

Robinson Crusoe and *The Pirates!!*

A Pantomime

By Mick Gaunt

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Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates.

A Pantomime

Cast:
Robinson Crusoe
Morwenna a Cornish beauty
Blackbeard the Pirate
Stanley the Knife (Ships Mate)
Slasher Billhook (Ships Bosun)
Molly Crusoe
Jack Sprat
Joe Cuttlefish
Ebb Tide
Rip Tide
Ben Gunn / Friday. (Double)
Chief Sirod.
Islanders / Pirates / Chorus
Gorilla

ACT 1

Act 1 Scene 1. The Docks. Outside ‘The Turks Head’ (Name of Pub can change!)

(Cornish Pirates song and dance opens scene. Side flat of Turks Head. Chorus and everyone involved. Blackbeard Billhook and Stanley prominent. Some with beer tankards in hand.)

Suggest song. Shiver my timbers (Muppet Treasure Island)
(All Exit)

(Robinson and Morwenna, a Cornish Beauty enter talking)

- Rob Yes Morwenna, I am sorry, but I am going off on another adventure. I don't really want to leave you behind, here in Penzance. But I promise when I return we shall be married.
- Morw But why not let me come with you Robinson, I can't bear for us to be parted for such a long period.
- Rob Tis dangerous places I go. No, you shall wait here till I return, and this time I have a feeling I shall have found a fortune and we will be able to live our lives in fine luxury.
- Morw But I am not afraid of the danger Robbie. We could be married before we go and travel as man and wife.
- Rob As much as I do not want to be parted from you, I insist it is not safe for you.
- Morw It is unfair of you Robbie, and I'm very disappointed by your decision. I assume Jack Sprat and Joe Cuttlefish will be travelling with you.
- Rob I think that is their intention, but first I must find somewhere interesting and worthwhile to go. Now, have you seen Old Ben Gunn? He has been asking to see me. That man has seen a lot of the world. He was left for dead on a desert island and still returned home. Perhaps he might have an idea worth following.
- Morw Well you'll be able to ask him, here he comes now. Ben, we're over here.

Ben Gunn (Enter. He is a old man. Morwenna kisses his cheek as he greets them.) Morwenna and Robinson. I'm pleased to see you.

Morw I believe you want to speak with Robbie, Ben, so I'll leave you alone. (Exits. To audience as she leaves.) He's not leaving me behind again, I'll think of some way to join him!

Ben Gunn. You been good to me young Robinson, since I returned home from Treasure Island with young Jack Hawkins and Squire Trelawney. I've got something to tell you young man. Something that will interest you.

Rob (They move and sit outside 'The Turks Head') What might that be Ben Gunn. You've always been an interesting man. It sounds very intriguing!

Ben Gunn Well I've just heard tell as Long John is dead and buried.

Rob Long John Silver?

Ben Gunn Aye, that be 'e. A Pirate with a black heart, a right ruffian and terror maker 'e. But 'e be gone now!

Rob He's dead?

Ben Gunn Oh aye! That be why they buried him! Gone to Davey Jones locker.

Rob So the old rogue's gone?

Ben Gunn Oh Aye! Long John, be long gone, be Long John. (Rolling eyes) So now's the time to tell and share my secret.

Rob Secret? What secret?

Ben Gunn All in good time Robbie, I be about to tell 'e shipmate. (Furtively) Now you know that I was marooned on Treasure Island for four long years till young Jim Hawkins helped save me. Well, (Furtively) Treasure Island still holds further treasures. Long John (Furtively) who is long gone, thought all Captain Flint's treasure be found, but that be only half. Oh aye, only half.

Rob Only half? Are you saying there is still treasure to be found?

Ben Gunn Oh aye me old mucker, I found Flint's treasure right enough and dug it up but then, before Squire Trelawney's ship found the island, I hid half of it in a different place, just in case like, just in case and, (Furtively) I still got the map showing where it be.

Rob A map?

Ben Gunn Aye boy, tis here, (Shows map) and you Robbie are to have it? So, now that Long John be gone, you can charter yourself a ship, set sail to Treasure Island, find the treasure and you will be rich. Then you and Morwenna will be living a life of luxury.

Rob Ben, this is the very adventure I have been dreaming of all my life. But you must come with us and share the find.

Ben Gunn Not I boy, I be too old to start boarding another ship on route to another adventure. You can share some with me if I still be alive when you return.

Rob That I certainly shall.

Ben Gunn (Furtively) Here be the map. Keep it safe and away from prying eyes. There be a lot of pirate here in Penzance. Now come, we'll pick a quiet table in a corner, in 'The Turks Head', sup some Rum and Grog. There be lots more I need to tell 'e but we must stay away from prying eyes and ears! (Exits)

(Blackbeard who has been seen lurking about during this exchange now enters.)

BB Ha, ha. What a stroke of fortune over hearing that. Who'd have thought that imbecile Ben Gunn could be as cunning as that. The crafty old fox. So there's still treasure to be found on Captain Flint's treasure island! That sounds right up my street. My fingers are itching at the thought of getting my hands on it. Hmm! So, what will be my plan? Hmm! Now Crusoe will need to charter a ship eh, well I know the very ship, 'The Black Pearl' and I be the Captain, Blackbeard, the most feared pirate of the seven seas! Ha, ha. Now I'll need to get him to trust me, but how? I'll need some help, where are those idiots Slasher Billhook and Stanley the Knife. (Exits calling as he goes) Billhook, Stanley!

Molly (Enters) Hello everybody? (To the wings) Have they all gone home? I said hello everybody. (Audience, Hello.) Now I expect you are wondering who I am. Well I'm Molly Crusoe. Robinson's widowed Mum. Yes dear, Widow! **UNATTACHED! AVAILABLE!** What I'm looking for is a handsome man! (Pick a man!) You're handsome, do you happen to be free? You'll not regret it, 'cause I'm the girl who puts the 'cor' in corset, the 'urge' in surgical stocking and the 'tense' in incontinence pants. Where are you from? (Audience response.) I'm sorry? (Audience response again.) No I heard you, I'm just sorry. Well, I think you have met my little boy, 'Robinson', when I was carrying him I had a yearning for Barley Water! He was such a surprise when he arrived; I was expecting a new dishwasher! And he's so clever you know. He was walking at four months old. (Pause) The bottom fell out of his push chair! But I don't know what I'd do without him. (Gets upset, large sobs) It's been such a struggle since his father cleared off. Cleared off, just like that. The rotten devil ran off with my best friend! What a terrible thing to do (Crying) run off with my best friend. Oh dear, **I don't half miss her!**

Now what else can I tell you about? Oh yes, I'm between jobs at present, 'cause I lost my last job through illness. (Pause) The Boss got sick of me! So, I'm just waiting for my potential to be spotted. It's okay dear it comes off at the Dry Cleaners!

Oh, it's hard trying to get a job at the moment, there are just none about. And all this talk in the country about Brexit, **I mean I don't even know whereabouts in Europe Brexit is!**

Oh, I must tell you this; I was at the Railway Station the other day and this fellow asked for a ticket to 'Jeopardy'. The chap at the desk said 'Jeopardy', never heard of it, what do you want to go there for anyway, and the fellow said well I've just read in the paper 200 hundred jobs in 'Jeopardy'!

Ebb and Rip (Enter) Hello Molly.

Molly Hello you two.

Rip Have you finished? (Indicating audience)

Molly Not quite dear! So, anyway the fellow at the station was buying rail tickets and asked for 'Two to Looe' and the clerk said 'Bye bye'.

Ebb I think I'd give up now Molly, the audience are fidgeting!

Rip Yes, they're still working that one out!

Ebb They've got fed up listening to your ramblings.

Molly Cheek! These two, ladies and gentleman, are the 'Tide' family. Ebb and Rip. **Yes, I know!** (Resigned) I think the script writer had a mental block with names!

Rip We've just been to our gymnastic class.

Molly Oh I went there but the membership rules are a bit strict and they wouldn't let me in.

Rip Why ever not?

Molly I don't know, but they said I'd have to 'bend over backwards' to join!

Ebb (To audience) I can warn you 'here and now', the jokes don't get any better!

Rip We are looking for Robbie have you seen him?

Ebb We've heard that he's about to start a new adventure.

Molly And what might that be? He's always rushing off here and there looking for adventure and excitement. I keep telling him it's about time he settled down here in Cornwall with Morwenna. I mean all these trips away to exotic lands, think of the danger he's in. **He even spent Saturday night in Nottingham!**

Ebb Have you seen him?

Molly Last I saw he I saw was wandering into the pub. (Exit) See you later.

Rip Come along Ebb, we'll join him in the Bar, let's find out what's going on! (Exit)

Lights fade to a Blackout and then return to indicate a passage of time

Act 1 Scene 2. The Docks. Outside 'The Turks Head' (Some while later)

BB (Enters. Bill and Stan enter opposite.) Billhook, Stanley. Come here now.

Bill You called, Captain?

Stan No fool he called us!

Bill Oh yearh!

BB Now listen you pair, I have today received some interesting news. (Head gag, checking no one is listening.) Psst!

Stan But I've only had a coffee!

Bill Shut up and listen to the Captain!

BB (Head gag, again checking no one is listening.) There is still treasure to be found on Lohn John Silver's Treasure Island, and if we play our cards right it could be ours for the taking.

Both Treasure! (Itchy fingers, rolling eyes etc.)

BB Now what we need to do is assemble a crew to set sail immediately for the Caribbean on 'The Black Pearl'.

Stan There be no sailors willing to set sail immediately. They've only just returned from a long passage and are in need of some shore time.

BB Then get a crew by Press Ganging them. Get them to take the 'King's Shilling'.

Bill But we 'ain't the English Navy we are Pirates of the seven seas. Arh!

Stan Oh Arrh! That we be!

BB Well we're Navy men now! From now on you'll address me as Captain Edward Teach and my ship is 'HMS Mary Rose' recently out of Plymouth. Got it?

Stan / Bill Nope!

BB (Slowly and precisely) We are going to pretend to be part of the English Fleet. Got it?

Stan / Bill Got it!

Bill But why are we doing that Captain?

BB Oh give me strength, why is it such hard work? Do you never take anything in!

Stan Not often no.

Bill My mother used to take washing in!

BB **Shut up!** Robinson Crusoe has all the information about treasure island, but he needs to charter a ship to take him there. That ship will be, he, he, he. ... 'The Black Pearl' spruced up to look like the English Naval vessel 'Mary Rose'. All Shipshape and Bristol fashion. Have you got it now?

Stan / Bill Oh aye, Captain!

BB Good. Now, don't think about rebelling or I have you keel hauled, hung from the yardarm and then slit your throats! Ha, ha. Now remember you are 'First Mate' and he's the 'Bosun'. Right off you go, start 'Press Ganging' for a Crew. **And get it right!**

Bill What will you be doing?

BB Me? Ha, ha. I'm going to introduce myself to Crusoe, get chatting to him. Perhaps I'll buy him a drink or two. I'll tell him what a fine upstanding gentleman I am, with the finest ship in the English Navy, eager and ready to start a new adventure. **Now**

**remember we are in the English Navy and we are the finest fleet in the world!
Now get on with it. Ha, ha, ha. (Exits)**

Bill This sounds like another fine mess we're in Stanley!

Stan I don't fancy this lark at all!

Bill But you heard what he said. Slit throat. (Draws finger across throat) Quirk!

Stan Well we'd better make a start, and what better place is there, than the 'Turks Head',
there's bound to be folk there likely to make up our crew.
(Ebb and Rip enter and sit outside the Pub)

Bill Here's our chance, look folks taking a drink.

Stan But how will we do it?

Bill Simple, we'll buy them a pint, drop the shilling in the tankard, and Bob's your Uncle.

Stan Oh no he's not. The family fell out with him years ago.

Bill Who?

Stan Bob, he's no Uncle of mine!

Bill Okay, it's just a figure of speech.

Stan And another thing, **BUY** them a drink!

Bill Give over! I'll distract them and you drop the shilling into the tankard.

Stan Do you know, that's a good idea, how did you think of it?

Bill Well its written in the script. I think the script writer read it somewhere years ago, or
perhaps he Googled it!

Stan We'll try to recruit those two first.

Bill They're a bit young!

Stan Nonsense, this is the seventeenth century, kids of 8 or 9 are working down the mines.
There's no Union representation yet you know!

Bill (Addresses Ebb and Rip) Now then young fellows, can I get you a drink.

Ebb That's kind of you I'll just have an J2O Orange and Passion Fruit.

Bill A what? There's no J2O around in this century.

Ebb Okay, I'll have a Pepsi Max then, or a Dr Pepper.

Stan And you?

Rip Oh thanks, I'll have a large Bacardi and Coke.

Bill What! (To Stan) Do you know how much they cost?

Stan Get on with it!

Bill Okay, I'll get them. (Goes to fetches the drinks on a tray)

Stan Have you two ever thought of travelling, joining the English Navy, sailing the world, and taking the 'Kings Shilling'.

Ebb We are a bit young don't you think?

Bill Here you go. (He brings drinks and is seen dropping a coin in each tankard) Enjoy!

Stan Oh no, never too young to start an exciting adventure. Drink up and have another.

Rip Here, what's this coin doing in the bottom of my tankard.

Ebb I've got one too.

Stan Ha, ha, that's the 'Kings Shilling' you've taken there! You are now both members of the Kings Navy. Stand to attention.

Ebb But this is kidnapping you'll regret ... (They get bopped on the head and dragged off. Jack Sprat and Joe Cuttlefish now enter.)

Joe Robinson's getting on well with that Naval Captain in the Bar.

Jack Yes, and he seems a decent sort.

Joe I wonder if he be part of Robbie's plans.

Jack (Molly enters, stand between them.) Ah, I've got a bone to pick with you!

Molly (To Joe) He's got a bone to pick with you.

Jack (Pause) Not him, you. (Double head sequence)

Molly Did someone else come on? Oh me?

Jack Have you been telling people that I'm dum?

Molly Not me.

Jack Is it him then?

Molly Is it you then? (Pause)

Joe I don't want any!

Molly He doesn't want any!

Jack It's a bit off telling people I'm dum.

Molly Is it meant to be a secret?

Joe How much are they?

Molly How much are.....no! (Aside to Jack) He's getting worse, do you think he's naturally stupid?

Jack No he practices a lot!

Molly (To audience) Don't laugh it'll only encourage him!

Jack Don't be hard on him, he's got talent you know?

Molly Has he?

Jack He's very musical.

Joe I play a Saxophone.

Molly Wash your mouth out! I'll stop him watching 'Love Island'! Well **I've** got a bone to pick with you pair as well. You said you'd walk me home from the pub last night and you left me alone, standing outside the 'Chippy', all alone, waiting for you. **Waiting for you!** I'll have you know a fellow followed me home. Yes, a fellow followed me home. Where were you pair? No-where to be seen! Followed home by a fellow! (To audience) No matter how slow I walked he still didn't catch up!

Joe Are you looking for Robbie he's in the Bar with a Ship Captain who's buying drinks

Molly Buying drinks? Well why didn't you say so earlier instead of entertaining me with all your '**scintillating**' conversation! What's this Captain look like, and more important, is he single? (Exits)

Stan (Enters with Bill, they have been seen in the wings watching Jack and Joe.) How do me hearty's. Captain Teach's buying a round of drinks, would you care to join us in a pint of grog?

Bill Help share our good fortune.

Jack Very kind of you, what are you celebrating. (They sit at table.)

Stan Ah well, pretty soon we shall soon be the recipients of a large amount of money.

Joe A lottery win is it? You have to be in it to win it!

Bill Oh yes, a proper lottery, what's that in your tankard.

Jack It's a shilling, oh no we've been duped. They've passed us the 'Kings Shilling'. (They are both bopped on the head with the butt of a cutlass.) Jack is dragged off and then they come back for Joe)

Bill Well, we got us a crew Slasher, and they'll soon be safely locked in the 'Hold'.

Stan I thought it all went very well. You were very handy with the butt of your Cutlass

Bill Why do you think they call me Slasher.

Stan Well I can think of one reason! Anyway, I thought you real name was Gaylord?

Bill Shh! (Slaps him around) Only my mother calls me that. Come let's get this one back on board 'The Black Pearl'.

Bill You mean 'The Mary Rose'

Stan Whatever! (Morwenna enters. She is dressed as a boy, sailor's hat and false beard. Sees Joe being dragged to the ship)

Morw Just a minute what's going on here?

Stan Nothing to concern you my young 'fellow me lad'. We are Naval officers. This chap has accepted the 'King's Shilling' but has already spent most of it on Grog and is too drunk to join the ship. We are just helping him aboard.

Morw Are you from the 'Mary Rose'? The ship which lays at anchor in the harbour?

Bill No we be from

Stan (Jumping in) Oh aye, that we be. Fine English ship and fine company of Navy men.

Morw That's fortunate, because I wish to join the crew.

Stan (Aside) Hey Slasher, we've got a willing volunteer here, that'll save us a shilling.

Bill Well, we do want more Crew. What skills you got?

Morw I'm just a poor orphan boy in need of work, I'll turn my hand to anything. Do you have room for a Cabin Boy?

Stan Well I suppose you could bring me my cornflakes and a cup of tea in the mornings.

Bill And me a mug of Coco at bedtime.

Stan Off you go to the Ship and sign on! (They exit carrying Joe)

Morw Well that was easier than I thought. (To audience as she takes sailor's hat and false beard off.) It me Morwenna! I'm determined when Robbie goes away this time I am going to be with him, despite what he says. Keep my secret, won't you? Now I'd best get my kitbag packed and stowed on board, it looks like I'm in for an adventure.
(Exit)
(Stan and Bill return saluting Morwenna as they pass.)

Molly (Enter) Hello sailors! (Sexily) I understand you are signing on crew members for the 'Mary Rose'? My son Robinson Crusoe has commissioned it and I want to join the Ship Company!

Stan But you're a woman!

Molly Oh you noticed, these are a complete give away, aren't they? (Indicates Bust)

Bill Tis bad luck to take a woman on board!

Stan Sorry my dear, I can think of lots of ways an 'experienced' woman like yourself would be very useful on board, but my mate Billhook here says ...

Bill (Muttering) Tis bad luck to have a woman on board!

Stan See what I mean?

Molly Ah, but here's the thing! I've seen you trick the poor lads of this town into taking the 'King's Shilling'. Now if you were to take me on as crew I may forget the idea of reporting what I have seen to the local constabulary.

Stan Ah, well that do put a different perception on things. Now if you are intending putting it that way.

Molly I do!

Bill But I tell 'e, it's bad luck to have a woman on board.

Stan **Shut it you!** Do you want us to be locked up? Well I suppose we shall need a Ship's Cook. I take it you can cook.

Molly Oh yes, I'm a very good cook. I can give you 'Spotted Dick', and my 'Roly-Poly' is to die for. (Shakes her bum) But once you've seen the size of my 'Dumplings'

Bill But I tell 'e tis bad luck to have a woman on board ship.

Stan Shut it. Can **you** cook?

Bill No.

Stan Can anyone else on board?

Bill No, suppose not. Well okay then but I warn 'e tis bad luck a woman on board.

Stan Okay dear, we'll find something for you to do! (Flirting with her) I suggest you hang your hammock next to mine and then we'll see what comes up!

Bill We sail on the morning tide so get your gear on board. (All exit)
(Robbie and BB enter from the pub, tankards in hand. Very friendly together.)

Rob I'm so glad to have met you Captain Teach. You certainly have seen the world and had some very exciting times.

BB Oh aye. That be so. A life in the English Navy is always exciting. And as you say, I may be able to help you fulfil your dream. So, you want to charter a Ship, well the Navy will be pleased to offer all the assistance you may need. Where we be heading then?

Rob A small island in the Caribbean, Cape Rosette. I have the co- ordinates.

BB That will take us but a few weeks with a Ship as fine as the 'Mary Rose'. And when would you be wanting to leave?

Rob As soon as possible.

BB The ship is fully provisioned and the crew is already standing by, so what say we leave tomorrow at high tide?

Rob Agreed (shakes hand). I think you'll find it will be well worth taking us on this great adventure. It's a pleasure meeting you Captain, see you aboard. (Exits)

BB (Shouts) It's a pleasure doing business with you Robinson. (Watches him go. Aside to audience.) Or as the young ladies down the Docks would say 'It's a business doing pleasure with you'. Ha ha, ha, - YES! (Pumps fist). The treasure will soon be mine!

**Suggest song. Tale Spin, Sky Pirates.
'I am a Pirate'. Blackbeard, Bill and Stan.**

One more time! (Bill)

BB Wait a minute. I'm the only one who can say, One more time!
You pair get on with rounding up a crew!
Hmm.... Now then, next plan is to get hold of that map. Ha, ha. It's great being the scourge of the seas. (All Exit. BB with evil laugh)

End of scene.

Act 1 Scene 3. Front Cloth.

(Molly and Ben Gunn enters. Ben is carrying a bottle.)

Molly Well Ben Gunn, you're looking well, I reckon you get younger looking every day!

Ben Aye, well when you gets to my age you have to keep active. Work at it. Mind you this helps. (shows bottle)

Molly What's this then?

Ben It's an anti-ageing product. It's called the 'Elixir of Youth'. It makes you look younger.

Molly Here let me see. (Reads label.) The 'Elixir of Youth'. Sounds good. And you reckon it works?

Ben Oh aye. I wouldn't be without it.

Molluy Can I try it?

Ben Of course you can.

Molly (To audience) If I drink this I shall look younger!

Ben (Trying to stop her) Er. No. But.

Molly (Drinks and spits it out) Ugh that tastes horrible!

Ben I'm not surprised; It's a facial rub! (Points to label)

Molly Uggh!

Ben Anyway, has it worked? Do you feel any younger?

Molly (Crosses legs) No but I've just done something very childish indeed!

Ben Well it works for me. I feel so young and I've just joined a new club?

Molly Is it the 'R and R' in Chellaston?

Ben No, I've signed up for 'The Free Fall Parachute Club'

Molly 'The, Free Fall Parachute Club'? What at your age?

Ben Yes, would you like to join?

Molly Why on earth would I want to do that?

Ben Well if I can do it so can you. You get four free jumps a year!

Molly (Long pause. Makes the point of walking across and speaking into Wings) **Excuse me, but is he allowed to say that!**

Ben I've already had one. It was great.

Molly And when you leapt from the plane, were you full of confidence?

Ben No! Just a Milk Shake and a Domino's Pizza!

Molly So what was it like then, tell me all about it.

Ben Well I jumped out of the plane, and there I was falling through the atmosphere, the wind rushing through my hair! Well what's left of it. It was great!

Molly Sounds scary to me.

Ben The views were so amazing that I nearly forgot all my training. Do you know I forgot to pull the rip cord until I was ten foot off the floor!

Molly Good grief, didn't you hurt yourself when you hit the ground?

Ben Don't be silly. Ten foot is not far to fall!

Molly Idiot! (Exit) Now come along, tell me more about Treasure Island.

BB (Enter rubbing his hands in glee.) Ha, Ha. My plan is going exactly like I expected it too. Crusoe thinks I'm a fine Navy Captain all 'hale and hearty'. Little does he know that I'm Blackbeard the scourge of the seven seas! When we get to sea I shall steal the map from him, dump the fool overboard and the treasure will all be mine! Ha, ha, ha. It's an excellent plan, and I thought of it! Don't you think I'm clever?

Aud. No!

BB Oh yes I am!

Aud Oh no you're not

BB Oh yes I am!

Aud Oh no you're not.

BB Oh yes I am!

Aud Oh no you're not.

BB **Oh Shut Up! Go boil your head! Now for the next part of the plan.** (Exit)

Act 1 Scene 4. On Board Ship (Cloth on roller 2. A Sailing Ship. Full Stage)

Suggested song. 'In the Navy'. Village People

(Start with chant, 'We want you, we want you, we want you for a new recruit.')

(All exit)

- Stan Aharr Jim lad. Here we be me old hearty. I told thee I'd circumnavigate 'ee. Shiver me timbers and splay me sea boots. Rig the Mains'al. Captain Blackbeard says we sail with the tide. We'll splice the main brace and sup some grog this night, see if I'm not right me old Jack Tar.
- Bill EH? Pardon, what did you say?
- Stan Aharr Jim lad. Here we be me old hearty. I told thee I'd circumnavigate 'ee. Shiver me timbers and splay me sea boots. Rig the Mains'al. Captain Blackbeard says we sail with the tide. We'll splice the main brace and sup some grog this night, see if I'm not right me old Jack Tar.
- Bill Yeah, I how **what** you said, but what on earth does it mean????
- Stan Never mind what it means. Blackbeard say's I'm to be the First Mate of this ship and you are the Bosun so that's how we are expected to talk.
- Bill But I don't understand what you are saying!
- Stan Oh! Bail out me bilges. It doesn't matter.
- Bill No I don't suppose it does. (Aside) He only talks gibberish anyway.
- BB. (Enter) All aboard, all aboard.
- Rob (Enter) There you are Captain Teach. Are preparations going to plan?
- BB. That they be, welcome aboard Mr Crusoe, I hope you have some exciting plans for us to look forward to on this adventure.
- Rob I'm sure I have Captain Teach.
- BB So when will you telling us our destination?
- Rob All in good time Captain when we are on the high seas. Don't want too many folk knowing our plans. Now when do we sail?
- BB. Depends on the wind Sir.
- Rob Oh I hope you feel better soon.
- BB. Oh, very droll Sir, very good. Wind for the sails Sir.
- Rob Yes of course, it was just a little joke.
- BB I see sir. (Aside) Yes, and you won't find many more in this script!
- Rob Well if you need me I shall be in my cabin. (Exit)

BB Pompous pip squeak! I'll soon have his goose cooked. Ha, ha.

Bill (Enters and blows his whistle) Spot of breeze approaching Captain! (Sign waved from wings' **Breeze and Little Puffs**)

BB. Good! Make ready to cast off Mr Mate. We shall leave on the high tide.

Stan Aye, aye Sir. All hands, to your stations. We sail in ten minutes. All ashore that's going ashore. Look lively Bosun. (Jack and Joe appear on deck)

Bill Aye, aye, Mr Mate. You lot, **here**, now. (Jack, Joe, Ebb and Rip)

Ebb and Rip But, we don't want to be sailors.

Bill Too bad! Just remember look to your duties **or you'll feel the cat!**

Rip I don't mind I like cats, all soft and furry.

Bill **SHUT UP!** I want this luggage moving quickly. (They start collecting the luggage.)

All Aye, Aye, Sir! (And other suitable comments. i.e.) Yes Bosun. Ready now sir. (A number of pieces of luggage are labelled. **'Not needed during the voyage'**. Jack looks at one and then throws it overboard.)

Joe What did you do that for?

Jack It says **'Not needed during the voyage'**. So, if it's not needed let's dump it.

Joe Yearh, right if it's not needed, no point taking it with us. (They throw rest overboard.)

BB. Now. Where's that motley crew? All hands, on deck, all hands, on deck.

Bill All hands, on deck (They all start to enter, Molly on hands and knees. Joe wears a Pith Helmet.)

Stan Avast Behind!

Molly I'm not that big, it's just that I'm big boned.

Bill I knew I'd seen that face before!

Stan Just a minute, what are you doing down there anyway?

Molly You said all hands on the deck

Stan Shiver me timber, dumb or what? Stand up!

BB What's this? A woman. How did you get on board?

Molly I lied about my age!

Ebb Nothing new there then.

BB But it's the seventeenth century women weren't sailors.

Molly I've always been ahead of my time!

Stan She can cook.

BB Oh well, that's different. She'll be useful in the Galley.

Molly Play your cards right and I could be useful in all sorts of places.

Stan She got the biggest dumplings in Penzance.

Molly Get off. There's some bigger than mine! (Pushing bust out)

BB Enough of this rubbish! Cast off For'ard Mr Mate.

Stan Cast off for'ard. Aye, aye Captain. Cast of For'ard. Right off you go lads.

All Cast off for'ard. Aye, aye Mr Mate. (They all rush to the bow)

BB. (Off) Cast off Aft.

Stan Cast off Aft. Aye, Aye, Captain. Cast off Aft. Right off you go lads.

All Cast off Aft. Aye, aye Mr Mate.

BB. Rig the Mains'al Bosun.

Bill Rig the Mains'al. Aye, aye Captain. Off you go lads.

All Rig the Mains'al. Aye, aye Bosun. (They all rush towards bow again)

BB. Take the wheel Mr Mate.

Stan Take the wheel. Aye, aye Captain.

All Take the wheel. Aye, aye Captain. *(They all rush towards wheel)*

Stan No, no, that's a job for an experienced sailor. Leave it to **me!**

All Oh I say! (Mock) Leave it to **me!**

Jack I'm shattered and we've not left the dock yet!

BB All hands to your sailing stations, we're underway. Ship's with you Mr Mate. (Exit)

Stan Aye, aye Sir.

Bill Shall I get the new crew ready for parade Stan?

Stan Yes call them to order Bosun. I'll lash the wheel.

Bill Right you lot over here form a line. (Very ragged line. Morwenna is at one end.)

Stan Now he's 'Bosun' and I'm 'Mate'

Molly (Winks, paws at him.) Hello Matey.

Stan Don't get familiar with me, un-hand me Madam.

Molly But you said you'd be my mate.

Bill Ships 'Mate'! I'm the 'Bosun' and I'm under him.

Molly Well it's your choice ducky.

Bill Tis bad luck to have a woman on board.

Molly He's like a stuck Record isn't he?

Bill Right line up. (Molly is away from the rest) You close up.

Molly (Lifting dress to show knickers) Like this? (Union Flag)

Bill No not like that.

Molly (She turns around and shows bottom this time) Like this then? (Stars and Stripes)

Bill Not clothes up! Close up, come closer to the other crew.

Molly Sorry. Hello Sailor. Did you like my American knickers?

Jack American knickers?

Molly One Yank and they're off! (Standing very close to sailor)

Stan Not that close. Billhook sort her out. (He does)

Bill Now pay attention, this is our new cabin boy. (He's taken a shine to Morwenna) Say hello to your new crew mates.

Morw (In a deep voice) Hello crew mates.

Bill Fine young man, fine young man. (As per Windsor Davies in 'It 'Aint Half Hot Mum') A good example to you all. Look how smart he is, and then look at you lot. Scruffy, dirty.

Ebb Creep, (Stick tongue out at Morw.)

Rip Bosun's pet!

Bill (To Joe) You're mucky. When did you last have a bath?

Joe Last September.

Jack He always does, whether he needs one or not!

Joe I'm not that mucky, (To Jack) but **you've** got a big black spot here.

Jack Oh no, I've been given "**THE BLACK SPOT**" (Dramatic cord of music!)

Molly Let's see, No, it's just a big black head, I'll squeeze it for you!

Stan **Stop it right there!** Get them under control Bosun

Bill Right straighten up now.

Stan Just a minute, what has he got on his head.

Bill I don't know.

Stan Go and ask him.

Bill Mr Mate wants to know what's that on your head.

Joe It's Pith Helmet (Spitting in his face)

Bill A what?

Joe A Pith Helmet.

Bill (Back to Stan) He says it's a Pith Helmet (Spitting in his face.)

Stan A what?

Bill A Pith Helmet. (Spitting in his face)

Stan What's it for?

Bill I don't know, I'll go and ask him. What's it for.

Joe When it's very hot on the Ship's deck, I need to cover my head. So, it's Pith on.
(Spitting in his face)

Bill When it's very hot he needs to cover his head. So, it's Pith on. (Spitting in his face)

Stan That's all well and good, but what happens if we should get a sudden cold spell?

Bill (Looks at audience in complete amazement.) I'll go and ask him. What happens if
there's a sudden cold spell?

Joe (Whispers something in his ear)

Bill Oh righto! (Starts to leave the stage.)

Stan Just a minute, where do you think you're going.

Bill Well he just told me to leave!

Stan Get back on parade and get them in line. Now I want you all to 'number'.

All (Silly dance to Rumba music.)

Stan What are you doing? I said 'number'.

All Oh we thought you said Rumba!

Bill Give me strength. Okay. Now you're 'one'. (To Morw)

Molly Is he? I did wonder when he spoke earlier but thought it was just a nasty cold!

Bill Number!

All in turn. 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, etc

Stan Not like that, sequentially.

Ebb What does sequentially mean?

Bill One, two, three, etc. 'number'!

Joe One, two, three etc

Jack One, two, three etc

Molly One, two, three etc

Ebb One, two, three etc

Rip One, two, three etc

Morw One, two, three etc

Bill No, no, no! Its 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6! (Walking down the line and counting)

Stan Now do it right or you're all on jankers.

Jack What did he say?

Joe Don't bother going there, mate!

Stan I said number! (They do it right.)

Bill You, Rip, fetch the mops from the Poop deck we'll do a rifle drill.

Ebb What with mops?

Bill Well we aren't trusting press gang crew with real guns!

Rip (Enters with mops, struggles as they are all over the place.) Here you are. (Throws them in a pile centre stage.)

Stan Pick up a mop. (Jack is astride a mop as it is lifted by two people, so gets caught in the privates.)

Bill Shoulder arms. (They put on shoulders some right, some left.) No, no, no, it's this shoulder (Taps his own left shoulder.)

All Sorry! (All cross to him and put them on his shoulder.)

Bill Not on my shoulder! (Knocks them off) Pick them up. Pick them up and throw them over your left shoulder. (They do so.)

Stan Arrgh! Give me strength. Pick them up! Bosun you'd better show them how it's done. Now you are all to do the same as he does.

Bill 1,2,3. 2,2,3. 3,2,3. 4,2,3. And throw it onto your shoulder. That's all there is to it. (Throws mop on floor.)

Stan Now you do it! (They repeat what Bill did ending by throwing the mop on the floor.) (Stan is incandescent with rage!) **Do it right or I'll forget to be nice!** (They do it correctly!)

Bill That's better, now quick (They are all poised on one leg waiting for the command) Wait for it, wait for it..... March. Salute the flag as you leave. Cabin boy, swab the decks. (Marching song as they leave.)

BB (Enter with Robbie) We're well under way now Robinson. Can you now tell me where I should be heading?

Rob Good, Good. (Shows atlas) Now this is where I want you to set course It's a small island in the Caribbean.

BB And these be the co-ordinates? This all seems fine, I'll plot the course immediately.

Rob Good, good. (See's Morwenna) But er excuse me Captain I'm afraid I have to report there is a stowaway on board. (Morwenna is mopping the deck)

BB. A stowaway? Where? I'll give him a taste of 'The Cat'!

Rob Here! (Whips off her sailor hat and false beard.) Morwenna what are you doing here? I thought we'd agreed that life aboard ship is not for a young lady.

Morw No you agreed, I didn't! Another thing your Mother's on board and she's a woman.

BB Are you sure about that? Well anyway they are both here now, but I warn you, life is very hard on board Ship. She's your responsibility Crusoe. (Exit)

Rob Well I hope you know what you are doing, I really should turn this ship around and take you home.

Morw Don't be silly Robbie, I'll be perfectly okay, I'm looking forward (They exit talking)

Molly (Enters with rest) Isn't life grand? Look at that clear blue sky. (Plop). Oh dear, that seagull just plopped in my eye.

Jack Hang on I'll get a tissue.

Molly Don't bother dear, it'll be miles away by now. (To audience) The old ones are the best!

Rip Excuse me, (Stage whisper) I need to visit the Poop Deck (Exits)

Molly The Ship's Mate is nice. Have you seen him?

Ebb He's 'Forward'.

Molly Sounds like it could be a romantic voyage! Mind you I was annoyed last night.

Jack Why's that?

Molly Well, I went to my quarters last night and there lying on my hammock was a man's nightshirt.

Joe There's nothing in that!

Molly That's why I was annoyed!

BB. (Enters with Stan.) Well we are underway. All shipshape and Bristol fashion.

Molly Just like me I've got a lovely shape and my. (Sees the look on the Blackbeard's face) Yes well, excuse me best get on with our chores. (They make busy)

BB (To one side) OK Stanley we've got to keep up this pretence that we are a Naval Ship for a little longer, so let's keep 'em happy. Splice the main brace while I check for'ard. (*Exits.*)

Stan Aye. Aye Sir (Blows his whistle) Splice the Mainbrace, splice the mainbrace.

Jack What?

Joe What do he mean?

Ebb Splice the main brace means issue a double helping of rum. Rip is bringing it now.

Jack Ha! Well, if you insist! Molly here quick before he changes his mind.

Rip Little drinky poos, Molly?

Molly Don't mind if I do. I'll just have a toothful. (Rip pours from a jug. Molly grabs hand as he stops pouring.) **Excuse me! It's a double tooth.** Over the teeth, over the gums, look out tummy here it comes Whew!!!!

Jack That's right, drink our rum and feel rosy.

Joe (High pitch) It's a bit strong. (Very Low) Right now where's Rosy?

Bill You lot before you all get drunk, all hands over here. We need to Hoist the Headsail! (They sing the sea shanty, '**Drunken sailor**' as they pull on the Headsail rigging.)
What shall we do with a drunken sailor?
What shall we do with a drunken sailor?
What shall we do with a drunken sailor?
Early in the morning?
Way-hay, up she rises
Way-hay, up she rises
Way-hay, up she rises
Early in the morning

Put him in the long boat 'til he's sober (Second verse may not be needed!)

