

The Pirate Bride

A Comedy in Two Acts

By Christie Hudon

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DEDICATION

*For Father, Spirit, Son. And for Spencer, my sine qua non.
(Or as Mr. Roney always said, without which, there ain't nothing.)*

STORY OF THE PLAY

While evading her wedding and overbearing fiancé, Lizette de Champlay, a headstrong French woman, leads her ladies to a British merchant ship. Once aboard, the ladies upset the sailors and their disciplined captain, Roger Thornwood, convincing him to hunt for treasure on an island home to a fierce band of female pirates. As Roger and Lizette begin to fall for each other, Lizette's fiancé and her father follow them to the island, only to be captured by the pirates. What follows are battles of the heart and sword as everyone searches for their treasure.

Original Production

"The Pirate Bride" premiered on June 26th-28th 2015 at Metro Church's Verve Theater, Winter Springs, FL. The original cast and crew is as follows: Christie Hudon, Jason Feliciano, Matthew McQuinn, PJ Yarosh, Alyse Hipes, Shannon Graubner-Marshall, Kristen Walk, Susie McDaniel, Erik Bendoyro, Mason Wheeler, Joshua Smock, Jerry Smith, Christa Yates, Ona Pierce, Becca Hipes, Alyce Quandt, Kaia Johnson, Pam Butler, Charlotte Yates, Spencer Hudon II, Rochelle Curbow-Wheeler, Sandi Johnson, Roberta Miranda, Jason Skinner, Darius Talkington Fletcher, Kyle Ledford, Antonio Souza, Rui Miranda, Melisa Feliciano and Nick Troendle.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(8 m, 8 w, 1 flex, 4 or more extras as female pirates.)

- LIZETTE DE CHAMPLAY** (f): The bride-to-be; plucky, headstrong, and daring with a big heart.
- ROGER THORNWOOD** (m): Captain of *The Wild Swan*; honorable, very structured on his ship and in his bearing.
- BERTRAND FANTOUILLE** (m): Lizette's betrothed; a rich and privileged heir who is used to getting what he wants.
- FRANCOISE DE CHAMPLAY** (m): Lizette's father; kind and protective but also a bit naïve.
- VICTORIA DE CHAMPLAY** (f): Lizette's mother; a prissy, privileged woman.
- SOPHIE** (f): Lizette's chaperone; follows her out of duty, hates anything out of the norm.
- ANNA** (f): Lizette's best friend; a bridesmaid, up for anything.
- PAULINE** (f): A bridesmaid and friend to Lizette; boy crazy and a bit flaky.
- BENEDICT** (m): First mate on *The Wild Swan*; loyal to Roger and keeps the other sailors in line.
- CLAUDE** (m): A sailor on *The Wild Swan*.
- AUGUST** (m): A sailor on *The Wild Swan*.
- MATE** (m): A tried and true, if a bit weathered sailor of *The Wild Swan*; not very bright.
- PEPPY** (flex): A cabin boy (or girl in disguise.) to Bertrand; youthful and impulsive.
- FLEUR DE LEES** (f): A mysterious, cunning, and fierce female pirate captain; leads a band of female pirates.
- ROSALIE** (f): Second in command of Fleur's pirate band.
- PORTIA** (f): A trusted member of Fleur's pirate band.
- FEMALE PIRATES**: Part of Fleur's band, flexible number but at least four needed, minimal speaking lines.
- BLACKBEARD** (m): An infamous pirate, friend of Lizette's father, also known as Edward Teach.

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Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: On the deck of *The Wild Swan* at dawn, just off the coast of France

Scene 2: On the deck of *Le Zephyr*, at the same time and place as Scene 1

Scene 3: On the deck of *The Wild Swan*, a bit later

Scene 4: The southern beach of Brouillard Island

ACT II

Scene 1: The dense inland of Brouillard Island

Scene 2: The southern beach of Brouillard Island

Scene 3: Another dense inland of Brouillard Island

Scene 4: Yet another overgrown section of Brouillard Island

Scene 5: The southern beach of Brouillard Island

All scenes take place on the same day from dawn to dusk.

Production Notes

The play was originally set on two levels with a thrust stage serving as the beach. The main stage was used for the ships and some of the island scenes. The same ship set was used, and a flag was raised to indicate if it was English or French. Another platform sat behind the wheel UC. A ship's wheel is needed for the scenes on deck and can be easily attached to a standalone post to allow for changes of scene. Cargo boxes and rough benches were used for sitting on the ships and island. A small scrim was used both to serve as a sail and as a screen to project video of the sea, the beach, and the foliage of the island throughout the performance. The story takes place in the 1700s. Full dresses with petticoats are necessary for the ladies. Pirate dress can be more fanciful with skirts, bloomers or pants. The captains should wear tricorne hats and jackets. Bertrand and Françoise could wear powdered wigs and bicorne hats. Victoria should be the most grand so she can degenerate throughout the show, even to the extent of removing her petticoat and binding her dress up like pants. Blackbeard should appear as close to his generally accepted historical appearance as possible.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: On the deck of "The Wild Swan." The stage is dark, but LIGHTS gradually get brighter as the sun rises. BENEDICT enters with a lantern and swings it out in front of him. Faint lights come up when he spots something in the water and rouses the crew.)

BENEDICT: All hands, all hands! *(Holds up the lantern.)* Men overboard!

(ROGER, CLAUDE, AUGUST, and MATE rush onto the deck.)

ROGER: What have we here, Benedict?

BENEDICT: Men adrift in the water, sir. I believe there's a shipwrecked crew over there.

AUGUST: *(Peering out at the water.)* It looks like a small craft.

ROGER: Well then, let's get them aboard. Drop anchor! Ready the jolly boats! Claude, hold that lantern out.

(BENEDICT passes CLAUDE the lantern. ROGER rushes to the wheel and scans the water. The MATE is busy bumbling around the ship. The OTHER SAILORS take positions around the sides of the ship, peering out.)

CLAUDE: I see them! *(Waves furiously.)* Captain! They're in a rowboat!

ROGER: This is too far out to sea for such a small craft! We can bring the ship up just beside them and haul them up the ladder. I'll bring us about. Benedict, Claude, August, be ready to lower the ladder and help them aboard! *(Stays at the helm and turns the wheel slowly.)*

BENEDICT: *(Calling down to the water from the side of the ship.)* You there! Bring your boat to us! Gently now! Here! Climb up the ladder!

(The WOMEN speak from offstage.)

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ANNA: Merci, sailor!

PAULINE: Merci.

SOPHIE: Merci, monsieur.

(LIZETTE enters as she says her line, walking onto the deck as if she owns it.)

LIZETTE: Bonjour!

(PAULINE, ANNA, and SOPHIE enter, and the MEN are agape.)

AUGUST: They're...all....girls!

ROGER: What is the meaning of this? What are you ladies doing out here?

LIZETTE: Ah, you must be the captain. Thank you, sir. You have saved us. My ladies were growing weary with rowing, and I do believe I've mistaken our position. If you'd be so kind as to drop us in Calais.

ROGER: Now hold on, madame!

LIZETTE: Miss. I'm not married.

SOPHIE: *(To LIZETTE.)* You will be in the morning. *(To ROGER.)* Sir, if you could take us back to shore. We have a wedding to attend, and this farce has gone on long enough.

LIZETTE: Sophie, dear, I told you. I have no intention of going through with the match. I'm going to stay with my aunt until Father sees reason.

SOPHIE: And I'm telling you, I will allow no such thing!

ROGER: Madame, I mean miss, please. It is not seemly for you to argue in front of my crew. If you will retire to my quarters, I will take you back to shore. *(Begins to guide HER offstage.)*

LIZETTE: *(Pulls away, fuming.)* Captain, did you not hear me? I will not be going back to port unless it is Calais.

ROGER: Miss, you are in no position to order my ship to a faraway port! Benedict, show them to my cabin. Claude, prepare tea for these ladies. I'm sure they are chilled.

AUGUST: It seems one of them has cold feet.

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(ROGER and SAILORS laugh.)

LIZETTE: This is no time for tea and cakes! If my fiancé finds me, I'll have no chance of escape!

ROGER: Well, I think you're going to have to come to terms with the fact that you're getting married.

SOPHIE: Thank you, sir! Finally, someone who sees reason!

LIZETTE: *(To ROGER.)* Who are you to tell me what to do?

ROGER: I am captain of this ship!

LIZETTE: *(Runs along the edge of the ship crying out and waving HER arms.)* Pirate! Pirate! I've been kidnapped!

ROGER: What?

LIZETTE: If you take me back to port, I'll tell everyone that you are a pirate, and you kidnapped me!

BENEDICT: Then why would we be taking you back?

LIZETTE: For a ransom!

BENEDICT: Hmm. It is tempting.

ROGER: Benedict!

SOPHIE: If you take us back, Monsieur de Champlay will pay you.

LIZETTE: Sophie!

PAULINE: Yes, messieurs! Take me back please! They made me come along.

ANNA: Oh, come on! I thought we were going to have an adventure with these strapping young sailors.

ROGER: *(Clearly frazzled, as he is losing control of his ship.)* Wait! Wait a minute! Everybody quiet!

CLAUDE: *(Extends a spyglass and looks out from the ship.)* Ship off the port bow!

LIZETTE: Oh no.

(LIZETTE grabs the spyglass from CLAUDE and looks out, then slams it back into his hands.)

LIZETTE: *(Cont'd.)* It's Bertrand. I knew it!

PAULINE: *(To LIZETTE.)* Your gallant fiancé is on the chase. How romantic.

End of Freeview

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