



Audition Script – Fore & Aft

OVERVIEW

- **Role:** Comic duo / sailors
- **Personality:** Dim-witted, enthusiastic, lovable
- **Function:** Audience participation, running jokes, slapstick
- **Performance Notes:** Classic double act — one slightly smarter than the other

Audition Pieces:

1. SCENE 4 - p.22 from the start of Scene 4 to p.23 'Exit Pirates'
2. SCENE 5 - p.27 from CAPTAIN (to Aft) 'You there, Sailor.....!' to top p.28 FORE: 'For the Captain's Fire'

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

SCENE 4 – The Quayside

Preparations for departure are in full swing. Henrietta arrives in disguise, determined to join the voyage without being recognised. Silver continues to charm his way into the Squire's trust while quietly organising his pirate crew. The ship's officers, Captain Smollett and Mr Arrow, make their entrance and begin inspecting the new recruits, with mixed results. The scene ends with the final call to board *The Hispaniola*.

SCENE 5 – Onboard *The Hispaniola*

The ship sets sail. Jim explores the deck, meets the crew, and begins to sense that something is not quite right. Silver befriends Jim, cleverly hiding his true intentions. Fore and Aft struggle with the realities of life at sea, much to the amusement of the audience. Tensions rise as the officers clash with the pirates, and the voyage takes a mysterious turn.

1st Piece **From scene 4 – The Quayside**

Enter Fore and Aft [LSR] Aft walks about looking around on the floor.

- AFT:** How will we find this key our ship's tied up next to?
- FORE:** You can't miss it; it's hundreds of yards long and made of stone.
- AFT:** Blimey! You'd never fit that in your pocket!
- FORE:** It's not that kind of a key, you idiot!
- AFT:** What kind is it then?
- FORE:** The kind that's spelt Q.U.A.Y. It's where ships dock.
- AFT:** They should all be safe then.
- FORE:** What are you talking about now?
- AFT:** All the ships will be under *dock* and *quay*. **[laughs]**

SFX- 5: “Sexy vamp music” Enter Sue and Sal [LSL] and proceed to vamp them.

- SAL:** Hello sailors, do you mind if we hove alongside?
- FORE:** Suit yourselves.
- SUE:** Are you boys embarking or disembarking?
- AFT:** Embarking.
- FORE:** We're just trying to find the quay.
- SAL:** We'll help you find it; won't we sue?
- SUE:** Yes Sal. The key to happiness, that is.
- AFT:** We'll be happy once we find our ship.
- SAL:** What's the name of your ship?
- FORE:** The Hispaniola.
- Sue and Sal take Fore and Aft by the arm.**
- SUE:** Would you like to visit our vessel first?

AFT: What's it called?

SAL: The Love Boat.

FORE: We'll pass, ladies.

SUE: We're facing into a headwind with these two, Sal.

SAL: Perhaps they tack the other way, Sue.

SUE: Then maybe it's time to abandon their ship.

Enter Pirates [LSR]

SILVER: Good morning, ladies! Swash me buckle, splice me mizzen and hoist me topsail!

SAL: In which order, sport?

AFT: **[pulling Fore aside]** They sound like pirates to me, Fore.

PEW: What was that?

SUE: He said you're all pirates.

SAL: We don't mind that, do we Sue?

SUE: No Sal, we love a bit of yo-ho-ho!

SILVER: We're not pirates, are we shipmates?

PIRATES: No, Cap'n!

HANDS: And if anybody says different, we'll slit their throats!

FOR & AFT: Ooooooh! **[cling to each other in fright]**

SILVER: Ignore 'im, he'd faint at the sight of blood. **[to Hands]** Especially his own!

SUE: So, where are you brave sailors off to then?

MORGAN: We're off to seek our fame and fortune.

MERRY: But mostly fortune.

SAL: What's the name of your ship?

SILVER: The Hispaniola.

SUE: But that's the name of their...**[indicates Fore & Aft]**...ship.

SILVER: **[to Fore & Aft]** Then we'll find our ship together, shipmates.

FORE: We'll find it ourselves thanks.

SILVER: Nonsense! We don't want you running into any nasty pirates, eh, shipmates?

PIRATES: No, Long John! **[laugh]**

SAL: Tell me handsome, why do they call you Long John?

PEW: Well, it's not what you're thinking for a start.

SILVER: It's been nice meeting you ladies, but we 'as a ship to catch. Let's go shipmates!

Exit Pirates with Fore and Aft [LSL]

2nd Piece	From scene 5 – Onboard <i>The Hispaniola</i>
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CAPTAIN: **[to Aft]** You there, Sailor! Climb up to the crow's nest and keep a lookout.

AFT: I can't even see a tree, let alone a crow's nest.

FORE: Besides, he'd never fit in a little bird's nest.

SQUIRE: Didn't either of you go to naval college?

AFT: No, we didn't have the stomachs for it.

CAPTAIN: I'd better test your knowledge with some basic maritime questions.

FORE: Fire away, Captain.

CAPTAIN: Which battle did Admiral Nelson die at?

FORE: His last one.

CAPTAIN: What's a granny knot?

AFT: A yoga position for pensioners.

CAPTAIN: Whereabouts is the foredeck?

AFT: Next to the third deck.

CAPTAIN: Why do scuba divers always fall off boats backwards?

FORE: Because if they fell forwards, they'd still be in the boat.

CAPTAIN: What's the difference between port and starboard?

AFT: You can drink port.

CAPTAIN: And finally, what's the Captain's log for?

FORE: For the Captain's fire.