

The Golden Pearl of Atlantis

A pantomime by Bob Pearson

Countess Barracuda, the wicked but beautiful rival of Queen Amphitrite has usurped much of the elderly queen's realm. Poseidon himself, King of the sea, has gone missing leaving the defenceless monarch alone and at the mercy of her nemesis who has designs on the throne of Atlantis.

Realising the dynasty must be secured with some capital injection, the queen arranges a ball where wealthy suitors can compete for the hand of Princess Aquarius. Unfortunately none of the gentlemen callers appeal and in any case Aquarius is a modern thinking girl, who wants no part of an arranged marriage. She storms off into the night much to the approval of her two friends Pisces and Olga.

Meanwhile, in the world above the seas, Tom Sharpe, a capable, if penniless lighthouse keeper, is fishing off his lonely look out post. Aquarius is accidentally hooked and after a tremendous struggle she is landed. Though quick to deny it, Aquarius is instantly drawn to the handsome young man and the feeling is mutual, however there are certain obstacles to overcome, not least of which is that she is half fish and he cannot swim a stroke. By swallowing a magic potion Tom is able to visit the underwater home of the mermaids, namely the palace of Atlantis, engulfed by the sea many years before.

Aquarius and Tom find Amphitrite's situation has worsened. She has been given only seven days to pay off an outstanding debt owed to Barracuda. The old queen has also been menaced by Barracuda's enforcers, Flounder and Grouper, two dull, unsubtle, no nonsense members of the management team. It seems a hopeless situation and the old monarch appears to have no option but to surrender her throne.

Olga, the Russian mermaid reminds all present that a glimmer of hope exists if the legendary golden pearl can be found in time. Its value is more than enough to cover the costs of all Amphitrite's debts.

Tom and Aquarius set out on a series of adventures where they are pitted against the encroaching dangers of the gas drillers, nuclear dumpers and the insidious oil seekers which threaten the oceans. Eventually, at the bottom of the world's deepest, darkest ocean, they come across a wretched old man chained to a huge chest, none other they believe than Davy Jones himself.

The unfortunate wretch informs them he has been a victim of Barracuda and is doomed forever to linger in his watery prison. Tom frees the old man and the chest, when opened reveals the fabulous pearl. All three hasten back to Atlantis with the aid of a sea horse drawn chariot.

Time has run out for the besieged queen and Barracuda is about to seat herself on the throne. The heroic trio arrives five minutes too late.

All is not lost however as the old man reminds the assembly there are many differing time zones and by a legal loophole the Queen should be spared.

Furious at this turn of events, Barracuda orders her enforcers to attack. It is at this point that the old man reveals himself to be none other than Poseidon himself and with his mighty trident subdues his adversaries. They are banished to live out their days as bottom dwellers and feared creatures of the deep.

Poseidon and his queen are reunited and Tom is given permission to wed his beloved Aquarius.

Way Out West the Panto'

A pantomime by Bob Pearson

A pantomime of 'Boy meets girl; boy loses girl and then finds her again'.

Storyline

Roger, an Englishman, has got engaged to an American girl by long distance. He travels West to claim his bride, whilst she travels East across country to meet him. Her stagecoach is ambushed and Sue, the girl, wanders off into the bad lands, suffering from amnesia. The only other survivor of the ambush is Cactus Jack, an old prospector. He reaches the nearest town and staggers into the saloon, his only possession in the world now being a solitary tin of beans.

The saloon in question is owned by Aunt Calamity and run by her feckless nephew Sidekick. These two are desperate for money and decide to head towards Deadgood, California, to try and open another saloon. They are joined by Roger (in his search for Sue). The driver is Cactus Jack who is on a quest to register some mysterious deeds to a gold mine but who has to earn an income in the meantime.

The villain of the piece is Rattlesnake Pete who is on the trail of the gold mine (Cactus Jack does not know he has the deeds). Rattlesnake engages the services of two, down on their luck cowboys, Bart and Mart, obviously he will stop at nothing to get his hands on the fortune. The stage leaves for Deadgood but loses a wheel and is delayed. Rattlesnake Pete arranged the 'accident' and sends Mart and Bart, disguised as repair men to further delay and confuse things.

In their first confrontation, Rattlesnake gets the better of Roger. The latter is knocked on the head and suffers from memory loss. Things look grim as Cactus Jack is about to be tortured when the Indians, led by their chieftain Big Sitting Bottom appear on the scene. The three baddies disappear at once, without their precious deeds.

The Indians are accompanied by Sue, who has been adopted by the tribe and is known as 'White Dove' (the hero and heroine do not recognise one another)

There is obvious distrust between the cowboys and the Indians at first, this turns into a type of rivalry. So much so that Sidekick, much against his own will, is persuaded to escape and go for help.

The close proximity of the passengers sees romance blossom between Roger and White Dove and even Calamity has designs on her man.

Back in town Pete and the stooges try out another delaying plan, this, like the others, amounts to nothing. At the Indian village, relationships have settled down and romance is in the air.

Desperate to get his hands on the claims from Rattlesnake Pete, with the stooges, try one last ploy, fortunately they are overheard by Sidekick and with his new found confidence, courtesy of the Bean Genie, he heads back to the Indian village.

In a final desperate showdown Sidekick engages Pete in a fast draw. Roger wins out in a duel with the baddy and the claims form ends up in the hands of Cactus Jack. There is marriage in the air and even Sidekick is resurrected from the dead.

Treasure Chest A pantomime by Bob Pearson

This is a tale of pirates reclaiming previously buried treasure. As they pursue their gold, they are discovered by Sam and Sue Green. After a brief struggle the two innocent youths are overpowered and taken as apprentice pirates.

The pirate gang, led by Big Jake Blackheart, make their way back aboard the Black Pig and head off towards their base on Skull Island in the Caribbean.

Inevitably the ship sinks, the rats escape in the life boats, capturing Mrs Coddle, the cook, as they do. Blackheart and company are forced onto rafts and things are looking so bleak that it is decided to ditch a number of the gang into shark- infested waters. Luckily land is sighted and the crew scramble ashore onto what they believe is a deserted island.

Big Jake lets his importance get the better of him and tries to rule by fear. Sam and Sue fall in love with members of the crew and this adds to the captain's frustration. Meanwhile the one lone inhabitant of the tropical paradise, the marooned Ben Doone, appears and informs the gang that treasure has been buried on the island.

In a desperate duel, Sam and Blackheart face each other, but are saved from serious harm by the intervention of a wish- granting Sprite.

Can all end well for the infatuated lovers? Will Blackheart die a rich man? Who got the gold? Some of the answers might be revealed!

Cast of Characters

Big Jake Blackheart	Captain of the Black Pig
Mrs Coddle	The ship's cook (A dame figure)
William Smee	A leading pirate
Bess	A pirate lass of all trades
Roger	A slightly effeminate cabin boy
Sam Green	A heroic type, with a thirst for adventure
Sue Green	Sister to Sam, a sensible type
Ben Doone	Marooned pirate, slightly mad, avid Celtic supporter
Tonic	A magical sprite (Always speaks in rhyme)
Rosaline Rat	Leader of the rat pack aboard ship
Owls 1 & 2	
Sharks 1 & 2	Minor parts essential for scene setting
Monkeys 1 & 2	
Chorus of Pirates	
Junior chorus of rats	