

Spotlight Publications

Puss In Boots

**A pantomime
By Joy Davis**



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Puss In Boots

CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Daisy - a villager and best friend of Wendy
Wendy Miller - Dame and mother to Peter, Terry and George
Shaz) - comedy duo
Gaz) - servants who have the XYZ Factor
Peter - principal boy, Wendy's youngest son
George - Wendy's eldest son
Mildred - George's wife
Terry - Wendy's second son
June - Terry's wife
Princess Crystal - principal girl, daughter of King Ferdinand & Queen Avarice
King Ferdinand - King and father of Crystal
Queen Avarice - Queen and mother of Crystal
Major Jump - Major in the King's army
Town Crier
Puss - Peter's cat
Mr Eman - a travelling salesman
Grumbleguts - Ogre
Lysteria - Ogre's cook
Billy the Kidnapper - Ogre's servant

Chorus of Villagers, courtiers, children

Chef

Bear

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

- Scene 1 - The village square
- Scene 2 - The Throne Room in the Castle
- Scene 3 - Just outside the village, front of tabs
- Scene 4 - The Ogre's palace
- Scene 5 - In the woods, front of tabs
- Scene 6 - The Throne Room
- Scene 7 - In the woods, front of tabs
- Scene 8 - The Ogre's palace

ACT 2

- Scene 1 - The Great Hall of the Castle
- Scene 2 - Just outside the village, front of tabs
- Scene 3 - In the Castle kitchen
- Scene 4 - At the lake
- Scene 5 - The Ogre's palace
- Scene 6 - A corridor in the Castle, front of tabs
- Scene 8 - The Throne Room
- Scene 9 - A corridor in the Castle (the Community Song, front of tabs)
- Scene 10 - The Royal Wedding

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. "Merry Christmas Everyone" (Shakin' Stevens) (Chorus of villagers)
2. "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" (Queen) (Peter, Crystal)
3. "Rehab" (Amy Winehouse) (King Ferdinand, Queen Avarice)
4. "Yummy, Yummy, Yummy" (Ohio Express) (Grumbleguts)
5. "The Night Before" (The Beatles) (Peter)
6. "These Boots Were Made For Walking" (Nancy Sinatra) (Puss, Wendy, Shaz, Gaz)
7. "Run Away Baby" (Bruno Mars) (Shaz, Gaz)

ACT 2

8. "You're Sixteen, You're Beautiful and You're Mine" (Johnny Burnette) (King, Queen, Crystal, Major, Courtiers)
9. "Count On Me" (Bruno Mars) (Puss, Peter)
10. "Mambo No 5" (Lou Bega) (Chef, Wendy)
11. "Delilah" (Tom Jones) (Wendy, Shaz, Gaz)
12. "I Will Follow Him" (from Sister Act) (Crystal, Peter, King, Queen, Puss, Major, plus Courtiers who come on when music gets upbeat)
13. "Blame It On The Boogie" (Michael Jackson) (Shaz, Gaz)
14. "Marry You" (Bruno Mars) (Whole cast)

A NOTE ON THE PRINCIPALS

Puss - A cat. A strong character needs to be flexible as it starts on all fours. Needs to sing well.

Peter - The principal boy. Son of Wendy, a good solid character. A singing part.

Princess Crystal - The principal girl. Daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Avarice. A strong character. A singing part.

Wendy Miller - The Dame. The miller's wife and mother of Peter, George and Terry. A larger than life character. Needs good comedy timing. A singing part.

Shaz/ Gaz - The comedy duo. They need good comedy timing. They dress like pop stars and desperately want to go on the XYZ Factor. They keep bursting into song. Very expressive with gestures and basically cowards. Although they are desperate to sing, they don't have to sing all that well.

King Ferdinand - Football-mad and a bit mean with his money. Father of Crystal. A singing part.

Queen Avarice - Married to King Ferdinand and loves spending his money. Very fashion conscious with lots of bling. A singing part.

Grumbleguts - The Ogre. A larger than life character, needs to be frightening. A singing part.

Major Jump - Major to the King's army. Shouts all the time making people jump. Very military.

Billy - Kidnapper for Grumbleguts. Can be doubled with either Terry/George/Mr Eman/Chef.

George & Mildred/ Terry & June appear in Act 1 Scene 1 only.

Town Crier - Can be doubled with either Terry/George/Mr Eman/Billy

Lysteria - cook to Grumbleguts. A funny character. Can be double up with either Mildred/June/Daisy.

Chef - Italian chef of King and Queen. A small singing part. Can be doubled.

ACT 1

Scene 1

The May Day celebrations in the village square

The chorus of villagers and children are on stage for the opening number

Song 1

After the dance is over people mill around talking

Daisy What a lovely day it is.

Villager 1 Yes, the sun's shining, it's May Day and we've got the day off.

Villager 3 Some of us have to work, you know!

Villager 4 You on a late shift at the Castle?

Villager 3 Yes. Queen Avarice insisted that we could only have half the day off.

Villager 5 Yes, I have to go in too. She's tight, she is.

Villager 2 And spends all our taxes on clothes.

Daisy With the taxes I pay, I think I bought her last dress!

Villager 1 And I bought the shoes to go with it.

Villager 2 King Ferdinand's good to us though, ain't he?

Villager 4 As long as he can get to see his football, he don't really care about anything else.

Villager 5 He used to play, you know.

Villager 2 Yes, in the Premier Panto League. And very good he was, too.

Enter Wendy, the Miller's wife, looking glum

Daisy Oh look, here's Wendy.

Villager 5 What's up, Wendy, you look right down.

Wendy Hello, girls. I've got some bad news. My Windy's taken a turn for the worst! *(Crying)*

Daisy Oh?

Wendy Yes, he turned over and died! *(Crying even louder)*

Villager 2 What did he die of?

Wendy *(blows her nose loudly)* I don't really know, but you know him. There was always something wrong with him. I remember the day he got diagnosed with amnesia. That was a day to forget.

Villager 3 Didn't he have a stroke?

Villager 5 Not since a year last Wednesday!

Wendy *(gives a playful slap)* Ooh, you are awful, but I like you!

Daisy Where are you off to now?

Wendy The mill. I've got to make sure the grain has been milled for the Castle.

Villager 4 Can't your boys see to that?

Wendy All George and Terry want to do is look for the will.

Villager 1 What about Peter?

Wendy He's already over at the mill. He's trying to do his best, bless him, but it's too much work for one person which is why I nipped down here. Any of you fancy giving me a hand? *(Villagers all applaud)* Oh, ha, ha! *(Sarcastically)*

Daisy What about Mildred and June, your daughters-in-law, why can't they give you a hand?

Wendy Mildred thinks it's beneath her to do manual work and June is just too lazy.

Daisy Don't worry, Wendy, we'll help, won't we girls?

Villager 1 Oh, I've just remembered I've left the kettle on. *(Exits)*

Villager 2 Sorry I can't, I've promised to walk the dog! *(Exits)*

Villager 3 Oh is that the time! I'm supposed to be hanging the washing out, sorry Wendy. *(Exits)*

Villager 4 I wish I could give you a hand, but ... um ... I've only got two myself. *(Exits)*

Villager 5 I've got to ... Um ... clean the um ... windows. *(Exits)*

Wendy *(crying)* No-one wants to help me out.

Daisy I'll give you a hand, Wendy. What do you want me to do?

Wendy Thanks Daisy, you're a true friend. Can you go over to the mill and help our Peter?

Daisy No sooner said than done. See you later. *(Exits SR)*

Wendy Ooh dear. I don't think today can get any worse.

Gaz (*off*) Come on, Shaz ...

Shaz (*off*) I'm right behind you, Gaz.

Wendy (*she looks SL*) Oh no. I take it back. It can get a whole lot worse.

Enter Shaz and Gaz SL - wannabe pop stars with big quiffs and flashy clothes. They address the audience unaware of Wendy's presence

Shaz I'm Shaz ...

Gaz And I'm Gaz ...

Shaz/Gaz And together we are Shagaz!

Gaz And we have (*together making the sign*) the XYZ Factor.

Wendy Max Factor more like!

Shaz (*turning and seeing Wendy*) Ooh, hello, Mrs Miller.

Wendy You've got too much makeup on.

Gaz We've got a friend who puts plaster of Paris on our faces.

Shaz Yes, then he waits for it to dry.

Gaz And then he chisels it off.

Shaz/ Gaz (*together*) He cracks us up. (*They laugh at their own joke*)

Gaz (*noticing Wendy is sad*) What's the matter with you, Mrs Miller? You look glum.

Wendy My Windy's just died.

Shaz/Gaz No!

Wendy Yes.

Shaz and Gaz look horrified

Gaz (*to Shaz*) Well, what about the royal flour? If we go back without it we'll be given the sack.

Shaz Ah, but if we go back with it, we'll have the sack.

Gaz Yes, but if we have the sack we won't lose our jobs, will we?

Shaz You've lost me there.

Wendy You lost me when you came on ...

Gaz Oh. (*singing*) You've lost that loving feeling ...

Oh-oh that loving feeling ...

Shaz (*joins in the singing*) Oh-oh that loving feeling ...

Enter Peter he has his fingers in his ears

Peter What is that awful noise?

Wendy Oh it's just these two. (*To Shaz & Gaz*) Shut it, will you? (*They stop singing*)

Peter I was just coming to tell you I've finished grinding the flour for the Castle. I've left Daisy bagging it up.

Wendy Thank you, Peter, you're such a good boy. (*To Shaz and Gaz*) You can pick up the flour from the mill.

Shaz Would you like us to sing for you before we go?

Wendy No.

Shaz/Gaz (*together*) Oh yes you would.

Wendy/Peter (*together*) Oh no we wouldn't

Shaz/Gaz (*together*) Oh yes you would!

Wendy/Peter (*together*) Oh no we wouldn't!

Shaz Well the children would, (*to audience*) wouldn't you?

Gaz Yes they would, and we'd like to dedicate this song to the memory of Wendy Miller's husband.

Shaz (*to Gaz*) After three. Three ... (*they start singing to the tune of "You Don't Bring Me Flowers Anymore"*)

Shaz/ Gaz (*singing together*) You don't give us flour anymore ...

Wendy (*interrupting*) THANK YOU BUT NO THANK YOU.

Peter It's very kind of you, boys, but ...

Gaz We dance too. Don't we, Shaz?

Shaz Yes, Gaz, we do.

Gaz Yes, we can do the shuffle. (*They start dancing*)

Wendy Do you think you could shuffle off to Buffalo?

Peter (*points off SL*) It's that way, boys.

Gaz (*singing to the tune of "Shuffle Off To Buffalo"*) I'll go and home and get my scanties ...

Shaz (*starts singing next line*) I'll go back and get my panties ...

Wendy (*singing*) And away you'll go ...(*shoves them off SL*)

Shaz/ Gaz (*together*) Ooh, ooh, ooh! (*Exiting SL*)

Peter Come on, Mum, let's go home and I'll make you a nice cup of tea.

Before they can exit George, Mildred, Terry & June enter SR. George is carrying Windy Miller's will

Mildred Ah, there you are! We've found the will. Haven't we, George?

George Yes, Mildred. (*He lifts up the will in his hand*)

Mildred George, read the will.

George Yes, Mildred. (*Reading*) I, Windy Miller ...

Wendy You're not Windy Miller!

George I know I'm not! I'm reading his will.

Wendy Oh yes, carry on.

George (*reading*) I, Windy Miller, being of sound mind and body ...

Wendy Well, that's debatable. His mind wasn't very sound and as for his body ...

Terry Mum! Please ...

Mildred George, just cut to the main bit.

George Yes, Mildred. (*He scans through the main bit mumbling to himself*) Ah, here we are. To my eldest son, George, I hereby bequeath the mill and all its contents.

Mildred I should think so!

George To my second son, Terry, I bequeath the money owed to me from the Castle and my ass.

Everyone looks puzzled and a shade embarrassed until June realises what he means

June Ass, you mean that flea-bitten donkey, Neddy!

Wendy (*aside to Peter*) Oh, that sort of ass. For a moment I thought he meant ...

June (*interrupting*) How much exactly is owing from the Castle?

Terry I don't know.

June Why not?

Terry Well I've never bothered much with my father's affairs.

Wendy Your father had affairs and you never told me?

Terry I didn't mean ...

Peter Can we get on, please?

George (*reading*) To my third son, Peter, I bequeath Tiddles and any loose change that's in my pockets.

George & Terry and Mildred & June look at each other and burst out laughing

Peter (*he glares at them and they stop laughing*) And to Mum?

George To my wife, Wendy ...

Wendy Yes, yes ...

George I leave her ... a widow.

Wendy (*she is obviously shocked*) What am I going to do with one of those?

Terry You are one of those, Mum. What he's saying is you get nought!

Peter That's dreadful!

June I knew you would complain.

Peter I'm quite happy with the cat. Tiddles and I are very fond of each other. I was talking about Mum. How can he leave her without anything?

Mildred He wasn't that stupid then, was he?

George Well she can still live at the mill.

Mildred Oh no, she can't. I am mistress of the mill now and there won't be room for her.

George (*to Wendy*) Sorry, Mum.

Wendy That's alright, son. I wouldn't want to live with her anyway.

Terry How will you run the mill on your own, George?

George Well, I won't be on my own. Mildred can help.

Mildred No, she can't. I am not a common labourer.

Wendy No, she's just common. (*Mildred glares at Wendy*)

Terry Look George, I've got a proposition. You and I could be partners. We could run the mill together. After all you need my ass!

George I do?

Terry Yes. My ass runs the mill machinery that grinds the corn. *(Everyone looks at Terry's rear)* With my donkey and your mill we could pool our assets.

June It would have to be fifty-fifty.

Mildred More like seventy five-twenty five.

George Look, let's talk about this in private.

Wendy Yes, we certainly don't want to talk about your ass in public!

June You're not going to be talking about the ass or anything else. This doesn't concern you.

Mildred *(to Wendy & Peter)* Yes, you two, collect your things from the mill by four o'clock.

Wendy But where will we go?

June That's really not our problem, is it Mother-in-law?

George, Mildred, Terry & June exit SR

Peter Don't worry, Mum, I'll look after you.

Wendy *(very despondent)* Come on, we'd better go and get our things.

Peter *(he notices a pretty young girl entering SL)* You go on, Mum. I'll catch you up in a minute.

Wendy exits SR as Crystal enters SL - she is in disguise as one of the peasants. She wanders on looking around

Hello, I haven't seen you around here before.

Crystal No I'm just visiting.

I'm Peter. What's your name?

Crystal Crystal.

Peter Oh, you've got the same name as the Princess.

Crystal Yes ... um ... I was born around the same time so my mother decided to call me Crystal after the Princess.

Peter I hope you're not as stuck up as she is.

Crystal Stuck up! What do you mean?

Peter Well, I've heard she's a right little madam. According to some of the women in the village who work at the Castle, she's completely spoilt.

Crystal *(indignant)* Spoilt! Well I don't think she is.

Peter Do you know her then?

Crystal Not as well as I thought I did, obviously.

Peter I've only seen her a couple of times with the King and Queen and that was from a distance. You do look a bit like her, you know.

Crystal Oh, do I?

Peter Apparently she dresses really weird when she's in the Castle.

Crystal Weird! Unique, I would call it. She designs and makes her own clothes. Although when she goes out with the King and Queen she is made to wear conventional clothes.

Peter You seem to know a lot about her.

Crystal Well ... I ... um ... work at the Castle occasionally.

Peter Don't let's talk about her.

Crystal No?

Peter No! I'm more interested in you.

He leads her forward, the rest of scene is played front of tabs

You make me feel funny inside. I think it's that crazy little thing called love.

Song 2

Crystal You are funny, Peter.

Peter So people keep telling me! Anyway, can I see you again sometime?

Crystal What about tomorrow? Unless you're busy working.

Peter No, I've just lost my job. I used to work at the mill for my father but he just died and my brothers have kicked me out.

Crystal How awful. What will you do?

Peter Oh, I'll find another job but I may have to go away to find one. There's not much work around here.

Crystal I could try and get you a job at the Castle.

Peter I hardly think they'd listen to a peasant girl!

Crystal A peasant girl? Oh, yes, me ... ha, ha. You never know.

Peter Well I won't hold my breath.

Crystal I have to go now but I'll see you tomorrow.

Peter Same time, same place.

Crystal Yes, same time, same place. Bye Peter.

She exits SL

Peter (*watching her go*) Bye Crystal. (*To audience*) I can't wait to see her again.

He exits SR

Scene 2

Curtains open to the Throne Room in the Castle. Set are two thrones with a small table between them. The King and Queen are on stage. The King is in football gear and the Queen is over dressed with lots of jewellery and showy high-heeled shoes. The King is dribbling his football. The Queen is standing

Queen Ferdinand, do you think this dress clashes with this throne?

King (*not paying any attention to her*) Did you say something, Avarice?

Queen I was down in the dumps when I got this dress.

King (*looks up at her*) So that's where you got it.

He sits on his throne and picks up a scroll

Queen Sweetheart, I need a bigger allowance.

King (*looking at her rear*) From where I'm sitting your allowance looks big enough!

Queen Do try to be sensible, Ferdinand, you know what I'm talking about. I don't have enough money for my personal use.

King (*to audience*) I should have known when I rescued her from that tall tower that she was going to be high maintenance.

Song 3

Queen (*sits on her throne and picks up a scroll entitled Crowns R Us*) All you think about is football!

King Did I tell you I saw a coconut-flavoured biscuit playing football the other day?

Queen Really?

King Yes, it was Wayne Macarooney.

He laughs at his own joke, the Queen is not amused. He starts reading his scroll entitled Fantasy Football

Enter the Major SL. The Major speaks loudly all the time

Major (*he shouts and stands to attention*). Major Jump!

King/Queen (*they jump*) Ah!

King Yes, you certainly did, Major.

Major Excuse me, Your Majesties, I have just been given a newsflash.

King Well, where is it? I'm rather busy at the moment choosing my fantasy football players.

Queen (*indicating her scroll*) And I am contemplating buying a new crown.

Major Here it is.

He gesticulates to the Town Crier who is standing in the wings to come on

Enter the Town Crier SL. Stands DSL

Town Crier (*shouting*) Oyez ...

Queen (*putting hands over ears*) Oh, no.

Town Crier Oyez ...

King (*putting hands over ears*) Oh no.

Town Crier Oyez ...

Queen Oh get on with it!

Town Crier Here is a news flash.

He turns upstage to face the King and Queen out of direct eye line of the audience. He opens his coat wide, stands there for a moment and then looks down

Queen (*shocked*) What on earth are you doing?

Town Crier It's my scrolls, Your Majesty.

King I know how uncomfortable that can be but do you have to do it in front of the Queen? Hurry up and sort yourself out.

Town Crier Yes, Your Majesty (*he starts fumbling*). Sorry, Your Majesty. Ah here it is. (*Takes out the scroll from the inside of his coat, faces downstage and starts shouting*) Oyez, oyez ...

Queen (*putting hands over ears*) Oh, shut it!

The Town Crier immediately closes up the scroll. There is a pause

King (*to Town Crier*) What are you waiting for?

Town Crier The Queen told me to shut it, so I did.

Queen I just meant stop shouting the oyez. Obviously tell us the news.

Town Crier Oh, right, Your Majesty. O.. (*as if to say oyez the Queen glares at him so he stops*) Reports say that an ogre has taken up residence in the Kingdom. Children are missing and it is believed a child-catcher is to blame. He is employed by the Ogre who is very partial to eating children.

King This is dreadful.

Queen How terrible! Ferdinand you must do something about it now! We have our own daughter, Crystal, to think about ... Major Jump.

Major (*stamping his feet together*) Yes, Your Majesty!

Queen Make sure the Princess has a guard with her at all times.

King And she is not to leave the Palace grounds unless accompanied by either the Queen or myself. Is that clear?

Major Crystal, Your Majesty.

King Yes, Crystal! Now, Town Crier, is there anymore news?

Town Crier Just a couple of late football scores, Your Majesty.

King (*excitedly*) Tell me. Tell me.

Town Crier Right, Your Majesty.

A football results announcers voice

Cinder Fellas 4, Mother Gooses 2.

Queen Mother ought to be careful. If she gooses anymore she could be in trouble.

Town Crier Goldilocks and the Bears 3, Snow White and the Dwarfs 7 (*the seven spoken like Len Goodman in Strictly Come Dancing*).

King (*jumping up with excitement*) Yes! (*Composing himself*) Anymore, Town Crier?

Town Crier No, Your Majesty, that is the end of the football results.

King You may leave.

Town Crier Yes, Your Majesty. (*Bows and exits*)

Major (*after a pause he shouts*) Your Majesty!

Queen/King (*together jumping*) Ah!

Major With regard to the Ogre, do you want me to send the army out to obliterate him? Blow the blighter up and smash him to smithereens?

King Not yet, Major. We need to know just how powerful this ogre is. Send the SAS to found out as much as we can about him.

Major (*shouting*) The Suicidal Ambidextrous Squad. What an excellent idea, Your Majesty. I shall attend to it immediately. (*He salutes and exits*)

Queen Can't we get another major who speaks quieter? That man is going to give me a heart attack one of these days.

King He has the same effect on me, dear, but he's very good at his job ... and he's cheap.

Queen (*getting up*) I must go and warn Crystal about the Ogre. I don't want her going out without an escort.

King Well, good luck, Avarice. Normally, she never pays any attention to what we say. She's always sneaking off and going outside the Castle grounds.

Queen All of that is going to stop. It's far too dangerous with this ogre in the vicinity.

King (*begins to take off his cloak*) I'm just going for a run. Did I tell you I did a hundred metres in eight seconds yesterday?

Queen Never! I thought the world record was ten seconds.

King It is, but I took a short cut!

They exit as curtains close

Puss In Boots

Joy Davis's vibrant new script is based on Charles Perrault's 1697 tale *Le Chat Botté (The Booted Cat)*. It follows the original closely but is bang up-to-date with topical references. The result is a well plotted traditional pantomime with funny lines, good characters and specially rewritten song lyrics.

Plot Summary

In his will, Windy Miller leaves his mill and money to his two eldest sons George and Terry, and nothing to his widow, Wendy Miller, leaving her destitute. His eldest son Peter receives the family cat Tiddles. But this is no ordinary cat. Tiddles is transformed into Puss in Boots, who not only talks but is the coolest cat in the land. When Peter falls in love with Princess Crystal, Puss transforms Peter into the Marquis of Carabas, and arranges for both of them to go to the royal castle..

Meanwhile the land is terrorised by the dreaded Ogre Grumbleguts whose favourite food is children. Puss arranges for Peter, Wendy and their pals Shaz and Gaz, a couple of wannabe pop stars, to be admitted to the Ogre's palace. And as for the Ogre himself - well, Puss has a cunning plan!