

The Fearsome Pirate Frank

A Shameless Hopping Onto
the Popular Pirate Ship

By Pat Lydersen

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THE FEARSOME PIRATE FRANK

A Shameless Hopping Onto the Popular Pirate Ship

By PAT LYDERSEN

CAST OF CHARACTERS

	<i># of lines</i>
NARRATOR 1.....a storyteller	56
NARRATOR 2.....ditto	48
TREASURE CHEST (TC)	
PIRATES 1-5.....introduce scenes	41
 <u>THE FEARSOME PIRATE FRANK SHOW</u>	
PIRATE ACTORS 1-6.....Frank’s supporting actors and actresses	60
GIRLS 1-3.....Elizabethan era “valley girls” who are fans of Frank	5
FRANK.....talented actor, if only he could remember his lines	90
DIRECTOR.....very angry at Frank	3
ESMERELDAactress; also angry at Frank	53
MR. SMEEFrank’s agent	36
VILLAGER ACTORS 1-12.....play villagers in the show	17
SPIDERMAN.....really wants a part in the show	6
NASCAR DRIVERalso really wants a part	3
 <u>CAP’N FRANK’S CREW</u>	
CAP’N FRANK.....the <u>real</u> fearsome pirate—and a female	98
BETTY BONES.....her first mate	45
ONE-EYED JOANone of Cap’n Frank’s crew	17
HILARY HOOKditto	15
GIMPY GERTditto	18
LITTLE NELL.....ditto	14
OLD TILLY TAR.....ditto	22
 <u>OTHER PIRATES</u>	
CAP’N BEN DAVIES.....mean pirate with a grudge becomes a zombie once he walks the plank	35

VITA LU PIRATES 1-12	Captain Ben’s crew; can also play ZOMBIES	20
NIGHTMARE SAILORS	haunt Cap’n Frank’s dreams; include a GRIM REAPER, an EXECUTIONER and a HANGMAN	5
ZOMBIES	from the zombie ship, the Blackmark	5

CREATURES OF THE SEA

WATER DANCERS	create “water effect” for sirens	n/a
SIRENS 1-3.....	mermaids with allure—and a lot of makeup	34
ALBATROSS	unlucky bird	12

FLEXIBLE CASTING

This play can be done with anywhere from 20 to 45 or more actors. All groups designated with numbers, such as PIRATE ACTORS 1-6, are flexible in size. Lines can easily be shared between fewer or more actors than the number specified.

Many roles can be played by either male or female actors. The following are the exceptions: ESMERELDA, the SIRENS, CAP’N FRANK and her crew of pirates must be played by female actors; FRANK, the PIRATE ACTORS, CAP’N BEN and the VITA LU CREW should be male. If male actors are in short supply, CAP’N BEN and his crew can easily be played by the same actors as the PIRATE ACTORS.

For a smaller cast, many actors can play multiple parts. GIRLS 1-3 can also play SIRENS 1-3, etc. In the original production, most of the VITA LU CREW doubled as the NIGHTMARE SAILORS and ZOMBIES, with a slight change in costume for each.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

- Scene One: Introducing the “Fearsome Pirate Frank Show.” Played in front of the curtain
- Scene Two: Shanghaied! Played in front of the curtain
- Scene Three: On the high seas
- Scene Four: Flashback to the Vita Lu and her crew
- Scene Five: The sirens’ song
- Scene Six: Mr. Smee’s grand idea
- Scene Seven: Cap’n Frank’s nightmare
- Scene Eight: The albatross brings dark news
- Scene Nine: The noble Captain Frank saves the day

SET DESCRIPTION

Scenes One and Two are played in front of the curtain with optional rehearsal blocks of varying sizes.

Scenes Three through Nine depict Captain Frank's ship and can be as simple or elaborate as desired. At the very least, use fragmentary set pieces such as a ship's steering wheel on a small platform UP CENTER, barrels, block and tackle, ropes, crates, etc. The steering wheel is a little UPSTAGE of CENTER. Blocks, sheets of wood or fabric stretched over a large frame can extend from both sides of UP CENTER to create the walls of the ship; there should be enough room between the UPSTAGE start of the walls for people to enter and exit (six feet or so). You want to give the impression that the ship is quite large and that the sides extend past the edges of the stage; if your stage is too wide, you can use flats to create the ship width appropriate for your playing space. Rehearsal blocks can also be used. An optional "crow's nest" UP CENTER can be any sort of elevated seat, such as stacked rehearsal blocks or a small ladder. A plank should be brought on for Scene Four and securely fastened to one of the rehearsal blocks, then removed before the next scene. See PRODUCTION NOTES for suggestions and diagrams on dressing up the set more elaborately.

For the first two scenes and all narrator segments, DOWN RIGHT and DOWN LEFT are used as exits. On the ship, STAGE RIGHT and LEFT are the main exits, masked by boxes and barrels, or perhaps a hatch door, since these are supposed to be exits to the ship's hold below. However, ZOMBIES and NIGHTMARE SAILORS enter and exit from all directions over the ship's walls, if possible. See set design on page 44.



THE FEARSOME PIRATE FRANK

Scene One

1 LIGHTS UP: VARIOUS PIRATES and/or PIRATE ACTORS are FROZEN in different positions ONSTAGE in front of the CURTAIN. Each UNFREEZES as he/she speaks.

PIRATE 1: Avast!

5 **PIRATE 2:** Ahoy!

PIRATE 3: Thar she blows!

PIRATE 4: Shiver me timbers!

PIRATE 5: Fifteen men...

PIRATE 6: ...on a dead man's chest!

10 **ALL PIRATES:** Arrr! (*ALL FREEZE again as NARRATORS ENTER DOWN LEFT.*)

NARRATOR 1: Pirates. (*Looks over the PIRATES and then turns to the AUDIENCE.*) People have always been enamored with pirates.

NARRATOR 2: Maybe it's the perennial appeal of the bad boy—

15 **FEMALE PIRATE:** (*UNFREEZES momentarily.*) —or bad girl—

NARRATOR 2: —image.

NARRATOR 1: Maybe it's the romantic picture of mysterious schooners flying the Jolly Roger on the Spanish Main.

20 **NARRATOR 2:** Maybe it's the allure of tropical islands and treasure chests brimming with gold and silver.

NARRATOR 1: (*Motions to the PIRATES.*) Maybe it's the cute outfits they wear with the striped shirts, ragged pants and rakish black eye patches.

25 **NARRATOR 2:** Every year, the number one selling costume for Halloween is a pirate costume.

NARRATOR 1: Books, movies, toys and video games have all jumped on the pirate bandwagon—or ship, I guess you'd say.

NARRATOR 2: There's even a national "Talk Like a Pirate Day."

NARRATOR 1: Pirates are in.

30 **NARRATOR 2:** Pirates are popular.

NARRATOR 1: There's just no getting around it.

NARRATOR 2: The show you are about to see is a bald-faced attempt to capitalize on this pirate phenomenon.

35 **NARRATOR 1:** The playwright could have chosen any number of topics, topics more praiseworthy and more original, but let's face it—all of you out there came to see a pirate play.

- 1 **NARRATOR 2:** Would you have come to see a dissertation on the effects of aerosol sprays on the ozone layer? (*PIRATES UNFREEZE, say “Arrr!” and EXIT DOWN RIGHT. GIRLS rush ON DOWN RIGHT screaming. NARRATORS stop them.*)
- 5 **NARRATOR 1:** Where are you girls going?
GIRL 1: To see “The Fearsome Pirate Frank Show”!
GIRL 2: He is, like, so adorable!
GIRL 3: I love when he says, “Avast ye lily-livered bilge rat!”
GIRL 1: Or when he calls all the girls, “Me fine wee wenches!”
- 10 **GIRL 2:** Oh my gosh, wenches! I love when he says wenches!! (*ALL scream and run OFF LEFT.*)
NARRATORS: (*Look at each other, then at the AUDIENCE.*) We rest our case.
TREASURE CHEST PIRATES 1-5: (*ENTER DOWN RIGHT, pulling on a rope tied to a large treasure chest, which they drag toward CENTER. TC PIRATE 1 pushes from behind. TC PIRATE 2 is inside the chest. Chant in unison.*) Yo ho ho, yo ho ho, To Davy Jones’ locker we go, ho ho. Yo ho ho, yo ho ho... (*Stop CENTER.*)
- 15 **TC PIRATE 1:** (*Lifts up the top of the chest, revealing a sign written inside. Reads the sign to the AUDIENCE in a very pirate-like voice.*) The Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank.
TC PIRATE 2: (*Pops up from inside the chest holding another sign which says “Part, the First.”*) Part, the First! (*Sinks back down into the chest as TC PIRATE 1 closes the top and the other TC PIRATES resume pulling it LEFT, chanting once more.*)
- 20 **TC PIRATE PIRATES 1-5:** Yo ho ho, yo ho ho. We be doin’ a pirate show, ho ho. Yo ho ho, yo ho ho... (*EXIT DOWN LEFT.*)
- 25 **NARRATOR 1:** The original Fearsome Pirate Frank wasn’t really a pirate, you know.
NARRATOR 2: He was an actor back in the days of old Willy Shakespeare.
NARRATOR 1: Frank was a pretty good actor. (*FRANK ENTERS DOWN RIGHT and crosses to CENTER to stand between NARRATORS.*)
- 30 **NARRATOR 2:** He could strike a noble pose. (*FRANK strikes a noble pose.*)
NARRATOR 1: He could convey comedy... (*FRANK assumes a silly pose.*)
- 40 **NARRATOR 2:** ...and tragedy... (*FRANK changes into a tragic figure.*) ...with the best of them.

1 **NARRATOR 1:** He did have one major flaw, though.

NARRATOR 2: No matter how hard he tried, poor Frank just could not remember his lines. (*NARRATORS move DOWN LEFT, leaving FRANK CENTER.*)

5 **FRANK:** (*Dramatic.*) To be or not to be... (*Breaks character.*) ...is that the question?

NARRATOR 1: This made directors very angry.

DIRECTOR: (*ENTERS DOWN LEFT. Angry.*) No, no no! To be or not to be, that is the question!

10 **FRANK:** That's what I asked—is that the question?

DIRECTOR: Not "Is that the question?" That is the question!

FRANK: But if the question is...

DIRECTOR: Get him out of here! Out! Out! Out! (*STAGEHAND ENTERS DOWN LEFT and pulls FRANK OFF DOWN LEFT. DIRECTOR EXITS DOWN RIGHT.*)

15

NARRATOR 2: It made other actors angry, too.

NARRATOR 1: One night, Frank was playing opposite the world-famous actress, Esmerelda Effington.

ESMERELDA: (*ENTERS DOWN RIGHT, playing Juliet, and moves to CENTER.*) Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo? (*No answer. Looks around nervously.*) Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo? (*Still no answer.*) Romeo?

20

FRANK: (*ENTERS DOWN LEFT dramatically and moves toward ESMERELDA.*) Get thee to a nunnery!

25

ESMERELDA: (*Angry.*) Get thee to a nunnery? Get thee to a nunnery! You've got the wrong play, you moron! (*Bops him on the head with her fist. SOUND EFFECT: BOP. To the AUDIENCE.*) I will never work with that fool again! (*Storms OFF DOWN RIGHT, leaving FRANK standing CENTER, looking bewildered.*)

30

NARRATOR 2: Poor Frank. And he had quite a crush on Esmerelda, too.

NARRATOR 1: Audiences weren't very patient with Frank either. (*A GROUP [NOTE: Can be TREASURE CHEST PIRATES and GIRLS in different costumes or other EXTRAS.] ENTERS LEFT carrying items to throw and sits in front of FRANK as his audience.*)

35

FRANK: Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow and... uh maybe yesterday... creeps into this, uh, this, uh, this pretty place, and... (*GROUP boos and hisses and throws things at FRANK, then chases him OFF LEFT. [NOTE: GROUP should pick up items they throw as they EXIT; they can keep throwing them until they are OFFSTAGE.]*)

40

1 **NARRATOR 1:** Obviously, Frank wasn't going to make it as a great Shakespearean actor.

NARRATOR 2: He was in luck, though, because just about the time he was thinking of chucking the whole thing and becoming a chimney sweep, he was taken on by an agent who knew just what kind of part fit Frank to a tee.

NARRATOR 2: His name was Mr. Smee. *(Sarcastic.)* Hmm. I wonder where our playwright got that name. *(FRANK and SMEE ENTER DOWN LEFT and cross to CENTER.)*

10 **SMEE:** I tell you, Frank. This is the part for you!

FRANK: Really?

SMEE: Sure! There are no stuffed shirt directors or temperamental actresses to deal with here. All you have to do is look fierce and daring with your sword and eye patch, and you've got it made!

15 **FRANK:** I can look fierce and daring! *(Strikes a daring pose.)*

SMEE: Of course you can! And best of all, there are no complicated lines to learn. When you can't think of what to say, just say "Arrr!"

FRANK: Arrr?

20 **SMEE:** A little deeper.

FRANK: Arrr.

SMEE: Let it come from your throat.

FRANK: Arrr.

SMEE: And now with gusto!

25 **FRANK:** Arrr!

SMEE: By George, I think you've got it!

FRANK: Arrr! Arrr! Arrr! *(EXITS DOWN RIGHT with SMEE.)*

NARRATOR 1: And so Frank won the lead in the new pirate show that was taking the town by storm.

30 **NARRATOR 2:** And he became the Fearsome Pirate Frank! *(LIGHTS DIM as he makes a presentational gesture with his arm. NARRATORS EXIT DOWN LEFT. LIGHTS COME BACK UP. VILLAGER ACTORS 1 and 2 from "The Fearsome Pirate Frank Show" run ON DOWN RIGHT.)*

VILLAGER ACTOR 1: *(Shouts.)* Sound the alarm! Sound the alarm! *(More VILLAGER ACTORS run ON DOWN RIGHT. [NOTE: Divide the lines according to the number of VILLAGER ACTORS used.]*

35 **VILLAGER ACTOR 2:** It's the Fearsome Pirate Frank!

VILLAGER ACTOR 1: His ship has just laid anchor!

VILLAGER ACTOR 3: Close your windows and doors!

40 **VILLAGER ACTOR 4:** Lock up your gold and silver!

1 **VILLAGER ACTOR 5:** Hide your jewels and heirlooms!

VILLAGER ACTOR 6: He'll steal the rug from under your feet! (*FRANK ENTERS DOWN RIGHT with PIRATE ACTORS 1-6 [or however many used]. He looks extremely dashing.*)

5 **VILLAGER ACTOR 7:** But he'll be very handsome and dashing while he does it!

PIRATE ACTOR 1: (*Moves the VILLAGER ACTORS aside.*) Gangway, me buckos!

10 **PIRATE ACTOR 2:** Gangway! (*There is a general hubbub as FRANK and his PIRATE ACTORS take their stand CENTER before the VILLAGER ACTORS.*)

PIRATE ACTOR 3: Hold yer tongues, ye lubbers!

PIRATE ACTOR 4: Or we be holdin' 'em for ya!

15 **PIRATE ACTOR 5:** The Fearsome Pirate Frank be havin' somethin' ta say!

PIRATE ACTOR 6: And he be ready ta say it!

VILLAGER ACTOR 8: Quiet, everyone! Quiet!

VILLAGER ACTOR 9: The Fearsome Pirate Frank is going to speak!

VILLAGER ACTOR 10: What do you want, oh Fearsome Pirate Frank?

20 **VILLAGER ACTOR 11:** We are but simple villagers.

VILLAGER ACTOR 12: But we will try to meet your demands.

FRANK: I be wantin'...

VILLAGER ACTORS: Yes?

FRANK: I be wantin'...

25 **VILLAGER ACTORS:** Yes?

FRANK: I be wantin'...

VILLAGER ACTORS: Yes?

FRANK: Arrr!

30 **VILLAGER ACTORS:** Arrr? (*Look at each other. With enthusiasm.*) What a pirate! (*FEMALE VILLAGER ACTRESSES swoon. BLACKOUT.*)

End of Scene One

Scene Two

LIGHTS UP: In front of the CURTAIN. NARRATORS ENTER DOWN LEFT.

NARRATOR 1: "The Fearsome Pirate Frank Show" was the hit of the year in merry old England. Attendance topped Shakespeare's stuff by a mile!

35 **NARRATOR 2:** Which I think says something about the taste of the Elizabethan public.

1 **NARRATOR 1:** Frank and his band of pirates were instant celebrities,
accosted everywhere they went by screaming wenches desperate
to get an autograph or steal a piece of pirate paraphernalia.
(FRANK runs ON DOWN LEFT, chased by GIRLS 1-3, screaming and
5 carrying pictures of FRANK, autograph books, pens, etc. FRANK
signs a few autographs, and the GIRLS squeal and then EXIT RIGHT
while FRANK FREEZES CENTER.)

NARRATOR 2: Yes, it was a glorious time for Frank. He had become
a star.

10 **NARRATOR 1:** And he had even gotten to work with Esmerelda
Effington again. (FRANK UNFREEZES.)

ESMERELDA: (ENTERS LEFT, crosses to CENTER.) Frank, what do you
think of this new costume I have for the Pirate Queen? Tell me the
truth. Does it make me look fat?

15 **FRANK:** Make you look fat? Why, my dear Esmerelda, you are a vision
in velvet! (NOTE: If a velvet dress is not available, substitute an
appropriate descriptive word.) You are... you look... Arrr!

ESMERELDA: Arrr! What's that supposed to mean? You do think I look
fat! (Approaches him, angry.) You think I look like a fat pig, don't you?
20 Say it! (Bops him on the head with the handle of her Pirate Queen
cutlass. SOUND EFFECT: BOP.) Say it! I know it's what you think!

FRANK: No, Esmerelda! No! I... I... (She bops him on the head again
with another SOUND EFFECT.) Arrr! (ESMERELDA EXITS LEFT. FRANK
moves RIGHT and FREEZES.)

25 **NARRATOR 1:** (Shakes his head.) Ouch!

NARRATOR 2: Anyway, Frank had become rich.

NARRATOR 1: He had become famous.

NARRATOR 2: What more could he ask for? (FRANK UNFREEZES. He
is in his dressing room getting ready for the night's show and mimes
30 primping his hair, costume, etc. in a mirror.)

SMEE: (ENTERS RIGHT and crosses to FRANK.) Here are the receipts
for last night's show, Frank. This pirate gig is an absolute gold mine.
Who would have thought people would love pirates so much?!

FRANK: I don't know, Smee. I'm getting a bit tired of saying "arrr"
35 every night. It's starting to do quite strange things to my vocal
cords.

SMEE: Maybe you should add in a few more "ahoys" and "avasts."
You're very good at those lines, too.

FRANK: True. And my "Thar she blows!" was quite successful last
40 night. (Sighs.) But it's more than the lines, Smee. Something
is missing in my life. I can't quite put my finger on it, but I feel
incomplete in a way, dissatisfied.

1 **NARRATOR 1:** Would you believe it—an introspective pirate! There may be more to Frank than meets the eye.

FRANK: I think what I need is a fine, big, liverwurst sandwich.

NARRATOR 2: Then again, maybe not.

5 **NARRATOR 1:** To get on with our story, one night Frank and his band of pirates were in the midst of their show when they had some unexpected visitors. (*MUSIC EFFECT: DRAMATIC CHORD.*) Nice touch, that music, don't you think?

10 **NARRATOR 2:** It was Act Two, and Frank had just met up with his arch nemesis, the Pirate Queen, played of course by that one-time Shakespearean sensation and head-smacker extraordinaire, Esmerelda Effington! (*NARRATORS EXIT DOWN LEFT as PIRATE ACTORS and ESMERELDA ENTER LEFT and join FRANK at CENTER. [NOTE: During the next several lines, CAP'N FRANK and her CREW work their way from the back of the auditorium down the aisle through the AUDIENCE.]*)

15 **ESMERELDA:** Who gave you leave to come ashore on the island of the Pirate Queen?

20 **FRANK:** I need no man to give me leave, Pirate Queen. I be the Fearsome Pirate Frank. I ask leave of no man!

CAP'N FRANK: (*From the back of the auditorium.*) The Fearsome Pirate Frank! Who be the fearsome Pirate Frank?

FRANK: (*Aside to PIRATE ACTOR 1.*) Who said that?

25 **PIRATE ACTOR 1:** (*Also aside.*) It came from the audience. Just ignore it, Frank.

ESMERELDA: (*Continues with the scene.*) You may ask leave of no man, young pirate, but if you value your life, you better ask leave of me, the Pirate Queen!

30 **CAP'N FRANK:** (*From the AUDIENCE, unseen by ACTORS.*) Shiver me timbers! The wench imagines she be a queen! (*Other WOMEN PIRATES laugh.*)

FRANK: (*A bit distracted.*) Ye... uh... ye... uh... arrr! (*One of his PIRATE ACTORS whispers in his ear.*) Oh, right! Ye may be a queen, me beauty, but I be a king! The Fearsome Pirate Frank, King of all Pirates!

35 **CAP'N FRANK:** (*From the AUDIENCE.*) Now ye're tryin' me patience, laddie. Come on, me mateys, it be time ta set the record straight! (*With a yell, WOMEN PIRATES from the AUDIENCE jump ONSTAGE. They are dressed in grimy dark colors, in contrast to the bright colors of the male PIRATE ACTORS.*) You ain't the Fearsome Pirate Frank! You and yer mates be just lily-livered landlubbers pretendin' ta be pirates. (*WOMEN PIRATES laugh.*)

40 **BETTY:** Lubbers they be all right, Cap'n!

- 1 **JOAN:** They ain't ne'er set foot on a pirate ship, that be sure!
- HILARY:** *(Takes a PIRATE ACTOR'S cutlass. [NOTE: A fake cutlass may be made by stretching fabric over a wire hanger so that it bends.])*
Look at this wee cutlass, Gimpy Gert!
- 5 **GERT:** *(Takes it.)* Aw, ain't it sweet!
- PIRATE ACTOR 2:** Give that back!
- HILARY:** *(Takes and bends it.)* It be bendin' like a willow on a riverbank!
- NELL:** *(Takes a PIRATE ACTOR'S hat and wig.)* And they be wearin' wigs like fine, pretty wenches!
- 10 **PIRATE ACTOR 3:** *(Grabs his wig and hat.)* That is really rude!
- CAP'N FRANK:** *(Approaches FRANK; threatening.)* What do ye have to say for yerself, "Fearsome Frank"? What be the matter? Cat got yer tongue?
- FRANK:** *(Intimidated.)* Oh, well... um... uh...arr!
- 15 **TILLY:** Arrr! The little bilge rat be sayin' "arrr!"
- JOAN:** Arrr! I think a frog be jumpin' in his throat!
- TILLY:** Or he be chokin' on a sea slug! *(WOMEN PIRATES laugh.)*
- CAP'N FRANK:** *(Throws FRANK aside and approaches ESMERELDA.)*
And this "queen a' pirates" here. She be just a silly wee wench thinkin' a great lot a' herself!
- 20 **ESMERELDA:** That is enough! Get off the stage this minute! I shall not have my scene ruined by some low-life women dressed as filthy scoundrels!
- CAP'N FRANK:** Low-life women? Filthy scoundrels?! Do ye hear that, mates? She be sullyin' our reputations! Watch yer tongue, lassie, or I be introducin' ye ta the cat o' nine tails!
- 25 **GERT:** Aye! The cat! Let's give her the cat!
- ESMERELDA:** Frank, do something! Get these women who have never heard of bath powder or deodorant off the stage this instant!
- 30 **FRANK:** Of course, Esmerelda. Listen, ma'am, if you'd be good enough to leave, we won't press charges.
- CAP'N FRANK:** Leave, he says! Leave! I be leavin' when I be good and ready, ye scurvy little dog. And when I do, I think I be takin' one a' ye with me. *(To NELL and TILLY.)* Grab the wench!
- 35 **NELL:** Aye, aye, Cap'n! *(She and OLD TILLY grab ESMERELDA.)*
- CAP'N FRANK:** By the look a' her, I be thinkin' we be getting a fine fat ransom fer the stuck-up little lassie.
- FRANK:** No! Let her go! *(Moves with the PIRATE ACTORS to help ESMERELDA, but they are stopped when the WOMEN PIRATES pull out their cutlasses.)*
- 40



1 **JOAN:** *(Holds a cutlass to FRANK'S neck.)* What be ye sayin', matey?

FRANK: I mean, uh, please let her go?

CAP'N FRANK: Ooh! What be the matter, young squiffies. Afraid of a few sharp cutlasses held by some weak wee women? *(To BETTY.)*

5 Tie 'em up, Bones. I think we be bringin' 'em, too. There always be use fer a few extra hands ta swab the decks and clean out the bilges.

BETTY: Aye, aye, Cap'n! *(To FRANK and the other PIRATE ACTORS.)* Squish together, ye little fishies. I be plannin' on tyin' ye tight!

10 *(They do as she says as she ties them together with a rope.)*

ESMERELDA: *(Struggles to free herself.)* Let go of me! Let go!

CAP'N FRANK: Blimey! She be a right saucy wench!

ESMERELDA: How dare you? Who do you think you are, accosting us like this?!

15 **CAP'N FRANK:** Who do I think I be? Well, I be tellin' ye, little lass. *(Goes over to FRANK, tied with the other PIRATE ACTORS, and looks him right in the eye.)* I be known as the Fearsome Pirate Frank. The real Fearsome Pirate Frank.

PIRATE ACTOR 4: Blimey! The Pirate Frank's a woman!

20 **PIRATE ACTOR 5:** And a vicious one at that!

FRANK: Oh, dear.

CAP'N FRANK: *(To WOMEN PIRATES.)* Now right smartly, me hearties!

Let's get these young scrogs to our ship! We be sailin' at dawn!

25 *(The WOMEN PIRATES start to drag FRANK, ESMERELDA and PIRATE ACTORS OFF DOWN LEFT.)*

HILARY: Ye heard the cap'n. Get movin', ye scurvy addlepatates!

PIRATE ACTOR 6: I don't think I like what's happening here!

PIRATE ACTOR 1: I'm going to call my agent!

PIRATE ACTOR 2: Me, too. This was not in my contract!

30 **PIRATE ACTOR 3:** What's an addlepate?

PIRATE ACTOR 4: Ow! You're pinching my arm!

GERT: Hold your tongues, ye bilge-suckin' blaggards, or one of me maties will hold 'em for ye!

FRANK: Arrrr! *(BLACKOUT.)*

End of Scene Two

Scene Three

35 **LIGHTS UP:** In front of the CURTAIN. TREASURE CHEST PIRATES ENTER DOWN LEFT, pulling the treasure chest.

PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES

ONSTAGE: Fragmentary set pieces such as a ship's steering wheel, barrels, block and tackle, ropes, crates, etc. Optional raised platform with the ship's hull behind it, foam belaying pin.

BROUGHT ON, Scene One:

Wheeled treasure chest large enough for an actor to fit inside, pulled with a rope and containing a sign fitted inside the lid reading "The Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank" (TREASURE CHEST PIRATES)

Sign reading "Part the First" (PIRATE IN CHEST)

Various items to throw at Frank (GROUP as Frank's audience)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Two:

Pictures of Frank, autograph books, pens (GIRLS)

Hats, wigs, very fake looking cutlasses (ESMERELDA, PIRATE ACTORS)

More real looking pirate cutlasses (CAP'N FRANK, WOMEN PIRATES)

Rope (BETTY)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Three:

Wheeled treasure chest with sign in lid (TREASURE CHEST PIRATES)

Sign reading "Part, the Second" (PIRATE IN CHEST)

Mops, buckets, brushes, rags (PIRATE ACTORS)

Leisure activity items such as cards, drinking glasses, etc. (WOMEN PIRATES)

Book (CAP'N FRANK)

Spyglasses (JOAN and BETTY)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Four:

Cutlasses, rope (WOMEN PIRATES)

Spyglass (BETTY)

Plank (TILLY)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Five:

Makeup compact, lipstick, comb, brush (SIRENS)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Six:

Wheeled treasure chest (TREASURE CHEST PIRATES)

Sign reading "Part, the Fourth" (PIRATE IN CHEST)

Eye shadow (ESMERELDA)

Mirrors, hairbrushes, etc; bags of loot (WOMEN PIRATES)

Burlap sack (SMEE)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Seven:

Seaweed (CAP'N BEN, NIGHTMARE SAILORS)

Axe (EXECUTIONER)
Scythe (GRIM REAPER)
Noose (HANGMAN)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Eight:
Cutlass (CAP'N FRANK)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Nine:
Wheeled treasure chest (SPIDERMAN)
Sign reading "Part, the Last" (NASCAR DRIVER)
Cue cards (SMEE)
Foam belaying pin (ESMERELDA)

SOUND AND MUSIC EFFECTS

Sound and music effects can enhance the mood of the play. However, only the following effects are absolutely necessary: BOP, SIRENS' SONG (any haunting vocal melody would work) and BATTLE SOUNDS. Other optional music effects include: DRAMATIC CHORD in Scene Two, WILD MUSIC in Scene Three and EERIE MUSIC in Scenes Seven and Nine.

Music through scene changes or at dramatic times during the play also enhances the production.

LIGHTING

Like the set, lighting can be kept very simple. Aside from general stage lighting, spotlights for the narrator segments and the flashback storytelling segment would work well, but are not required. Also, some color to provide atmosphere would add to the overall effect of the play.

COSTUMES

Everyone knows what a pirate looks like! One important point in costuming the pirates, however, is that the PIRATE ACTORS be in shiny, clean bright colors with fancy wigs (for a few at least), while the WOMEN PIRATES look dirty and grungy (in other words, real!). HILARY HOOK, of course needs a hook, and ONE-EYED JOAN needs an eye patch. The WOMEN PIRATES change into more feminine pirate garb starting in Scene Six after their transformation by ESMERELDA. Except for CAP'N FRANK, this could just be done with accessories. CAP'N FRANK should change into a full pirate queen outfit which she wears for the rest of the play.

For Scene Four, the WOMEN PIRATES appear as their younger selves. To denote the change in age, hats can simply be removed and/or headscarves worn.

Other costumes can be kept very simple if desired. This story takes place in Elizabethan times, so VILLAGERS could wear simple earth-colored pants and sleeveless tunics over long sleeve shirts. This could easily be turned into a pirate costume by adding accessories of bandanas, belts, sashes, etc. VILLAGER WOMEN could wear long skirts with peasant type blouses.

The SIRENS need mermaid tails, perhaps worn over a colorful unitard. Their WATER DANCERS should be dressed in, or hold, flowing blue and green fabric. The ALBATROSS should be all in white, with an orange beak and feet and black and white wings. The NASCAR DRIVER and SPIDERMAN costumes can easily be bought quite cheaply from a Halloween costume company (SPIDERMAN can be Superman or any other superhero if you already have one of those costumes!) The NIGHTMARE SAILORS can wear scary half masks and rags and should be set apart from the ZOMBIES, who might wear skeleton masks and gray rags. NARRATORS wear contemporary clothing.

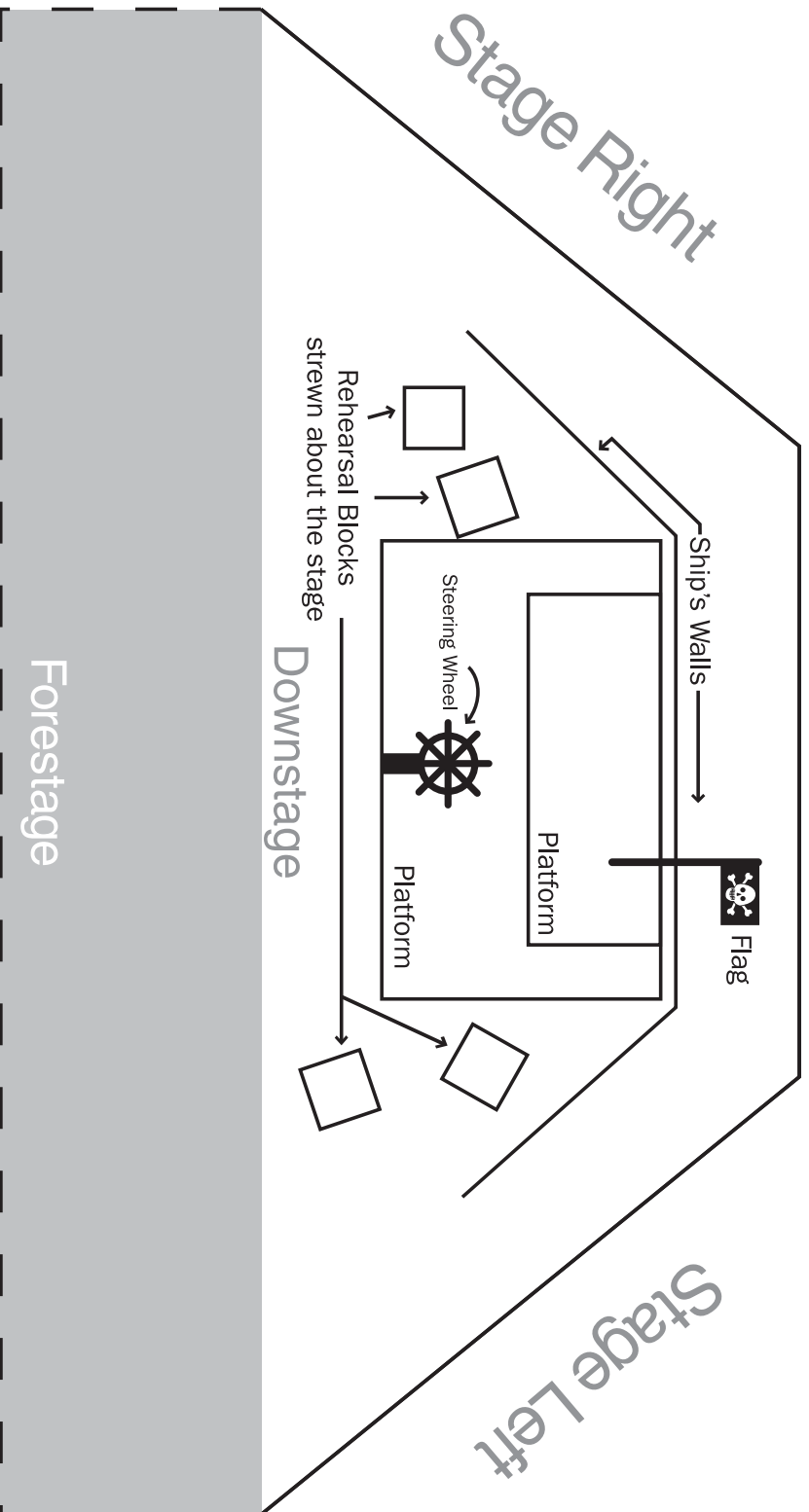
THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The set in the original production had a bi-level platform with rope railing UP CENTER for the back deck of the ship. Sides were added to simulate the hull, painted like the planks of a ship. There were a couple of poles on each back end from which hung rope netting, a pirate flag and ropes for the PIRATES to work with when they're sailing. A steering wheel was fastened to a post center front of the lower deck. Two 2' x 8' plywood panels extended out on either side from this center deck to be the hull of the ship. A couple of fishnet-covered blocks were placed DOWN LEFT and RIGHT at the end of each hull panel. Behind this panel were other blocks to enable the NIGHTMARE SAILORS and ZOMBIES to climb up over the hull for their scenes (so it would look like they're coming up from out of the water).

All except Scenes One and Two used this same set. For the first two scenes, the side hull panels were moved back even with the deck set piece, and a curtain was drawn in front of it. Scenes One and Two were done in front of this curtain, with rehearsal blocks to provide levels for the actors (e.g., to represent the dressing room).

The Fearsome Pirate Frank
Suggested Set Design

Upstage



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