

TREASURE ISLAND Adaptation

Written by Robert Lewis Stevenson

DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

Jemmy Rathbone/ MadEye Morgan:

Israel Hands:

Handsome Jack:

Billy Bones/ Meriwether Arrow:

Jim Hawkins:

Mrs. Hawkins/ Meg Trueblood:

Black Dog/ George Merry:

Blind Pugh/ Ben Gunn:

Squire Trelawney:

Dr. Livesey:

Captain Smollett:

Long John Silver:

Nightingale Nell:

7 Sailors and Pirates:

SETTING:

ACT I

Prologue: An alleyway

Scene 1: The Admiral Benbow Inn

Scene 2: The Spyglass outside of Bristol

Scene 3: The Good Ship Hispaniola

ACT II

Scene 1: Skeleton Island, Deck of the Hispaniola

Scene 2: The Good Ship Hispaniola

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ACT I, PROLOGUE, AN ALLEYWAY:

(The stage is dark. The entire cast, save for SILVER, JEMMY, HANDS, and JACK, are in silhouette set against a deep blue cyc. Someone amongst the cast starts stamping out a rhythm; the rest of the cast joins in as they sing a haunting melody.)

CAST:

BASS LINE SINGS:

More rum, more rum, more rum for the pirates,
More rum, more rum, more rum for the pirates

ONE PIRATE:

Fifteen men on a dead man's chest
Yo ho oh oh, and a bottle of rum

Drink and the devil had done for the rest
Yo ho oh oh, and a bottle of rum.

TWO PIRATE:

Fifteen men of the whole ship's list
Yo ho oh oh, and a bottle of rum!

Dead and be damned and the rest gone whist!
Yo ho oh oh, and a bottle of rum.

THREE PIRATE:

Fifteen men of 'em good and true
Yo ho oh oh, and a bottle of rum!

Ev'ry man jack could ha' sailed with Old Pew,
Yo ho oh oh, and a bottle of rum!

ALL THREE PIRATES:

Fifteen men on a dead man's chest
Yo ho oh oh, and a bottle of rum

Drink and the devil had done for the rest
Yo ho oh oh, and a bottle of rum.

(An abrupt, dark sound like a few notes on a cello rings out. The cast continues to stamp out a rhythm that grows in intensity and then stops, then periodically starts again. Lights shift dramatically to a misty alley shrouded in fog. A lone figure races onstage through the mists. He is JEMMY RATHBONE, and he is being chased by two rough looking pirates, BLACK DOG and ISRAEL HANDS.)

ISRAEL: Where is it, Jemmy?

JEMMY: I...I...don't...know rightly what you're talkin about, Hands-

BLACK DOG: Cap'n Flint was not happy to hear you run off with his map.

JEMMY: Come on, Black Dog, its me...Rathbone...would I steal from Flint?

BLACK DOG: Oi Flint, he was all torn up when he heard.

ISRAEL: All torn up...you know what that feels like, Jemmy? You wanna know what that feels like, Jemmy? *(BLACK DOG and HANDS circle RATHBONE menacingly.)*

BLACK DOG: You might as well hand over the map, Jemmy

ISRAEL: Then, we can jus...head back to the ship-

JEMMY: But I tells ya, I don't have it...

(A loud, booming voice comes from offstage. A dark specter enters hooded. It is LONG JOHN SILVER, but the audience should not know it yet.)

SILVER: Jemmy Rathbone!

JEMMY: Aye, Captain! I was jus tellin these scallywags, I don't know nuthin bout the map.

SILVER: Ah, that's too bad, Jemmy, that's just too bad. Gut 'im!

JEMMY: What?!...but, Cap'n-

SILVER: Cut out his lyin, filthy tongue-

JEMMY: NO, Cap'n...please...*(HE is dragged away.)* WAIT! Maybe I remember somethin-

SILVER: What was that, Jemmy?

JEMMY: Maybe...maybe, I remember who has it...

ISRAEL: You better not be lyin, Jemmy, or I'll-

SILVER: Let him speak...who has the map, Jemmy?

JEMMY: Billy, sir...Billy Bones...

BLACK DOG: It's a lie...a dirty lie

ISRAEL: E's dead, 'e is!

SILVER: Ye better not be playin up some game, here, Jemmy...

JEMMY: I saws it, I did. It was Bones alright. Ye thought 'e was dead. But it was after the treasure was buried and the men what buried it was dead, and I seen 'im while I was on watch. He tooks the map, ye see, and I stops 'im, I do, and I says, "Give me the map, you sea dog. It belongs good and rightful to Cap'n Flint, the man what gave me my start in this fine profession here." And now that Flint is dead, I knows it belongs to you, Cap'n. Cuz its like I worships you, Cap'n, I do.

SILVER: And Bones?

JEMMY: He says if I ever tell, he would run me through, he would.

(Pause. SILVER ponders.)

SILVER: Thank ye, Jemmy, I knew I could trust ye-

JEMMY: I thanks ya, Cap'n! Now, you'll protect me, right- keep Bones away from me?

SILVER: Nuthin to it, Jemmy!

JEMMY: Oh, Cap'n- oh, I knew...I knew you would be an even better cap'n then Flint, I did!

SILVER: *(Takes knife and puts it viciously to JEMMY's neck.)* Flint was the best, Jemmy...and don't you go forgettin' it, or I'll carve you from stem to stern myself! *(HE lets JEMMY go.)* Thank you for the information, Jemmy. Mr. Hands, take our friend, Mr. Rathbone here.....and kill'em!

JEMMY: NO! But Cap'n...No! Mercy-*(JEMMY is dragged offstage fighting by HANDS.)*

SILVER: That map is almost mine, Black Dog. I wants you to do a little reconnaissance fer me. I want you to scout every port, follow every lead to find Billy Bones. And when you find him...put an end to him!

(Lights go down, as we hear RATHBONE scream in the distance.)

SCENE I, THE ADMIRAL BENBOW INN

(Light comes up on JIM. He is separated from the other cast members in a liminal space. This will happen several times throughout the show.)

JIM: Treasure Island! Squire Trelawney, Dr. Livesey, and the rest of my fellow adventurers having asked me to write down the whole particulars about our journey, from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back but the bearings of the island, and that only because there is still treasure not yet lifted, I take up my pen in this year of our grace 1720 and go back to the time when my mother kept the Admiral Benbow Inn. It was many years after the death of my father, when the dark, old sailor with a scar on his right cheek first took up his lodging under our roof. I remember him tending the fire, telling his stories, and whistling to himself as he did so, and then breaking out in that old sea-song that he sang so often afterwards *(CAST will underscore the monologue with "fifteen men.")* I called him the Captain...and he would tell me stories of faraway lands and adventures he had on his ship- of treasure and pirates; he made them real to me...more real than my life scrubbing dishes and cleaning floors seemed to be. *(Beat)* He was my first friend...but he wouldn't be my last. I can still remember him singin his favorite song-

(Lights up on the Admiral Benbow Inn. BILLY BONES is at a table drinking rum as if telling the most serious story he has ever told. The other patrons in the inn are half listening to him, singing "Fifteen Men" in a more jolly or joking manner.)

CAST:

Fifteen men on a dead man's chest
Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum
Drink and the devil had done for the rest
Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum.

BONES: Oi Flinty, he brought fifteen men to that island, and only a handful of em left.

JIM: Did he really, Captain?

BONES: And then Flint up and dies before they can get back to the island, ye see, to dig up the treasure.

JIM: So where's the treasure now, Captain?

BONES: Ah, Dead men tell no tales, lad! And to this day, I tell ye, to this day- to this day, no one, and I MEAN no one, knows where the map be.