

## Gus: The Theatre Cat

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Gus is the Cat at the Theatre Door  
His name as I ought to have told you before  
Is really Asparagus, but that's such a fuss  
To pronounce that we usually call him  
Just Gus

His coat's very shabby  
He's thin as a rake  
And he suffers from palsy that makes his paw shake  
Yet he was in his youth quite the smartest of cats  
But no longer a terror to mice or to rats  
For he isn't the cat that he was in his prime  
Though his name was quite famous, he says, in his time  
And whenever he joins his friends at their club  
(Which takes place at the back of the neighbouring pub)  
He loves to regale them if someone else pays  
With anecdotes drawn from his palmiest days  
For he once was a star of the highest degree  
He has acted with Irving, he's acted with Tree  
And he likes to relate his success on the halls  
Where the gallery once gave him seven catcalls  
But his grandest creation as he loves to tell  
Was Firefrorefiddle, the Fiend of the Fell

"I have played, in my time, every possible part  
And I used to know seventy speeches by heart  
I'd extemporize backchat  
I knew how to gag  
And I knew how to let the cat out of the bag  
I knew how to act with my back and my tail  
With an hour of rehearsal  
I never could fail  
I'd a voice that would soften the hardest of hearts  
Whether I took the lead or in character parts

I have sat by the bedside of poor little Nell  
When the curfew was rung then I swung on the bell  
In the pantomime season I never fell flat  
And I once understudied Dick Whittington's cat  
But my grandest creation  
As history will tell  
Was Firefrorefiddle, the Fiend of the Fell"

Then if someone will give him a toothful of gin  
He will tell how he once played a part in East Lynne  
At a Shakespeare performance he once walked on pat  
When some actor suggested the need for a cat

"And I say now these kittens  
They do not get trained  
As we did in the days when Victoria reigned  
They never get drilled in a regular troupe  
And they think they are smart  
Just to jump through a hoop"

And he says as he scratches himself with his claws  
"Well, the theatre is certainly not what it was

These modern productions are all very well  
But there's nothing to equal from what I hear tell  
That moment of mystery when I made history  
As Firefrorefiddle, the Fiend of the Fell"

"I once crossed the stage on a telegraph wire  
To rescue a child when a house was on fire  
And I think that I still can much better than most  
Produce blood-curdling noises to bring on the ghost  
And I once played Growltiger  
Could do it again  
Could do it again  
Could do it again . . ."