



2008

Puss In Boots and Other Cat Tails

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Routman, Stephanie. *Puss In Boots and Other Cat Tails*. Anchorage Press Plays, 1999. ISBN 9780876023846. Contact publisher for fee. 27 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin;
Reading Level: Preschool, Primary;
Rating: Excellent;
Genre: Adventure Play; Plays; Fantasy Play; Humorous Play;
Subject: Cats; Folklore; Animals; Drama--Reviews;
Theme: Things are not always what they seem
Production Requirements: Minimal and flexible
Acts: 1
Run Time: 50 minutes
Characters: 5–22
Cast: 2 female, 2 male, 1 percussionist
Time Period: Ancient and Modern

This collection of dramatized folktales is introduced by a character called MC Cat who tells cat jokes and explains each of the stories. Three other cat characters, Meow Mix, Fluff Daddy, and Tomcat Jones, play animal and human characters in each story. The stories include *Puss in Boots*, which takes place in France; *Wildcat and Hyena*, which takes place in Africa; *The Magic Ring*, which takes place in China; and finally *The Cat, the Rooster, and the Lamb*, a story that takes place in Mexico.

This play would be suitable and entertaining for young children. It provides several opportunities for audience involvement, especially during the interactions among the four cat characters. The individual tales are kept short and action packed. The use of a percussionist in the show adds interesting stylistic elements such as the African Drumming in *Wildcat and Hyena* and Peking Opera style in *The Magic Ring*. The script could use some fleshing out; for example, it includes phrases such as "Fluff Daddy improvises a rap," and mentions that the cats will do a rap/dance routine to selected words from Tom Jones' "What's New Pussycat," without further explanation. The script lacks depth that would make it appealing to an older audience.

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