

The Pied Piper of Possum Kingdom

Book and Lyrics by Kevin Cook

Music and Arrangements by Denis Kashoid

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To Lyndsay, thank you for the inspiration. – Denis

*To Gene and Betty Cook and Doug Voet, thank you for all
that dwells within you. – Kevin*

SYNOPSIS

It's the Fourth of July, 1963 and rats have taken over the state park at Possum Kingdom Lake. Who can get rid of these pests that act more like gangsters than rats? It seems no one can, not the surfing dude Robbie Kahuna, the wacky lake vendors, the know-it-all park ranger, or even any of the visiting boaters, swimmers and fishermen. Things change when a mysterious stranger shows up and claims that for a fee he will get the rats to follow him far into the Palo Pinto Mountains. To save the holiday festivities the park ranger agrees but in the end refuses to pay the piper. That's when the lake visitors discover they too are drawn into the mountains by the piper's magical tune.

Inspired by Robert Browning's poem, this musical comedy adaptation features a lively score with such songs as the jazzy *Possum Kingdom Cool Cats*, the Beach Boys-style surf song, *Chocka, Chocka Too*, and the rousing patriotic song, *Happy Birthday, USA*. The cast is flexible and the single set is easy. This show delights with song, dance and plenty of laughter. Approximately 50 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The Pied Piper of Possum Kingdom was first produced by Dallas Summer Musicals Academy of Performing Arts at the Hall of State Theatre in Dallas, Texas, on May 1, 2001.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Approx. 21 or more. All except Robbie may be played as M or W.)

ARIEL: Operator of the vendor stand *Dive & Bait* at Possum Kingdom State Park, free spirit, crush on Robbie Kahuna.

DOT: Operator of the vendor stand *Snacks & Such*, kind and sweet.

FLOSSY: Operator of the stand *Fireworks*, bossy and opinionated.

MOO: Pest Control Officer for Possum Kingdom State Park, always ready to assist Park Ranger Roy.

RANGER ROY: (Or ROSE.) Head Park Ranger for Possum Kingdom State Park, blustery and full of himself.

ROBBIE KAHUNA: A handsome former surfer who is now the swim and dive instructor at Possum Kingdom State Park.

PIED PIPER: Magical flute player whose beautiful music charms more than the rats into the mountains.

POCKET: Elderly leader of the possums. Also doubles as a Visitor, NETTY, a fisher girl.

LAKE VISITORS

CHERIE, boater
CORA, hiker
DAPHNE, hiker
DEE DEE, boater
DELORES, diver
ERNEST, fisherman
LOLA, fisher girl
PATSY, diver
ROXANNE, swimmer
TRUDY, swimmer
TROY, swimmer
WHITNEY, camper
WILSON, boater

RATS

SCOUT RAT
CHIPPER RAT
CHAMP ALI ALI RAT
VENUS RAT
MARVELOUS RAT
CURIE RAT
RAZZLE RAT
AMAZING RAT
AWESOME RAT
SNIPSTER RAT
CAESAR RAT
DAZZLE RAT
DJ DEAN RAT

The Rats and Visitors may be double cast as above. Some Rats do not have speaking parts. For larger casts, additional Visitors and Rats may be added.

TIME: July 4, 1963, morning to afternoon.

SETTING

This is a single set show. The location is Possum Kingdom Lake at Possum Kingdom State Park, Caddo, Texas near Fort Worth. (It is an actual state park known for its diving cliffs, fishing, camping, hiking, swimming and boating.) The set is three vendor stands. *Snacks & Such* (UR) sells cookies, brownies, nuts, and various candies and sodas. The *Fireworks* stand (UC) holds various firecrackers, bottle rockets, Roman candles, sparklers, etc. The *Dive & Bait* stand (UL) features beach items as towels, goggles, snorkels, beach balls, tanning lotion, fishing lures, boat rental forms, and bait.

****See additional Props and Costuming notes at the end of the script.***

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- #1 Overture
- #2 Happy Birthday, USA.....*Park Employees, Lake Visitors*
- #3 Razzle Dazzle.....*Razzle Rat, Dazzle Rat*
- #4 Time to Go.....*DJ Dean Rat, Rats*
- #5 Possum Kingdom Cool Cats.....*Rats*
- #6 Chocka, Chocka Too!.....*Robbie, Employees, Visitors*
- #7 Magic Flute.....*Pied Piper*
- #8 Never Let It Go!.....*Robbie, Employees, Visitors*
- #9 Rockin' Right and Doin' Good!*Flossy, Ariel, Dot,*
Robbie, Pocket
- #10 Happiness.....*Pied Piper, Visitors*
- #11 Never Let It Go - Reprise.....*All (except Rats and Piper)*
- #12 Mega Mix / Bows.....*Company*

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MUSIC NO. 1 - OVERTURE

(AT RISE: A voice shouts in darkness.)

VOICEOVER: Happy Fourth of July!

(SFX: Firecrackers are heard. LAKE VISITORS and EMPLOYEES enter. In the original production ROBBIE and FLOSSY were not in the opening number. These characters have special entrances after the opening song to highlight Flossy's outrageous costume and Robbie's unusual good looks. To include them in the opening song is optional.)

MUSIC NO. 2 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, USA

(LIGHTS up.)

EMPLOYEES & VISITORS: *(No Flossy or Robbie.)*

LET THE FIREWORKS FLY IN THE HEAVENS HIGH.
MAY THE CHURCH BELLS CHIME ON THIS FOURTH OF JULY.
SING WITH PRIDE! SING WITH JOY
FROM DOOR TO DOOR AND LET FREEDOM RING.
LET THE ROCKETS SOAR FOR THE VET'RANS BRAVE.
MAY THE BANNERS WAVE FOR THE PARTY TODAY.
KEEP US STRONG! KEEP US SAFE
FROM SEA TO SEA TO A SHINING SHORE!

THREE CHEERS FOR YOU
THE RED, THE WHITE, THE BLUE!
HIP! HOORAY! HIP! HOORAY!
HIP! HIP! HOORAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA!

FANCY WORDS AND FEATHERED PENS
IRRITATE OUR BRITISH FRIENDS.
MARCHING BANDS AND CLAPPING HANDS
CELEBRATE FOR ADAM'S STAND.
MAY THE NATION'S FLAG BE A LASTING DREAM,
MADE BY BETSY ROSS FOR THE STARTING THIRTEEN,
STRIPES OF RED, STRIPES OF WHITE
WITH STAR BY STAR IN A FIELD OF BLUE.

EMPLOYEES & VISITORS: *(Cont'd.)*

THREE CHEERS FOR YOU
THE RED, THE WHITE, THE BLUE!
HIP! HOORAY! HIP! HOORAY!
HIP! HIP! HOORAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA!

THREE CHEERS FOR YOU
THE RED, THE WHITE, THE BLUE!
HIP! HOORAY! HIP! HOORAY!
HIP! HIP! HOORAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA!

RANGER ROY: Okay everybody, the park will open shortly
with the July 4th, 1963 commemoration.

MOO: Back to work!

(The LAKE VISITORS exit with lines.)

DELORES: Let's get our cooler!

TROY: Okay. Let's book!

NETTY: The towels are in the car with the fishing poles.

ERNEST: I'm gonna jump in the lake!

TRUDY: I'm catching some rays today!

CHERIE: What a choice day!

CORA: It's wicked for real!

DAPHNE: Come on, make tracks!

(SFX: Firecrackers are heard in the distance. DOT and ARIEL prepare to open their vendor stands.)

DOT: The snack stand is almost ready!

ARIEL: The bass are striking on the new minnow lures. Get 'em here!

DOT: Listen to those firecrackers! I have waited for this day for so long! Ariel, look what I'm selling today. *(DOT opens a candy box and American flags spring up from each of the fudge squares.)* Firecracker fudge! Isn't it awesome?

ARIEL: Wow, it rocks! Look what I'm selling. Red, white and blue possum dive bags! *(Holds up several colorful dive bags with a stencil of a happy possum on the front of each.)*

End of Freeview

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