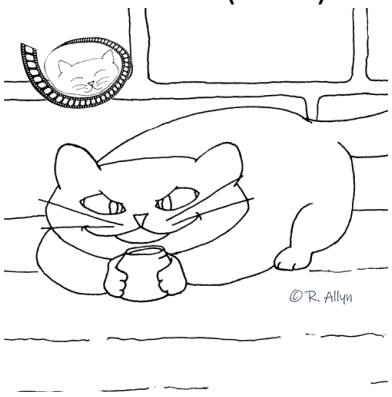
Cats on Film Pod

Transcript

Cats on Film Pod Episode 8
Cinderella (1950)



INTRO JINGLE

INTRO SHOW

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

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Thanks for joining us every Tuesday as we review cats in film. There will be spoilers.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Today, we're talking about *Cinderella*, the Disney animated version from 1950.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Let's recap!
Lucifer is a big fluffy grey housecat who is pampered by the single white women he lives with. Unfortunately, the blonde housekeeper, Cinderella, cares more about mice and birds, and stymies Lucifer's attempts to eat them. When Lucifer tries to support his cat-mom in punishing Cinderella, all the other animals gang up on Lucifer and he falls to his death.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yeah, just a bit heavy-handed, making "Lucifer" out to be a villain!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
It would be unusual for Lucifer to behave any other way towards the mice and birds and dog. Although he is extra mean to Cinderella sometimes.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
True – she is cozy with the vermin. She even lets a mouse out of a trap! Just like in *Stuart Little*, the mice who walk on two legs and speak English--

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yes, some squeaky mousey pigeon English – they wear clothes (but no pants) and are treated with more respect by Cinderella than the animals who don't speak English at all.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Hmmm . . . I wonder if there are *any* movies or shows in which humans in general know real cats speak human languages.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Well, under orders from her so-called evil step-mother, Cinderella pampers Lucifer – as he deserves. He's such a good cat! He's trying to keep the home clean by hunting mice. He even figured out how to trap 'em in a tea cup!

SKIPPER

meows

RAY
And he's fed first – total "alpha"! Plus, Cinderella warns the dog against hurting Lucifer.

CLIP FROM CINDERELLA
CINDERELLA
Dreaming again – chasing Lucifer?
BRUNO
Nods
CINDERELLA
Catch him this time?
BRUNO
Nods
CINDERELLA
That's bad!
LUCIFER
Laughs
CINDERELLA
Suppose they heard you upstairs? You know the orders. So if you don't wanna lose a nice, warm bed, you'd better get rid of those dreams. Know how? Just learn to like cats.
BRUNO
Sighs

RAY
Hearing a Disney Princess tell someone to get rid of their dreams is startling. She's really projecting her own mistreatment onto ol' Bruno.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
You're right, Skipper – she *is* telling the dog to go against his nature, isn't she?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Cinderella definitely wants the animals around her to behave more like humans. She put bonnets and shoes on birds!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Ugh, that fairy godmother! She apparates just so to put Cinderella's face in her lap! Completely inappropriate.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY
Oh, yes, *and* the way she uses animals.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Really weird choices – the mice know how to speak a form of English, so why doesn't she turn *them* into human servants?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yeah, they look so darn happy to transform into men. First, the horse is offended that the mice will pull the carriage as horses, then he's all smiles after becoming a coachman. He looks so obsequious and subservient. It brings to mind black servant tropes.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
It is some weird species-ist baloney. And then the fairy godmother's mean to Lucifer. Ugh.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
So cruel for him to die that way. He was just trying to please his cat-mom and hold a mouse captive. Those are good cat behaviors!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
And another example of Cinderella using animals to her own ends. "Hey Bruno, don't even dream of hurting Lucifer, unless I need him out of the way to realize my own dream of becoming royalty."

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
On-screen (or just out-of-frame) death is so rare in Disney animation -- but they did it to smart, fluffy Lucifer -- the jerks.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Entirely unfair. Although he is in good company with Bambi's mom and Mufasa.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Well, what's your review of how Lucifer is treated and represented in *Cinderella?*

SKIPPER
Meow, meow

RAY
Two out of four paws? That seems a little high considering the cat dies.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
He *is* shown to be a good, smart cat, but he's vilified for it.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Skipper, I'm going to disagree this week and give *Cinderella* one paw for how Lucifer – and all the animals, really – are mistreated by the humans in the movie.

SKIPPER
meows

END STING

RAY
Thank you for listening to *Cats on Film Pod.* Know somebody who loves Disney princesses? My dream is that you'll share this episode with them!

OUTRO JINGLE

END CREDITS

RAY
This episode was voiced and produced by Ray Allyn, with music by The DōsMan, and additional sounds from FreeSound.org.

Find out which movies we're reviewing next month in our e-newsletter. Sign up at CatsOnFilmPod.com.

Cats on Film Pod!

SKIPPER
Meows