

PUSS IN BOOTS

“Puss in Boots” will be the 33rd Pantomime performed by the Westhoughton Methodist Amateur Dramatic Society since our first pantomime in 1981.

Although the story of “Puss in Boots” was first collected in Italy, the best-known version is the one published in France by Charles Perrault just over three hundred years ago in his collection of French folk tales, “*Contes du temps passé*”. The folk tales were not new, they had been passed on orally from one storyteller to the next for many generations. Charles Perrault might recognise some of our pantomime version of his story but would probably be amazed by the addition of the local references, the audience participation and the extra characters.

King Basil has three problems; the bills with the Royal Dressmakers that his wife Queen Amaryllis is running up, the lack of an acceptable suitor for the hand of his hard-to-please daughter Princess Petunia, and the large debt that he owes to Hernando Gargantuan, the local Ogre. Josselin Grigg also has a problem. His father Jeremy Grigg the Miller has died and most likely will have left his mill and his donkeys to Josselin’s older brothers. When Lawyer Scarlett reads the will, what will be left over for Josselin to help him earn a living?

The fields surrounding the mill are quite peaceful with peasants hard at work cutting the corn, and with tiddlers and sharks basking in the shallow waters of the river. But the nearby forest contains all manner of ominous and dangerous characters. Will Little Bo Peep ever find her sheep? What exactly is in the pockets of Lucy Locket? Has Little Miss Muffet overcome her fear of spiders and extreme heights? What are the secrets of the bones in Old Mother Hubbard’s cupboard? Who is the more powerful; Fairy Belladonna with her evil potions, or Fairy Bluebell with her magic wand? What extraordinary items will Hernando Gargantuan and his Uncle Albert be acquiring for their vast collection of valuable antiques?

Above all, who is the mysterious Marquis of Carabas and will a talking cat with a sword, a pouch and designer boots help Josselin achieve fame and fortune?

“Puss in Boots” is a fast moving folk story containing scenes of mild peril involving designer boots, swashbuckling, holograms, bizarre antiques, shape-shifting, deckchairs, talent contests and traditional pantomime jokes. No mice, snakes, spiders, penguins or parrots have been harmed as part of this production.

Directed by Bill Greenhalgh

Script written by Bill Greenhalgh

“Puss in Boots” is suitable for all ages.

Performance dates are Friday 14th, Saturday 15th, Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd February 2014.

Curtain Up is 7.15pm prompt.

Tickets are £4.50 for Adults and £4 for OAPs and children (including refreshments and a programme).

Tickets can be booked by phoning 01942 811051 or by emailing: wmads@f2s.com

All performances will be held at the Westhoughton Methodist Church Hall, Wigan Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3RQ