

TREASURE ISLAND

By Charles De Wald

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STORY OF THE PLAY

This re-creation of Robert Louis Stevenson's well-loved adventure classic will delight audiences of all ages.

During a birthday celebration at the Admiral Benbow Inn, a crusty pirate named Billy Bones is killed by another pirate. When young Jim Hawkins discovers that Billy Bones had a treasure map, the adventure is on.

Enlisting the aid of a sea captain named Smollette, Jim, along with the Squire, the Doctor and others hire a group of sailors to help them with the difficult sea voyage to Treasure Island. Of course, some of the sailors they hire turn out to be Long John Silver and his band of pirates who have plans to mutiny and steal the treasure for themselves.

During the voyage, however, Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver become friends. Mrs. Hawkins, Jim's mother, also takes a liking to the wooden-legged Silver. Jim eventually finds out about the pirates' plot and alerts the others.

After arriving at Treasure Island, the pirates nonetheless leave the adventurers to fend for themselves on board ship as they embark to the island in search of the treasure.

With the help of a castaway named Ben Gunn and a group of islanders, however, the pirates are finally defeated in battle and the treasure is recovered by Jim and his friends. Mrs. Hawkins decides to reform Long John Silver and the pirates are left on the island.

With double casting, easy costumes, simple settings and staging, this adventure classic can easily be taken on tour.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(Flexible cast 10m, 7w; extras;
or with doubling 8 m, 4w, extras)*

JIM HAWKINS: Young man who discovers the map and overhears the pirates.

MRS. HAWKINS: Jim Hawkin's mother.

SERVING GIRL: At the Benbow Inn.

TOWNSWOMAN #1: At the birthday party.

TOWNSWOMAN #2: Another.

LONG JOHN SILVER: Leader of pirates, has a wooden leg.

DR. LIVESEY: Physician and magistrate.

SQUIRE TRELAWNEY: Good friend of Dr. Livesey.

BLACK DOG: Pirate who kills Billy Bones.

BILLY BONES: Pirate with treasure map.

MORGAN: Right hand to Long John.

ISRAEL: Assistant to Long John.

BONNIE DOON: Woman pirate.

CAPTAIN SMOLLETTE: Captain of the Hispanola.

BEN GUNN: Castaway on the island.

QUEEN MAHI-MAHI: Queen of the natives.

PRINCESS HALANI: Queen's daughter.

ISLANDERS (*Any number.*): Inhabitants of Treasure Island.

PIRATES (*Any number.*): Scoundrels of the open sea.

SAILORS (*Any number.*): Crew of the Hispanola.

DOUBLING POSSIBLE: Black Dog and Billy Bones can double as pirates or sailors or Ben Gunn. Serving Girl and Townswomen can double as islanders or Bonnie Doon, Queen, and Princess.

Playing Time: About 40 minutes.

SYNOPSIS

- Scene 1:** Admiral Benbow Inn, early 1800s England.
Scene 2: The docks at Bristol, several weeks later.
Scene 3: On board the Hispanola, a few days later.
Scene 4: On the Hispanola, weeks later at sea.
Scene 5: On the Hispanola, several days later.
Scene 6: On Treasure Island.
Scene 7: Back on the Hispanola, some time later.
Scene 8: On Treasure Island, later that day.
Scene 9: On Treasure Island, later that day.

COSTUMES

All of the townspeople should wear simple clothes reflective of 1800s, i.e. Empire dresses, suits with tails, ascots, vests, and top hats. Serving girl wears a peasant dress with apron. All pirates wear typical pirate garb - bandannas on their heads, vests, and cutoffs. Long John Silver has a wooden leg that can be disguised under his pant leg and Morgan wears an eye patch. Sailors can wear white pants and shirts with sailors' hats while the Captain wears a fancier uniform and an admiral's hat. Ben Gunn wears torn and ragged clothes and may have a long beard. The islanders should have grass skirts and halter tops or floral wraparounds. Queen and Princess also each wear a crown of flowers.

PROPS

Birthday cake, mugs, sea chest containing treasure map, swords and knives for pirates, brooms and mops for sailors, spears and cups of water for islanders.

SCENERY

Tables, benches, banners for inn; ropes and pilings for a dock; suggestion of a large mast or sails, wheel, anchor, and other nautical items for ship; large barrel; palm trees and other large plants for island setting.

Scene 1
Admiral Benbow Inn

(AT RISE: LIGHTS come up on a group of tables and benches that are spread around the stage. A large flag and other decorations identify the setting as an upper class inn of the middle 1800s. PEOPLE are sitting around the tables. JIM HAWKINS, MRS. HAWKINS, and the SQUIRE are at a table CS. The other people watch them as Jim and Mrs. Hawkins hug.)

JIM: Happy birthday, Mother. Upon my word, I hope this is the best birthday party ever.

MRS. HAWKINS: Thank you, Jim and all my friends, for being here to celebrate with me today. This is truly the happiest birthday I can remember.

SERVING GIRL: *(Enters SR carrying a cake and goes to JIM and MRS. HAWKINS CS.)* Here, Mrs. Hawkins. You must not forget the cake. Jim baked it all by himself.

JIM: Well, of course, I baked it myself. A boy can do anything a girl can do.

SERVING GIRL: Well, I don't know about that. My mother told me ... *(BILLY BONES enters DSR. He carries a small sea chest with him.)* Who is that strange man coming through the gate?

SQUIRE: Looks to be a seafaring man, I would say.

SERVING GIRL: Aye, and a dangerous one by the cut of him.

WOMAN #2: Maybe even a buccaneer.

WOMAN #1: He looks absolutely frightful.

WOMAN #2: What could he ever want here?

BILLY BONES: Avast, mate. Who be the proprietor of this here inn? I be needin' a berth so as I can drop anchor for awhile and rest these salty bones.

JIM: Upon my word, sir, since my father died, I, Jim Hawkins, have been master of the Benbow Inn and, beggin' your pardon, I have a fine room ...

BILLY BONES: With a view of the road?

JIM: A great view, I must say.

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BILLY BONES: I'm for it then. Shiver me timbers! (*Looking around.*) What a collection of beauteous women and strapping young buckos we have here! Are we having us a party? Yes, says I, by the looks of it.

JIM: My mother's birthday party. You're quite right, Mister - ?

BILLY BONES: (*Crossing CS to JIM.*) Mr. Bones, boy. Billy Bones. But just call me Bill, or captain, if it pleases you. Now fetch me a flagon of rum so I can join in the celebration. (*SERVING GIRL gets mugs for SILVER and others.*) Rum all around, me boy, we will all drink to the occasion. For genteel, am I. Not like other men of the sea be I. No, they be not genteel like me. Why, I could tell you tales that would make your blood run cold. I remember the time on the Spanish Main when ...

WOMAN #1: Well, Mrs. Hawkins...

WOMAN #2: Yes, I think we should be going ...

WOMAN #1: Yes, we should be going.

(*The TWO WOMEN start out SL, only to be stopped by BILLY'S voice.*)

BILLY BONES: Belay that! Sit still and drink.

(*HE gulps down his drink as the TWO WOMEN sit down. Enter LIVESEY DSR.*)

MRS. HAWKINS: Welcome, Dr. Livesey.

LIVESEY: I am glad to be here. The weather outside has taken a decided turn for the worst and, indeed, there's a terrible storm building in the north.

BILLY BONES: Stow that chatter below decks and join in the party!

LIVESEY: Are you addressing me, sir? For if you are, I can see by the look of you that, if you continue to consume rum the way you do, the world will soon be rid of a really wretched scoundrel.

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BILLY BONES: *(Starts toward LIVESEY, HIS sword drawn.)*
Why, you piece of rotting driftwood, I'll rip out your tongue!

LIVESEY: Lower that cutlass this instant, my good man, or you'll be the sorrier for it. Lower it this instant or you'll be hanging from the gallows before you can say Davey Jones. Besides being a doctor, I am the magistrate here, and if I hear one complaint against you, even so much as the kind of incivility I've witnessed tonight, I'll have you routed out of here. Do I make myself clear?

BILLY BONES: *(Backing away CS.)* If you ain't got the fancy talk! And you be the powers that are, be ye? Well, that bein' the case, I'll just have to be respectful, won't I. Please, sir magistrate, please forgive an old seaman who took too much rum. Here's my sword. *(Lays sword on a table.)* Ya see, I bow before your lordship. Beggin' your pardon, your highness.

BLACK DOG: *(Entering DSR beside LIVESEY.)* Bill, you old sea-crusted barnacle and treacherous first mate!

BILLY BONES: *(Backing away DSL.)* Black Dog!

BLACK DOG: Aye, Bill, Black Dog. Glad to see you still remember your old shipmate. But you know what I've come for, Billy Boy. Now let me have it or there will be trouble!

(All the PEOPLE in the inn back away to UPS.)

BILLY BONES: I'll let you have it, all right! The taste of cold steel!

(Unable to reach his sword on the table, BILLY grabs his knife from his waistband. BLACK DOG also has a knife and they quickly start fighting CS. Before anyone can stop them, Black Dog stabs Billy Bones and begins to search through Billy's clothes, but LIVESEY and SQUIRE interject.)

LIVESEY: You there! Stop that!

SQUIRE: We have weapons also, Black Dog!

End of Freeview

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