

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT...

ROBINSON

CRUSOE

BY

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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. Iøve 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. Thatø 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 Billyø? 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!ø 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 |
|--------------|

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 capsizes, 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. |
|-----------------------------|

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 2ND 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 ~~ó~~ 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!