

CINDERELLA NIGERIANA

By Tiwatope
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A play modified from the original story of Cinderella. Among other things, a Nigerian flavor has been added to it.

Feel free to produce this play in your school or children's theatre or any other place of interest. Just acknowledge the writer of the script when you are presenting it. Also, it would be appreciated if you inform us that you are using it and any observations that you may have.

You can choose the songs the actors and actresses will dance to. You can also be creative with the clothes that they wear. Most of the props are very easy to get and arrange on stage.

If you have any question, feel free to ask.

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CINDERELLA AFRICANA

CHARACTERS

1. Temidire
2. G1 and G2 – Temidire’s friends
3. Iya Funmi - Temidire’s step mother
4. Funmi, Gbemi Temidire’s 2 step sisters
5. Several small animals, birds, mice, etc
6. The Governor
7. The Governor’s Wife
8. Ade - Oba’s son –
9. Mama – Fairy God Mother
10. Valentine The man with the adornment
11. The 3 potential wives for the Prince (Edo, Ghana, Lebanon)
12. Lady – one of the female guests at the party
13. MC – At the wedding –

ACT I Scene 1

It is a simply furnished sitting room with three chairs and a stool. Temidire is seated on one of the chairs crying. She is wearing plain clothes. There are people standing around. G1 and G2 are seated beside her. As the music plays, more people come on stage. They are wearing black or grey. When everyone is on stage, they sing a song of encouragement. A few of them dance to the song.

The Mourners: They sing and after *greeting Temidire they leave. Two of them wait behind.*)

Temidire: What is going to happen to me? My world started falling apart after my mother died. My father remarried thinking that it would be better if he remarried. I thought so too. But my stepmother and stepsisters are wicked and lazy. They also don’t care about me. Now that my father’s dead, I don’t know what they are going to do to me.

G1: Don’t worry Temidire. Everything will be alright.

G2: You are not alone. There are people who like you.

Iya Funmi: Temidire! Temidire!! Temidire!!! *(She walks quickly from stage right to where Temidire is. G1 and G2 quickly walk away after greeting Iya Funmi, a greeting she doesn’t acknowledge.)* Oya get up now. There’s a lot of work to be done. Don’t be lazy. You need to sweep the floor, wash the dishes, and tidy the sitting room. I’m going out now. By the time I return, you must have finished all the work. *(She*

turns and faces stage right.) Funmi, Gbemi, don't keep me waiting.
(She walks off stage left.)

Temidire: Yes, ma. *(She curtseys.)*

(Funmi and Gbemi come in from stage right.)

Funmi: *(facing Temidire)* Don't forget that you have to finish sewing my outfit. I am wearing it to a party this Saturday.

Gbemi: And remember that you have to tidy up our rooms and fix supper before we come back. *(Funmi and Gbemi walk off hurrying to catch up with their mother.)*

Temidire: What can I do? I am their sister, but they treat me worse than a servant. Maybe I should run away? *(Pauses.)* But if I run away where will I go? I don't know anyone outside this city. If I try to go to my relatives in the city they will just send me back here and things will become worse. *(Pauses again.)* Hmm. Someday my change will come. I just know it. *(She hums a song and leaves.)*

ACT II Scene 1

Iya Funmi and her two daughters are in the sitting room. They have fashion magazines in front of them. They are talking about fashion and entertainers.

Narrator: About a week later Iya Funmi and her daughters are in the sitting room doing what they like doing best.

Funmi: Have you heard what happened to Guillermo Lopez?

Gbemi: No, what happened?

Funmi: He was caught with cocaine.

Gbemi: No way!

Iya Funmi: He said that he didn't know what it was, that a friend had asked him to deliver it for him when he gets to his destination.

There is a little pause as the three of them shake their heads.

Gbemi: *(Facing stage left)* Temidire, get us cold drinks.

Funmi: I wonder what's going to happen to him.

Iya Funmi: We'll just have to keep our eyes and ears open.

Temidire comes into the sitting room with three drinks on a tray.

Gbemi: You should know that we would like to take something with the drinks.

Temidire goes and comes back with biscuit.

Funmi: Are there no brownies left?

Temidire: No, you ate the last ones yesterday.

Funmi: We'll manage these for now, but go and bake fresh ones.

Temidire: Ok.

Iya Funmi: Start preparing lunch. I want to eat lunch early today.

Temidire: Yes, ma. *(She curtseys. As Temidire is about to go to the kitchen, the doorbell rings.)*

Iya Funmi: Temidire, see who is at the door.

Temidire: Yes, ma. *(She goes to the door and sees a man there dressed in a suit.)* Good afternoon sir.

Valentine: Good afternoon. My name is Mr. Valentine. I am here on behalf of the governor with four invitation cards for the people of this house. *(Shows Temidire his ID card)* May I come in?

Temidire: Let me take them.

Valentine: I am sorry, but I am under strict orders that each person must sign for his or her own invitation card which you must bring with you to the party that His Excellency has organized for next week.

Temidire: In that case, come in.

Valentine: *(He enters and bows to the three women sitting down.)* Good afternoon ladies.

Iya Funmi: How may we help you?

Valentine: I have an invitation for Mrs. Funmi Odekunle.

Iya Funmi: *(Stretches her hand to receive the IV.)*

Valentine: Please you will have to sign first.

Iya Funmi: What nonsense is that? If you want to give me the invitation card, give me. If not you may go on your way.

Valentine: I am sorry Ma'am, but I am under strict orders from his Excellency the governor, that I should not give out any invitation card if it is not signed for.

Funmi: Mummy, sign the sheet of paper. It's an invitation card from the governor, the governor Mum!

Iya Funmi: Hmmm. *(She signs the sheet of paper and collects the card.)*

Funmi: Mummy, read the invitation card.

Valentine: There's an invitation card for Miss Funmi Odekunle.

Funmi: For me?

Valentine: Yes. Please sign. *(Funmi signs.)* And there's another one for Miss Gbemi Odekunle.

Gbemi: Yes! *(She signs.)*

Valentine: The last one is for Miss Temidire Odekunle. *(Temidire doesn't move. She is surprised.)*

Iya Funmi: What!!!

Funmi: Why would the governor want her to come?

Gbemi: She wouldn't know how to talk.

Funmi: She has nothing to wear.

Gbemi: How would she get there?

Iya Funmi: *(Stands up.)* Give me that card.

Valentine: I am sorry Ma'am, but I am under strict orders. *(He faces Temidire and gives her the sheet of paper to sign. Temidire signs, collects the card, and immediately runs outside to go and hide the card. Valentine waits until she returns.)* Remember, you have to come with your invitation cards. Part of the reason for this party is that the governor is looking for a wife for his son. Anyone his son likes, he will give an invitation to for another party the following week. He will then choose someone at the second party. *(He leaves.)*

Iya Funmi: Temidire where is that invitation card?

Temidire: It's for me. I won't give it to you.

Iya Funmi: I said bring that invitation card. How are you going to go? You have no clothes to wear, and no car to take you there. So you don't need the card.

Temidire: I'll make it for the party somehow. Even if I have to walk there.

Gbemi: Ha ha ha. Walk there? Do you think they will let you in?

Iya Funmi: Bring that card!

Temidire: I won't bring it. *(Iya Funmi gives her a dirty slap and Temidire runs out of the house.)*

ACT III Scene 1

Narrator: It's Friday morning. Iya Funmi has gone to the market with her two daughters. They have new clothes for the party, but they went to do their hair at the salon. Temidire is at home cleaning up as usual. Iya Funmi tried several times to get the invitation card from her, but she was unsuccessful. She gave up believing that there was no way Temidire could go for the party anyway.

Unknown to her step-mother Temidire had sown a fine outfit, and had planned to take a cab after her step-mother and her step sisters had left for the party. She had some money saved that they knew nothing about.

Temidire is surrounded by animals. She has a mop in her hand and the bucket is at one side. She is busy mopping.

She stops to sing a song about dreams. The animals dance around her.

At the end of the song, the animals leave the stage and then Temidire leaves the stage with the mop and bucket.

ACT III Scene 2

Temidire is crying. The dress her stepmother spoilt is beside her.

Narrator: It's Friday evening. Iya Funmi saw Temidire's outfit where she hung it for the sun to warm it. She had forgotten to return it to her room before her step-mother returned. Iya Funmi had taken the outfit and after dropping it on the ground had poured palm oil on it. There was no way the outfit could be worn.

(Fairy God Mother enters. She is dressed in either Ankara or a lace iro and buba.)

Mama: My daughter, why are you crying?

Temidire: *(She is startled upon hearing the voice and she looks up.)* Who are you?

Mama: I'm someone who cares about you. I have been so close to you, but in a way, not so close. So why are you crying?

Temidire: I want to go to the party at the governor's house taking place tonight. I had it all planned but my step-mother ruined the outfit I had planned to wear.

Mama: You can still go.

Temidire: How? I have nothing to wear.

Mama: Well, that's why I am here. If you check on the bed in your room, I believe you will see something that you can wear.

Temidire: *(Rushes to her room and comes back with a fine outfit.)* How did this get here? It's beautiful. I believe it will be my size.

Mama: Well quickly get dressed. The car that will be taking you to the party is waiting for you outside. However, remember, you must be back home before midnight.

Temidire: Oh, thank you very much. *(She gives Mama a hug.)* I'll be back in time. *(She rushes out.)*

ACT III Scene 3

At the ball - The governor and his wife are seated watching what's going on. The guests are dancing. The governor's son is moving from one person to another talking or dancing.

Ade talks with Funmi and dances with Gbemi, and then moves on to talk to someone else shortly before Temidire enters. When he notices her, he walks over to where Temidire is and dances with her. While he is dancing with her, the clock strikes once indicating half past eleven. Temidire excuses herself, but not before the governor's son gives her an IV for the party coming up the following week. After she leaves everyone leaves.

ACT III Scene 4

It is a few hours later in the sitting room of the Adekunles. Temidire is wearing her nightgown with a wrapper. She opens the door for her stepsisters and stepmother.

Gbemi: I had a wonderful time. The governor's son danced with me.

Funmi: Well, although he didn't dance with me, he gave me an invitation to the party next week.

Gbemi: I got an invitation too.

Iya Funmi: That means that both of you will be at the party. One of you must catch Ade's attention. I'm looking forward to having him as a son-in-law. We have to start planning what you will wear to the party and what you will say when he talks to you. Hmmmm.

(She leaves.)

Funmi: It's me that Mr. Ade will fall in love with.

Gbemi: How are you so sure? I want him to fall in love with me. *(Pauses.)* However, I noticed that he had eyes for that lady that came late. I wonder who she is.

Funmi: I don't care. All I know is that Mr. Ade will fall in love with me.

Gbemi: How? *(Then she faces Temidire)* Temidire, you missed. Sorry.

Funmi: What business does she have with the governor's son? Anyway, I'm tired. Goodnight.

Gbemi: I'm tired too. Let's go. *(Both of them leave.)*

Temilade: Mr. Ade is so handsome. *(Looking dreamy.)* Hmmm. I still have a chance. My stepsisters don't know that I got an invitation too. Neither do they know that I am the mystery lady. Hmmm. I need to go to bed. *(She gets up and leaves.)*

ACT IV

At the governor's house. It's the second party. The governor and his wife are seated watching what's going on. The guests are dancing. After some time Funmi and Gbemi enter. They are beautifully dressed. They watch for a while, and then Ade goes to meet Funmi.

Ade: You are welcome.

Funmi: Thank you, sir.

Ade: If you were the wife of the governor, what would you do?

Funmi: I would throw parties and invite the 'who is who' in town. I would travel within the country and outside the country telling people about the governor.

Ade: That's nice. *(He leaves her and talks to another lady.)*

Ade: I hope you are enjoying yourself.

Lady: I am. Thank you.

Ade: What would you do if you were the wife of the governor?

Lady: If I were the wife of the governor, I would support him in whichever way I can. I would start a business that when my husband leaves office, we will be able to continue.

Ade: Thank you. *(He leaves her and talks to Gbemi.)*

Ade: Your dress is nice.

Gbemi: Thank you, sir.

Ade: Assume you are the governor's wife, what would you do?

Gbemi: I would have an NGO and use it to make a name for myself as well as help the less privileged.

Ade: That's good.

Ade leaves her side and goes to sit down while the people from Edo State sings or dances. At the end of the song/dance, he sings/dances /talks with the potential bride.

Ade goes back to his seat while the people from Ghana sings or dances. At the end of the song/dance he sings/dances/ talks with the potential bride.

Ade goes back to his seat while the people from Lebanon sings or dances. Temidire enters while the performance is going on. Instead of going to meet the potential bride, Ade goes to Temidire.

Ade: You are welcome.

Temidire: Thank you, sir.

Ade: You're a little late.

Temidire: I am sorry, sir. I had to sort out some things at home.

Ade: OK. (Paues) If you became the governor's wife, what would you do?

Temidire: Hmm. I would treat the governor as a king, because as my husband he is king no matter his profession. Secondly I would be his chief supporter. If he wants me to work I will work. Whatever I need to do so that I can support him on a personal level and to help him to rule the state well, I will do. I believe that he will take my desires into consideration as well.

Ade: That's an interesting answer. Thank you.

Temidire: You're welcome.

Ade mingles with the other guests for a while and then comes back to dance with Temidire. The clock strikes twelve and Temidire runs off before Ade could know what was happening.

Ade: Wait! *(He runs after her. He picks up the earring that dropped from Temidire's ear. He looks at it, and puts it in his pocket. It does not look like any earring he has seen. He runs out. Everyone else leaves in groups while soft music continues to play in the background.)*

ACT V

At the Odekunle's residence. Funmi, Gbemi, and Iya Funmi are in the sitting room talking when there is a knock at the door. Temidire goes to open it. Valentine is there with the earring in a small box.

Temidire: Good afternoon, sir.

Valentine: Good afternoon. Mr. Valentine is my name. I was here a few weeks ago. I am here on behalf of the governor. May I come in? *(Temidire allows him in.)* Good afternoon ladies. I am here on behalf of the governor. He said that his son has promised to marry whoever can describe the earring that fell at the party last night or that can at least produce the second one.

Iya Funmi: Girls, which one of you dropped the earring?

Funmi: I was the one.

Gbemi: No, I was the one.

Funmi: I was the one. The earring is gold.

Gbemi: No. The earring is blue.

Temidire: I can describe the earring.

Funmi: Who called you into this conversation? You weren't even at the party.

Temidire: Yes, I was. The earring is blue with a small red heart in the centre.

Valentine: Yes. That is how it looks.

Temidire: And here is the second one. *(She pulls it out from a pocket in her dress.)*

Valentine: That's great. We must go to the governor's house right away.

Iya Funmi: Impossicant! She stole that earring from Gbemi. How could she even have been at the party? Look at what she is wearing.

Valentine: I have my orders ma'am. She is going with me to the Governor's house now. And thanks for reminding me. She will buy a new dress on the way. *(Temidire leaves with Valentine.)*

Funmi: Nooooooo. *(She goes after them.)*

Gbemi: It's not fair. *(She walks slowly out.)*

Iya Funmi: Hmmm. How did this happen? What can I do? *(She walks out slowly.)*

ACT VI

It's the wedding day at the governor's residence. Ade is wearing a suit while Temidire is wearing a wedding gown. They are seated together. The governor and his wife are present and are wearing native made from the same material. They are seated at one side of the couple, while Iya Funmi and another man are seated at the other side of the couple. They are also wearing anko (native outfit made from the same material).

M. C.: Hurray to the newest and 'bestest' couple in town. Let's welcome the *Next Step* dancers as we rejoice with the couple.

The Next Step dancers present their dance. At the end of the dance everyone comes on stage waves to the couple and goes out while the choir sings.

THE END