

The Stepsister

A Rococomic Musical Monologue on Identity, Resilience, and Reimagining Classic Tales
Educational Dossier



Synopsis

In his whimsical travels through time, mirrors, and forgotten stories, Lenino the Storyteller encounters Brigitte—a disenchanted young woman best known as the “ugly stepsister” from the Cinderella tale. But this is not the story you’ve heard before.

Through live piano, theatrical storytelling, and sharp humor, *The Stepsister* unravels what really happened after the prince was stolen, fortunes were lost, and reputations ruined. In a world quick to label heroes and villains, Lenino reveals the truth behind gossip, expectations, and the magic of embracing one’s true identity.

This one-person show invites students to rethink classic narratives, question societal roles, and celebrate diversity, empathy, and self-acceptance—with plenty of wit and music along the way.



The Show

- Solo performance with live piano, storytelling & humor
- Approx. 50-60 minutes (adjustable for school settings)
- English or Spanish (Bilingual elements available)
- Minimal technical requirements (electric piano, microphone, basic lighting)

The Artist

Lenin Comprés (Lenino) is a queer Latino multidisciplinary artist, creative technologist, and educator specializing in interactive media, learning sciences, and performing arts. A self-taught pianist and postmodern renaissance storyteller, Lenino serves as a professor and creative technologist at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He holds a degree from Columbia University's Teachers College and blends technology, theater, and narrative to inspire critical thinking and cultural reflection.

Lenin's work champions diverse voices and reimagines traditional narratives through a lens of empathy, identity, and social critique. He co-wrote the award-winning screenplay for *A State of Madness (Mis 500 Locos)*, representing the Dominican Republic at the 2021 Oscars. He is also the creator of *Lenino's JACK RABBITS*, the first original Dominican board game of its kind.

His performances combine storytelling, humor, and music to challenge conventions and celebrate the beauty of difference.

Educational Value

Themes Explored:

- Critical reinterpretation of classic literature and tales.
- Gender roles, identity discovery, and breaking stereotypes.
- Diversity, inclusion, and LGBTQ+ visibility.
- The power of storytelling as a tool for social reflection.
- Creativity in minimalist theatre and musical performance.

Relevant Subjects:

- Literature & English
- Performing Arts / Theatre Studies
- Social Studies / Cultural Studies
- Gender & Diversity Programs

Post-Show Discussion (Optional)

Offer a 20-30 minute interactive session where the artist discusses:

- How stories evolve and who controls narratives.
- Representation, diversity, and queerness in modern storytelling.
- The creative process behind transforming minimal resources into impactful theatre.

Didactic Guide

Pre-Show Reflection:

- What versions of Cinderella do you know?
- How are “villains” typically portrayed in fairytales?
- Discuss how gender roles appear in “classic” stories.

Post-Show Discussion Questions:

1. How does *The Stepsister* change your perception of the “evil” stepsister, stepmother, queen and/or old lady?
2. What societal pressures does Brigitte face? Can you relate them to modern contexts?
3. How does humor help address serious topics like identity and societal expectations?

Creative Activities:

- Rewrite a well-known fairytale from the perspective of a misunderstood character.
- Design a minimalist stage concept using only three objects to tell a story.
- Write a short monologue where a “villain” defends their actions.

Contact & Booking

Available for:

- Live performances (NYC & Tri-State Area)
- Post-show discussions/workshops
- Flexible rates for educational institutions

Booking & Fees

Educational and cultural rates available. The Stepsister includes a 50-60 minute solo performance featuring live piano, storytelling, humor, and an optional post-show discussion.

Typical Ranges:

- Basic: \$800 – \$1,500 USD
- Standard: \$1,500 – \$2,500 USD
- Premium: \$1,000 – \$2,000 USD

Discounts offered for multiple bookings or community programs.

Let's collaborate to create an impactful experience that fits your audience and budget.

For bookings and inquiries:

- stepsister@lenino.net
- stepsister.lenino.net
- Instagram: @lenino
- Based in NYC | Available in the Tri-State Area

Testimonials

“A surprising, creative piece—profound in content and brilliantly versatile in performance.”

— Freddy Ginebra, Casa de Teatro, Dom. Rep.

“Don’t miss The Stepsister wherever it is performed.”

— Maria Ligia Grullón, La 37 Por las Tablas, Dom. Rep.

“Flawless. A must-see.”

— Awilda Reyes, Centro León, Dom. Rep.



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