

Treasure Island

- The Pantomime

Written by

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Spotlight Publications

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Website: www.spotlightpublications.com

ISBN 1 904930 67 0

Treasure Island - The Pantomime

or: "Them that died was the lucky ones..."

CAST (in order of appearance)

Principal goodies (all largish parts, at least 50 speeches or more):

Jim Hawkins. Principal boy, son of the Dame. In love with Polly Trelawney. A bright, honest character. *(In all scenes except 1.2 and 2.4)*

Dame Harriet Hawkins. Dame; mother of Jim. Owns the Admiral Benbow inn. Terrible flirt, and very "over the top". *(In all scenes except 1.2 and 2.4)*

Polly Trelawney. Daughter of Squire Trelawney. A sweet, good-natured and intelligent girl. Ends up with Jim. Dresses up as a cabin boy called Bob for part of the story. *(In all scenes except 1.1 and 1.2)*

Squire Trelawney. Good, rich, landed gentry. Bit of a "nice but dim" character - tends to ramble on a bit. *(In all scenes except 1.2 and 2.4)*

Sam. Comedy duo (either male or female). *(In all scenes except 1.2 and 2.4)*

Ella. Comedy duo (female). *(In all scenes except 1.2 and 2.4)*

Captain Smollett. Captain of the ship. An honest sea-faring man. *(In scenes 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5)*

Other

Rick and Mortis. Comedy undertakers. Very grave and dead-pan. They only appear in 1.3, but steal the show with their dance routine.

Major Pirates

Ghost of Captain Flint. Malign presence guiding events. Always speaks in rhyme. Peculiarly vulnerable to water. A very melodramatic and evil character, with plenty of good lines to deliver. *(In scenes 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5)*

Long John Silver. Head of the living pirates. Always has a parrot on his shoulder, which has a few lines. This is a significant and pivotal rôle with plenty of lines. *(In scenes 1.2, 1.5, 2.1 - 2.5)*

Blind Pew. Long John Silver's second in command. Blind, so has a cane with him. Always the one who finds things. *(In scenes 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5)*

Billy Bones. An old sea dog, who has stolen the treasure map from his shipmates. Dies early on after a couple of big scenes. *(In scenes 1.1, 1.3)*

Ben Gunn. A pirate who has been marooned on the island for the last three years. Talks to the animals. Wild eyes. Only turns up in the middle of Act 2. *(In scenes 2.3, 2.5)*

Other Pirates *(generally in 1.3, 1.5, 2.1 - 2.5)*

Walker "the Plank". The thick pirate.

Mad Maria. The most blood-thirsty pirate.

Barnacle Bess. Hideous and evil pirate.

Aaron C Rescue Dashing, a bit of a "Flashheart" character. The brightest of the pirates.

Hans von Schwarzwälderkirchtorte. German (no, surely not) very Germanic *(in 1.5, 2.1, 2.4, 2.5)*

Nobby Knees. *(in 1.5, 2.1, 2.4, 2.5)*

Bosun Daisy *(ditto)*

From here on the pirates don't have specific lines (in scenes 1.5, 2.1, 2.4, 2.5)

Blind Barney McGrew. Blind - cameo rôle, only appears in 1.5 before falling off the docks

Noxious Nell, Mandy Oars, Donald Dirk, Clive Cutlass/Cutlass Kate, *other pirates as required...*

Others, children

Inn regulars. Act 1, scene 1

Dockers. Act 1, scene 5 - Bristol docks

Children (group 1). Act 1, scene 5 - Bristol docks. They dance a hornpipe.

Children (group 2): Animals, including two bed-bugs, dung-beetle, bird, skunk, small un-assuming animal, and at least one fierce animal. *(In scene 2.3)*

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 - The Admiral Benbow Inn

Scene 2 - An alley, front of tabs

Scene 3 - The Admiral Benbow Inn

Scene 4 - On the road to Bristol, FOT

Scene 5 - Bristol docks

ACT 2

Scene 1 - On board "The Golden Behind"

Scene 2 - Rowing to the island, FOT

Scene 3 - On Treasure Island

Scene 4 - Digging for treasure, FOT

Scene 5 - Outside Ben Gunn's cave

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. "Oom Pah Pah" (Dame, Jim & Chorus)
2. (Any suitable love song) (Jim)
3. "Spread A Little Happiness" (Rick & Mortis)
4. (A song of unrequited love) (Polly)
5. "Ship Ahoy" (Dame)
6. Hornpipe (Children)

ACT 2

7. "What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor?" (Pirates & Polly)
8. "Row Row Row Your Boat" (Children, Jim, Dame, Squire & Smollett)
9. "Tiger Feet" (Mud) (Children)
10. "The Cheese Song" (Ben Gunn & Animals) (Words Hales, Hogan & Turner, music Roger Simmonds © 1998)
11. "We're In The Money" (Dame & Company)
12. Reprise: "Spread A Little Happiness" & "What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor?" (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

Scene 1

Curtains open to the interior of an inn, The Admiral Benbow. There is one door to the outside (stage R), and an interior door past the bar to the domestic quarters (stage L). There are tables & chairs around the pub, with one on its own front of tabs R. A small crowd of regulars are in the inn, and Jim. Open to a brief snatch of "the old bull and bush"

Man 1 approaches bar

Man 1 Half a bitter shandy and six straws, please. Where's that delectable mother of yours then, Jim?

Man 2 Fine woman your mother, only thing she's short of is a good man.

Jim Well, she's always on the lookout for a new model. She's upstairs at the moment prettifying herself. She's been up there for hours already so she should be down in a minute. Meanwhile, she's left me doing all of the work - as usual.

Man 3 Ah, don't worry m'boy, one day all of this will be yours.

Jim (*looking around, depressed*) That's what I'm worried about. I mean look at it, that flock wallpaper was bought second hand from a burnt down Indian restaurant on the (*local*) Road, the chairs and tables were salvaged from (*local pub/restaurant*) re-fit, and as for the customers... (*thinking on his feet*) they're really quite nice actually. (*Aside to the audience*) It's a pity they don't spend any money.

Man 1 picks up drink and heads back to his table

Billy Bones enters from the interior door L

Billy Bones Bottle of rum, Jim lad, and be quick about it!

Jim Ah, Mr Bones I - or rather we - or rather my mother, was wondering if it would be possible for you to settle your account. You have been here for quite some time now and the money you paid up front has long since run out. So if you, um, could possibly, maybe, if you wouldn't mind, um, finding your way to, um, paying...

Billy Bones (*interrupting*) What! don't you trust an old pira... sailor's word. I'm good for that money, it's just a matter of tying up a few old friends...sorry, loose ends. You know, business deals; nothing illegal mind, all above board. (*laughs at his own joke*). After spending years at sea I've managed to put a few quid away, offshore banking and all that, and it's just a matter of finding and collecting it. So you hand over that bottle of rum Jim, and we'll talk more about money later.

Jim (*aside*) How come it's always "later" with him...?

Jim reluctantly hands over the bottle. Billy Bones goes off and sits by himself at the table, front R.

Dame enters, big and loud from the interior door L

Dame Oooh hello everybody, there's quite a few in tonight. I see the Parish Council are in. (*Looking at the table of six people and half a pint*) Alright lads! (*Notices the audience*) Oooh I haven't seen you lot before. (*Turns to Jim*) I told you those new chairs would bring in a better class of customer... So much better than last year don't you think? (*To the audience*) Now then, I can see you're quite a different kettle of fish. (*Aside, to Jim*) and there are certainly some odd fish out there. (*To audience again*) I'm Dame Harriet Hawkins, landlady of this fine establishment The h'Admiral Benbow, and widder of this parish, h'l'll have you know. Now then, whenever I say "hello everybody" I want you to shout back "hello Harriet" Can you do that?

She practises a few times with the audience - not loud enough the first time, not "hello halibut", etc.

Man 4 'Ere, tip us a stave then, 'arriet!

Dame Oh I couldn't possibly...oh alright then.

Song 1

After the song, Dame goes to the bar

Dame Come on Jim, don't stand there like a slice of lemon waiting for a gin and tonic to happen... get on and earn your keep, there are plenty of glasses over there that need collecting.

Jim looks annoyed, and starts collecting the glasses

Squire Trelawney enters from outside (R) and goes up to the bar, followed by Sam and Ella

Squire Ah, Mrs Hawkins, how devilishly good to see you.

Dame And it's an absolute delight to see you...

Squire I'll have a glass of the usual please, and two bottles of pop for my valued employees here, Sam and Ella (*indicating Sam and Ella*).

Dame (*flirting*) Certainly, Squire Trelawney.

Jim (*aside to Dame*) Mother, you're flirting terribly.

Dame (*aside to Jim*) Really? I thought I was doing it rather well myself!

Squire There's no need to be so formal my dear. Plain, simple Squire will suffice.

Man 5 (*aside*) He's right about the simple bit!

Dame (*fawning, in her posh voice*) Oh, how kind, and you must call me Harriet, Squire.

Squire Harriet Squire; strange name for a woman. Bit like mine really... except for the Harriet bit.

Dame No, it's just Harriet, Squire.

Squire I know, that's just what I said, Harriet Squire. (*Shouting*) Are you a bit deaf or something? Strange creatures, women. I should know, I've got a daughter. Terribly proud of her...

Dame Oh yes, Polly. How is she? Jim was talking about her just the other day, weren't you Jim?

Jim (*through his teeth*) Yes, Mum. Thank you, Mum.

Dame Has she got a young man yet? Such a pretty young thing can't be short of suitors asking for her hand...

Squire Her hand, her hand! They've got to have the rest of her as well. Imagine the mess it would make if they just took a hand. Anyway, it would have to be a particularly special young man, she's a damn head-strong young filly and knows her own mind in these matters.

Jim, listening, looks crestfallen when he hears this

Dame I'm just like her in that respect, I'm very choosy about the men I chase, um, that chase after me.

Jim Nonsense! Last man you set your sights on ended up running away to sea!

Dame takes Squire over to the bar to serve him. Jim continues collecting glasses

Sam 'Ere, Ella, have you ever been to sea?

Ella To see what, Sam?

Sam No, no have you ever been to sea, you know, the big blue wobbly thing between the land and the sky?

Ella Like Mrs Hawkins bloomers on washing day?

Sam No you idiot, they're always grey (*Dame looks suprised and offended*) - I mean the sea as in *ocean*.

Ella Oh, I see, the sea.

Sam What, from here?

Ella No, I mean I understand. When I said "I see, the sea", I meant that when you say "the sea" I can see the sea that you mean. (*To audience*) And what could be simpler than that?

Sam looks baffled.

Sam Well, have you?

Ella No. Why do you ask?

Sam Well, I've heard that an honest man can make a fine living as a sailor, and I just thought...

Dame (*interrupting*) ... here, do you want to earn some money? I know a way you can do that. I bet you ten shillings that I can make you turn your hands over without touching you.

Ella (*thinking she's onto a dead cert*) Oh no you can't. (*Gets a note out, and puts her hands out*).

Dame Put your hands out then. No, not that way, the other way.

Ella Oh, right (*turns her hands over and realises she's been done*)

Dame Thank you (*grabs the note from her*).

Sam You silly fool. You would never catch me falling for something as stupid as that.

Dame Oh yes we would, you know. Why don't you take a seat?

Dame puts a seat behind Sam, then pulls it away just as he sits down

Well, you certainly fell for that one!

Laughter around the inn

Enough of this tumbling tom-foolery! (*Shouting*) Time, gentlemen per-lease (*rings bell*).

Sam Uh, it's five and twenty to eleven ma'am

Dame I mean, it's *time* for me to get my beauty sleep and *time* for you gentlemen - and I use the term loosely - to sling your 'ooks.

The crowd leave quietly to outside (R) leaving Jim, Dame, Squire, Sam & Ella and Bones

Squire Well, good evening to you, Harriet Squire, and thank you for your hospitality.

Dame Oh really, it was nothing

Jim (*aside*) No, you should see her when she's really trying.

Dame Be sure to come again soon, and next time bring your lovely daughter Polly - I'm sure Jim would love to see lots more of her, eh Jim?

Jim Mother!

Squire I will, yes. Well good night. Sam, Ella. Go bring the horses round - I want to be home before the cock crows.

Squire exits R.

Sam Bring the horses round?

Ella They must have fainted. Have you got your smelling salts?

Sam & Ella exit R. They both go for the door at the same time, and each try to get through first. This should become a running gag throughout the pantomime, whenever a narrow space beckons them

Dame Well, Mr Bones, your berth awaits you, breakfast is at 7:30. I'm off to my boudoir to get my beauty sleep - not that I need any! (*Preens herself*) Jim, sweetie, darling, you'll wash the glasses for Mummy won't you?

Jim Well I... (*Dame gives him a sickly smile*) Yes, Mum (*resigned*).

Dame You're such a good boy Jim, I don't know what I'd do without you. (*Exits*)

Jim Pay someone else to wash 'em for you, I suppose - not that I get paid much.

Billy Bones 'Ere boy, you want to earn yourself a few shillings?

Jim Oh yes sir, I need every penny I can get. You see, I'm in love with Polly Trelawney, but she's from a rich family (her father's Squire Trelawney you know) and I'm just a poor publican's son. I'm sure she won't have me unless I can keep her in the manner to which she's become accustomed. Well, I couldn't afford to keep her in any manner at the moment - not that she knows how I feel yet anyway. (*Hardly drawing breath*) So, I'm saving as hard as I can so that one day I'll be worthy of her hand (*sighs*).

Billy Bones (*bored, angry*) I'm not your agony uncle, you know, but I'll cause you some agony by thunder if you don't hold your tongue for a shake.

Jim Sorry, I just got a bit carried away. What do you want me to do?

Billy Bones Just a small favour for an old sea dog. You see, I've been a sailor for nigh on two score years, since I was a nipper like yourself. I've seen many a stormy night when the surf roared on the decks and

men were washed overboard one after the other. I've witnessed hangings and lashings and seen countless scurvy dogs walk the plank to their doom. But there's one in particular that bears a grudge against me for some reason that I know not of. Word is that he's looking for me and is out to do me a mischief. I must be on my guard, and I need your sharp eyes to help me. I'll thank you to keep a weather eye open for a one-legged sea-faring man, and let me know the moment he should appear. You understand your charge, boy?

Jim I understand, look out for a sailor with one leg, and let you know as soon as I see him.

Billy Bones That's it lad, and I'll pay you well for your trouble (*Jim holds out his hand for payment*) when I leave. (*Exits*)

Jim begins to clear up

Jim All this talk of one-legged men is a bit scary, but I must do something to earn some extra money or Polly will never have me.

Jim sings:

Song 2

Curtains close at the end of the song

Scene 2

Front of tabs

Scene begins with the Ghost of Captain Flint entering L in a flash and a puff of smoke, with eerie music playing. The lighting is low, evoking a back-street or alley somewhere. He cackles demonically

Flint I am the ghost of Captain Flint, a pirate of great fame,
On every cargo rich or poor my crew would stake a claim.
Our luck turned good one blessed day when fortune we did find,
We buried it on isle afar and there left it behind.
We left it for a year or more suspicion to allay,
And made a map which marked the spot where all our treasure lay.
But one amongst our number was a greedy man, you see,
Billy Bones had wit and took his opportunity.
One night a violent storm brewed up and hit us with a passion,
We broke both masts and ended up not quite in Bristol fashion. Billy took the lifeboat - the double-crossing clown,
He nicked off with the treasure map and left us all to drown!
But some were saved and with me will avenge this sinful deed,
We'll teach old Bones a lesson for his selfishness and greed.
I drowned that night, now haunting is the way I spend my time,
Unfortunately I'm pale in hue and only speak in rhyme.
Consequently I'm afflicted with a phantom-numbing fear
Of damp or spray or ponds or brine, of water pure and clear.
If any drop should touch me, just an accidental splash,
My head will spin, my limbs will quake, I'll come out in a rash.
My eyes will roll inside my head and arms turn out akimbo
I'll be doomed to spend the rest of death just festering in limbo.
But I'm not here to chat with you for business or for pleasure
I'm here to find old Billy Bones and the map of buried treasure!

Blind Pew enters, stage R

Ah har!

Oh there you are, Blind Pew you swab, I thought I heard your moans.

So come on then, out with it - have you found that Billy Bones?

Blind Pew I've not seen hide nor hair of him...mind you I haven't seen hide nor hair of anybody for the past 25 years - not since that terrible accident...

Flint Your accident, now I recall, befell you as a nipper.

Just say again what happened with that grease-gun and a kipper?

Blind Pew (*embarrassed*) Well, I'd rather not talk about it (*mutter*s) ... it was a particularly *nasty* kipper, and the grease-gun was just incidental...

Flint Enough of this tomfoolery, lets cut straight to the chase.

Can you tell me news of any soul who's seen that Bones's face?

For when I claps my hands on him he'll rue the day he was born,

His neck I'll choke, his tongue will loll, his eyes will pop like corn!

Blind Pew (*tentatively*) So you weren't just going to tell him off then?

Flint (*continuing*) His belly I'll split from side to side, and chew on his oesophagus,

And that'll teach the yellow dog for ever double-crossing us!

Blind Pew (*winces at bad rhyme*) I've searched the whole west side of town, but all I heard was that he was seen in these parts some weeks ago, travelling east. Rumour has it that he's found lodgings there, but beyond that I've had no report.

Flint Well done my friend, you've found some news - the first we've heard since Michaelmas,

We'll teach that swab to rue the day he ever tried to trick all us!

Blind Pew winces again

But hold! I hear the tell-tale sound of Silver's wooden pin,

He's been a-sounding east of town, p'raps he can fill us in.

He's nicknamed Long John Silver, but it's not due to his height...

It's because of lamé underpants he wears in bed at night!

When on a trail he's second to none, that wily monopod,

He could talk his way off a Spaniard's brig - he's as slippery as a cod!

Long John Silver enters, R.

Blind Pew Ah, John, my old shipmate! Have you news of where Bones has gone to ground?

Long John That's *Long John Silver* to you, you swivel-eyed son of a walrus! I'll thank you to use my full name in future. Now then, as it happens I have... (*pauses*)

Flint Well come on then and spit it out, or I'll tie you to the anchor,

Let's hear your tale - and that right now - you miserable stinker.

Long John Alright then, don't split your main-brace... I heard from a reliable source that he's holed up in an inn by the name of The Admirable Bimbo..

Blind Pew Admirable Bimbo?

Long John Well, maybe that was the land-lady. Something like that any road - it's over on the cheap side of town, so let's make tracks straight away and have it out with the low-down double-crossing bilge-rat.

Flint Now bide your time you head-strong fool, I play a longer game,

Let's make the lubber rue the day he messed with John so lame.

We'll tip him first the old black spot - the pirate's age-old curse,

We'll make him sweat afore he dies, to make his ending worse.

(*To audience*) Since time long-gone it's always been the way of pirate lore

That one who's doomed first gets the spot, to make him fear the more.

Once spot's been served the stricken wretch will know his doom is nigh,

He'll know for certain for him it's curtains - by nightfall he will die!

During the next lines, Flint gives Pew a piece of paper with a large black spot on it

So ready Pew, my task for you is to serve this spot on Bones,
Then round up all the blackest souls to send him to Davy Jones.
Once he's done in you search the inn and find the crucial chart,
Then we'll find the treasure at our leisure - each man will get his part.
Long John, now here's the part you play in our mutual destiny,
Go find a ship and it equip, to sail on the North-Easterly.
Gather up the remaining crew and wait for us in Bristol,
Then we'll all set sail to the Caribbee with cutlass and with pistol! Ha har!

Exit Flint, L

Long John Right Pew, take the black spot to the inn where Billy Bones is hiding, and serve him his sentence of death! Ha har!!

Blind Pew I can't wait to see his face. Ha har!!

Exits R

Long John looks blank, then follows him off with a shrug

Treasure Island

Or, "Them that died was the lucky ones ..."

R L Stevenson's rollicking adventure yarn featuring Jim Hawkins, Long John Silver, Blind Pew, Ben Gunn et al., brought to vivid life by the team of Claire Wright, Richard Hales, & Mike Hogan.

Plot Summary

Young Jim and his Mum Harriet find Captain Flint's map and aided by Squire Trelawney and his daughter Polly set sail in Captain Smollett's ship "The Golden Behind" to retrieve the treasure. But he is pursued by Flint's vindictive spirit, and assorted cutthroats, including the infamous Long John Silver.

A feast of fun and adventure, fast-paced, and with "Ha-hars" galore.

ISBN 1 904930 67 0