

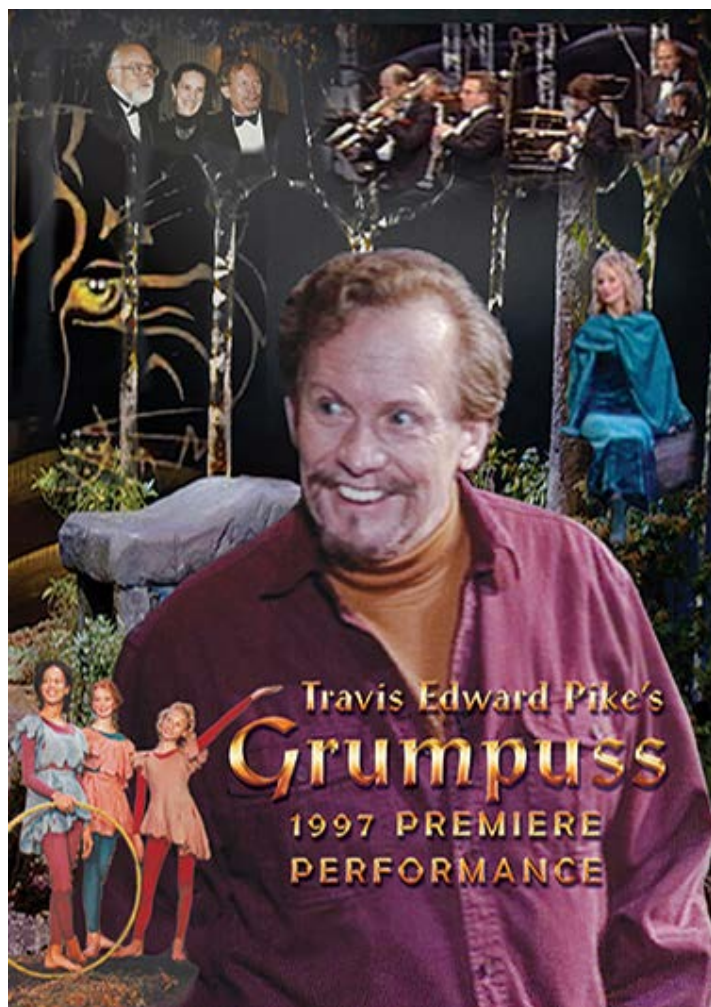
GRUMPUSS 1997 PREMIERE PERFORMANCE ON DVD

MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW / WISCONSIN BOOKWATCH / THE DVD SHELF

Travis Edward Pike

(Otherworld Cottage Industries, April 2019)

Travis Edward Pike's Grumpuss 1997 Premiere Performance (1 hour, 38 min.), is the award-winning DVD of Pike's beloved narrative poem *Grumpuss* transformed into an epic film performance. What exactly is a Grumpuss? It's a mythical beast that resembles an ill-tempered cat, "With tremendous paws and gigantic claws, and jaws that can crush armor flat!" A treasure sure to delight connoisseurs of classic British fantasy by authors such as J.R.R. Tolkien, Lewis Carroll, and C.S. Lewis, *Travis Edward Pike's Grumpuss 1997 Premiere Performance* is a choice pick for family movie night and public library collections, and makes a memorable gift. Bonus features include *Travis Edward Pike's World Premiere Documentary*, and three slideshows about the making of *Grumpuss*. Also highly recommended is the 2-CD set *Travis Edward Pike's Grumpuss: The 15th Anniversary Audio Theater Edition* (79 min. 9 sec), which allows one to listen to the marvelous adventure as a radio play.



GRUMPUSS HAS AN IMPRESSIVE LEGACY, AND A WEBSITE OF ITS OWN



When *Travis Edward Pike's Grumpuss, the World Premiere Benefit Performance* (VHS), won a Silver Plaque for Special Achievement--Writing, in the 1999 International Communications Film and Video Competition, it was the first time in the then 35 year history of the Chicago Film Festival, perhaps in the entire history of motion pictures and video productions, that an epic narrative rhyme was so honored.

This page features the Travis Edward Pike's theatrical storytelling performance before an audience at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, England, but the *Grumpuss* website provides a choice of theater, or theater of the mind, offering video clips for you theater buffs, and audio clips from Pike's studio performance, complete with music and sound effects from the two-CD *Grumpuss 15th Anniversary Audio Theater Edition*, for fans of mid-20th century radio. Learn more about the Audio Theater Edition on its pages, but here, we want to introduce you to its theatrical legacy.

It includes a photo-illustrated section dealing with the 1997 World Premiere, featuring the performance (complete with a welcome note from Save the Children President HRH Princess Anne), thanking the guests for their support of the Save the Children Fund, followed by a colorful photo essay introducing the celebrity venue, the performers and celebrity guests, and the actual live performance.

A separate section takes you inside the World Premiere Banquet, where you'll meet more of the guests and crew, and see what it's like to dine a hundred guests in Blenheim Palace's Long Library, a room more than large enough to accommodate them all.

There's even an informative and colorful photo-illustrated section about how the production came to be, and what it took to mount it, scouting for a suitable venue, rehearsals, and erecting a marquee (Americans will call it a tent), large enough (according to production designer Shaun Moore), "to house the Spruce Goose," for the set construction, live orchestra, dressing rooms, stadium seating for the 100-guest audience, and even the kitchens where the banquet was prepared, all outdoors, on the South Facade of Blenheim Palace, and all in aid of an incredible "one night stand!"

And of course, there are sections for the many wonderful reviews, awards and testimonials. And that's just the legacy for the *Grumpuss 1971 Premiere Performance*, now on DVD!

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