

SLEEPING BEAUTY

1959

Once upon a time, in a kingdom far away, a beautiful princess was born ... a princess destined by a terrible curse, by the evil fairy Maleficent, to prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and become Sleeping Beauty. This is a romantic, humorous and suspenseful story of the lovely Princess Aurora. Despite the loving attempts of the three good but often bumbling fairies, Flora, Fauna, and Merryweather, to protect her by raising her, disguised as Briar Rose, in a forest cottage, the curse is fulfilled. The good fairies put everyone in the castle into a deep sleep until the spell can be broken. It is only with

the aid of Prince Phillip that Maleficent, transformed into a towering, fire-breathing dragon, is destroyed, and the Sleeping Beauty is awakened by his kiss.

The story is Disney's expansion of Charles Perrault's original classic fairy tale of the same name. Although Disney loses the literary excellence of the original tale, which only takes minutes to read, it was necessary in order to create a full-length movie.

With a budget that exceeded \$6 million (see the original financing in another exhibit) this was Walt Disney's most lavish and expensive animated feature to date.