



Puss in Boots

by Colin Barrow

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THE SCRIPT

A very easy and workable script that will work at the majority of venues whether on a tight budget or not. It does not ask for special effects or difficult lighting plots, although you can add any if you have the ability or wish to do so. Other than a few, most characters can be played by male or female. The script has the usual main characters as well as some small/cameo characters. The script can be worked with or without a chorus. Where there are chorus lines, and you do not have a chorus, the small/cameo characters or any other participants who wish to be villagers or Palace attendants can deliver those lines. Dame Miller has three sons, one of which is the Principle boy, and the other two are comedy support to Dame. However, this script gives the main comedy character, other than the Dame, to Marigold Glove, house keeper of the Ogre. She can be a second Dame like character and played by male or female. All in all, a great pantomime with all the tradition that's expected from this type of theatrical genre.

SYNOPSIS

Dame Miller has three sons, Miffin, Muffin and Dick (Richard) who is principle boy. She is a widow and her husband has left the flour mill to Miffin, Horace (*donkey or horse*) to Muffin, and they decide to go into business together. Which leaves Dick being left with Spangles the cat and no work. On leaving the village, Dick and Spangles encounter a fairy which gives a magical saucer of milk to Spangles. This not only allows Spangles to speak but also to become the hero as, Puss in Boots. The Ogre, who lives in the castle has in the past run riot, but he is still not satisfied. So he takes the crops, which means there is no flour to mill and captures Princess Emily, the Kings daughter. Marigold Glove is housekeeper to the Ogre and causes havoc at everything she does. The Ogre puts up with her as no one else will put up with him! The time comes when the Ogre has to be dealt with and to save the Princess from his clutches. Puss in Boots with the help of the Fairy does just that! Which leaves a lot of happiness and romance to close the story. Dame Miller is going to marry the King, but more importantly, Dick will marry the Princess and will live in the Castle with Spangles and live happy ever after.

Approximate running time:- Two hours (*not including the interval*)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Casting:- The casting can be quite flexible to suit your available performers. Although some are best played by male, it would be quite possible for them to be played by a female if your performer availability dictate to do so

Chorus:- This script can be used with or without a chorus. Where there are chorus speaking lines and you have no chorus, these can be delivered by performers or adult/child members.

General staging:- The scenery and lighting can be as simple and easy as you wish, especially if tight budget and logistics have a strong influence with your production. This also applies to costuming and properties, and yet still providing a brilliant pantomime. Of course, if budget and logistics dictate otherwise, the skies are the limit!

Scenes:- The script is written to use three full stage scenes and one front cloth scenes. These are not set in stone and re-name some scenes if you wish to run more cloths. Likewise, if you are running with limitations. The full stage scenes could use the same back drop of a nondescript mottled effect. And dress each scene where needed to suit its title. The front cloth scenes could be done front of curtain or again in front a nondescript mottled effect.

Set dressing:- Dressing for the scenes is entirely up to you and the stage space available. It will also depend on what type of back drops you are using too. Especially for those working with no chorus and have more stage space available.

Misc:- Additional jokes can be slotted in where or if you feel they are required to your choosing.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Song/dance numbers:- The script is written to allow the *maximum time of one minute to one and a half minutes* for each song or dance routine. In each case choosing and ending to give a natural finish. These can be shorter but watch if too many run longer as this could alter the pantomime's whole running time.

Not all character song slots required to be executed. They are there as ideal spots if you wish to use them. This helps those cast who do not feel comfortable to sing to opt out. Additional songs can be added to your own discretion if you feel the need to do so.

You do not need to use all the slots allocated for chorus song/dance numbers, especially if your chorus numbers are very low. Select, the slots most suitable to your chorus.

If you are working without a chorus and not using the song/dance slots allocated. You can add an extra cast member song or two or lengthen the other cast songs allocated slightly to make up the time.

The script does supply some song suggestions, but they do not need to be used. All other song/dance numbers are to your own choice. This allows the cast who are involved to select something that's comfortable for them and perhaps a little more modern. It also prevents the repetition of music from recent past productions you have staged.

Song/dance not with time restrictions:- The opening number, Principle boy and girl duet, the community song and finale song can take their own natural time length as they are important numbers. By keeping to these parameters, the production will run at a good pace; and be fresh and entertaining to your audience.

DISCLAIMER:- *The performing licence of this script does NOT include permissions, licences or royalties of ANY music/songs used with the staging of this script.*

For **ALL** music and song selected to stage this script, any royalties, licenses or permission has to be obtained by **YOU** the group, club or company according to the music performing rights laws. **These include ALL parody suggestion given with-in the script.**

*(The majority of premises are registered and you **must** contact to make sure the music/song selections used comply with the licence held by the premises. Do this prior or at the start of rehearsal to avoid complications near or on the production dates.)*

CHARACTERS

Dame Miller

Miffin.....a comic

Muffin.....a comic

Dick (Richard).....principal boy

Princess Emily.....principal girl

Marigold Glove..... a comic

King Harold

The Ogre.....villain

Fairy

Puss in Boots (spangles)... the cat

Horace..... a donkey or horse

SMALL/CAMEO CHARACTERS

The guard

The Reaper

The Shepherd

Chorus (*if you have one*) **And/or adult/child members wishing to participate**

CHARACTER GUIDELINES

The type of costumes and the amount of costume changes are entirely down to your own discretion.

DAME: Played by male or female. Usual Dame like character and mother to Miffin, Muffin and Dick. The script doesn't instruct any particular costume types or inclusions.

MIFFIN: Can be played by male or female. A comic and son of Dame Miller. Can develop own character. The script doesn't instruct any particular costume types or inclusions. However, you might consider match the costume to that of Muffin.

MUFFIN: Can be played by male or female. A comic and son of Dame Miller. Can develop own character. The script doesn't instruct any particular costume types or inclusions. However, you might consider match the costume to that of Miffin.

DICK: (Richard) Played by female and Principal boy and son of Dame Miller. Costumed in a more '*poor*' attire until, act one, scene five, and for the remaining of the script looks more '*Prince*' and refined in appearance.

HORACE: A pantomime horse or donkey (*your choice*) created by two persons inside the skin.

MARIGOLD GLOVE: Played by male or female. A slightly accident prone scatty comic and housekeeper of the Ogre. The actor/director/wardrobe can make her anything that's wish in character. However, she works well as a second 'Dame' type character especially if the actor is a man. For act two, scene one and two she will require a cycling style costume. This can be quite outrageous with baggy shorts or huge winged breeches, high heels (*if available*) ankle socks and a cyclist helmet. Her top, if played by a female, can whatever is comfortable and suitable for the actor. But if played by a male, a string vest with should strap dangling showing the bra straps gives a great visual effect especially with the winged breeches and high unsuitable heeled shoes of contrasting colour! Imagination can run riot with this character and costuming!!! For act two, scene three, her costume will require sewn outside in the middle of her back (*to match the costume colour and not look too obvious*) a small tab of velcro. This is so the balloon can be easily attached which has the corresponding piece of velcro to make the two fix together and the balloon stuck on her back

KING: A normal regal character but has a relaxed and fun side. Costumed as a King would be.

PRINCESS EMILY: Principal girl and daughter to the King. Costumed as a Princess throughout. But for, act one, scene three and four, her costume could be toned down a little to be less 'Princess' to back up the script with her pretending to be Emma and not the Princess.

PUSS: (Spangles) This is Puss in Boots and can be played by male or female although more often than not a female. Act one, scene two and three, the costume should be more a scraggy moggy or very cat like. From act one, scene three, the costuming should be fine and quite 'Cavalier' in style with a wide brimmed hat and of course, boots! There is always a temptation to wear a 'cat mask' but this can disguise a lot of facial expression with the eyes and or mouth. If possible it is much better to use face paint and make-up to give the actor a 'cat face'.

Fairy: Quite a normal straight forward fairy with costuming to match. For added visual comedy it be acted by a male and being more clumsy rather than delicate.

THE OGRE: Villain and best acted by a male. Costumed however you wish but, trousers with a long style tunic and a large buckled belt worn over the tunic looks good. A short waistcoat/bolero type garment can also give good effect. But all this works better if kept dreary and dull in contrasting colours rather than bright colouring. Wild hair works very well with this character as does make-up showing boils, and warts giving a grotesque look. Try to avoid a 'Shrek' type of mask!!! Some envisage 'stone age/cave man' style of costuming with a more modern approach. For act two, scene four, the character will require a lions mask, a lions mane (*a ring of faux fur like fabric that can be quickly slipped over the head or fastened from behind*) and if possible a lions tail which can be either attached by velcro to the costume or an elastic advisable waist band. The character only has minimal stage side

time to apply the mane, mask and tail! So the more simple made and quickly to put on, the better.

GUARD: Can be male or female, adult or Junior. Costumed as a guard or courtier

REAPER: Can be male or female. Quite rustic in costume and the character would be enhanced with a faux sickle, straw hat and some ears of corn adorning the costume.

SHEPHERD: Can be male or female. I deal for a local accent in line delivery. Has a shepherd crook, floppy hat, smock, trousers, etc.

CHORUS (*if you have one*) **And participating adults/children:** Costumed to fit the scenes they participate in

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene one.....THE VILLAGE (full stage)
Scene two.....A COUNTRY LANE (front cloth)
Scene three.....THE VILLAGE (full stage)
Scene four.....A COUNTRY LANE (front cloth)
Scene five.....THE PALACE (full stage)

ACT TWO

Scene one.....THE VILLAGE (full stage)
Scene two.....A COUNTRY LANE (front cloth)
Scene three.....INSIDE THE CASTLE (full stage)
Scene four.....A COUNTRY LANE (front cloth)
Scene five.....(either) THE PALACE or INSIDE THE CASTLE (full stage)

PUSS IN BOOTS

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

THE VILLAGE (full scene)

Set on stage in front of the proscenium arch is a tub/ barrel. In the tub/barrel is a weighted large fish attached by a *strong* fishing line that runs to back stage (*see information at the end of the script*) When Dame Miller feeds the fish, it is pulled up by the fishing line and dropped back into the tub/barrel ready for the next time she feeds it. The tail of the fish has elastic attached to it and fixed to the inside base of the tub/barrel so the fish retracts quickly and out of sight. It can be pulled at speed and various heights to try and catch her hand as she feeds it. After the first time of doing the feed, Dame Miller can ad-lib and become more active at feeding with performance, including that of being nervous and tentative.

Opening Number:-

The scene opens with cast and/or chorus to sing/dance opening number. If the cast is used, they exit after the number. Set Dame up stage so she can exit first. All chorus/villagers remain on stage.

Dame Miller enters

Dame: It's nice to see happy folk all gathered for an educational performance! And after the final curtain you'll all go home saying, "well that taught me a lesson!" Now, the local gamekeeper has gone on holiday. He got a last-minute deal, seven nights in (*a place of your choice could be local*) No days, just the seven nights. Anyway, he's put me in charge of feeding the royal goldfish, (*points to the tub/barrel*) but I can never remember to do it. So, every time I come on stage, I want you to shout, "feed the fish!" do you think you could do that? (*Do business*) That's good. Now let's do it for real and I will go to that tub/barrel and feed the blighter. (*Exits and re-enters with container with coloured wedding confetti or similar to use as fish food*)

Audience reaction

Dame goes and sprinkle some food in the tub/barrel and the fish suddenly jumps up and goes back down making her jump. On the audience reaction each time she goes to feed, the sound track of 'Jaws' could be played for a few seconds until the fish has appeared and gone back again

Dame: I reckon that goldfish is related to Jaws! (*Placing the food container next the tub/barrel*)

1st: Good morning, Dame Miller. What's amiss?

Dame: A Mrs before marriage!

2nd: It's been a while now since your husband's departure.

Dame: Departure! He ain't gone on holiday you know. Well - only with the fairies, but then he was always up with the fairies when he was alive.

3rd: I'm sure you'll miss him.

Dame shakes her head

4th: Not just a little bit?

Miffin, Muffin and Horace enter

Dame: Not even a weeny teeny tiny wishy bit.

M & M: Only yesterday you said you'd miss Dad.

Dame: Like a sick headache! There's nothing else to miss.

Miffin: But you loved him once.

Dame: With three sons, I loved him three times!

Muffin: But, Mum, you had to be in love to get married?

Dame: I was much younger and more stupid then. But I remember it well, we were like two satellite dishes that fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!

Horace hee haws/neighs

Dame: *(to Horace)* That's enough from you, Horace. Now, the solicitor has done his soliciting and your father's wishes can be finalised. Miffin, you'll be okay for life as your father left you the flour Mill.

Miffin: Oh, lovely. I like flowers.

Dame: Muffin, you've been left Horace, and the best of luck with that!

Muffin: *(pats Horace)* With his brains and mine absent, we'll be fine.

Dame: And Dick has been left the cat!

All: What have you been left, Dame Miller?

Dame: A heap of nothing and a mattress with an inquisitive spring coming through it.

Horace hee haws/neighs excitedly as Dame threatens her fist at him

Miffin: I've been thinking. I need something to turn the wheel at the Mill and Horace could do that. So, Muffin, how about us going into partnership?

Muffin: That sounds champion by me, Miffin.

They both shake on it

Dame: That's got you two sorted. Now, what about Dick?

M & M: What about Dick?

Dame: He's your brother!

M & M: That's one thing you can't blame us for!

Dame: I mean, what will he do?

Miffin: He will have to get a job.

Dick enters with Spangles who is on all fours

Dick: Hi folks. What's cooking?

Muffin: Miffin and I are going into a partnership, because he needs Horace to turn the wheel to turn the mill to make the flour.

Dick: Is there room in this partnership for me?

Miffin: What have you to offer?

Dick: My cat of course.

Spangles nods enthused as Horace hee haws/neighs

Muffin: And what would a manky old cat do?

Dick: He could catch the mice.

Miffin: Spangles couldn't catch a cold let alone mice!

Spangles look offended

Dick: What should I do then?

Muffin: Well, Dick, why not go and try your luck in London. We can't afford to keep you and that moth-eaten old flea bag.

Spangles looks very offended

Miffin: But, Miffin. Surely Mother can stay with us?

Muffin: I was referring to the cat and not Mother as a flea moth bitten old bag.

Miffin: That's good as we shall need someone to cook for us.

Muffin: Can't we have, Mac D's, Pizza's, a Chinese and a kebab?

Dame: Are you suggesting there's a problem with my cooking?

Dick: You did burn the tin opener.

Dame: *(aghast)* Sauce!

M & M: That was knackered and burnt too!

Horace hew haws/neighs as Dame shows her fist at him again

Dick: *(shrugs his shoulders)* Oh well, we'd better go, come on, Spangles. Let's see if I can find a job.

Dick and Spangles exits with chorus/villagers

Dame: *(sniffing in a large handkerchief)* Bye, Dick. Don't forget to come and visit us sometime. *(Sniffs)* Oh dear, oh my, the first son to have flown the nest. *(Blows her nose loudly)*

Miffin: He'll be fine, Mum. He's got more brains than us three put together.

Dame: *(looking off)* Hello. Here comes Marigold Glove in a mighty hurry.

Marigold enters in a puff with a shopping bag/basket

All: What's a foot, Marigold?

Mari: Last time I looked it was that thing on the end of me leg!

Horace hee haws/neighs

Mari: The truth is, I be just getting the dinner for the Ogre.

Dame: You still working for old wart face then?

Mari: Ain't got much choice, have I?

Miffin: Is he keeping alright?

Mari: *(beckoning them near)* To be honest, he's half left! *(Shrieks out in laughter as does Horace hee haws/neighs)*

Dame: Very funny. Still, it's been two months since he caused any trouble and I hope he won't cause anymore?

Miffin: Trouble! The Ogre went on a complete rampage!

Muffin: Threw Hazel Nutt out of the castle Gate house.

Mari: *(sighs)* Poor Hazel. And if things weren't already bad enough in this country she's gone completely nuts and has now and turned into a politician.

Dame: At least we know where to find Hazel. Number ten at the street of many fools!

Mari: Course, the Ogre claimed me too.

Dame: He must be desperate!

Mari: Oh, no. Not desperate, just courageous.

M & M: I hope he don't turn his eye to the Kings daughter?

Dame: He wouldn't dare. Would he?

Ogre: *(off stage, maybe good through a microphone)* Where's my dinner. I don't like waiting.

Dame: *(shouts out)* It's in the food waste recycle truck!

Ogre: *(off)* Mmmm. Sounds yummy, I'm on my way.

M & M: *(clasps onto each other)* The Ogre is coming here!

Song:- *Suggestion (a parody of **Santa Clause Is Coming To Town** by J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie 1934) - Words at the end of the script -*

Dame: Let's get home quick!

Dame, Miffin, Muffin and Horace exit right

Mari: Yeah well, it's okay for you lot to scarper, I have to try and keep him sweet don't I?

Ogre enters stage left

Ogre: So this is where you are. Your supposed to be my housekeeper and you don't even keep the cupboards filled. I'm very, very, hungry.

Mari: You could always eat a snail from the garden.

Ogre: But I prefer fast food! (*Angrily*) Now, I'm hungry woman and want my dinner!

Mari: Alright, alright, keep your hair on. I got to go to the shop first.

Ogre: Maybe I should go and throw the shop keeper out and own the shop myself.

Mari: You can't, you haven't any toes, and the shopkeeper is lactose intolerant!

Ogre: (*in a rage*) Enough of your back chat, woman. If I don't eat soon, I'll waste away to nothing.

Mari: Go on then, cause that would do us all a favour.

Ogre: If you don't put food on my table soon, I will barbecue you over hot coals.

Mari: It's been said that I can be a right bit of crackling! Now, if you go back to the castle and sit down, I'll be with you as soon as I get there.

Ogre: Make it fast, woman, make it fast. As I am not very patient. (*Exits left*)

Mari: What an old ogre that Ogre is. Well, I'd better get going before he tries to eat the clock which will prove very time consuming. (*Exits*)

Dame enters. Audience reaction and Dame does the feeding of the fish routine

Dame: I wonder how my Dick is getting on, I do hope he will be alright? I've always been there to look after him, you see. Well, maybe not look after but try to drag him up with some idea of life. That was whilst getting a job at a nursery. I thought I'd be wonderful with kids, but I was surrounded by plants all flipping day. I soon nipped that job in the bud and leafed it!

Chorus/villagers enter

1st: King Harold and Princess Emily are coming.

Dame: So?

2nd: They're out for their morning walk.

Dame: It's a free country.

3rd: I thought you rather fancied the King?

Dame: I rather fancy winning the lottery but nothing ever comes of it.

4th: If you play your cards right, you might be lucky.

Dame: If I play my cards right, I always lose. I do better at cheating!

King Harold and Princess Emily enter. All bow or curtsy

King: Good morning my good people. I do hope you are in good health and humour?

Dame: Oh yes, your Majesticals, my funny bone is very healthy.

Emily: Is it correct that your son Dick has left?

Dame: *(sniffs and wipes her eye with a hanky)* I'm afraid so and with his puss, Spangles.

Emily: I didn't know Dick had a puss?

Dame: *(sniffs again)* Left to him by his father. *(Sobbing a little)* Last I heard Dick and his cat might be going to London. *(Blows her nose hard)*

King: And I understand the Ogre has been out and about again?

Dame: *(whimpering)* He's been making strange noises again. Marigold Glove says, "eating beans for breakfast don't help either!" *(Cries a little)*

King: *(with concern)* Oh dear. I do hope he is going to behave himself.

Emily: Maybe he's just hungry. We all know what a huge appetite he has.

King: *(down hearted)* Let's hope so.

Emily: *(brightly)* It's no good everyone being miserable and down in the dumps. Dick will return and the Ogre has all he wants. It's a lovely day, so let's be happy!

Song:- *Select a up-beat happy song*

Black-out

ACT ONE
SCENE TWO
A COUNTRY LANE (front cloth)

Ogre enters left

Ogre: Did you see that lovely Princess Emily? Isn't she nice? Do you think she'll come and stay? *(Audience reaction)* Bah, I should have known you lot are on the side of good. But I always get what I want, nothing is out of reach of me, the Ogre! Oh yes, boys and girls this fairy tale will not have a happy ending. So, watch and see how a powerful Ogre like me will win the day. *(Exits left laughing menacingly)*

Dick enters right with Spangles. Dick has a draw string purse with money in it or a pocket containing money

Dick: Oh Puss, what are we going to do? We've nowhere to go, no work and very little money. I'm told if we go to London our fortune might change. But I don't want to go to London, I want to stay here with my friends. *(Sighs)* I don't blame Miffin and Muffin, it's the Ogre I blame, as he takes everything he wants. Nobody will make money and get rich with him about. *(With a touch of sadness)* Oh dear, what a sorry state we're in. *(Brighter)* I suppose I mustn't be too down hearted, *(strongly)* we must be positive!

Song:- *Choose one of that suggests either strength, positiveness, determination, or of similar theme*

Dick: *(goes to the left pros arch)* Well, Spangles. *(Sitting down)* before we do any more thinking, I'm going to have a rest.

Nestling making himself comfortable and goes to sleep with Spangles sits by his feet grooming and washing

Fairy enters right gracefully with a swirl and fancy foot work a sound effect can accompany her entrance. Spangles arches his back and hisses and spits

Fairy: Don't be frightened my furry friend,
to help your master is what I intend.
At the moment he's down and out,
with my help, you'll soon turn that about.
I shall bestow on you a special power,
of which you'll discover in less than an hour.

Fairy takes a dish handed to her from the wings and places it on the stage

Fairy: Here on the floor is some milk in a dish,
for you to drink, is what I wish.
Drink it all puss in your own time,
then we can continue this pantomime! *(Exits right)*

Spangles goes to the dish and looks at it, tastes a little, then drinks it up. Dick begins to wake up as this happens but taking no notice of Spangles

Puss: *(stands wiping his mouth with arm) Purrrrrrrrrrfect.*

Dick: *(stands and stretches not really looking at Spangles) That's better, Spangles. A little cat nap does the power of good. (Turns to exit left) Come on, let's go on our way.*

Puss: *Master! (Leans against the right pros arch with legs and arms folded)*

Dick stops, shakes his head and starts to exit again

Puss: *Master!*

Dick stops, turns, and looks at Puss standing against the pros arch

Dick: *(aghast) What in the...*

Puss: *(cutting in) Hello, Master.*

Dick: *A cat that can speak, well what do you know! I must be the only person in the world with a talking cat.*

Puss: *(begins to walk up to Dick) Yes, Master, I am the only cat in the world that can speak. Not only speak, I will also help you to make your fortune and bring love to your feet and there will be no need to leave. However, first I need to ask a favour.*

Dick: *(a little lost for words) Well - yes - of course you can.*

Puss: *I require a pair of boots.*

Dick: *(taken aback) A pair of boots! (Takes his money out and looks at it) I don't have much money, and what I have, if it is spent on boots there will be none left for food.*

Puss: *Trust me, Master.*

Dick: *I've done some daft things in my life, but to buy a cat a pair of boots must be the daftest. Oh, well, nothing ventured nothing gained, come on, Spangles. Let's go to the shoe shop!*

Both exits

Black-out

ACT ONE
SCENE THREE
THE VILLAGE (full scene)

The scene can open with a chorus number if wished

Dame, Miffin and Muffin enter. Dame has an unsealed envelope with her and Muffin has a clip board with a sheet of paper attached to it and a pen on a string

Audience reaction and Dame does the fish feeding routine

Dame: That's the monster of the deep fed and I suppose I'd better do some food shopping too.

Muffin: What are you going to buy?

Dame: I'm not really bothered. As you know I eat like a bird.

Muffin: Yes, like a Vulture

Dame bops muffin

Miffin: Whilst you're at the shops, Mum, get some WD 40 and a roll of duct tape.

Dame: What for?

Miffin: At your age it's a must. If it doesn't move, but should, use WD40.

Muffin: And if it moves and shouldn't, use duct tape!

Dame: *(to audience)* I can see its going to be one of those days! Now, *(talking into the open envelope)* the reason you have not had my payment is because my direct debit was directed to somewhere else and debited. Once I know where it was debited and I direct it back to my account I will direct the debit back to you. *(Sealing the envelope)* There, that should keep them off my back 'till I get some money to pay them proper.

Miffin: What are you doing. Mum?

Dame: I'm sending a voicemail!

Muffin: *(offers the clip board)* Can you sign this, Mum?

Dame: What is it?

Muffin: A petition to try and get the Ogre exterminated.

Dame: Try and stop me. (*Looking at the sheet of paper*) There's a lot of crosses on this form.

Muffin: Some people can't write.

Dame: (*signing her name*) But how do you know the crosses are genuine?

Muffin: Because they are not the same handwriting.

Dame: Someone here has spelt an 'X' with a 'Y'.

Muffin: (*grabs the clip board back*) That's because they are learning the alphabet backwards and haven't got to 'X' yet!

Dame: (*dumbfounded*) Of course I should have realised! (*Keenly*) Right, I've had an idea to make some money. I'm going to put a pound on a horse at the next race. It's one called 'Carpet' and it's never been beaten! (*looks about*) Now, can you back a horse here?

All: You sure can.

Points at Horace backing onto the stage

All: Look?

Dame: (*looks*) That old thing couldn't shut the gates after the race let alone run it! Just get Horace back to the Mill!

Chorus/villagers, Miffin and Muffin exit with Horace

Dame: (*to audience*) Told you it's going to be one of those days. Today is the type of day that if went to the hairdressers for blonde highlights I'd end up with an all-over scarlet red! Not that I could afford to go to the hairdressers anyway. Do you know, I'm so broke that if ten-pound notes were on sale at the pound shop for fifty pence, I wouldn't be able to buy any!

Miffin enters. He has a ten-pound note in his hand or pocket out of sight

Miffin: In that case, you might be interested in my idea to make more money?

Dame: I'm all ears.

Miffin: I know, like a couple of jug handles!

Dame: Less of the cheek and what about this money idea?

Miffin: Did you know there is an echo here?

Dame: Pardon?

Miffin: Did you know there is an echo here?

Dame: *(looks around)* I think there's an echo here.

Miffin: That's me.

Dame: Pardon?

Miffin: That's me.

Dame: *(looks about)* There it is again.

Miffin: Listen - there is no echo here!

Dame: But you said there was.

Miffin: I know I said there was, but there isn't.

Dame: There isn't?

Miffin: There isn't.

Dame: *(looks about)* There it is again.

Miffin: There's no echo, we just tell people there is to make money.

Dame: So how do we make money pretending there is an echo here?

Miffin: *(points to behind the pros arch)* You go and stand over there out of sight and repeat everything I say.

Dame: *(goes to hide)* Stand over here and repeat everything thing you say.
(Exits just out of sight)

Miffin: Can you hear me?

Dame: *(just enough to be seen)* Of course I can hear you. I'm only here!

Miffin: Just keep out of sight and repeat everything I say.

Dame: I didn't realise we had started. *(Exits out of sight)*

Miffin: Can you hear me?

Dame: Can you hear me!

Miffin: How are you?

Dame: *(enters with a hobble)* I've got a poorly big toe now you ask. And I think my knickers are three sizes too small!

Miffin: No, no, no. You stay out of sight and repeat what I say!

Dame: Everything?

Miffin: Everything.

Dame: *(looks about)* There it is again!

Miffin: That was me. Now go and do as I say.

Dame: I got it now. *(Exits)*

Miffin: Hello?

Dame: Hello!

Miffin: How are you?

Dame: How are you?

Miffin: Uncle Fred has a bad back.

Dame: *(enters)* He needs to rub some 'deep heat' into it. That'll sort it out.

Miffin: No, no, no. Will you just do as I say. *(Quickly looks off and see Muffin coming)* Quick, there's someone coming - get of sight and remember what I said.

Dame: *(exiting)* I'll remember. I'm not stupid you know!

Muffin enters he has a ten-pound note folded/rolled in his hand out of sight

Muffin: Hello Miffin, and how are you?

Miffin: I'm very well but I'm worried about this echo here.

Muffin: What echo?

Miffin: This echo here.

Muffin: There's no echo here.

Miffin: Oh, but there is.

Muffin: I know this place well by dating with the pretty girls here. And I'd know if there was an echo because I'd have twice as much fun!

- Miffin:** I'll bet you ten pounds there is an echo here. *(Places a ten-pound note on the stage)*
- Muffin:** I'll have a go at that. *(Places a ten-pound note on the stage with the other)*
- Miffin:** Now you listen to this. Hello?
- Dame:** Hello.
- Miffin:** How are you?
- Dame:** How are you.
- Miffin:** Oompa, oompa
- Dame:** Stick it up your jumpah!
- Muffin:** Wow that's brilliant. Can I have a go?
- Miffin:** Of course you can. But remember if there is an echo, I win your ten pounds
- Muffin:** And if there is no echo, I will win your ten pounds.
- Miffin:** Right.
- Muffin:** Right.
- Dame:** Right.
- Muffin:** Hello?
- Dame:** Hello.
- Muffin:** I'm waiting for you.
- Dame:** I'm waiting for you.
- Muffin:** To come and get me.
- Dame:** You must be joking.
- Muffin:** I know where...
- Dame:** I know where...
- Muffin:** You can get...
- Dame:** You can get...

Muffin: A big tub of ice cream

Dame: A big tub of ice cream

Muffin: For nothing (*points*) and it's over there.

Dame: (*runs on stage*) Where? That ice cream has my name on it.
(*Crossing and exiting*)

Miffin: (*follows Dame quickly*) That tub of ice cream has my name on it.
(*Exits*)

Muffin: (*picking up the two ten-pound notes*) And these have my name on them too! (*Exiting*) And that's how you make money from an echo out of two idiots!

Dick enters with Spangles. Spangles is now wearing boots and costumed in finery and looking every bit 'Puss in Boots'

Dick: Well, Spangles, you've scrubbed up well.

Puss: Thank you, Master. (*Parades*) In fact, I feel Purrfect. Just perrrrfect.

Dick: (*looks at Spangles*) You know, the name Spangles don't really suit you anymore. In fact, you're more of a, 'Spectacular', really. But no one can name a cat, 'Spectacular!' (*Walks away thinking, turns looks at Spangles*) I've had an idea, seeing you in all your finery and looking every bit a cat with position. I think you should be known as, Puss in Boots!

Puss: That sounds Purrfect to me, Master. And now I have to place plans in motion to make your position and fortune, Master.

Dick: (*taken aback*) Make my position and fortune? And just how do you think you are going to do that?

Puss: That, Master, is a secret that only I have. (*Moves to exit*) I'll meet you in two hours at the river.

Dick: Where are you going?

Puss: Do not worry, Master. I'll see you in two hours. (*Exits*)

Dick: Just at the moment I feel that I am parked diagonally in some parallel universe and any time soon I shall wake up to a normal life. Although having said that, living with Mother and my two brothers, life is very far from being anywhere near normal. (*Looks off*) Hello, I wonder who this is? Although I feel I recognise her and yet perhaps I am totally mistaken.

Emily enters

Emily: I was looking for my Father, have you seen him?

Dick: I don't know who your father is.

Emily: Then you don't know me?

Dick: *(keenly)* I do! *(Calmly truthful)* Well - actually, I don't I think I do, *(walks away)* but then again, I feel I have seen you before.

Emily: *(to audience)* He doesn't recognise me, I must make the most of this. If I tell him that I am the Princess, it might frighten him off and I don't want to do that. *(To Dick)* I'm from the palace, that's perhaps why you think you've seen me before.

Dick: *(come toward her)* That must be it. *(Introducing himself)* My name is Richard, but everyone calls me Dick.

Emily: Very nice to meet you, Dick. My name is Em - Emma.

Dick: Living at the palace I suppose you know the Princess?

Emily: I can't actually say I know the Princess, but I know of her. Which I suppose is almost the same thing.

Dick: *(turns away)* I suppose it is. It been quite day of surprises if I'm honest, *(turns to face Emily)* but meeting you, has been the best surprise of all.

Emily: Do you think so?

Dick: Oh, yes. *(Goes up to Emily)* Definitely!

Song:- *a duet of your choice*

Dick: Would you like to go for a walk with me?

Emily: I'd like that very much. But I mustn't be too long, or I shall be missed.

Dick: Come on then, let's go.

*They both exit one side as Dame and Miffin enter from the other side.
Audience reaction and Dame does the feeding of the fish routine*

Dame: You and your flipping make money with an echo. The only person that has made any money is that brother of yours.

Miffin: Come to think of it, it was Muffin who taught me the trick.

Dame: Come to think of it, I wish I never listened to you in the first place!

Marigold enters

Mari: That's fed and watered the Ogre. Not that he appreciated it much.

Dame: What did you give him?

Mari: For a change I thought I'd write down a menu so he could make his own choice.

Miffin: Which was?

Mari: The only option I had written down - 'eat it and shut up!'

Miffin: And did he eat it?

Muffin enters with Horace and chorus

Mari: (*proudly*) As always. He said, "Marigold, the one thing in life that's always dependable is that you are not a Cordon Bleu cook and my dishes should be cordoned off." Then he wolfed it down like he hadn't a minute to live.

Dame: If I had my way, I'd give that Ogre a piece of my mind!

Muffin: Trouble is, Mum. You haven't got a mind to give a piece of.

Dame: That's because you can't have brains and good looks. It has to be one or the other and I didn't get the brains.

Muffin: I think the looks got lost in the post too!

Horace hee haws/neighs as Dame bops Muffin then show her fist to Horace

Dame: Anyway, I don't know why you are all so scared of the Ogre. Not once has he tried to capture me and drag me off to the castle as a prisoner. To be stripped bare and chained up in the dungeon and undergo all sort of tortures that I've dreamed about and no man has ever delivered!

Ogre suddenly appears stage left

Ogre: It's because I'm not that desperate. (*Exits off quickly*)

All laugh except Dame

Dame: I think I should go back to bed, have a snooze, wake up, and start today all over again!