



## Sample Pages from Treasure Island (One Act Version)

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# TREASURE ISLAND

## ONE ACT VERSION

adapted by  
*Todd Espeland*  
from  
*Robert Louis Stevenson*



*Treasure Island - One Act Version*

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## Cast

- Older Jim Hawkins:** Male, adult Jim who recounts the tale
- Jim Hawkins:** Male, young and unsure of himself
- Billie Bones:** Female, bold, brash and hiding a secret
- Mrs. Hawkins:** Female, Jim's mother, a tough no-nonsense woman who runs the Bennbow Inn
- Dr. Livesey:** Male, honorable and honest
- Squire Trelawney:** Male, impulsive side kick to Dr. Livesey
- Blind Pew:** Female, bitter and angry
- Long John Silver:** Male, friendly and warm but with a harsh dark side
- Captain Smollett:** Female, Captain of the Hispaniola, sharp and dry personality
- Benn Gunn:** Female, marooned on Skeleton Island for 3 years, a little crazy from all the time alone
- Johnny:** Female pirate in Long John Silver's crew
- Black Dog:** Male pirate in Long John Silver's crew
- Dirk:** Female pirate in Long John Silver's crew
- Bilge:** Female pirate in Long John Silver's crew
- Dungbee:** Male pirate in Long John Silver's crew
- Scuttle:** Male pirate in Long John Silver's crew
- Israel Hands:** Male pirate in Long John Silver's crew
- Dick:** Male crew member of the Hispaniola who is convinced to join Silver's crew
- Tom:** Male crew member of the Hispaniola
- Hunter:** Male crew member of the Hispaniola
- Various Inn Patrons and Sailors

Character gender has been broken up to give everyone a chance to play good roles in *Treasure Island*. However, it should be noted that historically there were female pirates. Anne Bonney, an Irish pirate operating in the Caribbean, was one of the most famous female pirates of all time. The little that is known of her life comes largely from Captain Charles Johnson's *A General History of the Pirates*.

In the original production at Fort Wayne Youtheatre, the role of Long John Silver was played by a woman because she proved herself to be the actor most capable of taking on the role. We did have discussions

about her playing Silver as a man or a woman. We reached the decision for her to play Silver as a man, mostly because she wanted to take on that challenge. With the exception of Mrs. Hawkins, you are encouraged to play with the genders of the characters if it works for you and your pool of actors. This is theatre, after all. Please remember to adjust the gender pronouns if you do cast against gender.

### The Set

The original production of *Treasure Island* at the Fort Wayne Youtheatre was staged in a Black Box Theatre on a deep thrust stage. The play can be adapted for almost any theatre configuration from in-the-round to flat proscenium.

This is a fast-paced show and the scene changes should be done quickly without going to a blackout.

The set is made up of one large platform, four trunks, two fake rocks, a tree, a large ship's wheel, and various chairs or stools brought on and off. The individual pieces were chosen because they are simple and can fit in many of the show's settings. It is also helpful if they can hold or hide props and fabric for quick set changes.

Up stage center: One 8'x8' platform made up of two 4'x8' platforms painted to look like the cover of an old copy of *Treasure Island*. This platform will be transformed to become various large set pieces from the deck of a ship, the inside of a cabin, a large table in the Bennbow Inn, or a hill to be climbed.

Two posts are attached to the platform and rigged with rope to look like the deck of a ship, docks, and decorations in a seaside inn. The legs of the platform are covered in white fishing net to hide the underside of the platform and to dress the set. Within the netting was placed skulls, crossed bones, shells, rolled up treasure maps, and various fishing gear. All of this is to dress the set and give the feel for this seafaring community.

Downstage left and right and center stage left and right: four old trunks. Two downstage and two center stage. These trunks can become tables in the inn, trunks on the deck of a ship, and you can cover them with netting or jute or simple brown fabric to hide them and make them become mounds of dirt and rocks in the jungle of Skeleton Island.

The fabric and props can be kept in the trunks. *Treasure Island* is a script that goes back and forth between large cinematic scenes and smaller scenes between two and four characters. This set design leaves you with a considerable amount of open center stage area to play scenes or the ability to focus smaller scenes around one trunk or up on the 8'x8' platform.

The tree, the rocks and the ship's wheel can be brought in and moved between scenes to help establish setting. If you have a large enough stage you can change where you set the rocks and the tree to show us various places on Skeleton Island.

Hanging is a 12'x15' canvas drop cloth to give the impression of a sail and to be used for projections. Hanging around the sail are swagged ropes that are tied to the posts on the 8'x8' platform. The canvas drop can be purchased at any home hardware store. You can also hang a flat or simple sheet of fabric to get the impression of the sail.

The projections used in the original production were all public domain images from classic editions of *Treasure Island*.

### **Long John Silver's Peg Leg**

In the original production, we took a knee brace and attached two weathered boards on either side of the brace using an super Velcro, like a splint. The inseam board was shorter, while the outer board was up to the hip.

We then attached a leather belt at the top around the thigh and another one by the ankle.

Lastly we added two scarves in the middle to give support. You can find images of the final product on the Theatrefolk website.

## Original Production

*Treasure Island* premiered at the Fort Wayne Youtheatre, with generous support from the Indiana Arts Commission and Arts United, on October 5th 2018 in the Parkview Physicians Group ArtsLab Theatre at the Arts United Arts Campus Fort Wayne with the following cast:

**Older Jim Hawkins:** Bobby Way

**Jim Hawkins:** Zidon Spradling

**Mrs. Hawkins:** Melody Browning

**Dr. Livsey:** Noah Abdool

**Squire Trelawney:** Will Guthrie

**Blind Pew:** Kayden Ptak

**Long John Silver:** Kimee Gearhart

**Captain Smollett:** Alexandra Sittler

**Billie Bones:** Margaret Gaughan

**Benn Gunn:** Robert Gevers

**Johnny:** Violet Park

**Black Dog:** Keegan Combs

**Dirk:** Megan Schwartz

**Dick:** Keegan Dobson

**Bilge:** Alivia Wheeler

**Dungbee:** Paige Billian

**Scuttle:** Jax Dodds

**Israel Hands:** Corbin Veltum

**Tom:** Landon Richey

**Hunter:** Gavin Dobson

**Inn Patrons and Sailors:** Ty Budenz, Noah Graves, Jonathan Lowden, Mary Hutchinson, Kamila Ojuri, Nola Bianski, Kaleb Mantle

**Director:** Todd Espeland

**Stage Manager:** Sloan Amburgey-Thomas

**Set Design:** Todd Espeland and Christopher J Murphy

**Light Design:** Brock Eastom

**Light Operator:** Lana Thompson

**Sound & Projection Design:** Christopher J Murphy

**Sound Operator:** Sydney Holub

**SCENE I: A bedroom / The Admiral Bennbow Inn**

*The Treasure Island book cover is projected on the screen. Lights up. Four trunks are in place with stools and chairs, ready to transform into The Admiral Bennbow Inn.*

*A youth, contemporarily dressed, comes running into the bedroom with a copy of the book Treasure Island. This youth will become JIM in the show. Jim opens the book and begins to read. OLDER JIM HAWKINS steps up onto the 8x8 platform.*

*Monologue light up on OLDER JIM HAWKINS. OLDER JIM is onstage the whole time. He is the storyteller and witness, orchestrating all the events.*

OLDER JIM: Here is the tale of *Treasure Island*. Dr. Livesey and the other people who experienced this adventure asked me to write down the whole particulars about *Treasure Island*, from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back but the bearings of the island.

It began with Billie Bones.

*BONES enters humming “Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest” and stands in solo light like a memory.*

Tall, strong, and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white. Her very presence frightened me.

BILLIE BONES/OLDER JIM:

Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest—  
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!

*Lights up on The Admiral Bennbow Inn. JIM sits reading a book while his mother frantically tries to serve all the singing patrons. BILLIE goes and sits at a trunk furthest away from everyone. The projection changes to a dank alley outside The Bennbow Inn.*

MRS. HAWKINS: Come Jim. Step lively and stop daydreaming. We are full of people and we stand to make a pretty penny tonight.

JIM/OLDER JIM: (*reading a book*) Yes, Mother.



OLDER JIM: My father had died when I was very young. All he left my mother was this place, The Bennbow Inn. A dirty little inn at the end of a dank, dark dock.

MRS. HAWKINS: (*grabbing JIM's book*) Get that book out of your hands. We have customers.

JIM: Yes mother.

MRS. HAWKINS: We need make some coin tonight, seein' how as that boarder of ours, the "Captain Bones" continues to not pay up what she owes. Now git these handed out all 'round.

*JIM takes two mugs from his mother and clinks them together, then clinks them again. He starts making a rhythm with them*

JIM: One, two, ready, go!

*The patrons begin singing. During the song JIM exits and changes into a costume that is in the style of the show and returns to wait on the singing patrons. During the song one patron near MRS. HAWKINS sneakily takes mugs off her tray and drinks them down. At the last "Shave his chin with a rusty razor" MRS. HAWKINS catches the thief, hits him with her tray and drags him off by the hair.*

PATRONS: (*singing*)

What shall we do with a angry sailor,  
 What shall we do with a angry sailor,  
 What shall we do with a angry sailor,  
 Early in the morning?

Shave his chin with a rusty razor.  
 Shave his chin with a rusty razor.  
 Shave his chin with a rusty razor.  
 Early in the morning!

Weigh heigh and up she rises,  
 Weigh heigh and up she rises,  
 Weigh heigh and up she rises,  
 Early in the morning!

BILLIE BONES: (*Slamming her hands down on a table. Everyone stops singing.*) QUIET THERE BETWEEN DECKS AND SILENCE ALL AROUND! You scurvy dogs! That's not a proper sea shanty for the ears of Cap'n Bones!

SQUIRE: But we were only enjoying a rousing song...

BILLIE BONES: Quiet yur face you fish bellied land-lubber before I slice off yur ear for not knowin' yur betters.

PATRON 1: Hey Bones tell us a pirate story!

ALL PATRONS: YES, BONES!

PATRON 2: Yeah Bones! About making a scurvy dog walk the plank!

PATRON 3: Or giving the Black Spot to a scullion?

ALL PATRONS: YES, BONES!

PATRON 4: Or fierce storms at sea.

PATRON 5: And the Dry Tortugas.

ALL PATRONS: YES, BONES!

PATRON 6: And keel hauling a sailor.

ALL PATRONS: YES, BONES!

PATRON 7: And buried treasure hidden away on far away islands.  
(*BONES looks alarmed by this suggestion*)

SQUIRE: (*acting out a sword fight*) And daring sword fights on the high seas...

BILLIE BONES: (*producing a knife and grabbing SQUIRE's face to shut him up*) Quiet yur gob you droning flap-mouthed giglet. And the name is "Cap'n Bones" and don't you forget it, 'else I'll cut you from gut to gullet.

*DR. LIVESEY steps up and pulls SQUIRE away.*

DR. LIVESEY: Now Captain Bones these kind people meant neither harm nor insult.

BILLIE BONES: Were you addressing me your puny gudgeon?

DR. LIVESEY: Indeed, he was. And know I'm not a just doctor; I'm a magistrate; and if I catch breath of complain't against you, if it's only for a piece of incivility like tonight's I will have you arrested. These people mean you no disrespect.

*DR. LIVESEY and BONES exchange a battle of looks. Eventually, grumbling, BONES puts away his weapon takes a seat*

BILLIE BONES: (*sitting*) Bah! No need to git riled.

MRS. HAWKINS: Thank you for this kindness, Dr. Livesey. She's an odd one that "Capt'n" Bones.

JIM: She's not so bad. Sometimes Captain Bones tells me stories about pirates and sailing the world. And Captain Bones pays me four penny piece monthly to look out for "the seafaring man with one leg."

MRS. HAWKINS: Well, I'd rather the "Captain" put that four penny piece towards her monthly tab.

DR. LIVESEY: Well Jim, you watch that Billie Bones close. If she brings any more trouble to the inn you come and find me.

*Time passes. The scene shifts to later that night. PATRONS are leaving the Inn. JIM is cleaning up the tables from the night.*

BILLIE BONES: (*singing softly and carrying a small sea chest into the room*)

Fifteen men on the dead man's chest—  
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!  
Drink and the devil had done for the rest—  
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"

Look sharp and come here, Jim. Step lively boy and show some discipline, boy.

*JIM plays along with "Captain" BONES and snaps to, comes over to BONES and gives her a grand salute*

JIM: Aye, aye sir.

**BILLIE BONES:** It's a grim night, my boy. I'm feelin' it in me bones. You been keepin' an eye out for that One-Legged man like I been payin' ya?

**JIM:** I haven't seen him Captain.

**BILLIE BONES:** Well now that's a good lookout. (*reaches in the chest and hands JIM a coin*) Here's your monthly due. (*hands JIM a second coin*) And here is another for being loyal. You'll bring me one noggin of rum, now, won't you, matey? If I don't have a drain o' rum, Jim, I'll have the horrors; I'm a woman that has lived rough and done mean things. (*BONES lingers over the chest and sets it aside*) I seen some one 'of em already. (*gets a faraway look in her eyes*) I seen old Flint's ghost in the corner there, behind you; as plain as print, I seen him.

*JIM brings BONES a mug. BONES drinks it straight down and falls asleep at the table. Jim covers her with a blanket. There is a tapping sound and the door to the inn squeaks slowly open.*

**JIM:** I'm sorry sir we are closed for the night, if you come back-

**BLIND PEW:** (*interrupting JIM*) Will any kind friend inform a poor blind woman, who has lost the precious sight of her eyes, where am I now?

**JIM:** You are in the Admiral Bennbow Inn, but I am afraid we are closed for-

**BLIND PEW:** Will you give me your hand, my kind young friend, and lead me in? (*PEW's voice and manner changes from meek to something more intimidating*) Now, take me to the "Captain." I've got something she is owed. Lead me straight up to her, and when I'm in view, cry out, 'Here's a friend for you, Bones.' Take me straight or I'll break your arm.

*JIM leads BLIND PEW to the BONES's table.*

**JIM:** H-Here's...Here's a friend for you, Bones.

*BONES raises her head, sees BLIND PEW and shakes off her sleep.*

BILLIE BONES: Hello Blind Pew. I wasn't expecting you. I was expecting the other one. *(starts to rise like she is preparing for a fight)*

BLIND PEW: Now, Billie. Sit where you are! I can't see, but I can hear a finger stirring and I'll do a harm to this boy you might regret. Boy, put this in her hand.

*PEW keeps a strong grip on JIM'S arm. Slowly, JIM takes BONES's left hand and brings it to BLIND PEW's right hand. BLIND PEW presses an object into BONES's hand.*

BLIND PEW: They'll be coming for you soon. Tonight.

*BONES looks in her hand.*

*BONES springs up. BLIND PEW tosses JIM into BONES knocking BONES over. PEW runs off. BONES stands with a great shout, reels, puts her hand to her throat and falls over. JIM runs to aid her.*

BILLIE BONES: Jim lad, it's the Black Spot they give me. Ah Jim! It's them. Them. They're wantin' me chest. Flint's map. I think they gave the knife *(draws her finger under her throat)* KRRRK! to old Benn Gunn to keep her silent. And me...I ran...I hid...

*BONES collapses.*

JIM: Captn' let me get my mother...

BILLIE BONES: *(reaches in her coat)* I've got one more job for you, sailor. *(pulls out a key)* you be keepin' this safe lad and you be hiding my chest *(points to the chest)* They be wantin' what belonged to Old Flint... *(dies)*

MRS. HAWKINS: *(entering)* What clamor is going on out here?

JIM: Mother, Captain Bones is dead.

MRS. HAWKINS: What?

JIM: There was a blind woman and I'm sure she was a pirate and she gave Captain Bones this. *(gives her the Black Spot)*

MRS. HAWKINS: A pirate's Black Spot. A warning. (*she takes it like it is alive and dangerous*) There is a message on it - "You have till ten tonight." That's soon, Jim. It must have been the drink and fright that killed her.

JIM: (*holds out the key*) I'm to be keeping this key safe.

MRS. HAWKINS: Quickly Jim, bolt the door and draw down the blind. (*JIM runs off and MRS. HAWKINS sets the chest on the table. JIM comes back*) Now Jim, that key.

*JIM hands her the key and she opens the chest.*

MRS. HAWKINS: I don't see all the fuss and mystery.

JIM: Her shells and trinkets.

MRS. HAWKINS: An oil cloth of papers.

JIM: And this bag. (*he shakes it and it jingles sounding of coins*)

MRS. HAWKINS: This isn't much of a treasure.

*We hear the tapping of BLIND PEW's cane and louder harsher voices.*

JIM: Mother take it all and let's be going. I think they are here.

MRS. HAWKINS: My dear, take the money and hide, I'm afraid I'm going to faint.

JIM: No fainting for you. Let's go out the back.

*They exit out. Followed by running footsteps, violent banging on the door*

BLIND PEW: Down with the door.

PIRATES: Aye Aye sir! (*violent crashing sound*)

BLIND PEW: In! In you dogs!

*PIRATES file in followed by BLIND PEW.*

JOHNNY: Bones is dead.

BLIND PEW: Some of you shirking lubbers search Bones, and the rest of you get the chest.

BILGE: The money is there.

BLIND PEW: Curse the money. Flint's map is what I want.

DUNGBEE: We don't see it here no-how.

BLIND PEW: It's these people of the inn—it's that boy. I wish I had broken his arm and put his eyes out! Scatter, and find 'em. They must be close by; they can't be far.

*PIRATES ransack the inn. Two loud whistles are heard.*

BLACK DOG: There's Israel Hand's whistle. Twice! We'll have to leave, mates.

BLIND PEW: Don't you mind him. You'll have your hands on thousands, you fools. You'd be as rich as kings if you could find that map, and you know it's here, and you stand there skulking.

DIRK: Hang it Pew. We've got the doubloons, let's go.

BILGE: Aye Pew, we don't know that Bones had the blasted map.

DUNGBEE: Let's take the coin while we have it and stop your squalling.

BLIND PEW: There wasn't one of you dared face Bones, and I did it—and I'm blind! (*swings her cane*) I'm to be a poor, crawling beggar, sponging for rum, when I might be rolling in a coach like a rich woman! (*swings her cane and hits SCUTTLE*)

SCUTTLE: OW! You old measle. Watch that cane!

BILGE: Stop the old minnow before she breaks my skull.

*A small fight ensues with the PIRATES and PEW. Another whistle sounds. HANDS runs in.*

ISRAEL HANDS: I been blowing that warning whistle boyos! The magistrate is coming with other men. Let's abandon ship.

*PIRATES run out of the inn. We hear the sounds of gunfire and startled horses.*

BLIND PEW: Come back lads. Come back you joltheads! (*exits*)

*We hear the sounds of horses rearing.*

DR. LIVESEY: (*shouting, off*) Look out!

*We hear BLIND PEW scream.*

OLDER JIM: (*we hear the sounds of what he is describing*) Just then the noise of horses topped the rise, and four or five riders came in sight in the moonlight and swept at full gallop down the slope. At this, Pew realized her error. Utterly bewildered she turned with a scream, and was trampled right under the nearest of the coming horses.

JIM: Dr. Livesey, Dr. Livesey! In here!

DR. LIVESEY: (*outside*) Pull up, lads! Check that body! (*enters into the inn*) Jim are you and your mother all right? We heard the commotion and saw all manner of pirates pouring out of here.

*SQUIRE enters.*

DR. LIVESEY: What was that band of pirates doing here? What did they want?

SQUIRE: Money, I suppose?

JIM: (*handing DR. LIVESEY the oil cloth from the chest*) No, sir; not money, I think, in fact, sir, I think they wanted this?

DR. LIVESEY: May I Jim?

*JIM nods and hands DR. LIVESEY the oil cloth. They gather around a table. DR. LIVESEY opens the oil cloth.*

SQUIRE: Well it seems to be a book and a sealed paper.

DR. LIVESEY: (*picking up the book*) This thing is as clear as noonday. This is the black-hearted hound's account-book. These crosses stand for the names of ships or towns that they sank or plundered with Captain Flint.

SQUIRE: There are accounts here for sum of gold into the hundreds of thousands.



MRS. HAWKINS: (*picking up and opening the sealed paper*) And now for the other. (*unfolds the paper*) And a map to an island. “Tall tree, Spy-glass shoulder, bearing a point to the North of Northeast. Skeleton Island East Southeast and by East. Ten feet.”

JIM: This must be a map to find the gold in that account book?

MRS. HAWKINS: Well that settles it. Let’s use this map and find the treasure. After all, I’m owed for three weeks’ lodging.

SQUIRE: Judging from this account book and with favorable winds, a quick passage, and not the least difficulty in finding the spot, we’ll all have money to eat, to roll in, to play games with forever.

DR. LIVESEY: That settles it. Tomorrow Squire, you start for Bristol. Find the best ship, and the choicest crew in England. I’ll be the ship’s doctor.

MRS. HAWKINS: Jim shall come as cabin boy. You’ll be a great cabin boy.

SQUIRE: Well its hardly proper for young child to come aboard ship.

MRS. HAWKINS: And it’s hardly proper for me not to knock you senseless but I’m not above doing it. I’m not to be trusting you lot with what my boy and I are owed.

DR. LIVESEY: There are only two people I’m afraid of. One is you, Mrs. Hawkins, when you get in a rage. Mrs. Hawkins, Squire will be my assistant and Jim shall be lead cabin boy.

SQUIRE: Who is the other person you are afraid of? Name the dog, sir?

DR. LIVESEY: You. For you cannot hold your tongue. We are not the only people who know of this paper. These fellows who attacked the inn tonight—They are bold, desperate blades, for sure— We must speak of this to no one.

SQUIRE: Doctor, you are always in the right of it. We shall be as silent as the grave.

MRS. HAWKINS: Very well. Let us set off to secure us a ship.

**SCENE 2: The Docks**

*During OLDER JIM's monologue the PATRONS enter and remove the chairs and stools and take ropes and bags out of the trunks to create activity on the docks. Four stools or chairs are placed on the 8x8 platform for when it becomes SMOLLETT's private quarters. During the scene, the PIRATES of SILVER's crew enter and mix with the PATRONS doing dock activities and rough them up, threaten them for money or drag them offstage.*

OLDER JIM: It was longer than the Squire imagined before a ship was ready for the sea. So the weeks passed on, till one fine day there came a letter addressed to Dr. Livesey.

OLDER JIM/SQUIRE: Dear Dr. Livesey,

SQUIRE: The ship is bought and fitted. Its name? The Hispaniola. It was the hiring of the crew that troubled me. I was having trouble gathering a good group of men. Till the most remarkable stroke of fortune brought me the very man that I required. Long John Silver he is called.

LONG JOHN SILVER: *(entering with a parrot on his shoulder)* Oh good Squire, I keep a humble public house here in Bristol I do. It is a modest place committed to the rest and recuperation of sailors needing a good home cooked meal and a comfortable bed to rest their heads. *(goes into a coughing fit)*

SQUIRE: That doesn't sound good friend.

LONG JOHN SILVER: *(weakly)* No. Sadly it don't. It's the Shore. The land been making me sick. I been away too long from the sea.

SQUIRE: You don't say.

LONG JOHN SILVER: I lost me leg in service to our Dear Old Brittan, serving Crown and Country. *(another dramatic coughing fit)* Aye, I served under the immortal Capin' Hawke. But, sadly, I've got me no pension. Me, who lost a leg for our dear old grand nation.

SQUIRE: What?!? No pension? Imagine the abominable age we live in!

LONG JOHN SILVER: If...only I could...git back to sea...maybe I could be whole again.

SQUIRE: I was monstrosly touched—so I engaged him on the spot to be ship’s cook. I thought I had only found a cook, but it was a crew I had discovered. Long John got a company together in a few days, of the toughest old salts imaginable.

*SILVER’s sickness leaves him. The PIRATES who raided the Inn and roughed up people on the docks begin to line up behind SILVER.*

OLDER JIM: (as CAPTAIN FLINT) Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! (as self) I had taken a fear in my mind that Long John Silver might prove to be the very one-legged sailor whom I had watched for so long. But when I came aboard ship one look at the man before me was enough to tell me he wasn’t a scurvy buccaneer like Blind Pew and the others I had seen.

### SCENE 3: The deck of the Hispaniola

*JIM crosses out of SMOLLET’s cabin onto the deck. We are on the deck of the Hispaniola. Trunks can be moved and switch places, to show that we are loading on board ship. JIM enters.*

OLDER JIM/JIM: Mr. Silver, sir? (hands SILVER a letter)

LONG JOHN SILVER: Yes, my lad? Oh! (takes and looks at letter) I see. You are our new cabin boy; pleased I am to see you. Ah! Look at you boy. Gather ‘round, lads. Take note boys this here Jim is the kind of sailor we be needing more of. You are just the kind of brave bold soul who could be captain of his very own ship.

JIM: You think so, sir?

LONG JOHN SILVER: Indeed, I do. You and me should get on well, Hawkins. You’re a smart lad you are. I see that when I set my eyes on you. (DR. LIVESEY and SQUIRE come on board the ship) Ah, I can see by your clothes that you are the esteemed Dr. Livesey, sir. I’ve just come from speaking with Captain Smollett, sir, she’s wanting to speak with you. Jim, can come along with me. I’ll show you where to stow your gear.

DR. LIVESEY: Let Jim stay. I want him to meet the Captain.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Very well, sir. *(exits)*

#### **SCENE 4: Captain Smollett's Private Cabin**

*DR. LIVESEY, JIM and SQUIRE enter SMOLLETT's quarters – the four chairs or stools set on the 8x8 platform.*

DR. LIVESEY: Well, Captain Smollett, all is well, I hope.

SQUIRE: All shipshape and seaworthy?

SMOLLETT: Well, sir...I'm a plain speaking woman. Even at the risk of offending someone. I don't like this job; I don't like the sailors; and I don't like information being kept from me. That's short and sweet.

SQUIRE: Perhaps, "sir," you don't like the ship? *(using the title "sir" to taunt SMOLLETT)*

SMOLLETT: She seems a clever craft.

SQUIRE: Possibly, "sir," you may not like your employer, either?

DR. LIVESEY: Settle down, Squire. No need for you to start a fight. Let's hear the captain out. Why don't you like this cruise, sir?

SMOLLETT: I learn we are going after treasure—hear it from the hired crew. I find that every man on board knows more than I do. Now, treasure is ticklish work; I don't like treasure voyages. I don't like them, above all, when they are secret and when, begging your pardon, Squire, the secret has been told to the parrot.

DR. LIVESEY: Whose parrot?

SMOLLETT: Silver's parrot. There's been too much blabbing already. *(looks pointedly at SQUIRE)*

SQUIRE: Well... it must have been the doctor or Hawkins.

SMOLLETT: The crew knows this is a treasure voyage. I don't trust them, sir. I didn't hire them. I think I should have had the choosing of my own crew.

DR. LIVESEY: Do you fear a mutiny, sir?

SMOLLETT: No captain would go to sea at all if they thought there was to be a mutiny. I believe some of the men are honest; all may be for what I know. I ask you to take certain precautions and do things my way. Now if you excuse me, we have to cast off. (*exits*)

SQUIRE: That intolerable humbug! I declare I think her conduct unmanly and unsailor-ly.

DR. LIVESEY: She speaks her mind honestly.

JIM: I don't like that Captain. Long John Silver would make a better one than her.

DR. LIVESEY: Now Jim, Captain Smollett is in charge and we must trust in her and follow her.

### SCENE 5: The Deck of the Hispaniola

*We are on the deck of the Hispaniola. Throughout this next scene we see the sailors tending to the ship and their duties. SILVER's PIRATES move a large barrel into place on the upstage side of the 8x8 platform. Ropes can be carried across stage. A large ship's wheel can be brought out center stage to set the idea that we are on board the Hispaniola.*

OLDER JIM: All that night we were in a great bustle getting things stowed in their place, anchor was brought up; soon the sails began to fill with wind, and the land passed by and the Hispaniola had begun her voyage to the Isle of Treasure.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Come away, Hawkins! (*JIM crosses to LONG JOHN SILVER*)

OLDER JIM: I began spending more time with Long John Silver.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Come have a yarn with John.

OLDER JIM: He often invited me to join him in the galley, which he kept a clean as a new pin.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Nobody more welcome than yourself. You're a smart lad you are. I see that when I set my eyes on you.

OLDER JIM: He often told me stories of his many voyages and introduced me to his parrot.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Here's Cap'n Flint—I calls my parrot Cap'n Flint, after the famous buccaneer— Cap'n Flint is predicting success to our voyage. Wasn't you, cap'n?

OLDER JIM: (*as CAPTAIN FLINT*) Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!

LONG JOHN SILVER: The good Cap'n here has been on voyages all over the world and seen more gold coins than either of us could count.

OLDER JIM: (*as CAPTAIN FLINT*) Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!

LONG JOHN SILVER: Now, that bird is, maybe, two hundred years old, Hawkins—they live forever mostly.

*Scene shifts to on board the ship. SMOLLETT enters.*

SMOLLETT: Gather around, crew. Gather around.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Move quickly you bilge rats!

SMOLLETT: By my computation this is the last day of our outward voyage; We should be stopping for a bit and going ashore on a nearby island.

*The SAILORS cheer loudly.*

SMOLLETT: And now, have any of the men seen the land ahead?

LONG JOHN SILVER: I have, Captain. I was a cook on a trading ship that stopped here once. Skeleton Island it's called.

OLDER JIM: (*as CAPTAIN FLINT*) Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!

LONG JOHN SILVER: Settle down, settle down.

SMOLLETT: I thank you my man. I'll ask you later on to give us some help. You all may go.

*The sun sets and the SAILORS clear off the deck. It is night. JIM remains onstage and crosses to OLDER JIM.*

OLDER JIM: Now, just after sundown, when all my work was over and I was on my way to my bed, it occurred to me that I should like an apple.

*JIM stops at a barrel, looks in it and pulls out one or two rotten apples. JIM looks again to find a good one. We hear footsteps approaching. JIM hides behind the barrel.*

LONG JOHN SILVER: (*enters talking to the PIRATES*)...not I. Flint was cap'n and I was quartermaster. It was on that same ship that I lost me leg and Pew lost his deadlights.

ISRAEL HANDS: Ah! He was the best that Cap'n Flint.

OLDER JIM: (*as CAPTAIN FLINT*) Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!

LONG JOHN SILVER: Nobody more welcome than yourself to join us in this plan. You're a smart lad you are. I see that when I set my eyes on you.

ISRAEL HANDS: Here's what I want to know, Silver. How long are we going to stand off?

JOHNNY: I've had enough of that Cap'n Smollet!

ALL SAILORS: Yeah!

BILGE: She's hazed me long enough by thunder.

JOHNNY: Aye, when are we going to take the ship?

LONG JOHN SILVER: Well now, if you want to know, I'll tell you when. The last moment I can manage, and that's when. Here's this squire and doctor with a map and such—I don't know where it is, do I? No more than you do. We make others do our work for us.

DUNGBEE: Silver you mean to have the squire and doctor find the treasure, and help us to get it aboard?

LONG JOHN SILVER: Aye. Then we force Cap'n Smollett to navigate us halfway back again before I strike.

ISRAEL HANDS: But I want to take em' out now!

LONG JOHN SILVER: What's the hurry? Think. How many ships have I seen sunk? How many foolish lads have I seen greet the executioner? And all for this same hurry and hurry and hurry. We wait. We be patient.

BILGE: What are we to do with them anyhow?

LONG JOHN SILVER: Well, what do you think?

BLACK DOG: Put 'em ashore and maroon them on an island?

ISRAEL HANDS: That would be England's way. But dead men don't bite.

DIRK: That would have been Flint's way.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Right you are. But I'm an easy man. I'm quite the gentleman. But this time it's serious. I give my vote... (pause)...death.

*They all laugh.*

LONG JOHN SILVER: For now, wait is what I say, but when the time comes do what you want.

DICK: I'll tell you now, I didn't like the job till I had this talk with you Silver. There's my hand on it now.

*They shake hands.*

OLDER JIM: (as CAPTAIN FLINT) Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!

*They exit. JIM hesitantly pokes his head up from behind the barrel.*

OLDER JIM: The little scene that I had overheard was the last act in the corruption of one of the honest sailors—perhaps of the last one left aboard. The moon had risen and just as its light fell on me the voice of the lookout shouted.

HUNTER (offstage): LAND HO!

## SCENE 6: Captain Smollett's cabin

*JIM leaps out from behind the barrel and runs off.  
The scene changes into SMOLLETT's quarters.*



JIM: ...and once they left the deck, I jumped out of hiding and came to tell you.

SMOLLETT: I see three of four points. One, we must go on. If we turned back the crew would rise at once. Second, we have time. At least until the treasure is found. Third, there must be faithful sailors on board.

SQUIRE: I'll wager that Hunter, and Tom have not thrown in with those pirates.

SQUIRE: We need to know who else might be on our side.

SMOLLETT: Jim here can help with that. Jim, you are clever and honorable and all the men trust you. You need to be our eyes and ears. Slip in with Silver's group and let us know if you overhear them planning anything.

DR. LIVESEY: Squire and I will stay aboard and try to gather up all the weapons we can and keep any of Silver's people from taking control of the ship too soon.

*Knock at the door.*

SMOLLETT: Enter.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Beggin' your pardon Captain, but the men want to know when we might be going ashore?

SMOLLETT: I don't see a better time than now. Ready the boats and the sailors. Jim, why don't you set ashore with Silver here and lend the men a hand. I could use your eyes on the island.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Ah Jim, don't be scared of the island. You can come ashore with me and good old Silver will be sure to keep you safe aye boy.

*Lights fade.*

## **SCENE 7: Various places in the jungle on Skeleton Island**

*The scene shifts to Skeleton Island. During this next change the actors strike their chairs and the ship's wheel. Cover the four trunks with rough fabric like jute, burlap or old scrim to make them look earthier. A tree with hanging moss can be set near the down*

*stage left trunk. Fake foam or plastic rocks can be set on stage – one on the 8x8 platform and one by one of the trunks.*

OLDER JIM: As we set off to Skeleton Island I realized I would be alone on the island with Long John and his men. Terror took hold of me. I tried to curl up and hide in the back of the boat. Once we made it ashore I jumped up and out of the boat. I swung myself out and ran into the nearest thicket while Silver and the rest were still a hundred yards behind. I tried to hide on the island.

All at once there was a bustle amongst the trees.

*BENN GUNN enters, climbs up the 8x8 platform and crawls up to Jim. Hands out begging.*

JIM: Who...who are you?

BENN: Are you real?

JIM: Are you real? Who are you?

BENN: Gunn...Benn Gunn. You mightn't happen to have a piece of cheese about you, do you?

JIM: Cheese?

BENN: What do you call yourself, sir?

JIM: Jim.

BENN: Jim, sir. Many's the long night I've dreamed of cheese—  
toasted, mostly—and woke up again, and here on this island.  
But it were luck that put me here. Three years.

JIM: Three years? (*BENN nods*) Were you shipwrecked?

BENN: (*BENN nods*) Marooned three years ago. But it were luck that put me here. I'm rich. (*dances around*) Rich! Rich! (*stops dancing*) Except for cheese, I'm rich. You were the first that found me, I'll make you rich, too.

JIM: If ever I can get aboard again you shall have all the cheese you want, I promise you.

BENN: Now, Jim sir, that ain't Flint's ship anchored out in the bay is it?

JIM: No, it's not Flint's ship. Flint is dead. But Flint's men are aboard and plotting to take over the ship.

BENN: Not a man with one leg?

JIM: Silver?

BENN: Aye Silver, that was his name.

JIM: He's the ringleader. He plans of killing the captain and crew once he gets the treasure buried here.

BENN: Would you think it likely, now, that your captain would help give passage home to Benn Gunn?

JIM: I'm sure she would. The captain's honorable.

BENN: (*her eyes grow distant*) Now, I'll tell you what, I were in Flint's ship when he buried the treasure by himself. Billie Bones was the mate; Long John, he was quartermaster, Blind Pew was a deck hand; and they asked Flint where the treasure was. 'Ah,' says he, 'you can go ashore, if you like, and stay,' he says. Well, I was in another ship, with the same men except Bones, three years back, and we sighted this island. 'Scallywags,' said I, 'here's Flint's treasure; let's land and find it.' Twelve days they looked for it, and every day they had the worse word for me, until one fine morning all the sailors went aboard pulled me off the ship and stranded me. Laughing they said 'We aren't heartless, Gunn,' says they, 'here's some rifles and powder, a spade, and pick-axe. You can stay here and find Flint's money for yourself.'

JIM: How will I get back aboard the ship.

BENN: Ah, Jim sir, that's a problem, for sure. Well, there's my boat, that I made with my two hands. I keep her under the white rock. A white rock hidden in a cove.

*Far off we hear gunshots and the sounds of a fight.*

BENN: Now there's your friends sure enough.

*More gunshots and sounds of fighting.*

JIM: That's coming from the bay.

BENN: It's likely the mutineers. That's a problem for sure. Sounds like there's been fighting.

JIM: I need to hurry on to join my friends.

*BENN grabs JIM's arm to keep him from running off and looks him in the eye for the first time*

BENN: When Benn Gunn is wanted, you know where to find her. (points to where they are standing) Just where you found her today. And you'll say this: "Benn Gunn has reasons of her own."

JIM: May I go?

BENN: (nods) Yes. Benn Gunn will be there when she is needed.

*There is another loud bang. JIM runs off.*

## SCENE 8: Skeleton Island

*Scene shifts to new place on Skeleton Island. You can make the shift to a new location by moving the placement of the tree and rocks. Avoid moving the covered trunks. Offstage there are shouts and the sound of fighting. Enter DR. LIVESEY carrying the SQUIRE, followed by BLACK DOG.*

BLACK DOG: That's enough runnin', you coward. Stand and fight.

DR. LIVESEY: (holding BLACK DOG off with a dagger) Cowards? You and your men attacked us as soon as Silver was off the ship.

*JIM emerges from the jungle and knocks out BLACK DOG from behind.*

DR. LIVESEY: Well done, Jim. We were right to trust in you, lad.

JIM: I ran off from Silver as soon as we got to the beach, sir. I heard the commotion aboard ship and came running.

DR. LIVESEY: Those dogs attacked us and took the Captain hostage. I guess they got anxious and didn't trust Silver's plan.

SQUIRE: (groggy) They got the Captain, Jim!

DR. LIVESEY: We cannot wait here. The good Squire and I managed to get away but most of the mutineers came running after us.

JIM: I know where you can hide.

DR. LIVESEY: Did you find the stockade?

JIM: Better. I met an old sailor who was marooned on this island. Her name is Benn Gunn. Follow this trail to a marshy tract full of willows and oddly-shaped trees. Benn is wild looking but she is harmless. When you find her say this: "Benn Gunn has reasons of her own."

*JIM starts to run off opposite from where BENN GUNN is.*

SQUIRE: Where are you going, Jim?

JIM: Benn told me of a boat she built. I have a plan that might give us a leg up on Silver and his men.

*DR. LIVESEY and SQUIRE exit.*

OLDER JIM: And off I ran before Dr. Livesey could convince me otherwise and I lost my nerve.

### **SCENE 9: The deck of the Hispaniola**

*The following monologue is long enough to cover this scene shift. Strike the tree and rocks to shift back to the deck of the ship. You can leave the covered trunks. Just remove the coverings and put them in the trunks. JIM sneaks around.*

OLDER JIM: I was a fool and certainly I was going to do a foolish, over-bold act; but I was determined to do it. I found Benn's tiny boat and cast off towards the Hispaniola. As darkness fell, a cold fog rolled in. It gave me enough cover to carry out my plan without being seen. Luckily the tide carried me right up beside the anchor cable. My plan was to cut its anchor ropes. The ship would be cast adrift and possibly run aground. The pirates would be trapped on the island. That could give our side some measure of advantage over them.

*We come back to the ship to discover ISRAEL HANDS and HUNTER fighting on the deck of the Hispaniola. HUNTER stabs HANDS in the side. HANDS disarms HUNTER and stabs him in the belly. HUNTER collapses offstage. HANDS collapses on the deck. JIM approaches with his pistol pointed at HANDS.*

ISRAEL HANDS: *(in a quiet voice, without looking around)* Hawkins. *(JIM jumps back with shock. ISRAEL still doesn't turn.)* One of yer allies thought he could take the ship from me. He was wrong. Water please.

JIM: I've come aboard to take possession of this ship, Mister Hands, and you'll please regard me as your captain until further notice.

ISRAEL HANDS: God save the King. This here's an unlucky ship, this Hispaniola, Jim. I never seen such dirty luck. Give me some water, boy. I've hardly any strength enough and that water will as likely be my last, lad, for I'm for my long home.

*JIM gets some water and goes to bring it to HANDS. As JIM gets to him, HANDS pulls out a knife and jumps up quickly.*

JIM: Don't take another step, Mister Hands!

ISRAEL HANDS: No one is taking this ship from me. Dead men don't bite, Hawkins...

*HANDS lunges at JIM. JIM fires but the gun doesn't go off.*

ISRAEL HANDS: Your powder is too wet, Lad. I tell you what, I wanted the Squire's head but I'll settle for yours instead. *(Lunges at JIM. They struggle.)* Where is that brave sailor Hawkins?

*The knife gets knocked away. JIM clubs HANDS with the pistol. HANDS falls overboard with a splash. One way to accomplish this theatrically is to have HANDS do a trust fall into the waiting arms of several of the pirates off to the side of the 8x8 platform. The PIRATES can carry him off like he is floating. Make sure the PIRATES are in the dark. If you are doing*

*this on a proscenium stage, HANDS can do the trust fall upstage.*

OLDER JIM: I was now alone upon the ship; the tide had just turned. I calmed myself and I speedily doused the jibs and brought them tumbling to the deck. Then I got a knife and cut the mainsail down. All night, I guided the ship into a hidden cove, away from where the mutineers knew it to be.

Now that I had saved the ship, I thought I would try to free Captain Smollett from where Silver and his men kept him hostage. I stumbled in the dark across the island. I impatiently drew near to the stockade.

### **SCENE 10: The stockade on Skeleton Island**

*Scene shift to the stockade. You do not need to do much to shift to the stockade. Shift the trunks so they are against the 8x8 platform and have the PIRATES bring in a chair for SILVER - his 'throne.'*

*JIM crawls into the stockade on hands and knees. He hits a stool, knocking it over. Loudly we hear SILVER's bird, CAPTAIN FLINT, shout...*

OLDER JIM: (as CAPTAIN FLINT) Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!  
Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!

*Sounds of running and shouts. A hand grabs JIM. It is SILVER.*

LONG JOHN SILVER: Who goes?

*Silver tosses JIM to entering PIRATES. SILVER takes a seat on a chair like it's a throne as the remaining PIRATES enter.*

LONG JOHN SILVER: So, here's Jim Hawkins, shiver me timbers! Dropped in eh? Welcome lad. What brings you all this way then?

JIM: I want you to free the Captain. If you have honor you will not keep him as a hostage. Take me instead.

LONG JOHN SILVER: I've always liked you, I have. You have spirit.  
The picture of my own self when I was young and handsome.  
The Captain is gone, lad.

JIM: You killed her?

LONG JOHN SILVER: (*laughs*) No Jim. We traded her to the good doctor for the map. (*holds out the map*) Yesterday, Dr. Livesey came with a flag of truce. 'Well,' says the doctor, 'let's bargain.' We bargained, the doctor and I, and here we are. They got the Captain and I got the map.

OLDER JIM: (*as CAPTAIN FLINT*) Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!  
Pieces of eight!

JIM: And so now I'm in your hands and you have me as hostage?

LONG JOHN SILVER: I don't say nothing as to your being in our hands. I never seen good come out o' threatening. You can be free to go to the doctor and the captain. Or. You can stay with us and the treasure. Lad, no one's a pressing you. Take your bearings. None of us wont hurry you.

JIM: Is that all?

LONG JOHN SILVER: That is all.

JIM: And now I am to choose?

LONG JOHN SILVER: And now you are to choose.

JIM: Well. I am not such a fool but I know pretty well what I have to look for. I've seen too many die since I fell in with you. But there's a thing or two I have to tell you. The ship is lost. It was I who cut her cable and it was I who brought her where you'll never see her more, not one of you. So even if you find the treasure you have no way home. I no more fear you than I fear a fly.

*The PIRATES shout and move towards JIM.*

BILGE: I'll wring your little neck you bug.

JIM: Kill me if you please. If you spare me and act with honor, I'll try to save you from the gallows when you are tired for piracy.





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