



Audition Script – Henrietta Hawkins

OVERVIEW

- **Role:** Dame / Jim's mother
- **Personality:** Loud, cheeky, flirtatious, warm-hearted
- **Function:** Comic engine of the show; audience interaction; disguises herself to follow Jim
- **Performance Notes:** Classic pantomime dame — big physicality, innuendo, improvisation

Audition Pieces:

1. SCENE 1 - p.3 from 'Enter Henrietta' to bottom p.4
2. SCENE 2 - p.16 from 'It looks like I'll be getting my sea voy.....' to 'Enter Pirates' p.17
3. SCENE 3 - p.21 from 'Enter Doctor' to 'Exit Jim and Henrietta' p.22 end of scene.

Song: Gimme Gimme Gimme A **'MAP' BEFORE** Midnight - first two stanzas and chorus

SCENE 1 – The Benbow Inn

At the cosy but chaotic Admiral Benbow Inn, Henrietta Hawkins runs the pub with her son Jim. Jim dreams of adventure, and of Maggie Trelawney. Their evening is interrupted by the arrival of Billy Bones, a nervous old sea-dog with a mysterious past. When Blind Pew appears and delivers the dreaded Black Spot, Billy collapses dramatically and leaves behind a sea chest containing Captain Flint's treasure map. Realising the pirates will soon return, Jim, Henrietta, and the hapless duo Fore and Aft flee to seek help from Squire Trelawney.

SCENE 2 – Squire Trelawney's Garden

Jim and the others explain the situation to Squire Trelawney and Dr Livesey. The Squire recognises the map as Flint's and eagerly proposes a treasure-hunting expedition aboard his ship, *The Hispaniola*. Jim is invited to join the voyage, Fore and Aft are recruited as crew, and Dr Livesey signs on as ship's doctor. Henrietta is told she cannot come, but secretly vows to disguise herself and follow them. Moments later, the pirates arrive, discover a clue, and set off after them toward Bristol Docks.

SCENE 3 – Bristol Docks

The docks are bustling with sailors, traders, and colourful characters. Jim and the Squire arrive to prepare for the voyage. Long John Silver and his pirates sneak up behind them, posing as honest sailors looking for work. The unsuspecting Squire hires them on the spot. As the crew gathers and the ship is readied, Maggie arrives to say goodbye to Jim. The adventure is about to begin...

1st Piece **From scene 1 – The Benbow Inn**

Enter Henrietta [MSR]

HENRIETTA: I thought I heard Jim's voice just now.

Enter Dr Livesey [MSL]

DOCTOR: Good evening, Mrs Hawkins.

HENRIETTA: Dr Livesey, how good of you to call at such short notice.

DOCTOR: Well, it sounded quite urgent. Now, what seems to be the trouble?

HENRIETTA: It's a bit delicate, Doctor.

DOCTOR: **[produces tube of cream]** Take this cream and rub it on the affected area.

HENRIETTA: It's not that this time Doctor.

DOCTOR: Then what is it?

HENRIETTA: I'm thinking about getting remarried, but I don't want any more kids. What method of birth control would you recommend?

DOCTOR: In your case, leaving the light on.

HENRIETTA: I'll put yours out in a minute! **[coughs roughly]**

DOCTOR: Are you all right Mrs Hawkins?

HENRIETTA: It's my chest Doctor, it's terribly rough.

DOCTOR: I can see that.

HENRIETTA: Would you mind having a look at it for me?

DOCTOR: If I must; but I'll need a drink first.

HENRIETTA: What would you like, Doctor?

DOCTOR: I'll have a stiff one.

HENRIETTA: **[leads audience]** Not in here you won't!

DOCTOR: Hold the drink. I want to get this over with quickly. **[stethoscope to her chest]** Mmm...ooh...aah!

HENRIETTA: **[worried]** What is it, Doctor Livesey?

DOCTOR: Beg pardon?

HENRIETTA: [shouts into end of stethoscope] What is it!?

DOCTOR: Aaaah! You could've done me a nasty injury just then, Mrs Hawkins!

HENRIETTA: There's still time. Now, what did you hear?

DOCTOR: It's a sort of regular, bom-bom...bom-bom...bom-bom.

HENRIETTA: That's my heart, you fool!

DOCTOR: I've always wondered what that sound was. Close your eyes. [she does and he holds a spotted handkerchief in front of her face] What do you see?

HENRIETTA: Nothing.

2nd Piece	From scene 2 – Squire Trelawney's Garden
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HENRIETTA: It looks like I'll be getting my sea voyage after all Jim.

SQUIRE: You're not coming with us Mrs Hawkins!

HENRIETTA: Why not?

SQUIRE: The high seas are no place for a woman.

HENRIETTA: But what about my little Jimmy?

DOCTOR: A life at sea will make a man out of him.

HENRIETTA: That's what I'm afraid of.

JIM: Don't worry mum, I'll be fine.

SQUIRE: Return to The Benbow and pretend you know nothing, Mrs Hawkins.

DOCTOR: She won't have to pretend.

AFT: I hope there's a chemist near the docks.

DOCTOR: Why do you need a chemist?

AFT: I need to pick up some protection.

JIM: Protection from what?

HENRIETTA: Steady on now, this is a family show.

AFT: The sea air. I'm a martyr to chapped lips.

FORE: He never goes anywhere without a tin of Vaseline.

SQUIRE: You'll need protecting from more than the sea air.

AFT: What do you mean?

DOCTOR: There are lots of desperate men down the docks.

HENRIETTA: That's never put me off before, Doctor.

DOCTOR: That's because you're more desperate than them.

SQUIRE: Follow me to Bristol Docks everybody.

Exit all bar Henrietta [LSR]

HENRIETTA: I'm not staying here to have my gizzard slit. I'll follow them to Bristol Docks; disguise myself as a sailor and apply for a post aboard their ship. I'll need to keep my identity secret from the other sailors, so I'll just wear less makeup. Whatever happens I must look after my little Jimmy. I couldn't sleep at night thinking about him being tossed about at sea. **[blows nose in hanky]**

PIRATES: **[off stage LSL]** Fifteen men on a dead man's chest...

HENRIETTA: **[startled – drops hanky]** It's the pirates! I'd better scam. **[exits LSR]**

Enter Pirates [LSL] Hands picks up the hanky.

3rd Piece	From scene 3 – Bristol Docks
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Enter Doctor and Henrietta [MSR] Henrietta's disguised as a sailor.

SQUIRE: Dr Livesey, allow me to introduce Captain Smallbit.

CAPTAIN: My name is *Smollett!*

SQUIRE: I see you've managed to pick up a sailor, Doctor.

DOCTOR: Yes Squire, this is able seaman Bucket.

HENRIETTA: It's pronounced, *Bouquet*.

CAPTAIN: I must say, you're a rather peculiar shape for a sailor.

HENRIETTA: I accidentally swallowed a lifejacket...**[pushes chest out]**...and it inflated.

CAPTAIN: Are you an experienced seaman?

HENRIETTA: Yes Captain, I've sailed to the four corners of the world.

CAPTAIN: That can't have been easy, seeing as the world's round.

HENRIETTA: I once applied to be a ship's gunner, but they said I wasn't the right calibre.

CAPTAIN: Can I rely on you to show the young sailors the ropes?

HENRIETTA: Given half a chance Captain.

CAPTAIN: It's time to board The Hispaniola, follow me.

Exit Captain, Squire and Livesey [MSL] Henrietta goes to follow.

JIM: **[pulls her back]** Mum!

HENRIETTA: You recognised me, Jim!

JIM: Obviously, mum, but what are you doing here dressed as a sailor?

HENRIETTA: I'm coming with you, what do you think?

JIM: But the Squire said that women weren't allowed aboard his ship.

HENRIETTA: I don't care what he said, I'm not letting you sail halfway round the world without your mum.

JIM: You mean, dad? **[laughs]**

HENRIETTA: I might be dressed as a man, Jim, but underneath I'm still all woman. **[to audience]** No wisecracks please.

JIM: But what if somebody discovers you're really a woman dressed as a man?

HENRIETTA: Don't complicate things Jim. Let's go.

Exit Jim and Henrietta [MSL]