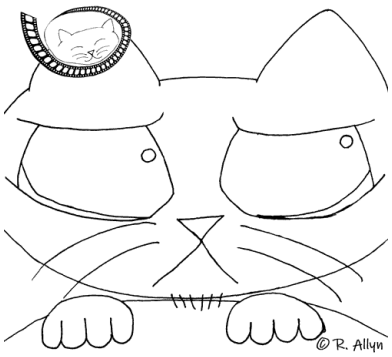
Cats on Film Pod

Transcript

Cats on Film Pod Episode 4
Shrek 2 (2004)



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 – the felineness of their portrayal, the humaneness of their treatment, and what that tells us about the humans on screen and behind the scenes. There will be spoilers.

SKIPPER
Meows

RAY
On today's episode, we're talking about *Shrek 2*, which was released in 2004, three years after the first one.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Let's recap!

Puss in Boots is a ginger mercenary in a world of fairy tale characters and pop culture references. He's hired to kill the green ogre Shrek, but instead joins Shrek's quest to fix his marriage. They break into a magical factory together, get chased down, and arrested in an homage to the TV show *Cops.*

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yes, finally cancelled in the current wave of support for the Movement for Black Lives.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Back to the movie. After Shrek and his wife have an open and honest conversation, there's a great big party where Puss performs with Donkey. Then, eventually, a spin-off.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Uh huh – another person of color voicing the title character's sidekick.

CLIP FROM SHREK 2
PUSS
I have misjudged you.
SHREK
Join the club; we've got jackets.
PUSS
On my honor, I am obliged to accompany you until I have saved your life, and you have spared me mine.
DONKEY
I'm sorry, the position of annoying talking animal has already been taken. Let's go, Shrek!

RAY
Adding some casting diversity with Puss in Boots is great, but then he's trading on a bunch of stereotypes.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY

Yes, all the surface level felineness, without a truly feline personality. The personality they give him is the so-called hot-blooded Spaniard – a lothario who speaks rapid Spanish when he's angry, that sort of thing.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
He *does* get to weaponize that cuteness. And sometimes follows that up with physically attacking people while their guard is down.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Oh, the arrest sequence!

CLIP FROM SHREK 2
HOST
Will they get away with it, or did someone let the cat out of the bag?
PUSS
You capitalist pig dog. *Yowl.*
KNIGHT 1
Oh, get it off, ow!
KNIGHT 2
Catnip.
PUSS
That's not mine.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Ugh – I guess they hadn't legalized catnip yet.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Truly brutal. And they play it as a TV show parody rather than commentary on the problems of bigoted and violent policing in the U.S.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yeah, she's a total Karen calling the knights to chase 'em down!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yeah, people assume a fairy godmother is good, but using tigers to make potions – clearly a wicked fairy!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Puss does hit on human women more than once. People in Shrek-land don't seem to mind cross-species relationships. And I guess it works out – those donkey dragons magically happen somehow.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Oohhh, I haven't seen the spin-off yet. Being raised by humans would make some sense of that.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I said "yet", Skipper. This was my first time watching *any* Shrek movies.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Between the first two, I think I only laughed out loud once – when the guy's running through the queue ropes instead of straight into the Disneyland-type castle. Probly one of the few gags that isn't about B.O. or a pop culture reference.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY

Sure, Puss is cute, but that's not *funny*. The stunt casting of Antonio Banderas, who is known for playing Zorro, is probably the funniest thing about him.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Agree to disagree, I guess.
Anyways, what's your rating for the feline representation in *Shrek 2?*

SKIPPER
2 meows

RAY
I agree – two out of four paws for *Shrek 2.* Puss in Boots really only shows surface-level felineness.

SKIPPER
meows

END STING

RAY
Thank you for listening to *Cats on Film Pod.*
Know someone who loves animated fairy tales?
Go forth and 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.
Remember to rate and review the show in your podcast app, and recommend us to your fellow cat film fans.
Tune in next Tuesday for our next episode and remember to subscribe so you don't miss out.
We're online at CatsOnFilmPod.com and at CatsOnFilmPod on Instagram, Twitter, and PodFan. catsonfilmpod !

SKIPPER
Meows