



Robinson Crusoe

by Stephen Duckham

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ROBINSON CRUSOE

CAST

Britannia	Ruler of the Waves
Davy Jones	From the bottom of the ocean
Robinson Crusoe	
Billy Crusoe	His Brother
Mrs Clarissa Crusoe	His Mother
Montgomery Moneybags	Owner of the bank
Susie	His Niece
Seafaring Sam	A Captain
Paddling Pete	Ship's Mate
Friday	
Island Queen	
Monkey	
Rodney the Rat.	This can be a member of the chorus, doubling as a glove puppet operator.

Chorus of Townspeople, Sailors, Sea Creatures and Islanders

ACT ONE

Scene 1	Outside Clarissa Crusoe's Old Curiosity Shop
Scene 2	Below Decks of <i>The Crusader</i>
Scene 3	The Main Deck of <i>The Crusader</i>
Scene 4	Below Decks of <i>The Crusader</i>
Scene 5	Under the sea
Scene 6	Crusoe Island

ACT TWO

Scene 1	Crusoe Island
Scene 2	Another part of the beach
Scene 3	Robinson's Hut
Scene 4	On the way to Skull Valley
Scene 5	Skull Valley
Scene 6	On the way home
Scene 7	The Port of London

CHARACTERS

BRITANNIA	Straightforward and strong. No-nonsense character. She delivers her lines with an attempt at a posh cultured accent, but always drops the 'h' on any word beginning with that letter, only to add it to a word such as (h)ambitious or (h)adventure. This should give the actress additional laughs.
DAVY JONES	Shabbily dressed and unkempt. Must have the ability to control the audience, as they will begin barracking him from the start. Small singing role.
ROBINSON	Can be played as a principal boy or by a male actor. Should be an all-round performer with a likeable personality and a good singing voice.
BILLY CRUSOE	The comic character. Must have a good sense of comedy timing and able to play off the audience as well as other members of the company. Good singing voice. (About the person he picks out of the audience – make sure it is someone who will join in the spirit of the pantomime. The worst thing is to embarrass someone.)
MRS CRUSOE	Typical pantomime Dame. Larger than life with a quick wit and plenty of energy. Just a word about this character. It should never be forgotten that this is a man dressed up. A large amount of the comedy comes from the outrageous costumes and accessories used in the show.
MONTY	The villain of the piece. It is important to play him absolutely straight, with his desire for money being the one thing that is important to him. That way, his character will elicit the usual boos and hisses from the audience.
SUSIE	Principal girl. Pretty and charming, but with a mind of her own. A good singing voice to complement the numbers with Robinson.
SAM & PETE	The comedy double act. Sam usually leads the way in most things with Pete getting the brunt of the knocks and jokes.
FRIDAY	In this pantomime, to avoid any problems with <i>politically correct</i> casting, Friday can be a man of any nationality. At first, he can have the wild appearance of a long-time castaway. The choice of accent is left to the actor and director and any changes to lines to facilitate this are perfectly acceptable.
ISLAND QUEEN	A small part in Act Two that can be played by a mature member of the company. If desired, it can be changed to Island King and be played by a man.

SCENERY

The pantomime can be staged very simply with four main sets, two front cloths and two sets of black tabs.

Permanently across the back is a rostrum.

ACT ONE

Scene 1	Main scene with steps leading down from the rostrum up centre. Backcloth of a port with buildings lining the water of the dock, or a cyclorama. Mrs Crusoe's Shop is stage right. Lotsadash Bank is stage left.
Scene 2	1 st Front Cloth (or tabs with suitable props added.)
Scene 3	On deck with the cyclorama backing. A ship's wheel is stage left. A mast, rigging and other cargo can be added as required.
Scene 4	As scene 3
Scene 5	Mid set of blacks or an underwater cloth. Mainly lighting effects.
Scene 6	Island cloth or cyclorama. Palm tree wings as required.

ACT TWO

Scene 1	As Act One Scene 7
Scene 2	2 nd Front Cloth (or tabs.)
Scene 3	As Act One scene 7 – add hut piece on stage right.
Scene 4	As Scene 2, with an added signpost
Scene 5	Full stage backed by cyclorama and skulls on either side of the stage. Upstage centre on the rostrum is a dais containing a large rock. On top is a large skull that can be split apart. Below the skull is a sliding piece that reveals the treasure.
Scene 6	1 st Front Cloth
Scene 7	Christmas scene (or repeat Act One scene 2)

Please note: the last scene need not be played as a winter scene but as a conventional 'walk-down' if preferred. Please adjust the dialogue in Act Two Scene Six to suit.

MUSIC

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. There is a song specially written for the duet in Act Two Scene Two, between Davy and Monty which is available from NODA if you would like to include it in your production. The lyrics appear at the end of this script. Or you may use one of your own choosing or omit the number altogether if using non-singing actors in those roles.

A word of advice: Pantomime audiences – particularly the younger members – like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially ballads.

The running time is two and a half hours, including a twenty-minute interval.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of 'Robinson Crusoe' and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 OUTSIDE CLARISSA CRUSOE'S CURIOSITY SHOP

[The scene is the Port of London. Mrs Crusoe's shop is stage right with a door and window. In front of the window is a display shelf on which are various odds and ends. On stage left is the LOTSADOSH BANK. This is also the residence of its owner, MONTGOMERY MONEYBAGS. Across the back of the stage is the raised quayside with steps leading down to stage level.]

MUSIC INTRODUCTION TO ACT ONE

[The scene opens in darkness. Then a shimmering light appears centre stage, and BRITANNIA appears carrying a trident. She delivers her lines with an attempt at a posh cultured accent, but always drops the 'h' on any word beginning with that letter, only to add it to a word such as (h)ambitious or (h)adventure.]

BRITANNIA Greetings, one and all. What a joy it is to welcome you to the Port of London. Let me introduce myself. I am Britannia, ruler of the waves that break around this sceptred Isle of Great Britain. It is my duty to watch over all the brave souls who embark on an adventure on the mighty oceans. In treacherous storms at sea, I have rescued many a sailor who has come a cropper while battening down the hatches, or fiddling with his telescope in the crow's nest! My one big mistake was having a week's holiday in Aberystwyth when the Titanic set sail! But never fear, I shall be vigilant and keep watch over all who love a life on the ocean waves. Let me show you around. *[She points her trident towards Mrs Crusoe's shop.]* Over there we have Mrs Crusoe's Curiosity Shop. She's a dear old soul with two sons. One of them, Robinson, is desperate to follow in his father's footsteps and become a saucy sailor! And over here – *[She points her trident to the Lotsadosh Bank.]* – is the Lotsadosh bank, owned by Montgomery Moneybags. Between you and me, he's a right dodgy banker! *[SHE gives a little gasp and puts her hand to her mouth.]* NOTE: This happens throughout the script with whichever character says the word.] Definitely one to watch! And there's one other character I must tell you about. Davy Jones. Him who lives on the ocean floor waiting for anyone who falls overboard, so he can trap their souls in his locker. A right awful piece of work, he is, and not someone you want to encounter. *[She looks around.]* Well, it looks like dawn is breaking, so I'll be off before the good people of London start their day. I will see you all very soon. Tara! *[She waves, and the light on her fades. She exits as the music comes up for the opening number.]*

MUSIC OPENING NUMBER

[As the lights come on, the TOWNSPEOPLE are going about their daily chores. One of the TOWNSPEOPLE notices someone approaching.]

PERSON *[Pointing off.]* Look. It's Robinson

[ROBINSON CRUSOE enters on the quay and crosses down, greeting everyone.]

ROBINSON Hi, how are you? *[The TOWNSPEOPLE greet him. He moves to speak to the audience.]* Hello out there. *[Audience reaction.]* I said, "Hello out there".

[Bigger reaction.] That's better. It's a beautiful day, and there's no better way to spend it than making new friends. *[To the COMPANY.]* Am I right?

[ALL agree and they sing the opening number with ROBINSON fronting it. At the end of the number, BILLY CRUSOE is heard shouting off.]

BILLY Mind your backs. Clear a way through.

[The COMPANY moves to let him enter U.L. and cross D.C. HE is carrying various items for MRS CRUSOE'S shop piled high in front of his face.]

ROBINSON *[Pretending not to know who he is.]* Who is it?

BILLY It's me!

ROBINSON Who's me?

BILLY Billy.

ROBINSON Billy who?

BILLY Not Billy Who, Billy Me!

ROBINSON But we don't know any Billy Me!

BILLY Robinson, is that you? Come on, stop messing about and give me a hand. *[ALL applaud.]* Oh, very funny. Ohhh, I think something's slipping. *[HE staggers left and then right, trying to steady the pile.]*

MAN Let's help him.

ROBINSON Put him out of his misery.

[ALL help BILLY to unload his items.]

BILLY About time, too!

ROBINSON We were only having a bit of fun with you.

BILLY Well, it's not much fun carrying this lot across town.

MAN What is all this?

BILLY I did a house clearance in – *[Name of local area.]* A man there had a win on the postcode lottery and has relocated to – *[Name of very posh area.]* He wanted to get rid of everything, so I bought it as a job lot. Just the thing for Mother's shop. Will you help me put them over here?

ROBINSON Er, well I'd really like to help, but I've got a very important meeting down by the docks. I'm sure all your mates here will help you.

BILLY Robinson

ROBINSON See you later. *[HE waves and runs off.]*

BILLY *[HE crosses to the shelf in front of the shop and they ALL help him put the articles on it.]* Important meeting! I know where he's going. There's a ship due in port, and he wants to see if there are any vacancies for crew. He's desperate to become a sailor! I'm very worried about my brother! *[The shelf is now full. BILLY has one smaller item that HE goes to place on the shelf.]*

WOMAN Careful, Billy. I don't know whether that shelf can take any more.

BILLY Don't worry. This was built to last. *[HE puts the item on the shelf and the whole thing collapses.]* Oh, now look what you've made me do!

2nd WOMAN Well, that's not showing much appreciation for all our help.

BILLY Oh, I'm sorry. *[During the following, the COMPANY put the shelf and all the items back.]* It's just that it's been a very busy day, and my brother's no help. On top of everything, Rodney is missing again.

2nd MAN Who's Rodney?

BILLY My pet rat.

2nd WOMAN A pet rat? Ugh!

BILLY Oh, he's lovely and a real pal, but he will keep running off. You haven't seen him anywhere, have you?

ALL No. Sorry. We'll keep a lookout out etc. *[The COMPANY exits.]*

BILLY I don't know, he only comes home when he wants something to eat. *[To the audience.]* Hello, you people in the dark out there. *[Audience reacts.]* Did you forget to pay the electricity bill again? *[More reaction.]* I say you haven't seen Rodney, my pet rat, have you? He's black with long whiskers. *[More reaction.]* Well, if you do see him, just shout out, "Here's Rodney," and I'll come and get him. Will you do that for me? *[Audience reaction.]* I said will you do that for me? *[More reaction.]* Well, the back half of the audience is shouting loudly, but I think the front half needs to practice. *[HE indicates the front half of the audience should shout out.]* Come on, let's hear you shout "Here's Rodney" *[Hopefully they will.]* That's a bit better, but I think the front four rows are a little weak. *[HE indicates the front rows only to shout.]* I think I know what the problem is. *[HE picks out one member of the audience. (Please see notes at the front of this script.) Whoever HE picks will be referred to throughout the show.]* And what's your name, sir/madam? *[The person responds, and BILLY gets them to shout out. HE can ad lib with the person.]* Well, that's sorted that out! Now I'd better get on with my work. *[BILLY crosses to finish arranging the items on the shelf. At this point, RODNEY appears around part of the scenery, and a spot picks him up. Some LONDONERS start to re-enter as the audience shouts out.]* Where is he? *[ALL tell him, and BILLY crosses to him.]* Rodney, where have you been? *[RODNEY whispers to BILLY.]* You've been down to the docks to see some mates? *[RODNEY nods and whispers.]* They were leaving a ship? That doesn't sound good. *[To the OTHERS.]* I hope it wasn't sinking! *[TO RODNEY.]* I suppose you want something to eat. *[RODNEY nods.]* Here you are. I saved you a piece of cheese. *[Gives it to RODNEY.]* I hope you appreciate it. *[RODNEY rubs against BILLY'S cheek in appreciation. BILLY sings to RODNEY.]*

SONG BILLY & COMPANY

[During the number, the other LONDONERS enter and join in. At the end of the number, MONTGOMERY MONEYBAGS (MONTY) is heard shouting off left. RODNEY disappears.]

MONTY What's going on out there? What's all that noise about?

1st WOMAN Oh, here he comes. Old moaning moneybags.

[MONTGOMERY MONEYBAGS enters from the Bank stage left. He carries a briefcase that is always in his possession.]

MONTY What's going on here? Why are you cluttering up the street in front of my bank? Haven't you got work to do?

[The TOWNSPEOPLE turn away from MONTY, reacting to how terrible he is.]

BILLY Morning, Mr Moneybags.

MONTY Don't 'morning' me. It's bad enough that I have to look out of my office window at that eyesore – *[Points to shop stage right.]* – without having to be sociable with the people who run it.

BILLY I'll have you know this is a very respectable establishment. It has been in our family for generations. This shop goes back to the fifteenth century.

MONTY And so do most of the things you sell in it.

BILLY What a terrible thing to say. We have some rare and highly sought-after merchandise.

MONTY Really? Such as?

BILLY *[Indicating the shelf.]* There is a concoction of curios and a confusion of captivating curiosities.

MONTY Talking of curiosities – where *is* your mother?

MRS C *[Off stage.]* Did someone call?

MUSIC MRS CRUSOE'S ENTRANCE

[Loud pop music is heard, and MRS CRUSOE enters dressed in an outrageous leotard and doing exaggerated exercise movements.]

Hello all. *[SHE waves to the COMPANY, who wave back and start to exit.]*

BILLY Mother, what are you doing?

MRS C My morning exercises with – *[Name of male TV exercise presenter.]* I've been stretching my shoulders, tweaking my triceps, and doing goodness knows what with my coccyx! *[She demonstrates to the amusement of all.]*

BILLY Mother, Mister Moneybags has been saying rotten things about our shop.

MRS C Oh, he has, has he?

MONTY It's about time you gave that mouldy old mausoleum a coat of paint. That ramshackle ruin is lowering the tone of the neighbourhood.

MRS C Well, if you stopped increasing the mortgage repayments, we might have some extra cash to facilitate repairs.

BILLY You tell him, mum.

MONTY I think you'll find that the mortgage rates are perfectly fair.

MRS C *[In a posh voice.]* We don't have *rates* – only mice! *[SHE giggles.]*

MONTY Are you trying to be funny?

BILLY Well, she's having a good go! *[MRS CRUSOE glares at him.]*

MONTY Healthy banking leads to a balanced economy.

MRS C Oh, listen to him, he sounds like – *[Name of the Chancellor.]*

BILLY He looks like him/her, too. *[HE pulls various faces and ends up coming face to face with MONTY. HE forces a smile and a weak wave of the hand.]*

MONTY Of course, on the other hand, if you want to sell this paltry plot of land, I could take it off your hands at a very reasonable price.

MRS C Sell? But this shop has been in our family for generations. The Crusoe name is one of the town's many dynasties.

BILLY Yes, we have many dinners – teas – and suppers.

MRS C *[Moving BILLY away.]* Anyway, what would you do with it?

MONTY Pull it down.

MRS C WHAT???

MONTY I see a luxury high-rise apartment block with views of the ocean.

MRS C Since when have you been in the building trade?

MONTY I have just acquired a piece of land on the outskirts of town that will have a completely new development.

MRS C What's it called?

MONTY *[HE says the name of a nearby upmarket area.]*

MRS C But you can't do that.

MONTY Oh yes I can.

BILLY Oh no you can't.

MONTY Oh yes I can.

BILLY Oh no you can't – *[To the audience.]* – can he kids? *[The audience responds, and a "Oh no you can't" sequence follows. At the end of it, MRS CRUSOE stops it and moves face to face with MONTY.]*

MRS C *[With her bust pushed out.]* Well, don't think you're getting your hands on my 'old curiosity...

MONTY *[Shocked.]* Excuse me!

MRS C *[Glaring at him.]* ... shop'!

BILLY We'll never sell up. Anyway, Robinson, as the eldest, inherited it when our father passed on.

MONTY Robinson Crusoe. That lazy good-for-nothing. All he does is sit on the dock day-dreaming his life away.

MRS C Don't talk about my son like that. He's a good boy and would never see his old mum thrown out on the streets.

MONTY Then his 'old mum' better pay the mortgage arrears – or else! *[With a snarl, HE exits into the bank.]*

MRS C Oh, that malicious old Monty. And to think I used to fancy him rotten when we were at school together. I was always letting him copy my maths homework. *[Pointing to the bank.]* And look where it got him. He's the biggest - banker in town!

BILLY You can say that again! What are we going to do, Mum?

MRS C Go and find your brother. It's about time he took the responsibilities of running the family business seriously.

BILLY OK, mum. *[He crosses up onto the quay and exits.]*

MRS C *[To the audience.]* Hello, how nice to see you all. Now, if you haven't already guessed, I'm Clarissa Crusoe, and this is my establishment. Clarissa Crusoe's Old Curiosity Shop. How are you all? *[Audience reacts.]* Oh good. Well, I'm glad you feel all right. I've not been myself lately. I felt like my body was completely out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class. *[SHE acts out the next part.]* I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my leotard on, the class was over. I've tried everything to keep in shape. I've done yoga in a toga! Power walking in Dorking and Tai Chi with a cup of tea. Oh, I dread the thought of turning forty! *[Reaction.]* I don't relish the thought of growing old. I mean it's scary when you wake up in the morning and start making the same noises as your coffee maker. *[SHE makes some sounds.]* Anyway, you haven't paid good money to sit there listening to me wittering on. Or maybe you have! I bet some of you would like to have a look at my curiosities, wouldn't you? *[Reaction from the audience.]* Would you like a look? *[Picking out a man in the audience.]* I can tell by your expression you can't wait! *[SHE moves to the shelf and picks up some items. These can be anything that is available and can be made fun of.]*

Here is an example: SHE takes out a small portable radio.] Look at this, a lovely old radio, but the volume is stuck on full. Well, I couldn't turn it down! Yes, we have everything for the modern home. I'll show you – [She calls.] And with the help of my glamorous assistant. [She shouts.] Billy!!

[Billy enters and helps by showing all the items mentioned and getting worn out!]

SONG MRS CRUSOE & COMPANY

[At the end of the song, the LONDONERS exit as BILLY calls to ROBINSON, who enters on the quay.]

BILLY Robinson, Mum wants a word with you.

ROBINSON Oh, but I was just talking to the captain of the ship that's docked.

MRS C You're spending far too much time with sailors. Just like your father!

ROBINSON But that's what I've always wanted to be. Father had a life on the ocean waves, and that's what I want.

MRS C And look where it got him. Lost at sea in that awful shipwreck. Left me to bring up two boys and struggle to make a living selling second-hand goods and battered old bric-a-brac.

ROBINSON But don't you see, mum, the call of the sea is in my blood.

MRS C Oh, that's just what your father said when he left me to go on his nautical gallivanting. *[SHE becomes quite tragic now.]* Never giving me a second thought. Me – with two snivelling youngsters to bring up all by myself

ROBINSON Mum

MRS C *[Wailing on.]* Never knowing when the next meal was coming from.

BILLY Mum....

MRS C Scrimping and saving every penny because he'd left me with nothing.

ROBINSON Mum ...

MRS C *[Now dramatically hanging onto a piece of scenery.]* What's to become of me? What's to become of me?

ROBINSON/
BILLY *[Shouting.]* Mum!

MRS C *[Suddenly normal.]* What?

BILLY *[Quietly.]* Fancy a cup of tea?

MRS C *[Smiling as though nothing had happened.]* Thought you'd never ask. What a wonderful son. *[To ROBINSON.]* And you can start pricing up this lot. *[SHE points to the items on the shelf as SHE and BILLY exit into the shop.]*

ROBINSON *[Calling after them.]* Thanks a lot, Billy.

[SUSIE enters from the bank. She is a pretty girl, and the niece of MONTY.]

SUSIE Hello, Robinson.

ROBINSON *[Turning and smiling.]* Hello Susie.

SUSIE Where have you been today?

ROBINSON Oh, just around and about.

SUSIE Around and about the quayside, I expect.

ROBINSON Don't you start. I've just had an earful from Mum.

SUSIE *[Laughing.]* Don't worry. I know what it's like to dream of doing exciting things.

ROBINSON You do?

SUSIE Of course. *[Pointing to the bank.]* My uncle wants me to follow in the family business and be stuck behind the counter of the bank all day, but I'd much rather see more of the world.

ROBINSON We should both run away and seek our fortune.

SUSIE Wouldn't it be wonderful?

SONG ROBINSON & SUSIE

[At the end of the song, MONTY enters from the bank.]

MONTY Susie. *[ROBINSON and SUSIE break apart.]* What are you doing out here with this no-good waste of time?

SUSIE Uncle, Robinson is not a waste of time. He's ambitious. He's got great plans for his future.

MONTY A future that entirely depends on whether the mortgage is paid on that pile of old rubbish. *[HE points to the shop.]*

ROBINSON I assure you, sir, I will take care of it very soon.

MONTY Very soon is not good enough. You are already six months in arrears. If it is not paid by the end of the month, you and the rest of your family will be out on your ear.

SUSIE But that's not fair, Uncle.

ROBINSON Don't worry, Susie. *[To MONTY.]* You'll get your money, sir. I have a feeling my fortune is about to change very soon.

MONTY *[Sarcastically.]* Have you taken to keeping exotic farm animals?

ROBINSON What do you mean?

MONTY I've just seen a pig flying over there!

SUSIE Please, uncle.....

MONTY *[Snapping angrily.]* I don't want to hear anymore.

ROBINSON I'd better go, Susie. Mum will be needing me. I'll see you later. *[Politely to MONTY.]* Goodbye sir. *[HE is ignored and exits into the shop.]*

MONTY *[To SUSIE.]* You have work to do in the bank.

SUSIE *[Crossing to the bank.]* I think you are being very unfair to Robinson and his family. One day he'll prove to you that his ambitions will come good.

MONTY Good for nothing, you mean. *[Stifling a sob, SUSIE exits into the bank.]* I need that Crusoe land for my expansion plan. Just one more missed mortgage payment and I shall foreclose on them. That boy spends his time lazing about and will never find work. *[HE looks at the items for sale at the shop.]* And this rubbish won't fetch enough to buy a lottery ticket, let alone pay the mortgage. I can see my plans becoming a reality very soon. *[Rubbing his hands together, HE exits into the bank.]*

MUSIC ENTRANCE OF DAVY JONES

[Eerie music is heard, and from over the side of the quay at the back of the stage, DAVY JONES appears. He is dressed in a shabby old sailor's outfit of dark colours. Hanging from his costume is seaweed and an odd skeletal bone. On his head is an old sailor's hat. He has a cockney accent and looks very weathered.]

DAVY Dry land at last. Living at the bottom of the ocean is all well and good, but it's nice to breathe the fresh sea air from time to time. *[He crosses downstage left.]* But I mustn't be in the sunshine too long. If I dry out, I'm done for. Down with my locker on the seabed is my home.

[BRITANNIA enters down right.]

BRITANNIA Davy Jones. What are you doing, hanging around here?

DAVY Why, if it isn't Bessy Britannia. Cor blimey, what a site. Are you still looking after things above the waves?

BRITANNIA I am the ruler of those waves, as well you know. What are you up to? Dry land is no place for you.

DAVY I can come ashore for a short time. Just so long as I don't dry out completely.

BRITANNIA Dry out? Is that possible for one *ginormous* drip? *[SHE smiles to herself.]*

DAVY Oh, you think you're so witty. I'm just an old sea salt taking a well-earned rest.

BRITANNIA Well, just make sure it stays that way. Any trouble and I shall report you to King Neptune. And you know what happened last time.

DAVY Yes, he banished me to the most desolate part of the ocean. Stuck there amongst the wrecks and relics of the past.

BRITANNIA You're lucky that's all he did. You deserved a much greater punishment for all your destructive ways. Wreaking havoc on my calm waters.

DAVY The trouble with you is you've no sense of adventure. No excitement in your dull life.

BRITANNIA Excitement? Shipwrecks, tidal waves, death, and destruction on the high seas? That sort of excitement we can all do without. I warn you, Davy Jones, keep well away from all those brave souls who ride the ocean waves – *[SHE points her trident at him.]* – or else you will find this where you least expect it!

DAVY You wouldn't dare.

BRITANNIA Just try me.

DAVY *[Pointing a finger at Britannia.]* I warn you, you old battleaxe, one of these days, when you're not around, I'll cause such a storm you won't know what's hit you! *[BRITANNIA moves towards him with her trident pointing at him. HE quickly starts to exit left.]* All right, all right, I'm going. But just remember what I said. *[To audience.]* And you lot had better watch out as well. *[Reaction from the audience as HE exits.]*

BRITANNIA That's got rid of him – for the moment anyway. *[With a shudder.]* Ugh, what a despicable creature. But I'll have to keep an eye on him. He's as slippery as a sea snake. *[With a growing sense of importance.]* Oh, it's so demanding being ruler of the waves.

[With a wave of her trident and singing the first line of 'Rule Britannia', SHE exits right. Voices are heard off upstage left.]

SAM *[Off.]* Come on, row a little harder.

PETE *[Off.]* I am. It's hurting my wrists!

SAM Stop moaning and pull in alongside the key.

[Part of a small rowing boat appears, arriving at the quay. In it are SEAFARING SAM and PADDLING PETE. SAM is standing at the front in a pose not unlike Nelson, while PETE is struggling with the oars.]

Now keep her steady, and I'll climb ashore and tie her up.

[HE steps out of the boat and puts one foot on the quay with the other foot still in the boat. Although PETE is frantically rowing forward, the boat moves away from the quay, and SAM, after almost doing the splits, falls off the quay but manages to grab the side so his hands are showing.]

Help!!

PETE Hang on, I'll throw a life belt! *[SAM starts to pull himself up. PETE throws a lifebelt and hits SAM on the head. SAM goes down again.]*

SAM Oww. You idiot. Come and help me before I fall in.

[By now, PETE has pulled back alongside and stepped out of the rowing boat. HE helps SAM onto the quay.]

Call yourself a sailor? You can't even manage a rowing boat!

PETE I was doing my best. It was a strong tide.

SAM *[Looking over the side.]* Strong tide? It's as calm as anything.

PETE What about those big waves over there?

SAM Where?

PETE There. *[HE turns SAM to look off. SAM nearly falls in again.]*

SAM Ohhhhh! *[PETE grabs SAM.]*

PETE That's twice I've saved you today!

SAM *[Moving down stage.]* Come down here before you try and save me again. *[PETE follows him down stage.]* Now we need to find a crew to help us sail the Crusader.

PETE What happened to the lot we had?

SAM We had a conflict of interest. They were interested in their wages – and I wasn't.

PETE Oh not again.

SAM There was no money. Our last trip was a disaster. No decent fish to catch, so nothing to sell.

PETE We should be in a different line of work. We're lousy fishermen.

SAM But I love sailing. The salty breezes have always filled my nostrils. I couldn't do anything else.

PETE Maybe we ought to be a different kind of sailing ship. Why don't we have a bit of a holiday and think about it?

SAM *[Getting an idea.]* That's it. Pete, me old mate, you're a genius.

PETE I am?

SAM We'll become a cruise ship. They're all the rage now. People love a holiday on the sea.

PETE But how are we going to convert our fishing boat into a cruiser? We've got no money.

SAM Details, matey, details. We could start by flogging trips at rock-bottom prices. No frills. Just like – *[Name of a budget airline.]*

PETE Which means?

SAM No food. No cabin. No service. It's all '*bring your own*'. That way, we get a load of passengers and a crew!

PETE It won't work.

SAM It will. It's brilliant. All we need to do is drum up some trade, and away we go. *[HE walks around calling out.]* This way for the holiday of a lifetime. A luxury cruise to exotic climes. See the world from the upper deck.

PETE Yeah, while swabbing it down at the same time!

SAM *[Lowering his voice.]* Be quiet. *[Loudly again.]* Come along, folks, only a few places left.

[ROBINSON enters from the shop.]

ROBINSON Hello, what's going on here?

SAM We're just letting people know about our fantastic offer of a voyage on the beautiful briny sea. How would you and your family enjoy the delights of a cruise aboard the good ship Crusader?

ROBINSON Well, I don't think I could afford a cruise. You're not looking for any hands, are you?

PETE *[Holding his hands up.]* No. These will do me just fine!

SAM *[Pushing PETE away.]* Are you looking for a job on board ship?

ROBINSON Yes. I want to follow in my father's footsteps.

SAM Oh, your father was a sailor?

ROBINSON *[Proudly.]* Yes. The great Captain John Crusoe.

SAM Captain Crusoe. I remember hearing of his legendary voyages, told around many a Captain's table.

ROBINSON Would you take me on as a member of the crew for your next voyage?

SAM I think you will do admirably.

PETE *[Aside.]* But we can't pay him.

SAM *[Pulling PETE to one side.]* He won't know that 'til we're underway. Besides, if he's anything like his father, he'll be a great asset. *[Crosses back to ROBINSON.]* Welcome aboard, shipmate. Your first duty will be to round up passengers for our next sea voyage.

ROBINSON That's a strange job for a deckhand, isn't it?

SAM Can't be a deckhand if there are no passengers on the deck, can you, me hearty?

ROBINSON No, I suppose not.

SAM You get on with that while we sort out the supplies. See you back here in half an hour. [HE and PETE exit quickly.]

ROBINSON Off to sea at last. I wonder what adventures will be in store. But first, I'd better go and break the news to mum [HE exits into the shop. RODNEY makes an appearance, and the audience calls out. BILLY enters.]

BILLY Thanks very much. [With reference to the person picked out in the audience.] Did (person) shout out loud? [Reaction.] Well, let me hear you. [The person shouts etc. BILLY crosses to RODNEY.] Now where have you been? [RODNEY whispers.] Oh? Really? That's very nice. Can I tell the boys and girls? [RODNEY shakes his head "no".] Oh, go on, they'll be very pleased. [RODNEY looks at the audience, then at BILLY and nods "yes".] Oh good. [To the audience.] You'll never guess. Rodney has got himself a girlfriend. [Audience reacts and RODNEY covers his face in embarrassment.] They met at the end of the quay. Isn't that wonderful? [RODNEY whispers again.] BILLY'S face drops.] What's that? She's living on board a ship that's about to sail? And you want to go with her? [RODNEY nods vigorously.] But you can't. What about me? You can't leave me. [RODNEY whispers.] I can come too! But what about Mum and the shop and Robinson? I can't leave them. [RODNEY whispers.] What do you mean 'Send them a postcard'? [RODNEY whispers and disappears.] Rodney! Rodney, come back. [MRS CRUSOE lets out a shout of anguish off stage.] Now what's going on?

[MRS CRUSOE comes dramatically out of the shop and leans against it. ROBINSON follows her on.]

MRS C Oh, not again.

BILLY Now what's up?

MRS C [Pointing to ROBINSON.] Him. Deserting me. Going off to goodness knows where and leaving me all alone to fend for myself. [HER hand is dramatically on her forehead.]

BILLY But I'll still be here, mum

[MRS CRUSOE looks at BILLY and then repeats herself, dramatically.]

MRS C Leaving me all alone to fend for myself!

ROBINSON But mum, it won't be forever.

MRS C Oh, you say that now. But you'll never be home. Just like your father.

ROBINSON But that's just it. I do want to be like my father. The sea is in my blood just like it was in his.

MRS C I wasn't just the sea that was in his blood. With all that drink on board, he was 80% rum.

[SAM and PETE enter and cross to ROBINSON.]

SAM Ahoy there, shipmate. Are you ready to weigh anchor with us?

MRS C *[Rounding on SAM.]* So, you are the scurrilous sailor who's seduced my son into shipping off into the sunset, are you? *[The alliteration has showered SAM.]*

SAM *[Wiping his face from the spit.]* I think the wind's changed direction.

ROBINSON Mum, I volunteered.

PETE Are these some of the passengers you've rounded up?

MRS C *[Bearing down on PETE.]* Rounded up? Do I look like an Aberdeen Angus?

[SAM and PETE start nodding their heads in unison. When they see MRS CRUSOE'S icy stare, they change to a shake of the head.]

BILLY Mum, if Robinson wants to go that badly, why not let him?

MRS C That's right, take his side. Is no one going to think about a poor old woman left all alone to scrape a living selling a few old bits and pieces? *[SHE picks up an old casket off the shelf as an example. RODNEY is behind it and waves. The audience calls out. MRS CRUSOE drops the casket and screams.]* Oh, that rotten rodent!

BILLY *[Crossing to RODNEY and thanking the audience and the person.]* Rodney, now look what you have done.

[ROBINSON picks up the casket and opens it.]

ROBINSON Hey, look at this. *[HE pulls out a map.]*

PETE That looks like an old map.

SAM It is an old map.

MRS C *[Suddenly interested.]* Map? What kind of map?

ROBINSON It's of an island.

BILLY Which island?

ROBINSON I don't know. But wait, there is some writing. *[By now, EVERYONE has gathered around to look at the map.]*

BILLY What does it say?

ROBINSON It's very faded, but I think I can read it. I can't quite make out the first part, but the rest says Son, if anything happens to me, this map will guide you to an island where a great fortune is hidden. Follow the directions and find your inheritance.

MRS C A treasure map? But how did it get in there?

ROBINSON Where did all this stuff come from, Billy?

BILLY It was another house clearance I did this morning. Old Nautical Nick's gone.

MRS C Gone? Do you mean dead?

BILLY No, just dead lucky. He won the postcode lottery and moved to Bermuda! Told me to take what I liked before he sold up.

MRS C Nautical Nick was an old shipmate of your father's. He was supposed to be sailing with him on that last fateful voyage, but at the last minute, he kept shouting A E I O U, A E I O U!

ROBINSON Why was that?

MRS C He had irritable vowel syndrome. *[ALL groan]* I don't remember him having a son.

ROBINSON Wait a minute. *[HE holds the map up.]* Look at the first part. You can just see the faded lettering. *[HE gasps.]* It's not son – it's Robinson. This must be Father's map, and it's been left to me! I guess he gave it to Nick for safekeeping.

MRS C A fortune stashed away on a secret island, and he never told me!

ROBINSON But don't you see, Mother? This could be the answer to all our worries. All I have to do is get to this island and find the treasure.

MRS C And that means sailing off, never to be seen again.

ROBINSON No, it means us *all* sailing off. This is the perfect opportunity. We have a ship, a ready-made crew, and nothing to stop us from searching for a fortune.

MRS C Well, I suppose you're right. No one will notice we've shut up shop as we haven't had a customer in three weeks.

SAM *[Standing near Mrs Crusoe and looking at the map.]* I can see a couple of coordinates...

MRS C *[Covering her chest with her hands.]* ... 'ere, you shouldn't be looking!

SAM *[Pointing to the map.]* so it shouldn't be that difficult to find the island.

ROBINSON Mother, we're going to be rich!

MRS C Oooh, I can't believe it. We're going to be rich.

[EVERYONE joins in hugging and shouting 'We're going to be rich' etc. The rest of the COMPANY enters as MONTY comes out of the bank, followed by SUSIE.]

MONTY What is all this noise? What's going on?

MRS C *[Trying to look calm.]* Oh – er nothing. Just a little celebration. *[To BILLY.]* Come on, Billy, and help me pack. *[SHE exits into the shop.]*

BILLY *[To RODNEY.]* And you better pack too, Rodney.

[RODNEY nods and disappears. BILLY exits into the shop.]

MONTY What do they mean – pack?

SUSIE Robinson, what's going on? *[SHE crosses to ROBINSON, who starts to tell her and the rest of the company what has happened. Meanwhile, SAM explains to MONTY.]*

SAM We're all going on a cruise, matey. Care to join us?

MONTY Go on a cruise with that lot? You must be out of your mind. *[HE turns to go back to the bank.]*

PETE We're off in search of treasure!

MONTY *[Stopping in his tracks.]* Treasure?

SAM Seems our young friend over there has come into a fortune.

PETE He's got a treasure map.

SUSIE *[Having heard the story from ROBINSON.]* Really?

ROBINSON Yes, it's true. *[Shows her the map.]* Look.

SUSIE Isn't that wonderful, Uncle? Now they will be able to pay off the mortgage and never be in debt to the bank again.

[MONTY clutches his heart as though having an attack and crosses down left. ROBINSON, SUSIE, SAM and PETE are centre.]

MONTY *[To himself.]* But if they pay off the mortgage, that means I won't be able to repossess the shop, and then bang goes my new apartment block. I'll have to get my hands on that map. *[HE turns back to the others and smiles.]* Well, this is good news. Congratulations, my boy. So, you're off to find an island, are you?

ROBINSON We are indeed.

SAM The tide's turning, so we can soon be underway.

MONTY *[With a lot of false charm.]* You know Susie, on second thoughts I think we deserve a holiday as well. Any more places aboard your ship?

SAM Indeed there are, matey.

MONTY Right. Don't leave without me! *[HE exits into the bank.]*

ROBINSON What's come over him?

SUSIE Don't ask, or he might change his mind!

[MRS CRUSOE, wearing large sunglasses and carrying a rubber ring and a bucket and spade, enters, followed by BILLY who has a lot of luggage.]

MRS C All ready. Blackpool, here I come.

SAM We're off to a more exotic place than Blackpool.

MRS C Skegness?

SAM Coral seas, golden sands, and tropical palms.

MRS C Clacton! *[Or any local seaside resort.]*

ROBINSON Well, if everyone is ready, let's get underway.

COMPANY NUMBER

[During the number, MONTY enters with his case and briefcase. At the end of the number, the lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 2 BELOW DECKS OF 'THE CRUSADER'

[A front cloth scene depicting the cargo hold of a sailing ship. There are some crates to one side and ROBINSON'S kitbag. DAVY is down left.]

DAVY Well, this is a stroke of luck. A sailing ship full of lively people just waiting to be plunged into the icy depths of the ocean. Oh, how I love it when a plan starts to take shape. Very soon, my locker will be full of restless corpses!

[BRITANNIA enters right.]

BRITANNIA I thought I would find you lurking down here. What are you up to?

DAVY Nothing at all. I'm just hitching a lift on this fine vessel.

BRITANNIA Why do I find that hard to believe?

DAVY Oh, *Britty*, old girl. You do have a suspicious nature.

BRITANNIA Are you surprised? When you're around, I have to be especially vigilant. Just make sure you stay well out of the way of those innocent people on board – *[Pointing her trident.]* – or you know what will happen.

DAVY Don't you worry, dear lady. When I get near my home, I'll just slip quietly away.

BRITANNIA *[Glaring at him.]* Mmm, well, make sure you do. *[SHE exits.]*

DAVY *[Calling after her.]* Never fear. *[To himself.]* I'll slip away – and I'll take this ship and all the people on board with me. *[HE laughs and exits left. The lights brighten, and from behind a crate, RODNEY appears. The audience shouts out, and BILLY runs on right.]*

BILLY Thank you very much. *[To the person.]* You're getting better! *[To RODNEY]* I told you to stay in the cabin. If you keep running around, you could fall overboard. Then there would be a panic because everyone would think a rat was leaving a sinking ship! *[RODNEY whispers during the following.]* You came down here to be with your girlfriend? Well, where is she? A nasty man scared her away? Who was that? A stranger – don't tell me we have a stowaway?

[ROBINSON enters. RODNEY disappears.]

ROBINSON Hello, Billy.

BILLY Robinson, Rodney says he thinks we have a stowaway.

ROBINSON A stowaway? We checked everyone as they came aboard. I didn't see any strangers. Are you sure he's not been at the rum?

BILLY *[Turning to see RODNEY gone.]* Oh, he's gone again. I'll keep my eyes peeled and let you know if I see anyone suspicious.

ROBINSON Talking of someone suspicious – here comes old Moneybags. *[MONTY creeps on backwards from stage left. He is carrying his briefcase.]* Are you looking for something?

MONTY *[Spinning round.]* Oh – er no. Just, er – looking around this fine vessel. Getting my bearings – to use nautical parlance.

ROBINSON Well, there's not much to see down here. Just a lot of crates.

MONTY *[Trying to make light of being caught.]* Yes, and very fine crates they are too.

ROBINSON Don't forget we have the emergency drill in half an hour on the main deck.

MONTY Emergency drill?

ROBINSON Yes. The captain wants to take us through various procedures, including the lifeboat drill.

BILLY What's the good of drilling a lifeboat? All the holes will let the water in!

ROBINSON Don't be such a silly – William! Come on, we have work to do. *[HE and BILLY exit right.]*

MONTY I must get that treasure map. I'll have to cause some sort of diversion so I can get into Crusoe's cabin. He must keep it there. But how? I really need an accomplice, but there's no one I can trust on board.

[DAVY enters from down left and moves to him.]

DAVY Planning something, matey?

MONTY *[Spinning round, scared.]* Oh! Who are you?

DAVY Don't be scared. I think I may be the answer to your dreams.

MONTY I'm afraid you're not my type.

DAVY You're after something, and so am I.

MONTY *[Horrified.]* I beg your pardon.

DAVY I heard you muttering something about a treasure map. I can help you get it – if you help me get what I want.

MONTY What's that?

DAVY This ship.

MONTY You want to take over this ship?

DAVY In a manner of speaking. If we can cause the crew to turn against Crusoe, we can get rid of him, and you can get the map.

MONTY *[Smiling.]* What a splendid idea. *[Suddenly serious.]* But how can we get the crew to do that? They are all very fond of Robinson Crusoe.

DAVY Oh, I'll think of a way. You meet me on the main deck when it's quiet, and we'll hatch out a plan.

MONTY Right. Oh, just think. I'll get the treasure and still put that Crusoe family out of business. *[To DAVY.]* See you later.

DAVY Righty-oh, shipmate. *[MONTY exits right.]* What a gullible fool. He thinks I want to take over this ship, but I want to drag it down to the depths of the ocean and throw everyone into my locker. Including him!! *[HE roars with laughter and exits left. MRS CRUSOE enters right dressed in an outrageous sailing outfit.]*

MRS C Oh it's all go. I've not stopped since I came aboard. I've cleaned out the cabins, polished the portholes, maintained the mainbrace, laid out the lanyard, and brushed all the barnacles off the bottom. *[Rubbing HER backside.]* Oh, that was a job and a half! I've come down here for a rest in case they find anything more for me to do. Mind you I've quite taken to this sailing lark. The sea air is very bracing. It brought a rosy glow to my cheeks. Well, that's what one of the sailors told me when I was bending over to help him pull up the anchor! *[SAM and PETE enter.]* Oh, hello, you two. Come down here for a skive as well?

PETE *[Innocently.]* Only for five minutes!

SAM *[Pushing PETE out of the way.]* We do not skive, ma'am. We are constantly making sure this fine vessel is running smoothly.

MRS C By getting everyone else to do the work. I know what you're up to.

SAM I can't think what you mean.

PETE Oh I do. She means you and me get everyone else to do the work.

[SAM hits him.]