

ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Puss N Boots' opens tonight at Joy Performance Center

By AL RANKIN

Pull some strings from the fabric of almost any of the many children's fairy tales to which we are all exposed, and you will find the common threads of final victories over seemingly impossible odds.

It doesn't matter how many times a popular story is rewritten or modernized or updated or adapted to new locales and times, the theme is clearly there and no less so than in Dorothy Wolfe's adaptation of Charles Perreault's timeless classic 'Puss N Boots' which opens tonight at the Joy Performance Center.

Billed as Kings Mountain Little Theatre's annual 'Children's Play', parents and all other adults may actually have more fun and get more out of it than the kids. This is not a Disneyfied adaptation for the small fry. It's meaty stuff for the whole family thanks to Director Eric Parsons.

Rarely have I seen a director take a small cast like this one and treat it as a complete ensemble rather than focusing directorial skills on one or two leading stars with short shrift given to the supporting actors.

Of course, having been born into a family of parents and siblings well-known in this region as being everything from stage hands to actors, directors and producers, Eric Parsons may have arrived with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth. But as young as he is, he is well on his way to imprinting his own style.

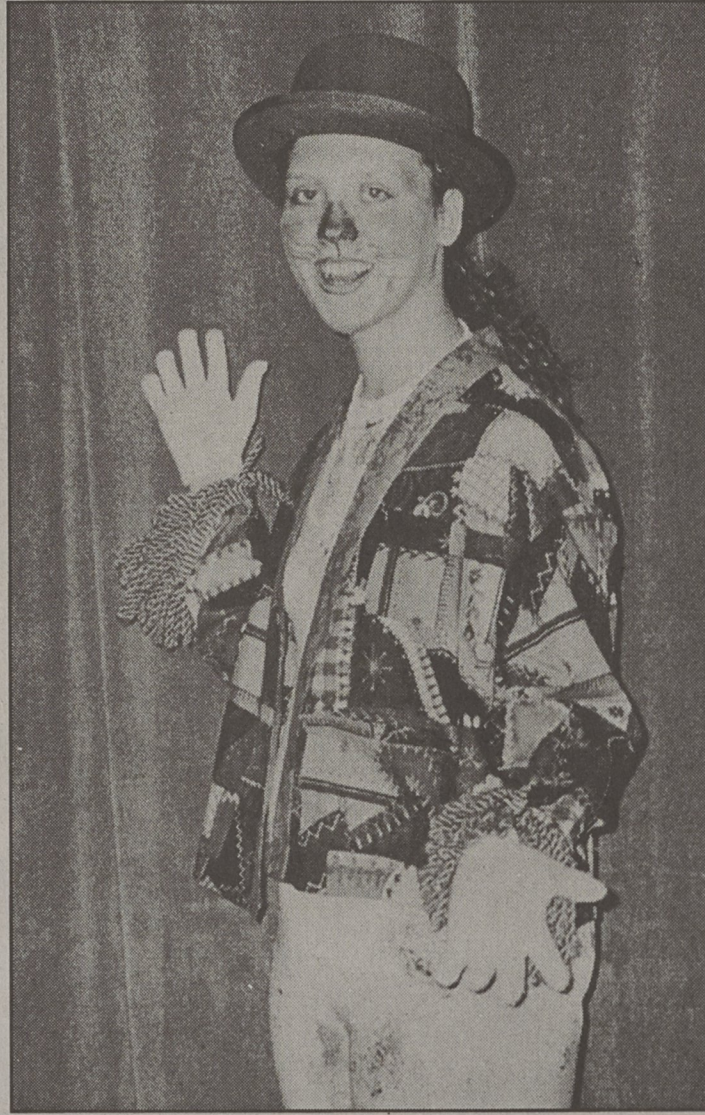
The cast of various ages from nine years old up to the teens would try the

patience of most directors. And though Parsons never seems like a militaristically forceful drill instructor in rehearsal, somehow he keeps his young cast in line with exercises designed to bring out the best of each and every child verbally and physically.

Parsons allows no monotones sounding as though a script is being merely read. He tolerates no dead arms hanging down a child's sides with emotionless expressions on faces. He demands active choices in hand and arm gestures. And like a symphony director extracting the unique qualities from each instrument, he gives cues to every actor to bring out each child's enunciation and voice projection with rote exercises of such phrases as 'the top of the tongue, the roof of the mouth, the lips and the teeth.' Try saying that over and over and over again.

At one rehearsal it was quite inspiring for me to observe the rapt attention of Scott Sanders and Trevor Latta as they stood transfixed by Parsons' direction. They never looked down at the floor or shifted their gaze. Their eyes looked solidly into his as though hypnotized. They gave him more than mere obedience and respect. Awe might be a better word.

But taking a cue from Parsons' strictly equalitarian style, I choose not to single out any one or two cast members for special treatment in this review. Instead I present to you this remarkable cast in no particular order: Cecilia Smith as Puss,



Cecilia Smith as Puss in KMLT production of "Puss N Boots," which will play Thursday, Friday and Sunday at the Joy Performance Center.

Kelly Gibson as Dame Wetherhill, Anna Johnson as Jane, Trevor Latta as Jamie, Catherine Logan as Princess Melody, Ashley Moore as Queen, Scott Sanders as Andy, Adam Smith as the Giant, and Josh Sweezy as Lord Chamberlain.

'Puss N Boots' begins tonight at 7:30 at the Joy

Performance Center with additional performances Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

(World traveler and published author, Al Rankin spends his retirement years as Eckerds Photo Lab Manager)

BRIEFS

### Grief workshop slated at Hospice

A workshop "Grieving Losses: Taking Care of Yourself" will be held March 27 from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon and 6-7:30 p.m. at Hospice of Cleveland County. There is no cost and the workshop is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information or to register call Kim Strange at 487-0800 ext.111.

### 'The Foreigner' at Cleveland

The Greater Shelby Community Theatre will present "The Foreigner" March 27-29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Community College Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for seniors and students.

### 'Globeworks' set at college

North Carolina Shakespeare Festival's "Globeworks" will be presented April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Cleveland Community College, 137 S. Post Road, Shelby. Admission is free.

The NCSF began its tour program in 1983 to provide audiences the experience of William Shakespeare in a live interactive performance environment.

"Globeworks" is a high-energy, 55-minute production featuring three professional actors performing many of Shakespeare's most popular plays.

For more information call Dr. Dottie McIntyre at 484-4139.

### 'Wit' encore April 11 at CCC

The Greater Shelby Community Theatre will present an encore performance of "Wit" April 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Community College Auditorium.

"Wit" is Atlanta school teacher Margaret Edson's 1999 Pulitzer Prize winning drama about a renowned professor's battle with ovarian cancer. Edson will attend the performance as part of her residency.

Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for senior citizens and students. All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

The play last about an hour and is not recommended for small children because of its adult themes.

For more information, call 484-4139.

### Gospel sing at Westover Baptist

"Blue Grass Revival" will be in concert March 30 at 6 p.m. at Westover Baptist Church, 114 Westover Drive, Kings Mountain.

The public is invited.

### Yard sale to aid Relay for Life

El Bethel United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain, will host a yard sale Saturday, March 29 from 8 a.m.-12 noon.

All proceeds go to the Relay for Life.

### Rock-a-thon set at Cornerstone

The YWEA will hold a rock-a-thon Saturday, March 29 from 9 a.m.-12 noon at Cornerstone Church of God, 202 Margrace Road.

Hot dogs will also be sold.

All proceeds will go to "Restaking the Claim" missions work in Spain and Portugal.

For more information call Rev. Bruce Harry II at 739-3773.

### Spring revival at Bethel Baptist

Dr. Tim Sims of Lemont, IL will be the speaker for spring revival March 28-29 at 7 p.m. and March 30 at 11 a.m. at Bethel Baptist Church, 602 S. DeKalb Street, Shelby.

For more information call 482-8922.

### Champion of Love at Bethel Baptist

The combined choirs of Bethel, Flint Hill and Westwood Heights Baptist will present Champion of Love, an Easter celebration, April 11-12 at 7 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church, 606 DeKalb Street, Shelby.

### Benefit sing at Voice of Triumph

The Voice of Triumph, 179 Corry Road, Blacksburg, SC, will host a benefit singing March 29 at 7 p.m.

Featured groups are the Chapettes of Gaffney and The Christianaires. A free will offering will be taken.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be sold in the dining room after the singing. The public is invited.

### Gospel concert at Sunrise Baptist

"Promised" will be in concert March 30 at 6 p.m. at Sunrise Baptist Church, 1604 Shelby Road.

### FOOD INSPECTIONS

Cleveland County Health Department inspected the following food-handling facilities during the week ending March 24.

\*\*Denotes 2 extra points when an employee attended an approved food-handling course.

#### Restaurants:

Applebees of Shelby, Earl Rd., 96\*\*  
Cotton's Seafood, N. post Rd., 93.

Finallys, Grover, 98.5\*\*  
Jerry's Mini Mart, Polkville, 93\*\*  
Love's Fish Box, Shelby Rd., Kings Mountain, 96.5.  
New House Grill, New House Rd., 97.  
Rosehill, W. Grover St., 94.  
Shelby Cafe, S. Lafayette St., 97\*\*

Silver Village, E. King St., Kings Mountain, 92.  
Snack Shop, Boiling

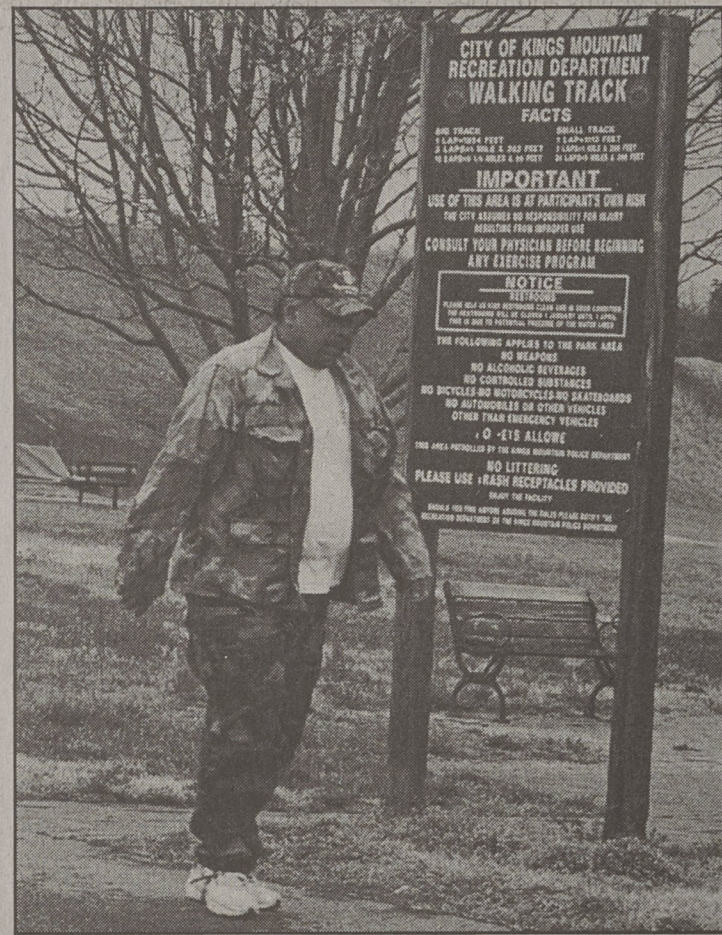
Springs, 94.5.  
Steak N Hogie, S. Lafayette St., 96.5.  
The BBQ Shed, Fallston Rd., 95.  
Walmart Dist. Center, Polkville Rd., 92.5.  
Yamato Japanese Steak House, E. Dixon Blvd., 95.  
Wendell's Town & Country Catering, Kings Mountain, 98.5.

#### Food Stands:

Food Lion Deli, S. Lafayette St., 96.5.  
Just Us Catering, Kings Mountain, 93.  
Thunder Valley Speedway, Lawndale, 95.5  
Village Mini Mart, N. Post Rd., 95.

#### Meat Markets:

Food Lion, S. Lafayette St., 97.5.  
Ora Supermarket, Farmer's Market, 95.5.



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD

Luther Wade took advantage of the warm, spring weather to take several laps around the Kings Mountain walking track on Tuesday afternoon.

# Farmer's Realty

1201 CR Jonas (Hwy. 27)  
Mt. Holly, NC

## 704-827-9861

www.farmersrealestate.com

Floyd Farmer, CRS  
Rita Farmer, GRI

Lisa Dove, ABR  
Sherri Hedgepeth, ABR, GRI

We have been serving your Real Estate needs since 1973

# The Diner

## New Management! New Attitude!

Come Enjoy Our New Menu  
All Time Favorites Featuring

### The South's Best Hamburger!

Make Us Prove It! 10oz. Hand Pattied Ground Chuck on a Grilled Bun with Spicy Potato Curls and Creamy Cole Slaw

Southern Favorites Such As:

- Country Ham •Hot Roast Beef Sandwich •Liver Mush
- Pulled BBQ Pork •Biscuits and Gravy •Charbroiled Steaks
- The Largest Ham Steak •And Ham N Eggs In The South!

Open 7 Days 6:30am til 9:00pm

## The Diner

Nostalgic 50's Decor  
I-85, Exit 5, Kings Mountain, NC  
704-730-1882

**COUPON**

**\$2.00 Off Any Meal!**

One Coupon Per Person Per Meal.  
Valid til March 29, 2003.