



Audition Script – Ben Gunn

OVERVIEW

- **Role:** Marooned pirate
- **Personality:** Eccentric, excitable, slightly unhinged
- **Function:** Comic relief on the island; helps heroes
- **Performance Notes:** Big comedic potential

Audition Pieces:

1. SCENE 6 - P.35 from 'Enter Ben Gunn' to p.37 'Well they weren't happy about it'

Song - My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean - one verse and one chorus

SCENE 6 – On Treasure Island

The ship arrives at the island. Jim is the first to set foot ashore and soon encounters the eccentric Ben Gunn, a marooned sailor with a fondness for cheese and a head full of secrets. The pirates begin to reveal their true colours, and the hunt for the treasure intensifies.

Enter Ben Gunn, leaping on from behind a large rock.

GUNN: Welcome to my island!

FORE: It's Gandalf from Lord Of The Rings!

HENRIETTA: **[wafting]** More like Lord Of The Smells. Phwoar!

SQUIRE: **[to Gunn]** Who are you?

GUNN: I'm Ben Gunn. Poor Ben Gunn. I've been marooned on this island for years, all by myself, with nobody with me. Poor lonely Ben Gunn.

DOCTOR: What wicked person marooned you here Mr Gunn?

GUNN: 'Twas the leader of a bunch of cut-throat pirates.

SQUIRE: Why did he maroon you here?

AFT: Maybe the ship had run out of air fresheners.

GUNN: He caught me pinching cheese from the galley and threatened to hang me from the yardarm, so I jumped ship and swam ashore. Almost drowned too.

HENRIETTA: Is that because the sea was rough?

GUNN: No, the three stone of cheddar I pinched from the ship's galley kept pulling me under. I loves cheddar! **[laughs manically and dances about]** Ha-ha-ha! Cheddar, Cheddar, Cheddar!

CAPTAIN: What was the name of the pirate leader who marooned you here, Mr Gunn?

GUNN: 'Twas a one-legged man by the name of, Long John Silver.

AFT: But that's the name of our ship's cook!

FORE: And he's only got one leg!

SQUIRE: I say, what a coincidence!

HENRIETTA: Coincidence my foot! They're all pirates, you fool!

GUNN: Have they marooned you lot as well?

DOCTOR: No, we're here searching for buried treasure.

GUNN: Well, you're all marooned now.

AFT: What makes you say that Mr Gunn?

GUNN: **[pointing]** That skull and crossbones flying above your ship.

All turn and look.

SQUIRE: The rotten blighters have taken over the Hispaniola!

FORE: We told you they were pirates, but you wouldn't listen!

HENRIETTA: I wonder what's keeping Jim and the others.

DOCTOR: I thought they were following us in another lifeboat.

AFT: Maybe they were grabbed by the pirates before they got away.

HENRIETTA: I can't bear the thought of my little Jimmy being grabbed by the buccaneers.

GUNN: I can't bear the thought of never seeing a piece of cheese again. You don't have any on you, do you?

HENRIETTA: You're right, we don't.

GUNN: Are you sure? **[sniffs]** I'm getting a strong whiff of ripe gorgonzola.

FORE: That'll be Aft's socks.

GUNN: I'd give anything for a nice piece of cheddar. For years, I've lived on nothing but wild berries, wild mushrooms, and goats.

DOCTOR: Were the goats wild too?

GUNN: Well, they weren't too happy about it.