

Pirates of the Amazon

The Treasure of Mystery Island

A SHORT COMEDY BY

John O'Hara



Playscripts

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WORTSMAN

*For Shirley
Who said I could*

Cast of Characters

On the Amazon

JENNY SILVER, pirate Captain
AMELIA, stowaway; Jenny's niece
PEG LEGG, pirate in training
I-PATCH, devious First Mate
TESSIE O'TIMBERS, elderly Pirate
MRS. HOOK, ship Cook
PARROT, ship mascot; Mrs. Hook's best friend
SALLY OF THE SEAS, tough Pirate
CUTLASS KATE, tough Pirate
BERTHA MCJIGGERS, tough Pirate

Other Pirates:

LUCY LOCKETT
BARNACLE JACK
DAVIDA JONES
THE KANGAROO KID
IVAN THE HORRIBLE
AGATHA STRONG (also known as Lightning Rosie and
Queenie LaFitte)

On the HMS Betterton

SIR RODERICK BETTERTON, handsome Lord
LADY VIRGINIA BETTERTON, Roderick's mother
CARRAWAY, Lady Virginia's major domo
BUTLER #1, older
BUTLER #2, younger

On Mystery Island

ETHEL, Queen of the Mermaids
EDDIE, sea creature
ELVIS, sea creature
MONSTER, mysterious Hermit
SEA CREATURES
SHARKS

Suggested Cast Divisions

Females:

1. JENNY
2. AMELIA
3. I-PATCH
4. TESSIE
5. MRS. HOOK
6. SALLY
7. KATE
8. BERTHA
9. LADY BETTERTON / SHARK
10. AGATHA / ROSIE / QUEENIE / SEA CREATURE
11. LUCY/DAVIDA
12. ETHEL

Males:

1. RODERICK / SHARK
2. PEG LEGG
3. CARRAWAY
4. BUTLER #1 / EDDIE
5. BUTLER #2 / ELVIS
6. KANGAROO KID / MONSTER
7. BARNACLE JACK / SEA CREATURE
8. IVAN THE HORRIBLE / SEA CREATURE

Either:

1. PARROT

*With a few line changes, a girl can play Margaret “Peg” Legg and Mrs. Carraway, Lady Betterton’s housekeeper. Mrs. Hook can also operate “Parrot” as a puppet. Eddie and Elvis can become Ethel’s sisters Edith and Enid. Barnacle Jack and Ivan the Horrible can become Clementine-The-Cursed and Wild Wilhelmina.

Acknowledgments

Pirates of the Amazon: The Treasure of Mystery Island opened at Sellersville Theatre on July 22, 2005, presented by Theatre Arts Center. It was directed by John O'Hara, with sets and costumes by Robin Damuth, vocal arrangements and musical direction by Dr. Neal Tracy, and choreography by Kristine Lewis. Production Assistants were Jacqueline Washam and Megan Myerov. The cast was as follows:

JENNY SILVER.....	Becca Steier
AMELIA	Stephanie Weinstein
PEG LEGG.....	Jilly Stone
I-PATCH.....	Karalyn Hutton
TESSIE O'TIMBERS	Emma Natale
MRS. HOOK	Chandler Price
PARROT	Victoria Beckett
SALLY OF THE SEAS.....	Nora Krupp
CUTLASS KATE.....	Stephanie DeVincent
BERTHA MCJIGGERS.....	Jackie Agliata
THE KANGAROO KID /	
THE MONSTER	Dean El Homisi
SIR RODERICK BETTERTON.....	Alex Klein
LADY VIRGINIA BETTERTON	Laura Trisch
CARRAWAY	Connor Byrne
ETHEL MERMAID	Elizabeth Sellers-Bruch
PIRATES, MERMAIDS,	
SEA CREATURES	Connor Byrne,
	Nicole Gatone, Jooli Mei Hansen,
	Lauren Hutwelker, Claire Mowen,
	Nicole Telesco, Julie Weeks,
	Grace Wood

PIRATES OF THE AMAZON: THE TREASURE OF MYSTERY ISLAND

by John O'Hara

(Setting: The deck of the pirate ship Amazon.)

(At Rise: Classical music plays as AMELIA and LADY BETTERTON waltz with RODERICK, CARRAWAY, and the BULTERS. A sea shanty is heard as the PIRATES enter and clash with the upper class. AMELIA joins in with the PIRATES and hides in a treasure chest. The ENSEMBLE exits leaving PEG LEGG, a pirate-in-training, who uses a walking stick to practice pirate moves.)

PEG. Take that, Sea Monster... And that, Mermaids... And that and that and that...

(As PEG continues, AMELIA, a sweet young girl in hat, gloves and carrying a suitcase, appears from inside the chest.)

Ha, ha! I'm the greatest pirate that ever lived. I'm not scared of anybody.

(AMELIA looks around and taps PEG on the shoulder. PEG shrieks and hides.)

Where did you come from? Are you an evil spirit?

AMELIA. *(Referring to trunk:)* Of course not. I was hiding in that trunk. Excuse me, are you a pirate?

PEG. *(Gathering courage:)* Of course, I'm a pirate. I am a feisty fierce pirate who swears allegiance to Long Jenny Silver, Captain of the Amazon. They call me Peg. Peg Legg.

(PEG stomps stick.)

AMELIA. Peg... Is that your proper name?

PEG. It's actually... Herbert. Herbert Francis Legg.

(PEG shudders and growls at AMELIA.)

Aren't you scared of me?

AMELIA. No, Herbert, I am not scared of you.

PEG. But why? What is it? My face? My clothes? My walking stick? I don't walk so well, you see —

AMELIA. Herbert, you walk fine.

PEG. My name is Peg! Peg Legg.

AMELIA. Alright... Peg... Now you're scary enough to frighten regular people —

PEG. (*Proudly.*) Do you think so?

AMELIA. Sure, but I'm different. My father taught me to never be scared of anyone or anything. Amelia, he said — My name is Amelia, by the way — He said "If you want something — anything — you need to go out and get it. And don't be afraid, my dear — no matter what." So, I want to be a pirate and I say you're going to help me.

PEG. You want to be a pirate?

(*PEG laughs hysterically.*)

That's a good one.

AMELIA. Why, pray tell, are you laughing?

PEG. Look at you... Ophelia, is it?

AMELIA. Amelia. Amelia Jane Wentworth. I'm very pleased to meet you.

PEG. Amelia. You with your pretty face and pretty hat and pretty gloves. What do you know of the pirate life?

AMELIA. I know enough. Tell me more about Captain Jenny.

PEG. Ah... Captain Jenny is the finest lady in all the world. As smart and fearless as her father Long John Silver. The pirate. Have you heard of him?

AMELIA. Of course. I can't wait to meet her.

PEG. But you're not going to meet her. You're leaving this ship right now.

(*PEG pushes AMELIA with a stick. Offstage Pirate Voices are heard. PEG pushes her the other way.*)

Just not yet.

AMELIA. Make up your mind.

PEG. You have to hide.

AMELIA. Where?

PEG. Anywhere! Under here. And don't make a sound.

(PEG throws old blankets and such on AMELIA and covers the stick in the process. PEG tries to act casually when I-PATCH, the wily first mate, enters with elderly pirate TESSIE O'TIMBERS, MRS. HOOK, PARROT, and a TRIO of tough pirates – SALLY OF THE SEAS, CUTLASS KATE and BERTHA MCJIGGERS.)

TESSIE. There ya are, Peggy.

I-PATCH. Clinging to the deck like the barnacle that he is.

PEG. Hi, everybody. Hi, Tessie.

(TRIO growls.)

Hi, Mrs. Hook.

PARROT. Hello! Hello! Mrs. Hook! She's the cook!

PEG. Hi, Parrot.

(PARROT coos.)

MRS. HOOK. 'Ave you 'ad your breakfast, dearie? The rest of the crew was eating before their big day and I noticed you were missing so I brought it to you. It's your favorite – scuppers and fin, it is.

(MRS. HOOK hands an unappetizing plate to PEG, who forces a grin. I-PATCH is making faces at the TRIO.)

I-PATCH. Don't worry, Peggy. There's plenty more where that came from.

PEG. Thank you, Mrs. Hook, but I forgot about breakfast. I was so busy practicing my sword fighting and pirating and...everything.

MRS. HOOK. Now, aren't you a love?

I-PATCH. You? What can you do with that worthless stump of yours?

(I-PATCH imitates PEG to the delight of some of the PIRATES.)

MRS. HOOK. Now, Irene. That's not very nice. Peg works very 'ard. Doing laundry and helping me in the kitchen. Why, when me Jimmy was alive—

TESSIE. There, there, Clara.

I-PATCH. The name's I-Patch, Mrs. Hook, not Irene. And I'm a real pirate. Not like Peggy and his sticky wicket. I guess it's good for something.

TESSIE. Where is your stick, anyway?

PARROT. Your stick. Your stick.

I-PATCH. Yeah. Where is it?

PEG. My walking stick. It's uh— I think... It was here a second ago.

I-PATCH. (*Mocking PEG:*) Maybe it—uh—"walked" away.

(*As the PIRATES are distracted, AMELIA makes stick appear from beneath the blankets. PARROT is aware of Amelia's presence.*)

PEG. Here it is!

TESSIE. So I see.

SALLY. But it was missing just a second ago.

KATE. Aye, 'twas missing, it was.

BERTHA. (*Posing mysteriously:*) The ship's cursed, I tell ya! Cursed!

I-PATCH. Quiet! The Captain will be here any minute. Be about your chores, Poopdeck.

PEG. I will.

(*AMELIA sneezes under the blankets.*)

I mean. Ah-choo... I guess I'm catching a cold.

(*SALLY notices Amelia's suitcase.*)

SALLY. Look at this suitcase.

KATE. Fancy that. Ladies luggage.

TESSIE. I didn't see this earlier.

BERTHA. It might be...danger! (*Again posing mysteriously:*) The ship's cursed, I tell ya! Cursed!

TESSIE. Enough of that, Bertha. I will open it.

(TESSIE opens the suitcase carefully – and then the PIRATES' "ooh and ah" like girls over the colorful finery. I-PATCH marches to them and they become pirates again.)

I-PATCH. Throw that garbage overboard.

TESSIE. (*Taking suitcase:*) I'll take care of it.

(TESSIE exits with suitcase. SALLY, KATE and BERTHA give each other a look and follow her. I-PATCH points at PEG.)

I-PATCH. Get back to work, Peg.

(I-PATCH exits. MRS. HOOK leaves plate.)

MRS. HOOK. I'll just leave your breakfast for you. Come along, Parrot.

(MRS. HOOK and PARROT exit. AMELIA pops out from under the blankets. PEG jumps.)

PEG. Don't scare me like that.

AMELIA. Forgive me. That was close.

PEG. It sure was. They took your clothes. Everything.

AMELIA. That *was* my old life. Poof. Gone with the setting sun. I'm a pirate now!

(BARNACLE JACK and LUCY LOCKETT enter. PEG stands in front of AMELIA and waves to them as they march into position.)

JACK. Eight o'clock!

LUCY. And all is well!

PEG. We have to get you out of here. Before the ship sails and we're underway.

JACK. The ship has sailed!

LUCY. We're underway!

PEG. Oh, no. We're doomed!

(JACK and LUCY react.)

Hi, Jack. Hi, Lucy.

LUCY. Get back to work, Peg!

(JACK and LUCY exit.)

AMELIA. Don't worry, Herbert—I mean, Peg. It'll be an adventure. I promise.

PEG. A stowaway is bad luck on board a pirate ship. And if they find you, they'll blame it on me.

AMELIA. Why?

PEG. They blame me for everything. I'm a boy.

AMELIA. That's not fair. There are a lot of boys here— isn't there?

PEG. Not enough. There's me and Barnacle Jack and The Kangaroo Kid...

AMELIA. I say...

(AMELIA gets woozy. PEG catches her.)

I'm afraid I haven't had my afternoon meal. And when is tea time?

PEG. Tea time?

AMELIA. Yes. Tea time. I could use a crumpet or perhaps a cucumber sandwich.

PEG. *(Handing AMELIA the plate:)* How about some scuppers and fin?

AMELIA. Delicious.

PEG. Fine. Take this plate and go to my cabin. It's down those stairs and to the right. Don't mind all of the mess. It's laundry day so there's a lot of clothes about. I need to keep you under wraps until we dock. Then I'll sneak you off. Can you remember all of that?

AMELIA. *(Nodding sleepily:)* Lots of clothes...in your cabin.

(PIRATES voices are heard offstage.)

PEG. Now, get yourself out of here. Down those stairs and to the right.

AMELIA. Thank you. You're a very kind pirate.

PEG. But I thought I was a mean pirate!

AMELIA. Of course you are. Shhh...

(PEG ushers AMELIA out. MRS. HOOK, TESSIE, PARROT, and PIRATES enter for formation.)

MRS. HOOK. (Clapping hands:) Places, everyone!

(TESSIE points to Peg's spot.)

TESSIE. Get in place, Peg.

PEG. Right away, Tessie.

(PIRATES march into reception line for the entrance of JENNY.)

TESSIE. And now, the Captain.

(I-PATCH enters and PIRATES are disappointed.)

It's only you.

I-PATCH. Right you are, old woman. It's me. The Captain is late—again—but as first mate, I am prepared to—

JENNY. (Entering:) Not so fast, Irene.

I-PATCH. Don't call me that!

(I-PATCH sees JENNY.)

I mean... Good morning, Captain. Fine day, isn't it?

JENNY. That'll do, Irene. Ladies. May we begin?

KANGAROO KID. Wait a minute. Oi'm not a ly-dee.

JACK. Me neither. I'm Barnacle Jack and this is Ivan.

(IVAN growls.)

Ivan the Horrible.

JENNY. One, two, three... You're quite right. Ladies and gentleman, may we begin?

PIRATES. (*At attention:*) We may!

JENNY. Before we start our day, I insist that we recite the Pirate Pledge. Repeat after me –

(*The PIRATES repeat the pledge with their own name.*)

I...Captain Jenny Silver...beloved daughter of Long John Silver...do hereby pledge...to be pirates of adventure...honor...and good deeds. Very good.

(*I-PATCH snickers.*)

Did you say something?

(*I-PATCH mumbles negatively.*)

First report. Tessie O'Timbers!

TESSIE. Thank you, Captain. By my calculations, if the winds hold up and the weather remains gentle, we shall reach Mystery Island by sunset.

(*PIRATES cheer.*)

AGATHA. Lots of treasure, I wager.

DAVIDA. (*Excitedly:*) Aye. The famous Treasure of Mystery Island!

JACK. I hear there's quite a few mermaids about...

QUEENIE. And danger!

IVAN. Me like danger! HORRIBLE danger!

(*IVAN pounds chest and howls.*)

TESSIE. (*Dramatically:*) Yes, Ivan. There's plenty of danger afoot. I heard sailors speak of giant sea monsters and mermaids who use their voices to lure sailors to their demise. Finally, there's a strange creature who rules the island and destroys all visitors who covet his treasure.

(*PIRATES shudder. TESSIE cheers up.*)

That's my report, Captain. Have a good day.

JENNY. Thank you, Tessie. I-Patch!

I-PATCH. Here, Captain!

JENNY. Take roll, please.

I-PATCH. Very good, Captain.

(As JENNY turns away, I-PATCH makes a face, but smiles when JENNY turns back.)

When I say your name, please stand forward and signify your presence with a grunt, snarl or what you will.

(PEG reacts noisily to the entrance of AMELIA, who is happily waving and dressed in pirate clothes.)

Not yet, Peg! Wait your turn. Tessie O'Timbers...

TESSIE. Good morning.

I-PATCH. Mrs. Hook...

PARROT. Squawk!

I-PATCH. Sorry... Parrot!

PARROT. Squawkie-squawk!

(The names listed vary, but it ends with PEG.)

I-PATCH. Sally of the Seas... Cutlass Kate... Bertha McJiggers...

(The tough TRIO high-fives each other.)

Lucy Lockett... Davida Jones... Agatha Strong, also known as Lightning Rosie, also known as Queenie LaFitte.

QUEENIE. Ooh-la-la!

I-PATCH. *(Grimacing:)* And because we have to have—yuk—boys on board... Here's Barnacle Jack, Ivan the Horrible and The Kangaroo Kid.

KANGAROO. *(Taking over:)* G'day, mates. Oi'm The Kangaroo Kid and I'm glad to meet you—

I-PATCH. Why don't you—go back to Australia?

KANGAROO. Why don't you?

(JACK and IVAN are shocked by Kangaroo's impudence. I-PATCH summons TRIO with a finger snap.)

I-PATCH. Ladies...

(TRIO growls at KANGAROO, who "jumps overboard." I-PATCH claps her hands in glee.)

KANGAROO. (*Reappearing:*) I can swim!

(I-PATCH snaps her fingers again.)

I-PATCH. Sharks!

(SHARKS appear and KANGAROO is gone. I-PATCH turns to IVAN and JACK.)

Anybody else?

IVAN / JACK. N-n-no... I-Patch.

I-PATCH. Good. Oh...and of course, there's Peg Legg.

(PEG waves to the audience and reveals AMELIA.)

Who are you?

AMELIA. (*Overdoing it:*) Me?

PEG. Her? I don't see anybody.

I-PATCH. Is this your doing, Peg?

MRS. HOOK. Who are you, dearie? And 'ave you 'ad your breakfast?

PARROT. Yummy, yummy! Squawk!

I-PATCH. Quiet that feathered fool! Now, tell me who you are before I really get mad.

AMELIA. I'm...uh...I'm...uh...

PEG. Don't you know who this is?

TESSIE. No.

PEG. This is the dreaded pirate Queen... Bandana Lil!

AMELIA. Bandana Lil?

PEG. You've heard of her, haven't you?

(PIRATES shrug. PEG forces AMELIA to act out "Bandana Lil.")

Sure you have. She's the Queen of all the seas. Stronger than all of us put together. You can tell by her wild eyes, ferocious growl and the bandana she wears to hide her face. Isn't that right, your majesty?

AMELIA. Certainly! I mean— (Acting the part:) Right you are, mate!

PEG. Come on, everybody. Bow down before your queen. The Queen of all of the Pirates...

(PIRATES circle AMELIA suspiciously.)

AMELIA. I am so pleased to meet you all.

TESSIE. Captain?

JENNY. I have only one thing to say.

(JENNY pulls the bandana from AMELIA's head.)

Amelia?

ALL. Amelia?

AMELIA. Aunt Jenny!

I-PATCH. Aunt Jenny?

JENNY. (Remaining strong:) Ladies, this is no Pirate Queen. This is my sister's child Amelia Wentworth. A stowaway. (To AMELIA:) Amelia, this is...everyone...

(PIRATES growl. I-PATCH confers with LUCY.)

What are you doing here?

AMELIA. Well...

JENNY. That's not good enough. Sit down.

(PIRATES react.)

I-PATCH. Captain, since it appears you have family on board, I would like permission to take some of the crew on an expedition.

LUCY. The H.M.S. Betterton is in sight.

TESSIE. That is Lord Henry Betterton's ship. He was your father's arch nemesis, wasn't he?

JENNY. Aye, he was. He can tell me where my father was lost.

TESSIE. After so many years, he might still be angry.

BERTHA. Then we'll fight him to the death.

I-PATCH. With what? We have no weapons.

JENNY. Be still, I-Patch. The only weapon we need is my father's sword. And Tessie holds it for me.

TESSIE. Aye.

JENNY. Just remember we are pirates with honor and conscience. Treat Lord Henry and his crew with respect.

I-PATCH. If I was captain, I would —

JENNY. But you're not the captain, are you?

(JENNY stares down I-PATCH. I-PATCH turns away.)

I-PATCH. No.

JENNY. Peg, what do you know of this stowaway?

I-PATCH. And we don't want another song and dance.

JACK/IVAN. We do! We do!

IVAN. Me like song and dance.

(JACK and IVAN sing and dance nonsensically. PIRATES shush them.)

JACK. *(Straightening up:)* Go ahead, Shorty.

(IVAN growls.)

PEG. But I — But I —

AMELIA. Peg did nothing wrong.

JENNY. *(Snapping at AMELIA:)* I'm speaking to my crew. Well, sailor?

PEG. Yes, Captain. Amelia hid in one of the big treasure chests we salvaged off the dock of Grayborough.

AMELIA. It was my idea, Aunt Jenny.

JENNY. Call me Captain, sailor.

AMELIA. Yes, Captain.

JENNY. Now, be off with all of you. I will stay with my niece.

(Most PIRATES exit.)

I-PATCH. Nice to meet you, Missy.

AMELIA. You too, Irene.

TRIO. Irene!

(I-PATCH fumes as she exits with laughing TRIO.)

AMELIA. She's not very nice.

JENNY. Irene Patchett saved my life many years ago. I owe her a lot. Does your father know you're here?

AMELIA. My father is a wonderful man with a great sense of adventure.

JENNY. So he doesn't know.

AMELIA. No. He's afraid of losing me.

JENNY. Like your mother.

(AMELIA turns away.)

My sister Mary... She was a gentle soul. A better sailor than I was that's for sure. Our father would have loved that. When she married Reverend Wentworth, her sailing days were over.

AMELIA. Aunt Jenny –

JENNY. Her last adventure was giving birth to you. And she would not want you on this ship.

AMELIA. How do you know?

JENNY. You don't know what it's like to be a pirate. Long hours, bad food, worse weather.

AMELIA. But still you do it.

JENNY. Still I do. I feel like I'm searching for something—or some—one.

AMELIA. Tell me more.

(JENNY and AMELIA have a private conversation. I-PATCH enters with her TRIO and sneers at them.)

I-PATCH. Look at her. She's getting soft. Not right for a captain.

SALLY. Not right. Not right at all.

KATE. You'd be a much better captain than her.

I-PATCH. Do you think so?

SALLY / KATE. Oh, yeah!

I-PATCH. What about you?

BERTHA. *(Unsure:)* Aye? I think you'd be—

(SALLY and KATE nudge her.)

You'd be...great! You'd be really really great!

I-PATCH. *(Sighing:)* Never mind.

(TESSIE, PEG, LIGHTNING ROSIE, and DAVIDA JONES enter.)

TESSIE. Captain!

I-PATCH / JENNY. Yes?

TESSIE. *(Ignoring I-PATCH:)* Captain Jenny, while you were having your family reunion, our brave crew has captured the H.M.S. Betterton.

JENNY. Captured? Was Lord Henry on board?

ROSIE. No, Captain. *(Removing her hat:)* Lord Henry is sailing on different waters, but—

JENNY. But what? Was there an incident?

DAVIDA. Yes, Captain. We have taken the ship and it's filled with—

I-PATCH. What? Gold? Silver? Diamonds?

PEG. No. Butlers!

I-PATCH. Butlers?

DAVIDA. Kitchen workers. Serving men. Houseboys.

PEG. They're everywhere!

(The deck is overwhelmed by the entrance of LADY BETTERTON, her major domo CARRAWAY and BUTLERS #1 and #2.)

BUTLER #1. Where are the *mean* pirates?

I-PATCH. We *are* the mean pirates.

(BUTLERS laugh.)

CARRAWAY. No, you are not.

BUTLER #2. You're not real.

JENNY. We're not?

CARRAWAY. *(Very proper:)* Of course not. You are young ladies. Young ladies are sweet and nice. They can't be pirates.

BUTLER #2. They have to be polite and proper — like us.

I-PATCH. Oh, yeah?

BUTLER #2. Yeah! I mean, of course. Perhaps these ladies need to learn how to cook the meals, clean the clothes and scrub the floor.

I-PATCH. *(Fuming:)* You're the first to walk the plank, you are.

BUTLER #2. Yeah! I'm first!!

(BUTLERS high five each other as CARRAWAY tries to restore order.)

TESSIE. They don't get it.

JENNY. They're children, Tessie. Little boys in fancy clothes and white gloves.

I-PATCH. They're sea devils, Captain. Sea devils in black and white.

JENNY. I said, they're boys. Who's in charge here?

LADY BETTERTON. I am Lady Virginia, widow of Lord Henry Betterton.

JENNY. Your late husband was a worthy adversary to my father Long John Silver.

LADY BETTERTON. (*Uncomfortable:*) Long John Silver? I have... heard of such a man.

CARRAWAY. (*Shaking his head:*) My lady...

LADY BETTERTON. This is my household staff. We are on a sight-seeing trip with my butler Carraway.

CARRAWAY. Major domo, Madame. They are the butlers.

LADY BETTERTON. I remember.

CARRAWAY. Could these ruffians cut us free from our bonds?

KATE / SALLY / BERTHA. No!

LADY BETTERTON. I insist that you release us.

I-PATCH. Forget it, lady.

(*BUTLERS are tormenting I-PATCH by trying to straighten up her clothes.*)

Ow...ow...ow...ow! Maybe I'll feed your butlers to the sea monsters instead.

BUTLER #1. Lady Virginia, this one is very untidy.

BUTLER #2. (*Making a face:*) And she's funny looking.

CARRAWAY. I must agree.

(*CARRAWAY makes same face. I-PATCH growls. JENNY steps between BUTLERS, CARRAWAY, and I-PATCH.*)

JENNY. We mean no harm. We have commandeered your ship solely to learn the fate of my father.

LADY BETTERTON. Your father...

JENNY. Lord Henry banished my father when I was a child. I never saw him again.

LADY BETTERTON. Neither did I.

(LADY BETTERTON is unaware that her son SIR RODERICK is sneaking on board. RODERICK shushes BUTLERS.)

JENNY. He was lost near Mystery Island.

LADY BETTERTON. Oh, dear. Oh, dear.

JENNY. Are you alright, your ladyship?

I-PATCH. Let me at her, Captain.

LADY BETTERTON. My son will save us.

CARRAWAY. Shhh...

JENNY. Your son?

LADY BETTERTON. Sir Roderick Betterton.

BUTLER #2. He's right over there!

(All react.)

RODERICK. Ahoy, you villainous females. Unhand that lady!

CARRAWAY. And the major domo. Don't forget the major domo!

AMELIA. Aunt Jenny, he's cute.

CARRAWAY. Thank you.

AMELIA. Not you. Him!

JENNY. Shhh...

RODERICK. And now, for my mother.

JENNY. (Standing in Roderick's way:) Who is so bold as to issue commands on *my* ship?

RODERICK. It is I, Sir Roderick Betterton.

BUTLER #2. Go, Sir Roderick!

JENNY. Son of Lord Henry Betterton?

RODERICK. The same. I was sleeping when these scalawags attacked.

JENNY. And are you awake now?

RODERICK. There's only one way to find out.

JENNY. I agree. Tessie, my sword.

(TESSIE hands JENNY the sword. All react as JENNY and RODERICK sword fight. BUTLERS cheer and get in the way.)

LADY BETTERTON. Do not dally with my son. He is an expert swordsman.

RODERICK. Mother. Please.

LADY BETTERTON. Well, you are.

JENNY. So, you call yourself a swordsman, do you?

RODERICK. Forgive me, dear lady. You wouldn't understand. It is a man's sport, after all.

JENNY. Is it?

(JENNY makes a point with her sword.)

Give up yet?

RODERICK. Never. I always get what I want.

JENNY. Not always.

AMELIA / LADY BETTERTON. Never give up! You can do it!

(AMELIA and LADY BETTERTON look at each other. I-PATCH is conferring with the tough TRIO. As RODERICK keeps fighting JENNY, he gets Carraway's attention.)

RODERICK. I say, Carraway!

CARRAWAY. Yes, Sir Roderick?

RODERICK. Take the servants and yourself and— *(RODERICK slices Lady Betterton's bonds apart.)* my mother and return to the ship. There's a small raft waiting.

JENNY. Just the two of us, eh?

RODERICK. Just the two of us.

LADY BETTERTON. Come, everyone. That's enough adventure for today.

CARRAWAY / BUTLERS. Awww...

BUTLER #1. I want to stay!

RODERICK. No. I want you to run. Now!

(As LADY BETTERTON and CARRAWAY escape with BUTLERS, JENNY knocks the sword out of RODERICK's hand and BERTHA and KATE grab RODERICK.)

JENNY. You are a fine swordsman, my lord.

RODERICK. As are you, Captain Jenny Silver. You have—conquered—me.

JENNY. *(Distracted by Roderick's gaze:)* I...see. *(Mistakenly handing the sword to I-PATCH:)* Thank you, Tessie. Bertha. Kate. Release the gentleman.

(BERTHA and KATE growl.)

I-PATCH. No.

JENNY. No?

I-PATCH. I'm in charge now.

JENNY. You?

I-PATCH. You **have** forfeited your right to captain this ship. Harboring a stowaway. Allowing captives to escape. Toying with—*that*.

RODERICK. Sir Roderick, if you please.

AMELIA / PEG. Ooooooh...

I-PATCH. Stop that. It's called a mutiny, Jenny. And I have the sword.

JENNY. Is that it now? Are you all behind this?

(SALLY, KATE, and BERTHA threaten TESSIE, MRS. HOOK, PARROT, and other PIRATES.)

TESSIE. (*Feebly:*) I have a good mind to...

JENNY. It's alright, Tessie. Don't worry about us.

MRS. HOOK. (*Tearfully presenting a picnic basket:*) I've packed a nice lunch for your...trip, my dears. Even Parrot 'elped.

PARROT. Squawk!

MRS. HOOK. Scuppers and Fin. My specialty.

JENNY. Thank you, Clara.

I-PATCH. Enough chatter. Now, you must walk the plank.

(*Other PIRATES exit as SALLY, KATE, and BERTHA set up the plank.*)

JENNY. And to think you saved my life so many years ago.

I-PATCH. My mistake, Captain...I mean...Jenny. Who shall walk the plank first? You? Your new friend Sir Roderick? Or perhaps your stowaway Bandana Lil?

(*AMELIA screams. RODERICK, JENNY, and AMELIA speak at once. SALLY, KATE, and BERTHA surround the unfortunate trio.*)

RODERICK. Take me only, you evil woman. I am ready to...

JENNY. I am the Captain of the Amazon. It is my fate. I will go down with the ship...

AMELIA. No, it's my fault. I'm the stowaway. I wanted to be a pirate...

I-PATCH. Quiet! The only way to settle this is to ask someone to prove their true pirate self. Oh...Peg!

PEG. Who...me?

I-PATCH. It's up to you, pirate. The angry sharks are waiting for their midday meal. Will it be her...her... (*Referring to RODERICK:*) Or that.

PEG. I know the answer. And that's because I'm a pirate who knows what to do.

I-PATCH. *(Suddenly tough:)* Then who is it? Who shall walk the plank?

PEG. *(Jumping on the plank:)* Me!

(RODERICK, JENNY, and AMELIA start to argue with PEG and they all get on the plank.)

I-PATCH. Oh, to blazes with all of you. You will take the journey—
together!

JENNY / RODERICK / AMELIA / PEG. Together?

I-PATCH / TRIO. TOGETHER!

(Dramatic music plays as the four “walk the plank.” The music becomes the “Mutiny Ballet” as the PIRATES battle I-PATCH and the TRIO for control of the ship. As the ship “disappears,” two SEA CREATURES named EDDIE and ELVIS join other SEA CREATURES in setting up the island. MONSTER sets up “MONSTER – KEEP OUT!” sign and scares them away. JENNY enters, followed by AMELIA, PEG, and a fresh looking RODERICK. All are coughing and exhausted except for RODERICK. PEG is no longer limping.)

PEG. What does this sign say?

AMELIA. Can't you read?

(PEG shakes his head.)

It says... It says what a beautiful island this is. Isn't that right, Aunt Jenny?

JENNY. Amelia, all that matters is that we made it here. We're safe. And we're together.

RODERICK. Extraordinary. Using that lunch basket as a raft was a brilliant notion.

JENNY. It was Peg's idea. He used Amelia's petticoat as a sail and turned her stick into a mast.

PEG. It was nothing.

AMELIA. Peg's walking much better, have you noticed?

JENNY. I noticed.

PEG. (*Kicking up his heels:*) This really is...Mystery Island.

JENNY. It certainly is. Good job, you two.

PEG / AMELIA. Thank you, Captain.

JENNY. I think you can call me Aunt Jenny.

RODERICK. Aunt Jenny? I'd rather call you Jenny.

(JENNY blushes and AMELIA nudges PEG.)

JENNY. If you will. Roderick, may I ask you a question?

RODERICK. Of course.

JENNY. Why do you still look dry? How do you do it?

RODERICK. I'm a Lord, Jenny. It's my job. Now, where are we?

JENNY. I don't know.

(EDDIE and ELVIS appear.)

PEG. Maybe those sea creatures can tell us. (PEG does a double take.)
SEA CREATURES?!

JENNY / RODERICK / AMELIA. What?

PEG. (*Almost speechless:*) See!... Creatures...

JENNY / RODERICK / AMELIA. Oooh...

JENNY. I see.

EDDIE. Welcome —

ELVIS. Welcome, strangers —

EDDIE / ELVIS. Welcome to Mystery Island.

JENNY. At last.

AMELIA. They can talk. How simply marvelous.

PEG. Are you half human and half fish?

EDDIE. Yes.

(ELVIS makes a fish noise or gesture. EDDIE gives him a look.)

Do you understand?

PEG. I guess, but how do you walk on land? Or breathe the air?

EDDIE / ELVIS. (*Properly – like the BUTLERS;*) Voice lessons!

PEG. That sounds familiar.

AMELIA. They look familiar.

JENNY. Stay back, everyone. They are a tricky sort. They can lure men to their deaths – but we women are strong.

PEG. They're funny looking. And they can swim. I could never swim.

JENNY. Roderick...

(EDDIE and ELVIS are putting a spell on RODERICK.)

EDDIE. We are so glad you are here.

ELVIS. So glad.

EDDIE. We've been waiting for you.

ELVIS. Waiting...waiting...

RODERICK. (*Spellbound:*) Waiting...waiting for what?

JENNY. Roderick... Be strong.

RODERICK. What do you want from me?

EDDIE / ELVIS. We want... We want...

(EDDIE becomes aware of someone's arrival.)

EDDIE. (*Into PEG's ear:*) Silence!

PEG. I didn't say anything.

EDDIE. She is near.

RODERICK. Who?

ELVIS. She who rules the waters that surround Mystery Island.

JENNY. Who is it?

(SEA CREATURES return to prepare for "her" entrance. They babble in their own language.)

AMELIA. Even the sea creatures pay her homage.

PEG. I don't know what's going on.

AMELIA. Perhaps it is the Queen herself.

EDDIE. It is the Queen.

ELVIS. The Queen of the Mermaids.

SEA CREATURES. Hail, Ethel! Queen of the Mermaids!

(RODERICK, JENNY, AMELIA, and PEG do a double take.)

PEG. Ethel Mermaid?

(A Broadway fanfare signifies the arrival of the greatest star – in the ocean.)

ETHEL. (*Entering:*) Hi, everybody! It's me!

(ETHEL accepts the applause and autograph books of the SEA CREATURES as she dismisses them.)

Thank you! Thank you! Time to go.

(ETHEL crosses to RODERICK and reveals her toughness.)

Hey, handsome. Take me away from all this. I know if I can make it to the mainland, I can be a star!

RODERICK. I am sure you will always be a success in whatever you do.

ETHEL. Oh, please. Puh – leeeeeeze take me with you!

EDDIE / ELVIS. Us, too!

ETHEL. Sorry, kids. This is all about me.

(EDDIE and ELVIS whimper.)

Oh, alright. This is my brother Eddie and my other brother Elvis.

EDDIE. How are ya?

ELVIS. Thank you. Thank you very much.

(ETHEL pushes them away.)

ETHEL. Look at me. I can sing. I can dance. I do impressions.

(ETHEL does bad impression.)

I do it all.

RODERICK. Remarkable, your majesty.

ETHEL. I'm sure I could be a shining star in the heavens if I could just get off this island. I want to perform on a real stage in a real theatre.

(ETHEL does double take as she looks about the theatre.)

Even with the occasional shipwreck and a crazy monster, this is still just – an island.

EDDIE / ELVIS. Mystery Island!

ETHEL. Thank you, Eddie. Thank you, Elvis.

ELVIS. But I'm Elvis.

EDDIE. And I'm Eddie.

ETHEL. Whatever. You can go now. This is a solo act.

EDDIE. Fine.

ELVIS. Come on, you two. We have something to show you.

EDDIE. Walk this way.

(PEG and AMELIA mimic Eddie's distinctive walk as they exit.)

ELVIS. Elvis has left the building.

(ELVIS storms off.)

ETHEL. Sweet kids. They just don't understand show biz. Do you know anyone in the music halls? I do a mean can-can.

(ETHEL uses her fin to demonstrate.)

RODERICK. Very authentic, Madame, but I have no friends in the theatre.

ETHEL. Oh, oyster crackers!

JENNY. But you must remember, you will always be the biggest star in the ocean.

ETHEL. You got that right, sister.

RODERICK. And London is dry land—save for the occasional rainfall.

(AMELIA and PEG enter with treasure chest followed by EDDIE and ELVIS.)

ETHEL. What are you doing with my treasure chest?

EDDIE. It's not yours, Ethel. It's... "his." The "Monster."

ETHEL. Well, I protect it for him.

JENNY. Who are you talking about?

ELVIS. And since you're leaving us, we didn't think "he" would mind.

PEG. What's inside?

AMELIA. Gold? Silver? Diamonds?

RODERICK. It has the Betterton crest on it. This belonged to my father.

JENNY. No key.

RODERICK. I can break the lock.

MONSTER. *(Offstage:)* Who dares disturb my sleep?

EDDIE. It's him!

ELVIS. He's awake!

ETHEL. *(Into PEG's ear:)* Silence!

PEG. I didn't say anything.

ETHEL. He is near. He who rules the island.

JENNY. Not this again.

ETHEL. Swim, my brothers. Swim away! Me first.

(ETHEL, EDDIE, and ELVIS “swim” into audience. The quartet huddles together. The ground seems to be shaking.)

PEG. I’m scared.

AMELIA. It’s okay. I’ll protect you.

(MONSTER enters. He is small, hairy and harmless.)

MONSTER. Why have you disturbed my island?

RODERICK. We mean no harm.

JENNY. I know you.

PEG. Don’t get him angry.

MONSTER. (Turning his face:) Stay away from my treasures.

RODERICK. Your treasure?

MONSTER. (Sitting on chest:) Just go away!

JENNY. Sir...

RODERICK. Careful, Jenny. Let me protect you from this madman.

JENNY. There’s no need. Who are you?

(LADY BETTERTON enters. She looks remarkably fresh.)

LADY BETTERTON. I can tell you.

RODERICK. Mother! Did they make you walk the plank as well?

LADY BETTERTON. No, this was always my true destination. I left Carraway on board with the butlers and I swam all the way.

JENNY. You swam? Then why are you still dry?

LADY BETTERTON. I’m a lady, dear. It’s my job.

RODERICK. Is there any reason why my mother, the esteemed Lady Virginia Betterton, would come to this tiny island?

LADY BETTERTON. I was searching for something I lost many years ago.

PEG. The Betterton Treasure?

LADY BETTERTON. No. Something much more valuable.

MONSTER. You always were full of...the dickens.

LADY BETTERTON. Johnny...

MONSTER. Ginny?

JENNY. Johnny?

MONSTER. Jenny?

JENNY. Daddy?

ALL. What?

PEG. I'm so conbobbled.

JENNY. Are you...my father?

(I-PATCH sneaks on.)

MONSTER. I am... I was Long John Silver. You see a wretch of a man before you. Once upon a time, I was a pirate. A villain of the seas. I have done little in my life except produce two fine daughters – One of whom I see before me and if my eyes remain strong, I see the other reflected in the gaze of her daughter. Are you – my Mary's daughter?

AMELIA. My name is Amelia, sir. Are you my grandfather?

MONSTER. Call me Grandpa.

(MONSTER and AMELIA hug. Everyone sighs. I-PATCH comes forward with a flourish.)

I-PATCH. Enough of this sweetness and light. I am here for that treasure chest.

JENNY. For shame, I-Patch! You are the captain of the Amazon –

I-PATCH. Not anymore. Tessie, Mrs. Hook and that infernal Parrot chased us off –

PEG. Yeah! Sorry...

I-PATCH. With nothing but a suitcase to carry on our little raft.

AMELIA. My suitcase!

I-PATCH. But now that I am a rogue pirate, I am no longer pledged to be honorable. I have the treasure, I have no need for you. All of you. Sally! Kate! Bertha! Get out here!

(The tough TRIO enters in frilly dresses. BERTHA remains tough, but KATE and SALLY are silly and giggling. RODERICK has slipped out to the MERMAIDS.)

SALLY. Here we are!

KATE. Hello!

BERTHA. *(Suddenly Southern:)* Ah am chahmed to make your acquaintance.

I-PATCH. I order you to recapture these villains.

SALLY. Oh, no.

KATE. I just did my nails.

BERTHA. And I don't want to tear my dress.

I-PATCH. Why you...

(RODERICK has whispered something in ETHEL's ears.)

ETHEL. I have only one thing to say. I'm gonna be a star!

(ETHEL, EDDIE, and ELVIS chase I-PATCH offstage. I-PATCH drops the sword.)

I-PATCH. Help! Sally! Kate! Bertha!

PEG. Not so fast!

(PEG uses sword and AMELIA growls to chase TRIO off. PEG and AMELIA celebrate their victory.)

JENNY. You are an excellent crew. Now, I'll take the sword.

PEG / AMELIA. *(Handing over the sword:)* Aye, aye, Captain!

JENNY. And you — What did you tell Queen Ethel?

RODERICK. I told her that I-Patch owned a theatre and needed a star.

(ETHEL, EDDIE, and ELVIS are chasing I-PATCH through the audience. I-PATCH shrieks.)

I hope I-Patch can swim faster than that.

AMELIA. You are a fine pirate, Peg Legg.

PEG. You too, Amelia...or should I say — your Majesty?

(PEG and AMELIA growl together.)

Call me Herbert. Sometimes.

AMELIA. (Smiling:) Herbert...sometimes...

LADY BETTERTON. Johnny, can you forgive me for choosing wealth and position over love?

MONSTER. Sure. I would have done the same thing.

LADY BETTERTON. You would?

MONSTER. I was a pirate, dear. A pirate.

JENNY. Was, daddy. Was.

MONSTER. That's right, Jenny. Was. Do you want to see my treasures?

JENNY. Of course. I need a key.

LADY BETTERTON. Allow me, my dear.

(LADY BETTERTON unlocks the chest with a hair pin. JENNY opens it and is very emotional.)

PEG. What's the treasure?

AMELIA. What is it, Aunt Jenny?

JENNY. Nothing but letters and pictures. Baby pictures of me...and your mother. Little shoes. My first doll.

MONSTER. It took me a long time to realize that these are the greatest treasures of all.

JENNY. Thank you, Dad.

MONSTER. (Saluting JENNY:) Very good... Captain.

LADY BETTERTON. (*Ushering MONSTER away:*) Come along, John. It's time to celebrate. I've been waiting a long time for this night.

MONSTER. Me, too.

(*LADY BETTERTON and MONSTER exit grandly. AMELIA and PEG imitate them and giggle as they run off. JENNY and RODERICK are left alone.*)

RODERICK. You're still a pirate, Jenny. Did you know that?

JENNY. But how? I don't have a boat. I don't have a crew.

RODERICK. It's easy. You have me. And you have stolen my heart and captured my love.

(*ETHEL storms on and interrupts their near kiss.*)

ETHEL. Enough with this mushy stuff. Let's go to a wedding!

(*RODERICK and JENNY shrug and join the ENSEMBLE in celebrating the wedding of LADY BETTERTON and MONSTER [AKA Long John Silver]. Beautiful wedding music plays and perhaps PEG and AMELIA and ETHEL and CARRAWAY join in the ceremony. JENNY and RODERICK steal looks at each other and the play is over.*)

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