

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

ROBINSON CRUSOE

A Pantomime by

STEPHEN DUCKHAM

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NODA LTD
15 The Metro Centre
Peterborough PE2 7UH
Telephone: 01733 374790
Fax: 01733 237286
Email: info@noda.org.uk
www.noda.org.uk

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ROBINSON CRUSOE

CAST

Britannia	Ruler of the Waves
Davy Jones	Ruler of the Sea bed
Robinson Crusoe	
Billy Crusoe	His Brother
Mrs Clarissa Crusoe	His Mother
Montgomery Moneybags	Owner of the bank
Susie	His Niece
Seafaring Sam	A Captain
Paddling Pete	Ship's Mate
Friday	
Island Queen	

Chorus of Townspeople, Sailors, Sea Creatures and Islanders

ACT ONE

Scene 1	Under the sea
Scene 2	Outside Clarissa Crusoe's Old Curiosity Shop
Scene 3	Below Decks of <i>The Phoenix</i>
Scene 4	The Main Deck of <i>The Phoenix</i>
Scene 5	Below Decks of <i>The Phoenix</i>
Scene 6	Under the sea
Scene 7	Crusoe Island

ACT TWO

Scene 1	Crusoe Island
Scene 2	Another part of the beach
Scene 3	Robinson's Hut
Scene 4	On the way to Skull Valley
Scene 5	Skull Valley
Scene 6	Back on Ship
Scene 7	The Port of London

SCENERY

The pantomime can be staged very simply with four main sets, two front cloths and two sets of black tabs.

Permanently across the back is a rostrum.

ACT ONE

Scene 1	Black tabs at the front.
Scene 2	Main scene with steps leading down from the rostrum up centre. Back cloth of a port with buildings lining the water of the dock.
Scene 3	1 st Front Cloth (or tabs with suitable props added.)
Scene 4	On deck with the cyc backing.
Scene 5	As scene 3
Scene 6	Mid set of blacks or an underwater cloth. Mainly lighting effects.
Scene 7	Island cloth in front of the rostrum

ACT TWO

Scene 1	As Act One scene 7
Scene 2	2 nd Front Cloth (or tabs.)
Scene 3	As Act One scene 7 – add hut
Scene 4	As scene 2 with added signpost
Scene 5	Full stage backed by cyc and skulls on rostrum
Scene 6	1 st Front Cloth
Scene 7	Christmas scene (or repeat Act One scene 2)

Please note: the last scene need not be played as a winter scene but as a conventional 'walk-down' if preferred. Please adjust the dialogue in Act Two Scene Six to suit.

CHARACTERS

BRITANNIA	Straightforward and strong. No-nonsense character. She delivers her lines with an attempt at a posh cultured accent, but always drops the 'h' on any word beginning with that letter only to add it to a word such as (h)ambitious or (h)adventure. This should give the actress additional laughs.
DAVY JONES	Shabbily dressed and unkempt. Must have the ability to control the audience as they will begin barracking him from the start. Small singing role.
ROBINSON	Can be played as a principal boy or by a male actor. Should be an all round performer with a likeable personality and a good singing voice.
BILLY CRUSOE	The comic character. Must have a good sense of comedy timing and able to play off the audience as well as other members of the company. Good singing voice. (About the person he picks out of the audience – make sure it is someone who will join in the spirit of the pantomime. The worst thing is to embarrass someone.)
MRS CRUSOE	Typical pantomime Dame. Larger than life with a quick wit and plenty of energy. Just a word about this character. It should never be forgotten that this is a man dressed up. A large amount of the comedy comes from the outrageous costumes and accessories used in the show.
MONTY	The villain of the piece. It is important to play him absolutely straight with his desire for money being the one thing that is important to him. That way his character will illicit the usual boos and hisses from the audience.
SUSIE	Principal girl. Pretty and charming, but with a mind of her own. A good singing voice to compliment the numbers with Robinson.
SAM & PETE	The comedy double act. Sam usually leads the way in most things with Pete getting the brunt of the knocks and jokes.
FRIDAY	In this pantomime to avoid any problems with <i>politically correct</i> casting, Friday can be a man of any nationality. At first he can have the wild appearance of long time castaway. The choice of accent is left to the actor and director and any changes to lines to facilitate this are perfectly acceptable.
ISLAND QUEEN	A small part in Act Two that can be played by a mature member of the company. If desired it can be changed to Island King and be played by a man.

MUSIC

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. There is a song specially written for the duet in Act Two Scene Two between Davy and Monty which is available from NODA if you would like to include it in your production. The lyrics appear at the end of this script. Or you may use one of your own choosing or omit the number altogether if using non-singing actors in those roles.

A word of advice: Pantomime audiences – particularly the younger members – like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially ballads.

The running time is two and a half hours including a twenty minute interval.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of 'Robinson Crusoe' and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONESCENE 1 UNDER THE SEA

[A front cloth or black tabs. There is a sign down stage left that reads: "Davy Jones Locker. All lost souls welcome". Sitting on a chest, which represents his locker, is DAVY JONES.]

DAVY What a boring day! No storms to send the odd sailor overboard. No tidal waves to capsize a sailing ship. Not even a gale force wind to rock a pedaloe on a boating lake! *[HE stands.]* There's no one new for my locker. *[HE opens the chest.]* My dead man's chest is empty! I shall have to do something about that. *[HE shuts the chest.]* All this calm sea is no fun for me. I want to see the oceans swell and roll and the wind and rain batter those flimsy vessels. *[HE laughs villainously.]* Oh I love it when there is a shipwreck and all those poor wretches are plummeting to their deaths into a watery grave. *[HE laughs again as (hopefully) the audience reacts.]* Oh you can shout all you like, but just watch out when you're next on a cross channel ferry. I'll be waiting for you!

[BRITANNIA enters down right with her trident. NB. Please see the character notes on her delivery.]

BRITANNIA Davy Jones, are you causing trouble again?

DAVY Oh here she is. Bessy Britannia! What are you doing down here? You are supposed to be looking after things *above* the waves.

BRITANNIA That is true; I am the ruler of the waves. But when you are just below the surface, I can expect my calm waters to be disturbed by the tidal swells of your meddling.

DAVY I don't know what you're talking about. I'm just an old sea salt taking a rest and enjoying the pleasures of the deep.

BRITANNIA Well just make sure it stays that way. Any trouble and I shall report you to King Neptune. And you know what happened last time.

DAVY Yes, he banished me to this desolate part of the ocean. Stuck here amongst the wrecks and relics of the past.

BRITANNIA You're lucky that's all he did. You deserved a much greater punishment for all your destructive ways. Wreaking havoc on my calm waters.

DAVY The trouble with you is you've no sense of adventure. No excitement in your dull life.

BRITANNIA Excitement? Ship wrecks, tidal waves, death and destruction on the high seas? That sort of excitement we can all do without. I warn you, Davy Jones, keep well away from all those brave souls who ride the ocean waves – *[SHE points her trident at him.]* – or else you will find this where you least expect it!

DAVY You wouldn't dare.

BRITANNIA Just try me. Now be off and take that filthy chest with you.

DAVY *[Pointing a finger at Britannia.]* I warn you, you old battleaxe, one of these days when you're not around I'll cause such a storm you won't know what's hit you!

[BRITANNIA moves towards him with her trident pointing at him. HE quickly starts to exit left pulling his chest.] All right, all right, I'm going. But just remember what I said. [To audience.] And you lot better watch out as well. [Reaction from the audience as HE exits.]

BRITANNIA That's got rid of him – for the moment anyway. *[With a shudder.]* Ugh, what a despicable creature. Pity we've not seen the last of him. He has a habit of popping up in the most unexpected places. So, dear mortals, keep an eye out for him. Now I must be off to watch over the waters around dear old England. I have word that an ambitious young lad named Robinson Crusoe is about to set off on an adventure. He lives with his mother in the port of Hull, so I'm off to seek him out – and no doubt I'll bump into all of you – too! *[With a wave of her trident and singing the first line of 'Rule Britannia', SHE exits right as the lights fade and the scene changes to –*

SCENE 2 OUTSIDE CLARISSA CRUSOE'S CURIOSITY SHOP

[The scene is the Port of Hull. Mrs Crusoe's shop is stage right with a door and window. In front of the window is a display shelf with various odds and ends. Stage left is the LOTSADOSH BANK. This is also the residence of its owner MONTGOMERY MONEYBAGS. Across the back of the stage is the quayside.]

INTRO TO OPENING NUMBER

[As the scene opens the TOWNSPEOPLE are going about their daily chores. One of the TOWNSPEOPLE notices someone approaching.]

PERSON *[Pointing off.]* Look. It's Robinson

[ROBINSON CRUSOE enters on the quay and crosses down greeting everyone.]

ROBINSON Hi, how are you? *[The COMPANY greet him. HE moves to speak to the audience.]* Hello out there. *[Audience reaction.]* I said "hello out there". *[Bigger reaction.]* That's better. It's a beautiful day and there's no better way to spend it than making new friends. *[To the COMPANY.]* Am I right?

[ALL agree and they sing the opening number with ROBINSON fronting it.]

OPENING NUMBER

[At the end of the number BILLY CRUSOE is heard shouting off.]

BILLY Mind your backs. Clear a way. *[The COMPANY move to let him enter U.L. and cross D.C. HE is carrying various items for MRS CRUSOE'S shop piled high in front of his face.]*

ROBINSON *[Pretending not to know who he is.]* Who is it?

BILLY It's me!

ROBINSON Who's me?

BILLY Billy.

ROBINSON Billy who?

BILLY Not Billy Who, Billy Me!

ROBINSON But we don't know any Billy Me!

BILLY Robinson is that you? Come on, stop messing about and give me a hand. *[ALL applaud.]* Oh very funny. Ohhh I think something's slipping. *[HE staggers left and then right trying to steady the pile.]*

MAN Let's help him.

ROBINSON Put him out of his misery.

[ALL help BILLY to unload his items.]

BILLY About time too!

ROBINSON We were only having a bit of fun with you.

BILLY Well it's not much fun carrying this lot across town.

MAN What is all this?

BILLY I did a house clearance in – *[Name of local area.]* A man there had a win on the horses and has relocated to – *[Name of very posh area.]* He wanted to get rid of everything so I bought it as a job lot. Just the thing for mother's shop. Will you help me put them over here?

ROBINSON Er, well I'd really like to Billy, but I've got a very important meeting down by the docks. I'm sure all your mates here will help though.

BILLY Robinson

ROBINSON See you later. *[HE waves and runs off.]*

BILLY *[HE crosses to the shelf in front of the shop and they ALL help him put the articles on it.]* Important meeting! I know where he's going. There's a ship due in and he wants to see if there are any vacancies for crew. He's desperate to become a sailor! I'm very worried about my brother! *[The shelf is now full. BILLY has one more small item that HE goes to place on the shelf.]*

WOMAN Careful Billy. I don't know whether that shelf can take any more.

BILLY Don't worry. This was built to last. *[HE puts the item on the shelf and the whole thing collapses.]* Oh now look what you've made me do!

1st WOMAN Well that's not showing much appreciation for all our help.

BILLY Oh I'm sorry. *[During the following the COMPANY put the shelf and all the items back.]* It's just that it's been a very busy day and my brother's no help. On top of everything Clarence is missing again.

2nd MAN Who's Clarence?

BILLY My pet rat.

2nd WOMAN A pet rat? Ugh!

BILLY Oh he's lovely and a real pal, but he will keep running off. You haven't seen him anywhere, have you?

ALL No. Sorry. We'll keep a look out *etc.* [*The COMPANY exits.*]

BILLY I don't know, he only comes home when he wants something to eat. [*To the audience.*] Hello you people in the dark out there. [*Audience reacts.*] Did you forget to pay the electricity bill again? [*More reaction.*] I say you haven't seen Clarence, my pet rat have you? He's black with long whiskers. [*More reaction.*] Well if you do see him just shout out "Clarence is back" and I'll come and get him. Will you do that for me? [*Audience reaction.*] I said will you do that for me? [*More reaction.*] Well the back half of the audience is shouting loudly, but I think the front half needs to practice. [*HE indicates the front half of the audience should shout out.*] Come on let's hear you shout "Clarence is back" [*Hopefully they will.*] That's a bit better but I think the front four rows are a little weak. [*HE indicates the front rows only shout.*] I think I know what the problem is. [*HE picks out one member of the audience. (Please see notes at the front of this script.) Whoever HE picks will be referred to throughout the show.*] And what's your name sir/madam? [*The person responds and BILLY gets them to shout out. HE can ad lib with the person.*] Well that's sorted that out! Now I'd better get on with my work. [*BILLY crosses to finish arranging the items on the shelf. At this point CLARENCE appears around part of the scenery and a spot picks him up. The COMPANY starts to re-enter as audience shout out.*] Where is he? [*ALL tell him and BILLY crosses to him.*] Clarence, where have you been? [*CLARENCE whispers to BILLY.*] You've been down to the docks to see some mates? [*CLARENCE nods and whispers.*] They were leaving a ship? That doesn't sound good. [*To the OTHERS.*] I hope it wasn't sinking! [*TO CLARENCE.*] I suppose you want something to eat. [*CLARENCE nods.*] Here you are. I saved you a piece of cheese. [*Gives it to CLARENCE.*] I hope you appreciate it.

SONG – BILLY AND COMPANY

[At the end of the number MONTGOMERY MONEYBAGS (MONTY) is heard shouting off left. CLARENCE disappears.]

MONTY What's going on out there? What's all that noise about?

1st WOMAN Oh here he comes. Old moaning moneybags.

[MONTGOMERY MONEYBAGS enters from the Bank stage left. HE carries a briefcase that is always in his possession.]

MONTY What's going on here? Why are you cluttering up the street in front of my bank? Be off with you all and be about your business.

[COMPANY exit, moaning about the MONTY.]

BILLY Morning Mr Moneybags.

MONTY Don't 'morning' me. It's bad enough that I have to look out of my office window at that eyesore – [*Points to shop stage right.*] – without having to be sociable with the people who run it.

- BILLY I'll have you know this is a very respectable establishment. It has been in our family for generations. This shop goes back to the fifteenth century.
- MONTY And so do most of the things you sell in it.
- BILLY What a terrible thing to say. We have some rare and highly sort after merchandise.
- MONTY Really. Such as?
- BILLY *[Indicating the shelf.]* There is a concoction of curios and a confusion of captivating curiosities.
- MONTY Talking of curiosities – where *is* your mother?
- MRS C *[Off stage.]* Did someone call?
- [There is a loud revving of a motorbike engine and a screeching of car tyres as MRS CRUSOE enters on a push bike with a basket on the front. In it are items that will be referred to later. SHE stops centre and gets off the bike with a wave to the audience.]*
- Hello all.
- BILLY Mother, Mister Moneybags here has been saying rotten things about our shop.
- MRS C Oh he has, has he?
- MONTY It's about time you gave that mouldy old mausoleum a coat of paint. That ramshackle ruin is lowering the tone of the neighbourhood.
- MRS C Well if you stopped increasing the mortgage repayments we might have some extra cash to facilitate repairs.
- BILLY You tell him, mum.
- MONTY I think you'll find that the mortgage rates are perfectly fair.
- MRS C *[In a posh voice.]* We don't have *rates* – only *mice*! *[SHE giggles.]*
- MONTY It's no good being flippant. Healthy banking leads to a balanced economy.
- MRS C Oh listen to him, he sounds like – *[Name of the Chancellor.]*
- BILLY He looks like him, too. *[HE pulls various faces and ends up come face to face with MONTY. HE forces a smile and a weak wave of the hand.]*
- MONTY Of course on the other hand if you want to sell this paltry plot of land I could take it off your hands at a very reasonable price.
- MRS C Sell? But this shop has been in our family for generations. The Crusoe's are one of the town's many dynasties.
- BILLY Yes we have many dinners – teas – and suppers here.
- MRS C *[Moving BILLY away.]* Anyway, what would you do with it?

MONTY Pull it down.

MRS C WHAT???

MONTY I see a luxury high rise apartment block with views of the ocean.

MRS C Since when have you been in the building trade?

MONTY I have just acquired a piece of land on the outskirts of town that I'm having redeveloped.

MRS C What's it called?

MONTY *[HE says the name of a nearby upmarket area.]*

MRS C *[With her bust pushed out.]* Well don't think you're getting your hands on my 'old curiosity..... shop'!

MONTY Nothing could be further from my thoughts!

BILLY We'll never sell up. Anyway Robinson, as the eldest, inherited it when father passed on.

MONTY Robinson Crusoe. That lazy good-for-nothing. All he does is sit on the dock day-dreaming his life away.

MRS C Don't talk about my son like that. He's a good boy and would never see his old mum thrown out on the streets.

MONTY Then his 'old mum' better pay the mortgage arrears – or else! *[With a snarl HE exits into the bank.]*

MRS C Oh that malicious old Monty. And to think I used to fancy him rotten when we were at school together. I was always letting him copy my maths homework. *[Pointing to the bank.]* And look where it got him. He's the biggest banker in town!

BILLY What are we going to do, mum?

MRS C Go and find your brother. It's about time he took the responsibilities of running the family business seriously.

BILLY OK mum. *[He crosses up onto the quay and exits.]*

MRS C *[To the audience.]* Well hello how nice to see you all. Now if you didn't know I'm Clarissa Crusoe and this is my establishment. Clarissa Crusoe's Old Curiosity Shop. How are you all? *[Audience reacts.]* Oh good. Well I'm glad you feel all right. I've not been myself lately. I felt like my body was completely out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class. *[SHE acts out the next part.]* I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my leotard on the class was over. I've tried everything to keep in shape. I've done yoga in a toga! Power walking in Dorking and Tai Chi with a cup of tea. Oh I dread the thought of turning forty! *[Reaction.]* I don't relish the thought of growing old. I mean it's scary when you wake up in the morning and start making the same noises as your coffee maker. *[SHE makes some sounds.]* Anyway, you haven't paid good money to sit there listening to

me wittering on. Or maybe you have! I bet some of you would like to have a look at my curiosities, wouldn't you? *[Reaction from the audience.]* Would you like a look? *[Picking out a man in the audience.]* I can tell by your expression you can't wait! *[SHE moves to the bike and takes some items. These can be anything that is available and can be made fun of. Here is an example: SHE takes out a small portable radio.]* Look at this, a lovely old radio, but the volume is stuck on full. Well I couldn't turn it down! *[SHE ad libs another couple of items. At the end of the sequence BILLY enters with ROBINSON.]*

BILLY Come on, mum wants a word with you.

ROBINSON Oh but I was just talking to the captain of the ship that's docked.

MRS C You're spending far too much time with sailors. Just like your father!

ROBINSON But that's what I've always wanted to be. Father had a life on the ocean waves and that's what I want.

MRS C And look where it got him. Lost at sea in that awful shipwreck. Left me to bring up two boys and struggle to make a living selling second hand goods and battered old bric-a-brac.

ROBINSON But don't you see, mum, the call of the sea is in my blood.

MRS C Oh that's just what your father said when he left me to go on his nautical gallivanting. *[SHE becomes quite tragic now.]* Never giving me a second thought. Me – with two snivelling youngsters to bring up all by myself

ROBINSON Mum

MRS C *[Wailing on.]* Never knowing when the next meal was coming from.

BILLY Mum.....

MRS CScrimping and saving every penny because he'd left me with nothing.

ROBINSON Mum

MRS C *[Now hanging dramatically onto a piece of scenery.]* What's to become of me? What's to become of me?

ROBINSON/
BILLY *[Shouting.]* Mum!

MRS C *[Suddenly normal.]* What?

BILLY *[Quietly.]* Fancy a cup of tea? *[HE moves to the bike and prepares to take it off.]*

MRS C *[Smiling as though nothing has happened.]* Oh what a good idea. Thank you son. *[To ROBINSON.]* And you can start pricing up this lot. *[SHE points to the items on the shelf as SHE and BILLY exit into the shop.]*

ROBINSON *[Calling after them.]* Thanks a lot, Billy.

[SUSIE enters from the bank. SHE is a pretty girl and niece of MONTY.]

SUSIE Hello Robinson.

ROBINSON *[Turning and smiling.]* Hello Susie.

SUSIE Where have you been today?

ROBINSON Oh just around and about.

SUSIE Around and about the quayside I expect.

ROBINSON Oh don't you start. I've just had an earful off Mum.

SUSIE *[Laughing.]* Don't worry. I know what it's like to dream of doing exciting things.

ROBINSON You do?

SUSIE Of course. *[Pointing to bank.]* My uncle wants me to follow in the family business and be stuck behind the counter of the bank all day, but I'd much rather see more of the world.

ROBINSON We should both run away and seek our fortune.

SUSIE Won't it be wonderful.

DUET – ROBINSON & SUSIE

[At the end of the song, MONTY enters from the bank.]

MONTY Susie. *[ROBINSON and SUSIE break apart.]* What are you doing out here with this no good waste of time?

SUSIE Uncle, Robinson is not a waste of time. He's ambitious. He's got great plans for his future.

MONTY A future that entirely depends on whether the mortgage is paid on that pile of old rubbish. *[HE points to the shop.]*

ROBINSON I assure you sir, I will take care of it very soon.

MONTY Very soon is not good enough. You are already six months in arrears. If it is not paid by the end of the month you and the rest of your family will be out on your ear.

SUSIE But that's not fair, uncle.

ROBINSON Don't worry Susie. *[To MONTY.]* You'll get your money, sir. I have a feeling my fortune is about to change very soon.

MONTY *[Sarcastically.]* Have you taken to keeping exotic farm animals?

ROBINSON What you mean?

MONTY I've just seen a pig flying over there!

SUSIE Please uncle.....

- MONTY *[Snapping angrily.]* I don't want to hear any more.
- ROBINSON I better go, Susie. Mum will be needing me. I'll see you later. *[Politely to MONTY.]*
Goodbye sir. *[HE is ignored and exits into the shop.]*
- MONTY *[To SUSIE.]* You have work to do in the bank.
- SUSIE *[Crossing to the bank.]* I think you are being very unfair to Robinson and his family. One day he'll prove to you that his ambitions will come good.
- MONTY Good for nothing you mean. *[Stifling a sob, SUSIE exits into the bank.]* I need that Crusoe land for my expansion plan. Just one more missed mortgage payment and I shall foreclose on them. That boy spends his time lazing about and will never find work. *[HE looks at the items for sale at the shop.]* And this rubbish won't fetch enough to buy a lottery ticket let alone pay the mortgage. I can see my plans becoming a reality very soon. *[Rubbing his hands together HE exits into bank as voices are heard off stage.]*
- SAM *[Off.]* Come on, row a little harder.
- PETE *[Off.]* I am. It's hurting my wrists!
- SAM Stop moaning and pull in along side the key.
- [Part of a small rowing boat appears arriving at the quay. In it are SEAFARING SAM and PADDLING PETE. SAM is standing at the front in a pose not unlike Nelson while PETE is struggling with the oars.]*
- Now keep her steady and I'll climb ashore and tie her up.
- [HE steps out of the boat and puts one foot on the quay with the other foot still in the boat. Although PETE is frantically rowing forward the boat moves away from the quay and SAM, after almost doing the splits, falls off the quay but manages to grab the side so his hands are showing.]*
- Help!!
- PETE Hang on, I'll throw a life belt! *[SAM starts to pull himself up. PETE throws a life belt and hits SAM on the head. SAM goes down again.]*
- SAM Oww. You idiot. Come and help me before I fall in.
- [By now PETE has pulled back along side and got out of the rowing-boat. HE helps SAM onto the quay.]*
- Call yourself a sailor? You can't even manage a rowing boat!
- PETE I was doing my best. It was a strong tide.
- SAM *[Looking over the side.]* Strong tide? It's as calm as anything.
- PETE What about those big waves over there?
- SAM Where?

PETE There. *[HE turns SAM to look off. SAM nearly falls in again.]*

SAM Ohhhhh! *[PETE grabs SAM.]*

PETE That's twice I've saved you today!

SAM *[Moving downs stage.]* Well come down here before you try and save me again. *[PETE follows him down stage.]* Now we need to find a crew to help us sail the Phoenix.

PETE What happened to the lot we had?

SAM We had a conflict of interests. They were interested in their wages – and I wasn't.

PETE Oh not again.

SAM There was no money. Our last trip was a disaster. No decent fish to catch, so nothing to sell.

PETE We should be in a different line of work. We're lousy fishermen.

SAM But I love sailing. The salty breezes have always filled my nostrils. I couldn't do anything else.

PETE Maybe we ought to be a different kind of sailing ship. Why don't we have a bit of a holiday and think about it?

SAM *[Getting an idea.]* That's it. Pete, me old mate, you're a genius.

PETE I am?

SAM We'll become a pleasure cruise ship. They're all the rage now. People love a holiday on the sea.

PETE But how are we going to convert our fishing boat into a pleasure cruiser? We've got no money.

SAM Details, matey, details. We could start by flogging trips at rock bottom prices. No frills. Just like – *[Name of a budget airline.]*

PETE Which means?

SAM No food. No cabin. No service. It's all '*bring your own*'. That way we get a load of passengers and a crew!

PETE It won't work.

SAM It will. It's brilliant. All we need to do is drum up some trade and away we go. *[HE walks around calling out.]* This way for the holiday of a lifetime. A luxury cruise to exotic climes. See the world from the upper deck.

PETE Yeah, while swabbing it down at the same time!

SAM *[Lowering his voice.]* Be quiet. *[Loudly again.]* Come along folks, only a few places left.

[ROBINSON enters from the shop.]

ROBINSON Hello, what going on here.

SAM We're just letting people know about our fantastic offer of a voyage on the beautiful briny sea. How would you and your family fancy enjoying the delights of a cruise aboard the good ship Phoenix?

ROBINSON Well I don't think I could afford a cruise. You're not looking for any hands are you?

PETE *[Holding his hands up.]* No. These will do me just fine!

SAM *[Pushing PETE away.]* You're looking for a job on board ship?

ROBINSON Yes. I want to follow in my father's footsteps.

SAM Oh, your father was a sailor?

ROBINSON *[Proudly.]* Yes. The great Captain John Crusoe.

PETE "The Great Carouso"? I've seen that film!

SAM *[Pushing PETE out of the way.]* Captain Crusoe. I remember him well.

ROBINSON You do?

SAM Oh yes. The stories of his voyages are told around many a ship's table.

ROBINSON Would you take me on as a member of the crew for your next voyage?

SAM I think you will do admirably.

PETE *[Aside.]* But we can't pay him.

SAM *[Pulling PETE to one side.]* He won't know that 'til we're underway. Besides, if he's anything like his father he'll be a great asset. *[Crosses back to ROBINSON.]* Welcome aboard, shipmate. Your first duty will be to round up passengers for our next sea voyage.

ROBINSON That's a strange job for a deckhand, isn't it?

SAM Can't be a deckhand if there are no passengers on the deck, can you me hearty?

ROBINSON No, I suppose not.

SAM Now you get on with that while we sort out the supplies. See you back here in half an hour. *[HE and PETE exit quickly.]*

ROBINSON Off to sea at last. I wonder what adventures will be in store. But first I better go and break the news to mum *[HE exits into the shop as the light dim and DAVY JONES enters down left.]*

DAVY So, a ship is about to set sail – if I heard that conversation correctly. Maybe I'll whip up some stormy seas for it to run in to so a few poor souls will fall overboard – all

the way down to my locker. *[HE laughs evilly as the audience "boo". BRITANNIA enters down right.]*

BRITANNIA Davy Jones, what are you up to? Dry land is no place for you.

DAVY I can come ashore for a short time. Just so long as I don't dry out completely.

BRITANNIA Dry out? Is that possible for one *ginormous* drip! *[SHE smiles to herself.]*

DAVY Oh you think you're so witty. Well I'll have the last laugh. You see if I don't.

BRITANNIA I heard you planning to cause a shipwreck. Well let me tell you, Robinson Crusoe will be on board and I am bound to make sure no harm comes to him.

DAVY That sounds very much like a challenge to me!

BRITANNIA Call it what you like but I'll be watching you. So you can forget about trying any of your dirty tricks.

DAVY *[Innocently.]* I don't know what you mean. I just spend my days resting on the bottom of the ocean.

BRITANNIA Yes, among all the other wrecks. Hadn't you better get back there? The sun is getting high and you're beginning to look like a desiccated coconut.

DAVY *[Suddenly worried, he looks down at his clothing and mutters.]* The old battle-axe is right. Can't get too dry. *[To HER.]* I'll be shipping out then. Having a tot of rum with me old mates Pirate Blackbeard and Captain Hook.

BRITANNIA A right pair of reprobates. You'll be in good company.

DAVY *[Aside to the audience.]* But I won't be away too long, you can be sure of that! *[As the audience reacts HE exits left.]*

BRITANNIA And good riddance. But I'll have to keep an eye on him. He's as slippery as a sea snake. *[With a growing sense of importance.]* Oh it's so demanding being ruler of the waves. *[SHE exits dramatically right. CLARENCE makes an appearance and the audience calls out. BILLY enters from the shop.]*

BILLY Thanks very much. *[With Reference to the person picked out in the audience.]* Did *(person)* shout out loud? *[Reaction.]* Well let me hear you. *[The person shouts etc. BILLY crosses to CLARENCE.]* Now where have you been? *[CLARENCE whispers.]* Oh? Really? Well that's very nice. Can I tell the boys and girls? *[CLARENCE shakes his head "no".]* Oh go on, they'll be very pleased. *[CLARENCE looks at the audience, then at BILLY and nods "yes".]* Oh good. *[To the audience.]* You'll never guess. Clarence has got himself a girlfriend. *[Audience reacts and CLARENCE covers his face in embarrassment.]* They met at the end of the quay. Isn't that wonderful? *[CLARENCE whispers again. BILLY'S face drops.]* What's that? She's living on board a ship that's about to sail? And you want to go with her? *[CLARENCE nods vigorously.]* But you can't. What about me? You can't leave me. *[CLARENCE whispers.]* I can come too? But what about Mum and the shop and Robinson? I can't leave them. *[CLARENCE whispers.]* What do you mean 'You'll send a postcard'? *[CLARENCE whispers and disappears.]* Clarence! Clarence comes back. *[MRS CRUSOE lets out a shout of anguish off stage.]* Now what's going on?

[MRS CRUSOE comes dramatically out of the shop and leans against it. ROBINSON follows her on.]

MRS C Oh what's to become of us? What's to become of us?

BILLY Now what's up?

MRS C *[Pointing to ROBINSON.]* Him. Deserting me. Going off to goodness knows where and leaving me all alone to fend for myself.

BILLY But I'm still here, mum

[MRS CRUSOE looks at BILLY and then repeats herself, dramatically.]

MRS C Leaving me all alone to fend for myself!

ROBINSON But mum, it won't be forever.

MRS C Oh you say that now. But you'll never be home. Just like your father.

ROBINSON But that's just it. I *do* want to be like father. The sea is in my blood just like it was in his.

MRS C I wasn't just the sea that was in his blood. With all that rum on board he was 80% proof.

[SAM and PETE enter and cross to ROBINSON.]

SAM Ahoy there, shipmate. Are you ready to weigh anchor with us?

MRS C *[Rounding on SAM.]* So you are the scurrilous sailor who's seduced my son into shipping off into the sunset are you? *[The alliteration has showered SAM.]*

SAM *[Wiping his face from the spit.]* I think the wind's changed direction.

ROBINSON Mum, I volunteered.

PETE Are these some of the passengers you've rounded up?

MRS C *[Bearing down on PETE.]* Rounded up? Do I look like an Aberdeen Angus?

[SAM and PETE start nodding their heads in unison. When they see MRS CRUSOE'S icy stare they change to a shake of the head.]

BILLY Mum, if Robinson wants to go that badly, why not let him?

MRS C That's right take his side. Is no one going to think about a poor old woman left all alone to scrape a living selling a few old bits and piece? *[SHE picks up an old casket off the shelf as an example. CLARENCE is behind it and waves. Audience calls out. MRS CRUSOE drops the casket and screams.]* Oh that rotten rodent!

BILLY *[Crossing to CLARENCE and thanking the audience and the person.]* Clarence, now look what you have done.

[ROBINSON picks up the casket and opens it.]

- ROBINSON Hey, look at this. *[HE pulls out a map.]*
- PETE That looks like an old map.
- SAM It is an old map.
- MRS C *[Suddenly interested.]* Map? What kind of map?
- ROBINSON It's of an island.
- BILLY Which island?
- ROBINSON I don't know. But wait, there is some writing. *[By now EVERYONE has gathered round to look at the map.]*
- BILLY What does it say?
- ROBINSON It's very faded, but I think I can read it. I can't quite make out the first part but the rest says Son if anything happens to me this map will guide you to an island where a great fortune is hidden. Follow the directions and find your inheritance.
- MRS C A treasure map? But how did it get in there?
- ROBINSON Where did all this stuff come from Billy?
- BILLY It was another house clearance I did this morning. Old Nautical Nick's gone.
- MRS C Gone? You mean dead?
- BILLY No, just dead lucky. He won the lottery and moved to Bermuda! Told me to take what I liked before he sold up.
- MRS C Nautical Nick was an old shipmate of your father's. He was supposed to be with him on that last fateful voyage, but he kept shouting A E I O U, A E I O U!
- ROBINSON Why was that?
- MRS C He had irritable vowel syndrome so never made it. I don't remember him having a son.
- ROBINSON Wait a minute. *[HE holds the map up.]* Look at the first part. You can just see the faded lettering. *[HE gasps.]* It's not son – it's Robinson. This must be father's map and it's been left to me! He must have given it to Nick for safekeeping.
- MRS C A fortune stashed away on a secret island and he never told me!
- ROBINSON But don't you see, mother. This could be the answer to all our worries. All I have to do is get to this island and find the treasure.
- MRS C And that means sailing off, never to be seen again.
- ROBINSON No, it means us *all* sailing off. This is the perfect opportunity. We have a ship, a ready-made crew and nothing to stop us from searching for a fortune.

- MRS C Well I suppose you're right. No one will notice we've shut up shop as we haven't had a customer in three weeks.
- SAM *[Standing near Mrs Crusoe and looking at the map.]* I can see a couple of co-ordinates...
- MRS C *[Covering her chest with her hands.]* ... 'ere, you shouldn't be looking!
- SAM *[Pointing to the map.]* so it shouldn't be that difficult to find the island.
- ROBINSON Mother, we're going to be rich!
- MRS C Oooh I can't believe it. We're going to be rich.
- [EVERYONE joins in hugging and shouting 'We're going to be rich' etc. The rest of the COMPANY enters as MONTY comes out of the bank followed by SUSIE.]*
- MONTY What is all this noise? What's going on?
- MRS C *[Trying to look calm.]* Oh – er nothing. Just a little celebration. *[To BILLY.]* Come on Billy and help me pack. *[SHE exits into the shop.]*
- BILLY *[To CLARENCE.]* And you better pack too, Clarence.
- [CLARENCE nods and disappears. BILLY exits into the shop.]*
- MONTY What do they mean – pack?
- SUSIE Robinson, what's going on? *[SHE crosses to ROBINSON who starts to tell her and the rest of the company what has happened. Meanwhile SAM explains to MONTY.]*
- SAM We're all going on a cruise, matey. Care to join us?
- MONTY Go on a cruise with that lot? You must be out of your mind. *[HE turns to go back to the bank.]*
- PETE We're off in search of treasure!
- MONTY *[Stopping in his tracks.]* Treasure?
- SAM Seems our young friend over there has come into a fortune.
- PETE He's got a treasure map.
- SUSIE *[Having heard the story from ROBINSON.]* Really?
- ROBINSON Yes, it's true. *[Shows her the map.]* Look.
- SUSIE Isn't that wonderful uncle? Now they will be able to pay off the mortgage and never be in debt to the bank again.
- [MONTY clutches his heart as though having an attack and crosses down left. ROBINSON, SUSIE, SAM and PETE are centre.]*

- MONTY *[To himself.]* But if they pay off the mortgage that means I won't be able to repossess the shop and then bang goes my new apartment block. I'll have to get my hands on that map. *[HE turns back to the others and smiles.]* Well this is good news. Congratulations, my boy. So you're off to find an island, are you?
- ROBINSON We are indeed.
- SAM The tides turning, so we can soon be underway.
- MONTY *[With a lot of false charm.]* You know Susie, on second thoughts I think we deserve a holiday as well. Any more places aboard your ship?
- SAM Indeed there are, matey.
- MONTY Right. Don't leave without me! *[HE exits into the bank.]*
- ROBINSON What's come over him?
- SUSIE Don't ask or he might change his mind!
- [MRS CRUSOE, wearing large sunglasses and carrying a rubber ring and a bucket and spade enters followed by BILLY who has a lot of luggage.]*
- MRS C All ready. Blackpool, here I come.
- SAM We're off to a more exotic place than Blackpool.
- MRS C Skegness?
- SAM Coral seas, golden sands and tropical palms.
- MRS C Clacton! *[Or any local seaside resort.]*
- ROBINSON Well if everyone is ready let's get underway.

COMPANY NUMBER

[During the number MONTY enters with his case and brief case. At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to]

SCENE 3 BELOW DECKS OF 'THE PHOENIX'

[A front cloth scene depicting the cargo hold of a sailing ship. There are some crates to one side and ROBINSON'S kit-bag. DAVY is down left.]

- DAVY Well this is a stoke of luck. A sailing ship full of lively people just waiting to be plunged into the icy depths of the ocean. Oh how I love it when a plan starts to take shape. Very soon my locker will be full of restless corpses!
- [BRITANNIA enters right.]*
- BRITANNIA I thought I would find you lurking down here. What are you up to?

- DAVY Nothing at all. Just hitching a lift on this fine vessel.
- BRITANNIA Why do I find that hard to believe?
- DAVY Oh *Britty*, old girl. You do have a suspicious nature.
- BRITANNIA Are you surprised? When you're around I have to be especially vigilant. Just make sure you stay well out of the way of those innocent people on board – [*Pointing her trident.*] – or you know what will happen.
- DAVY Don't you worry, dear lady. When I get near my home I'll just slip quietly away.
- BRITANNIA [*Glaring at him.*] Mmm, well make sure you do. [*SHE exits.*]
- DAVY [*Calling after her.*] Never fear. [*To himself.*] I'll slip away – and I'll take this ship and all the people on board with me. [*HE laughs and exits left. The lights brighten and from behind a crate CLARENCE appears. The audience shouts out and BILLY runs on right.*]
- BILLY Thank you very much. [*To the person.*] You're getting better! [*To CLARENCE*] I told you to stay in the cabin. If you keep running around you could fall overboard. Then there would be a panic because everyone would think a rat was leaving a sinking ship! [*CLARENCE whispers during the following.*] You came down here to be with your girlfriend? Well where is she? A nasty man scared her away? Who was that? A stranger – don't tell me we have a stowaway?
- [*ROBINSON enters. CLARENCE disappears.*]
- ROBINSON Hello Billy.
- BILLY Robinson, Clarence says he thinks we have a stowaway.
- ROBINSON A stowaway? Well we checked everyone as they came aboard. I didn't see any strangers. Are you sure he's not been at the rum?
- BILLY [*Turning to see CLARENCE gone.*] Oh he's gone again. I'll keep my eyes peeled and let you know if I see anyone suspicious.
- ROBINSON Talking of someone suspicious – here comes old Moneybags. [*MONTY creeps on backwards from stage left. HE is carrying his briefcase.*] Are you looking for something?
- MONTY [*Spinning round.*] Oh – er no. Just, er - looking around this fine vessel. Getting my bearings – to use nautical parlance.
- ROBINSON Well there's not much to see down here. Just a lot of crates.
- MONTY [*Trying to make light of being caught.*] Yes and very fine crates they are too.
- ROBINSON Don't forget we have the emergency drill in half an hour on the main deck.
- MONTY Emergency drill?
- ROBINSON Yes. The captain wants to take us through various procedures – including the lifeboat drill.

- BILLY What's the good of drilling a lifeboat? All the holes will let the water in!
- ROBINSON Don't be such a silly – William! Come on, we have work to do. *[HE and BILLY exit right.]*
- MONTY I must get that treasure map. I'll have to cause some sort of diversion so I can get into Crusoe's cabin. He must keep it there. But how? I really need an accomplice, but there's no one I can trust on board.
- [DAVY enters down left and moves to him.]*
- DAVY Planning something, matey?
- MONTY *[Spinning round, scared.]* Oh! Who are you?
- DAVY Don't be scared. I think I may be the answer to your dreams.
- MONTY I'm afraid you're not my type.
- DAVY I can be of assistance to you.
- MONTY What do you mean?
- DAVY You're after something and so am I.
- MONTY *[Feigning innocence.]* I don't know what you are talking about.
- DAVY I heard you muttering something about a treasure map. Well I can help you get it – if you will help me get what I want.
- MONTY What's that?
- DAVY This ship.
- MONTY You want to take over this ship.
- DAVY In a manner of speaking. If we can cause the crew to turn against Crusoe we can get rid of him and you can get the map.
- MONTY *[Smiling.]* What a splendid idea. *[Suddenly serious.]* But how can we get the crew to do that? They are all very fond of Robinson Crusoe.
- DAVY Oh I'll think of a way. You meet me on the main deck when it's quiet and we'll hatch out a plan.
- MONTY Right. Oh just think. I'll get the treasure and still put that Crusoe family out of business. *[To DAVY.]* See you later.
- DAVY Righty-oh, shipmate. *[MONTY exits right.]* What a gullible fool. He thinks I want to take over this ship, but I want to drag it down to the depths of the ocean and throw everyone into my locker. Including him!! *[HE roars with laughter and exits left. MRS CRUSOE enters right dressed in an outrageous sailing outfit.]*
- MRS C Oh it's all go. I've not stopped since I came aboard. I've cleaned out the cabins, polished the portholes, maintained the mainbrace, laid out the lanyard and brushed

all the barnacles off the bottom. *[Rubbing HER backside.]* Oh that was a job and a half! I've come down here for a rest in case they find anything more for me to do. Mind you I've quite taken to this sailing lark. The sea air is very bracing. It brought a rosy glow to my cheeks. Well that's what one of the sailors told me when I was bending over to help him pull up the anchor! *[SAM and PETE enter.]* Oh hello you two. Come down here for a skive as well?

PETE *[Innocently.]* Only for five minutes!

SAM *[Pushing PETE out of the way.]* We do not skive, ma'am. We are constantly making sure this fine vessel is running smoothly.

MRS C By getting everyone else to do the work. I know what you're up to.

SAM I can't think what you mean.

PETE Oh I do. She means you and I get everyone else to do the work.

[SAM hits him.]

MRS C Well I won't tell if you won't. What's going on upstairs anyway?

SAM Lifeboat drill will take place in a few minutes.

MRS C Lifeboat drill?

PETE Yes, we have to man the lifeboat.

MRS C *[In a panic.]* Man the lifeboat. We're not going to sink, are we? *[Grabbing hold of SAM.]* I've not blown up my rubber ring and I can't swim.

SAM *[Pulling away.]* No we're not going to sink. It's just a precaution.

PETE And it's good fun.

MRS C *[Astounded.]* Fun?

PETE That's right. We get the lifeboat out and see how many people we can get in it.

MRS C Lifeboat? There's only one?

PETE Yes. Last time we got thirty people in. We're in the Guinness Book of Records!

MRS C *[Staggering.]* Oh I think I'm going to faint.

PETE Would you like a glass of water?

MRS C Water??

SAM *[Taking out a hip-flask of rum.]* How about a tot of rum?

MRS C Now you're talking. *[SHE takes the hip-flask and takes a good swig.]*

[ROBINSON and SUSIE enter.]

- ROBINSON Ah, there you are. Has anyone seen my kit-bag? I left it down here when we came aboard.
- SAM *[Finding it by the crate.]* Is this it?
- ROBINSON Yes, thank you. Everyone is assembled for the lifeboat drill.
- SAM Very good. Come along Pete. *[HE turns to take the flask back from MRS CRUSOE. SHE takes another swig and there is a tussle. SAM'S head end up in MRS CRUSOE'S bosom.]*
- MRS C Oh, you saucy sailor. *[SAM gets the flask and HE and PETE exit.]* I think he fancies me. *[SHE staggers a little.]*
- SUSIE Are you all right, Mrs Crusoe?
- MRS C Fine, thank you dear. I'll just go for a stroll on deck. The sea air is very bracing. It brings a rosy glow to my cheeks. Well that's what one of the sailors told me when I was bending over *[SHE realises what SHE is saying.]* Oh well, see you later. *[SHE quickly exits.]*
- SUSIE I suppose we better be getting back to the others.
- ROBINSON There's no need to rush, is there? On a ship this size there are not many places where we can be alone.
- SUSIE *[With a smile.]* Mr Crusoe, whatever are you suggesting?

DUET – ROBINSON AND SUSIE

[At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 4 THE MAIN DECK OF 'THE PHOENIX'

[We see the deck from sideways on. There is a mast to one side with rigging and the bottom of a sail visible. A ship's wheel and various other items found on board are seen. By the wheel is a ship's bell. The side of the ship is across the back with an area up stage left where a plank (a "walking the plank" variety) can be fitted. A barrel is by the downstage right wing out of which CLARENCE will appear. As the scene opens, SAM, PETE, the CREW and PASSENGERS are on stage. During the number, MRS CRUSOE and BILLY enter and take part in it.]

NUMBER – CREW AND PASSENGERS

[At the end of the number, SAM takes charge. PETE moves up to stand by the bell.]

- SAM Righty-ho me hearties. Here are a few instructions while you are on board. Now when you hear the bell ring twice it means rise and shine. *[PETE rings the bell twice.]* Four means lunch and afternoon watch. *[PETE rings it four times.]* And six bells signal dinner.
- BILLY Do you know, the landlady at the Six Bells used to do a wonderful hot pot.

- MRS C But her dumplings were nothing compared to mine!
- SAM Please pay attention. Now when you hear the bell rung continuously that means there is an emergency and you must all assemble at your individual stations.
- MRS C Oh like King's Cross or Euston?
- SAM No, not that sort. Various stations on board.
- BILLY Where are we going to catch a train in the middle of the sea?
- MRS C Waterloo! *[THEY both fall about laughing.]*
- SAM Will you be serious. This is very important. *[MRS CRUSOE and BILLY stop laughing.]* That's better. Now when the bell rings continuously it means something untoward has happened.
- [PETE rings the bell continuously. EVERYONE screams and runs about, clinging on to each other.]*
- MRS C Oh something untoward has happened! Something untoward has happened!
- BILLY *[In a panic.]* Where's the train?
- SAM *[Shouting at PETE.]* Stop ringing the bell.
- PETE Sorry. Just showing them what it sounds like.
- SAM I think they all know what a bell sounds like.
- MRS C What happens after we hear the bell?
- SAM Half of you assemble at the fore and half aft.
- MRS C After what?
- SAM Not after. Aft.
- MRS C What's aft?
- SAM *[Sharply.]* Stern.
- BILLY No she's not really. Just a bit cross sometimes!
- SAM The stern is aft. *[Pointing left.]* Over there.
- MRS C Oh, the back end. Well why didn't you say?
- SAM *[To EVERYONE.]* If you all go to your cabins you will find the emergency instruction on your doors.
- [EVERYONE exits chattering. MONTY enters carrying his briefcase and looks around to make sure HE is alone.]*
- MONTY Hello? Are you there? *[HE is facing away from down left as DAVY enters.]*

DAVY Looking for me?

MONTY *[Spinning round.]* Oh, you gave me a fright. Don't creep up like that.

DAVY Sorry matey.

MONTY Now we have to plan how to take over this ship and get rid of Robinson Crusoe.

DAVY I've been thinking about that. You're a banker, aren't you?

MONTY I beg your pardon?

DAVY You're in charge of the bank.

MONTY Yes. So what?

DAVY *[Pointing to the briefcase.]* What do you keep in there?

MONTY My private papers of course.

DAVY I'll bet you keep the combination to your safe in there as well.

MONTY Well – yes. As a matter of fact I've got a terrible head for numbers!

DAVY Like most bankers then! Now what would happen if someone got hold of that case?

MONTY *[Holding the case tight.]* Oh they couldn't. I never let it out of my sight. I even sleep with it.

DAVY *[With a look towards to audience.]* Whatever floats your boat! *[To MONTY.]* But what if they did?

MONTY Well they'd be branded a thief and the law would take action.

DAVY Well the law on board ship is the captain. And anyone caught stealing would be made to walk the plank. *[Points to the plank up left.]*

MONTY *[Getting the idea.]* Oh I see. If my briefcase were to find its way into a certain someone's possessions.....

DAVY they would be exposed and

BOTH ...made to walk the plank.

End of Sample