

# **Robinson Crusoe**

**A pantomime by**

**Brian Freeland**

**Spotlight Publications**

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# **Robinson Crusoe**

## **The Lad from Largo**

**CAST** (in order of appearance)

**Robinson Crusoe**, our hero  
**Enrico Crusoe**, his singing brother  
**Mrs Crusoe**, their mother  
**Jeannie**, Enrico's girlfriend  
**The Laird o' Lundy**, the baddie  
**Captain Cockle**, elderly and kind  
**Hamish Gordon**, narrator and bit player  
**Friday**, native islander

**Villagers, Pirates, Sailors, etc.**  
**Babes**

**Musicians:**      Keyboards  
                         Percussion/Bodran  
                         Violin or Accordion  
                         Bass Guitar  
                         Steel Drums (if practical)

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

The script incorporates several stock pantomime routines but is not a conventional panto having front cloths alternating with full stage settings.

Most of Act 1 takes place on the village green of Lower Largo, and any change of scene is accomplished with small trucks.

We used the device of 'the narrator and bit player' to develop the role of Friday. This change, and the replacement of cannibals with pirates, should remove any problems with 'political correctness'.

In the original production the band was on stage, DSR. This made them part of the action in some scenes, and allowed the cast to work forward, on the huge Adam Smith forestage, without having to project over the enormous black hole of an orchestra pit. There were fake rocks around the front of the forestage - setting for the foreshore in Lower Largo and on the desert island as well as providing hiding places for props and mikes, and a barrier for the goats.

## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

### **ACT 1**

Prologue - A beach in Barbados  
Scene 1 - The village green  
Scene 2 - The Harbour  
Scene 3 - Front of tabs, the hotel

### **ACT 2**

Scene 1 - The hotel, FOT  
Scene 2 - Under the sea  
Scene 3 - The desert island  
Scene 4 - The stockade  
Scene 5 - The village green  
Scene 6 - The hotel  
Scene 7 - The village green

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT 1

1. "What A Saturday Night" (Chorus)
2. "Beautiful Barbados" (Chorus)
3. "Come Ye To The Fair" (Brigadoon) (Captain)
4. "I'm Bad" (Michael Jackson) (Quartet)
5. Anything suitable
6. "One Brick At A Time" (Robbie)
7. "Raining In My Heart" (Babes At Sea) (Jeannie)
8. "It's Never Too Late To Fall In Love" (The Boy Friend) (Captain)
9. Any Spanish song, with flamenco (Dancers)
10. "At The Cod Fish Ball" (Babe)
11. Reprise: "What a Saturday Night" (Chorus)

### ACT 2

12. Reprise: "What a Saturday Night" (Chorus)
13. Anything suitable for pas-de-deux
14. "Love Lifts Us Up Where We Belong" (Joe Cocker & Jennifer Warnes) (Ricky & Jeannie)
15. "For I Am A Pirate King" (Pirates of Penzance" (Laird & Pirates)
16. "Sailing" (Rod Stewart) (Company)
17. "It's A Hard Knock Life" (Annie) (Dancers)
18. "We've Got Us" (Muppets) (Company)

N.B. This list of songs is only the author's recommendation. All songs are at the discretion of the Musical Director.

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## ACT 1

### Prologue

*The present time. The setting is a private beach in front of a Barbados holiday hotel. Deckchairs, towels, a surfboard, waiters....*

*A Cabaret Band tunes up and plays*

### Song 1

*“What a Saturday Night”*

*As the houselights go down they are joined by Stella (later Mrs Crusoe) to sing*

### Song 2

*“Beautiful Barbados”*

*Holidaymakers have drifted on, and laze around listening. At the end Hamish (the hotel manager) leads the applause*

**Hamish** Stella Spellman, ladies and gentlemen. Stella will be here to sing for you every night during your holiday. But tonight it's Saturday, and that means....

**Everyone** Carnival!

**Hamish** That's right, it's Carnival Night. The theme this week is 'Under the Sea' so I hope you've all been busy making wonderful underwater costumes. Except Stella, of course: she always comes as Carmen Miranda.

**Stella** Why waste a good frock.

**Hamish** But to take us through to Carnival "we're gonna tell you a story", and this will give you another chance to dress up because we'd like you to help us tell the story of the first European ever to come to the islands...

*Stella and the waiters distribute costumes, everybody slowly scatters taking the furniture as the lights close in on Hamish and the hotel front cloth opens)*

...the story of Robinson Crusoe, a young Scot born in the village of Lower Largo, in the Kingdom of Fife...

*Lights up to reveal the village of Lower Largo as seen from the sea, with hills and cottage - and a railway viaduct!*

It is the day of the Highland Games and Village Fair in Lower Largo, and when - wait a minute; what's this, Davey? *(Pause)* Davey! What's this supposed to be?

*Davey/The Laird was played by Derek Lord from “Take The High oad”, and we brought him on at this point as his TV character to give the audience an early chance to boo him. The role is effectively the hotel handymanacting as 'stage manager'*

Lower Largo, Mr Gordon. We copied it from the photos.

**Hamish** And what are those arches supposed to be?

**Davey** That's the railway viaduct. It's on the photo.

**Hamish** Do you know when Robinson Crusoe was born?

**Davey** Yes, it's here somewhere. *(Searches papers)* 1676.

**Hamish** And the first trains ran through Lower Largo in *(questioning pause)* 1856. Nearly two hundred years later. Take it away.

**Davey** What?

**Hamish** Take it away. Remove the viaduct.

**Davey** It's taken us all week to build it. We're not moving it now.

**Hamish** Oh yes you are.

**Davey** Oh no we're not.

**Everyone** Oh yes you are.

**Davey** *(to audience)* I'll sort you lot out later.

*Whistles for staff. Two poke their heads out from behind the pillars of the viaduct*

Take it away.

*Grumbling, they walk off with the pillars as the top flies out*

*This exchange has set the pattern for the rest of the show: a narrator who is a stickler for details, and stage staff (in bright Caribbean shirts) who change scenery in full view of the audience*

**Hamish** Thank you. Let's start again.

*Lights change for*

### Scene 1

**Hamish** It is the day of the Highland Games and Village Fair.

**Captain** *(sings - from Brigadoon)*

### Song 3

Come ye to the fair.

*The villagers dance on, some bringing a fairground stall or tent. Ricky and Jeannie bring on their market stall. A couple of village boys try to steal an orange, but are apprehended*

Come ye to the fair.

*The babes dance on in school uniforms*

**All** Come ye from the hills

Come ye from the mills

Come ye from the glen

Come ye bairns, come ye men

Come ye from the loom

Come from pail and broom

Hear ye everywhere

Don't ye ken, there's a fair

Down on MacConnachy Square.

**Jeannie** Now all of ye come to Jeannie here

Come over to Jeannie's booth

I'm selling the sweetest candy here

That ever shook loose a tooth

I eat it myself and there's no doubt

It's creamy and good and thick

So laddies I hope you'll buy me out

It's making me kind of sick.

**All** Come ye from the hills  
Come ye from the mills  
Come ye from the glen  
Come ye bairns, come ye men  
Come ye from the loom  
Come from pail and broom  
Hear ye everywhere  
Don't ye ken, there's a fair  
Down on MacConnachy Square.

**Captain** Off you all go and get ready for the Games.

*All exit except Jeannie and Ricky*

Hello Jeannie, you've a good day for the Fair. I hope you're well stocked up on the stall.

**Jeannie** I think there should be enough, Captain Cockle. If not, I'm sure Ricky will soon run back to the shop for more.

**Captain** Ricky?

**Ricky** Enrico Crusoe, sir. Everyone calls me Ricky.

**Captain** Enrico? Mrs Crusoe's eldest son? Goodness, I didn't recognise you. You were still in short trousers when I went off on my last trip. What are you doing now?

**Ricky** I'm a sailor, sir. Just on the fishing boats - not round the world like you.

**Captain** I remember now - you had a brother -

**Ricky** I still have...

**Ricky/Jeannie** Robinson!

**Captain** Oh dear, what's wrong with Robinson?

**Ricky** He's crazy.

**Jeannie** He's sweet.

**Captain** One at a time. Enrico?

**Ricky** He's away with the fairies most of the time.

**Jeannie** Nonsense, He's out training most of the time. He's the best in the village at the Games, Captain Cockle.

**Ricky** And he's bottom of the class at everything else.

**Jeannie** Except arithmetic.

**Ricky** Yes, to be fair, he really works hard at his arithmetic. He wants to go to sea as a navigator you see, sir.

**Captain** Does he indeed.

**Jeannie** And all the village children love him.

**Captain** I think I'd like to meet this Robinson Crusoe.

**Ricky** That's easily arranged; here he comes.

*Robbie enters with some of the children, and carrying a caber which Ricky helps him to put down in a corner, where it will stay until Act 2*

**Robbie** Hello Ricky.

**Ricky** Hello Robbie.

**Robbie** Hello Jeannie.

**Jeannie** Hello Robbie.

**Robbie** *(to audience)* Hello kids.

**Babes/Audience** Hello Robbie.

*If they are slow to catch on then give them another chance*

**Ricky** Robbie, do you remember Mr Cockle, Captain of the Saucy Sue?

**Robbie** Captain Cockle, welcome home. When are you sailing again? Have you got a full crew? Do you need a navigator? I've been studying hard....

**Captain** But I hear you're not a very good scholar...

**Robbie** You've been talking to my brother. At least I'm better than him at arithmetic.

**Captain** Perhaps we'd better have a little test. Enrico, what are three times three?

**Ricky** Nine.

**Jeannie** Oh well done, Ricky.

**Robbie** Oh well done, Ricky. Actually, three three's are eight. Oh yes they are!

**Audience** Oh no they're not.

**Robbie** Yes they are, look, I'll show you.

*Picks up three oranges from the stall - puts two on the ground counting 'one, two'. Holds up the third one 'three', counts the two on the ground 'four, five' then returns them all to the stall six, seven, eight'*

Three three's are eight.

**Captain** Something's wrong somewhere; I'll have to check it out later. Right now I need to talk to your mother.

**Ricky** We'll take you.

**Jeannie** Watch the stall for a few minutes Robbie.

*They exit*

**Robbie** Actually, I was fooling them. I know that three three's aren't eight. I'll do it properly this time.

*He lifts oranges from stall 'one, two, three', then as before - 'four, five' for the two on the ground, 'six' for the one in his hand, 'seven, eight' for the two on the ground, and 'nine, ten, eleven' as he returns them to the stall*

Three three's are eleven. Oh yes they are (*if needed*). Listen, will you help me with something? Will you? You see my caber - well, it's much too heavy to carry around everywhere, but you never know when you might need it. If I leave it there will you tell me if anyone touches it? Will you? If you see anyone go near my caber will you shout 'Robbie' nice and loud. Will you? Let's have a practice - I'll pretend to be someone else, and you shout 'Robbie'. Here we go. Not bad. But I could be a long way away - up at Kirkton or Lundin Links - so you'll have to shout ever so loud. Let's try it with ----- (*one of the babes*). I'm going off to Pittenweem, and she'll pretend to steal my caber. Are you ready? That's great. Thanks kids, thanks -----. Now we know it's safe.

## **Robinson Crusoe**

### **The Lad from Largo**

Based on the Alexander Selkirk story via Daniel Defoe, the show has settings on the village green and at the harbour in Lower Largo, and in Barbados, under the sea.

### **Plot Summary**

Young Robinson Crusoe competes in the local Highland Games in Largo, and his prize winnings enable his mother to pay off the rent arrears demanded by villainous landlord the Laird of Lundy. He leaves Largo on Captain Cockle's ship the "Saucy Sue" to seek his fortune, but is shipwrecked on a desert island. After close encounters with Man Friday and Blackpatch the King of the Pirates, he finally makes good (of course!).

Originally written for a professional production at the Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy, this script has been specially adapted for the amateur stage.

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