**Puss in Boots**

A puppet play adapted from the original by Anne Lemay

**Characters**

Puss

Miller’s son, a.k.a. the Marquis (pronounced markee) of Carabas (ka-RAH-bus)

Rabbit

Chicken

King

Ogre

Lion

Mouse

Princess

**Scene 1**

At rise: Miller’s youngest son is onstage.

Son Alas and alack! My brothers have inherited our father’s mill and donkey, and all I have is a cat. A sweet kitty, but still – it’s a cat!

Puss *(from offstage)* Ah, master! You are by far the luckiest one, for I will take care of you. All I require is a bag, a pair of boots, and a hat. You provide these and leave the rest to me.

Son I shall do so at once! *(exits and returns with adult sized boots)*

Puss *(enters)* I have the bag and the hat – but what is this? Astounding!

Son You asked for boots.

Puss Oh – this is so “a-mews-ing” – me, a little cat, wearing these great big boots? I “purr-fur” a smaller size.

Son I’ll see what I can do.

*(They exit with boots)*

**Scene 2 – a field**

*Puss enters.*

Puss This is purr-fect! I look so fine. *(Looks down)* My boots are a purr-fect fit! My hat is so grand! I have put some oats and dandelions in my bag, and now I will nap and wait to see what happens. Cats love naps, you know – that’s why they’re called “catnaps.”

*Puss places bag and pretends to sleep.*

*Rabbit hops onstage, stops, looks around, hops again. Approaches bag – retreats – approaches again – and jumps in bag. Puss leaps up and pushes Rabbit down, all puppets retreating below stage, and then Puss returns with full bag.*

Puss Meow! Now that I have a rabbit, it’s time to visit the king!

*(Curtain closes)*

**Scene 3 - the palace**

At rise: King stands near his throne.

*Puss enters and bows low.*

Puss Greetings, sire! I, Puss in Boots, have brought you the gift of a rabbit from my master, the Marquis of Carabas.

King Tell your master that I thank him, and that his gift gives me

a great deal of pleasure.

Puss I “pawsitively” will, your majesty.

*(Curtain)*

**Scene 4 – a cornfield**

Puss I am “feline” fine – so pleased that the king liked my master’s gift.

Today, I have a “purr-fect” plan – I’ll hide here in the corn to see if

I can catch a chicken!

*Puss stands quietly for a few seconds, then turns to audience.*

Puss *(to audience)* It is extremely important that I don’t move or even twitch.

*Puss stands quietly for a few more seconds.*

Puss *(to audience)* I must stay frozen like a block of ice, as still as a statue – or a “catue” – a statue with “catitude!”

*Puss stands quietly again.*

Puss *(still frozen, to audience)* You don’t see me moving, do you? I am imagining.

I am imagining a wonderful story for my master, in which he acquires a magnificent castle and a princess.

*Puss stands quietly again.*

Puss *(turns to audience)* You see, I am a cat, after all. Being still is what we do.

 I am being still so that I can “catch” a chicken. So far, I have not seen even one.

*Puss stands quietly again. Chicken pops up and down.*

Puss *(still frozen, to audience)* You haven’t seen a chicken, have you?

*(chicken pops up and down again, and Puss turns to audience)*

You have? Where?

*Chicken pops up and down again. Puss looks in that direction.*

Puss No, there are no chickens here.

*(looks the other way)* And none there, either.

 I will “pawsitively” be still again – as still as the Cheshire Cat.

*Puss stands quietly and Chicken pops up, goes to bag, and jumps in. Puss leaps on bag and pushes it down under stage, then returns with full bag.*

Puss “Fur” real! You were right! There was a chicken!

Now it’s time to bring *this* gift to the king!

*(Curtain)*

**Scene 5 – the palace**

At rise: King stands near his throne.

*Puss enters and bows low.*

Puss Greetings, sire! I have brought you the gift of a chicken from my master,

the Marquis of Carabas.

King Tell your master that I thank him, and that his gift gives me

a great deal of pleasure.

Puss I will “pawsitively” do that, your majesty.

*(Curtain)*

**Scene 6 – The River**

*Puss and Son enter.*

Puss Now, master, I have a “furr-midable” plan! Do as I say and your “fur-tune” (fortune) will be made and you will marry a princess. First: Take a bath!

Son But I’m not dirty!

Puss You may not be dirty but you aren’t clean enough. In!

*Puss pushes Son down.*

*King enters.*

Puss Your Majesty, my master, the Marquis of Carabas, needs your help!

 He was bathing in the river when his clothes were stolen!

Son *(pops head up)* What???

Puss Shhh! Get back down there!

*Puss pushes him down.*

King Why, that is so unfortunate! I will send one of my courtiers at once to the castle for a suit of my own clothes for your master.

Puss That is “furry” kind, Sire.

*King turns to exit.*

Son *(pops head up)* The King’s clothes??? I can’t wear the King’s clothes!

Puss Shhh! *(pushes Son down again)* Would you rather be naked?

Son *(pops head up)* Naked???

Puss Shhh! You’ll spoil everything! Get back down there so I can arrange for you to meet the princess.

*Puss pushes him down.*

Puss It’s “meow” or never! Time to visit the ogre’s castle.

*Curtain*

**Scene 7 – the ogre’s castle**

Ogre *(enters)* Fe-fi-fo-fum! I smell cat! “Litter-ally!”

Puss *(enters)* Why, so you do!

Ogre Begone, foul cat!

Puss I may be foul but not a fowl! I’ll bet you can’t play *my* game.

Ogre I can play any game! What game do you have?

Puss It’s a magic one. I’ll bet you can’t change.

Ogre Why should I change?

Puss Because I’ve heard your magic is so powerful, but I don’t believe it.

Ogre Believe it!

Puss Prove it! Change into a lion.

Ogre Fe-fi-fo-fum – now a lion I become!

*Ogre pops down and lion puppet pops up.*

Puss “Fur-ocious!” But I’ll bet you can’t do something small – something like … a mouse?

Ogre *(speaking through lion puppet)* I absolutely can!

 Fe-fi-fo-fum – now a tiny mouse I become!

*Lion pops down and mouse pops up and squeaks.*

Puss “Purrfect!” And now to do what all cats do so well – to “cat-ch” a mouse!

 Meow!!!

*Puss leaps at Mouse and both disappear under the stage, meowing and squeaking.*

*Curtain.*

**Scene 8 – Ogre’s castle**

Puss *(enters)* This is “paws-itively” “purr-fect!” The ogre is gone and I have claimed this castle for my master, who is now indeed the Marquis of Carabas – and just in time, for here comes the King.

*King and Princess enter.*

Puss Welcome, sire, to the castle of the Marquis of Carabis!

King I am most impressed. I have brought my daughter to meet him.

Son *(enters)* Welcome to my castle, your majesties.

Princess *(almost swooning)* Oh, marquis, it is such a pleasure to meet you!

Son A pleasure returned.

Puss Ah, true love! “Mewsic” to my ears! And it looks like this tale ends happily after all!

*Curtain – The End.*

*(See Production Notes below.)*

**Production Notes**

**Scenery**

Keep it simple: An empty stage can be the field. Closing the curtain before each castle scene allows the placement of either a castle (image printed from the Internet and mounted on a bookend) and/or the throne. Change the scene by placing it at the far end of either side of the stage.

If using a cardboard stage, place Velcro or magnetic strips on either side of the stage and mount the pictures onto thin cardboard (like a cereal box) instead, and have a puppet change the scene.

If there is no curtain, indicate the scene change in another way, such has having Puss or another puppet walk across the stage with a sign on a stick to indicate a change of place or time, or have Puss announce it as he enters, e.g., “Here I am at the king’s palace” or the ogre’s castle.

**Puppets**

This puppet play was written to highlight the 2020 puppet mascot, Puss in Boots.

The king may be any king puppet – Folkmanis has one – or any puppet with a crown added, even a paper crown. There are many prince and princess puppets available – for the son, it might be best to use a prince puppet with a burlap smock worn over its fine clothes (which is removed, of course, for the final scene).

The rabbit and the chicken may be paper cutouts mounted on sticks or three-dimensional puppets. The ogre and lion characters may be adapted to whatever puppets you have on hand, e.g., you can use a dragon instead of an ogre and change the words in the script accordingly. The mouse may be something else small that a cat would catch. If full-sized puppets are not available, find pictures on the Internet to print and cut out and then mount them on sticks or paper tubes.