

Puss in Boots - Script.

Scenery:

- Three sets needed
- Village
 - Countryside (with plenty of mobile props/trees)
 - Ogre's castle

Plus: carriage to carry on & shape changing cut outs/articulated puppets

Sections in red = script parts not yet completed

Sections in blue = scene changes/curtain cues/cues for kittens & rabbits etc

Sections in green = props required

Sections in purple = sound effects/songs

Sections in italics = stage directions



- piano or singing



- computer sound effects

Act One



30 mins String of cat songs as intro. ie. ones not used during the pantomime ie. Cool for Cats etc.

Prelude: **Front of Curtain**



Muppet music announces performance about to start

As it finishes Cedric comes on stage looks disdainfully at the audience, ousts one of them from his/her seat, Cedric sits down and then complains loudly that he cannot believe so many 'commoners' are waiting for an audience with the King. He then gets up saying he cannot possibly wait with the 'minions' as he is far too important and that he intends to go and find the King so that he is the first in line. At that point he goes behind the curtain and the narrator comes on to start the show.

Cedric: Ah, how ridiculous! How is it possible that so many (pause for effect) commoners have been allowed to come so close to the royal court?
Looks around, clearly uncomfortable
No! This is impossible! I will not contaminate myself by sitting with these minions, I will go and find the King, myself! It is the only way to make sure I am at the front of the queue!

Enter Narrator (who watches Cedric leaving with curiosity and shrugs her shoulders)

Narrator: Good evening, everyone! A very warm welcome to this year's Hickling Pantomime and thank you for coming!
Before we start, there are a few pieces of information for you. There will be one interval during the performance - don't forget to claim your free drink! Please be generous and buy a few raffle tickets before you leave tonight.
We all hope that you enjoy our pantomime! All the song lyrics are in your programmes - so there is no excuse not to join in. And most important of all, don't forget to cheer and boo your favourite goodies and baddies!!
Isn't that right cast!



The narrator is interrupted by the X-Factor introductory (Evil Queen theme) music, smoke and a spotlight follow the X-Factor characters on stage (front of curtain). (a props person could follow them on with some bellows for smoke effects?)

Sharon: Hello, everybody! My name's Sharon - your favourite judge of what's great on the music scene!
Turns to Simon & Louie:
Oh no! It's you two! Will I never escape!

Louis: That's right Babe - love us or hate us, you'll always need us!!!
My name's Simon Cowell - oh yes it is!! (etc!)

Simon: No, you're right, I'm Louis Walsh, the undisputed King of the Irish music scene - BoyZone, Westlife, Girls Aloud - the world will never forget me!
... and here am I, Simon Cowell - I've sold countless records and had numerous number one hits! And don't think for one second I choose to be standing here in front of you simple Hickling folk in this smelly dump of a village.

Sharon looks shocked and the narrator encourages audience to boo

Simon: Oh, for goodness sake, booing is so boring; you sound like Eric Parkes' cows waiting to be milked. But anyway, while you're all sitting here I will fill you in on my next million pound contract. It certainly pays better than ITV and all I've got to do is collect taxes for that old fool the Ogre.

Louis: Need a side-kick? I bet there's money to be made out of this! We could call ourselves the Tax-Factor!

Sharon: Go on, let him! - you reckon you know about music, you can tax the songs!

Louis: I've seen this lot before, the singing's atrocious, so you'll be able to keep that caustic wit sharpened up!

Simon: The worse they sing, the more they'll pay!



burst of X-Factor jingle music, three high, glittery stools are passed in from the side, sitting on one is Sharon's dog when she picks him up there's a plastic poo on the seat:

Sharon: Oh! Mini, I've missed you, babe! Oooh, dear, you must have been waiting a while (*turns to audience*) - anyone got a poo bag?
The judges sit to the side for the opening song:

Scene one:

Curtains Open



Children - opening song - Stray Cat Strut (Stray Cats)

- Tax-Factor - Taxes for the ogre, that was rubbish - pay up
- Kittens look hurt and Sharon defends them

Sharon: (arm round small kitten) Are you feline alright, my dear? Just ignore them!

Children remain on stage, preening themselves, stretching & generally being cat-like. Puss enters (looking rather bored and slightly uncomfortable about all the kittens/kids) & mingles with them unobtrusively.

Narrator: Hello again, everybody! Did **you** enjoy the song? Have you guessed what the pantomime is this year?

(a sign drops down from the ceiling saying, "Puss in Boots - the Story of a Clever Cat." Puss in Boots appears from behind the sign, underlines clever cat with his finger and points at himself, preening his whiskers.)

Narrator: (putting her arm around Puss) That's right, Puss in Boots, and here is Puss, a very Clever Cat indeed - the most feared mouse catcher in the Vale of Belvoir.

I have seen him play a great many cunning tricks to catch rats and mice, nothing can stop him getting what he wants! Not dirt, not brambles not even the Dame & her sweeping brush!

Puss exits, looking very proud & full of himself.

As he exits, Purrlene enters to the side of the stage (looks down-trodden and a little shabby) pushing a triple buggy with three pink kittens (children) inside and carrying a basket of toy kittens,

Narrator: Oh look boys and girls, mums and dads, here comes my very own cat. Let me introduce you to her. She's called Purrlene Dietrich. (strokes and cuddles Purrlene) - no, not Marlene Dietrich, Purrlene Dietrich but at the moment she's behaving more like Vicky Pollard! She's always out and about, on the tiles or hanging around the cattery! And getting herself into trouble (looks meaningfully at the kittens). What she needs is a clever, reliable Tom to look after her.

Purrlene whispers in Narrator's ear:

Oh, I say, she says she fancies Puss, but he doesn't seem to even have noticed her yet. (Purrlene looks embarrassed) Oh, Purrlene, it's no wonder he doesn't like you when you behave like that!

Purrlene whispers in Narrator's ear:

She says, she's not bovered!

Purrlene whispers again:

If you want Puss to like you, you've got to change your attitude a bit and have a complete makeover. Your kittens have got more taste than you have; let's get them to help you!

Draws two of the daughters (Lizzie & Olivia) forward who measure her up and start fiddling with her clothes, they are gently ushered away with - Well, that's a start, I suppose!

Poor Purrlene she has been very unlucky in love, but you think her kittens are just beautiful everyone, don't you?

Narrator then looks at the two pink kittens (Kate S, Alysha) in the buggy:

Narrator: So I see you got on well with the Pink Panther, then!

 *(piano) Pink Panther music and the 3 pink kittens spring up and dance around, joining the other kittens.*

A stripy kitten (Charlotte) steps forward and growls at them both

Stripy Kitten: ... and Shere Khan!!

Narrator: My, you really have been busy!

Well, think about what I said and smarten yourself up a bit, I'm sure Puss will like you better that way - Now, off you all go and find some milk while we get on with the show.

(exit Purrlene and the children/cats)

Scene two:

Opening scene with Mill & village background.

Enter the Dame with a quantity of shopping ...



(Piano) Dame theme music

Dame Hello everyone, are you alright tonight pardon I didn't hear you Now that's better

(play the audience)

Now how discourteous of me I haven't introduced myself. I'm Gertrude, though you can call me Gert and leave out the rude part. I am the housekeeper at the Mill.

Oh! What a day I've had. Up at dawn cleaning, baking, washing, and ironing. It's the scrubbing I don't like though - it makes me ache in the places I used to play ...

Now that's a sad place - the Old Miller died a few weeks ago, and the Mill will probably have to be sold - so I'm going to be out of work and house and home ... (cry) ... Oh .. I've never been lucky in life

My first husband, Oh what a lovely man (just like). I haven't seen him for years (start to sob) ... ever since I had triplets and he went off to look for the other two men. I've not seen him since.

The second was very good at Well you know But he had to go .. On our first anniversary I asked him for something with diamonds in it - and he gave me a pack of cards !!!!

So I need a man in my life to tend and care for me ... I wonder if there's anyone suitable here (look around audience) ... I've got my eye on him over there - Simon what's a name, I'm sure I could tickle his X factor.

(play audience for a few lines) ...

Well I must get on - here comes the Miller's family - poor things. The Miller was a well travelled man. He went to Italy and named his son Ciabatta, then he went to Greece and named his next son Pitta, he went to Germany and named his one and only daughter Pumpernickel. And then he came home to France, so guess what he called his youngest son? (*audience - baguette etc.*) No! - Jacques.

(Exit)



(Piano) brothers theme music (Zippidy Doo Daa)

Enter 2 older brothers (enthusiastic but not very bright). There is a discussion about the will and their general poverty.

- Pump:** Our mean old father hardly left us anything - how are we supposed to manage!
- B1:** We thought that he had bags of gold hidden under all the floorboards but it was a vain hope.
- B2:** We've searched under every floorboard and all we found was half a ton of self raising flour and a few dead spiders
- Pump:** It must be somewhere! Our father was the best miller in the whole kingdom, the sails of his windmill never stopped turning, night or day for 40 years! He must have been rich!
- B1:** No one can be rich in this kingdom - the Ogre McBob sees to that. Every last penny was stolen away before we ever had chance to spend it - let alone hide it!



Off-stage a bell tolls (Notre Dame-ish) & the Ogre's voice is heard (off-stage)

- Ogre:** Fee Fi Fo Fum
I need food in my tum!
Fee Fi Fo Fum
Look out, Hickling! Here I come!



Ogre's voice fades away with the sound of thunder:

- B2:** Has he gone?
- B1:** Yes, he's gone, but his tummy ain't half rumbling ...



(Piano) Dame theme music

Dame enters with Jacques (& Puss) who talks with Brothers and Wives while the Dame moves to speak to the audience,

- Dame:** Ooh, that ogre - may be evil, but he's certainly got a masterful voice! I could quite take a fancy to a man with such a masterful voice - I wonder if he would fancy a slim attractive thirty year old Steady

Dame ushers the other characters forward,

- Dame:** So what did the old man, God bless his soul, (sobbing loudly into a large hanky) leave you all in his will?
- Pump:** Not enough!
- B1:** He left me the Mill - more like a mill-stone
- B2:** He left me the donkey

Jacques: And he left me the cat
Dame: (to Jacques) Well, it's a very nice cat, but I thought you were his favourite son!
Pump: Pitta's the eldest, he should get the most.
Jacques: That is only fair and I am really fond of this old cat. Dad always said that one day we'd find out just why he's such a special cat! I rather think we need to find out soon, though, before it's too late!
B1: Unless he can defeat ogres I don't really see he's worth bothering about at all ...
B2: Ooohhh, don't talk about the ogre - it gives me the willies
Dame: I'll not say what it gives me ...
B2: Yes - everyone knows that the Ogre's eyes are orange, his nails are black and he has hundreds of fleas all over his back.
B1: Yeah, and he has wobbly knees and turned out toes and a big fat boil on the end of his nose.
Dame: That's enough of that! You'll frighten the children!
B2: But it's true!
B1: Yeah and if you burp or trump or argue and lie, you'll end up baked in his "Kiddies Pie"
Jacques: It's true, you know - everyone says so!
Dame: That really is enough, now! You're frightening everyone now - look at (picks on someone in audience) all his hair's dropped out with fright! Well, I think that's why ... (etc. brief ad lib).
B1: (changing the subject) Look, I am sorry Jacques but I'm afraid you really are on your own now. I need the donkey to help in the mill so (B2) will have to stay but I'm afraid you'll have to go! I'll just have to manage without your old mouse catcher - he's getting beyond it anyway!
Aaahhh response from audience
Dame puts her arm round Jacques to comfort him,
Pump: (to Jacques) ... You'll be alright, and if you get cold you can make a pair of mittens from his fur.
Jacques: (Jacques and Puss look horrified) Don't listen to them Puss, I'll look after you



(Piano) brothers theme music

All exit, except Puss.

Scene three:

Enter Puss - dressed like French resistance character (but with tail clear to audience)

Puss: (to audience)

It is true what they say..., under this plain exterior I really am a very clever puss - so clever in fact that I am cleverer than the cleverest clever dick in the whole of clever , clever land. Try saying that in this phoney accent and you will see how clever I am!

Now, this situation is really dire...I for one do not want to end up as a pair of furry mittens...that would not be "furry" nice at all.

But do not fear Mesdames and monsieurs, for I have cunning plan and the answer to all our problems right here (pulls out bottle of magic milk) in this special little bottle ... no madam this doesn't work on that kind of problem...your husband will have to see the doctor about that!

Louie enters towards the back of the stage and hides to listen.

What we have here is magic milk. its powers can bring Jacques all the fame and fortune he desires...one little taste and I become the magical talking puss you see before you.

But I have a little problem...I have no-where to hide it. Will you help me hide it?

Puss targets Liz (prompt) and looks around apparently checking that no-one can hear but doesn't spot Louie (he's behind you routine with audience)

Are we completely, alone? Are you certain? Then listen very carefully, for I shall say this only once. You must never ever give it to anyone else for I cannot save Jacques without it.

Merci Madam...I am forever in your debt. (kisses hand and bows)

Now, mes amis, should this charming madam be tempted by some evil thief, I will need you to warn me. Will you help me? If she looks as if she is going to hand it over I want you to miaouw as loud as you can!

Can you do that for me...then lets try it. After 3 , un, deux, trois

I am sorry my friends but that was purrthetic ...lets try once more after 3 ...un, deux ,trois

Dame: (from off stage) It's those ragged old cats back again! I wonder if they've escaped from the cattery ...



(sound effect of knocking knees as Puss looks frightened by the prospect of the cattery)

Quick, someone give me a bucket of water - I'll shift them ...



Dame comes on with bucket water (obviously empty) splashing water sound effect – and throws it over the cats / audience

Dame: This global warming is a real problem - it evaporated!!!
Dame exits

Puss: Alas this is not working...forget it my friends, Do not miaouw again, in case the bucket is full next time!!

Narrator approaches Louis, she puts an arm around his shoulders and tells the audience:

Narrator: Watch out for this one boys and girls. I think he might have heard about the magic milk.

Jacques re-enters looking for the cat (because he hadn't followed),



cat takes a swig of milk and clears his throat. (glugging sound effect)

Sharon from side stage expresses an interest in Jacques:

Sharon: Now there's a handsome boy, I wonder if he can sing? Mind you, it doesn't really matter when you look like that !!!!!

Jacques: We're on our own now, Puss. My brothers have nothing to spare and I'm just another mouth to feed. Pumperknickel says that all you're good for is to make a pair of mittens
(cat looks anxious and backs away in fright)
 no,no, don't worry, I would never hurt you!
(Puss looks relieved, he licks Jacques's hand)
 You're all that I have to remember my poor old father by ... Come on! We're pals aren't we?



Bon Jovi - Living on a Prayer (Karaoke)

We've got to hold on to what we've got
 'Cause it doesn't make a difference
 If we make it or not
 We've got each other and that's a lot
 For love - we'll give it a shot

Chorus
 Whooh, we're half way there
 Livin' on a prayer

Take my hand and we'll make it - I swear
Livin' on a prayer

We've got to hold on ready or not
You live for the fight when it's all that you've got

Chorus
Whooh, we're half way there
Livin' on a prayer
Take my hand and we'll make it - I swear
Livin' on a prayer

Simon: Over to you Sharon
Sharon: Well dear - have you thought about a career on the cruise ships?
Simon: The Titanic will do for you.
Louie: Well, that went down quite well.....

Puss nods and they shake hands
Jacques: But what am I going to do? I need some help!
Puss points at himself
You! How can you help me?
Puss taps his head
Oh! You're a clever cat are you?

Enter a cobbler (one of the villagers in disguise & wearing flamboyant feathered hat)

Cobbler: Boots for Sale! (*aside*) and I don't mean the latest takeover bid and more redundancies!

Using sign language the cat indicates to Jacques that he wants some boots

Jacques: (*confused and picking up a small pair of scruffy brown boots*)
How much are these?

Cobbler: One crown to you, sir!

Puss shakes his head and returns the boots to the cobbler and picks up a beautiful shiny pair of long boots. Jacques is horrified but asks ...

Jacques: How much?

Cobbler: Fit for royalty, these!

Jacques: Oh dear! They'll cost the earth!

Cobbler: (*market trader style*) Look, to be honest, guv! I made them for the Queen but her husband went and cancelled the order at the last minute - I'd be glad to be shot of them! Just three crowns to you, sir!

Jacques: It's still too much! I've only got half a crown left in the world.

(Puss looks persuasive and Jacques regretful)

Cobbler: Done! (*aside to audience*) - you have been ...

Jacques reluctantly hands over the money and the cat puts on his new boots - he also takes the cobbler's hat who looks outraged but gives up when he sees the expression on Puss's face

- Cobbler:** Ha! A cat with boots! Now I've seen everything! You must be mad lad!
(*exiting*) Boots! Shoes! Boots and shoes for sale!
- Jacques:** Did you hear that, Puss? He thinks I'm mad! I think perhaps he's ...
- Puss:** ...mistaken!
- Jacques:** (*surprised & looking around*) Who said that? When I said 'mad' someone said ...
- Puss:** very mistaken!
Jacques looks thoroughly confused.
- Jacques:** Who said that?
- Puss:** Well, it might have been me?!
- Jacques:** A talking cat? An actual talking cat!
- Puss:** Mais oui - you could well discover, Monsieur, if I may make so bold, that your inheritance - that is moi - is not such a bad bargain after all. Together we can make things happen, make situations change; who knows what good fortune could be just around the corner?
- Jacques:** (*still amazed*) A talking cat!
- Puss:** Indeed, I can see you're really quite quick on the up-take for a human! Now I have my hat and boots we can put my plan into action and really make things change - OK?



"Boots are Made for Walking" (karaoke)

These boots are made for walking
And that's just what they'll do.
This is the day,
These boots are gonna walk and talk for you.

You keep losing where you shouldn't be losin'.
You keep thinking that you'll never find hope.
HA!
I just found me a brand new pair of boots,
Yeah.
And what I know, you ain't had time to learn.

These boots are made for walking
And that's just what they'll do.
This is the day,
These boots are gonna walk and talk for you.

Are you ready boots?
START WALKING!

Simon: Louie ...
Louie: Lets hope that you start walking, keep walking, and don't come back.
Simon: Sharon ..
Sharon: I'm sorry dear, but you didn't do it for me.
Simon: You can't sing, you can't dance and apart from nice boots, what can I say?
So pay your taxes, Pussy! And on with the show!

Puss: Bon Alors! When do we start, O Master? (I learnt that one from a genie I once knew ...)
Jacques: You're going to help me?
Puss: Now you are talking! Or rather I am, but anyway - Oui, I am going to help you - viens vite avec moi ...

Puss & Jacques exit.

Curtains close and re-open immediately

Scene four:

Enter King apparently looking for something.

Narrator: Stand up everyone and bow to the King. That was very well done.
The King briefly acknowledges the audience and then stands next the narrator with arm round her shoulders and listening;

Now, do you know what a lucky King he is? He has a lovely wife (no evil stepmothers here) and a beautiful daughter who love him dearly.
But, he does also have one really big problem - Big Ogre McBob has stolen almost everything he owns!

The King turns his pockets inside out to show they're empty and looks forlorn

Narrator: All he has left is his pride and a wife and daughter who don't know his purse is empty!

narrator exits.

King: *(bows to audience)*
Good evening, my loyal subjects. I am your King - King Billy the 2nd!
(gestures to audience to bow as per narrator above)
I am your king, but I am quite powerless, for times are difficult. That dreadful ogre has his wicked grip on my affairs, and on my money too! But my people need me. They need me to be strong. They need a figure to look up to. And so, I do what royalty are good at: I pretend. I pretend that everything is splendid, no problems at all thank you very much. Perfectly under control.

Have you seen her? My wife, I mean! The lovely Queen. I'm terribly afraid that she has gone on another of her shopping sprees, I'm not sure I can take any more!

And things really are desperate now! I can't keep the pretence going much longer. My reign is doomed. My only hope is to find a really rich husband for my beautiful daughter. I only hope he'll be nice and kind too but I'm afraid rich is essential! Yes, then perhaps everything would be truly marvellous again.

Ahh, Here is Arabella now and she's found Imelda, thank goodness!

Enter Queen with Princess & Friend

Queen: *(holding up bags full of shopping and pulling out a red dress)*
Look at this, girls! Do you like it?

Princess: It's lovely, Mum! Very bright! That must be your 10th red dress this season!

Queen: I know dear, but I just love that song - I'd love to be 'The Lady in Red!'



Quick burst of Lady in Red music

P Friend: But Madam, you can only wear one at a time - haven't you got enough?

- Queen:** This one was such a bargain, though! It says Versace on the label - look! And underneath it says - 'guaranteed, genuine, definitely not a copy, honest!' So it must be real!
- Princess:** Oh, Mother! How much did it cost?
- Queen:** That's what's so brilliant. I found it at the market and I asked the gentleman the price and he said £25. Well, I haggled and I haggled and eventually I got it for £24.99 - isn't that brilliant?
- Princess:** £24.99 for a Versace dress, yes, that's quite a bargain ...

The Queen pulls out bits from bags and proudly shows them to the others. Running commentary of 'ooh, look at this' and 'very nice dear' etc. The king smiles and encourages his wife but periodically turns to the audience with expressions of horror etc.

Midway the Narrator enters (picking up pieces of discarded shopping as she enters):

- Narrator:** Poor man! He has tried so many ways of saving money but they're just not enough!
It's Bailey's sausages now or nothing and he can only eat at the Plough if he wins a meal voucher in the quiz.

The King gradually ushers the Queen off-stage and the conversation can be heard continuing & then fades away.



short burst of Hey Big Spender as they exit

- Princess:** I'm sure something is worrying father, but I can't find out what it is! He just keeps saying things like "It must be time for us to find you a nice husband" and "You do look beautiful, darling, I'm sure we'll find you a nice young man!"
- P Friend:** It looks as if he's got marriage on his mind, then! Any idea who he's got lined up for you?
- Princess:** None! And I'm not hopeful - all the lords and princes I've ever met have either been ancient (one was over 30, for goodness sake!) or smelly or completely ugly ... or all three! What about that one whose idea of giving me a good time was taking me to see Kinoulton Villa for the footy with a pie and peas at half time, I mean, for goodness sake!
- P Friend:** Prospects aren't good, then - I'm not surprised he's worried. I'd be terrified if I had to try and persuade you to accept any of those!
And talking of terrified, are you sure it's a good idea wandering alone around here, didn't you hear the ogre just now?
- Princess:** Hmm! I don't think I'd enjoy being his next breakfast
The Princess & Friend describe the ogre's castle which is off-stage and can't be seen by the audience. They point up and into the distance, craning to see and peering hard as if it's absolutely riveting.
- P. Friend:** I can see his castle over there in the distance, it should look frightening but strangely it doesn't! Actually it looks magnificent with those towering spires right up in the clouds

Princess: And the glittering gold of the battlements and flags
P Friend: The glistening sunshine on crystal windows
Princess: *(to audience)* It really does look very good from here, just round this corner, you know, from this particular angle ...
P Friend: With all those beautiful trees clustering around
Princess: Hmm, *(to the audience)* shame you can't see it!
P Friend: Shame!
Princess: It'd be a lovely place to live ...
P Friend: ... if it weren't for the Ogre McBob ...

Simon moves in side stage as Princess and Friend leave chatting, they brush past him nonchalantly.

He moves front of curtain and curtains close behind him.

Scene five:



music signal - (Evil Queen) X-Factor music

Front of curtain

Simon: *(sneering at the departed girls)*
You won't ignore me so easily next time I see you!
(to audience)

So, my employer the Ogre McBob has decided he wants a wife,
Someone beautiful, young and intelligent.
Could be difficult looking at you lot.

Now let me look closer.
(pick out a man in the audience)
Put a frock on mate he wouldn't know the difference

Louis and Sharon enter carrying placards with pictures of prospective wives and singing:

L&S:  *The ogre wants a wife (piano - to the tune of the farmer wants a wife)*

*The ogre wants a wife
The ogre wants a wife
Eee eye addy-oh
The ogre wants a wife*

Looking into the audience they begin to sing:

The ogre wants a child...

Simon: ... to eat! But that'll have to wait for later ... Back to wives ...

Simon takes on the role of the ogre (puts on a green Shrek mask?) and Louis and Sharon present him with the options - portraits of possible wives on large cards - each one is described and then dismissed by Simon/Shrek:



Magical jingles sound as each picture is shown

Sharon: Number 1? Nice complexion!
Louie: Yes, but is that the front or the back?
Simon: No! This one's too round, she'd take up too much room, even in the castle
Louie: Number 2? This one isn't round
Simon: No! Too many sharp corners - you could cut yourself on this one!
Sharon: Number 3? Looks a forceful kind of person!
Simon: No! far too tough, she'd be boss of the place before we had time to turn round.
Louie: There's only one left, she looks pretty and gentle enough!
Sharon: Oh, no! Not the Princess - she doesn't deserve this!

Simon: I think she'll do very nicely - after all he's had everything else from the King!! And if she won't cooperate we'll just have to have a bit of Princess Pie instead ...

Louis: Remember what I overheard earlier? It'd be worth trying to get our hands on that magic milk if we can - could be useful, don't you think?

Simon: Go on then - have I go, but I don't rate your chances!

Simon exits and Louis makes first attempt to steal the cat's milk - tries to bribe audience to hand it over, sweets, money etc. but fails.

Louis: Hello, my dear, I have money, or sweets - can I tempt you to part with the milk? It really isn't important, you know, I'm sure Puss won't mind! We're very good friends of his and we'll look after it very carefully!

Prompt: No, no, definitely not!

Sharon: What are you up to?

Louis: Just trying to buy some milk but it appears that the lady's not for selling!

Sharon: Oh, milk! Do you know, Cleopatra used to bathe in asses milk? Great for keeping the skin looking young.

Louie: That'd save you a bit on facelifts, then wouldn't it! What do you want - pasteurised?

Sharon: No, up to me knees'll be fine ...

Louie shoos/boots Sharon off stage as Simon re-enters through the opening curtains - Curtains re-open (no scene change)

Louie: So how do we kidnap a Princess, then?

Simon: We'll try hiding first!

They move to the back of the stage awaiting return of Princess. Look for cover and go off stage to fetch a tree to hide themselves behind; Lots of peeking out from behind & reaction to Narrator's booing and hissing practice.

Narrator: What do you think of the baddies everyone? Aren't they evil, greedy and oh so ugly - and that's just their good points! I think we need to practise our booing and hissing - come on everyone.

Booing hissing practice with audience.

Princess and Friend enter, Simon leaps out and confronts them, Louie remains behind tree miming fright/cowardice

Simon: You're coming with me, my pretty Princess! I've got a lovely husband for you!

Princess: No! Get away from me. I don't want to marry anyone you know!

Simon: Ah, but, my dear! The ogre is waiting for you and will be very unhappy if you don't come along nicely ...

Princess: No, not to the ogre! Everyone knows about him!!

Simon: Stop snivelling, it's a life of slavery for you!

Louie: And let's face it, the Ogre McBob can't be as bad as some of these husbands out here! (*points into audience*)

Princess & Friend scream, the Friend runs away and Jacques and Puss come to the rescue. Louis sidle off stage with tree in fright midway (when the fight starts Louie will sidle off with the tree to avoid fighting (play this cowardice up for audience' benefit))

Simon is defeated (slow motion fight sequence?)



Saturday Night's For Fighting (Elton John) - slowed down or Madonna - Ninja

*During the next sequence Puss & the Henchman appear 3 times to the back of the stage - first time Puss chases Simon brandishing a **small stick**, the second time Simon chases Puss with a **larger stock**, the final time Puss is chasing again with a **huge stick** - silent action to maintain sense of movement/danger.*



*Princess & Jacques gaze at each other lovestruck - **thunder rumbles** in the background. The Princess is anxious about the danger and keeps trying to draw away and exit but Jacques keeps pulling her back - maintain some movement on stage.*

Princess: It sounds like rain

Jacques: You would look beautiful whatever the weather

Princess: (*looks at him as if she's not sure he's right & then up at the sky*)
I suppose you haven't got an umbrella?

Jacques: No, but if I had one, I would lend it to you!
(Simon & Puss cross stage)

Princess: (*a little offended*) You wouldn't give it to me?

Jacques: Absolutely not! I would insist on it being returned!

Princess: That's hardly generous!

Jacques: I would want **you** to bring it back to me!

Princess: But don't you want to know who I am first?

Jacques: No, and I don't care!
(Simon & Puss cross stage)

Princess: But, you really should know more about me, my name is Pri ...

Jacques: Priscilla! What a pretty name! My name is Jacques!

Princess: (*exasperated*) Don't you wonder why you've never seen me before?

Jacques: I just thought you'd come with the royal court

Princess: I did. You see I'm ...

Jacques: If you are a servant, I hope you're not too grand a one, I'm only the son of a poor miller. But I won't always be poor - will you wait for me?

Princess: I don't mind what you are but I'm afraid my father insists I must marry someone rich and quite soon!

(Simon & Puss cross stage)

Jacques: Oh!

Princess: Have you never seen the Princess?

Jacques: Never! And I don't want to, you will always be my princess now!

Princess looks worried but smiles anyway,



Jacques, Princess love song - piano recorded? Karaoke?

Baby It's Cold Outside

I really can't stay - But baby it's cold out here
I've got to go away - Oh, baby it's cold out here
You've really been grand - I thrill when you touch my hand
But don't you see - How can you do this thing to me
My mother will start to worry - Beautiful, what's your hurry
My father will be pacing the floor - Listen to those birds that sing
So really I'd better scurry - Oh beautiful, please don't hurry
Maybe just a half a word more - Why don't you stay, so I'll never feel sore

Ahh, but it's cold out here!

Simon: Sharon ...

Sharon: It reminded me of Ossy and me when we first met. Rough and romantic.

Simon: Louie:

Louie: It started cold, but I'm warming to it.

Simon: Wonderful lyrics – you are right, it is cold outside – so get your coats on and go!!

- her friend enters and, afraid of ogre/trouble etc., she pulls the princess away from Jacques and they leave in a hurry. Jacques watches her go & then follows wistfully.

Puss and Simon return on stage, brandishing sticks at each other.



bell tolls and the Ogre's voice is heard off stage:

Ogre: Yaba daba doo
I want a wife the noo
If your no' quick
I'll break yer neck

An chuck ye in a stew

Henchman and Puss confront each other - they are now declared enemies.

Puss: Now listen to me carefully, you strange little man! It is clear to see that I am far stronger and cleverer than you. You will never get your evil way while Puss in Boots is around!

Simon: No cat has ever got anywhere near my cream - I can do slimy and evil, clever and cruel far better than any furball in shiny boots!

Puss: How dare you...you impudent fool! If you believe that you are more stupid than you look...and that's saying something ...you will never get away with it!

Simon: You wait and see, there's a new regime round here and it is not cat friendly

...



(Piano) Simon sings "What's New Pussycat"

- verbal duel between Simon & Puss.

Simon: Pussycat, pussycat
I've got powers and lots of hours to frighten you
So go and powder your sweet little pussycat nose
Pussy cat Pussy cat
I hate you yes I do
You in your little pussy cat boots

Simon: Watch Out! Pussy cat

Puss: woah, woah

Simon: Watch Out! Pussycat

Puss: woah, woah

Puss: Oh Monsieur Simone your so purrthetic
Your acting frenetic I've frightened you
So go and pull up your trousers a little bit more
Clever puss Clever puss
That I am
Understand
Me with my pussy cat boots

Puss: Watch Out! For this cat

Puss: woah, woah

Simon: Watch out for this cat

Puss: woah, woah

(Repeat?)

Simon and Puss: *(Both shout, Simon puts finger in Puss's face) WATCH OUT!*
Puss simply faces him off.

Louie: Cowell, that howl was foul

Sharon: Yes! Chuck in the towel.

Simon exits and Puss takes a reviving drink of milk.

Purrlene enters and tries to make him feel better. Puss pushes Purrlene aside - roughly,

Puss: Oh really! What do you want? I've got enough on my plate without you hanging around!

Purrlene looks hurt and offended

Puss: Look - Skidaddle, disappear, vamoos! I don't have time for you and your hordes of kittens!

Purrlene appeals to audience for sympathy and exits.

Puss: I'm sorry, folks! I'm sure she's very nice but this cat has work to do! We must do something about this ogre and his Henchmen.

Exit Puss

Curtains close.

Scene six:

Front of Curtain



Dame entrance music - piano

Dame, Brothers and wives enter. The mill can't support them, ogre's rents too high etc.

Pump: It's absolutely, completely and utterly no good - this useless mill will never make any money while that ogre's in the neighbourhood.

Dame: We're out of house and home and penniless....



All Sing, Oh! We ain't got a barrel of money, (Piano)

*Maybe we're ragged and funny,
But we'll travel along, singing a song,
Side by side.*

*Don't know what's comin' tomorrow,
Maybe it's trouble and sorrow,
But we'll travel the road, sharin' the load,
Side by side.*

Oh! We ain't got a barrel of money ...

Interrupted by Louis

Louie: I hope they have got some money, remember the worse they sing the more we get in tax..

Simon: Taking tax from these is just like shelling peas.

Dame: *(pinching Simons cheek)* Don't you speak dirty to me you little Oh that reminds me - I must go and find that donkey ...

Dame exits through the opening curtains to fetch the Donkey



*Dame re-enters pulling the reluctant donkey (My 4 Legged Friend musical intro - piano), B2 goes to push from behind. B1 takes over the rein and the Dame steps aside brushing herself down.
Donkey and brothers "crushed" against the posts etc..*

B2: Ouch! Help! Get back! Donkey forward

B2: Aahh, that's better!

B1: Help! Help me, you fool!

B2: Oh! Sorry!

Pump: Look it's clearly useless, the only thing we can do is to sell the wretched thing ..

B1: Donkey for Sale - Donkey for Sale ...
B2: No! No! Big mistake! He's mine you can't sell him.
Pump: Donkey for sale! Sturdy, hard working donkey for sale!
B2: Don't sell him - he's all I've got
Donkey and B2 hang heads forlornly
B1: I'm sorry, someone has to make a sacrifice round here and it's better you than me! Otherwise we'll all starve! And you wouldn't want that on your conscience would you?
B2: But? But!
He's giving in but both B2 & Donkey look very unhappy, donkey shakes his head despondently at audience to provoke 'Aaahhh' response

 Enter villagers who negotiate with Pumpernickel and agree a price they begin to move off with the donkey. (*My 4 Legged Friend theme as donkey exits - piano*)

Pump: You've got to find a job and quickly - I'm off - Things to do! People to see!
(exits holding up bag of gold)
B1: How do we find a job around here?

Narrator then pins a job advert to one of the trees.

Dame: Large estate and castle requires steward, and helper
B1: All round help needed
B2: Employer is demanding but very very fair - and nice
Dame: They all say that
B2: Rewards can be generous
B1: Applicants should be strong and brave
B2: Discrete and confidential ...
B1: Orphaned or homeless applicants more than welcome.
B2: What do you suppose all that means?
B1: Then there's just a telephone number, but no name!
Dame: Strange, I wonder why there's no name - I wonder if they have got something to hide ... it all sounds a bit dodgy to me!
B2: Don't be ridiculous - ring the number and get the job, stop wasting time!

 The Narrator pulls out a phone, dials the number and hands it to B1.

B1: Hello?
Me,me,me,me sound effects (shrill)
B1: Yes, that's right, I'm phoning about the job advert
Me,me,me,me sound effects (shrill)
B1: I think my brother and I would be perfect for you, Sir!
(aside to others) It's a Scottish Gentleman! Sounds OK!
Me,me,me,me sound effects (deeper to fit Scottish Gent)

B1: I see, yes.

Me,me,me,me sound effects (deeper to fit Scottish Gent)

B1: And our duties would be?

Me,me,me,me sound effects (deeper to fit Scottish Gent)

B1: Oh, OK, you'll explain later

Thank you, which castle is it? Shall we come now?

Me,me,me,me sound effects (deeper to fit Scottish Gent)

B1: Meet your servant by the big oak tree? Oh, I see, yes! If you think that's best ...

Bye! Thank you! Bye!

Addressing the other characters:

That's sorted, then. We start immediately. Did sound a bit mysterious,

though ...

Dame: Sounds distinctly dodgy to me - did you say he had a Scottish accent? I've heard one of those recently (*light begins to dawn and brothers begin to look worried*) and the memory isn't pleasant. I think I'll come along with you two and make sure this is OK.

Dame and brothers exit.



Piano - Dame theme music

Curtains close

Scene seven:
Front of curtain.

Enter Cedric and the Trinny (Lizzie) and Susannah (Olivia) kittens

Cedric: Ahh, my young friends, I am pleased to have found you
L&O look up at C - pleased expression, smiley
– thank you for showing me the way to the court of the King.
L&O sweeping bow to C
I am here to ask the beautiful Princess to accept my hand in marriage. Do you think she will like me?
L shakes head & O nods - exaggerated
But of course she will! Who could resist my elegance, my charm, I have everything!
L&O look horrified - round the twist gesture
Wealth, possessions, beauty - I am only missing one thing (*clutches heart*)
(*to audience*)
L&O hands on hips
Do you have any idea what it could be? (*audience shout out 'love!'*)
L&O exaggerated head shaking then hands on hips again
(*Cedric looks disdainful*) Love?! How ridiculous, the love I have for myself is quite enough to keep me satisfied! No! I need a TITLE! The only reason I would come to this dirty little village would be to become the son-in-law to a KING!
L&O beginning to get a little bored, they start to finger C's sleeves with scorn/ laughing at him/snigger

Kittens start to finger/admire his fancy costume. Cedric preens himself:

Cedric: I see that you appreciate good taste and sophistication!
Kitten 1: (*Lizzie*) Can you help us in return, Sir?
Kitten 2: (*Olivia*) Our mother needs help so that the cat she loves will fall for her!

The kittens draw Purrlene on to the stage through centre curtains. Cedric walks/circles around Purrlene appraising her outfit. The kittens pull on a dress rack and Cedric holds up a selection of (outrageous) outfits in turn before finally offering a top hat & tails:

Cedric: I will help, because I am so familiar with all the latest 'cat walk' trends.
L&O completely outraged at C's comments - follow Purrlene's lead!

Now let me have a look at you, not exactly looking your best at the moment are we my pretty little pussy-what you need to do is to take advantage of that wonderful name you have. Forget aprons and curlers that look is CATastrophic, it has to be FURberry, top hat and tails for you, (*The Fop says behind his hand to the audience 'she's such a chav cat'*) There take

these (*handing over the clothes*) these will be PURRfect. Now Purlene Deitrich use your feline charms and **go get your tom.**

Kittens and Purlene exit. Cedric rifles the clothes rack;

Cedric: Oh no! Not Top Shop, B Wise, Prrrrr Uno - can you imagine that on the catwalk! Ahhh, that's better, Stella McCartney! But, not from H&M!

Fades as he exits.

Narrator: Things are looking hopeful for Cedric and Purlene but we must wait and see until a little later!

[Open curtains to reveal countryside scene](#)

Scene eight:

Curtains open

(set change for countryside)



Introductory music - English Country Garden - piano.

Enter Puss taking a swig of milk as he enters



swallowing/glugging sfx

Puss: Allo mes amis, 'as the magic milk been ok everyone?
No problems with slimy musical has-beens, I hope? Excellent!

Enter Jacques

Puss: Ah, master! The very person! I have a plan to make you rich and happy - no more of this poor and hungry life for us, Monsieur!

Jacques: It's very kind of you to try, Puss but I think we must resign ourselves to our terrible fate. There's no point dreaming!

Puss: But Master!

Jacques: No Puss, there's no point.

Jacques exits looking despondent.

Puss: *(shrugging)* Puss in Boots does not give in so easily!

Puss pulls out a large sack, creeps stealthily across the stage looking cunning.



stealthy piano theme

He puts his finger to his lips to hush the audience. He attaches the huge sack to a tree with its mouth wide open. He produces a huge carrot, wafts it around as if spreading its scent (or sprays a perfume bottle, 'essence of carrot & lettuce?') and then puts the carrot in the sack. He then takes hold of the string from the mouth of the bag, settles himself at the base of the tree and pretends to sleep;



snoring.

Three children (Amy, Charlotte) dressed as rabbits enter, snuffling and searching for the carrot. They see Puss and check he's asleep before going into the bag (they think they're being clever!) to fetch the carrot. Puss awakes suddenly and the rabbits are caught.

Puss: ... and they say that curiosity kills the cat! They must have wandered over here from Bunny

Voila mes petites! What a prize!
You'll make some lovely rabbit pies.
Off to the palace now, that's the thing
to make a dish fit for a king!
And put my master, with all its flavour
Right into royal favour!

Rabbits look horrified and Puss seems to soften:

Puss: Oh, ok - perhaps the King will want to keep you as his pets.

(to audience) Shall I let the King decide my friends?
(rabbits nod heads vigorously, audience (presumably) say 'yes!')
OK, for you I will give these cute fluffy bunnies one more chance!

Exit

King, Princess, Friend and Fop enter carrying a *cut out carriage* between them & the audience.

P. Friend: This looks like a good spot, shall we stop here?

Cedric: Oh, most certainly - I think we have spent quite long enough squashed together in this rather shabby old vehicle! (he descends, brushing himself down as if contaminated)

(to narrator) You, over there! Hold this, will you?

(narrator is forced to hold the carriage to one side of the stage)

King: Well, now my kind sir, I do hope you are enjoying this lovely carriage ride and of course, my lovely daughter's company?

Cedric: Your most majestic majesty, thank you for your kind words. I am fully aware how much my coming here to be acquainted with your beautiful Daughter means to you.

May I say she is nearly as becoming to the eye as I am.

Her eyes are almost as beautiful as my own

And her skin almost as flawless as my own.

Turning to the princess;

Shall I compare us to a summer's day?

We art more lovely and more temperate.

But our eternal summer shall not fade

King, Princess & Friend begin to yawn ... seeing this Cedric stops abruptly and turns back to the King

The wealth I bring to bestow upon her will be acceptable to you
I trust?

King nods vigorously and tries to encourage Princess towards Cedric

During the song - Cedric is carrying a *large bag full of combs, mirrors etc.* A mirror appears from off stage & he admires himself in it. He gives a mirror to member of audience and, again, admires himself in it



The Princess and her friend giggle (sing, "*You're so Vain*"/air guitar accompaniment?) and the King tries to make her be serious (he's the king's only option at this stage!).

Puss enters and offers the King the gift of the rabbits (*Amy, Charlotte*) and builds up the idea of the Duke de Carabas:

Puss: My master greets your majesties
And sends you gifts he hopes will please
(Puss bows deeply and presents the rabbits to the King)
There are enough rabbits here to make a pie and some rabbit beer

King: What's rabbit beer?

Puss: Same as normal but it's got more hops in it!
Rabbits look distressed and one of them (Amy) bravely taps Puss to remind him of their agreement

Puss: Oh, alright! Your Majesty, these rabbits are extremely cute and cuddly, you could perhaps keep them as pets?
Puss bows to the audience as if to say - so is that OK?

P Friend: Yes, what a good idea, I'll take them to safety this minute!
She hurries them off stage (rabbits change back into kitten costumes)

Cedric: What is this? A talking cat? This village becomes stranger and stranger!

King: *(offended but trying to remain polite)* It is not the village that's strange, it is the cat!

Puss: Your majesty, the cat is not strange, he is clever and he comes with messages and gifts for your family.

King: Who is your master, cat?

Puss: His loyal subjects know him as
The Lord Marquis of Carabas *(Puss bows deeply again)*

King: Well, this is very kind ...

Cedric: Is he a young man?

Puss: *(looks Fop up & down disdainfully & addresses the King)*
Young, Your Highness, fair and strong
He'll fight for right and never do wrong

Cedric: Is he rich?

Puss: *(again, to King)* His wealth is so great that it bores him!

King: I think I could like that kind of boredom

Cedric: And you say he's handsome?

Puss: *(to Fop this time & then the Princess)*
Indeed he is considered so, Sir!
(Looks at Cedric)
Unless, this, er, gentleman has the kind of looks you admire!
My master has heard many tales of the Princess's beauty and I see that they are not idle tales.
If I may be so bold, your Majesty ...
(bows to Princess and turns to King)
... such reports have prompted my master to seek permission to be a suitor for your fair daughter's hand.

Cedric: This is all very well, but who is he? I have never heard of this preposterous imposter!

Puss: My Lord and master has travelled far, fought hard and strong, through wind and rain to rid the world of evil.

King: *(looking at the Fop)* So, your master does not object to a little dirt and wet?

Puss: *(also looking disdainfully at the Fop who is preening himself)* Indeed not, Sire! (He lives in Hickling afterall!)

Fop: More fool him! A gentleman's importance is shown to the world through his superior appearance.

Puss: My Lord and Master, although he is too humble to spread it abroad *(looks meaningfully at the Fop)*, has defeated many monsters and giants to save the poor & weak of the village.

King: *(looking at the Fop)* So, your master thinks of others before himself?

Puss: *(also looking disdainfully at the Fop who is preening himself)* Indeed, Sire!

Cedric: Some men are leaders and others just do the work ...

King & Puss both look aghast.

Puss: My master is a worthy suitor to your beautiful daughter and I hope that his gifts please you.

Bows and withdraws to rear of stage as the Royal Party collect the carriage and move on.

A row of trees miraculously appears.

 *Puss waits at one end and whistling of birds is heard. One by one partridges appear in the branches of the tree apparently singing happily. Puss opens up his bag and moves slowly along the row tipping the oblivious birds into his sack. He occasionally rejects one as sub-standard and throws it over the back.*

Puss: Oh, this is no good, I'll be here all day!

 *He pulls out a pistol (Indiana Jones style) and fires two shots into the air/squawks - he peers up into the sky, opens his sack and loads of partridges are thrown in from off stage and into the sack (one or two kittens help to collect up any dropped ones?).*

Puss: Hmm, that's better.

 *He fastens the bag and stands waiting for the carriage to return. Bangs & Bumps are heard backstage amid calls of "We're coming through!" etc.*

Puss: Hail, your Majesty! *(sweeping bow)*

King: Stop the carriage!

Carriage comes to a grinding halt with lots of tumbling about. Characters stay in carriage.

Puss: Greetings again, your Majesty, from my Lord, the Marquis of Carabas!

Fop gets down from carriage

Fop: What does your up-start master want this time?

Puss: *(ignoring the Fop, pointedly)* Your majesty I bring a gift of partridges for the royal table *(bows low)*

King: Oooh, delicious! Much nicer than rabbit - I'll be able to keep the cute little bunnies as pets now ...

Send my gracious thanks to your master and tell him that I wish to meet him if he would honour us with his presence.

Cedric: *(looking completely outraged)* But your Majesty! I thought that I had the honour of being your honoured guest, your Honourship ...
These puny gifts are nothing!
These stories are no more than fairy tales!

The King waves the Fop aside, smiles pointedly at Puss and the carriage moves on, Puss follows shortly after.

*Louis enters back stage and in a mimed exchange with the Fop they join forces - mime sequence showing mutual hatred of Puss & desire to strangle him.
Puss waits up stage for Jacques to join him.*

Narrator: *(during above mimed exchange)*
Well everyone, Cedric looks a bit fed up doesn't he? All he wanted was a wife to flatter him and make him feel important! Someone to look after his wardrobe and take care of him! And what's more I think he and Louie have teamed up against Puss. I wonder how all this is going to end - will he win his Princess after all or will he fall into bad ways with Louie and Simon?

Cedric & Louis exit.

 *leprechaun/Riverdance routine for Louie - with Cedric*

Simon: (Holds his face in his hands)
Sharon: River dance, river dance - if you want to river dance - then here's your river!!!! *(throws glass of water over Louie)*

Narrator: And that's all for now folks!
Join us in 20 minutes to find out more!!
Will the Dame be able to cook her way out of trouble?
Will Puss defeat the evil Ogre McBob?
Will Simon ever be nice to anyone?
See you soon!
Waves and exits

Close curtains

 *Interval music*

Act Two



Muppet music intro

Scene one.

Front of curtain.

Queen enters and tries to buy clothes from audience



Shopping theme music - Material Girl, Madonna.

Queen:

Hello, everyone!

What is one to do? The King, my husband, the richest man in the kingdom, has become a bore.

Only today, he has forbidden me to use EBay; I mean, what is a day without EBay?

And he has asked for all my credit cards, but that's no bother - I'm sure there will be something helpful in the post today! Morgan Stanley, Capitol One or Barclay Card, I'm sure one of them will send me a nice letter asking if I want a new one!

Approaches someone in the audience

What a lovely scarf (*or whatever!*) - is it for sale?

Moves on to another audience member

Now that's nice! Littlewoods? Oh! You got to the closing down sale! I missed that

Enter Narrator

Narrator:

Now, now, your Majesty!

I don't think this is either the time or the place!

Ushers her off stage

Time to catch up with Jacques and Puss!

Scene two:

Open Curtains

(set change to Ogre's castle)



Creepy intro music as curtains open (Thriller)

Enter Sharon (pretending to be Louie/with Louie props?)

Sharon: *(aside to audience)* Just standing in for Louis for a bit - I'm sure he'll be back in a tick - he usually is ... and it won't take long to dry off after that unfortunate incident with the jug of water *(Sharon shows an empty jug and mimes pouring it over his head)*

Enter Ogre,

Sharon: But master ...

Ogre: Exactly!! That is what I am - Master of ALL this land, Lord of Misery and Baron of Beastliness! And another thing - why don't you lot show me more respect???

Sharon: But Master, I beg you to be patient, your new wife will be here shortly and there's a good dinner on its way too ...

(aside to audience) ... possibly two-in-one in a Princess Pie ...

Ogre: Och, its alright for you - You're a celebrity. But I'm not - I am a monster. If I go out then people will just chase me - pitchforks and burning torches and all that - it's no fun I can tell you!

Sharon: I know, Master, I do understand. It is so much better if you stay here while we collect the taxes and bring it all ...

(aside to audience) well, nearly all ...

(to ogre) back to you here.

Ogre: Aye - a wee bit of delicate entertaining company would make the long cold winter evenings a bit warmer I fancy. I canna wait till she gets here - maybe I should go and have a wash..... How is that done exactly??

Sharon: Hmmmm.

Anyway, changing the subject, then - I must be off!

Try talking to your new servants, they're good for a laugh and not much else!

Sharon exits, followed dreamily by Ogre.

Scene three:

Enter Brothers and Dame.

 Dame theme tune

Dame: Well, you pair of incompetent fools - answering that job advert was just about the worst yet of all your stupid blundering plans! Now look where you've landed us - working in the Ogres Castle.!

B2: The money's good, though - all we've got to do is stay alive ...



Insert burst of *Staying Alive* song With brief John Travolta dancing pose

Dame: Have either of you fools ever done any housework before?

B2: Well, not exactly ...

B1: But it's just a bit of woman's work, how hard can it be?

Dame works up a bit of audience response.



Dame hands out feather dusters (used later in fight scene) and they act out a dusting "dance" to the music of "*Wheels Cha Cha*"

As they finish the routine Puss enters and catches a feather duster that's been thrown into the air.

Puss: Hello, there, my friends. This looks like an interesting job you have here. Are you managing to stay alive?

➤  brief - *Staying Alive* song

B1: Ha! Ha! (sarcastically) - We're not stupid, you know! Unless you're here to help you can ...

Puss: OK! OK! I am here to help! I plan to take this castle away from the ogre and make you all as rich as you could possibly imagine.

B2: Hmm, I've got a pretty good imagination ...

Dame: So, what can we do?

Puss: I need to know if the ogre has any secrets. We need to find his weak spot and there must be a clue here somewhere.



(Piano - appropriate searching music) All 4 hunt around. On a book shelf there is a large book with - 'The Secret of Being a Successful Ogre' written large on the spine. A pointy finger on a stick comes in from the side and points at it - audience 'It's behind you' routine. They eventually find the book and cluster round to read it:

Dame: Chapter one - hunting children
B1: Chapter two - collecting taxes
B2: Chapter three - bullying the local nobility
Dame: Chapter four ...
Puss: No, look! This is it!
 Chapter nineteen - The Biggest Secret of All



piano - da da dnnnn

Much tussling and flicking of pages

Puss: He's a sorcerer!
B2: a saucer of what? A saucer of milk or a cup and saucer or ...?
B1: A sorcerer, you fool! A magician!
Dame: (*Dramatically*) A sorcerer! a magician! we're all done for! - we're all doomed
 I tell you - we're all doomed. We can't defeat a magician - what can we do?
 What can he do? We're all doomed Doomed
B2: What can he do?
B1: If it's just pulling hankies out of sleeves or flowers out of hats we'll be OK!
Puss: No, my friend , unfortunately it is much more dire! He's a shape shifter!
Dame: Would you mind saying that again, I don't think I quite
Puss: He's a shape shifter.
Dame: Oh good - I thought you said that.
B2: That's not a problem. Sorting round pegs into square holes - that's a game
 babies play, it's hardly frightening!
Dame: Not shape sorting - shape shifting! You idiot!
B1: You mean, he can change himself into anything he likes? You mean, he could
 be this table and be listening to every word we say?

All look rather panicky and worried

Puss: Tables and chairs, I could cope with but this is worse! He can change
 himself into a dragon or a bull or a ... or a ...

*Puss begins to look thoughtful and seems to have had an idea, he concentrates hard and
 then exits without speaking to the others, deep in thought (hand gestures,
 counting on fingers as if planning it all out as he leaves).*

B1: (*gazing after Puss*) I thought he was helping ...

*Simon and Louie enter unseen. The Dame is muttering and whimpering, worried about the
 ogre.*

Dame: We're on our own now! And we're on our own against a shape shifter! If we
 get this wrong we may find ourselves shifting shape too - and it won't be a
 pleasant experience ...

Ogre: (*from off stage*) Is that a gentle female voice that I hear? Is she here
 yet? My bonnie wee dumpling!!

All look in surprise in direction of voice and then at Dame

Simon: No, she's not here yet, but she won't be long now ...

Ogre: Who is that that I can smell? She smells of (peanuts & garlic) or (mothballs & furniture polish) - wonderful!

All sniff around (+ armpits)

Dame: (in a whisper) It must be me!

Others look incredulous

Louis: Just the new housekeeper, master! We're fetching the air freshener, right now!

Simon: Come on, hurry up - we need to see to this pesky Princess otherwise he'll never stop whingeing. Although, if I had my way she'd end up in the pie - the last thing we need is a woman in charge round here. They all end up like her eventually (pointing at Dame) and then where would we be ...

Louis: Back with Sharon ...

Simon: Precisely!

Simon & Louie exit.

Dame: Come on you two, we had better do as he says, we've got to make the Ogre his lunch. Look you two get the cooking table in and we'll make a start...

B1 and B2 get the table from off stage

B2: Here we come (table wobbling precariously)

B1: We'd better get cracking. What first?

Dame: You knead the dough

B1: Come again?

Dame: You knead the dough

B2: I've always needed the dough, but you never give it to me!

B1: Just knead the dough!

Dame: You two'll need an ambulance if you don't give over.
Ciabatta - you roll out the pastry.



Pastry Routine All in "mime" and to a tune (tbc - see David!)

B1 takes a large handful of dough from a bowl and starts to knead it. He throws it to B2 Who drops it - and wipes the floor with it. He starts to sneeze and blows his nose into it. He throws it back to B2 who starts to roll it into the pastry base for the pie..

Dame: Pitta, don't just stand there doing nothing - get the potato mash for the top of the pie

Pitta goes off stage and returns with a bowl of "mash"

There is then the "custard pie" routine - to be choreographed.

Dame: Stop it you two remember don't want to get on the wrong side of the Ogre I'll finish the pie whilst you two clear up the mess

Dame exits with the "pie" and return almost immediately

Ogre (from off stage) Is that pie in the oven yet? I'm very hungry and I get less fussy about what's in my pie the longer I wait!!

B1 & B2: Oooh err!

Ogre: (off-stage) Mmmmmmm, I'm certainly beginning to get a rumbly in my tumbly - if I don't get my pie soon then I will have to eat a human - or two

Dame and boys look at suitable food in the audience

B1: (To adult member of audience). This one looks as if he/she will fill the ogre.

Dame: (depending upon who is chosen)
He prefers lamb - not mutton
It will be hard to get that one tender.
Oh no the ogre prefers lean meat

B2: (Pointing to a child in audience) This one looks tasty.

Dame: Not enough meat He'd still be hungry.
- they decide not to feed child to the ogre

Dame: Quickly - let's get this in the oven ...

Dame and Boys pick up the pie And exit



Sound of thunder and the curtains close.

Scene four:

Front of curtain.

Children's routine! (*Mary-Anne support if necessary?*)

Amy, Lizzie, Olivia, Katie, Charlotte, Alysha, Ben

Lizzie: Hello Everybody! Would you like to hear some jokes?
Amy: We promise they'll be better than any you've heard the adults tell so far!
Olivia: Shall we start with our names?
Lizzie: This is my sister, her name is Cat-erwaul!
Katie: Wolf impression

As each name is given Ben & Alysha hold up a card to the audience to underline the puns - Mary-Anne hands them correct ones in turn

Olivia: I love chocolate so my name is Kit Kat!



Boom, boom!

Amy: I'm the cook, so my name is Kit-chen



Boom, boom!

Lizzie: And I love shopping, so my name is Cat-alogue!



Boom, boom!

Amy: Knock, Knock

Charlotte: Who's there?

Amy: Felix

Charlotte: Felix who?

Amy: (*looking across at Simon & shaking her fist*)

Fe lix my ice cream one more time I'll ...

Olivia: That was an awful joke! What do you think of this one?

Lizzie: I say, I say, I say! What do you call a teenage kitten with acne?

Katie: Puss-Tule!

Amy: Oh, I say, I say, I say! What do you call a kitten covered in plasters and spots of blood?

Olivia: Cat - e - gory! Yuck!

Charlotte: Knock knock

Katie: Who's there?

Charlotte: Cat - a

Katie: Cat - a - who?

Charlotte: Cata - pult!

Boing sound effect

Katie: Thank you for laughing at our jokes!
(All take a bow)
Would you like some sweets?

Kittens all hand out a few sweets, then collect together by the piano pillar ...

Olivia: Oh dear!!
This could be a cat -astrophe!



Sound effect dog barking

Enter Simon (dog on stick routine) and chases kittens away! Exit backstage to change (quickly) into tiger feet!!

Scene five:

Curtains open.

(scene change to road/fields)

Enter Puss & Jacques.

Jacques: Look, all I'm really interested in is tracking down my beautiful girl. What is all this cloak and dagger stuff? Where do you keep disappearing to?

Puss: Now, master ...

Puss and Jacques cross stage talking in furious whispers

Jacques: But I don't understand, Puss, why does the King believe I am a Marquis? ... I mean, I don't look like a Marquis!

Puss: *pointing up to castle described earlier*

Leave it all to me, master; regardez, up there in the distance, can you see it? Your palace, deep in the forest.

Jacques: Where?

Puss: There!

Jacques: But that's the ogre's palace - everyone knows that!

Puss: Not any longer - it's all going to be yours!

Just do everything I tell you and you will be a Marquis and that will be your castle.

Jacques: A castle?

Puss: A castle.

Jacques: A Marquis? Like a Prince?

Puss: Like a Prince.

Jacques: Charming!

Puss: Indeed, Prince Charming (*thigh slap!*)

Jacques: So, what must I do?

Puss: Take all your clothes off!

- play for the laugh!

Jacques: I beg your pardon?

Puss: Take all your clothes off

Jacques: That's what I thought you said ...

Puss: Well, do it, then.

Jacques: But ... I mean ... Why? What?

Puss: Trust me, Master. I want you to take all your clothes off and go and have a swim in the pool over there. Leave your clothes with me. Just take a pleasant relaxing swim.

Jacques: (*still unsure*) You will look after the clothes for me, won't you?

Puss: Trust me, Master.



Jacques exits, his clothes are passed back to Puss (Parker type innuendo?) and Puss carefully hides his clothes off stage on the other side of the stage and exits. Lots of loud splashing can be heard off stage and occasional sprays of water out into the audience, bad singing etc. which gradually fades. Bubble machine in from side of stage.

Final milk bottle sequence.

Louie enters (sneaks on) with a crate of milk, he approach's the milk guardian, shows the crate to the audience and then puts it down by Liz.

Louie: Let's try this!! Plan B!

Louis exits. Simon enters

Simon: *(to the audience)*

Did Louis get the milk? (oh yes he did, oh no he didn't with audience)

(Simon becomes angry and frustrated)

*Oh this is so tiresome, any way that milk is way past it's sell by date **and so is that Cat***

(Simon storms over to the pianist)

And can you get off that piano you're hurting its feelings

Simon exits one way and Puss enters from the other.

Puss: *(seeing crate and ignoring any warnings from audience)*

Ooh good, the milkman's been, new supplies.

(taking the bottle from the prompt)

I'll just pop this one in for later - do you think I should?

(audience shouting)

What? Shouldn't I have done that?

(audience shouting)

Why? Oh, no! I must find my magic bottle quickly!!

Let me try this one, it says - Milk Shake



Wobbly jelly sound effect, Puss shakes

Or what about this one? - Milk of Magnesia



Burping sound effect

Ooops, excuse me!

Puss: *Surely, it must be this one! - Evaporated milk!*

Puss turns the bottle upside down and nothing comes out

This is useless! Would someone please come and help me?

Puss asks one of the children to choose a bottle which turns out to be;

Semi-skimmed?

takes a drink and then speaks in a whisper

Oh, no that can't be right, my voice is far too weak - that milk's far too weasly! Choose another, quickly!

Child chooses another bottle which turns out to be the right one

Oh thank you! That's perfect!



glug glug sound effect

Simon re-enters triumphantly,

Simon: (to audience) Did it work? Has he lost his power?
(to Puss) Ha! I've got you now!

Puss: (to audience) That was close - I only escaped by a whisker!
(to Simon and clearing his throat pointedly)
Oh, I'm far too clever for you!

Simon: Go on! Admit defeat!

Puss: Defeat? You mean de-feet!

Enter kittens in tiger feet boots



Tiger Feet *Simon is booted off-stage*

Chorus

Alright.

That's right, that's right, that's right, that's right I really love your tiger light.

That's neat, that's neat, that's neat, that's neat,

I really love your tiger feet.

I really love your tiger feet.

Your tiger feet.

Your tiger feet

Your tiger feet.

Well alright

Puss: Great stuff, kids - perhaps you're not as bad as I thought

Puss exits before the judges have chance to comment, they do anyway, in his absence, with Simon making contributions, having returned to the stage once it's safe!

Louie: Simon, what do you think?

Simon: That was distinctly average.

Louie: Sharon.

Sharon: There was no Grrrrr in that.

Louie: Mud did the original, and that sounded just like mud - just right for Hickling!!!

Scene six:

Enter the Royal party with their picnic followed by Puss in a rush.

Narrator: Now poor Jacques has trusted Puss with his clothes and gone for a quiet swim, but, Puss, meanwhile, has other plans - Jacques must stay in the water until the Royal carriage arrives and Puss has made sure that his clothes will never be found!

Puss & royal party exaggerate reactions for effect

Puss: Help, Help, my master he has been robbed and now he is drowning in the lake!

Characters freeze - Narrator moves between Puss and the Royals while he explains:

Narrator: And Puss he tells a tale of his master robbed
Of a purse of gold, brought as a gift and now stolen away
King mimes reaction
Of a handsome hero about to lose his life
Princess mimes reaction
And a coat of golden elegance now lost forever
Cedric mimes reaction

Puss: He's been robbed! He's drowning!

King: Well help him - at once! Before he dies!

P Friend: In this cold he'll catch pneumonia

Fop: Oh, how tiresome, better fetch the undertaker

P Friend: Don't you mean the doctor?

Fop: I never deal with middlemen ...

King sends (invisible off stage servants) to rescue him. Confused shouting off stage, Jacques refuses to come on stage without any clothes (Friend tries to take a sneaky peak off stage ...)

Puss: I am so sorry, Your Majesty, but my master is too ashamed to show himself before you - I'm afraid all of his clothes have been mysteriously (*Puss gives the audience a knowing look*) stolen away!

P Friend: Hmm. (*peering behind the curtain*) You're quite right, he definitely has no clothes on!

Princess looks shocked at her friend

King: How embarrassing

P Friend shakes her head

P. Friend: Not from my angle ...

King: He's looking a little chilly, better do something about clothes quickly.

P Friend: (reluctantly) I know, Your Majesty, your clothes - the ones you brought to change in to after your swim, he could borrow those.

Clothes are fetched. They are held up & shown to be huge! Puss puts his head in his hands in despair but takes the clothes. Jacques enters (immediately) wearing the clothes but they fit him and look superb.

King: Hmm. Somehow they look better on him!

Puss winks at the audience.

Jacques enters

Puss: Allow me to introduce my master - the Marquis of Carabas!

Jacques: (bows deeply) Your Majesty

Princess: (recognising him) Jacques!

Jacques: (recognising her) Pri ... Oh! Not Priscilla? Princess?

Princess: That's right, Princess Arabella

King: Do you two know each other?

Princess: Of course we do father, it's the man who saved me yesterday

King: But you said he was a poor miller's son

Princess looks confused and Jacques looks awkward

Puss: Oh - that was one of my master's jokes. He often pretends to be poor when he visits the towns and villages. If people knew he was the richest man in Hickling, he'd never have a moment's peace.

Jacques tries to interrupt

P Friend: That's very true; my uncle once won the lottery and he just didn't know what to do about the begging letters.

King: What did he do?

P Friend: Well, he thought very hard but then decided to carry on sending them!

Jacques: But your majesty, I must explain ...

Puss stands behind the King (out of his line of sight) and shakes his head/finger to stop Jacques

King: Oh, later will do, my boy

Using mime, the party is called together and they all set off in the coach, leaving Puss behind.

Curtains close (to allow Purlene to get into position)

Puss turns to the audience, stage goes dark apart from one spotlight on Puss:

Puss: Now my job is nearly done and the lovers' future looks bright. Up to the castle now to pitch my wits against the fearsome ogre (thigh slap)
It seems so much harder, now I'm all alone;

Curtains re-open

A second spotlight reveals Purlene in position for the song:

Puss: Ah, Mon Dieu! Can that really be you, Purrlene?



- "Falling in Love Again" (no music)

Night Club atmosphere - *smoke, spot light, high stool* (Marlene Dietrich performance)

Puss: And I think I may be falling in love again, too.

Curtains close in front of Puss and Purrlene

Simon: Sharon.

Sharon: No but Yea but No !!

Louie: Like Puss, I think I'm falling in love again.

Simon: Control yourself Louie ...

Well that was purr-fect

For a cat that needs speying!

Puss: **As if we care what you say! I love her!**

Curtains then re-open

Scene seven:

Narrator: Now Puss's plan is nearly done. Jacques is safely settled in the carriage cuddling up to his lovely Princess ...

Jacques and the Princess cross the stage behind the Narrator to the accompaniment of:



'Huggin' & a Kissin' with Fred'

(they don't re-appear with the carriage in next scene to avoid clutter of characters)

Narrator: Meanwhile, Puss plans to show the King just what a catch the Marquis of Carabas will be for his daughter. And so, as the carriage wends its way through the ogre's vast and beautiful lands, Puss must weave his web and like a spider catch his King!



Enter the villagers carrying a table with props arranged on it, they chat comfortably between themselves. (French National Anthem) They then put on French berets & false moustaches, onion strings Throughout this scene characters enter stage left and exit stage right to keep a continuous cycle moving round.

Enter Puss:

Puss: Ah, good morning, my Friends. Your fields of onions look spectacular this year

V1: *(corny French accent)* Ah, yes, M'sieur Puss, we are the finest French onion sellers this side of the canal!

Puss: Hmm, but life must be tough when the ogre keeps all your profits?

V1: Ah, oui! Eet ees verrry haard - bien dur! Monsieur!

V2: *(to audience)* Blimey! What an accent and rhyming in French as well ...

Puss: Alright! Alright! If you will help me, I think I can take care of the ogre for you.

Villagers confer in loud whispers

Puss: All you have to do is tell the people in the carriage that all your onion fields belong to the Marquis of Carabas.

V1&2: Mais, oui! Bien sûr!

Puss: I'll take that as a 'yes' then!

Villagers nod emphatically and Puss exits in a hurry.

V2: Well! What an accent

V1: I know, good wasn't it

V2: How did you do it?

V1: *(fishing a Tommy Cooper hat out of the basket)* Just like that!

King enters (with carriage), looking around with great interest.

King: I'm sure this is the route the cat told me to follow. I'll just ask these genuine old-fashioned French onion sellers, here.

Hey! You! My good people! Who owns these magnificent onion fields?
V2: The terrifying o ...
V1: (*nudging V1*) ... terrific, ze amazing Marquis of Carabas, your Majesty!
King: Does he, indeed? They are truly magnificent.
Carriage exits.
V1: I can do another impression with this beret on, y'know!
V2: What would that be, then? Go on, show me!
V1: (*takes off his beret and holds it in front of him*)
 Ooh, Betty! The cat's done a whoopsy in my beret!
V2: (*laughing*) Good one! But I'm glad you didn't do it when that old Tom Cat was here!

Villagers change their disguises to be farm yokels. V2 forgets to remove onion string.

V1: ... and now, we be herders of cows, from Hickling, of course!
V2: Talk about multi-tasking ... *throws away string of onions*

Enter Puss.

Puss: Ah, good morning, my Friends. Your herd of cows look like particularly good milkers (*licks his lips or rubs tummy*).

V1: (*yokel accent*) Indeed they are, Sir!

Puss: ... and what is that fine building over there?

V1: Oh, you mean the cattery?

Puss: (*knees knocking loudly*)

V2: There are 3 more over there!

Puss: (*knees still knocking*) Is it popular, then?

V1: Oh, yes! Expanding all the time with Purrlene around!

Puss: Hmmm, well, excuse me if I don't go any closer ...

V2: Suits us! ... and what may we be doin' for you today, then, Sir?

Puss: Life must be tough when the ogre keeps all your profits?

V2: (*to Puss*) Indeed it is, Sir, real hard, it be.

Puss: Aahhh, so I see!

Puss turns one of the villagers round to the audience showing a large hole in the seat of his trousers with red underwear showing through

Puss: If you will help me, I think I can take care of the ogre for you.

Villagers confer in loud whispers

Puss: All you have to do is tell the people in the carriage that all your cows belong to the Marquis of Carabas.

V1: Absolutely, Sir. Anything to get this hole in me breeches sown up - it is a bit draughty y'know!

Puss shakes their hands and exits in a hurry

V2: I'm not sure I can keep up with all this fibbing, y'know.

V1: Don't be silly, it's easy!

V2: But how do you make it believable?

V1: (*taking out the Tommy Cooper hat*) Not like this - like that!



Shouts and bumps and bangs from behind stage indicate the carriage is on its way

King: Coming through!! Watch out, there!

Royal carriage enters. King is looking around with great interest.

King: I'm sure this is the route the cat told me to follow. I'll just ask these traditional rustic farming types, here.

Hey! You! My good people! Who owns this magnificent herd of cows?

V2: The terrifying o ...

V1: (*nudging V1*) ... terrific, the amazing Marquis of Carabas, your Majesty!

King: Does he, indeed? They are truly magnificent - they must produce a magnificent stilton, indeed they must!

Carriage exits.

V1: Phew, do you think we're nearly done? What's next?

V2: (*holding up **lumberjack shirts and axes***) How about these?

Enter Puss.

Puss: Ah, good morning, my Friends. Your woods and forests look spectacular this year

V1:  Oh, I'm a lumberjack, and I'm okay,
I sleep all night and I work all day.

Puss: Yes, I'm sure you do ...

V2:  I cut down trees, I eat my lunch,
I go to the lava-try.

Puss: Yes, er, thank you for that useful information but ...

V1 & 2:  On Wednesdays we go shoppin'
And have buttered scones for tea.

V1 fingers in imaginary braces does the lumberjack knee bending, swaying routine alongside V2

Puss: That is really, quite enough!

Sharon: (*from judges table*) Oh, bravo! Best song of the night, so far!

V1&2: Good! No tax for us!

Puss: Look, I'm in a hurry, here! Can we get back to the script?

The villagers stop singing but keep thumbs tucked in to top of shirts (à la Monty Python)

Puss: I bet the ogre keeps all your profits, it must be hard to earn enough for scones for tea?

V2: Indeed it is, Sir, real hard, it is!

Puss: Well, if you will help me, I think I can take care of the ogre for you.

Villagers confer in loud whispers

Puss: All you have to do is tell the people in the carriage that all your woods and forests belong to the Marquis of Carabas.

V2:  Oh, I'm a lumberjack, and I'm okay,

V1: Yes, but we'd be a lot more OK without the ogre!

Puss: Is that a 'yes' then?

V1&2: YES!

Exit Puss.

 *The donkey enters (My 4 Legged Friend as he enters)*

V2: Haven't you got a name? What did your last owner call you?

Donkey: *(removes and then replaces his head)* I don't know, Eeeehaaaw, Eeeeehaaaw always calls me donkey!

 *From back stage, the carriage is heard coming through again.*

King: *(from off-stage)* I'm getting really sick of carrying this stupid carriage around - why did I sell the horses? I need them!

Enter Royal party in carriage as before.

King: Hey! You! My good people! Who owns these magnificent woods and forests?

V2: The terrifying o ...

V1: *(nudging V1)* ... terrific, the amazing Marquis of Carabas, your Majesty!

King: Does he, indeed? They are truly magnificent.

Seeing the donkey

King: Does he own this magnificent donkey too?

V1: No, he's mine! He's my Best Mate!

King: Is he for sale? I need a trusty steed to pull my carriage. A real Rolls Royce of a steed!

Looking doubtfully at the donkey who is looking very pleased with such compliments

V1: I'm not sure about Rolls Royce, I think he's more of a Skoda, to be honest

Donkey kicks V1 crossly

V2: A Skoda's a bit harsh he could be an Ass-tra!

King: OK, OK, I'll buy him!

He turns out his empty pockets

King: Well, actually, I'll just borrow him for now and send him back later - you will be royally rewarded with ... er ... my grateful thanks!

The King hastily attaches the donkey to the carriage and they exit leaving the villagers looking out-raged.

 *My Four Legged Friend - slow/short extract on piano as donkey exits*

V1: What a cheek!

V2: Short arms and deep pockets, that one! Pay us with grateful thanks, indeed ...

They begin to pick up the props table but then see Puss watching from the edge of the stage.

V1: We did what you asked!

King suddenly re-enters as if looking for something,

King: Can you help me, one last time? Whose is that castle I can see up there?

The villagers look at Puss, shrug their shoulders and explain;

V1&2: It belongs to the Marquis of Carabas, Your Majesty!

They look to Puss for approval and he nods/bows to them in return.

King: You're sure? He owns that one up there? Just round the side here, with the magnificent turrets and beautiful grounds?

V2: That's right, the one that this lot (*indicating the audience*) can't see!

V1: You really would have thought those scenery people could have managed at least a small castle - it can't be that hard ...

King: (*still peering up at the castle*) Wow!

V2: Let us show you the way!

All exit.

Narrator: And so the story moves on. The King is convinced he'd like his daughter to marry the brave and handsome Duke of Carabas - or Jacques to you and me! But Puss must face his hardest challenge yet. To the castle he must hurry and defeat Big Ogre McBob before the King and his carriage arrives for tea!

Curtains close

Scene eight:
(front of curtain)

Dame and sons enter – they are in the castle gardens gathering vegetables ... they carry sacks in which to place the vegetables (also one for use in the next scene)...

They mention the smell of the onions as they are gathering them
This leads to the audience song "I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch" ...

 (Piano)

I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch,
an onion patch, an onion patch.
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch.
And all I do is cry all day.
Boo hoo, boo hoo,

Dame: No, no, no! Stop there! I think we need some help from the audience with this one (...or similar!) etc.

(half audience as petunias, half onions or in 3 sections with the third boo hooing?)

I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch,
an onion patch, an onion patch.
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch.
And all I do is cry all day.
Boo hoo, boo hoo,
The air's so strong it takes my breath away.
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch.
And all I do is cry all day ...

To this children could wave like petunia flowers – pinch their noses from the onion smell and boo-hoo -- etc. etc..

Whilst the children are still on stage ...

Dame: What do the tax factor judges think about that?

Simon: Louie.

Louie: They must be Irish with such beautiful voices.

Simon: Sharon.

Sharon: So cute - I love them all.

Simon: I hate to admit it, but these kids have stolen the show, they have the "X" factor.

The characters move back through the opening curtains.

Scene nine:

Curtains open

(change of scene back to Ogre's castle)

Enter Dame & the 2 brothers

Ogre shouts angrily from off-stage:

Ogre: Whaur are they! Where are they useless, clumsy oafs!! When I get my hands on them I'll ...

Dame: *(to brothers who are trembling uncontrollably)* Oh, look at the state of you two, shivering and shaking like that, here, hide and I'll cover for you!

Brothers exit hurriedly and Ogre enters

Dame Oh dear! My good, kind Sir, we're all so terribly sorry for those few little mistakes ...

Ogre: Smashing my Mickey Mouse Mug- LITTLE!
Scratching all my Alexander Brothers albums- Little!
Breaking my X-Box - LITTLE!
Losing my

Dame: I've had some rubbish servants in my time but you lot take the pastry!
Pastry? Pastry - Oh, you mean the pastry on the pie? Yes, yes! That was a great success wasn't it! - you see it's my speciality. My old Mum always said I had the hands for pastry
aside to the audience
Pale and lumpy!

Ogre: These hands made that delicious pastry?
Ogre takes the hand of the Dame ...

Dame: Oh Ogre - what are you doing !! My mother warned me of ogres like you ...

Ogre: Madam, you have lovely hands, hands to wash dishes and they're as soft as your face. *Ogre strokes the Dames face*

Dame: So, err, you're an ogre then? You're not exactly how I imagined an ogre to be ...

Ogre: Well, I do have my off days y'know

Dame: I thought you'd be bigger somehow

Ogre: I've been poorly, size isn't everything, y'know

Dame: You sounded bigger before, y'know, from outside; it was a big voice

Ogre: Technology (he points to a **megaphone** on a shelf)

Dame: And I thought you'd be ugly - reeeally ugly

Ogre: I'll have you know that I won 'The ogre most like Brad Pitt' competition three years in a row - mind you I was the only entrant...

Dame: You have got a reputation for being big and ugly, and ...

Ogre: Aye?

Dame: Well - a bit anti-social. You know eating people and - that sort of thing

Ogre: Village gossip - from Loang Clawson

Dame: Really?

Ogre: Although, I do have my moments.

Dame: Tell me more

Ogre: Well, when you're an ogre, a lot's expected of you - I do have a reputation to maintain ye know. My public know what they want from an ogre, you know. In fact, I'll let you into a little secret - sometimes I am vicious, and big, really big, you know gigantic - but it's all magic!

Dame: Magic!

Ogre: Would you like me to show you? I could do the Man-Eating Vicious Beast if you like? Or King Kong?

Dame: Er, maybe not! Another time p'raps? (*backing off*)

Ogre: No! Don't go! It's been really good to chat - to tell the truth it's been rather lonely up here all this time

 *Song between Ogre & Dame*

You're my little chu-chi face
 My coo-chi, coo-chi, woo-chi little chu-chi face
 Every time I look at you I sigh
 And you're my little teddy bear
 My lovey lovey dovey little teddy bear
 You're the apfel strudel of mine eye
 Your chu-chi woo-chi nose
 Your chu-chi woo-chi eyes
 They set my heart a flutter
 Your ooo-chi coo-chi ways
 Your ooo-chi coo-chi gaze
 Wilts me down like meltings butter
 You're my little chu-chi face
 And you're my teddy bear
 Together we're a chu-chi woo-chi, ooo-chi coo-chi pair

Ogre exits and 2 brothers re-enter -

B1: What on earth are you doing?!

Have you forgotten? He's an ogre - O-G-R-E !!!! They eat people,

B2: ... and they smell ...

Dame: Are you really sure? He didn't seem so bad to me! In fact I was beginning to really like him!

B1 and B2: Oh Yuk!!!!

Enter Simon and the Fop, clearly conspiring.

Simon: This is our chance - grab them - Jacques would never allow any harm to come to that miserable trio and the mangy cat will do whatever the silly boy tells him to!

Don't just stand there! Get on with it!

Simon draws a large & impressive sword

Fop: Yes, of course! Oh dear! We must be rough and toothless ... I mean, tough and ruthless!

*Fop draws a **small and pathetic sword***

*The Dame and the brothers spot the baddies and turn to face them with **dusters etc. as weapons***

- fight ensues between Henchman, Fop, Dame, brothers (slow motion? clumsy etc.)

 *fight music (Nutcracker)? Move off stage & back on, someone could be hit over the head with the Ogre's most precious vase, tripped up, chased etc. Fight eventually disappears off stage and sounds fade into the background.*

 *Droopy sword with **droop sound effect**.*

Scene ten:

Puss enters from opposite side of the stage and looks after the departed fighters:

Puss: Hmmm, now it's time to see some brains in action instead of all that ugly brawn. Mind you, I hand it to Simon - he's brave taking on the Dame!

Ogre enters with a large bouquet of flowers for the Dame but she has gone.

Ogre: Where's my Gorgeous Gertie gone? I've brought her some flowers!
And who the heck are you?

Puss: A magic cat, of noble birth!
The cleverest sorcerer on Earth.

Ogre: A sorcerer? *(in disbelief)*
Excuse me
You're not the cleverest sorcerer on Earth!

"Oh no you're not" sequence with audience ...

Puss: I am!

Ogre: You're not!

Puss: Then who is?

Ogre: Me! You're no wizard - whoever heard of a pussy cat wizard

Puss: Ah, silly of me, I should have explained. I have merely assumed the form of a cat - transformation is an aspect of wizardry I am particularly interested in. Do you do much in that line?

Ogre: Och Aye! - mostly I turn people into dinner!

Puss: Ah, interesting! What about people into animals?

Ogre: Pah! Easy peasy!

Puss: But, **self** transformation. I'm sure you can't do that so easily.

Ogre: Sure I can, you stupid tom cat ...

Puss: Let's have a contest, then we'll see!

Ogre: And if I win, I'll eat ye!

Puss: And if you don't, I'll eat you!

Ogre: You - Eat me! That'll be the day
You think that you're a clever cat
Cos you can dance an talk an that
But soon for mercy you'll be cryin'
Watch me change into a lion!

➤ Full sized lion articulated puppet



Magic sound effect to accompany changes

Puss: Well, for an amateur not bad
It might have entertained me dad
But frankly drives me up the wall!
Now change yourself to something small

Ogre: *(roaring like a lion)* Arrrrrrr!



Puss: It's always monsters with you chaps
Try something small - a mouse perhaps?
The ogre transforms himself into a mouse and Puss triumphantly picks him up by the tail.

Puss: That was so easy! A small mouthful and that's the end of the ogre!
He is about to eat him when the Dame enters

Dame: What are you doing? This is no time to stop for a snack!

Puss: Indeed it is, I tricked the wicked ogre into changing himself into a mouse and here he is - meeting his evil end!!

Dame: You can't do that!

Puss: I think I can! After all it's not as bad as usual, we normally send the villains to Kinoulton at the end, at least I'm only eating him!

Dame: But he's not a villain, at least I don't think he is ... Here, let me speak to him!
You were really nice to me earlier, was that the real you or were you tricking me?



Squeaks are heard in reply

He says he wasn't tricking, shall we believe him boys and girls?
Puss shakes his head & the Dame nods
Dame then speaks to the mouse again,
If I save you, will you promise not to eat anyone ever again?



Squeaks are heard in reply

He says he won't! (*Puss looks incredulous, Dame turns to him*)
And I believe him!
OK, Mr Ogre! You can turn yourself into a new shape. But if you want to spend the rest of your life with me I'd like a few improvements to the normal ogre-ish appearance, please!

Throws mouse off-stage

Ogre: (*as mouse*) - AAAAAhhhhhhh

Narrator: It's OK folks, no real mice were harmed in the making of this production...
Flash of lights and a cardboard cutout of Brad Pitt appears

Puss: He's a bit 2-dimensional isn't he?

Dame: That's film stars for you!
OK, maybe not! - try again!

Flash of lights and Ogre in civilised guise re-appears.

Ogre: Oh Gertie! Gertie! You've saved me! And now I know what I want - Gertie - will ye marry me?

Dame: (*In a Scottish accent*) Och Aye I will - but you'd better be quick - I canna wait around too long for hubby number 4 You'd better whisk me off ta Gretna.

Ogre: Oil Pussy (*throws keys to Puss*) Its all yours! Thanks for all the laughs - Now its time for me an Gertie here tae go up north - come wi' me Gertie



Exit Dame & Ogre singing a line or two of Chuchi Face - leaving Puss alone on stage.

Scene eleven:

Jacques, Princess, & Friend enter tentatively.

Puss bows low to Jacques and presents him with a large bunch of *keys*:

Puss: My Lord Marquis of Carabas, I humbly greet you and your honoured guests.
Your castle has been prepared and awaits your inspection.



(Fanfare for King's entrance) The King looks around with curiosity and approval, Jacques looks amazed but confused. As the King and Princess look around, Jacques and Puss hurriedly whisper together and part with Jacques looking more confident.

Ogre & brothers enter as servants to welcome the visitors. Jacques looks at them in amazement and Puss pushes him forward.

Ogre: Greetings, My Lord. Everything is ready.

Jacques: *(bowing to the Ogre and looking him meaningfully in the eye)*
I thank you!

Enter Simon, Louie & Cedric, fight-stained/dishevelled and still looking for trouble. They are stunned by the scene before them. The Ogre grasps the Henchmen by the back of the neck & pins them against the wall *(out of trouble)*.

The King spots the Fop and makes fun of his scruffy appearance:

King: How interesting to see you again, Sir!

Fop bows nervously.

King: Your style appears to have changed somewhat

He approaches the Fop and picks at his now scruffy clothes, removes his hat, cowering and ruffles his hair. He turns to the others and laughs *(play the pathos!)*

King: Your feathers are drooping, Sir
Your boots are covered in dirt, Sir
Your appearance is a disgrace, Sir
You have much need of your precious mirrors now, Sir!
(mirror handed in from the side, Cedric pushes it away)

P Friend: *(moves to stand beside the Fop)* But Sire, you are hard on my poor friend. He has only come from Hickling Pastures and is not used to our customs down here! He has only sought to win your approval, sire!

Fop: I may seem ridiculous to you, my friends, and I have been a fool to join the evil, Simon - I should have known better than to trust a man whose waist reaches up to his armpits! But now I seek your forgiveness and I ask your leave to return home to nurse my humiliation away from laughing eyes.

Surrounding characters look embarrassed/ashamed *(audience encouraged to sympathise 'Aaaahh')*

King: Your humility does you credit and I can see that you are not without friends *(looking at P Friend)*.

P Friend offers the Fop a mirror, he looks in it this time and finds some good points. She helps to adjust his hair and wipes his face in an attempt to help. He takes her hand and they exit together.

The King looks around at the remaining characters, with outstretched arms he says:

King: My dear young Marquis, I believe it is time we explored this magnificent castle!

Exit King & Princess.

Simon struggles out from the Ogre's grip and challenges Jacques,

Simon: (to Jacques) What on earth do you think you're up to? (to the Ogre) Why are you letting this happen? What about the money? My money!! My little savings scheme on the side!!!

Louie: *extracting himself carefully from the Ogre's grip, he addresses the ogre, This man, this pathetic has-been (pointing at Simon), this worn out purveyor of misery has been stealing from you all this time! But me, I am an honest man who always tells the truth (everyone looks at him incredulously) and I am willing to serve you honestly - (snivelling) please do not punish me!*

Enter Sharon

Sharon: Now that's what I call a good performance - the best of the night!!!
Nobody could fall for that load of old rubbish

The ogre holds Simon and Louie by the back of their collars and Puss approaches them. Puss removes a large bag of gold from Simon's pocket and a small one from Louie's. Puss hands the gold to Jacques.

Puss: Indeed they couldn't! It's the worst kind of punishment for you two!
You will go somewhere where they love to sing but where there is no talent at all! Where everyone is tone deaf and where everyone's voice is flat.
You're going to KINOULTON!

The ogre drags Simon & Louie off stage (kicking and screaming) with Sharon following:

Sharon: I'm coming too, I hope you appreciate the things I do for you two!

Narrator narrates this part to mimed action: The ogre makes his peace with the Brothers; he asks to be allowed to stay and marry the Dame and they will both work in the castle, the brothers are given bags of gold (taken from their father) and sent back to the Mill.

Narrator: And so it's time for peace to come to our little kingdom. The ogre that was feared turns out to be lonely and really quite good inside. He makes his peace with the sons of the poor old miller and returns their gold, stolen from their father over so many years. With this good deed done he kneels to wed his new found love and vows to serve his new master by her side (aside to audience) - quite terrible enough punishment for all his past wrong-doings, if you ask me!

Dame: We didn't!! He'll make a good husband as long as the pastry stays good and I can keep him off dodgy pie fillings!

Curtains Close.

Scene twelve:

front of curtain)

 *Brothers entrance music - enter holding up bags of gold*

B1: Wages at last - we will be able to invest in the Mill.

B2: With these we will turn the Mill back into the best bakery in the county.

Sister enters -holding up an even larger bag of gold

Pump: And look what I've got .. it was easy making money at Hickling!

They are interrupted by the entrance of the villagers dragging the donkey behind them

 *My Four Legged Friend - slow/short extract on piano as donkey enters*

B2: Oh! My old friend, is it you?

V1: We want our money back!

V2: He's useless!

V1: An absolute Ass!

B2: No he's not! You just don't know how to treat him right!

V1: Give us our money back and you can treat him how you like!

*B2 takes a **handful of coins** from his bag and reclaims his donkey*

B2: He's no donkey! He's a stallion baby!

Donkey capers around proudly, others laugh and all exit

Scene thirteen:

Curtains open.

(back at the ogre's castle)

Enter King, Ogre, Jacques, Princess & Puss

Each character steps forward and with exaggerated gestures address the audience before stepping back - quick, slick delivery!

Jacques: I ask permission to marry Arabella!

King: I like his money and agree!

Jacques: But I have to tell the truth, I'm only a Miller's son ...

King: And that's no good, too poor and too common!

Ogre: I return the money I stole from the King - that should help!

King: That's brilliant!

(looking at the Ogre) Can I trust him now then?

(addressing Jacques) But he's still too common!

Princess: But father, he's the man I love!

Ogre: And now he's wealthy too - 'cos I'm giving him all that's left of my riches!

Puss: Now come on, noble Kingy! Jacques (with my help, of course) has rescued your kingdom!

Princess: He deserves a reward!

King: Oh, I suppose so! On your knees boy!

The king gestures to Jacques to kneel before him and he draws a sword which he uses to dub Jacques

King: I proudly and gratefully name you the Marquis of Carabas and also *(looking at his daughter)* I offer you my permission to marry Arabella. Love and care for her, my boy, she is precious to me!

Jacques bows his thanks and takes the Princess's hand. She then joins the King and they exit with the ogre, talking amicably. Jacques turns to Puss;

Jacques: I owe all my happiness to you, my faithful cat! What reward can possibly repay the debt I owe to you?

Purrline enters and watches from the sidelines

Puss: No reward is necessary, Master. Your father left me to you because he knew you were special and that you would need my special help. My job is done and that is reward enough.

Puss beckons Purrline to join him on stage

Puss: The fact is, I've had fun and I've shown you all how clever cats can be, but I miss the sleeping all day and hunting whatever I like, whenever I like. My greatest reward would be to be allowed to return to my own world.

Jacques bows his acceptance and Jacques & Princess exit leaving the cats alone on stage.



"All That Jazz" Puss, Purrline & kittens.

Come on down

*We're gonna hit the town
With all these cats ...*

*We're gonna swish our tails
And make our whiskas twitch
With all these cats ...*

*We're gonna marry soon
Under a silver moon
We're gonna take a bow
And then we'll say miaouww*

*We're gonna have a ball
And have a caterwaul*

With All These Cats!

No judges left, so the audience are asked to hold up their scores (10s are printed on the back of all the programmes)

Amy: We've sung our best and you'll find a score on the back of your programme
- please show us what you think!

Exit Kittens, Puss & Purrlene

Scene fourteen:

Front of curtain

King & Queen enter

Queen: I've been to McArthur Glen, dear!

King: *initially looks worried and then remembers everything's OK now*

That's marvellous - Did you buy me anything?

Queen: *pulling things out of the bag (now being held by the King)*

This is for me, so is this, oh! and this is for me too. I should have got something new for the lovely bride to be but, well, I didn't. Something for you, you say? No, I'm afraid not ... But this is for me, and so is this!

King smiles indulgently and ushers the Queen off stage.

Scene fifteen:

Curtains open

(Ogre's castle)

Narrator: And now we're at the end of our show, please give a huge thank you to all the cast!

Please welcome:

Purrlene and the kittens

The Villagers and the donkey

Simon, Louie and Sharon from the Tax-Factor

King Billy, Queen Imelda, Cedric and his new wife

The Miller's family - Pitta, Ciabatta and Pumpernickel

Dame Gertie

McBob, the evil Ogre

Jacques and the lovely Princess Arabella

And last but not least - Puss in Boots!

And from myself, your narrator, and the cast, we would all like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has helped behind the scenes (please look in your programme to find out who they all are!) and especially, this year, to Alan and Tony who are new to the village and have been absolutely brilliant!



Curtain call (NARRATOR) & final song.

AMARILLO - (karaoke, cast pre-recorded)

Sha la la lala lalala (clap clap)

Sha la la lala lalala (clap clap)

Sha la la lala lalala (clap clap)

Na na ana na na na na

When the day is dawning

on a Hickling Sunday morning

how we long to be there

With the scarecrows and the village fair now

We'll tell you a story (we've told you a story?)

of a wonderful cat

how he made his master

a rich man after that

Is this the way to Hickling Panto

we'll show all the way to go-go

singing songs at Hickling Panto where Arabella

waits for Jacques

Show me the way to Hickling Panto

we've had a good time and even more so

we hope that you liked Hickling Panto

and had a great time after all

Sha la la lala lalala (clap clap)

Sha la la lala lalala (clap clap)

Sha la la lala lalala (clap clap)

Hickling Panto says goodbye!!