

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

***THE GOLDEN PEARL
OF ATLANTIS***

BY

Bob Pearson

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The Golden Pearl of Atlantis

A pantomime by Bob Pearson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Characters

Princess Aquarius, high spirited, adventurous heroine of Atlantis
 Tom Sharpe, able adventurous and handsome, a lighthouse keeper
 Queen Amphitrite, elderly monarch of Atlantis, has great dignity
 Countess Barracuda, beautiful but cruel and relentless enemy of the queen
 Grouper, dull witted enforcer, a loan shark in Barracuda's employ
 Flounder, a companion to Grouper
 Olga, Russian mermaid, friend and lady in waiting to Aquarius
 Pisces, a mermaid and lady in waiting to Aquarius
 King Poseidon, missing husband to the queen
 Dame Betsy Codswallop, a dame figure
 Citizens, mermaids of Atlantis, Adult chorus
 Seahorses, Junior chorus

Act 1

Prologue Front of curtain

Scene 1 The palace of Atlantis (throne room)

Scene 2 The palace of Atlantis, two hours later

Scene 3 Front of curtain

Scene 4 Lighthouse rock

Scene 5 Front of curtain

Scene 6 The palace of Atlantis, later still

Act 2

Scene 1 The gardens of Atlantis

Scene 2 Front of curtain

Scene 3 The sea bed/Ghost ship

Scene 4 Front of curtain

Scene 5 The palace of Atlantis

Musical numbers

Nobody loves a fishwife. Ain't got no/I got life, Age of Aquarius, Mac the knife, Listen to the ocean, Black Magic Woman, Octopus's garden, Out there, Three little fishes, Money money, What'll I do?, You've got a friend in me, Things are seldom what they seem, Hit me with your rhythm stick, We all stand together.

Act 1

Prologue Front of curtain. Dame enters stage right. She is dressed in large costume adorned with fish type jewellery. She is an old mermaid, past her prime.

Dame Hello boys and girls, mums and dads (*Poor audience response*) I said hello boys and girls mums and dads (*Good response*) That's better! This is pantomime and you, the audience, play the vital role of enthusiastic response. Well I'm Dame Betsy Codswallop. It's a silly name I know, but I'm stuck with it. I'm a fish wife here in the underwater world of Atlantis. But I'm sad (*Poor audience response of Ahh!*) No, much sadder than that (*Good audience response*) You see my husband died years ago, sadly he didn't manage to give me children, in truth he didn't try too hard. So I've no one to look after me in my old age and I'm forced to do odd jobs to keep the wolf from the door. It's terrible to be old, I tell you ---

Nobody loves a fish wife when she's forty

Dame

Nobody loves a fish wife when she's forty

Nobody loves a fish wife when she's old

When the lure of her allure

Is a thing men won't endure

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**And there's silver in her hair instead of gold.
 When all her charms and dimples don't attract men
 And they see her figure's shot, oh it's so sad
 When she tries hard to entice,
 Instead of perfume it's Old Spice
 Nobody loves a fish wife, it's too bad!**

Today you find me descaling the fish and that's another problem, the catch isn't good these days. Some blame the Icelandic fishermen, others say it's down to ocean pollution, either way our community is struggling (*Audience response Ahh!*) near destitute (*Audience response Ahh!*) facing ruin (*Audience response Ahh!*)

To help cheer me up, perhaps you could encourage me? Every time anyone says "What a great big dollop" you say "That's codswallop!" We'll give it a try shall we? What a great big dollop! (*Poor audience response*) I think you can do better than that, it's got to be five times louder. Let's try again. "What a great big dollop!" (*Good audience response*) [*At this Dame trots to wings produces large stuffed fish and beats it against a gong*] Now that's what I call codswallop!

Well I'll fill you in on our world. Poseidon, our King has vanished and his wife Queen Amphitrite is in desperate straits (*Starts to exit*) You'll see for yourself (*Curtains open as dame exits to join chorus on stage.*)

Scene 1 The throne room of Atlantis. Two thrones are set to right of stage facing audience, a fishing net is draped on opposite side, a large boulder is located in middle of centre stage. Olga and Pisces are playing cards behind this, other citizens and mermaids are also engaged in work or play, some are combing their hair. Mermaids are adorned in pink tee shirts (Olga's is red), pearl bracelets and necklaces, their tails consist of grey/green pencil skirts with extra nylon material made into fins and draped over their arms. They have long flowing hair, Aquarius also wears a coronet. Olga should be a red head. The set appears to be of a church swept out to sea and left to sink at the bottom. [*Enter Aquarius stage right, she crosses to Olga and Pisces*]

Aquarius What is it, "Heads and Tails" again? Pisces my friend, it's a wonder that you still play cards with Olga. She makes up such wonderful bluffs when she's gambling

Olga [*Russian accent*] Darlink Aquarius, it is what I was born for, after all I am related to a red herring. I'm a teller of tales and keeper of folklore.

Pisces Does that mean you cheat?

Olga [*Acting hurt*] Darlink, how can you say that?

Aquarius It's true, the last time I played you I lost my beautiful silver comb to your cunning wiles.

Olga Nyet! Nyet! Your Highness, it's a skill I have. I just use my imagination to strengthen my hand, but it's a case of lucky at cards unlucky in love, I tell you darlinks, I'd like to lure one of the dolphins into falling for me.

- Pisces** But they live life in the fast lane, speeding along in the bow waves for the tourists, they're nothing but showy mammals
- Aquarius** You don't realise how fortunate you are. You're both free to court where you will and marry who you like. I, on the other hand, must marry as my parents dictate. That means political solidarity and trade agreements, there's no room for attraction or romance.
- Pisces** But you're beautiful and a royal princess.
- Aquarius** [*Looking around*] A royal princess of an impoverished realm I fear, just look at this place.
- Olga** It's a ruin.
- Pisces** It's a wreck.
- Aquarius** It's home. Mother does her best, but since father's disappearance life hasn't been easy. I know we're in desperate straits, we've got precious few resources to keep the creditors from the doors.
- Pisces** No designer labels?
- Olga** No hidden horde of treasure?
- Aquarius** Nothing.
- Pisces** No servants?
- Olga** No trinkets?
- Aquarius** Nothing I tell you.
- Dame** You don't seem too upset!
- Aquarius** There's more to life than wealth and there are so many things to be grateful for-----

Song 1 Aint got no/I got life (Aquarius) [Nina Simone]

**Ain't got no home, ain't got no shoes
 Ain't got no money, ain't got no class
 Ain't got no skirts, ain't got no sweater
 Ain't got no perfume, ain't got no beer
 Ain't got no man.**

Ain't got no mother, ain't got no culture

Ain't got no friends, ain't got no schooling
 Ain't got no love, ain't got no name
 Ain't got no ticket, ain't got no token
 Ain't got no God

Then what have I got? Why am I alive anyway?
 Yeah, what have I got nobody can take away?

Got my hair, got my head
 Got my brains, got my got my ears
 Got my eyes, got my nose
 Got my mouth, I got my smile

I got my tongue, got my chin
 Got my neck, got my boobs
 Got my heart, got my soul
 Got my back, I got my sex

I got my arms, got my hands
 Got my fingers, got my legs
 Got my feet, got my toes
 Got my liver, got my blood
 Got my freedom, got life.

[After song enter Queen Amphitrite stage right]

Q A What's this, gambling and on the eve of the ball?

Pisces A Ball?

Olga A Ball?

Dame *(In eager anticipation)* A Ball!!!

Aquarius It's mother's latest ploy to secure a son-in-law.

Pisces I don't understand, you've just said there's no money!

Olga Darlink majesty why spend out on a ball?

Q A Simple my dears. All eligible bachelors will be invited, from all the great families. Families of standing, families of worth.

Aquarius Families of wealth you mean! Rich families.

Q A Don't be silly Aquarius, this is how it's done. With no money of our own we have to marry you to a wealthy prince to secure the realm.

Aquarius If Daddy were still here he wouldn't want to sell me off to the highest bidder like some commodity.

Q A But your father is not here, as you know and the creditors are circling and calling in their loans [*To Pisces and Olga*] Go on all of you get yourselves ready for the ball.

[Chorus exits through nearest wings as Q A and Aquarius walk forward of curtain which closes behind them]

Aquarius Mummy must I go through with this?

Q A There's no alternative I'm afraid. I've just received a final demand from Countess Barracuda.

Aquarius That leech?

Q A Hardly that, my child. She's bought up all our debts and IOUs.

Aquarius She's so relentless.

Q A Precisely! I fear for Atlantis if it falls into her hands, hence the need for an arranged marriage to rescue us from her clutches.

Aquarius Surely it won't come to that, Barracuda hasn't got that much power!

Q A Oh hasn't she? She controls much of the North Sea, Atlantic and Baltic now, but you haven't heard the worst.

Aquarius There's more?

Q A Indeed! The last loan I negotiated I was forced to pledge our own kingdom of Atlantis as assurance.

Aquarius Mother how could you?

Q A Desperation my child. Besides it was the only way I could get a loan. Since your father's absence I cannot raise tax revenue, you see I need his signature on any legislation. Without it there's no income which has led to our present situation.

Aquarius But to pledge our heritage!!!

Q A It won't come to that if a wealthy suitor takes a shine to you.

Aquarius I hope I can do my duty by the realm, but I so wanted to follow my heart and fall in love with a boy of my choice. Surely that's how it was for you and Daddy?

Q A At first! King Poseidon was every girl's dream. He was like a tidal surge, full of passionate energy.

Aquarius What happened then?

Q A Low tide!

Aquarius [*Shocked*] Mother!!!

Q A It's true, my dear. The King was kept ever busy with affairs of state. The sea world cannot govern itself you know!

Aquarius We haven't heard from Daddy in so long, are you sure he's still alive?

Q A If he is I fear he is in mortal danger [*Aside*] Oh where are you my husband?

Aquarius Troubled indeed is the head that wears the crown.

Q A Enough of this now Aquarius. You must prepare the palace for our guests and do try to be on your best behaviour. A surly disposition doesn't suit a suitor. Until this evening I bid you farewell [*Exits*]

Aquarius So I'm to be put on the conveyor belt of marriage and sold to the highest bidder [*Suddenly struck with thought*] What if he's old or ugly? What's to become of me? Oh father where are you? [*Runs off sobbing*]

Scene 2 The throne room, extra decoration has been hung it resembles sea weed fronds. Citizens and seahorses are on stage mulling over the day's events. Olga and Pisces are to the fore. The dame stands at right front of stage ready to announce guests as they arrive.

Dame (As M/C) Ladies and gentlemen, citizens of Atlantis, I give you their royal highnesses Queen Amphitrite and Princess Aquarius.

[The two enter arm in arm]

Song Age of Aquarius Full Chorus (5th Dimension)

**When the moon is in the Seventh House
And Jupiter aligns with Mars
Then peace will guide the planet
And love will steer the stars**

**This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius
The age of Aquarius, Aquarius! Aquarius!**

**Harmony and understanding
Sympathy and trust abounding**

**No more falsehoods or derisions
Golden living dreams of visions
Mystic crystal revelation
And the mind's true liberation
Aquarius! Aquarius!**

(Repeat all above)

**Let the sun shine in, Let the sun shine in
(Repeat as necessary)**

[During song there is an opportunity to perform a dance routine]

Aquarius Okay let's get this over with.

[Two suitors parade around stage very much like a dragon's den pitch made to Q A and Aquarius who have seated themselves on thrones. The first suitor is obviously too old, the other too young. Both then step back into crowd]

Dame Contestant number one *[Older suitor steps forward and performs smart bow but with the aid of a stick]* A member of the top one hundred rich list families.

Aquarius Too old, I'm out.

Q A I'm out too!

Olga You're fired!

Dame Oh I don't know, there's plenty of good tunes played on an old fiddle. He's just my age, just my size ----

Aquarius He's just fallen asleep.

Dame Just my luck. (As M/C) Oh well, contestant number two *(Younger suitor steps forward and bows, but trips over own feet)* Has just inherited a small fortune.

Aquarius Small's the word, look at him, he's just a tiddler! I'm out.

Q A No wait! This one has prospects.

Aquarius Mother this is ridiculous, just because they are men of wealth does not mean they are men of worth. We're both out.

Pisces You're fired!

Aquarius How could we have been brought so low?

[Enter Barracuda stage left. She is in a dark flowing cloak and wears long black gloves]

Barracuda The answer's simple my precious princess, I, countess Barracuda have brought you to your knees. The kingdom of Atlantis is at an end.

All Oh no it isn't!

Barracuda Oh yes it is!

All Oh no it isn't!

Barracuda Oh yes it is! For too long have I been denied my proper place in the higher reaches of society. I have become an outcast.

Aquarius What do you want here?

Barracuda Why your highness I've brought two suitors, both eligible, both single *[Aside]* and both in my pocket. May I introduce Flounder and Grouper?

[Enter F and G, both in evening suits, dark glasses and with slicked hair and dorsal fin attached between shoulders. Both will also have to carry sheath knives on inside pockets]

Dame Ooh I say, it's Moby and Dick!

Flounder I'm a great white shark
Such a great white shark
I can bite my food in two

Grouper Though a great white shark
We dogfish don't bark
We just gnash our teeth at you.

Aquarius How could you think these two brutes could win my hand? They're nothing more than dull witted enforcers.

Dame Precisely Highness, they're loan sharks!

Barracuda What did you expect princess, they're my own dull witted enforcers, trained to heel on my command!

Q A This is an outrage! I'll have you know I still rule here in Atlantis. You and yours are not welcome, besides, they're likely to eat the guests.

Barracuda Calm your fears your majesty, my boys adhere strictly to their code of conduct, you see they're man eaters. Listen they'll tell you themselves.

Song Mac the knife **Flounder and Grouper** **(Bobby Darin)**

**Oh we sharks have such great teeth dear
And we keep them pearly white**

**Just a jackknife up our sleeves dear
And we keep it out of sight
When we sharks bite with our teeth dear
Scarlet billows start to spread
Fancy gloves, worn on our fins dear
Means there's never a trace of red**

**In the shallows each sunny morning
Lies a body just oozing life
And someone's sneaking round the corner
Could that someone be a great white?**

**Jenny Driver, Sukey Tawdry
Lotte Lenya and old Lucy Brown
The line forms on the right dear
Now we great whites are back in town**

Look out we great whites are back!

Barracuda Such talent, such charisma.

Aquarius Such teeth!

Barracuda All the better for slicing and dicing my dear. But what a pity all rival suitors seem to have lost their appetite for the pageant. That means they're eliminated.

Dame More likely liquidated! I know why you called your lads dull witted, they never swam together in schools!

Aquarius What's your game Barracuda?

Barracuda Isn't it obvious? One of my two consultants is here to marry you, the other is to ensure all debts will be paid.

Aquarius I shall never submit myself to this fate worse than death. Sorry mother
---- *[She dodges the attentions of F and G and a small chase follows through the crowd with Olga and Pisces hampering the pursuers wherever they can. Eventually she flees the scene through auditorium]*

Q A Flee my child, get as far from here as possible.

[Scene ends with curtains closing as the sharks and Barracuda storm past the rest of the cast]

Scene 3 Front of curtain Dame, Pisces and Olga

Dame It's a pity the ball was interrupted by those brutish sharks, I was just getting into my stride with that young suitor.

- Pisces** But surely he was too young for you Dame Codswallop, he was just a minnow.
- Olga** That's right darlink, the older gentleman would have made a more suitable match, why didn't you make a cast for him?
- Dame** The poor old duffer kept falling asleep. He snored worse than my late husband, bless him. Oh well time to remove the jewellery (*Starts to remove earrings whilst looking into hand mirror Pisces holds and sings*) **Keep young and beautiful it's your duty to be beautiful --** First to go must be the shrimp earrings (*Removes them*) **Take care of all those charms and you'll always be in someone's arms -----** Next comes the lobster necklace (*Removes it*) **If you're wise exercise all the fat off, take it off, off of here, off of there -----** And finally the sardine bracelet (*Removes it*) **I'll keep young and beautiful 'cos I want to be loved -----**
- Olga** Darlink, it's no wonder you don't attract men. You reek of fish!
- Dame** Nonsense! I like to be scampily dressed.
- Pisces** Well tell us about your late husband, was he a good catch?
- Dame** Not at all. Billy Codswallop was as bald as a coot, his friends called him Billiard -ball Billy. Not a hair on his head!
- Olga** Is it true he was Cornish?
- Dame** True enough my dear. In fact he was the son of the mermaid of Zennor
- P&O** The mermaid of Zennor?
- Dame** Surely you've heard of the rhyme? (*Both shake their heads*)
There was once an old mermaid of Zennor
Who travelled, first class, care of Stenna
When she dyed her hair
There was never much care
She used bleach and conditioned with henna. -----
Sadly Bill passed on and left me penniless.
- Pisces** But surely he must have left you a token of his affection?
- Dame** Now that you mention it -----
- P&O** (*In anticipation*) Yes -----
- Dame** He left me this oyster shell (*Retrieves large shell from wings*)
- Olga** It's enormous.

- Pisces** Absolutely huge!
- P&O** It must be worth a fortune.
- Dame** Not a bit of it! It's empty, there's no pearl inside.
- Olga** Darlink what are you going to do?
- Dame** Simple, I'll feed it a handful of grit every day until it produces the goods, until then of course it's just a great big dollop! (Audience response and gong routine) Hah! Gonged with the wind! (*All exit*)
- Scene 4** Lighthouse rock. A low platform (pallet) is situated to left of stage on which Tom Sharpe sits. He is fishing with a rod and line a loud hailer is close at hand. The lighthouse can clearly be seen behind him. In the middle of the stage a large boulder is situated. The stage is dimly lit a single spotlight illuminates the character. A loud fog horn sounds followed by announcement over the tannoy.
- Announcer** Unknown vessel ahead you are obstructing our way forward. Please alter course. Over!
- Tom** [*Through hailer*] Approaching unknown vessel ahead it is not your right of way. I suggest you alter course. Over!
- Announcer** Unknown vessel ahead, we displace 77,000 tons and under maritime law I order you to alter course. Over!
- Tom** Approaching vessel of 77,000 tons, I repeat it is not your right of way. You urgently need to alter course. Over!
- Announcer** Unknown vessel ahead, this is HMS Bulrush. We are an aircraft carrier currently deploying 15 Phantom jets, 3 strike helicopters, 23 guns and an assorted arsenal. Now give way and alter course. Over!
- Tom** HMS Bulrush, this is a lighthouse! Have a good day sir. Over!
[*The foghorn sounds again and Aquarius steals in unseen by Tom she secretes herself behind the boulder*] That's one way to scare off the fish, no wonder they're not biting.
- Aquarius** Oh dear the wash from that ship is too strong, I can't keep my grip on the rock [*She is swept up and around the rock and makes a grab for Tom's line, still unseen*]
- Tom** A bite at last. It feels like a big one, it'll take all my skill to land this one.
- Aquarius** What's this? I'm caught in a fishing line, it's tangled around me. Help me someone! Help!

[As Tom strains to reel in his catch Aquarius struggles against him in what becomes a tug of war contest]

Tom It's trying to spit the hook *[Pulls hard]* No you don't.

Aquarius *[Grabbing hold of line and pulling hard]* He's trying to land me. Oh no you don't.

Tom What a fight, I've not had sport like this in ages *[Pulls again]* Time to use some real force.

Aquarius It's impossible to spit the hook *[Pulls extra hard]* It's no good, I'm tiring.

Tom At last it's beginning to tire *[Gives a great heave]* One more heave should do it. *[With a mighty tug on the line Aquarius is pulled into Tom's lap]*

Aquarius It doesn't seem to be my day. First I'm pursued by sharks then I'm caught by a human *[To Tom]* Well aren't you going to introduce yourself?

Tom Crikey it's a mermaid!

Aquarius You expected maybe a whale?

Tom Indeed not Miss. I'm Tom, by the way, Tom Sharpe, apprentice lighthouse keeper.

Aquarius *[In mockery]* "Tom by the way, Tom Sharpe", It's a bit long winded wouldn't you say?

Tom Tom then, just Tom.

Aquarius And you're a lighthouse keeper?

Tom In truth I'm just an apprentice keeper, but the lighthouse is real enough, look there *[Indicates lighthouse]* I must confess I thought mermaids were the stuff of legend, I can't believe my eyes! A real mermaid!!

Aquarius Yes! 34-22- and Eighty pence a pound! Aquarius, of the House of Poseidon.

Tom Poseidon, but he is the King of the sea. That would make you -----

Aquarius Precisely, I'm a princess of the blood royal.

Tom Well your highness should I throw you back or keep you as a prize?

Aquarius Keep me as a prize? What cheek! I grabbed your line to save myself from the battle ship's wash [*Both jump up and come forward of curtain which closes behind them*]

Tom That settles it, you're a prize from the sea. I can't wait to show you to my friends.

Aquarius Tell me, are all humans as conceited as you? [*Aside*] I must admit though, he is rather handsome

Tom I might ask if all mermaids as contrary as you? [*Aside*] She is pretty though.
 Ten little fishy fingers,
 Ten little fin like toes,
 A pair of pearly bracelets,
 A pretty aquiline nose
 Although her tail looks funny
 And she won't have babes, just roes
 She took my hook and with one look
 I felt my heart go pop, pop, pop.

Aquarius Well this is doing neither of us much good, I'll bid you good day, sir, that is if you're able to let me go.

Tom Able and willing highness. Before you go however, I would like to learn more of your world, I've always wondered about the ways of the sea.

Aquarius Where to start? Well there are soft golden sands in the shallows and dark mysterious caverns in the deep. There are wavering fronds of seaweed, you must have experienced its attractions whilst swimming?

Tom [*Ashamed*] There's a problem with that I'm afraid. You see I can't swim, not a stroke.

Aquarius But swimming is easy, come on I'll show you how, first drink this potion [*Produces small phial of liquid which Tom drinks*] This will allow you to visit my world. Listen, the waves are calling you.

Song Listen to the ocean Aquarius and Tom (Nina and Frederik)

**There's a world of sun and sand
 Full of sky and far from land
 Where evening breezes caress the shore
 Like a gentle comforting hand**

**Fragrant blossoms, honey bees
 Careless laughter upon the breeze**

**And lovers fade into pools of deep
Purple shadows among the trees**

**Listen to the ocean, echoes of a million seashells
Forever it's in motion
Moving to a rhythmic and unwritten music
That's played eternally**

**The sound of a seagull's distant cry
His wings like parentheses drawn in the sky
And two white birds clinging like foam
To the crest of a wave rolling by**

**The silence of noon, the clamour of night
The heat of the day when the fish won't bite
These are the things that remind me of
The day you sailed out of sight**

**Listen to the ocean, echoes of a million seashells
Forever it's in motion
Moving to a rhythmic and unwritten music
That's played eternally.**

Aquarius *[Taking Tom's hand and crossing stage towards wings]* Come on then
Tom Sharpe put one arm in front of another *[Showing crawl style
stroke]* You're swimming *[Both exit swimming into wings]*

Scene 5 Front of curtain. Barracuda enters stage left and crosses to centre stage.

Barracuda What a tangled web I weave, when I double-cross and deceive
Total power is what I'm after, they'll be no jot or joy of laughter
Tempest and tide I'll command, all marine creatures under my hand
'Twill be Barracuda and I alone who sits upon the Atlantis throne
I'll cut my clothes to suit my cloth, so beware and fear my wrath ----
Ha! My plans for a change in management are on track, Amphitrite
does not realise the full force of my threat. There will be no Portia
pointing to a legal get out. This contract *[Reveals scroll]* will lead to
the old girl's removal. You might say it's water tight! Now it's time to
step up the menace. *[Commands]* Come Flounder, come Grouper,
good sharks.

*[Enter F & G who circle Barracuda and generally behave like dogs.
Barracuda feeds them a small treat]*

Flounder You rang madam?

Grouper Your wish is our command!

Barracuda Aren't they just adorable? My own little maulers, with such wonderful
powers of persuasion. Listen my dears ---

The time has come to talk of many things
 Of looting and of plunder and of replacing kings
 Citizens of Atlantis must be made to quake with fear
 With a sight of a dorsal fin whenever you are near
 Menace, threaten, really strut your stuff
 Make it a night to remember -----

Flounder Once a night's enough

Grouper A pleasure m'lady

Barracuda I want to establish a hold over the undersea world. I want to plunder its resources, the deep sea drilling, oceanic wind farms, gas pipelines and my favourite, the nuclear dumps. I want a finger in all these profitable pies.

Flounder M'lady of the Midas touch

Grouper M'lady of the magic touch

Song **Black magic woman** **Barracuda, F & G** **(Santana)**

**She's a black magic woman,
 Yes she's a black magic woman
 She's a black magic woman got us so blind we can't see
 That she's a black magic woman trying to make a devil outta we**

**Don't turn your back on me baby
 Don't turn your back on me baby, no, no, no
 Don't turn your back on me baby
 Stop messing round with your tricks
 Don't turn your back on me baby
 You just might pick up my magic sticks, oh, no**

**I cast a spell on you baby
 I cast a spell on you baby
 I cast a spell on you baby
 Turning your heart into stone
 We need you so bad magic woman
 We can't leave you alone, no, no.**

Barracuda Time for a weapons check. Thumb screws?

F & G Check!

Barracuda Knuckle dusters?

F & G Check!

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