

THE PIRATES' CHRISTMAS TREASURE

By Eddie McPherson

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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to Janet Hartline. Thanks for your love for children and your compassion for teens. Jesus truly shines through you.

The Playwright

THE STORY OF THE PLAY

Captain Gilabo, a greedy, scrooge-like pirate, and his bumbling crew are spending their Christmas on a tropical island searching for the "treasure of all treasures." There is only one problem: the island is inhabited by lots of children. Why is this a problem? The Captain hates children!

After holding one of them captive, his crew begins to have a change of heart concerning their lives as fugitives. When the children share the Christmas story with their new pirate companions, the crew members decide to leave the evil captain forever.

Throw in a sinking island, a misfired cannon, and a surprise treasure that must be opened before Christmas Eve and you have a funny, yet meaningful, Christmas production.

This entertaining play is designed to use teen actors as the pirates and a children's choir to sing Christmas songs that fit easily into the script. If you are looking for something different, this is it!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 m, 1 w, 8 flex, 1 b, 1 g, extras)

NARRATOR: Adds to the story throughout the play.

CAPTAIN GILABO: A hard-hearted pirate who is searching for a lost treasure.

FIRST PIRATE: The Captain's right-hand assistant who has a change of heart.

SECOND PIRATE: One of the crew.

THIRD PIRATE: Another.

FOURTH PIRATE: A new member of the crew who gets in trouble often.

FIFTH PIRATE: One of the crew.

SIXTH PIRATE: Another.

MISS CHRISTIAN: A missionary who has been stationed on the island to teach the children.

MAEBE: An older boy who is captured by the Captain.

MR./MRS. GURTING: A missionary who has come to take the children to their new home.

MARIA: A little girl who gives the Captain a gift.

EXTRAS: Speaking and non-speaking parts for children.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Any number.

SETTING

The setting is the beach of a small tropical island. Place ferns around the stage and palm trees at the sides. (See instructions for making such trees at the end of the script.) Additional greenery placed here and there enhances the tropical mood. To add to the Christmas theme, you may hang Christmas lights on the trees and around the set. An ocean backdrop painted on canvas or large pieces of cardboard can be used. The first scene, which takes place on a ship, can easily be acted out in front of the permanent set with the Second Pirate holding a wheel. Directors may choose to use other simple props to suggest a pirate ship.

PROPS

Second Pirate - A ship's wheel, a treasure map.
First Pirate - An eyepiece (small hand-held telescope).
Maebe - Seashells, a book.
Miss Christian - A lantern.
Pirates - Shovels and picks, treasure chest with a Bible in it, various bushes or tree limbs.
Fourth Pirate - A small plastic shovel.
Fifth Pirate - A cannon. (Instructions at the end of the script.)
Maria: Bookmark wrapped with paper and string.
Misc. - A bugle or trumpet for "Taps" (optional); suitcases.

COSTUMES

Pirate costumes are easily made from clothes around the house. Jeans or sweatpants that have been shredded at the bottom work well. White shirts with dark vests give a nice pirate look, as well as dangling earrings, eye patches, beards, and bandannas worn on the head. The Captain needs a captain's hat which can be found in any costume shop and possibly a patch for his eye and a hook for his hand. He needs to look somewhat military-like. It's okay for everything to look cartoonish.

The island children might wear tropical-looking attire complete with flowers around their necks and in their hair, and shirts with large flowers on them.

Scene 1

(BEFORE RISE: In the darkness we hear ocean waves and wind blowing. The NARRATOR may be spotlighted or simply heard in the darkness.)

NARRATOR: Once upon a time in the cold bitter month of December, there sailed a ship on salty waters. A ship that vaulted over brutal waves of oceans never seen by most voyagers. A vessel which, loaded with pirates, cut through the thickest fogs to find forgotten lands that hid treasure chests buried years before. Yes, this ship, guided by greed and want, plunged along night and day searching for riches on abandoned tropical islands...a story yet to be told.

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on the ship scene DS. SECOND PIRATE stands CS holding a wheel which he uses to navigate the ship. FIRST PIRATE enters with an eyepiece. He stops CS, places the telescope to his eye and looks out over the audience. He gasps.)

FIRST PIRATE: Land ho! Land ho!

SECOND PIRATE: What?! Where?! Where is land?!

FIRST PIRATE: *(Pointing.)* There! I can see the white sands of the beach.

SECOND PIRATE: Let me see that! *(HE hands FIRST PIRATE the wheel, grabs the eyepiece and looks through it.)* You're right! For the first time in your life you're right! It's land! It has been so long, I had forgotten what it looked like.

FIRST PIRATE: *(Leaving the wheel and running to side of the stage where HE entered and cupping his hands around his mouth.)* Hey, everybody! Land ho! Land ho! *(HE runs back and grabs the eyepiece again.)* Let me see again!

SECOND PIRATE: *(Crossing CS and clasping HIS hands together.)* What a feeling it will be to stand on solid ground again.

(THIRD and FOURTH PIRATES enter running.)

THIRD PIRATE: What's this about land?

SECOND PIRATE: It's true! About a mile out!

FOURTH PIRATE: *(Holding HIS stomach.)* It's about time.

I ran out of seasick pills three days ago.

FIRST PIRATE: Is the Captain coming?

THIRD PIRATE: He's asleep in his chambers. We were down in the hull of the ship arguing about who is to wake him up.

FOURTH PIRATE: Well, just let them handle it. Last week when I tried to wake him, he took that hook of his and pierced my ear permanently. *(Pulls on HIS ear lobe showing them his earring.)*

FIRST PIRATE: You're new, Number Four. You'll soon learn to fear Captain Gilabo.

SECOND PIRATE: *(Taking out a map and unrolling it.)* Isn't this the island Captain Gilabo has been searching for?

FIRST PIRATE: This is it! And not a day too soon. We can dig up the treasure and make it back to our homeland just in time for Christmas.

THIRD PIRATE: Now that is good news. It puts a song in me heart! *(Singing.)* Deck the hulls with boughs of holly...

ALL: Fa la la la la la la la!

SECOND PIRATE: Oh, to be back home with all that loot! Not to worry about how much to spend on Christmas presents.

THIRD PIRATE: Christmas is just not the same when it's ninety degrees outside and we're hanging lights and tinsel on the sail mast instead of a Christmas tree.

FOURTH PIRATE: Do you really suppose this is the treasure chest Captain Gilabo has spent his whole life searching for?

SECOND PIRATE: That's what he says. And my fellow mates, if this is it, it will truly be a merry Christmas for all of us!

(FIFTH and SIXTH PIRATES enter quickly.)

End of Freeview

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