Acting Edition

Pete the Cat

Book & Lyrics by
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Music by
Will Aronson

Based on the New York Times
Bestselling Pete the Cat ®
Book Series by
Kimberly and James Dean

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SAMUEL FRENCH

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ISBN 978-0-573-71083-4

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PETE THE CAT was first produced by TheaterWorksUSA in a tour of the New York City area that began on May 3, 2016. The performance was directed by Dan Knechtges, with assistant direction by Zi Alikhan, musical direction by James Dobinson, sets by Rob Odorisio, and costumes by Jennifer Caprio. The Production Stage Manager was Brendan O'Brien. The cast was as follows:

PETE THE CAT . . . . . Travis Artz
JIMMY BIDDLE . . . . . Spencer Glass
OLIVE BIDDLE . . . . . Brandi Porter
MOM . . . . . Samantha Owen
DAD . . . . . Kevin Zak

PETE THE CAT received its Off-Broadway premiere, produced by TheaterWorksUSA, at the Lucille Lortel Theatre on July 25, 2017. The performance was directed by Dan Knechtges, with assistant direction by Zi Alikhan, musical direction by Miriam Daly, sets by Rob Odorisio, costumes by Jennifer Caprio, and orchestrations by Frank Galgano and Matt Castle. The Production Stage Manager was Phillip B. Richard II. The cast was as follows:

PETE THE CAT . . . . . Kyle Sherman
JIMMY BIDDLE . . . . . Adante Carter
OLIVE BIDDLE . . . . . Brandi Porter & Beth DeMichele
MOM . . . . . Sam Tedaldi
DAD . . . . . Matt Dengler
UNDERSTUDIES . . . . . Jodi Snyder & Ryan Edward Armstrong

CHARACTERS

PETE THE CAT – A super zen, rocking cat who lives in a VW Bus. He goes with the flow.

JIMMY BIDDLE – A very put-together second grader. He likes to prepare and tends to overthink things.

OLIVE BIDDLE – Jimmy's rambunctious sister. In Pre-K. She just loves everyone and everything.

MOM – Jimmy's nervous mom. Secretly, a rock star.

DAD – Jimmy's nervous dad. Secretly, a rock star.

Doubling:

MOM – **GRUMPY TOAD**, **MRS. CREECH**, the **MONA LISA**.

DAD – **GUS THE PLATYPUS**, **BARNABY** (a student), a **SHARK**.

OLIVE – **CAT-CATCHER**, **ELOISE** (a student), **ASTRONAUT**.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

A note on style

When Pete plays guitar, he makes guitar sounds with his mouth, like kids playing air guitar. Sometimes other people in the cast do, too. It's the way they rock out.

About the Bus

The Bus is a beloved friend and its honks should be treated by Jimmy and Pete as dialogue. In the original production, Pete's Bus was a two-dimensional moving set piece that Pete, Jimmy, and Olive sat inside of to "drive" around. They could move it side to side and forward and backward, but the sense of its whirlwind journey was mainly created by the work the whole ensemble did to change the world around the Bus as it went, as well as our heroes' reactions to each new destination.

SONG LIST

01. “Life Is An Adventure” . . . . . Company
02. “Life Is An Adventure (Playoff)” . . . . . Instrumental
03. “Pete Philosophy” . . . . . Instrumental
04. “Happy Roommates” . . . . . Jimmy & Pete
05. “School! (Transition)” . . . . . Mrs. Creech, Eloise & Barnaby
06. “Painting” . . . . . Company
07. “After School/Family Jam” . . . . . Olive, Mom & Dad
08. “The Sneezing Song” . . . . . Olive & Pete
09. “After Sneezing Song” . . . . . Instrumental
10. “Happy Housecat” . . . . . Pete
11. “To Couch” . . . . . Instrumental
12. “Under the Couch” . . . . . Company
13. “Bus Reveal” . . . . . Instrumental
14. “It’s a VW Bus” . . . . . Company
15. “Paris Magic” . . . . . Instrumental
16. “Jimmy Philosophy” . . . . . Instrumental
17. “Jim Jam (Transition 1)” . . . . . Grumpy Toad, Gus the Platypus, Jimmy & Olive
18. “Jim Jam (Transition 2)” . . . . . Grumpy Toad & Gus the Platypus
19. “Magic World” . . . . . Company
20. “A Cat Named Pete” . . . . . Company
21. “Bows” . . . . . Company
22. “Exit Music” . . . . . Instrumental

For Mom, Dad and Luke. – W.A.

For Owen and Maud, and also for Jam, the best of street cats. – S.H.

Scene One: Opening

[MUSIC NO. 01 – LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE]

START TRACK 01

(A backyard.)

*(***PETE** *enters, rocking.)*

PETE. Yo diddleeoh! My name is Pete the Cat.

*(***GUS THE PLATYPUS** *and* **GRUMPY TOAD** *follow.)*

And this is my band! Grumpy Toad

*(***GRUMPY** *makes excited sound!)*

and Gus the Platypus.

*(***GUS THE PLATYPUS** *goes "eep.")*

We are here to welcome you to the backyard…or as I like to call it Animal Square Garden!

START TRACK 01A

(They rock out.)

*(***JIMMY** *sings from offstage.)*

PETE.

I PUT ON MY BEST RED BRAND NEW SHOES.
I GOT MY GUITAR AND A GROOVY BEAT.

	GRUMPY TOAD, GUS & JIMMY.
PETE.	GROOVY BEAT.
I GOT THE BEST BAND OUT ON THE ROAD	OO...OO.
	THE JAM JAMMINEST.
MY NAME'S PETE!	
I MAKE A NEW FRIEND IN EV'RY TOWN.	OO...
BUT NOTHIN' CAN TIE ME DOWN.	AHH
ALL MY LIFE,	OO. HOO...
I HAVE LIVED BY ONE SIMPLE CODE:	OO. HOO...
	ONE SIMPLE CODE.
LIFE IS A REALLY, REALLY, REALLY BIG ADVENTURE.	AHH...
	BE NE NEOW!
A GROOVALICIOUS BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE.	AHH...
	BE NE NEOW!
IT'S AWESOME TO BE ON A BIG ADVENTURE.	AHH... VENTURE!
THE OPEN AIR, I'M FANCY FREE,	BOP. BOP.
MY GROOVY BANDMATES AND ME.	BOP. BOP.

GRUMPY TOAD.
BLLEROW...

GUS THE PLATYPUS. Pete, should we be in this backyard?

PETE. Gus, don't ruin my jam.

GRUMPY TOAD. It's Pete. Every yard is Pete's yard.

GUS THE PLATYPUS. I just don't want the Cat-Catcher to catch Pete making noise after bedtime.

PETE. Nobody's caught me yet!

(They start jamming, call and response. **PETE** *riffs like crazy.)*

BEO-NEO-NEOW NA NEO-NEOW...

BAND.

BEO-NEO-NEOW NA NEO-NEOW...

PETE.

BEO-NEO-NEOW NA NEO-NEOW...

BAND.

BEO-NEO-NEOW NA NEO-NEOW

PETE.

BLRREO-NEOW!

BAND.

BLRREO-NEOW!

PETE.

BE-NE-LE BE-NE-LE BE-NE-LE BE-NE-LE.

BAND.

BE-NE-LE BE-NE-LE BE-NE-LE BE-NE-LE.

*(***PETE** *gets carried away, riffing.)*

PETE. NEOW NEOW NA NA NA, NA NA OOO AHH OOO

(A very mean **CAT-CATCHER** *shows up behind* **PETE** *as he jams. The* **BAND** *shuts up and tries to signal* **PETE** *to stop riffing. They say, "Pete Pete Pete Pete," but he doesn't notice, until...)*

PETE. Uh. Is the Cat-Catcher...right behind me?

CAT-CATCHER. *(Darkly.)* Pete the Cat.

GUS THE PLATYPUS. The Cat-Catcher!

PETE. Scram!

START TRACK 01B

(Sirens! The **BAND** *scrambles. Crazy chase!)*

GUS THE PLATYPUS. Holy moly!

GRUMPY TOAD. Watch it! Whoa!

CAT-CATCHER. Catch that cat!

PETE. *(Caught. Rock-wail.)* Whoa-ow!

*(***GUS** *and* **GRUMPY** *watch sadly as the* **CAT-CATCHER** *catches* **PETE** *by the tail.)*

GUS THE PLATYPUS. *(Spoken in rhythm.)*
OH NO!

GRUMPY TOAD.
NOT PETE!

GUS THE PLATYPUS.
OH DEAR!

CAT-CATCHER. Pete the Cat, too much noise. Cats can't be out on the loose making this kind of racket.

PETE. Oh man.

CAT-CATCHER. Someone needs a very long time-out in a house. One week.

GRUMPY TOAD. One week! That's forever!

GUS THE PLATYPUS. *(Aside.)* But we're going to Paris – we're gonna jam!

GRUMPY TOAD. Without Pete?

GUS THE PLATYPUS. *(Agonized.)* They're gonna make Pete a housecat.

GRUMPY TOAD. I can't watch.

(The **CAT-CATCHER** *pulls* **PETE** *away. In a farewell gesture to the* **BAND**, **PETE** *hands his groovy sunglasses off to* **GRUMPY TOAD**.*)*

PETE. Don't worry about me, fellas. They can't lock me up for good. Just you wait, I'll be out before you know it and we'll be jamming again!

START TRACK 01C

CAT-CATCHER.
LET'S FIND YOU A HOUSE.

PETE. *(Spoken in rhythm.)*
ON NO, NOT THAT!

CAT-CATCHER.
A LESSON IN MANNERS IS OVERDUE.

PETE.
BUT I AIN'T A HOUSECAT! NO SIREE.

CAT-CATCHER.
TOO BAD!
IT'S A FAM'LY FOR YOU.

PETE. *(Spoken in rhythm.)*
A FAM'LY?

CAT-CATCHER. *(Spoken in rhythm.)*
THE BIDDLES.

PETE.
WELL, IF IT'S A HOUSE I'VE GOTTA DO,
THAT'S AN ADVENTURE, TOO
I'M STILL PETE, YOU CAN'T MAKE A PET OUTTA ME.

PETE.	**CAT-CATCHER.**
LIFE IS A REALLY, REALLY, REALLY BIG ADVENTURE	OOH...
I NEVER TURN AWAY FROM AN ADVENTURE.	OOH...
AND EV'RYWHERE I GO IS AN ADVENTURE.	OOH... ...VENTURE

(The **CAT-CATCHER** *deposits* **PETE** *at the* **BIDDLES***' house.)*

PETE. 1432 Maple Street. The Biddle Family.

(To audience.) Well, you know what I always say? Pete Philosophy:

(A musical fanfare accompanies his philosophy.)

Life takes courage; be brave!

START TRACK 01D

(1432 Maple Street. On the other side of the door...)

*(***JIMMY** *enters with a gigantic stack of books.)*

JIMMY. Yay! I'm studying! It's the last week of second grade and I have a lot of tests. The house is perfectly quiet and perfectly clean and perfectly perfect for... studying!!!

(The **PARENTS** *enter, neurotically, trailed by Jimmy's little sister,* **OLIVE***, who is so excited.)*

DAD. Sandy, do we need more tuna?

MOM. Arthur, we have two hundred cans of tuna! Stop worrying.

OLIVE. Cat!

JIMMY. What's going on?!

OLIVE. We're getting a cat, we're getting a cat.

JIMMY. Today?

MOM. Yes, today.

JIMMY. But I –

DAD. I'm worried. I just don't know if we're cat people.

MOM. Stop worrying! Olive wants a pet, and a fish can't cuddle, so we're going to give this cat a try. I know we're all worried. Let's pretend we're cat-sitting for a friend.

OLIVE. Cat-sitting?

JIMMY. Mom, I'm worried.

MOM. Oh Jimmy,

(They squeeze together to make a perfect family portrait and look their very best for the guest.)

MOM & DAD.

WHENEVER WE MEET SOMEBODY NEW,
IT'S NATURAL TO BE NERVOUS.
BUT NERVOUS PANIC IS HOW WE SHOW THAT WE CARE.

JIMMY, OLIVE, MOM & DAD (BIDDLES).

LIFE IS A REALLY, REALLY, REALLY BIG ADVENTURE.

JIMMY. I know.

BIDDLES.

A REALLY, REALLY, REALLY BIG ADVENTURE.

JIMMY. Fine.

BIDDLES.

A BIDDLE FAM'LY BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE.

MOM.

GIVE THE CAT A CHANCE!

JIMMY.

I'LL GIVE THE CAT A CHANCE.

MOM & DAD.

LET'S ALL LOOK OUR BEST.

DAD.

AFTER ALL, HE IS OUR GUEST.

(They freeze with frozen grins.)

(On the other side, **PETE** *is at the door.)*

PETE. Well, here goes.

*(***PETE** *knocks.)*

(The **BIDDLES** *move as a family clump to the door. It swings open. They are there, very square, grinning.)*

Hi.

BIDDLES. Who are you?

MOM. I'm sorry, we're expecting a cat.

JIMMY. We're cat-sitting.

OLIVE. We're gonna sit on a cat!

DAD. Go away.

(They slam the door.)

START TRACK 01E

JIMMY. *(Consulting book.)* Cat fact: cats do not wear shoes or say "hi." It says here, in my book.

(The **BIDDLES** *all ad-lib agreement.)*

DAD.
That's right.

MOM.
Well exactly, I've never –

*(***PETE** *knocks again.)*

PETE. Hi again!

START TRACK 01F

YOU'RE EXPECTING A CAT; I THINK THAT'S ME.
ALL I NEED IS A COUCH ON WHICH TO CRASH.
I THINK IT'S AWFULLY GROOVY HERE, HELLO! HELLO?

OLIVE. Cats don't talk.

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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