME AN R! *(R)*

GIMME AN O! *(O)*

GIMME AN S! *(S)*

GIMME AN A! *(A)*

WHAT'S THAT SPELL?

ROSA!!

Everybody knows who she is. (*Begin MUSIC.*)

ROSA. Everyone knows who I am.

**SONG: ROSA'S RULES**

I RULE THE COURT,  
I RULE THE CLASSROOM  
AND ALL IN BETWEEN  
AND IF YOU STAY HERE LONG ENOUGH THEN  
YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN  
OOO  
OH OH OH OH

JOEY.

*YO YO YO YO YO*

ROSA.

MY NAME IS ROSA  
IT'S ROSA  
YOU CAN SAY IT AGAIN

JOEY.

*ROSA!*

ROSA.

MY NAME IS ROSA  
IT'S ROSA  
COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY IF I MAKE YOU MY  
FRIEND



JOEY.

*R-O-S-A*  
*HEY HEY*  
*IF YOU SPELL IT*  
*YOU CAN TELL IT*  
*THIS GIRL CAN PLAY*  
*(HUP HUP) SAY HER NAME*  
*(HUP HUP) FEEL THE FLAME*  
*R-O-S-A*  
*SHE'S GOT GAME*  
*WATCH OUT*  
*SHE'LL PUT YOU ALL TO SHAME*  
*ROSA!*

ROSA. What a great cheer!

JOEY. Yeah, well you wrote it.

ROSA. Oh yeah.

*MY NAME IS ROSA, NOT ROSITA*  
*NOT PINKY, NOT PINK*  
*ALTHOUGH MY NAME MIGHT BE IN SPANISH*  
*THAT'S NOT HOW I THINK*

JOEY, CINDERELLA & PADRINO.

*OOO*

ROSA.

*YO YO YO YO*

JOEY, CINDERELLA & PADRINO.

*GO GO GO GO GO!*

ROSA.

*MY NAME IS ROSA*

IT'S ROSA  
YOU CAN SAY IT AGAIN

JOEY, CINDERELLA & PADRINO.  
*ROSA!*

ROSA.  
MY NAME IS ROSA  
IT'S ROSA  
COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY  
Because I am number one in everything! Right?

JOEY. Right!

ROSA.  
IF I MAKE YOU MY FRIEND

*(End of song.)*

PADRINO. Alrighty. Cinderella, do you have anything you'd like to say to the class?

CINDERELLA. Estoy muy feliz de estar aqui. Vine a este pais para aprender otro idioma

PADRINO. Ah, she says she is very happy to be here. She has come to this country to learn a foreign language.

ROSA. How can English be a foreign language?

JOEY. Yeah!

*(Laughter.)*

PADRINO. What was that?

ROSA & JOEY. Nothing.