

# **TREASURE ISLAND**

Adapted by Bill Robertson  
from the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson

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to

Bitesize Theatre Company, 8 Green Meadows, New Broughton, Wrexham, LL11 6SG

# TREASURE ISLAND

2nd Draft 30/07/96

## Cast:

JIM HAWKINS  
MOTHER : DR. LIVESEY : DICK  
BILLY BONES : SQUIRE TRELAWNEY : TOM : BEN GUNN : Revenue 1  
BLIND PEW : LONG JOHN SILVER : HARRY : HUNTER  
BLACK DOG : Revenue 2 : SKULL : GRAY

[JIM is played by a girl but as a boy. Livesey is played by a girl but as a principal boy.]

Scene 1 : **The Old Buccaneer**  
The Admiral Benbow Inn, on the coast road to Bristol (circa 1750)

[ *Enter JIM HAWKINS, with a broom, whistling. He sweeps the floor and generally tidys up until he notices the audience* ]

JIM: Oh! Hello there, you've all arrived safely then. [*he shakes hands with 2 or 3 of the audience asking their names and saying 'Hello'.*] Hello, everyone ! [**audience: Hello.** ] I'm sure you can do better than that, Hello everyone ! [**audience: Hello.** *Prompt again, if reply not loud enough*] My name is Jim Hawkins. Two good friends of mine, Squire Trelawney and Dr. Livesey, who you will meet later, have asked me to tell you all about our adventure to Treasure Island, that is, of course, everything except where the Island lies, for that will always have to be kept a secret. This is where I live. The Admiral Benbow Inn. And that [*pointing outside*] is the coast road to Bristol. As you can imagine we get lots of sailors passing this way. Some of them even stay with us at the Inn for a while, and I love to sit and listen to their stories of faraway places and the strange lands that they've visited. They sometimes tell me bloodthirsty tales of pirates and buccaneers, like Captain Flint and Blackbeard. [*JIM dances around pretending to be a pirate using the broom as a sword and shouting* ] **Avast ! ya lily-livered landlubbers.**

[ *Enter MOTHER, almost getting stabbed by the bisom* ]

MOTHER: [*sighs*] Come along Jim, there's work to be done.

JIM: Yes, Mum.

MOTHER: And I hope you're not disturbing these good people with any of your nonsense, now.

JIM: No, Mum.

MOTHER: Good. See that it stays that way. [*MOTHER exits* ]

JIM: That's my mum. I've helped her to run the Admiral Benbow, since my father died. *[he looks round to see there's no-one there. Secretively]* But really I'd rather go to sea and have adventures and fight pirates and ....

MOTHER: *[off]* Jim ?

JIM: How does she do that ? Anyway. My story begins with the arrival of an old seaman, who called himself "the Captain". *[ Enter BILLY BONES carrying a chest which he sets down stage right]* He arrived, one misty morning in August and he carried all his worldly goods in a big, old sea-chest which he wouldn't let anyone go near, and for the most part of his stay, I never saw it opened.

BILLY: Landlord !

*[ Enter MOTHER. She goes to BILLY and they talk, arranging a price for his board. Enter SKULL and HARRY. They pass BILLY and MOTHER and nod a greeting. BILLY scowls. SKULL and HARRY go to sit on the other side as far from BILLY as they can. ]*

JIM: Although we weren't to know it at the time, he was to stay with us, for many months. He soon took a liking to me. *[ He goes to BILLY who ruffles JIM's hair Enter MOTHER and goes to SKULL and HARRY]* Although, nearly everyone else thought he was really scary and stayed well out of his way.

BILLY: *[roars]* Bring me Rum!

*[ BILLY sits at a table. MOTHER exits and re-enters with Rum. Pours a drink for BILLY, then for SKULL and HARRY. Then exits.]*

JIM: He liked Rum. Lots and lots of rum.... and eggs and bacon.

BILLY: Ah! Jim. Come here, boy. *[JIM goes to BILLY]* Now, your a good lad, Jim Hawkins. And since you be, I has a favour to ask of you.

JIM: Of course, Captain.

BILLY: That's my boy. Now! What I wants you to do, Jim, is .... *[he looks around and JIM looks around and BILLY looks around some more]* I wants you to keep a weather-eye open for a seafaring man with one leg. *[ he looks around again]* Can you do that for me, Jim?

JIM: Aye, Aye. Cap'n.

BILLY: And if you do that for me, Jim, then I'll see you right. You can have a shiny, silver fourpenny piece on the first of every month. *[He gives JIM a silver coin]*

JIM: Thank you, Captain. [*to audience*] So, from then on, I was always on the lookout for a sailor who only had one leg. Perhaps you could help me? Will you keep an eye out for a sailor who only has one leg. [*prompt it required. audience: Yes.*] In fact, if you see any strangers will you tell me ? [*audience: Yes.*] Anyone, you haven't seen before? [*audience: Yes.*] Now, you won't forget will you? [*audience: No.*] Good !

[ *Enter MOTHER with Rum. Goes to BILLY* ]

BILLY: Bring me ....

MOTHER: Rum !

BILLY: How does she do that ? [*MOTHER smiles a knowing smile. And goes to serve SKULL and HARRY. BILLY drinks and starts to sing. He goes and joins SKULL and HARRY, who cower.* ]

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

MOTHER: [*disapprovingly*] Of an evening, the Captain would get roaring drunk on rum and start to sing his wicked, old, wild sea-songs and tell dreadful stories that would frighten all our customers. [*exit HARRY and SKULL in fright*]

JIM: [*growing in excitement*] Stories of hanging, and walking the plank, and storms at sea, and wild deeds and places on the Spanish Main, and the Dry Tor... Tor ...

MOTHER: Tortugas.

JIM & BILLY: How does she do that ?

MOTHER: Now, that's quite enough, young man. It's nearly time for you to go to bed, so don't you get too comfortable.

[ *Exit MOTHER. BILLY calls JIM over*]

BILLY: [*drunkenly*] Jim ! Jim! Now, you won't forget will you, Jim, [*he looks around and JIM looks around*] the seafaring man with one leg. [*he looks around again*]

JIM: No, Captain. Yes, Captain. [*to audience*] Now, you want forget to tell me if you see any strangers, will you ? [*audience: No*]

[ *Enter MOTHER.*]

MOTHER: The Captain has a visitor.

[ *Enter BLACK DOG. Audience shouts. He goes to BILLY and they talk.* ]

JIM: No, it's ok. That's not the sailor we want. He's still got both his legs.

MOTHER: Well, this sailor goes by the name of Black Dog.

BILLY: [*frightened*] Black Dog !

MOTHER: Yes, Black Dog.

JIM: He called the Captain by his real name, which was Billy Bones. He said that the Captain wasn't a Captain at all, but was ...

MOTHER: How could he be a Captain, with a name like Bones, Jim ? Everyone knows that Bones is always the name for the Ship's Doctor. [*Exit MOTHER*]

JIM: He said Billy Bones had once been first mate for the infamous pirate Captain Flint. [*The discussion between BILLY and BLACK DOG gets heated.*]

BILLY: No, no, no, no; and there's an end to it ! [*He draws his cutlass and BLACK DOG exits in a hurry. BILLY grabs his chest and collapses.*]

JIM: After Black Dog left, the Captain was taken ill.

BILLY: [*groans*] It's life Jim, but not as we know it !

JIM: [*he goes to BILLY*] Yes, Bones !

MOTHER: [*off*] Doctor says he's to stay in bed for a whole week.

JIM & BILLY: How does she do that ?

BILLY: Jim! You're the only one here that's worth anything. An' now I has something I needs to tell you. I'm pretty low and deserted by all. That Black Dog was after my old sea chest [*He points to it*] and he's likely to return with more of Cap'n Flint's crew to get it. So you must watch out, Jim, and if anything should happen to me, I want you to have some items of value that you'll find at the bottom of that old sea-chest. And always beware [*he looks around and JIM looks around*] of that seafaring man with one leg. [*he looks around again*]

JIM: Did you hear that ? [*audience: Yes.*] So, don't forget to shout if you see a stranger. [*audience: No.*] .... Well, nothing happened for some days until ... [*The sound of BLIND PEW's stick tapping is heard off but it sounds just like a one-legged man.*] What's that ?

MOTHER: [*poking her head in*] That's sounds like a one-legged man coming up the road. See what he wants, Jim. [*MOTHER exits. JIM looks at the audience, and starts to edge towards the sound but thinking better of it runs and hides.*]

[ *Enter BLIND PEW. Audience scream. Exit BLIND PEW* ]

JIM: Was there someone there ? [*audience: Yes.*] There's no one there now.

[ *Enter BLIND PEW. Audience scream. Exit BLIND PEW* ]