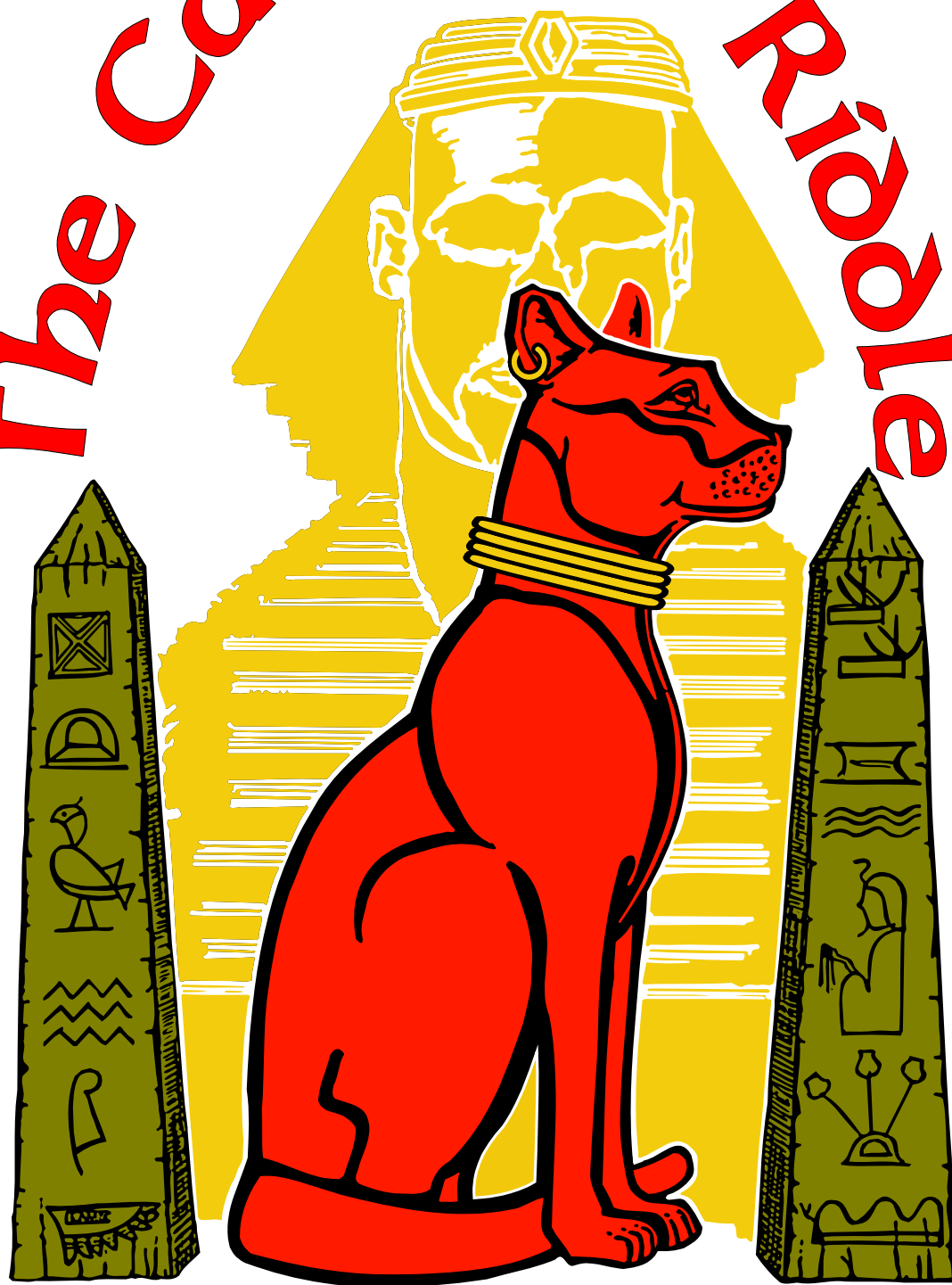


The Cat & the Riddle



a bizarre Egyptian frolic

by

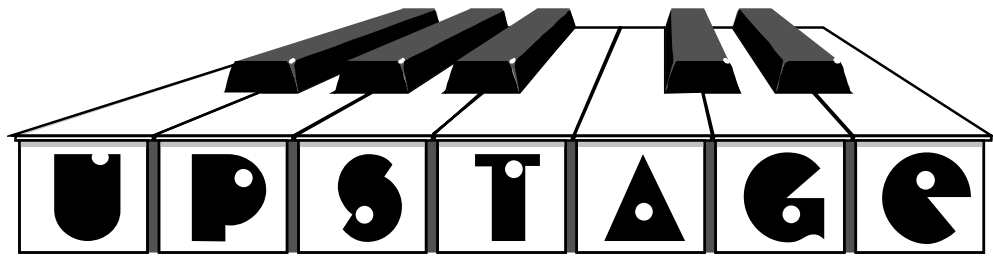
Jan McLean, Peter Hill, Neil Jackson, Doug Williams

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productions

present

The Cat & The Riddle

a bizarre Egyptian frolic

Music: Jan McLean

Script: Jan McLean, Neil Jackson, Peter Hill & Doug Williams

Lyrics: Jan McLean, Neil Jackson, Peter Hill & Doug Williams

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The Cat & The Riddle

was first performed in September 2001 at Karralika Theatre, Melbourne, by
Bimbadeen Heights Primary School

APPLICATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

of

The Cat & The Riddle

should be made to the publisher

UPSTAGE Productions

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<http://www.upstageproductions.com.au>

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Production Notes

The Cat & The Riddle

The Cat & The Riddle

is suitable for Upper Primary or Lower Secondary students.
It can be readily adapted for either large or small groups.

CHARACTERS

Cleopatra	MC (Master of Ceremonies)
Ra	Master's Apprentice 1
Cat Burglars	Master's Apprentice 2
- Toot	Ashley
- Tank	Robin
- Hummin	Egyptologist 1
Giza	Egyptologist 2
Scribe	Egyptologist 3
Camel (non-speaking)	

GROUPS

BAZAAR PEOPLE

Locals
Tourists
Stall Keepers
Ra's Rockers
Desert Dancers

SPHINX CITY PEOPLE

Soldiers
Slaves
Master's Apprentices
Nobles
Veiled Maidens
Mummy Dancers and other Dancers

SCENES

PROLOGUE (half stage).....In a darkened museum display room
SCENE 1..... In an Egyptian bazaar
SCENE 2 (half stage) In front of the Sphinx
SCENE 3.....In Cleopatra's throne room under the Sphinx
SCENE 4 (half stage)On the banks of the Nile
SCENE 5 (half stage)In a darkened museum display room
FINALE In an Egyptian bazaar

PROPERTIES

PROLOGUE

Pedestal, cat statue, rope , stands for rope, sign to indicate that the cat is a valuable historic treasure of Egypt, parchment/note

SCENE 1

Souvenir stall, other stalls/tents as desired, stage with appropriate decorations, baskets, replica cat statues, other market decorations as desired, rope

SCENE 2

Giant Sphinx paws - one paw has hieroglyphs which show the Sphinx, an arrow pointing under it and a treasure chest, 'Do Not Touch' sign to cover hieroglyphs at opening of scene

SCENE 3

Throne, opulent palace decorations, long palm fan for cooling Cleo, a low wall for either side of the stage, 'drop down' photo album of camels, sacred chest, red velvet cushion, ancient scroll

SCENE 4

Waving material (or the like) to indicate the water of the Nile, posts for tying up Egyptologists, ropes, oversize dental mirror, oversize pliers, very large crocodile jaws

SCENE 5

As for prologue

FINALE

As for Scene 1

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The Script

*The Cat &
The Riddle*

PROLOGUE

IN A DARKENED MUSEUM DISPLAY ROOM. A SACRED EGYPTIAN CAT STATUE STANDS ON A PEDESTAL CENTRE STAGE IN FRONT OF HALF-CURTAIN. IT IS ROPED OFF AND SPOTLIGHTED. THE REMAINDER OF THE STAGE IS DARKENED.

SIGNS INDICATE THAT IT IS A VALUABLE HISTORIC TREASURE OF ANCIENT EGYPT.

SILENTLY AND SNEAKILY THREE CAT BURGLARS ENTER AND STAND IN FRONT OF THE STATUE AS IF THEY CAN'T SEE IT.

TANK: Oi Toot.

TOOT: Yes Tank?

TANK: Hummin and I are wondering what we are supposed to steal ... I mean borrow.

TOOT: Hang on. I'll check what Ra wrote.

HUMMIN: Yeah he's the boss. I'll bet Ra wrote right.

TOOT REMOVES PARCHMENT FROM BACK POCKET AND READS ALOUD CAREFULLY...

TOOT: Find the black cat on the pedestal surrounded by security ropes.

TANK: (SLOWLY REPEATING) Black cat ... pedestal ... security ropes. Come on Hummin, let's look over here.

TANK AND HUMMIN MOVE TO ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE TO SEARCH AND TOOT MOVES TO THE OTHER

HUMMIN: Have you found it Toot?

TOOT: No, what about you guys?

AS THEY ARE SEARCHING THEY MOVE BACK TOWARDS THE CENTRE.

TANK: Nuh. All I can see is these ropes, ... with a pedestal behind ... and a cat on top.

TOOT: That's it! Ra had it backwards.

HUMMIN: You mean Ra wrote wrong.

TOOT: That's right.

TANK: So, let's grab it.

HE REACHES OUT TO GRAB THE CAT, BUT TOOT GRABS HIS ARM.

TOOT: (FURTIVELY) Wait! It might be alarmed!

TANK: Don't be silly. It's a statue. Nothing is going to frighten it.

TANK COMPLETES THE REACHING MOVEMENT AND GRABS THE CAT.

NOTHING HAPPENS.

Got it! See. No alarm. Let's get back to Ra.

TOOT AND TANK START TO EXIT.

HUMMIN: Hang on! This looks like a great rope for my camel.

HE PULLS THE SECURITY ROPE WHICH ACTIVATES VERY LOUD SIRENS AND WILDLY FLASHING LIGHTS.

FX: SIRENS

ALL: Let's get outta here.

CAT BURGLARS EXIT HURRIEDLY.

BLACKOUT

END PROLOGUE

SCENE 1

A BAZAAR IN EGYPT. THERE IS STAGE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CENTRE. A SOUVENIR STALL IS OBVIOUS PROMPT SIDE FRONT. IT HAS A SHELF ALMOST FILLED WITH SOUVENIR CATS SIMILAR TO THE STOLEN ONE.

THE MARKET SCENE IS COMPLETED BY LOTS OF STRIPED CANVAS STALLS, LARGE BASKETS, SNAKE CHARMER, SIGNS ETC...

THE MARKET IS FULL OF PEOPLE AND AS THE CURTAIN OPENS THEY ALL CLAP AND CHEER LOUDLY.

THE MC OF THE BAZAAR FOLLIES IS FRONT CENTRE ON THE STAGE.

MC: Thank you, thank you ladies and gentlemen. Put your hands together again. Our next act is just what you have been waiting for ... The Desert Dancers!!

DESERT DANCERS ENTER AND PERFORM TO THE INTRODUCTION OF SONG 1. AS THE INTRO FINISHES, MC CONTINUES VOICE OVER THE MUSIC

Let's hear it loud and strong for Ra, Pop King of the desert sands, and the Rockers.

LOUD CLAPPING AND CHEERING.

SONG 1: "THIS SHOW'S BIZARRE"

AFTER THE SONG ROCKERS AND BAND MINGLE WITH THE GENERAL CROWD SCENE.

CAT BURGLARS DASH IN FROM OFF PROMPT ANXIOUSLY LOOKING BEHIND THEM. RA DOESN'T NOTICE BECAUSE HE IS SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS.

FX: POLICE SIREN

TOOT: (TO THE OTHER TWO CAT BURGLARS) The police are after us. Quick get rid of the evidence.

HUMMIN: But I need the rope for my camel.

TANK: Idiot. Not that evidence. This evidence.

HOLDS CAT HIGH THEN RUNS TO THE SOUVENIR STALL WHERE HE PLACES IT AMONG THE OTHER CATS.

TANK: Look innocent. I've hidden the cat where they'll never find it.

THE THREE NONCHALANTLY MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS TO RA WHO NOW NOTICES THEM AND LEAVES THE AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS TO MEET THEM PROMPT SIDE.

RA: Ahh, my cat burglars ... Toot, Tank, Hummin. Did you get it?

TOOT: (CAREFULLY) Yees. We got it.

TANK: Yees. We had it ...

RA: (THREATENINGLY) Had it?!?

TOOT: We had to hide it because the police were on our tail.

RA: (EXPLODING) May the fleas of 1000 camels infest your hairy armpits ...

HUMMIN: I've only got one camel ... but I've got this good rope for it now.

THE OTHER TWO PUSH HUMMIN BEHIND THEM AND RA CONTINUES RAVING.

DURING RA'S SPEECH A GROUP OF WHITE-SUITED, PANAMA-HATTED EGYPTOLOGISTS ENTER AND BROWSE THE STALLS CLOSE TO THE SOUVENIR STALL.

RA: ... that cat statue will show me how to find the legendary treasure of Ancient Egypt. If you've lost it I'll feed you to 500 crocodiles ... I'll bury you up to your necks in sand and let 50 scarab beetles eat your eyes out ... I'll, I'll ...

EGYPTOLOGISTS ARE NOW LOOKING AT THE SOUVENIR STALL.

TOOT: It's okay Ra. We know exactly where it is. I put it on that souvenir stall over there (POINTS ALMOST WITHOUT LOOKING) with the other cats. It's the one third from the left (LOOKS ALMOST NOT NOTICING THE

EGYPTOLOGISTS THEN LOOKS BACK TO RA)... the one that tourist is buying now.

ASHLEY IS SELECTING AND BUYING THE CAT STATUE.

ALL 3: (LOOKING AT EACH OTHER) Uh oh!

RA: Doesn't matter. He doesn't know what he's got.

ASHLEY: (EXCITEDLY) Look, look! I thought I was just buying a souvenir of the sacred cat, but this one has some special markings on it. Gather round my Egyptologist friends. Let's study this more closely. (EGYPTOLOGISTS GATHER AROUND INTERESTEDLY AND ASHLEY SHEPHERDS THEM TOWARDS CENTRE STAGE FRONT.)

RA: (TO THE CAT BURGLARS) That's no tourist, camel breath, that's an Egyptologist. Curses. They'll find the secret. Come we must sneak closer to hear what they say.

RA AND THE CAT BURGLARS SNEAK TOWARDS THE EGYPTOLOGISTS

ASHLEY: Let's put our heads together and see if we can decode these hieroglyphs.

RA: (TO THE CAT BURGLARS) If you've messed this up may the fleas of 2000 camels infest your hairy armpits!

TOOT: (PROTESTING) But you only said 1000 camels.

RA: I forgot to add GST.

ROBIN: Oh Ashley look. The markings ... say ... something Sphinx.

TANK: What'd he say Toot? What'd he say?

TOOT: He said something Sphinx.

TANK: (TURNING TO HUMMIN AND PRETENDING TO BRUSH SOME BAD AIR FROM IN FRONT OF HIS NOSE) It's that rotten camel of yours again isn't it?

RA: Sphinx not stinks, you son's of smelly goat herders.

TANK: (SMELLING UNDER HIS ARMPITS) I still think it's your camel Hummin.

RA: Shush! This could be the clue to the ancient treasure. Get closer ...

THE CAT BURGLARS LEAN CLOSE TO RA.

RA: (MOCK CONTROL OF HIS VOICE) ... not to me! To them! (POINTS TO THE EGYPTOLOGISTS)

ASHLEY: (EXCITEDLY) I've got it! By George I've got it! See here. It means ...

Under the Sphinx
Is the first of the links
To the ancient treasure of old

RA: (ENTHUSIASTICALLY) It's a riddle. I knew that cat held the secret to all I've ever dreamed.

RA AND THE CAT BURGLARS CONTINUE TO MOVE CLOSER TO THE EGYPTOLOGISTS. THE REMAINDER OF THE PEOPLE ON STAGE GRADUALLY NOTICE THIS AND INTERMITTENTLY BEGIN TO JOIN THE DRIFT TOWARDS FRONT CENTRE.

ASHLEY: (TO EGYPTOLOGISTS) I thought this would be a boring trip, but it looks like it will surpass our wildest dreams. This treasure could make us the most famous Egyptologists in the entire world.

RA: (TO CAT BURGLARS) I thought I would be singing in boring bazaars forever, but this looks like it will surpass my wildest dreams. This treasure could make me the most famous rock star in the entire world.

BY NOW MOST OF THE CAST ARE GATHERED AROUND THE CENTRE CHARACTERS AND ARE CLEARLY LISTENING INTENTLY.

ALL 3: Hoorah Ra! Looks like we'll get a pay rise.

RA: No pay rise yet. That is only the first part of the riddle. We must get to the Sphinx first if we are to have the treasure.

ROBIN: Shush. I think someone is listening.

EVERYONE IMMEDIATELY TURNS AND INNOCENTLY, WITH HANDS BEHIND BACK AND HEAD IN THE AIR, DRIFTS BACK TO

THEIR ASSIGNED STAGE POSITION. OBVIOUSLY ASHLEY NOTICES THIS MOVEMENT.

ASHLEY: No fame and glory yet. The bazaar has ears. This is only the first part of the riddle. We must get to the Sphinx first if we are to have the treasure.

SONG 2: "RIDDLE ME REE"

THE SONG IS PERFORMED AS IF THE TWO GROUPS ARE NOT AWARE OF EACH OTHER.

RA: (RAISING HIS HAND VERTICALLY) To the camels!

ASHLEY: (RAISING HER HAND VERTICALLY) To the jeeps!

BOTH GROUPS: (EACH POINTING TO OTHER GROUP) To the Sphinx! (EACH GROUP REALISES THEIR MISTAKE AND IMMEDIATELY POINTS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AND REPEAT) Ahh ... to the Sphinx!

HUMMIN: (ALMOST IN TIME WITH THE BLACKOUT) Get your own camel. That one's mine. I've got a good rope for it now.

BLACKOUT

END SCENE 1





The Lyrics

**The Cat &
The Riddle**

This Show's Bizarre

Words: Doug Williams

Music: Jan McLean

VERSE 1

In Cairo streets you'll chance to meet
A camel passing you.
No room for cars, so they're the stars
They offer quite a view.
You sit up high, quite near the sky
And rock the journey through-
And when you choose the one to use
It's one hump or it's two?!?

VERSE 2

They'll take you all through the city wall
From here to anywhere.
A rockin' tune drifts 'cross the dune
As you forget your care.
They're desert ships for hot, dry trips
The sun will bake your hair-
And when it's lunch then you can munch
The sand which is ev'rywhere!

CHORUS

This show's bizarre
King Ra's the star
And we will rock you
Round the sun dial clock.
So shout it out and shout it in
Your mystery tour now begins
This show's bizarre.
Yes it's bizarre.

INSTRUMENTAL

VERSE 3

The time will pass and then at last
We'll reach the River Nile.
But do beware for floating there
Might be a crocodile.
He looks so good; like drifting wood
His stillness can beguile-
But with his grin he'll take you in;
Inside his cunning smile!

CHORUS

