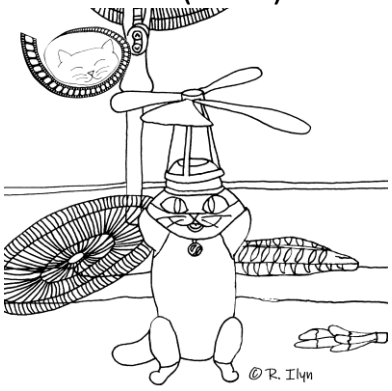
Cats on Film Pod

Transcript

Cats on Film Pod Episode 26
Cats (2018)



SKIPPER
Meows

INTRO JINGLE

INTRO SHOW

RAY
Hi everybody! Welcome to *Cats on Film Pod.* I'm Ray Ilyn, here with my co-host, Skipper.

SKIPPER
Meows

RAY
Thank you for joining us every Tuesday as we review cats in film. You can support us at pod.fan/catsonfilmpod

SKIPPER
Meows

RAY
Spoilers ahead!
On today's episode, we're reviewing *Cats*, which was originally titled *Cats and Peachtopia.* The CGI animated feature came out in China in 2018.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
The lip sync is probly the last thing I was paying attention to – so the English dub wasn't a problem for me.
Let's recap! I'll *try* to keep it brief. Blanket is a young grey shorthair living a comfortable life with a nice Chinese lady in a high rise in a big city. She brings in a black shorthair called The Stray, but kicks him out when he invites a bunch of other little stray kitties in to enjoy the comfy apartment. Blanket is heartbroken at losing his only feline companion, and runs away.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
It is quite a betrayal. But when she finds him out in the cold, he's very happy to come back to the apartment, and vows to never go outside again.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Lounging in your nice backyard is very different from the cold streets of a big city, Skipper. Anyways, Blanket tries to instill this same fear of the city in his young ginger son, Cape. The names *have meaning.*

CLIP FROM *CATS*
BLANKET
This is such a nice home. We lack only the things we don't need. You should be content, just like I am.
CAPE
I don't wanna be like you, Dad.

RAY
Oooo – burn!
Cape gets the ginger coloring from his mom, who is unnamed and whose face we never see for some reason.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
They pointedly avoid showing her face. It's weird. Like, there is no reveal that she's actually some recognizable movie star or, like, that one suspicious person we saw one time at the beginning of the movie. The movie's about father-son relationships, but that doesn't mean they have to erase the mom like that.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I dunno.
Anyways, one day, a Macaw named Mack moves in with Blanket and Cape. She and some city birds inspire Cape to build flying machines to help him get to the fabled Peachtopia beyond the city.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
The flying machines are really fantastic! Such a smart kitty. And brave! I don't think I'm brave enough to jump out a window with just soda bottles and a glider strapped to my back. How 'bout you, Skipper?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
You're right – flying *is* for the birds.
After little Cape rockets out of the apartment window, Blanket and Mack follow him on foot. The animators do a great job of recreating feline behaviors, such as Blanket's wiggly agitation and strong aversion to water. Poor kitty!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Eventually, they all get to a glass factory that must be traversed to reach Peachtopia.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yeah, those raccoons with the red arm bands are awful! Even if working for the glass artisan is the only way to avoid being tortured and killed by him, they're enjoying trapping those other animals way too much.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY

Despicable.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
There's a lot of action and danger, and this movie is definitely *not* suitable for small children.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yeah, it started off so cute, and then there's this fascist imagery, and animal cruelty, and do they even actually make it to Peachtopia or is that the afterlife?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Right! That would fit with Blanket telling Cape his mom went to Peachtopia rather than admitting that she died when he was a kitten. *Hmmmm.*

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I was wondering that, too. Peaches must have a particular significance in Chinese culture. Everything else in this movie has a secondary meaning.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yes, Peachtopia looks beautiful! So many trees and flowers and rolling grassy hills! If only our backyard was that big!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
The animals who escape from the glass factory meet the critters who were already living in Peachtopia, and they live together in blissful harmony. There's even a dance party!

SKIPPER

meows

RAY
Well, **I** love dance parties – even if you run out of the room when I turn on anything with a heavy bassline. But back to Peachtopia, Blanket and Mack decide to return to the comfy apartment and little Cape decides to travel on his own. Little Cape separating from Blanket is poignant, but seeing him running off to new adventures is really heartwarming!
Then Stray and the lead raccoon, who'd been absolutely terrorizing Stray for years—they become buddies, I guess. Sort of like the end of *Casablanca.*

CLIP FROM *CATS*
STRAY
It doesn't suit an old stray cat like me.
RACCOON
Sigh Why is any place you can get to never where you want to be?
STRAY
If you can't find home in your heart, you won't find it anywhere.
RACCOON
Even still, this is pretty good place to live.

RAY
How old is Stray, anyway? He was with the glass artisan at the beginning of the man's career, and that artisan is probly at least 50 when we see him. I mean, unless he's aging poorly because all the bitter hate in his heart.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I think 20 years is on the high end of cat life expectancy, especially for an outdoor cat.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
You're right – if Cape can invent a soda-propelled rocket, Stray *could* be 30 years old.
So, how many "paws" do you give *Cats?*

SKIPPER
Meow, meow, meow

RAY
Only three out of four paws? I thought you'd give this movie top marks.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Ooo, yes, the animal cruelty. Not perpetrated on live animals, but still quite disturbing.

SKIPPER
meows

OUTRO MUSIC

RAY
Cats on Film Pod is voiced and produced by Ray Ilyn, with music by The DōsMan, and additional sounds from FreeSound.org.
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