

**NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT**

***TREASURE CHEST***

BY

Bob Pearson

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## Treasure Chest A pantomime by Bob Pearson

This is a tale of pirates reclaiming previously buried treasure. As they pursue their gold, they are discovered by Sam and Sue Green. After a brief struggle the two innocent youths are overpowered and taken as apprentice pirates. The pirate gang, led by Big Jake Blackheart, make their way back aboard the Black Pig and head off towards their base on Skull Island in the Caribbean. Inevitably the ship sinks, the rats escape in the life boats, capturing Mrs Coddle, the cook, as they do. Blackheart and company are forced onto rafts and things are looking so bleak that it is decided to ditch a number of the gang into shark-infested waters. Luckily land is sighted and the crew scramble ashore onto what they believe is a deserted island. Big Jake lets his importance get the better of him and tries to rule by fear. Sam and Sue fall in love with members of the crew and this adds to the captain's frustration. Meanwhile the one lone inhabitant of the tropical paradise, the marooned Ben Doone, appears and informs the gang that treasure has been buried on the island. In a desperate duel, Sam and Blackheart face each other, but are saved from serious harm by the intervention of a wish-granting Sprite. Can all end well for the infatuated lovers? Will Blackheart die a rich man? Who got the gold? Some of the answers might be revealed!

### Cast of Characters

Big Jake Blackheart	Captain of the Black Pig
Mrs Coddle	The ship's cook (A dame figure)
William Smee	A leading pirate
Bess	A pirate lass of all trades
Roger	A slightly effeminate cabin boy
Sam Green	A heroic type, with a thirst for adventure
Sue Green	Sister to Sam, a sensible type
Ben Doone	Marooned pirate, slightly mad, avid Celtic supporter
Tonic	A magical sprite (Always speaks in rhyme)
Rosaline Rat	Leader of the rat pack aboard ship
Owls 1 & 2	
Sharks 1 & 2	Minor parts essential for scene setting
Monkeys 1 & 2	
Chorus of Pirates	
Junior chorus of rats	

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## Scene Setting

Act 1 Scene 1	Needham Churchyard	Act 2 Scene 1	The desert island
Scene 2	Aboard the Black Pig	Scene 2	The pirate's camp
Scene 3	Several weeks later	Scene 3	Doone's camp
Scene 4	Later that day	Scene 4	Dawn the next day
Scene 5	On the life raft	Scene 5	Front of curtain
		Scene 6	Needham Churchyard

## Scene 1

*Front of curtain, two owls chatting to each other.*

Owl 1      How do Hugh?

Owl 2      Fine Pugh, and you?

Owl 1      Nothing to do!

Owl 2      Hoo! ..... I say, do you think we can stop all this hooting for a while? I mean it's great for the tourists and all that, but it's three in the morning, no-one's around.

Owl 1      Fine with me old boy, all this owl stuff is not such a hoot.

Owl 2      Ssshhoooo, I hear someone approaching.

*(Owls move to side of stage, enter Pirates. Curtain opens to reveal Needham Churchyard; the gravestones are faintly illuminated by the moon.)*

**Song** *We sail the ocean blue*      *Pirate chorus*      *(G&S)*

*We sail the ocean blue, our pirate pennant dipping  
Both captain and the crew are a menace to the shipping  
We're bold buccaneers who know no fears; we're outlaws of the  
ocean  
Through tempest and gale we never fail, though sea-sick with the*

*motion*

*Ahoy. Ahoy, for the privateers*

*Ahoy. Ahoy, we're the bold buccaneers*

*We'll stand by our guns, by our guns all day*

*We're smart and sober men and quite devoid of fear*

*In the Merchant and Royal N there's non so bold as we are*

*We rob, we steal, we plunder*

*Our cannons sound like thunder*

*We farm the ocean's breeze*

*We sail the seven seas.*

- BJB** Right me fine buckos, aha, aha, ha, ha! This be the correct spot. The last resting place of poor Blind Pugh.
- Owls** Hooooo?
- BJB** No Pugh! aha, aha, ha, ha!
- Roger** Ooh Capitain Blackheart, I can't look, my mother would turn in her grave if she knew what I was up to.
- BJB** Well it's a good job we're not digging her up then, aha, aha, ha, ha!  
(*To audience*) I think Roger here needs to man up to the situation. So, my friends, if any of the cast says "Ship ahoy" I'd like you to reply "Sailor boy." We'll give it a try shall we? "Ship ahoy"  
(*Audience response at which Roger runs across to right wing, a bosun's whistle sounds and he hoists a skull and cross bones flag before saluting and returning to previous position*)
- Bess** Stand aside Roger; I'm not afeared of a bit o' dirt and a few old bones.
- Roger** My, isn't she bold?
- BJB** Dig away handsomely then Bess, put your back into it, but quietly mind. Let's not wake the good people of Needham. (*Local town*)

*(The Pirates set about digging up the grave.)*

- Bess** Just a minute, I think I've found something under my spade!
- BJB** Shiver me timbers, that's good work Bess. *(Looks at Roger)* You're the best man amongst the crew, aha, aha, ha, ha!
- Roger** Aha, aha, ha, ha..... How do you do that? It hurts my throat!
- BJB** Avast!
- Roger** A vast what?
- BJB** Avast I say. Not a word now. They do say as dead men tell no tales, but I think old Pugh here is about to reveal his little secret.
- All** *(Indicating Bess)* She's found something.
- Bess** *(handing over recently revealed chest)* Here captain, this is yours I think.
- BJB** Thankee kindly Bess. *(to the grave)* And thankee too Blind Pugh. You've kept this secret well for nigh on twenty years.
- Bess** What do you mean Sir? What is it?
- BJB** Treasure! Treasure! Near twenty years ago I was caught on a lee shore and grounded on the spit.
- All** *(Spit)*
- BJB** *(Wiping himself down)* Thankee! So I had to run ashore ahead of the excise men. I followed the estuary 'til it became a river. I followed the river 'til it became a stream, then I followed the stream 'til it became a brook.
- All** Then what happened?
- BJB** Well me hearties, I found myself here in Needham with just a

handful of my men.

**Smee** That's right Sir, by that time there was only you, me, Mrs Coddle and old Pugh left of the crew.

**Roger** Do you mean Blind Pugh? Was he with you Mr Smee?

**Smee** Aye lad, he was, by then we had discovered he was betraying us to the authorities.

**Roger** You mean he was telling tales to the excise men?

**BJB** Worse than that lad. He was a spilling of his secrets to the Mid Suffolk District Council (Local Council)

**All** The traitor.

**Bess** The dirty turncoat!

**BJB** You're right lass and you know the punishment for all traitors. Still the doing of the deed gave me no pleasure. You might say I was dead sorry to do it lass, but it was a grave situation.

**Roger** Ooh I knew I was in the wrong trade. I'll catch my death in this chilly wind.

**BJB** Well you're in the right place for it, Blind Pugh here could do with the company I'm sure, aha, aha, ha, ha!

**Bess** Can we see the treasure Captain?

**All** Just a quick look?

**BJB** Aye lads that you can, just remember though, finders keepers and I aim to keep what's mine, so don't go getting light fingered.

*(The lid of the casket is forced open and only an old Coke bottle is revealed.)*

- All** Gone! We've been had!! Who got the gold?
- Roger** Well, they do say things go better with Coke. Looks like they were right.
- BJB** Shiver me timbers and walk the plank, there be a note inside the bottle.
- Owls** Hooooooo.
- BJB** Ssshhh mess mates. Belay there and get into hiding, there be danger in the air.
- (Roger leaps with fright into Smee's arms, the others hide behind grave markers and bushes)*
- Roger** Ooh, ghosties and ghoulies. My nerves can't stand it.
- BJB** Hold hard there Roger, blast your eyes. Keep quiet!
- Roger** I am my capitain. Oooh I am!
- BJB** Stow it lad, and quickly get into hiding.
- (All disappear behind bushes, gravestones etc. Enter Sue and Sam)*
- Sue** Are you sure you heard something?
- Sam** Sshhh! Yes, and I saw lantern light from the cemetery. There's something funny going on alright.
- Owl 1** If only you knew...
- Owl 2** We do..... We do.....
- Sue** What was that?
- Sam** It's alright, it's just a couple of old owls.

- Owl 1** Cheek I'm not a day over forty!
- Owl 2** Me too..... Me too .....
- Sue** Oh it's awfully dark and creepy.
- Sam** It's alright Sue, just hold my hand, there's something going on here that I'd like to get to the bottom of.
- Sue** Look, that gravestone's been disturbed. Who could do such a thing?
- Sam** I knew it, I knew something was wrong.
- Sue** Oh Sam, be careful! Can we go back home now? Please?
- Sam** Not yet Sue, I mean to get to the bottom of this, come on. *(Bends to examine grave)* Look, there's a spade and a shovel .....and over here I can see muddy tracks in the moonlight .... Look, they lead over there to the bushes.
- (They creep over towards bushes and as they do the bushes seem to move)*
- Sue** Look, that bush has come to life! I don't like this; I think we'd better ask the audience. *(To audience)* Is there anyone there?
- (Audience response)*
- Sam** *(To audience)* Sorry, we can't hear you. Is there anyone there?
- (Audience response. The two recommence creeping towards bushes and are suddenly surprised as the Pirates leap out at them)*
- BJB** Two nosey landlubbers, grab them lads!
- (The Pirates snatch and grab at Sam and Sue)*

**Bess**            *(Having captured Sam in a bear hug)* My, you're a handsome one and no mistake, strong too for your age.

**Sam**            *(To Smee who has captured Sue)* Let her go, don't you harm my sister.

**Sue**            Save yourself Sam!

**Roger**        Ooh aren't they bold?

**Smee**        *(Who has captured Sue)* Now don't struggle so Miss. I would not want to hurt you.

**BJB**            Bess and you, William Smee! Call yourself Pirates? *(mimics)* 'Strong for your age' ..... 'wouldn't want to hurt you'. Why you scurvy swabs! I'll keel haul you when we get back to sea.

**Roger**        Ooh that sounds painful, my captain.

**Bess & Smee**    Well, now we've got them, what are we going to do with them?

**Pirate 1**        Walk the plank?

**Pirate 2**        A lash of the cat

**Roger**        Buff the ship's bell, perhaps?

**BJB**            No lads, we'll kidnap 'em, aha, aha, ha, ha.

**Roger**        And then what?

**BJB**            Shiver me timbers, we'll take 'em back aboard the Black Pig and indenture them as pirates.

**Roger**        Indenture?

**BJB**            Aye lad, indenture! I know it's a bit of a mouthful but that's the plan. Those in favour say 'Aye'.

All Aye.

BJB Quickly now lads, we'll take these two and that useless bottle along with us. Sshhh! Not a noise.

Song: It Was The Cat (Captain & Crew) (G&S)

BJB Quietly on tiptoe creeping  
We will softly steal away  
Just before the dawn is peeking  
To begin another day.

Roger Goodness me

All Why what was that?

Roger Dearie me, it's just a cat.

All It's just, it's just a cat

BJB That's right, it's just a cat.

All Stepping oh so soft and sprightly  
Our footsteps we retrace  
We do the job just rightly  
And the sod we will replace

Owls Twit-to-woo

All Say did you howl?

Sue/Sam Nay not us, it was the owl

All It was, it was the owl

Owls That's right, it was the owl.

Bess We shall quickly bind and gag you

Smee You're our bounty for this night

Bess And of land you'll see but scarce view

Smee As we smuggle you from sight

All Piracy

You know it's right

BJB And we think with us you'll fight

All With us, with us you'll fight

BJB That's right, with us you'll fight.

*(All Pirates & Sam and Sue exit, curtain closes with Owls in front)*

**Owl 1** Well there's a fine how d'ye do, Hugh.

**Owl 2** Sure Pugh!

**Owl 1** Let's see if we've got the gist of the story. Captain Blackheart and his gang of Pirates have recovered some old, previously buried treasure.

**Owl 2** That's right, but they were disturbed by the brave Sam and Sue Green.

**Owl 1** Yes that's right. Then the Pirates kidnapped the Greens and took them off as part of the pirate gang.

**Owl 2** Meanwhile of course, someone had replaced the original treasure with an old Coke bottle

**Owl 1** Well, that's enough recollecting old chap. Do you know I had to visit the optician's just yesterday?

**Owl 2** Really?

**Owl 1** Yes! But he quite frightened me; he said I was really eagle-eyed! I ask you!

**Owl 2** You know my cousin had to have a session with a psychologist.

**Owl 1** Why was that?

**Owl 2** He wanted to "Owl" at the moon!

**Owl 1** That's nothing. I went to the health centre this morning, but arrived late for the appointment.

**Owl 2** What was the matter?

- Owl 1** I wasn't up with the lark!
- Owl 2** Up with the lark indeed, I think you're just trying to delay things while the stage crew change the scenery, but I've got a better way of entertainment, we can sing a song.
- Song** Owl anthem The Owls (Lilly Marlene)

Out in all the weathers, hunting down our prey  
 Working on the nightshift and sleeping all the day  
 We wise old owls know a thing or two, of course we do, to-wit-to-woo  
 We turn away from lamplight, we sleep away the day

All the Guides and Brownies know us by our name  
 Of course we're wisdom's emblem, another claim to fame  
 We build our nests with a twig or two, of course we do, to-wit-to woo  
 We turn away from lamplight, we sleep away the day.

## Scene 2

*The curtains open to reveal the Black Pig; Mrs Coddle is at work in the galley area. Pots, pans and the stove are in evidence. Mrs C is at first unaware of the audience and is singing to herself.*

- Mrs C** "If I live to eighty four (Food glorious food)  
 I'll darn their socks, I'll scrub the floor  
 But all I'll ever cook is gruel"  
*(Noticing audience)* Oh hello everyone, I'm Mrs Coddle, believe it or not I'm the original Molly Coddle. I'm the ship's cook, a most important position. Apart from the captain, the boatswain, the mate, the sail-maker, the armourer, the crew and the cabin boy, I'm the most important person in the ship.  
 But I've had a hard day *(Slight audience sympathetic response)*  
 It's been much harder than that! *(Good audience response)*  
 That's better! You see, our captain, the fearless Jake Blackheart and his crew have gone ashore and I've no idea when they'll be

back, so I don't know when to put the dinner on! When you're serving gruel it's got to be timed just right, an hour or two either way and it's ruined.

That's not the worst of my problems though. I hope I can let you into a secret; I'm scared of the ship's rats! Ooh, they're big and they're vicious! Do you know they're so brazened, I've seen them attack the ship's cat. Not only that, they turn their noses up at my gourmet gruel!!

I've just had an idea, perhaps you could help me? (*Poor audience response*) I said would you like to help me? (*Better response*)

Splendid, here's what I'd like you to do. I'd like you to shout out if you see a rat, then I'll be ready for it with my carving knife! Would you do that girls and boys? (*Poor response*) You don't seem too sure; I said would you do that boys and girls? (*Good response*)

Thank you, I feel better now, don't forget now will you?

*(She turns back to her tasks and a rat runs onto the stage to steal the cheese as the audience shout a warning. Mrs C looks up too late and misses the rat)*

Now where did that cheese go? (*Audience "A rat took it"*) A rat? Right here? Well you'll have to shout much louder to give me warning. (*She continues her tasks as another rat enters and steals the ham. Once again Mrs C is too late to interfere*) What happened to that ham? (*Audience response "A rat took it"*) Another rat took it? Look you are going to have to be twice as loud with your warning or there won't be any food left. (*Again she becomes engrossed in her tasks and this time the whole rat pack enters. The audience responds and Mrs C turns towards them, knife in hand*)

**Song** "Rat pack rap" Rosaline Rat and pack (Rap tempo)

**Ros** We are the rat pack  
**Ch** Rat-tat-tat  
**Ros** We get our own back  
**Ch** Rat-tat-tat  
**Ros** We know where it's at  
**Ch** Rat-tat-tat  
**Ros** Keeping as cool as cats

Ch Rat-tat-tat  
 All Rat pack, own back, where it's at, cool as cats. We're the rats,  
 Rat-tat-tat

Ros We are the cool set

Ch Rat-tat-tat

Ros When I say chill we get

Ch Rat-tat-tat

Ros Mister do you wanna bet?

Ch Rat-tat-tat

Ros You aint seen nothing yet!

Ch Rat-tat-tat

All Cool set, we get, wanna bet? nothing yet. We're the rats.  
 Rat-tat-tat

R. Rat We're not three blind mice and we're not blind as bats  
 So put down that weapon you old battle-axe  
 You'll not chop off our tails, don't chase us you fool  
 We're here to complain about your gourmet gruel.

Mrs C My gruel? Why what's wrong with it?

R. Rat It's lumpy, it's cold and it's horribly runny

Tiny Rat When I tried to eat it, it made me feel funny

Mrs C Well there's a thing I never saw before. Talking rats, with a  
 complaint, no less!

R. Rat You'd complain too, if you were stuck in the hold. It's dark and it's  
 damp

Tiny Rat It's terribly cold

Mrs C Well what did you expect, a P&O luxury cruise? You're rats!!

R. Rat We know our place alright, we're no body's fool, but I'm telling you  
 now you can stick your old gruel

**Tiny Rat** I'll promise not to scare you and I'll not harm you, please, but when ordering provisions could you add extra cheese?

**R. Rat** That's enough, we don't grovel. We're trendy, we're hip, but if things don't improve

**Tiny Rat** We'll abandon the ship

*(Exit all rats, squealing, as BJB and crew enter other side)*

**Mrs C** Gone and never called me mother. Just in time too as I hear the captain returning.

**BJB** Ah, there you are Mrs Coddle; sorry we've no time for eating we've got to catch the tide. Hoist the mizzen! Set top gallants, man the braces. Come on you seadogs; put your backs into it. Mrs Coddle I think it may be time for you to get below.

**Mrs C** Those who are about to retire salute you. *(As she is leaving)* Here I am, a flaxen haired beauty, in my thirties and would like to meet available man for romance. Hobbies include cooking, mending, sewing etc. It's true I have a full figure, a slight five o'clock shadow and a large *(Positions hands near groin)* --- wait for it --- Adam's apple. Still no one's perfect. Here I am surrounded by lusty sailors and not one of them lusts after me. Oh woe! Oh woe! I must go.

*(Mrs C exits as the crew run to their various duties)*

**BJB** *(to Smee)* Mr Smee, three points on the larboard tack.

**Smee** Aye Sir, three points it is.

**BJB** Roger weigh anchor!

**Roger** *(As he tries to lift anchor rope)* About one and a half tons my captain Sir.

**BJB** I'll Jolly Roger you 'ere long my lad, I know the trick, "Ship ahoy"  
(Audience response and flag routine) Now get to it.

**Roger** (Giving Boy Scout salute) I'll need a bit of a hand getting this thing  
aboard my capitain.

*(Other crew members pull on the rope and are encouraged by shouts of "Heave" from BJB and break into song "Yo-heave-ho" to keep time. After several pulls an old metal locker is hoisted on stage)*

**Roger** Well I never, it's Davy Jones's locker

**BJB** Bess hoist the spanker.

**Roger** Ooh now that's a job for me!

**BJB** Avast you lubber and get to your post. Plot a course for Skull  
Island in the Caribbean.

**Roger** Well it's an awfully long way from Ipswich my capitain, but I'll do  
my best. Now one point starboard times by x squared, three down  
carry two, take away the first number I thought of (To Smee and  
pointing in any direction) Oh just steer that way there's a good  
chap.

**BJB** Now haul up the prisoners, we'll see if they can earn their keep.  
(Bess brings on Sue and Sam) We'll start with a little  
deck-swabbing; let's see those scrubbing brushes busy.

*(It is obvious Bess has taken a shine to Sam and similarly Smee to Sue)*

**Sam** No, I refuse, I am not going to be one of your blood-thirsty  
pirates.

**Roger** Ooh isn't he bold?

- Bess** You'd best do as ordered (*Taking brush from him*) Here, let me show you lad, you'll soon get the hang of it.
- Smee** (*Demonstrating*) Look, watch me lass, scrub away from yourself, you'll find it easier.
- BJB** Swipe me, I don't believe my eyes. You're pirates m'hearties, you're supposed to be blood thirsty heavies. You're not meant to be nice to the prisoners, although she's a fine looking lass and there's spirit in the boy,
- Sam** Aye, I've spirit enough, I'll never be enslaved in piracy.
- BJB** You'll face the lash, slaves can't refuse an order!
- Sam** I can and I do.
- BJB** Thirty lashes slave!
- All** (*Aghast*) Thirty!
- Sam** Never.
- BJB** Forty lashes slave!
- All** (*Aghast*) Forty!
- Sam** Never.
- BJB** Right my lad, the ultimate punishment!
- Sue** Why? What are you going to do to him?
- BJB** The gong!
- Sue** But what is it?
- Roger** It's a big, round member of the percussion group of instruments.

You have reached the end of this perusal, to view the entire script please contact NODA on 01733 374790 or email [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)