

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT...

ROBINSON

CRUSOE

BY

MARK LLEWELLIN,  
ROY BARRACLOUGH &  
JOHN JARDINE



This script is published by

NODA LTD  
 15 The Metro Centre  
 Peterborough PE2 7UH  
 Telephone: 01733 374790  
 Fax: 01733 237286  
 Email: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)  
[www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

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## **ROBINSON CRUSOE**

**By Mark Llewelin, Roy Barraclough & John Jardine**

### CHARACTERS:

In order of appearance:

Fairy Pantomime  
 Captain Cockles  
 Polly Cockles  
 Robinson Crusoe  
 Witch Atalanta  
 Billy Crusoe  
 Bosun Herbert  
 Dame Crusoe  
 Gorilla  
 Cannibal King            )  
 Captain Pinkerton       ) Can be doubled  
 Hector the Dog         ) Optional

Sailors, Cannibals and villagers.

### SCENES:

#### Act one:

1. The Ocean Depths
2. Hull Quayside
3. The Ocean Depths
4. Deck of the 'Adventurer'
5. The Dame's Cabin

#### Act two:

1. Under the Sea
2. The Island of Death
3. The Cannibal Camp
4. Another Part of the Island
5. The Temple of Gold
6. Another Part of the Island
7. Deck of the 'QE2'

**ROBINSON CRUSOE****By Mark Llewelin, Roy Barraclough & John Jardine****ACT ONE:****1. THE OCEAN DEPTHS:****FAIRY APPEARS.**

FAIRY: Welcome children, grannies, parents all -  
 A tale of adventure which will enthral ó  
 I'll now begin, the story ready to unfold,  
 With voyages, earthquakes, greed for gold,  
 Ready to travel far? We need to do so,  
 In telling this - the story of Robinson Crusoe!

**SHE WAFTS HER HAND DRAMATICALLY. HER MOBILE PHONE RINGS.  
 SHE REMOVES IT FROM A POCKET AND ANSWERS:**

FAIRY: Hello ó Iøm at the *(name)* Theatre - well, I can't talk now - I'm busy. I  
 told you not to call when Iøm working.

**TUTTING, PUTS MOBILE AWAY.**

FAIRY: Sorry about that, a friend of mine wanting magic,  
 Cinderella she's called - her tale quite tragic,  
 She has a broom, a rat, a pumpkin - and a mouse!  
 She said something about a coach and a big house!  
 Tell you what, I'll go and give her a hand,  
 I'll drop you in Hull so strike up the band -

**FAIRY EXITS.**

## 2. THE QUAYSIDE IN HULL:

CHORUS AS SAILORS. NUMBER ó Chorus

CHORUS 1 IS THE PUB LANDLORD. HE HAS A TRAY OF TANKARDS & MUGS.

CHORUS 1: Well done my hearties, there's nothing like a good hornpipe ó LAUGHING - and that was *nothing* like a good hornpipe!

THE CHORUS MOAN.

CHORUS 1: You know I'm only jesting! Sort of! Now then, free drinks on me!

THEY TAKE THE DRINKS.

CHORUS 1: To Robinson Crusoe and his adventures!

THEY ALL TOAST HIM. ENTER CAPTAIN COCKLES.

CAPTAIN: Ah Landlord, what is all the excitement and jollification about? Has someone announced a holiday? Is it the last week of the DFS (*or other well known chain*) sale?

CHORUS 1: No such luck!

CHORUS 1: We're celebrating the sailing of the ship 'The Adventurer'. Wetting her head so to speak! She sails today Captain Cockles sir!

CAPTAIN: Robinson Crusoe's ship? Sailing today? No good'll come of that voyage, mark my words. She'll be thrown all over the place í . Why I wouldn't be surprised if they never made it at all.

CHORUS 1: He's going on a ship Captain ó not taking the train to London!

CAPTAIN: Ah, you'd do well to listen to me. Well, I hope my daughter Polly doesn't think she'll be going along for the ride. I don't know what she sees in that layabout!

CHORUS 1: You can ask her for yourself Captain, here she comes now.

POLLY ENTERS. CHORUS WANDER OFF WITH THE LANDLORD.

POLLY: Oh father, there you are. I've been looking for you everywhere. Robinson's asked me to go on this voyage to Brazil but I told him that I would need your permission first.

CAPTAIN: Oh Polly, Polly. Since your mother died, I have done my best to bring you up alone. I've taught you the best I can, given you everything I

can - but still you disappoint me! You mean so much to me, I had such hopes for you - I don't want to lose you to this Crusoe.

POLLY: You won't be losing me father, I love you more than anything else in the world.

NUMBER 6 Polly and Captain Cockles.

POLLY: Please father, please let me sail with 'The Adventurer'.

CAPTAIN: Oh Polly ó TAKES HER HEAD IN HIS HANDS ó You remind me so much of your dear mother, how can I refuse you? Alright, but on one condition.

POLLY: Anything.

CAPTAIN: That I come too.

POLLY: SARCASTIC: Oh, wonderful!!

CAPTAIN: Now, not another word. Those are my terms, if you go, I go. You are not being looked after by that dizzy old dame. In fact, I shall find Robinson and tell him the good news myself.

CAPTAIN EXITS AS CHORUS MEMBER 2 ON. POLLY SITS.

CHORUS 2: What's the matter Polly, did your father refuse to let you go?

POLLY: Worse. He's coming too.

CHORUS 2: Oh dear.

POLLY: When he was younger he captained plenty of ships ....

CHORUS 2: But they all ran aground!

POLLY: Yes. What will Robinson say? Father is a bit of a Jonah. Every voyage he ever made was a disaster.

CHORUS 2: If Robinson loves you then he'll make your father welcome.

POLLY: I do hope so.

CHORUS 2: Well, here he comes now!

ROBINSON ON SURROUNDED BY CHORUS.

ROBINSON: Polly! Don't worry - I've just spoken to your father. He's not the luckiest of sailors but if it means having you journey with us - Do you agree crew?

CHORUS SHOUTS 'AYE'.

ROBINSON: Then it's settled! And anyway, he'll be company for my mum.

CHEERS AS THEY ALL EXIT. CAPTAIN ON WITH SUITCASE.

CAPTAIN: Life on the ocean waves.... where did they all go?

FLASH. WITCH ON. CAPTAIN INTO TRANCE.

WITCH: You, old Captain, listen up and listen well,  
This pretty young witch has quite a spell,

CAPTAIN: I hear and obey oh witch of the deep.

WITCH: Clear your mind of all your thoughts ó one! SHE SNAPS HER FINGERS.

CAPTAIN: -Tis done!

WITCH: (ASIDE) Blimey that was quick. I've got a right nit-wit here!  
Then follow my plans and you'll have a good life,  
With freedom from hunger, sorrow and strife,  
Board the ship and once the voyage starts,  
Make sure you switch and change the charts.

CAPTAIN: I shall do as you say oh great one!

WITCH: Good! Do as I say and scupper the trip,  
And if you do well and sink this great ship,  
Then wealth and fame will be yours you old soak,  
(ASIDE) And he would believe that. What a joke!

CLICKS HER FINGERS TO WAKE HIM UP. SHE EXITS.

CAPTAIN: Good lord, I came over all funny. That's the first time tonight. I shall go and put my cases on the ship.

CAPTAIN EXITS. ENTER BILLY ON SCOOTER.

BILLY: Hiya kids! Hey, it's smashing to see you. My name is Billy Crusoe but you can call me Billy. Can you shout -Hiya Billy? SHOUTS. That's smashing - now can you all shout out your names! I'll tell you what, when I come on, all night, will you all shout out -Hiya Billy? REHEARSES IT Great! I'm really looking forward to going on this trip to Brazil with my brother and my mother. And our Robinson's taking his girlfriend, Polly! I know! Do you like my scooter? It's great isn't it! Do you want to see what I've had for Christmas? TAKES OUT A MOP HEAD My mum's a bit hard of hearing. I asked

for a moped. I'm going to leave my scooter here LEANS IT ON PROSCENIUM ARCH If anyone touches it, will you shout for me? REHEARSES IT Fantastic! I'd better go and pack for the voyage, see you later!

BILLY EXITS. CAPTAIN RE-ENTERS.

CAPTAIN: I've been waiting in my cabin but no one seems to have turned up yet. Oh, I wonder if this scooter is to go onboard. TOUCHES SCOOTER.

BILLY ENTERS TO SHOUTS.

BILLY: Thanks kids! Keep your hands off my bell!

CAPTAIN: Oh it's you, Billy, Robinson's dimwit brother.

HONKING HORN.

CAPTAIN: Now, what's this coming?

ENTER HERBERT ON BIKE.

HERBERT: Excuse me sirs, am I in the dock?

CAPTAIN: You are, how do you plead?

HERBERT: The docks, the docks. The cry of the gulls, the smell of the sea, the taste of the salt -

BILLY: The toad in the hole.

HERBERT: I beg your pardon?

BILLY: I never said a sausage. LAUGHS TO HIMSELF. Sausage you see ó Toad in the Hole, it's made with sausage! Oh well, never mind.

CAPTAIN: May I introduce myself, I am retired Captain Cockles and this here is Billy Crusoe.

HERBERT: That's great, the job centre sent me. I am filling the vacancy for bosun.

BILLY: Oh yes, I'm your mate.

HERBERT: Well, we've only just met but...

CAPTAIN: You two - bosun and mate? Good lord. I shall need to make sure you have passed your nautical exams. Now look at me - have you got your nauticals?

BILLY: Not on me no.

CAPTAIN: You obviously know little or nothing.

HERBERT: Nothing, mainly.

CAPTAIN: Thank you. Honest but a fool. Now, I shall ask you some simple questions. Question number one. How do you box the compass?

HERBERT: Well, I don't really go in for bloodsports.

CAPTAIN: As I feared. How would you cross the poop deck?

BILLY: Carefully.

CAPTAIN: What would you expect to find in the crow's nest?

BILLY: The crow's bum.

CAPTAIN: We shall have to get you ship shape at sea. Right, avast and belay sea dogs.

BILLY: Hot dogs?

CAPTAIN: What?

BILLY: I never said a sausage. TO AUDIENCE: A sausage you see ó in a í . Oh, never mind!

CAPTAIN: A word with you me hearty.

PUTS ARM ROUND HERBERT.

BILLY: Keep your hand on your loose change.

WALKS HIM AWAY.

CAPTAIN: Tell me bosun, would you like to get rich quick?

HERBERT: I'm quite prepared sir, to get rich at any speed. Now sir, what's a foot?

BILLY: Twelve inches.

CAPTAIN: You'll feel my foot alright in a minute.

HERBERT: Now sir.

CAPTAIN: Once we're at sea I'll let you into a little secret - just between you and me.

BILLY: Remember your loose change.

CAPTAIN: Something that's going to make us both rich men.

HERBERT: If it's the Lottery sir, I've already tried it.

CAPTAIN: It's something far better than that. Come; let us have a drink - a noggin of rum in my cabin.

HERBERT: Aye aye sir.

CAPTAIN LEADS HERBERT OFF.

BILLY: Wait for me! I want a noggin too!

BILLY FOLLOWS. POLLY AND ROBINSON ENTER.

ROBINSON: Your father is safely on board and the bosun and mate have signed on.

POLLY: That just leaves your mother.

ROBINSON: She'll be cancelling the milk and papers.

POLLY: Oh Robinson, I'm so pleased I could join you.

ROBINSON: And so am I!

THEY EXIT. DAME ON WITH LOTS OF CASES AND PARCELS - MAYBE PULLED ON A CART BY CHORUS MEMBERS.

DAME: Ooh, what a day I've had preparing for this lovely cruise. We're off to Brazil, where the nuts come from. I hope those Brazilian men aren't sent too wild by my charms, I hope they can keep their hands off the goods! Ooh, who am I kidding, they can have what they want. I've been down the farmers market - all those farmers pushing and shoving. Lovely it was. I've got some bread and some butter and some tea and some - well, you can't get proper tea abroad, can you? And some sweets - I tell you what, you can have some of one thing - will it be sweets or a slice of bread or sweets or a pound of butter or sweets? THROWS OUT SWEETS now, don't drop the papers on the floor, I have to go round and Hoover up after you all. EITHER A CHORUS MEMBER AS A DOG ON OR - Now then, look what else I've got in my basket - HAND PUPPET OF DOG He's called Hector and he does some wonderful tricks - die for the Queen HE DIES Wave to the children HE WAVES Isn't he a good boy. I know you're not supposed to but do you think I should take him with me on the ship? You do? Alright then Hector, you go to sleep in the basket - and keep quiet. I'm glad you like him children, now don't tell anyone - it'll be our little secret!

ROBINSON ON.

ROBINSON: Oh, mother!

SHE JUMPS.

DAME: Oh hello Robinson. You made me jump!

ROBINSON: We were wondering where you'd got to. Are you alright, you look a little rough.

THE DOG BARKS.

DAME: Oh, a little ruff! ruff!

BEHIND ROBINSON'S BACK SHE TELLS DOG OFF.

ROBINSON: We'd better set sail or we'll miss the tides. Then they'd say I was barking mad.

THE DOG BARKS.

DAME: Oh bark, bark - yes.

ROBINSON: Mother, I think you need a holiday. Come on; let's get you in your cabin.

DAME: Absolutely.

AS THE DAME FOLLOWS ROBINSON OFF

### 3. THE OCEAN DEPTHS:

#### WITCH ENTERS.

WITCH:       And so it would seem my plans are succeeding,  
                   The ship set sail, the crew all unheeding ó  
                   Now comes the part I love, the plans that I relish,  
                   Come midnight tonight, the whole crew shall perish!  
                   All save the old Captain shall draw their last breath,  
                   As the Adventurer is scuttled, near the Island of Death.

#### FAIRY ENTERS.

FAIRY:        Where am I? ó I hate all this. Oh, back here - oh drat.  
                   I was in the middle of helping Dick Whittington's cat.

#### THE MOBILE PHONE RINGS.

Excuse me! ANSWERS PHONE: Hello ó what dear? No I can't  
 deliver a large margarita and a deep pan cheese and sardine. What?  
 The Good King Wenceslas special? Deep pan, crisp and even! Wrong  
 number chum!

#### PUTS PHONE AWAY.

Sorry! Now where was I?

Ah yes. Not so fast Atalanta, your schemes are too bold,  
 On the Island of Death is the Temple of Gold ó  
 Your helpers are talking, so of this I have proof,  
 Your ultimate goal is the Elixir of Youth,  
 Somewhere in the temple this potion is hidden,  
 But it's greed for gold that gets the Captain to do your bidding.

WITCH:        So you've seen through my schemes, you meddling Fairy,  
                   Do not interfere, be warned, and be wary.  
                   I'm having the crew drugged and the ship will go down,  
                   You'd better say goodbye to them so soon they will drown!

#### EXITS.

FAIRY:        Oh boys and girls, mums, dads and grans ó fear not!  
                   That stupid old witch, she talks such rot!  
                   *Together* we can make magical things happen ó

NUMBER Fairy
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Our friends will not drown; they'll be saved from the wreck,  
 So let us continue our tale on the Adventurer's deck -

#### **4. DECK OF THE SHIP:**

##### **CAPTAIN ENTERS.**

CAPTAIN: Oh, five days at sea and everything's going well. Not only will I stop Polly marrying Robinson Crusoe but I'll end up rich. Now, to put that bosun and mate to work - but how to find them on this ship. Ah yes, I know -

##### **HE THROWS A COIN IN THE AIR. BILLY AND HERBERT RUN ON FROM EITHER SIDE TO CATCH IT. IT FALLS TO THE FLOOR.**

BILLY: Mine I believe.

HERBERT: No mine I believe.

CAPTAIN: PICKING IT UP: Oh no, mine I believe.

BILLY/  
HERBERT: His we believe.

CAPTAIN: Now you two - let me tell you my plans. You want to be rich, don't you?

BOTH: Yes, yes.

CAPTAIN: You want jewels, don't you?

BOTH: Yes, yes.

CAPTAIN: You want gold, don't you?

BOTH: Yes, yes.

CAPTAIN: You want to live dangerously.

BOTH: No, no.

CAPTAIN: No pain - no gain. Now listen to me. PUTS ARMS ROUND THEM.

BILLY: He's at it again. Keep one hand on your loose change.

##### **CAPTAIN WANDERS AWAY FROM THEM TO THE FRONT.**

CAPTAIN: Now then, what's this scooter doing on my decks?

##### **GOES TO TOUCH SCOOTER. BILLY ON.**

BILLY: Thanks kids. That's mine!

CAPTAIN: Well, why don't you scoot then - and leave us to discuss our plans.

BILLY: I will an' all.

IN A HUFF, BILLY EXITS.

CAPTAIN: Now listen carefully; tonight at midnight I'm going to scuttle the ship.

HERBERT: Excuse me sir, this word scuttle. Does it mean to shipwreck, to capsizize, to run aground - to go down with the ship? Like in the Titanic film.

CAPTAIN: That is exactly what it means.

HERBERT: And does that mean we'll all be drowned?

CAPTAIN: Well done man, you don't miss much, do you?

BILLY HAS ENTERED ON THE SCOOTER AND IS LISTENING.

HERBERT: We're going to die, we're going to die.

CAPTAIN: That is the clever bit of my plan - everyone on the ship will be lost except us two and we will find our way onto the Island of Death.

HERBERT: Sounds a delight. The sort of place Jessica Fletcher holidays in - Murder She Wrote (or reference to other TV detective).

CAPTAIN: So it's just us two. PUTS ARM AROUND HIM.

BILLY SCOOTS IN BETWEEN THEM.

BILLY: Any chance I could join your gang?

CAPTAIN: You've been listening to our fiendish plans? BILLY NODS Very well, it's just us - three. Now, listen, on the island there's a Temple of Gold in which we will find jewels and riches to make our fortunes. Your job will be to drug the crew. I will give you a potion which you will slip into their bedtime cocoa. Now comes the tricky bit, come over here - AS THEY MOVE, A BIG CRATE ON THE SET FOLLOWS THEM - we must be sure no one hears us - THEY MOVE AROUND UNTIL EVENTUALLY THE CAPTAIN GOES TO THE CRATE & SLIDES BACK THE FRONT OF THE BOX. INSIDE THE DAME IS SEATED READING A PAPER.

DAME: Do you mind. This one is engaged.

CAPTAIN: Oh, I'm terribly sorry madam; I'll try the one on B Deck.

SHE SHUTS THE DOOR.

CAPTAIN: This is no good - walls have ears. Come down below -

THEY EXIT. THE DOOR OPENS AND OUT COMES THE DAME WITH THE DOG.

DAME: Did you hear that our Hector, they're going to drug our cocoa and scuttle the ship. I've never been scuttled in me life. Bottled yes - scuttled never. How could our Billy have fallen in with such a crowd ó and that old Captain anøall! Ooh, wait -til I get my hands on them!

DOG BARKS.

DAME: Quite right, the dirty dogs. We'd better warn Robinson at once. Now then boys and girls, will you help us calling for Robinson?

SHOUTS - ROBINSON ENTERS.

ROBINSON: Mother, what's all the shouting for?

DAME: You may well ask. I don't know what kind of cruise ship you think you're running but you've got some right riff-raff on board. I mean, it can hardly be described as first class when a lady of quality has her cocoa poisoned and the Captain plans to have her scuttled at midnight.

ROBINSON: What are you talking about?

DAME: Polly's father - the old soak, he's got that Herbert and our Billy to do his calling - and he plans to drug us and sink the ship.

ROBINSON: I knew they were up to something. Well they're no match for us and my sailors!

CHORUS COME ON.

NUMBER Robinson and Chorus.
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ROBINSON: On no account drink anything that the bosun and mate prepare for you! Now, we'll keep them busy by having lifeboat drill!

CLAXON SOUNDS.

CHEERS. HERBERT, CAPTAIN AND BILLY ON IN PT KITS. CHORUS AND OTHERS EXIT. CLOSE TABS BEHIND THEM.

BILLY SKIPS.

BILLY: CHANTING: Salt, vinegar, mustard, pepper...

CAPTAIN: Just a minute, I thought I told you not to come this morning.

BILLY: You didn't, you said skip it. Anyway, when are we going to start this life boat drill?

CAPTAIN: What is there to know - when the ship runs aground we hop it! Right?

THEY ALL LAUGH.

HERBERT: Excuse me - you know all about this sailing lark then?

CAPTAIN: Know all about it? I am from a long line of sailors.

BILLY: I knew I'd seen you hanging round with them.

CAPTAIN: My father was a sea-dog, he seldom came home.

BILLY: My father was a dirty dog, he never came home.

BARK.

CAPTAIN: What was that?

BILLY AND HERBERT POINT AT EACH OTHER.

BOTH: Must have been him.

BILLY: Don't worry, his bark's worse than his bite.

CAPTAIN: When I was young, I was second to none - well groomed and handsome.

HERBERT: Now look at you; you're second-hand, not too well and gruesome.

CAPTAIN: Now then, now then.

BILLY: We were talking earlier and we're not sure whether we can trust you. How do we know you've got lots of gold and jewels to give us?

CAPTAIN: Alright, alright, here - look at this.

PRODUCE GOLD COIN.

HERBERT: BITES IT. It's real gold. Can I have it?

CAPTAIN: Alright, alright...

BILLY: No need to get all shirty.

CAPTAIN: I've got three of these coins, so there's one each. Here ó GIVES ONE TO BILLY there's one for you, GIVES ONE TO HERBERT and one for you, SHOWS HIS and one for me two.

HERBERT: Hang on, that's not fair. One each you said.

CAPTAIN: And one each it was.

HERBERT: But you had two.

CAPTAIN: Two? TAKES THE COINS BACK now listen, GIVES THEM BACK one for you - one for you - and one for me too. That's three.

BILLY: Hold up, he's right. Why should we only get one when you get two?

CAPTAIN: Give them back. TAKES THEM BACK Right, now pay attention - there's one for you. GIVES THEM BACK And one for you - and one for me too!

BILLY: He's done it again and I didn't even feel a thing. LOOKS UP HIS SLEEVE.

HERBERT: You know what he's up to. He's after your loose change.

BILLY: You're right.

GIVES COINS BACK.

BOTH: You can keep 'em.

BLACK OUT.

## 5. THE CABIN:

IDEALLY THIS IS ON A TRUCK SO THAT THE PREVIOUS SET IS STILL IN PLACE ó THE MAST & SAILS VISIBLE ABOVE THE CABIN. THERE'S A DOOR IN THE BACK WALL, A BED AND A TABLE. DAME ENTERS SINGING, SHE WEARS A DRESSING GOWN.

DAME: 'We are sailing, we are sailing....' Yes, sailing alright - but where to? This cruise has turned into a right howsyourfather; I knew I should have booked with (*local travel firm*). There's been no bingo, you have to be up at four in the morning to bagsy a deck chair and you can't swing a cat in this cabin.

### CAT'S SCREAM.

DAME: We tried, didn't we Tabitha? I should have known the moment I got on, the rats were throwing themselves on the traps, the crew were whistling 'Abide with Me' and the dish of the day in that cafeteria is salmonella. Salmonella! I don't even like sal-mon. No, the first chance I get I'm off home. Oh well, the end of another night I suppose. Time to get ready for my bed - now, close your eyes. No peeping. REMOVES DRESSING GOWN TO REVEAL NIGHTDRESS AND INTO BED Oh that's better, nighty-nighty. SPIDER DESCENDS ON WIRE & OFF What did you see? A spider? Now, don't start me off - you're only trying to frighten me. SPIDER APPEARS AGAIN & OFF Oh dear, I don't like spiders. Hector! DOG APPEARS FROM SOMEWHERE ON SET (IF IT'S A PUPPET THE OPERATOR COULD BE UNDER A BLANKET IN A 2<sup>ND</sup> BUNK) Hector, there's a spider. DOG GOES UNDER SHEETS OR EXITS Oh dear, he's not overly fond either. What kind of a guard dog is he boys and girls? Now, if that spider appears again, will you shout out and warn me? Oh, thank you. Nighty-night! SPIDER APPEARS ONCE MORE & GOES Oh, thank you! PULLS OUT FRYING PAN FROM UNDER PILLOW Where he is? The little monkey! A HAND PUPPET MONKEY APPEARS ó OR THE DOOR OPENS AND A MONKEY RUNS IN. No, not you! MONKEY OFF. It's like a mad-house on board here. A floating menagerie! THE SPIDER HAS GONE. SHE SITS ON THE EDGE OF THE BED HOLDING PAN ALOFT. I don't know whether I'm coming or going. It's at times like this, in the middle of the night when I get to thinking? Do you? I mean, how deep would the sea be if there were no sponges? If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends? I'll have to have another go. SHE LIES DOWN. THREE KNOCKS AT DOOR Oh, what's that? I've heard these cruises can be fun at night for us singles. MORE KNOCKS Well, it's either that lovely young stoker or somebody's after me Dorothy-bag MORE KNOCKS Ooh, it's make your mind up time. Who is it?

HERBERT: It's room service. The Captain and mate with your bedtime drink.

DAME: Ooh, it's the Captain and mate with my bedt-....come to drug me, the little monkies! MONKEY ON. RUNS AROUND. Have you ever had a night like this? I'm going to have to stop having me Night Nurse with vodka. MONKEY OFF. Right sea mates! Come in then.

THEY ENTER. HERBERT CARRIES 3 MUGS.

DAME: You mad impetuous fools, what can you possibly be offering a lady of quality at this time of night?

HERBERT: Cocoa. Gives you a good night's sleep!

DAME: I need it dear. I need it.

HERBERT: Captain Cockles, get the table out.

CAPTAIN BRINGS THE TABLE.

DAME: CLIMBING FROM HER BED Well - mate, I hope the sight of me in my evening attire isn't too much for your heart.

HERBERT: I should think it would be too much for anybody.

THEY SIT ON THE END OF THE BED WITH THE TABLE IN FRONT OF THEM. HERBERT PLACES MUGS ON TABLE. DAME IN THE MIDDLE.

DAME: Oh, we're doing it together are we? Which one is mine?

HERBERT: The drugged one.

CAPTAIN: Excuse me dear lady, do you mind if I sit next to my friend?

DAME BUDGES UP & CAPTAIN FALLS OFF THE BED. GETS UP, WALKS ROUND AND SITS AT THE OTHER END.

CAPTAIN: You fool; you're not to mention that it's drugged.

DAME: So I'm not to know the cocoa's drugged?

BOTH: Yes, you're not to know the cocoa's drugged.

CAPTAIN: TO AUDIENCE This isn't going as well as planned. There you are dear lady, that one is yours and this one is mine. HE MOVES THEM AROUND.

THEY ALL PICK UP THEIR CUPS. DOG BARK.

DAME: Oh, do excuse me - that's my Hector.

THE DOG APPEARS. SHE GOES TO THE DOG AND PATS HIM.

DAME: He's having nightmares, he did insist on staying up to watch Jeremy Paxman! (*or - other late-night TV presenter*)

SHE RETURNS & SITS ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE.

CAPTAIN: I think she's on to us - I'll fool her. I'll take the drugged one.

HE SWAPS THE CUPS.

DAME: Nighty-night, let's all sleep tight. Well, one of us will.

THEY PICK UP CUPS.

DAME: I don't like the look of mine.

CAPTAIN: Then by all means have mine.

THEY SWAP.

HERBERT: I don't like the look of mine either.

DAME: Then by all means have mine.

THEY END UP SWAPING ALL THE CUPS SEVERAL TIMES.

CAPTAIN: Hang on; REALISATION THAT HE DOESNØT KNOW WHICH ONE IS DRUGGED I've gone right off mine.

HERBERT: So have I. I think IØl go and make some moreí í

DAME: Alright then boys, well I'll see you in the morning then.

CAPTAIN: TO AUDIENCE: Drats!

THEY EXIT. DAME INTO BED. KNOCK ON DOOR.

DAME: It's like (*local*) Station, isn't it? TO FRONT ROW: I bet your bedroom's not this busy at night is it missus - oh, it is. YouØve got revolving doors, have you? Come in.

CHILDREN IN.

CHILD: Please Mrs Crusoe; we'd like a bedtime story.

DAME: I tell you what; let's have a bedtime sing instead.

NUMBER Dame and children.

KIDS EXIT.

DAME: Right, to sleep at last.

WITCH ENTERS CACKLING.

DAME: What now? Oh, don't tell me I've missed the fancy dress parade. What did you win love?

WITCH: Silence.

DAME: Hello, hello. No prize and nowty about it. Never mind love, there's always the glamorous granny contest or knobbly knees - I think you might be alright in that.

WITCH: You prattling moron.

DAME: It's the duty free booze I'm afraid. She's supped some stuff tonight.

WITCH: Quiet! I'm Witch Atalanta, and my age never varies,

DAME: Well I'm Mrs Crusoe, the queen of the fairies! ASIDE: Well, you should see some of them behind here. Shocking!

WITCH: That Captain's failed me, no cocoa was drugged,  
But with thousands of holes that cannot be plugged,  
I'll riddle this ship-  
And down she will slip -

DAME: We're headed for the very bottom of the leagues - rather like (local football club)

WITCH: To Davy Jones' locker!

DAME: And who said Paul Daniels (*or other magician*) wouldn't work again.

WITCH: Enough foolish dame - I'm rather on form,  
So now, come wind, come rain, bring on a storm,

SOUND EFFECTS.

CAACKLING WITCH EXITS. WATER POURS ONTO THE DAME. SHE GETS OUT OF BED AND WATER COMES THROUGH A HOLE IN THE WALL. SHE PLUGS IT WITH HER FINGER, THEN ANOTHER STARTS. WE HEAR SHOUTS AND CRIES. IDEALLY, BACKING CLOTH OUT TO REVEAL PREVIOUS SET OF SHIP DECK. MAST AND RIGGING COLLAPSING. ROBINSON ON POOP DECK IN CONFUSION. (IF THIS IS TOO DIFFICULT ó YOU COULD USE LIGHTING & SOUND EFFECTS FOR A STORM BREWING. DAME OUT OF BED, LOOKS UP AND SHRIEKS.)

CURTAIN

**ACT TWO;**  
**1. UNDER THE SEA:**

ON A ROCK LIES ROBINSON. A UV BALLET TAKES PLACE AROUND HIM.  
FAIRY ENTERS.

FAIRY:       Robinson awake! Leave your ship to its doom,  
                  It's time to escape from this watery tomb;  
                  Set the course, your guide to the surface - a magic sea horse.

SEA HORSE APPEARS, HE STIRS AND CLIMBS ON IT.

FAIRY:       Climb on now, quickly, there's not a moment to waste,  
                  To the island above, and your fortune, make haste!

ROBINSON ASCENDS ON THE UV SEA HORSE.

**2. THE ISLAND:**POLLY ENTERS.

POLLY: Alas and alack, I'm the only one who survived the wreck.

SHE EXITS AS BILLY ON.

BILLY: Alas and alack, I'm the only one who survived the wreck.

HE EXITS AS HERBERT ON.

HERBERT: Alas and alack, I'm the only one who survived the wreck.

HE EXITS AS DAME ON.

DAME: Alas and alack, I'm the only one who survived the wreck.

DOGS BARK.

DAME: And Hector of course, he's over there sunbathing himself. Honestly!

DAME EXITS AS HERBERT BACK ON.

HERBERT: So this is it - nothing here but me and.... a scooter!

GOES TO THE SCOOTER. BILLY ON.

BILLY: Thanks kids! Oh, I am glad to see you mate; I thought everyone else had been drowned.

HERBERT: I fear they have been. And here we are the two of us, stuck on this island with nothing but a scooter.

BILLY: Nothing to eat?

HERBERT: Nothing to eat!

BILLY: Apart from custard.

HERBERT: Custard? What is this - Teletubbies?

BILLY: No, no, custard grows on trees, right?

HERBERT: Custard doesn't grow on trees.

BILLY: Of course it does. What do you find in trees?

HERBERT: Birds.

BILLY: What do birds make? Custard!

POLLY: Is there anybody there?

HERBERT: That sounded like Polly's voice.

ENTER POLLY.

POLLY: I'm not the only one on the island after all. But where's Robinson, have you seen him?

BILLY: I've not even seen his barley water.

POLLY CRIES.

CAPTAIN: Oh Polly dearest - you're better off without him.

BILLY: Well you're a fine help. Polly, don't worry - we mustn't lose hope. It's a very big island and he could be on another part of it. There's my mother too, we've not seen anything of her. POLLY SITS.

HERBERT: Anyway, at least we've found a few friends. You know, I'm starving, I feel as though I haven't eaten for days.

BILLY: Yes, I could do with a bite.

POLLY: I think you're in luck. Look!

SHE PULLS A HAMPER OUT FROM BEHIND A ROCK.

CAPTAIN: Ah, yes TAKES IT IT'S from the ship. OPENS IT IT'S full of sandwiches. TAKES OUT A LARGE FOAM SANDWICH.

BILLY: You don't get many of them to the pound.

HERBERT: IT'S that thick sliced bread from Morrison's.

CAPTAIN: And a bottle of wine. REMOVES BOTTLE.

BILLY: Oh lovely, what kind is it?

CAPTAIN: It says IT'S a cross between Muscatel and Hock.

HERBERT: Muscatel and Hock IT'S what's it called?

CAPTAIN: Muck. Oh, and there's a tin of baked beans too.

BILLY: My favourites. I know a poem about baked beans, would you like to hear it?

CAPTAIN: If you must.

BILLY: We have baked beans for breakfast,  
We have baked beans for tea.  
We eat loads and loads of baked beans,  
My brother Robinson and me.  
We eat loads and loads of baked beans,  
Enough to fill a cart.  
And when you've had as many baked beans  
As me ó WAIT FOR REACTION  
There's no room for apple tart.

CAPTAIN: Well, you won't be eating these, there's no tin opener.

BILLY: Oh come on Polly, come have a nibble of me seeded batch.

HERBERT: Yes, things could be a lot worse you know.

POLLY STANDS & JOINS THEM.

POLLY: You're right - I mean, it could have been dreadful - if we'd all been washed up on an island full of cannibals or something.

BEHIND THEM THE CANNIBAL KING AND GUARDS HAVE APPEARED.

KING: That would have been very bad for you.

HERBERT: I know, very bad indeed.

KING: Allow me to introduce myself - I'm the cannibal King around here.

HERBERT: How do you do.

KING: And you are all my prisoners.

ALL: We are all his ó prisoners!

KING: Silence. You will all rue the day you ever landed on the Island of Death.

CAPTAIN: I must say, I find your attitude most wanting. Now then my good man, see to it that the British Ambassador is brought here at once.

KING: We don't have a British Ambassador. Anymore.

HERBERT: Anymore?

KING: We ate him. On Tuesday. Seize them!

GUARDS TIE THEM UP AND THEY ALL EXIT.

DAME APPEARS FROM BEHIND ROCKS.

DAME: Thank goodness I overheard all that. ASIDE: Well, it is pantomime. I must do something to help them. Oh, if only Robinson were here. I'll have to see what I can do í í

EXITS. ENTER ROBINSON.

ROBINSON: Here I am, shipwrecked on this island with what few provisions I could save from the wreck. How long I've been here I can't say but it seems an eternity. Oh Polly, will I ever see you again? I pray that you and all the others are alive.

NUMBER Robinson
-----------------

I suppose I'm going to have to make the most of it. Now, I must go and collect some firewood.

GOES TO EXIT. STOPS AT A SIGN ON A POST.

What's this? (READS) Man Friday ó available for odd jobs. Closed for the holidays, back on Tuesday. Just my luck!

EXITS.WITCH ENTERS.

WITCH: So Robinson's alive, or so it would seem,  
But so are the others, not quite my scheme.  
However they'll die - I'll think of something,  
Or I could just leave it to the cannibal king!

### 3. THE CANNIBAL CAMP:

CHORUS WITH VOODOO STYLE MASKS DO DANCE AROUND BILLY, HERBERT, CAPTAIN & POLLY WHO ARE TIED UP IN A POT.

KING: The spirit of the mountain is angry ó

BILLY: I know how he feels.

KING: We must make a sacrifice.

HERBERT: He's going to have us for his tea.

KING: Quiet. Light the pot.

BILLY: We're not a Pot Noodle you know!

GUARD FORWARD WITH LIGHT. THEY BLOW IT OUT. ANOTHER IS FETCHED. THIS GOES ON THREE TIMES.

CAPTAIN: Now perhaps we can negotiate!

KING: I don't think you're in a very good position to *negotiate*, do you?  
Where is my cook?

GUARD: Day off sir.

KING: Day off? I want a cook - and I want one now!

DAME ON IN CHARIOT PULLED BY GUARDS.

DAME: You rang sir?

KING: Who are you?

DAME: I'm from the agency sir, the stand in cook - Ainsley Chariot.

KING: Then get cooking. CLAPPING HANDS: Ready, steady, cook!

OVER TV THEME TUNE/SIMILAR MUSIC, SHE STIRS THE POT AND SPRINKLES FLOUR.

KING: What dish are you cooking?

DAME: Spaghetti!

KING: Come guards, please take your seats.

DAME: Put in a little twist from Percy Pepper and some Sammy Salt!

THE GUARDS SIT WITH THE KING IN A CIRCLE.

DAME: Polly, would you pass the plates round.

POLLY OUT OF THE POT AND GIVES EVERYONE A PLATE. DAME DISHES UP - IN FACT, IT'S A LONG ROPE WITH LOOPS IN IT. EACH GUARD TAKES A LOOP AND PUTS IT OVER THE PLATE.

DAME: Well, eat up - you're about to get your just desserts.

THEY FIND THEY'VE BEEN TIED TOGETHER ó THE LOOPS AROUND THEIR WRISTS.. CONFUSION.

POLLY: Quick everybody, make our escape.

BILLY: Where to?

CAPTAIN: The Temple of Gold!

**4. ANOTHER PART OF THE ISLAND:**

ROBINSON SITS BY A FIRE.

ROBINSON: I must look on the bright side - I've got warmth, I've got food and I've got the island all to myself. Not even a sign of *(TV travel show presenter or name of local coach company)*.

HERBERT, POLLY, DAME, BILLY AND CAPTAIN RUSH ON IN PANIC.

ROBINSON: Could you keep the noise down.

DAME: Robinson! My son!

ROBINSON: Mother! Polly! Everyone!

POLLY: Oh, Robinson's alive!

NUMBER 6 Polly, Robinson, Billy, Dame, Captain, Herbert.

CAPTAIN: We've no time to hang about here.

HERBERT: You're right - to the Temple of Doom.

INDIANA JONES MUSIC.

CAPTAIN: The Temple of Gold!

ROBINSON: The Temple of Gold?

POLLY: Father, how come you know so much about this island?

CAPTAIN: Ah yes, well. Before we set off on this little voyage to Brazil -

DAME: Where the nuts come from.

CAPTAIN: Quite. Well this rather green witch approached me and offered me wealth beyond my imagination if I helped her by scuttling the ship.

DAME: What did I tell you! What a dirty, double-crossing, dastardly, diddling, defamatory, dreadful, diffident, desultory, desperate old man!

CAPTAIN: That's easy for you to say.

HERBERT: Sorry, I missed that 6 what did you say?

IF POSSIBLE, THE DAME REPEATS THE LINE VERY FAST.

POLLY: Father! How could you turn against us?

CAPTAIN: Well, I....

HERBERT: And he convinced us to help him.

BILLY: Yes. Sorry mummy.

DAME: That old witch - she didn't have the sense she was born with. Asking you three to help her! Really!

ROBINSON: Well it doesn't matter about that now. Anyway, it was the storm that landed us here.

CAPTAIN: But this Temple of Gold is where her treasures were hidden!

ROBINSON: Then the Temple of Gold is where we're headed, right?

THEY ALL CHEER AND EXIT.

## **5. THE TEMPLE OF GOLD:**

IT IS DARK ó LIKE ALADDIN'S CAVE.

DAME (OFF): Go on Billy, go and have a look!

BILLY ENTERS. HE LOOKS AROUND & SUDDENLY CHESTS OF GOLD ETC BEGIN TO LIGHT UP.

BILLY: So this is it then - the Temple of Gold! Hey, isn't it posh. I expect this is what David Beckham's (*or other wealthy star*) place looks like - all glittering gold and dripping with jewels. Look - EXAMINES ALL THE TREASURE CHESTS. TRIES ON TIARAS AND NECKLACES ETC I look a right dog's dinner, don't I!

DAME (OFF): What are you doing in there?

DAME ENTERS.

Oh, now I see ó hey, quit trying it all one. They'll think you're shoplifting. LOOKS AROUND Here, look at all this lovely lolly. Hey Billy, you know what this means, don't you? *I'm rich!*

BILLY: *We're rich.*

DAME: Oh now, fairs fair. I did bring you up since you were a little baby - rent free. In fact, that reminds me - you haven't given me your lodging money this week.

BILLY: But mother, we're rich -

DAME: Come on, out with it - £2.

BILLY: I haven't got it - I spent it on some sweets. Hang on though; I might be able to sort it out. TO MUSICAL DIRECTOR Can you lend me £2 please?

MD: I haven't got £2 but I'll lend you £1. HANDS IT OVER.

BILLY: Thanks. That'll help. Now, I owe you £2, here's a pound of it so I still owe you £1. HANDS MONEY OVER.

DAME: Thank you very much.

ENTER HERBERT.

DAME: Ooh, I'm glad you've come on!

HERBERT: Seeing all this money reminds me, you owe me £2 and I need it back.

DAME: Right well, I haven't got £2 but here's £1 so I still owe you £1.

HANDS MONEY OVER.

HERBERT: Thank you.

BILLY: Herbert, don't forget you owe me £2.

HERBERT: You are right - you loaned me the money to buy my tickets for (*rival panto or unpopular film currently showing at local cinema*) - worst £2 I ever spent. Ah yes, well I can give you £1 back but I'll have to owe you the other £1. HANDS MONEY OVER.

BILLY: Thank you, mother here's that other £1 I owe you. HANDS IT OVER.

DAME: Oh thank Billy, we're all square now. Ooh, Herbert, your other £1. HANDS IT OVER.

HERBERT: Thank you so much. We're all square now. Billy, that other £1 - here, it's yours. HANDS IT OVER.

BILLY: That's great, thank you. We're all square now. SILENCE. Oh, TO MD Don't know whether you recall - but you lent me £1.

MD: I never forget.

BILLY: Here you are - HANDS IT OVER.

ALL: We're all square now.

CAPTAIN, POLLY AND ROBINSON ENTER.

CAPTAIN: This is the place! Lumey, look at all this loot. Now, the witch also mentioned an elixir - of youth! It must be hidden somewhere.

POLLY: These caves go on for miles.

ROBINSON: Polly and I will go and make a search. You four rest yourselves until we get back.

DAME: I should try over there love ó in the Ken Barlow (*or other ageless star like Cliff Richard*) vaults.

POLLY AND ROBINSON OFF. DAME, BILLY AND HERBERT TRY ON JEWELS.

CAPTAIN: Now come along; let's have a bit of order!

NUMBER 6 The Company.

DAME: Do you know, I am bushed. Come on; let's have a sit down for a bit.

THERE IS A BENCH ON WHICH THEY SIT.

DAME: Hey, to think we're loaded beyond our wild expectations. I bet they'll see me down the Nat West now.

A GORILLA ENTERS AND TOUCHES BILLY ON THE SHOULDER AND TAKES HIM OFF.

DAME: My husband used to say if you think you have no friends try defaulting on the mortgage!

THE SAME HAPPENS TO HERBERT.

DAME: Here, I might have the house made over.

THE GORILLA TAKES THE CAPTAIN OFF. THE GORILLA SITS NEXT TO THE DAME.

DAME: You know what I'm going to do now I've got all this loot? I'm going to open a store account at (local store), I'm going to have someone round to sort out my debts, we're having wall to wall carpets - I might even have the floors done. Here Captain, you know - I've got something to admit to you - I've always had a soft spot for you - that uniform I suppose. GORILLA PUTS AN ARM ROUND HER Ooh, you are a fresh 'un. Hey, TOUCHES HAND you want to get some IMac on this love. URNS TO KISS HIM

GORILLA SCREAMS AND RUNS OFF.

DAME: Blimey! To think - I could have got fresh with a yetty.

ROBINSON AND POLLY ON WITH ELIXIR.

ROBINSON: Mother - what's wrong?

DAME: I think I just met Billy Connolly (*or other hirsute star*).

CAPTAIN, HERBERT AND BILLY ON.

HERBERT: We just got close to a gorilla!

DAME: Yes, and you were no help - were you?

POLLY: Well look - the elixir of youth!

DAME GETS EXCITED TRYING TO TOUCH IT.

POLLY: It says on the bottle it can turn back time, take twenty years off your face and hands -

DAME: Twenty! But I have the skin of a baby -

WITCH APPEARS.

WITCH: A baby elephant maybe!

DAME: Yes well ó Mrs Kettle, meet Mrs Pot!

WITCH: Curses on you all, you fools!  
You've broken all the rules,  
Well things will work out just fine -  
And that elixir is mine - all mine!

FLASHING LIGHTS (STROBE?) AS WITCH TRIES TO GRAB IT. DAME FIGHTS HER. THE WITCH IS ON THE GROUND ó THE DAME HAS ONE FOOT ON HER. THE OTHERS CHEER.

DAME: I know what you're thinking ó I'm a thoroughbred!

WITCH: I knew I'd seen you race at (*local race course*).

DAME: Say what you like! I've beaten you fair and square old hag and now I get to keep the elixir and choose what becomes of you.

WITCH: Maybe you're not so bad after all ó it could just be the lighting.

DAME: Too late for that, Delilah Crusoe can't be bought!

WITCH: Oh, it's you Mrs Crusoe ó do forgive me, I was dazzled by your beauty!

BILLY: Better go to Specsavers (*or local opticians*) love!

DAME: My beauty? TAKES HER FOOT OFF HER. Go on ó

WITCH: Ah yes, your beauty and your ó your charm and wit and ó

DAME: I like what I'm hearing. Alright old witch, I will spare you but you'll have to work with me ó as my companion. Next to you I look ravishing, don't I?

SILENCE

THE WITCH CLIMBS TO HER FEET.

BILLY: So you won't be needing this mum? HE HOLDS THE ELIXIR ALOFT.

DAME: Nothing like an insurance policy!

BILLY: READS THE BOTTLE This potion is guaranteed to lift years from any woman and to ensure that she lives for ever.

DAME: How marvellous! I want it, I want it, I want it!

BILLY: Calm down dear ó it's only a commercial! You can't believe what this says.

HE THROWS THE BOTTLE OVER. BOTH THE DAME & THE WITCH JUMP FOR IT BUT IT SMASHES ON THE FLOOR.

DAME: Now look what you've done!

WITCH: It's smashed!

DAME: I'm doomed to look like this forever!

ROBINSON: I think you're better off without it mother. Beauty is from within! Now come one everyone, let's get out of here!

BILLY, HERBERT, POLLY & ROBINSON GRAB SOME GOLD AND EXIT FOLLOWED BY THE WITCH. THE DAME SITS ALONE ON A ROCK. THE CAPTAIN, HIS POCKETS FULL OF GOLD, SITS BY HER.

CAPTAIN: You know Delilah; I think you and I could have a future together.

DAME: You ó and me?

CAPTAIN: Well, you're certainly different from any woman I've met before. Go on, how about a little kiss?

DAME: Men do say I'm a lovely kisser.

CAPTAIN: Really? Where did you learn to kiss?

DAME: I used to siphon petrol out of army lorries.

HE PUTS HIS ARM AROUND HER.

DAME: Ooh! Don't squeeze so hard ó you're pushing all the blood up to my head.

CAPTAIN: You smell lovely.

DAME: Toilet duck! You know, when I was younger I was the belle of the ball. Then someone pinched me clanger.

CAPTAIN: I've been thinking ó

DAME: I thought I heard something whirring.

CAPTAIN: We've a lot in common ó we've both got a child and we've both been married before and we're both alone in the world now ó

DAME: True. I've been married before alright ó my first husband died from drinking milk. The cow fell on him. My second husband was so bow-legged if I wanted to sit on his knee I had to put a plank across him. My third husband was a peer ó

CAPTAIN: Of the realm?

DAME: No love, he had waterworks troubles.

CAPTAIN: Be that as it may, Mrs Crusoe ó I wonder if you'd do me the honour of becoming - HE GOES DOWN ON ONE KNEE ó Mrs Cockles.

DAME: Me? Mrs Cockles? A Captain's wife? I'm glad I wore this frock now ó It's American.

CAPTAIN: American?

DAME: Yes, one yank and it's off. Well, do you know what ó I will be your wife! I will!

CAPTAIN STRUGGLES TO GET UP ó DAME HELPS HIM.

NUMBER Captain and Dame

DURING THE NUMBER, THE DAME HITS THE CAPTAIN IN THE FACE & SHE SAYS:

DAME: Oh I'm sorry ó let me kiss it better!

SHE PUCKERS UP & KISSES HIS CHEEK.

LATER THEY GET THEIR LEGS CAUGHT UP & THE CAPTAIN LIMPS.

DAME: Is it your knee? So sorry, let me kiss it better.

SHE DOES.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NUMBER THEY BUMP BOTTOMS. THE CAPTAIN RUBS HIS.

DAME: I suppose you want that kissed better now?

CAPTAIN: Well!

DAME: Kiss it yourself!

BLACK OUT.

**6. ANOTHER PART OF THE ISLAND:**FAIRY ENTERS.

FAIRY:        So Atalanta wasn't quite so clever,  
                   The elixir of youth has gone forever ó  
                   She's doomed to stay growing evermore old,  
                   Whilst my friends are rich in silver and gold,

MOBILE RINGS.

FAIRY:        Excuse me. Yes, ah.  
                   My friend ó dear Fairy Renee,  
                   Wants my help with a genie,  
                   Um, I'd better get this sorted out,  
                   Are my friends round and about?

ROBINSON, POLLY, HERBERT, BILLY ON.

FAIRY:        Now dear friends you must leave this land,  
                   Behold, your rescue route is at hand,

SHIPS HOOTER HEARD.

FAIRY:        Off the island you must slip -  
                   So here's your escape - by a ship!

PINKERTON ON, FAIRY OFF.

PINKERTON: Ahoy there, ahoy, ahoy. May I introduce myself, I am Captain  
                   Pinkerton.

BILLY:        Pinkerton?

PINKERTON: That's right. I'm a little lost.

UNFURLS MAP.

                  You can't point me in the right direction can you?

ROBINSON: I'll try.

PINKERTON: Thank you. And who do I have the pleasure of addressing sir?

ROBINSON: Well my name is Crusoe - Captain Robinson Crusoe. We are all  
                   shipwrecked actually, could we please hitch a ride home with you?

PINKERTON: Well, I don't think I could ó

POLLY:        We're rich!

PINKERTON: A pleasure miss, my ship is headed for Southampton.

HERBERT: What a wonderful co-incidence.

POLLY: And what is the name of your ship?

PINKERTON: The QE2 - any questions?

ALL: The QE2!

POLLY: We shall pack at once!

POLLY, PINKERTON AND ROBINSON OFF.

BILLY: Isn't that wonderful - a passage home on a big ship.

HERBERT: Fantastic! I tell you what - let's have a final sing on the island before we head home.

BILLY: What a wonderful idea. Now then everyone, would you like to join in too? You'd find the words ó EITHER A SHEET WITH THE WORDS PAINTED ON, COMES IN OR HE TELLS THEM TO TURN TO THE CORRECT PAGE IN THE PROGRAMME.

Now, I want to hear you joining in loud and strong.

NUMBER Billy and Audience.
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That was fantastic. If we'd have known how good you were at singing we'd have asked you to do all the numbers! Well, I'd better get on board the QE2!

EXIT.

**8. ON THE DECK:****PINKERTON LEADS POLLY AND ROBINSON ON.**

PINKERTON: Now that you've seen round the ship, I'm sure you'd like to freshen up and have a change of clothes.

POLLY: Clothes? We've nothing but the clothes we stand up in.

ROBINSON: And I don't even have my Visa.

PINKERTON: Don't worry dear lady, at your disposal - the ship's shops are sizzling with sales of superb summer sarongs.

POLLY: You don't need to say that twice!

PINKERTON: It's just as well.

**POLLY EXITS.**

ROBINSON: Polly and I were wondering Captain, are you still able to marry people at sea?

PINKERTON: Of course.

ROBINSON: Then, perhaps you would do me the honour.

PINKERTON: My dear boy, it's kind of you, but I'm already married.

ROBINSON: No, no, no, whether you would officiate at my wedding to Polly.

**CAPTAIN RUSHES ON.**

CAPTAIN: Did I hear you say wedding?

POLLY: Yes father, Robinson has asked me to be his wife.

ROBINSON: If you consent sir.

CAPTAIN: Consent? It's an honour. In fact, I have some news of my own - I don't I boys and girls? I'm going to marry -

**SHIPS HORN.**

POLLY: You're going to marry who father?

CAPTAIN: She's agreed - Mrs -

**SHIPS HORN.**

ROBINSON: The boys and girls are going to have to tell us ó who is Captain Cockles marrying? Mother? Well, that's marvellous!

CAPTAIN: That's what I've been trying to tell you!

PINKERTON: Quite, quite. Absolutely - a delight! A double wedding!

THEY EXIT. CHORUS ON FOR [NUMBER].

AT THE END, THE CHORUS TAKE A BOW AND MOVE UPSTAGE. EACH CHARACTER ENTERS IN TURN TO DO THE SAME. THEY COME ON IN THIS ORDER: Hector, Pinkerton, Cannibal King, Fairy, Witch, Captain Cockles, Herbert, Billy, Dame. Finally, Robinson and Polly together.

ROBINSON: I've won my bride and riches galore.

POLLY: And we'll all live happily ever more!

HERBERT: We hope you all enjoyed it - it's been a merry jape.

BILLY: And it's only the hairs on a gooseberry that stop it from being a grape.

CAPTAIN: I promise never to get into spells,

DAME: No dear, not now, not after these wedding bells.

CAPTAIN: Well, only if you can shake him off!

GORILLA ON TO GRAB DAME.

DAME: Happy New Year, goodnight and God bless!

CURTAIN.

## INTRODUCTION

The book Robinson Crusoe was published in 1719 and I quite like it set in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with tricorns, frock coats and powdered wigs (and mobile phones!). This script sticks pretty closely to the general tale and there are opportunities for some underwater effects and some nice comedy routines. The main change is that there's no Man Friday or his day off when Robinson lands on the island.

## TECHNICAL:

### Act One:

#### Scene 1:

Mobile Phone: A real, old one.

Phone ringing: Could be made live off stage or a recording.

#### Scene 2:

Tray of tankards: A normal tray and some cups (could be painted polystyrene ones).

Flash: Use pyrotechnics, flashing lights or cut it.

Scooter: A child's scooter.

Mop head: Just an ordinary top off a mop.

Honk of horn: Real or an effect.

Bike: Makes a good entrance.

Cases and parcels: Empty boxes wrapped up or some suit cases.

Sweets: Soft ones for throwing out.

Dog puppet (or costume): This can be played by someone in costume or a puppet.

Dogs bark: Use a recording.

#### Scene 4:

Coin: A real one.

Large crate: This needs to be a large box on casters of which one side opens to reveal the dame sat on a chair inside. If it's impossible or then use a single sheet of hardboard with a small hinged flap in it. Put handles on the back and the dame can walk about holding it.

Newspaper: For the dame to hold.

Claxon sound: Real or recorded.

Skipping rope: A real one.

Gold coins x2: Oversized card ones.

#### Scene 5:

Cat screech: A sound effect.

Spider on wire: A large prop or rubber spider on a spring or wire to be lowered into the set.

Pan: For the Dame to protect herself with or a bedpan or frying pan.

Mugs x3: Ordinary mugs or nothing in them.

Dog bark: Recorded.

Storm effects: Combination of lighting and sound (shake thin sheets of metal, peas in boxes etc).

Water effect: In the professional production, water was pumped through a hole in the set using a hosepipe. You could do it with a jug of water or you can, as suggested, cut it.

### Act Two:

#### Scene 1:

Seahorse: A large cut out seahorse onto which Robinson climbs. In the professional production it was on wires and he was flown into the flies. You could have it on

casters and it could be pulled off into the wings or he could just sit there until the end of the scene.

UV: To make this work you need to ensure no light leaks into the auditorium or stage area. You'll need special UV strip lighting and paint to make the fish with. Your performers wear all black (including face covers if possible) and operate the fish.

### **Scene 2:**

Hamper: A large basket in which is:

Sandwich, bottle of wine: A large sandwich made from pieces of foam and a bumper bottle of vino.

Rope: For tying up the prisoners.

Sign on post: A freestanding post with the sign about Man Friday on it.

### **Scene 3:**

Rope: The prisoners are tied up in the pot.

Cooking pot: Can be a cut-out that they stand behind.

Flaming torch: This has to be blown out so cut out a torch or match and paint it up on both sides but on one side only paint some flames. The operator turns it when it's blown on so it looks like the flame goes out.

Chariot: Could be a child's scooter with a bit of decoration or something more elaborate she can stand in.

Spoon and flour pot: Maybe in a bag on the chariot that she can pull out easily. All over-sized.

Plates and looped rope: Get a length of rope and at intervals tie big loops in it. Then get some paper or plastic plates and attach one over each loop. Then paint the plates or stick raffia on them to simulate the spaghetti. As each cannibal takes a plate they slip their hands through their loop.

### **Scene 4:**

Fire: A small mound of twigs built over some red shiny paper and stuck to a board.

### **Scene 5:**

Chest of gold: A large chest with jewels spilling from it. You could stick some other gold vases etc to the sides to make it look like a pile of loot.

Money: Some fake money notes for the money lending routine. If you don't have a Musical Director in a pit then you could have a member of the front of house staff take his/her role.

Bench: Maybe made to look like rocks or even piles of gold.

Elixir: A fancy bottle or perhaps a decorated plastic container.

Flashing lighting: For the fight scene you need flashing lights or you could use a colour wheel or some other effect.

Smashing sound: When the elixir bottle is dropped, have it fall behind the gold or the bench out of sight. In the wigs have a biscuit tin full of broken glass or china (seal it well with gaffer tape) and drop that.

### **Scene 6:**

Ship's hooter: Real or recorded.

Map: A scroll of paper dipped in tea to make it yellow.

## **CHARACTERS:**

Some suggestions on how to play them:

Fairy Pantomime: A lovely, typical fairy or radiating magic and loveliness or play her more wacky as someone who has no idea where she is or what she's doing.

Captain Cockles: Polly's father is a bit of a loose cannon as he tries to be bad but is a bit daft to get away with it. A befuddled old man.

Polly Cockles: Robinson's love interest, she's sweet and kind. She loves her father and our hero.

Robinson Crusoe: A swash-buckling hero who inspires loyalty from all his crew. Can be played by a male or female.

Witch Atalanta: The villainess, she loves to wreck ships and is a villain in a delicious panto style.

Billy Crusoe: Robinson's brother who gets into much mischief as again, he falls in with the wrong crowd but we never doubt for a minute that he'll only mess up in the end.

Bosun Herbert: Another bad man with idiot tendencies. He is really the comedy villain.

Dame Crusoe: Robinson's mum who never lets him out of her sight. She's lonely, desperate for love, wealth and beauty as other than that she's quite happy with life!

Cannibal King: Larger than life, he makes a brief appearance in act two.

Captain Pinkerton: A small role who appears at the end of the show. Very up market Gilbert and Sullivan style sea captain.

## **COSTUMES:**

Some ideas for those on smaller budgets:

Fairy Pantomime: A full dress with wings, tiara and wand. If played more modern put her in a ra-ra skirt, stripy leggings, hair in bunches and maybe as on roller-skates!

Captain Cockles: An old wreck of a sailor he wears black buckled shoes, white stockings or long socks, a white shirt with ruff, blue cut-off trousers and a frock coat with a bit of gold braid. He could have a powdered wig and tricorn or admiral's hat.

Polly Cockles: A full cotton dress in pastel colours. Her hair in a matching bow.

Robinson Crusoe: Depending on whether he's played by a male or female as trousers or tights with boots, a shirt and ruff and a frock coat. He also wears a tricorn at times.

Witch Atalanta: She should be all blacks and greens as she is the witch of the seas so you could also decorate her dress with shells and seaweed. She has a long black wig, blackened teeth and gloved hands.

Billy Crusoe: Similar to Captain Cockles but without the hat or gold braid.

Bosun Herbert: As Billy.

Dame Crusoe: She wears a full coloured dress and boots with a bright coloured wig. She needs a nightdress and dressing gown for act two.

Gorilla: A furry costume with mask or make-up.

Cannibal King: A grass skirt, necklaces and wild hair.

Captain Pinkerton: A smarter version of Captain Cockles.

Hector the Dog: A full furry costume.

Chorus: Sailors, Townspeople and Cannibals: As sailors they wear blue and white tops and trousers with red neckerchiefs tied at their throats. As townspeople as trousers, jerkins and some will have tricorns. As Cannibals they wear grass skirts, necklaces and wild hair.

Note: Herbert, Captain Cockles and Billy require PT kits of shorts and T-shirts for the deck scene.

## **SCENERY:**

Some suggestions for those with limited space or budgets on the settings:

Act one:

1. The Ocean Depths: This can be performed in front of the tabs.
2. Hull Quayside: A full stage, you actually only need some tables and chairs for the outside of the inn.
3. The Ocean Depths: Again, a tabs scene.
4. Deck of the 'Adventurer': Full stage. You could use curtains as the sky with some basic mast and rigging. Tabs close part way through this scene to allow change into the next scene behind.
5. The Dame's Cabin: This could be trucked on or set on the centre of the stage ó you will need a door, bed and table.

Act two:

1. Under the Sea: Full or part stage. This is the UV scene so requires dark curtains at the back. If UV is impossible then have the chorus dressed as fish and other sea creatures and perform on full stage in front of curtains.
2. The Island of Death: This could be in front of the tabs.
3. The Cannibal Camp: Full stage. A cut-out palm tree and the cooking pot will set the scene.
4. Another Part of the Island: Again, in front of tabs if necessary.
5. The Temple of Gold: Full stage ideally with some cut-out rocks. You could add some dripping water sound effects or an echo for some atmosphere.
6. Another Part of the Island: In front of the tabs.
7. Deck of the 'QE2': The full stage. You could re-use the Adventurer set.

**MUSIC:**

Some suggestions for the songs and music used during the show:

**Act One:**

**Scene 2:**

Chorus: *What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor?*, *The Sun has Got His Hat On* or *A Life On the Ocean Wave*.

Polly and Captain Cockles: *(Think Of Me) Wherever You Are* or *Only You*.

**Scene 3:**

Fairy: *Swinging On A Star* or *I Can Do Magic*.

**Scene 4:**

Robinson and Chorus: *Wanna Be In My Gang* or *Sailing*.

**Scene 5:**

Dame Crusoe and children: *Happiness* or *You Are My Sunshine*.

**Act Two;**

**Scene 1:**

UV Ballet (instrumental): *Anything Goes*, *Come Fly With Me* or *Any Dream Will Do* (from Joseph).

**Scene 2:**

Robinson: *Beyond The Sea* or *The Best Things In Life Are Free*.

**Scene 3:**

Cannibals dance: *Civilisation (Bongo Bongo Bongo)*

**Scene 4:**

Polly, Robinson, Dame, Billy, Captain and Herbert: *Friendship or Merrily We Roll Along*.

**Scene 5:**

The Company: *We're In The Money* or *Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend*.

Captain and Dame Crusoe: *When Love Comes Round Again* or *You're The Top*.

**Scene 6:**

Billy and audience: *There's Something About a Soldier* (change lyric to Sailor) or *Sailing*.

**Scene 7:**

Chorus and walk-down: *The Bells Are Ringing* or *Around The World*.

**TOPICALITY:**

Throughout the script you'll find chances to add in local references ó audiences always enjoy a mention of the local pub, football team and so on and it's usually a guaranteed laugh. You'll also find the occasional topical reference to TV personalities and so on ó obviously, as time passes since this script was written the topicality of these references will wane. However, the same jokes have been used for decades with the current Prime Minister's name or the current famous TV chef's name added in ó jokes about Fanny Craddock gave way to Delia Smith then to Jamie Oliver ó but the gag stayed the same so please, simply update the reference.