

SAMUEL FRENCH SAMPLE PERUSAL

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Robinson Crusoe

A pantomime

John Morley

Samuel French — London
New York - Toronto - Hollywood



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CHARACTERS

MORTALS

Robinson Crusoe

Mrs Chrissie Crusoe, his mother

Kenny Crusoe, his brother

Captain Perkins of the *Mary Rose*

Polly Perkins, his daughter

Bill Barnacle, the bosun

Ben Dover, the mate

Blackpatch, the Pirate

Jack Boot, another Pirate, his crony

The Island Queen

Man Friday

Old Jim, an ancient mariner

Lord Nelson

The Grunting Gorilla

IMMORTALS

Oylslick, the sea demon

Detergenta, the sea fairy

CHORUS, playing the parts of:

The Ship's Crew; Pirates; Islanders; Demon Oylslick's
Minions; and (optional) Under The Sea People

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

SCENE 1	The London Docks with the <i>Mary Rose</i> at anchor
SCENE 2	On the Poop Deck of the <i>Mary Rose</i>
SCENE 3	The Ship's Galley
SCENE 4	The Poop Deck again
SCENE 5	The Main Deck and the Strange Shipwreck
SCENE 6	Demon Oylslick's Gruesome Grotto
SCENE 7	The <i>Mary Rose</i> under the Sea

ACT II

SCENE 1	On the Shore of the Desert Island of Tobago
SCENE 2	The Island Village
SCENE 3	At Robinson Crusoe's Stockade
SCENE 4	In the Forest of Grunting Gorillas
SCENE 5	The Ruined Temple of the Sacred Snake
SCENE 6	The Voyage Home
SCENE 7	The Nautical Wedding of Robinson Crusoe

The scenery is uncomplicated, Act I being almost a permanent set of the ship whilst Act II is almost a permanent set of the Island.

All the principals can wear one costume throughout, if this is a useful economy, although Crusoe must change to his famous desert island costume and the Dame should change for comedy reasons. The Chorus have just one full change and one minor change.

Please see the scenery notes and production and costume suggestions at the end of the script.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHARACTERS

Robinson Crusoe is energetic, brave and, because he is more intelligent than the rest of the crew (including the Captain), he soon “takes over” in the story. He is continually concerned for his sweetheart, Polly Perkins. He is best played by a female, but can be male.

Polly Perkins, Robinson’s girl-friend, is attractive but gullible and this causes trouble and danger for our friends in the story.

Captain Perkins is breezy but not too brainy — understandably impatient, and he needs a bit of authority in the drill scene.

Mrs Chrissie Crusoe is a comical pantomime dame but she is sharp and sometimes rescues our friends from danger even if her methods are funny. Male or female.

Bill Barnacle the Bosun and **Ben Dover the Mate**. Bill is a bit stupid but doesn’t accept this. Ben is stupid and greatly enjoys the fact. These two parts can be played by extrovert females, or males.

Kenny Crusoe is a cheeky, happy-go-lucky soul and like most of the crew is not very brainy. Usually male, but can be a “second principal boy”.

Blackpatch the Pirate comes from Bristol, me dear, so his speech is “Pantomime West Country” and full of “mateys”, “me dears”, and of course “Jim lad”. He is wicked and leering and should play the part with tremendous relish.

Jack Boot is his crony and is just as wicked. If played in a sinister cackling way, it can be played by a female.

The Island Queen is tough, devious and has an eye for the men and is funny. She is boisterous and perhaps plump.

Old Jim is an ancient mariner, a small part easily doubled. He can have an “ancient” high-pitched voice and be played by a female.

Lord Nelson has dignity in his short scene and is good-natured when talking to the daft crew. This small part could be played as a “second principal boy.”

Demon Oylslick is thoroughly nasty and twisted and is played in a slimy, cackling, utterly repulsive way. Male or female.

The Fairy Detergenta is cheerful, confident and triumphant.

Man Friday is a friendly, amiable soul who likes a laugh, and is decidedly extrovert.

The Chorus. They may well be mainly female but with this particular pantomime subject they are extrovert as the ship’s crew, even more extrovert as the Islanders and very extrovert indeed as the villainous swaggering Pirates.

There have been many professional productions of this script and always the characters of Demon Oylslick and Fairy Detergenta are taken up by the local press so this fact may be of help with your publicity.

J.M.

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

The songs suggested are based on audience research, for pantomime audiences like to hear the songs they know. They like “standards”. You are, of course, welcome to alter the choice of songs but please remember that a licence issued by Samuel French Ltd to perform the pantomime does not include permission to use copyright songs and music. Please read the notice supplied by the Performing Right Society, which follows this list of Music Suggestions. The publishers of the suggested music are given in brackets after the song title.

Overture: Eight bars of *Rule Britannia*. Then a couple of up-tempo songs. Then a triumphant last eight bars of *Rule Britannia* again.

ACT I

SONG

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | There's A Tavern In The Town (trad)
<i>or</i>
The Fleet's In (Chappells) | Sailors |
| 2. | We Joined The Navy (Chappells) | Kenny, Bill and Ben |
| 3 | Beyond the Blue Horizon
<i>or</i>
In The Navy
<i>or</i>
Sailing Along On the Crest of a Wave | Robinson, Captain and Sailors |
| 4 | I Do Like To Be Beside the Seaside (trad) | Mrs Crusoe and Sailors |
| 5 | Fame (I'm Gonna Live Forever) (Music Sales Ltd) | Robinson and Company (except Villains) |
| 6 | Presents (to the tune of <i>Bobby Shafto</i> — trad) | Kenny, Robinson, Polly and Captain |
| 7 | Spread A Little Happiness (Chappells)
<i>or</i>
Close To You (Music Sales)
<i>or</i>
Top Of The World (Music Sales) | Robinson and Polly |

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| 8 | What Shall We Do With The
Drunken Sailor <i>plus</i> Sailor's
Hornpipe (trad) | Sailors, Polly and Robinson |
| 9 | With Cat-Like Tread (Sullivan,
from <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>) | Blackpatch, Jack Boot and Pirates |
| 9(a) | I Am A Pirate King (Sullivan,
from <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>) | Blackpatch and Pirates |
| 10 | I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles
(E.M.I.) | Mrs Crusoe and Kenny's Ballet |
| | <i>or</i>
Main theme from <i>Swan Lake</i> | The Sea People's Dance Routine |
| 11 | Spartacus Theme from <i>The
Onedin Line</i> (Katchaturian) | |
| | <i>or</i>
Fingal's Cave
<i>and</i>
Fame (eight bars reprise) | Robinson, Fairy and The Sea
People |

ACT TWO

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| 12 | Totem Tom Tom (from <i>Rose
Marie</i> , Chappells and Samuel
French) | Queen and Islanders |
| | <i>or</i>
Civilisation (I Don't Want To
Leave The Jungle) (Chappells) | |
| 13 | You've Got A Friend (E.M.I.) | Robinson and Man Friday |
| | <i>or</i>
Friendship (Cole Porter, Chappells) | |
| | <i>or</i>
Side by Side (the 1930 song or
the Sondheim) | |
| 14 | In The Mood (E.M.I.) | Queen and Islanders |
| | <i>or</i>
I Got Rhythm (Chappells) | |
| | <i>or</i>
Hawaiian War Chant (Keith
Prowse) | |

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 14(a) | Softly Wakes My Heart (music not lyric, from <i>Samson and Delilah</i> , Saint-Saëns) | Solo snake dance |
| | <i>or</i>
In A Persian Market Place (Katelby) | |
| | <i>or</i>
Kashmiri Song (Pale Hands I Love) (Feldman) | |
| 15 | We Are Sailing — songsheet (Music Sales Ltd) | Kenny, Mrs Crusoe and Audience |
| | Eight bars of <i>Rule Britannia</i> , into Finale reprise of Song 4 | All |

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PROLOGUE

After the Overture, to set up the style of the pantomime, a voice is heard through the front of house speakers — or the Captain enters through the front curtains — declaiming the Prologue as though telling a pirate adventure story

Prologue A long time ago, down by the docks in London Town, someone possessed a fabulous treasure chart. This is the story of the treasure — the story of the desert island where it lay hidden — the story of the sailor who found it. His name?

There is a quick fanfare

ROBINSON CRUSOE! So come to where the adventure begins — come to the docks of London Town!

Music is heard, the CURTAINS open

ACT I SCENE I

The London docks, with the “Mary Rose” at anchor (see scenery notes)

Captain Perkins, Polly, the Sailors (and perhaps their girls) are singing and dancing

Song 1 and OPENING ROUTINE

Soon a group embark on a square dance while the others clap in time, wolf whistle and shout, “That’s it, Bill”, “Shake a leg, Jenny”, etc.

After the routine the Dancers and Chorus drift off, variously

Polly and the Captain are left alone

Captain (*pointing to the ship*) Well, Polly, it’ll soon be time for me to sail on the *Mary Rose*.

Polly (*excited*) Oh yes, Father. Mrs Crusoe and I have started to get things ready in the galley!

Captain (*angrily*) I'm the Captain and I've told you twenty times. You and Mrs Crusoe *are not going*.

Polly But we've been on every other voyage — what's so different about this one?

Captain We're sailing to the West Indies and they're famous for ——

Polly They're famous for rum and sugar and that's what you're going to bring back to London!

Captain No daughter. They're famous for *pirates*.

There is a dramatic chord

Polly (*laughing*) Pirates! Just a stupid story!

Captain Do you want to be cut to pieces by a pirate cutlass?

Polly Oh, Father! (*Deliberately changing the subject*) I wonder where everyone is? Buying last-minute things for the voyage I expect. (*She laughs*) I wonder what Kenny Crusoe is buying?

Captain (*looking off*) Here he is now — we'll soon find out.

Vaudeville music is heard and Kenny enters with a yellow parrot in a cage

Kenny (*to the Audience*) Hallo — I'm Kenny Crusoe! Yes, my name is Kenny C. Crusoe!

Polly What's the C for?

Kenny For ships to sail on — what d'you think the sea's for? Are you looking forward to the voyage, Polly?

Captain I'm not letting Mrs Crusoe and my daughter go on this voyage and *that is final*.

The Captain strides to the wings followed by the protesting Polly

Polly Father, be reasonable! You know we can help you! Father!

The Captain and Polly exit

Kenny (*shrugging, mystified; to the Audience*) I've been buying things for the voyage and all good sailors take a parrot, don't they? (*He holds up the cage*) Like the parrot? Ten pounds fifty at Tesco's — oh, I've forgotten to feed him! (*He runs to the wings and collects a huge prop packet marked POLLYFILLA. He holds it up and tips the corner as though putting food in the cage*) I've just bought him. Well, the man in the shop said it was going cheap so I said yes, I can hear it is. Well, budgies always go *cheap* don't they? (*He shows the Audience the cage*) He's nice, isn't he?

Audience YES!

Kenny Well I'm going to keep him for *myself*. I found him on a telegraph wire telephoning — d'you know what he's called?

Audience Busby!

Kenny (*laughing*) Oooo, you are quick! He wants to come on the journey 'cos he thinks we're going to the Canary Islands! And he's very easy to look after. All he likes to eat is Shredded Tweet, Bird's Custard and then for afters this Pollyfilla. Now I know some sailor will try and pinch him, so will you look after him for me?

Audience Yes!

Kenny I was only born with two ears, so I'm a bit deaf. I can't hear you. *Will you look after him for me?*

Audience YES!

Kenny I know what I'll do. (*He crosses to DR corner*) I'll hang him up over here, out of harm's way. (*He puts the cage on a hook*) If anyone tries to nick my bird, will you shout "Busby"? (*He moves c*)

Audience YES!

Kenny We'll have a test. I'll pretend I'm someone else, not me. (*He stalks over to the cage*)

Audience Busby!

Kenny BEAUTIFUL! Mind you, I don't think anyone knows he's there. I don't think I need to bother with all this warning business, I mean, if I thought someone else would try and nick him I'd ...

Someone enters and tries to steal Busby

Audience BUSBY!

Kenny Getartoffit!

Kenny chases the person off

Thanks for looking after him. See you soon! Bye!

Kenny exits, waving

The Lights dim leaving a green spot DL

Blackpatch the Pirate enters to dramatic music

Blackpatch (*with a Bristol accent*) Arrrr! Good-mornin' to 'eeee, mateys! Well let's get one thing clear from the start. I'm Blackpatch the Pirate and you are a load of (*local name*) Wishwash! (*With a threatening roar*) Don't yer answer me back, mateys, or I'll come down here with me blunderbuss and blow yer brains out! (*He fires his pistol. It either has a "cracker tape"*)

in it or a gun is fired from off stage — either way, the effect is an anti-climax after his threat. Looking at the gun) I was hoping for more noise than that, me dears. I've just bought it down at *(local store)* and I've been swindled. *(He points to someone in the front row of the Audience)* Arr, Jim lad, I've been swindled and them as swindles Captain Blackpatch lives to regret it. *(To all the Audience)* Now mateys, a pirate needs three things: a blunderbuss, a cutlass and a parrot. *(Seeing the cage)* Well, polish me poop deck, there is a parrot!

As Blackpatch goes to the cage the Audience shouts "Busby"

Kenny runs on

Kenny Thanks, kids! *(to Blackpatch)* What d'you think you're doing, pinching my parrot? You stupid great ignorant oaf, you clumsy clod-hopper with ——

Blackpatch *(roaring)* Ooaarrargh!

Kenny *(terrified)* I'm sorry, sir, didn't mean it, sir, sorry, sorry.

Blackpatch You can help me, matey. *(Pointing to the ship)* Is that there ship about to sail?

Kenny *(in a very high voice)* Yes, matey. *(Clearing his throat and speaking with a very deep voice)* Yes, matey.

Blackpatch Is it by any chance going to the West Indies?

Kenny nods frantically

And is it by any chance going to far off Jamaica?

Kenny nods in terror again

That's two thousand nautical miles — *(condescendingly)* — knots to you.

Kenny Knots to you, too.

Blackpatch That means I must think of a way to start a mutiny on board. *(Pleased with the idea)* A mutiny! Tell me what you know about the Mutiny on the *Bounty*?

Kenny What?

Blackpatch Tell me about the *Bounty*!

Kenny Well it's made of coconut and it's covered in milk chocolate and ——

Blackpatch I'll cover you in milk chocolate if you start being bump-tious with me. And one last thing, matey, before you go. If you tells one soul that you've met me I'll *(prodding Kenny in the chest at each word)* have — your — guts — for — garters.

Kenny (*prodding Blackpatch back*) I — won't — tell — a — soul.

Blackpatch (*retreating*) Ooaarrargh!

Kenny (*retreating*) Yes, well, goodbye, nice meeting you, so long — oh — oh — err!

Kenny's retreats have got faster and faster and he now runs off stage in a panic

Blackpatch (*confidentially to the Audience*) I'll tell 'ee why I wants to know if that ship is bound for Jamaiccy. Near Jamaiccy lies a secret treasure! I've heard on the pirate grapevine that someone who's here in the London Docks is the sailor wot's got the treasure *chart*. BUT WHO IS HE, MATEYS? I must get that chart! Then I'll soon get the treasure because I'm not only a pirate ... (*He takes a book from his waistband*) I also dabbles in black magic and this 'ere is my magic book. You don't believe me, but listen 'ere, mateys! (*He opens the book and reads out the spell*)

“Abracadabra abracadee

Signs of the Zodiac one, two, three

Spirits of evil harken to me!”

Strange music begins and a spotlight comes up on a barrel by the upstage wings. A hideous black creeper starts to grow up several feet (nylon line)

Look mateys, deadly nightshade! (*He points to the creeper and calls out*)

Spirits of evil that we fear

Now make the flower disappear!

Strange music is heard again and the (weighted) creeper sinks down into the barrel

But I must away — I must depart!

'Cos I *must* find that there treasure chart!

Ha ha ha ha!

Blackpatch exits to “boos” from the Audience

Loud vaudeville music — to the “Sailor's Hornpipe” — heralds the entrance of Bill the Bosun and Ben the Mate

They are holding a cut-out of a small boat or canoe with “Blue Peter” written across its bow. The boat is only two feet deep so we can clearly see their legs as they march across the stage

Bill (*shouting*) Ship ahoy!

Ben (*shouting*) Come in, number nine! Come in, number nine! Your time's up!

Ben pushes the boat into the far wings while Bill addresses the audience

Bill (*with a naval salute*) I'm Barnacle Bill the Bosun!

Ben (*with a comedy salute, arm going round like a windmill*) And I'm Ben Dover the Mate! (*To the Audience, laughing*) Ben Dover! Isn't it a ridiculous name!

Bill (*importantly*) Yes, we're part of the crew of that ship over there. We're Bill and Ben —

Ben (*proudly*) The Flower Pot Men.

Bill (*sarcastically*) Why would a couple of sailors like us be Flower Pot Men?

Ben (*proudly*) Because we're potty!

Bill (*hitting Ben*) Will you shut up!

Ben Don't you hit me like that when I'm talking to my friends. (*To the Audience*) Well, folks, it's fabulous meeting you all like this. It's really nice and I just want to say —

Bill (*shouting at Ben*) Shut yer bilge pipe!

Ben I'm only —

Bill Batten yer hatches!

Ben But I haven't —

Bill Pull yourself together. If you don't watch it Captain Perkins won't take you on as Mate because as a sailor you are *useless!*

Ben I'm, I'm not, I'm *not!* (*He stamps his foot*)

Bill All right then, tell me about the ship over there. Go on, tell me about the bulwarks, the starboard and the port side.

Ben Port side? We're going to Egypt then?

Bill No we're *not* going to Egypt. Port side is on the *left!* Now tell me where the bulwarks are.

Ben The bulwarks?

Bill Yes, the bulwarks.

Ben Well, starboard is on the right, port side is on the left and in the middle there's a funny little hut for the cow.

Bill "A funny little hut for the cow"? What are you talking about — "A funny little hut for the cow".

Ben That's where the bull walks! Ha, ha, ha!

Bill Where the bull ... (*Reluctantly he explodes with laughter as well*) Ha, ha, ha!

Kenny enters as Bill and Ben are laughing

Kenny I'm surprised to see you two laughing — I thought you didn't want to go on this voyage?

Bill/Ben (*together*) We don't.

Kenny Then why did you join up?

Bill/Ben (*together*) Same reason as you!

They sing, and soon Kenny joins them, for

Song 2

The song includes a short dance

Kenny exits after the song

Ben happily sings a section of the song, unaccompanied. Then there is dramatic music and the Lights darken

Blackpatch enters, a green spot picking him up

Ben, looking at his feet, bumps into Blackpatch, and stops laughing. He puts out his hands and feels his way upwards, then sees Blackpatch's face

Ben (*with a little scream*) Aaaaah! It's Sweeney Todd!

Bill (*scared*) It's Blackpatch the Pirate!

Ben (*looking at Blackpatch in the green spotlight*) Is it? It looks like the Jolly Green Giant!

Blackpatch (*insulted and angry*) I am Blackpatch.

Ben Very pleased to meet you, Mr Backscratch.

Blackpatch (*roaring at him*) Blackpatch! Blackpatch!

Both All fall down!

Bill I'm Bill Barnacle, the Bosun and I'm looking for work.

Ben I'm Ben Dover, the Mate and I'm looking for a way to get out of here fast. (*He starts to move away*)

Bill (*pointing at Ben; sternly*) SITTT.

Ben sits like a dog and looks up at Bill with tongue out, panting loudly

And now ——

Ben Walkies!

Blackpatch Come 'ere.

Bill and Ben do not move

Come 'ere.

Bill and Ben take one big step towards Blackpatch

I want some information from you two drop-outs.

Bill/Ben (*together*) No!

Blackpatch draws his pistol and threatens them

Bill/Ben (*together*) Yes!

Blackpatch That boat over there — is she going to Jamaica?

Bill Yes!

Blackpatch Is she going to a desert island called ... Tobago?

Ben Lovely. Pour a bit of tinned fruit on it and it's smashing.

Blackpatch *Tobago.*

Ben I thought you said "Sago"! (*To the Audience*) I did! I thought he said —

Blackpatch One more word out of you and I'll blow yer right ear lobe. I've got quite a collection of right ear lobes that belongs to sailors as is cheeky to Cap'n Blackpatch.

Ben (*to the Audience*) Kinky!

Bill What do you wish us to do, O powerful one? O great and important pirate, O King of the Seven Seas?

Ben (*aside to Bill*) Creep!

Blackpatch You two are going to help me. You are going to do a dirty deed.

Ben I'm not doing a dirty deed. (*To the Audience*) Dirty deeds are naughty, aren't they.

Ben (*with the Audience*) Oh yes, they are.

Blackpatch (*to the Audience*) Silence! If you don't keep silent you won't hear the plot! (*To the two sailors*) I'm going to stow aboard Robinson Crusoe's ship and when we reach Tobago, I'm hoping to meet up with another ship — a pirate one!

Bill But where does the dirty deed come in?

Blackpatch You two are going to help me — you're going to become pirates.

Ben (*frightened*) Me, become a pirate?

Bill It's easy. You just take the oath.

Ben Where shall I take it?

Bill You don't take it anywhere.

Blackpatch You take the oath and you take it quick. Understand?

Ben (*nodding*) You mean, Quick Quaker Oats?

Bill (*hitting Ben*) Not oats, *oaththith.*

Ben Stop splashing me. (*He wipes his face*)

Blackpatch Take the oath. Repeat after me. (*Holding up his hand*) I swear —

Ben (*shocked*) I'm not going to swear!

Blackpatch (*sternly*) I swear —

Ben Damn.

Bill No, you've got to swear properly, like a proper pirate. Put your hand up

and say the wicked word.

Ben (*with his hand up*) Gym slips!

The "Pirate Swearing In" is called out quickly

Blackpatch Repeat after me. I hereby swear ——

Bill I hereby swear ——

Ben I hereby swear ——

Blackpatch That I will do dirty deeds ——

Bill That I will have dirty knees ——

Blackpatch And laugh at officialdom often ——

Bill And laugh at officialdom often ——

Ben And the Wombles of Wimbledon Common ——

Blackpatch To the best of my limited ability ——

Bill To the best of my limited ability ——

Ben To the best of my filleted debility ——

Blackpatch To be a crying disgrace and no good to anybody ——

Bill To be a crying disgrace and no good to anybody ——

Ben To be a frying shoelace and Little Noddy ——

Blackpatch So long live lucrative piracy! (*He spits on his hand*)

Bill So long live lucrative piracy —— (*He spits on his hand*)

Ben So long live Lulu and Chuck Berry!

Blackpatch And now ... cut your throat.

Ben Thank you, and good-night.

Blackpatch (*pleased*) Aaaarr! Ha-harrrr! Now you're a sworn pirate so what am I going to give 'ee?

Ben A bar of old Jamaiccy!

Blackpatch Now you is sworn in, I'll take you for a drink — come on. You understand your instructions?

Bill nods his head and recites

Bill When we are sailing out to sea

And spot the pirate boat

Blackpatch You're going to be a great help to me

If you're not — I'll cut yer throat!

Bill and Ben react with comedy terror

Oooooooooo — hahaha! Yo — ho!

Blackpatch exits

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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