NODA Presents

ROBINSON CRUSOE

A popular and traditional tale

Written by

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SYNOPSIS

This well-loved story is the tale of a young man called Robinson, who is deeply in love with Polly Perkins, the daughter of the local Squire. True to form, the Squire does not care for the young man, that is of course until he overhears Jack, Robinson's brother, telling Ma Crusoe that Robinson has found a treasure map. Squire Perkins immediately offers the use of his one remaining ship, The Scurvy Privateer, so they can set sail in search of the treasure. There is a great deal of fun and games on board ship, until Davi Jones, in his quest to find and keep the treasure, ensure that the ship sinks. All is not lost, as Amphitrite summons the help of Girl Friday to guide all of the castaways to safety upon the Gold Island. With all good pantomime tales, there is a twist at the end, and there is happiness for everyone.

The cast includes:

Ma Crusoe	Male – Dame and mother to Robinson and Jack. Larger than life, needs to have a good rapport with the audience. Not a great deal of singing, needs to be able to put across a song in a more comedic style. Ma a key part of one of the slapstick routines and must be prepared to commit to the practice of this or the routine will not work – timing is essential.
Robinson	Female – typical principal boy. Needs to be strong and traditional. Must be able to sing.
Jack	Male – comedy solo. Needs excellent timing as he is involved in some slapstick. Not a part which is full of funny lines, so needs the ability to bring that little bit extra to the role. An idea would be to base the character on 'Ali G' to give it more character. Must be able to sing.
Squire Perkins	Male – father of the Polly. Has been wealthy but nobody realises that most of his money has now gone. Needs to be the one in charge, but doesn't have to be done in a nasty way. Turns into the King of the Island at the end, delivering his song in an 'Elvis' style. Therefore, must be able to sing.
Polly Perkins	Female – principal girl. All-round loveliness, almost twee. Cares deeply for Robinson even though her father doesn't like for the relationship. Must be able to sing.
Felicity Futtocks	Female – almost like a second principal girl, but Felicity has to be larger than life. Plenty of scope for comedy for the person who is prepared to invest in the part. Create a character of your choice.
Mrs Futtocks	Female – Felicity's mother. Again, needs to be a character and this could be anything! She is put out that her husband is at sea, most of the time. Doesn't think twice about being a little flirtatious if the need arises. Needs to be able to put across a song rather than be a strong singer.

- **Capt Rehab** Male regular Captain of Squire Perkins' ships. Although a feared pirate, he is not necessarily the 'baddie'. Must be able to sing, and will need to commit to the slapstick routine in terms of practice or the sketch will not work.
- Lieu Futtocks Male one half of the comedy duo. This character is loosely based on Sgt Wilson from Dad's Army. Very polite and laid back – has to be, as he is married to Mrs Futtocks. (The word 'futtocks' is a nautical term and is the rope in the rigging of a ship.) Group singing rather than solo.
- Able SeamanMale or Female the other half of the comedy duo. Has a stutterSpankerand is obviously the sillier of the pair. (The word 'spanker' is
another nautical term and is a type of sail on a sailboat.) Group
singing rather than solo.
- Dr FosterThe town doctor who goes along for the ride! Turns into the IslandWitch Doctor. Has a song. A fun part for the right person.
- **Davi Jones** Male or Female, so either Davy or Davina. NASTY the most horrible baddie. Needs to be almost manic in the performance. Lots of boos are needed from the audience.
- Amphitrite Female Goddess of the sea. Calm, serene, always comforting those in need.
- **Girl Friday** Female Helps Robinson to try to find the treasure. Without knowing, is very attractive to Jack. Must be able to sing.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE	The Port side
	The scene is a typical harbour scene. The gang plank is at the back of the stage, leading onto the ship, SR. Down towards the front of the stage is The Nobody Inn. The chorus, Ma Crusoe, Jack Crusoe and Robinson Crusoe are all on a full stage.
SONG	DRUNKEN SAILOR
Ma Crusoe	(Picking up one of the chorus) How many times have I told you? You behave in my establishment or I throw you out! (Throws chorus off stage)
	All but a small group of the chorus follow offstage.
Ma Crusoe	 (Looking to the audience) Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see you lot out there. Let's have a look. Oh yes, same old suspects. What's matter – nothing good on TV tonight? (Picks on one man) Oooh I say. Hello sailor! What's your name? (Man says) Well hello Bert. That's a nice name. Where you from? (Man says) Sorry! (Man repeats) No I heard you the first time. I'm just sorry. If you're lucky I'll let you buy me an ice cream in the interval! I'd better introduce myself. My name is Ma Crusoe. I'm the owner of The Nobody Inn – and ain't that just the case. Since the recession and that [insert name of local new shop] in [insert
	<i>location</i>], people are staying at home. Nobody wants my beverages (sobs). Oh wake up you lot – it's going to be a long night if you don't start to participate. I said (sobbing) nobody wants my beverages!
Audience	Aw!
Ma Crusoe	That's better. I really am stony broke though. If I don't find a way to raise some money soon, I'm going to have to close the Inn. (Realising) I know! You lot can help me. Will you boys and girls?
Audience	Yes!
Ma Crusoe	I can't hear you. Will you help me boys and girls?
Audience	Yes!

Ma Crusoe I've had it told on very good authority that you are a particularly generous audience. I've seen how much you've spent on sweeties and raffle tickets. (To chorus) Now, has anyone got a bag? Chorus Here Ma Crusoe. You can have mine! Ma Crusoe Thank you dear. Now you've heard of a Just Giving page, well this is my Just Giving bag! (Going into the audience) So, if I can just have your spare change that will help me enormously. And if you sign this piece of paper I'll even benefit from Gift Aid! Come on, hand it over! Robinson Ma! What do you think you're doing? Ma Crusoe Robinson, the audience are going to give me their spare change. It'll help us pay all those outstanding bills. Robinson You can't do that! (Grabs hold of her) Ma Crusoe Why not? Robinson Because you just can't! It's just not right. Ma Crusoe (Looks at herself, and then Robinson) There are a lot of things about Pantomime that aren't right, but it doesn't stop us doing them! Here love, you can have your bag back. Chorus Thank you! Are you really broke? Robinson I'm afraid we are. Business has been really slow recently. Jack It doesn't help that Squire Perkins has just doubled the rent. Chorus Why has he done that, Jack? I blame Robinson! Jack Robinson It's not my fault. Jack If you didn't go chasing after his daughter, he wouldn't be so angry at us. The rest of the chorus exit, shaking their heads. Robinson But I can't help it. I've fallen in love with Polly. Jack moves to challenge Robinson. Jack It would be better for all of us if you hadn't. Ma moves in between the pair.

Ma Crusoe Now, now boys. This isn't going to help anyone at all.

Enter Polly SR.

Polly	Robinson!	
Robinson	(Runs towards Polly but circles away as Squire Perkins enters) Polly! Squire Perkins! Good day to you Sir.	
Squire Perkins	What's good about it?	
Jack	You've nothing to worry about. <u>Someone's</u> not doubled your rent!	
Squire Perkins	You can always find somewhere else to live.	
Ma Crusoe	Jack! Shut up before we end up homeless. (To Squire Perkins) Why hello, Squire Perkins. Sophisticated, charming and debonair.	
Jack	(Aside) And that's just three words he can't spell!	
Squire Perkins	Come here, Polly. I don't want you conversing with that good for nothing boy.	
Robinson	Here, who are you calling a 'good for nothing'? I've got big plans for the future I'll have you know.	
Squire Perkins	You'll never be good enough for my daughter.	
Ma Crusoe	Now now, Squire – don't be a spoil sport. Jack, go inside and pour the Squire a pint of our finest.	
	Jack enters the Inn.	
Ma Crusoe	Come on, Squire Perkins, there are a few little issues I wish to discuss with you.	
Squire Perkins	But	
Ma Crusoe	These two will be fine alone for a few minutes. Stop worrying about them.	
She pushes him into the Inn.		
Polly	I'm really sorry about Daddy, Robinson. I'm sure once he really gets to know you – he'll realise what a wonderful person you really are.	
Robinson	He'll never think I'm good enough for you, Polly. Not until I'm rich and I can't see that happening anytime soon.	

Polly	It's so unfair, Robinson.
Robinson	I know, but don't you agree? Your father isn't going to let you have anything to do with me until I'm rich.
Polly	I'm sure he'll come round in the end. (Brightly) Anyway, what have you been doing today?
Robinson	Actually, I went for a walk down by the docks and I found something rather interesting.
Polly	What's that?
Robinson	Wait here!
	Robinson runs into the Inn and brings out a bottle.
Polly	(Confused) What's that?
Robinson	It's a bottle! I found it at the edge of the water.
Polly	A bottle?
Robinson	But look. There's something inside it. Maybe it's a message.
Polly	(Excitedly) Quick Robinson – leťs look!
Robinson	(Taking paper out of the bottle) It's a map.
Polly	What kind of map?
Robinson	It looks like a treasure map. Polly, this could be the answer to all our problems. If we find the treasure, then your father will have to accept me.
Polly	Oh Robinson. We'll be together at last.
SONG	HAPPY TOGETHER
	Jack and some of the chorus enter during the song.
Jack	What are you two so happy about?
Polly	We're going to be rich!
Jack	Really? I thought you and your father were already rich.
Polly	We're not as rich as you think. But look at this! (Hands over the map)
Jack	What's this?

Robinson	Look at it closely Jack. It's a treasure map!
	Enter Ma Crusoe and Squire Perkins.
Ma Crusoe	Who mentioned treasure?
Jack	Look Ma! Robinson's found a treasure map. We're going to be rich.
Ma Crusoe	Hear that Perky boy? We're gonna be rich!
Squire Perkins	Ha! But you haven't found it yet. There'll be no treasure near here.
Robinson	There isn't. We're going to have to travel the seas. I need a ship!
Squire Perkins	(Slyly, to the audience) I have a cunning plan. You can have one of my ships as long as I can come with you.
Polly	But Daddy, you only <u>have</u> one ship left.
Squire Perkins	(To Polly, quietly) Shush Polly. (Openly) I used to have more. In fact, I used to have a whole fleet.
Jack	What happened to them?
Squire Perkins	Er – I sold them.
Polly	No you didn't, Daddy. They all sank. The only one left is The Scurvy Privateer.
Ma Crusoe	Delightful name. So, if we take your ship, we all risk being shipwrecked?
Squire Perkins	It's the best ship I have.
Jack	It's the only ship you have!
Robinson	So, are we all agreed? We set sail on The Scurvy Privateer?
Squire Perkins	You can pay me when we return, and if you find the treasure and become rich, then I may even allow you to marry Polly.
Robinson	We'll need a crew.
Squire Perkins	You can use my regular crew. They've just returned from a voyage.
Ma Crusoe	And we can make up the rest. I'll be chief cook!
Jack	I'll be the bottle washer!

Polly	And I'll be
Squire Perkins	You'll be nothing. You are the owner's daughter, and as such, will not work on this voyage.
Ma Crusoe	I'm so excited – I'm off to pack my bags. Come on boys.
Robinson	We set sail at noon! I'll see you then Polly.
	Ma Crusoe, Robinson exit into The Nobody Inn. Squire Perkins and Polly exit SR. Jack is about to leave.
Felicity	Cooee! Jack!
Jack	Oh my word, it's Felicity.
	Enter Felicity and Mrs Futtocks.
Felicity	Hello Jack!
Jack	(Nervously) Hello, Felicity. Hello, Mrs Futtocks. Nice day we're having.
Mrs Futtocks	What's nice about it? My husband hasn't returned from his last voyage and my only daughter seems to only have eyes for the village idiot.
Jack	(Aside to the audience) I'm not surprised her husband stays away. (Realising) Hey, who are you calling an idiot?
Felicity	You're not an idiot Jack. I think you're lovely. I wish you'd take me out walking one day.
Jack	Well, you see, it's like this Felicity. I'm just so busy helping Ma run the Inn, there just doesn't seem to be enough time to do anything else.
Mrs Futtocks	You never seem to be busy when I see you.
Jack	And besides that – I'm going on a little voyage.
Felicity	Oh Jack, don't leave me. I'd be so lonely without you. Mummy, can't we go too?
Jack	(Panicked) What? No! I don't think there's any room. I think it'll be a long and difficult journey. Far too dangerous for a delicate flower like you.
Felicity	Oh Mummy! Did you hear him? He called me a delicate flower! Please can we go?

Mrs Futtocks	I shall go and see Squire Perkins this very minute. With any luck, your father may be on this voyage and I'll get to see him at last.	
Felicity	Oh Jack – did you hear that? Mummy and I are coming with you.	
Jack	(Resigned) Terrific – just what I always wanted!	
Mrs Futtocks	Come along, Felicity. We've no time to waste.	
Felicity	I'll see you soon Jack. I'm so excited.	
	Mrs Futtocks and Felicity exit, SR.	
Jack	(Exiting into the Inn) I feel like a lie down.	
	Captain, Lieutenant and Able Seaman Spanker enter from the ship at the back of the stage.	
Capt Rehab	Ahoy there, Maties. Back on dry land at last. A weaker man would've bin addled by that trip.	
Lieu Futtocks	I say that was <u>quite</u> a difficult journey, I felt awfully queasy as we came round the Bay of Biscay.	
Capt Rehab	You really need to toughen up Futtocks – yus never makes a Pirate Captain like me if you don't.	
Lieu Futtocks	Well if truth be told, I'm not really bothered. I've been getting quite a bit of earache recently from Mrs Futtocks you see. I think she's awfully cross that I'm away most of the time.	
A S Spanker	I ser say Sir. It's nice to be back in such a sper splendid place. Don't you agree, fer Futtocks?	
Lieu Futtocks	I do indeed. Although (looking out to the audience), I'm not sure about the this lot.	
Capt Rehab surveys the audience.		
Capt Rehab	Yer lily-livered bunch of limpets. But wait here – (to a lady in the audience) Arr – I like what I be seeing here. A trim little craft she be. I like's the cut of 'er jib. I don't think I's 'ad the pleasure, Missie.	
A S Spanker	(Looking at the lady) I don't think you're going to either, Sir.	
Capt Rehab	Blistering barnicles – bilge, ye speaks. I is the most handsome Captain ever sailed the seas.	
Audience	Oh no you're not!	

Capt Rehab	Oh yes I is
Audience	Oh no you're not!
Capt Rehab	I is! Etc
Lieu Futtocks	Well, you're possibly not <u>the</u> best looking, Captain. I have seen maybe one or two more
Capt Rehab	Belay, t'is bilge ye speaks.
A S Spanker	I thinks ye looks fer fine Captain – ye a ser sea dog o' the ber best order.
Capt Rehab	What we needs is a real booty of a voyage. We needs to be earnin' dubloons a plenty. Makes me the most powerful Cap'n of the seas.
Lieu Futtocks	If you don't mind Captain, I'd better just pay a call in to the good lady before we set sail again. She can give a jolly good tongue lashing when she's in the mood.
Capt Rehab	Women is weak. You need to stand ye ground.
Lieu Futtocks	Well yes, I do realise this, but have you ever met Mrs Futtocks?
A S Spanker	Ber bit of an awesome woman if you ask me.
Capt Rehab	(Shouting) Well nobody did asks you. Now what we needs is a plan.
Lieu Futtocks	A plan, Sir?
Capt Rehab	A plan!
A S Spanker	What ser sort of per plan?
Capt Rehab	A plan which makes me the most powerful Captain o' the seas.
Lieu Futtocks	Well I think you're quite powerful as it is.
Capt Rehab	I's not powerful enough for me, matey.
A S Spanker	Oh dear. 'E's off again. (To audience) 'E does this from time to time.
Capt Rehab	(Starting to rage and pace) I wants to see Blackbeard taste me cat o'nine tails, begad. I'll 'ave 'is lights and liver, then feed 'im to the fish.
Lieu Futtocks	Oh, I say Captain. That sounds jolly awful to say the least.

A S Spanker Ber but that wasn't yer treasure, Captain.

Capt Rehab (Shouting) Blaggard! I's the most fearsome pirate of the seas, matey, an' don't ye forget it.

A S Spanker Aye aye, Captain.

Capt Rehab

SONG REHAB

Enter Squire Perkins at the end of the song.

- Squire Perkins Ah, Rehab, there you are. I want you to prepare to sail at noon.
- Capt Rehab We's only just hit dry land.
- Squire Perkins That might be the case, but we've important business to do.
- A S Spanker Ber but, we've just let all the ster ster staff go on shore leave, Squire Perkins.
- Squire Perkins Don't worry about that. I can find you plenty of willing volunteers. You just get the ship ready.

Robinson enters from the Inn – bringing luggage.

- Squire Perkins Ah Robinson, my friend. Good news we sail at noon.
- Robinson That is good news indeed. We're packed and ready. I've been studying the treasure map and we've a dangerous journey ahead.
- Squire Perkins Nothing to fret about. We have an experienced crew.

Aside, so Squire Perkins and Robinson can't hear. Capt Rehab starts plotting with Lieu Futtocks and A S Spanker.

- Capt Rehab Did ye hear the word treasure, me hearties?
- Lieu Futtocks I believe I did, Captain.
- A S Spanker Cer, certainly did, Captain.
- Capt Rehab This is it! Treasure will sees me as the most powerful pirate of the seas.
- Lieu Futtocks But how are you going to get the treasure, when they have the map? I think they'll notice if it goes missing.

- Capt Rehab I got a nose for treasure. One dark night I'll find that map and over the side 'e goes. No-one will hear the splash.
- A S Spanker Sper, splendid plan, Captain.
- Capt Rehab 'Tis time to introduce ourselves me thinks.

As the Captain approaches, Robinson hastily rolls up the map.

- Capt Rehab Ahoy there boy. Be yers one of me new crew?
- Robinson Yes Captain. There'll also be my brother and mother.
- Capt Rehab Women, eh? Be she a cook?
- Robinson She has her moments.
- Capt Rehab That be good enough for me. Tell 'er l's be seeing 'er at the Captain's table this evening.
- Robinson I'll tell her now, Captain.

Robinson goes back into the Inn. Squire Perkins exits.

- Squire Perkins I'll see you at noon, Captain.
- Capt Rehab Able Seaman Spanker?
- A S Spanker Aye Captain?
- Capt Rehab Gets ready to set sail.
- A S Spanker Aye aye Captain.

Enter Felicity and Mrs Futtocks with luggage ready for the voyage.

Felicity	Daddy!
Mrs Futtocks	There you are. You were due back weeks ago.
Lieu Futtocks	Yes dear. I am rather sorry about that. But we had to take a bit of a diversion round Cape Cod.
Mrs Futtocks	Months at a time you leave me. I'm surprised Felicity even knows who you are.
Felicity	Did you bring me a present, Daddy?
Lieu Futtocks	Not this time, I'm afraid.

Felicity Huh! What's the point of you travelling round the world and not bringing anything back? Mrs Futtocks I don't know why I put up with you sometimes. You can be really thoughtless. Lieu Futtocks I thought you rather liked my charm, humour and intelligence. Mrs Futtocks You thought? You thought? When did you last have a sensible thought? Lieu Futtocks (Aside) When I decided to go on the last voyage. Felicity Has Mummy told you that we're coming on your next voyage? Lieu Futtocks Oh dear, are you? It could get rather choppy you know. Mrs Futtocks It's the only way I can get to see you. It can be our second honeymoon. Lieu Futtocks I haven't got over the first one yet. (To the audience) For twenty years, we were blissfully happy - then we got married. Mrs Futtocks I've seen Squire Perkins and he's agreed to let us sail. He says Felicity will be good company for his daughter Polly. Felicity Can we go on board yet Daddy? I want to choose my cabin. Mrs Futtocks Of course we can Felicity. Come on. (To Lieu Futtocks) Bring the bags. Mrs Futtocks and Felicity go on board the ship. Lieu Futtocks Oh my word – this really is going to be a difficult voyage. Maybe she'll fall overboard! I can hope! He picks up the luggage and follows them on board the ship. The ship bell sounds. All who board the ship enter from all entrances with their luggage. First to appear is Doctor Foster. Doctor? Chorus Dr Foster Yes? What can I do for you? Chorus I think I've swallowed a pen. Dr Foster Well use a pencil for the time being. Chorus Doctor?

Dr Foster	And what can I do for you?
Chorus	I think I swallowed a bone.
Dr Foster	Are you choking?
Chorus	No, honestly! I did!
Chorus	Doctor. When I press myself here, here and here – it hurts, and hurts and hurts.
Dr Foster	You have a broken finger.
	Squire Perkins enters with Polly.
Squire Perkins	Ah Foster, there you are. I've been looking for you everywhere.
Dr Foster	Well here I am.
Squire Perkins	I want you to come on this voyage with us. The usual ship's doctor has called in sick and I don't travel too well.
Dr Foster	At your service Squire. It'll be a nice break from my normal routine.
Squire Perkins	Oh and doctor?
	Squire Perkins pulls Dr Foster away from the crowd.
Squire Perkins	Have you got anything for wind?
Dr Foster	(Opening his bag) Here's a kite.
	Squire Perkins moves away. Ma Crusoe enters with Jack.
Ma Crusoe	Dr Foster, I need your advice about Jack here.
Jack	Don't Ma! It's embarrassing!
Ma Crusoe	If we're going on a long voyage together, then you'll have to get it sorted.
Dr Foster	What's the matter Jack?
Jack	I'm a bit embarrassed.
Ma Crusoe	He's got bad teeth, foul breath and smelly feet.
Jack	Ma! Not so loud! People will hear.

Dr Foster	Oh that's easy to diagnose. You've got foot and mouth disease.
	Chorus goes up to Ma Crusoe.
Chorus	My Mum says you've been kicked out of your house and that's why you're leaving on this ship.
Ma Crusoe	Well you just tell her to mind her own business. She needs to spend less time gossiping in <i>[insert name of local hairdressers]</i> and more time getting her hair done if you ask me.
Paper Boy	Read all about it! Read all about it!
	Paper Boy enters at the same time as Robinson and Polly.
Paper Boy	Pirate ship attacked. Forty sailors thrown overboard.
Robinson	Here boy. Let me have a look at one of those.
Paper Boy	That'll be sixpence.
Ma Crusoe	Sixpence? (Snatching the paper from Robinson) In that case you can have it back.
Paper Boy	But you've read it now.
Ma Crusoe	So?
Paper Boy	So – you still have to pay for it.
Ma Crusoe	Listen here sonny Jim.
Paper Boy	My name is Jake.
Ma Crusoe	Alright then, sonny Jake. That paper has already been read hasn't it?
Paper Boy	I suppose so.
Ma Crusoe	Well I'm not interested in reading second hand news. So sling your hook!
Paper Boy	(Exiting) But (Confused)
Robinson	It seems trouble follows wherever we go.
Polly	Don't worry Robinson. Are you ready to set sail?
Jack	(Whispering to Robinson) Have you got the 'you know what'?

Robinson	Tucked away Jack.
	Entering at the back with A S Spanker, Lieu Futtocks. Mrs Futtocks and Felicity also enter and Felicity runs to grab hold of Jack.
Capt Rehab	All aboard, me hearties.
Polly	Come on Robinson – let's leave all these troubles behind us.
SONG	PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES

SCENE TWO Good versus Evil

Davi Jones enter and stands in front of the curtains. Eventually moving SL. Thunder and lightning.

Davi Jones	I've no doubt you've been expecting me I am the curse of the deep blue sea
	The ships which sail above my locker
	Their destiny will be a shocker
	Many a sailor sets sail with a map
	Never aware that they'll face a mishap
	For there I will wait in still waters deep
	Until all my victims fall fast asleep
	Then all their lives I will surely claim
	Those that I capture <u>will</u> fear my name.

SONG MY NAME

Enter Amphitrite through the curtains and moves SR.

Amphitrite	Be gone you villain – make sure you're hidden Your nastiness should be forbidden Those sailing seas under such duress My mission will be their lives to bless For you would wish all sailors dead As they pass over your sea bed But I shall watch you hour by hour And save their souls using all my power I will ensure this is addressed It's not simple, as you have guessed.
Davi Jones	This day the Scurvy ship set sail

Davi Jones This day the Scurvy ship set sail So I'll hatch a plan that will not fail I'll wait until they're on their way And then I'll tricks upon them play **#You have reached the end of this perusal, to view the entire script please contact NODA on 01733 374790 or email info@noda.org.uk**