The Grimm Brothers Present:
Puss in Boots
The Musical

Book by Bill Leavengood
Music and Lyrics by Rick Crom

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Here's an inventive and hilarious retelling of the famed fairy tale that features the bickering Grimm Brothers. Wilhelm Grimm wants to include in their fairy tale collection book the story of a cat who wears boots, but his brother Jacob is against it. So they decide to dramatize the story of a talking cat who helps her downtrodden master become a noble lord by using her wits and resources. With its lively music, witty lyrics and quick-paced script, this play is both entertaining and educational, as the audience helps the Grimms decide upon the morals and merit of an unusual tale. About an hour.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Widely flexible cast up to 14. Minimum with doubling 3 m, 2 w)

MALE ROLES	FEMALE ROLES
Heinrich	Puss
Jacob	Princess Duckweed
Wilhelm	
FLEXIBLE ROLES	
Miller	Marx
First Peasant	King (or Queen)
Second Peasant	Servant
First Son (or Daughter)	Okra
Second Son (or Daughter)	

SETTING

A gigantic 8-foot tall storybook is our backdrop. The cover reads "Grimm's Fairy Tales." The book is closed initially. Throughout the play the Grimm Brothers will turn the pages for the new scenes. The pages will reveal a humble abode; a dark forest, the King's castle; a serene lake bordered by a road with the palace on a hill in the distance; fields of wheat; a vineyard on a hillside; and the interior of the Ogre's castle.

The Grimm brothers' study calls for a writing desk, circa early 1800s Germany, center stage with an inkwell, many papers and a lit gas lamp on it. There are two chairs crowded behind it at 45-degree angles, facing each other.

Additional sets pieces include a bed, a tree stump, a throne, some reeds, a Flintstone-style coach, and the Ogre's magic box.

SCENES AND MUSIC

Musical #1 - Intro / The Brothers Grimm *(Jacob, Wilhelm)*
Scene 1 - The Grimm Brothers' Study
Musical #1A - The Miller's Song *(Jacob, Wilhelm)*
Scene 2 - The Miller's House
Musical #2 & #3 - Incidental
Musical #4 - Alas, Alack *(Heinrich)*
Musical #5 & #6 - Incidental
Scene 3 - Somewhere Along the Road
Musical #7 & #7A - Incidental
Musical #8 - Keep Your Wits About You *(Puss, Heinrich)*
Musical #9, #10, #11, & #11A - Incidental
Scene 4 - The Palace
Musical #12 & #13- Incidental
Musical #14 - The Great Count Tuten *(Puss, Heinrich)*
Musical #15 -#16 & #16A Incidental
Scene 5 - Some Reeds Beside a Lake
Musical #17 & #18- Incidental
Musical #19 - Oh, What You Do to My Eyes *(Heinrich, Princess, King)*
Musical #20 & #21- Incidental
Scene 6 - Near a Wheat Field
Musical #22 & #23- Incidental
Scene 7 - Near a Vineyard
Musical #24, #25, & #26 - Incidental
Scene 8 - The Ogre's Castle
Musical #27 - Okra, the Ogre *(Okra)*
Musical #28 - The Great Count Tuten - Reprise *(King, All)*
Musical #29 - Keep Your Wits About You - Finale *(All)*

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The Grimm Brothers Present: Puss in Boots was first presented by American Stage, St. Petersburg, Florida. It was directed by David O'Hara and the Musical Director was Lalan Parrott.
The cast was as follows:

HEINRICH - Brian Shea
PUSS - Colleen McDonnell
JACOB/ MILLER/ SECOND PEASANT - Jeff Norton
WILHELM/ SECOND SON/ FIRST PEASANT - Chris Gibson
FIRST SON/ MARX/KING - Russell Hackney
SERVANT/ PRINCESS DUCKWEED/ OKRA - Bridget Roney

The Grimm Brothers Present: Puss in Boots

MUSICAL #1 – INTRO / THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Scene 1

(The BROTHERS, with German accents, are heard shouting offstage.)

JACOB: Schtop, Vilhelm! Geben mir der Feder!
WILHELM: Nein! I vill write dis volkstale, Yacob, und zat is zat!

(WILHELM GRIMM runs onstage, hurriedly dipping a quill pen in the ink and trying to write. JACOB GRIMM soon follows and lassoes his arms around his brother, trying to pull him away from the desk.)

JACOB:
IF YOU PUT THAT STORY OF A CAT WHO WEARS BOOTS
IN OUR BOOK THEY WILL THINK WE ARE NUTTY!
WILHELM:
BROTHER, I DISAGREE, NOW GET AWAY FROM ME.
JACOB:
BUT I FEAR YOUR BRAIN HAS TURNED TO SILLY PUTTY.

(WILHELM breaks away, JACOB reels backward. Wilhelm spins on him, holding the quill ink tip out like a sword.)

WILHELM: *(Spoken.)* I varn you, Yacob! Let me write or I vill punch you in ze nose!

(WILHELM returns to writing. JACOB pauses, but he can't let him do it. He rushes up and blows out the lamp. Blackout. SFX: We hear a smack and then a moan.)

WILHELM: *(Cont'd.)* Yacob? Are you all right?

(WILHELM relights the lamp. JACOB is lying on his back, holding his nose. Wilhelm helps him to his feet.)

WILHELM: *(Cont'd.)* Sorry, Yacob. It was an accident mit mein elbow. You vil go lie down vile I—

(JACOB moans. WILHELM is leading him downstage when he catches sight of the audience.)

WILHELM: *(Cont'd.)* Ach! Gute heavens!

(JACOB sees the audience, screams and runs upstage.)

WILHELM: *(Cont'd.)* Yacob, don't be frightened! It is yust ze audience. *(To audience.)* Bitte, "Please," ve vere not exschpecting you zo zoon. Let me introduce ourselves.
WE'RE THE GRIMM BROTHERS.
JACOB:
AH! AH! THE BROTHERS GRIMM.
WILHELM:
I'M WILHELM.
JACOB:
I'M JACOB.
BOTH:
THAT'S WE.
WILHELM:
I'M ME!
JACOB:
I'M ME!
BOTH:
THAT'S HIM!
WILHELM:
WE'RE TWO!
JACOB:
TWO!
BOTH:
BROTHERS WHO DON'T QUITE GET ALONG.
'CAUSE WE BOTH WRITE STORIES.
JACOB:
BUT WHAT YOU WRITE IS *(Spoken.)* wrong!

WILHELM: *(Spoken.)* I'm right!
JACOB: *(Spoken.)* You're wrong!
WILHELM: *(Spoken.)* I'm right!
JACOB: *(Spoken.)* A Puss in Boots?
WILHELM: *(Spoken.)* Now let's not fight.

BOTH:
FOLKTALES TRAVEL FROM TOWN TO TOWN
WE COLLECT THEM AND WRITE THEM DOWN.
IN A BOOK THAT WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH, HA, HA!
IT'S CALLED GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES.

WILHELM: *(Spoken.)* You've heard of this, ja?
JACOB: *(Spoken.)* Ja?

BOTH: *(Spoken.)* Ja! Ja! *(Then singing.)*
SOME STORIES ARE PRETTY,
SOME STORIES ARE SCARY
WILHELM:
AND ACTUALLY, FOR FAIRY TALES,
THERE AREN'T MANY FAIRIES.
BOTH:
STORIES THAT YEARS AGO YOU JUST MIGHT SEE A...
JACOB:
MOTHER TELL A CHILD.
WILHELM:
A GRANDMUTTER TELL A GRANDDAUGHTER
JACOB:
AN UNCLE TELL A NEPHEW
WILHELM:
TEACHER TELL A STUDENT.
JACOB:
MUTTER-IN-LAWS TO THIRD COUSINS.
WILHELM:
THEY GET THE IDEA!

JACOB: *(Spoken.)* I am zertain zat you know all my favorite schtories from ze book. Who could ever forget, "Ze Mouse, ze Bird, und ze Sausage." *(Chortles to himself.)* You have heard zis, ja? "Ze Mouse, ze Bird und ze Sausage"? *(He solicits responses from the audience.)* No? Alrighty-zen.

End of Freeview

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