

# Puss in Thongs

Pantomime.

By Judith Prior. © 1997.  
(With apologies to Charles Perrault)



## CAST:-

Puss .....

Harry .....

King .....

Princess .....

Witch .....

Tom .....

Dick .....

CHORUS OF VILLAGERS, Who may double as:-

Lady, Girl 1, Girl 2, Dora, Doris, Daisy, Guard 1, Guard 2,  
Maid 1, Maid 2, Villager 1, Villager 2, Villager 3, Doctor,  
Nurse, Cook, Footman 1. Footman 2.

## Suggested Music.

1. Overture (Alley Cat?)
2. Side by Side.
3. Where Did You Get That Hat/What's New Pussy Cat.
4. Girls Just Wanna Have Fun.

Alley

The Cat came Back

Girl of my Dreams.

Congratulations.

# Puss in Thongs

By Judith Prior. © 1997.

## ACT ONE Scene One.

### OVERTURE.....

### MUSIC No. 1. ....

**SETTING..** *A country lane, to one side, a haystack in a field,, perhaps a fence or a few bushes. A distant church spire A Castle in the far distance..*

*(Enter Tom, Dick and Harry followed by Puss They are returning from the boy's fathers funeral.)*

**TOM.** Father always said that the farm would be mine after he was gone. And as the oldest son, that's only fair and right. You two will have to find homes for yourselves now.

**HARRY.** *(Surprised.)* But Tom, we've always been able to make enough money on the farm to get by.

**DICK.** Yes, that's right, Harry. And father always taught us to care and share, and look after each other.

**HARRY.** Yes. I'm sure father would have wanted us to all stay together and help run the farm .

**TOM.** Well, father's not here now, and I'm in charge.

**DICK.** You're not going to throw us out of our house are you?

**TOM.** Well, since you put it like that....Yes, I am. I have plans to expand the property and make a lot of money and I don't intend to share any of it with you two.

**DICK.** *(Worried.)* Where will we go?

**TOM.** I don't know. It's not my problem.

**LADY.** *(Entering.)* So sorry to hear about your dear father, boys. So sad, a lovely man, we'll all miss him.

**TOM.** *(Removes his hat and holds it solemnly across his heart.)* Oh, yes, very sad. We'll all miss him too.

**LADY.** *(Shaking her head.)* Such a shame, and only eighty nine years old, too. Well, I guess you're the head of the family now Tom., a great responsibility a young man like you having to look after your brothers.

**TOM.** *(Sadly.)* Yes, a great responsibility.

**LADY.** *(Slapping Tom on the back.)* I'm sure you'll be a great help and inspiration to them.

**TOM.** *(Humbly.)* I'll do my best to look after them both.

**LADY.** I'm sure you will. I'm sure you will. *( Exits shaking her head.)*

**DICK.** *(Excitedly.)* Then you've changed your mind and we can stay?

**TOM.** *(Nastily.)* Not likely! The sooner you two hit the road the better I'll like it.

**HARRY.** But, what are we...

**TOM.** *(Takes money bag from belt and opens it.)* Here, take this five dollars each and be off with you.

**DICK.** *(Accepting the money.)* Five dollars. Wow! I've never had a whole five dollars before. I think I'll go up to *(Popular expensive holiday resort.)* For a holiday. Gee! Thanks a lot Tom. *(Exit Dick, gleefully examining the five dollar note.)* Wow!

**HARRY.** Five dollars! He won't get far with five dollars.

**TOM.** Ha! He wouldn't get far with five hundred dollars. I don't know whether you've ever noticed Harry, but our brother Dick is not very bright.

**HARRY.** *(Aside to audience.)* And our brother Tom, is greedy and selfish.

**TOM.** *(Suspiciously.)* What was that?

**HARRY.** *(Quickly.)* I said...I'll need some money to buy food for the cat. Er.. Perhaps some shell fish.

**TOM.** (*Giving Harry a five dollar note.*) You won't be buying much shell fish with this. There, that's your share. And I won't be wasting any of my money feeding this worthless cat either.

**HARRY.** Then, can I have the cat?

**TOM.** Have the cat? (*More friendly.*) Of course you can have the cat, Harry. I was going to eat it for my supper, and make myself a nice fur hat out of it's skin. (*Puss reacts in horror.*) But just to show you how generous I am, I'll let you keep the cat.

**HARRY.** (*Meekly.*) Thankyou Tom.

**TOM.** (*To audience .*) I really am, too, too, generous aren't I? (*Encourage audience to applaud.*) Don't you think so? (*Puss and Harry shake their heads and give thumbs down sign. Encourage audience to Boo!*) Well! (*Offended.*) I thought they got a fair deal! There's just no pleasing some people! (*Exit Tom, huffily.*)

**HARRY.** Well, Puss, it's just you and me now. (*Strokes Puss, Puss purrs loudly.*) I am pleased I was able to save you from becoming a pussy pie and a fur hat.

**PUSS.** Not half as pleased as I am. (*Stretches herself.*) That would have been a cat -astrophy.

**HARRY.** Yes it would. (*Continues absently stroking Puss.*) And besides I'd have missed having you around. Father always said you were a very special cat.

**PUSS.** I am indeed, a very special cat.

**HARRY.** (*Stops stroking Puss alarmed.*) Did you just speak?

**PUSS.** I sure did.

**HARRY.** (*Amazed.*) But, but..cats can't talk.

**PUSS.** Now that is not entirely true, Harry. I admit that most cats don't talk, but that doesn't mean they can't talk.

**HARRY.** (*Incredulous.*) You mean...?

**PUSS.** (*Nods knowingly.*) Let's just say that we cats are very fussy who we speak to. Or should I say to whom we speak?

**HARRY.** But.... That is.. I'm...I'm....

**PUSS.** Flattered? Flabbergasted? To have been chosen to own a talking cat? Now, close your mouth Harry, or you'll get it full of dust...You were saying?

**HARRY.** I'm.. I'm.. honoured.

**PUSS.** That's more like it. Your father always knew I was a very special cat.

**HARRY.** Yes, but..

**PUSS.** He also knew Purr-fectly well, that Tom wouldn't look after you and Dick when he was gone, and so he gave me certain instructions.

**HARRY.** You have instructions from my father?

**PUSS.** That's right. You must promise to do everything I say and I will make you rich and famous.

**HARRY.** Rich and famous? Ha! With five dollars between us? (*Enter two village girls. They stop to stroke Puss.*)

**GIRL 1.** What a lovely cat. Her fur is so smooth.

**GIRL 2.** And her coat is so shiny.

**HARRY.** (*Proudly.*) She's a very special cat, she can talk.

**GIRL 1.** I don't believe you. Cats can't talk.

**HARRY.** This one can. Go on Puss, say something. (*Puss looks blankly at Harry.*) Puss! Come on say something. (*Puss washes her face nanchantly.*) Please say something. Anything!

**PUSS.** Miaow!

**GIRL 2.** Miaow? Is that all it can say?

**HARRY.** Come on now, Puss. You can do better than that.

**GIRL 1.** You really believe this cat can talk?

**HARRY.** Yes, really, I was having a conversation with her just now before you came along.

**GIRL 1.** (*Suspiciously.*) Do you often talk to cats?

**GIRL 2.** My mother says I'm not allowed to speak to strange people, and I think you're strange. (*Backs away from Harry.*)

**GIRL 1.** Yes, very strange. (*The two girls hold hands and start walking away.*)

**HARRY.** Don't go! I didn't mean to frighten you...(*Two girls run off stage shrieking.*) Now look what you've done. You disobedient cat. I thought you said you were going to help me.

**PUSS.** And so I am. But you weren't paying attention Harry. I said, that you have to do everything I say. There was no mention of me, doing anything you, ask me to do.

**HARRY.** But that's not fair.

**PUSS.** I didn't say it was going to be fair. Cats do what cats want to do. (*Shrugs.*) If you want obedience, get a dog.