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# Jolly Roger

## KING O' THE PIRATES

A Melodrama of the High Seas

By WAYNE MITCHELL, SHANE MITCHELL and ERIN DAGON

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 **Pioneer**  
**DRAMA SERVICE**

# **JOLLY ROGER**

King o' the Pirates

A Melodrama of the High Seas

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## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(In Order of Appearance)

	<u># of lines</u>
CAPTAIN CLEVERLY.....a hero	51
NATE.....his first mate	61
DICK.....an idiot seaman	40
LADY LOVEADUCK.....a shrew	34
MARGARET.....her vampish maid	21
JOLLY ROGER.....King of the Pirates	35
ANNABELLE.....his adopted daughter and first mate	23

## **SETTING**

TIME: The Age of Piracy.

PLACE: Aboard the good ship Albatross, 24,995 nautical miles west  
of Oyster Bay.

**JOLLY ROGER**  
King o' the Pirates

AT RISE: The Albatross is in pursuit of the pirate ship The Blue Walrus captained by Jolly Roger, scourge of the seas. The Albatross is seen from straight on with a poop deck rising above the main deck giving the stage a split level effect. *"Blow the Man Down"* IS PLAYING as the LIGHTS COME UP. CAPTAIN CLEVERLY, NATE and DICK ENTER.

**CLEVERLY:** Look sharp there, lads.

**NATE/DICK:** Aye, sir.

**CLEVERLY:** How far is it to Oyster Bay?

**NATE:** 24,995 nautical miles, Captain, sir.

**CLEVERLY:** That seems like an uncommonly long distance. Are you sure it's that far?

**DICK:** Aye, sir, the direction you're going. Of course, if you turned around it's only 11 miles.

**CLEVERLY:** Turn around?! Never! Why, if we turned around we'd lose sight of the Blue Walrus, the vessel of that scourge of the seven seas, Jolly Roger, King o' the Pirates. (OFFSTAGE SCREAM.)

**NATE:** Are we to engage him in battle then, sir?

**CLEVERLY:** Engage him in battle? Are you daft? He's the most dastardly cutthroat ever to sail the seas. He's evil!

**NATE/DICK:** Ooh!

**CLEVERLY:** He's wicked!

**NATE/DICK:** Ooh!

**CLEVERLY:** He's mean!

**NATE/DICK:** Ooh!

**CLEVERLY:** He's bad!

**NATE/DICK:** Ooh!

**CLEVERLY:** He's nasty!

**NATE/DICK:** Ooh!

**CLEVERLY:** And quite frankly...

**NATE/DICK:** Yes?

**CLEVERLY:** He terrifies me.

**NATE:** Then, if you don't mind me askin', Captain, if we don't want to catch Jolly Roger... (*OFFSTAGE SCREAM.*) why have we pursued him so closely for all these years? Never letting him out of our sight night or day? Following right behind him?

**CLEVERLY:** To keep him from catching us!

**DICK:** I'm afraid that you're going to have to explain that to me, sir.

**CLEVERLY:** Look, it's very simple. We're dealing with the most bloodthirsty buccaneer in history... right?

**NATE/DICK:** Right.

**CLEVERLY:** Which means we never want to fight him... right?

**NATE/DICK:** Right.

**CLEVERLY:** So we want to sail right behind him... right?

**NATE/DICK:** Wrong!

**CLEVERLY:** Why not? We don't want him sneaking up on us, do we?

**DICK:** No.

**CLEVERLY:** We want to stay as far away from him as we possibly can... right?

**NATE:** Aye!

**CLEVERLY:** Well, the farthest distance away from him is right behind him.

**NATE:** Are you sure, sir?

**CLEVERLY:** Of course I am! Look, if we stay right behind him then he'll have to sail all the way around the world to come up behind us. And that's not bloody likely because this is Lady Loveaduck's fastest ship. For him to be able to sail all the way around the world and catch us before we lost sight of him, he'd have to sail as fast as... a really... fast thing.

**NATE/DICK:** Hooray for Captain Cleverly.

**CLEVERLY:** Of course, this is all stuff and nonsense anyway. After

today we won't have to worry about pirates anymore because today is the big engagement!

**NATE:** Oh, well, that's a relief. But Captain, you just said that we weren't going to engage the pirates in battle.

**CLEVERLY:** Not us, you bootless barnacle... the Lady Loveaduck!

**DICK:** The Lady Loveaduck is going to engage the pirates in battle?

**CLEVERLY:** No, you nit! She's going to engage him in marriage. As you well know, when we were last in port we took on two passengers. What you did not know, until this very second, is that those two passengers are the Lady Loveaduck and her serving maid Margaret, traveling in disguise on a mission of utmost importance.

**NATE:** (*Aside.*) Ah, the fair Margaret. The mistress of my heart is aboard this ship. Oh, happy day!

**CLEVERLY:** You see, the Lady Loveaduck has become the betrothed of Jolly Roger, King o' the Pirates... (*OFFSTAGE SCREAM.*) in an attempt to bring peace to the land.

**DICK:** But we're at sea, sir.

**CLEVERLY:** Quiet! I'm on a roll! So, this very day the black-hearted devil comes on board this ship to sign articles of truce in exchange for the lady's hand in marriage and is bringing with him a most remarkable wedding gift. What is more, he has sent a message saying that if we do not properly honor the occasion by having this craft spit polished and shipshape, he's going to sink it to Davy Jones's locker! So, lads, I want this ship scrubbed top to bottom. Nate, you stay here. I want you to clean this main deck, swab the poop deck, scrub the mizzen mast, and polish that... one thing. Dick, you come with me.

**DICK:** Aye-aye, Skipper. (*CLEVERLY and DICK EXIT.*)

**NATE:** (*Mumbling to himself.*) Swab this, polish that, scrub the mizzen wizzer... (*Crosses to SIDE STAGE, picks up a mop and bucket and begins to clean the deck.*)

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** (*ENTERS.*) Nate, you lazy wretch, is that you?

**NATE:** Aye, ma'am. So it is. Beggin' your pardon, ma'am, I only just now learned that you were on board.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Well, whatever do you think you are doing?

**NATE:** I'm cleaning the main deck before I begin swabbin' the poop, ma'am.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** (*Shocked.*) The what?

**NATE:** The poop. It's the deck built above the main deck in the after part of the ship.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Oh, I see.

**NATE:** Why? What did you think I meant?

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Nothing. I'm just surprised that you call that scrubbing the deck. I should scrub the deck with your backside. I'd do a better job and finish in half the time.

**NATE:** I'm sorry, ma'am. I'll try harder.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** If you spent half the time working that you spend mooning over Margaret, this would be the most glorious ship in the realm!

**NATE:** But it already is the most glorious ship in the realm.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Fool! Don't you think I know that? But still, for these last eighteen years it hasn't been able to prevent my coastline from being pillaged by that black-hearted scoundrel Jolly Roger. (*OFFSTAGE SCREAM.*)

**NATE:** Aye, and with your husband and three children captured by pirates all those years ago, there is only Captain Cleverly to stand between you and certain doom.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** How true. (*Aside.*) And after that pirate ship was wrecked in a storm, my whole dear family was lost at sea and I have only this golden pinkie, which each of my family wore, to remember them by. (*Touches a chain around her neck and from which hangs—under her blouse—a golden pinkie [a small ring].*) And now to make matters worse, in order to save my lands I have to agree to marry that sweaty, hairy, vicious, bloodthirsty brute of a man. (*She begins to pant with excitement.*)

**NATE:** Madam? Are you all right?

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Quiet, you clown! It was only an attack of the vapors. Now, since today is my wedding day, I want you to go down to my quarters and fetch up my best bottles of wine.

**NATE:** (*Places mop and bucket SIDE STAGE and moves to leave.*) Yes, ma'am.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Oh, Nate. He's only a pirate. Make it my second best bottles.

**NATE:** (*Again moves to leave.*) Of course, mistress.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** But Nate, be sure to dust the bottles.

**NATE:** (*Moves to leave a third time.*) To be sure, m'lady.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Nate!

**NATE:** Yes, m'lady?

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** What are you still doing here? I told you to fetch the wine.

**NATE:** Right away. (*EXITS.*)

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** So hard to find good help these days. Speaking of help, where is that no-account Margaret? (*OFFSTAGE GIGGLING.*) I should have known better than to bring her aboard a ship full of sailors. Margaret! Margaret, come here at once.

**MARGARET:** (*ENTERS, still giggling.*) Yes, madam?

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** There are a hundred things to do here today and I have no intention of doing them all myself.

**MARGARET:** No, madam.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Is my wedding gown laid out?

**MARGARET:** Yes, madam.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** And my silver combs are all polished?

**MARGARET:** They sparkle, madam.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** What about my diamond tiara?

**MARGARET:** Fit for a queen, madam.

**LADY LOVEADUCK:** Well, you must have forgotten something. Remember it! (*LADY LOVEADUCK EXITS in a huff.*)

**MARGARET:** It's always Margaret this and Margaret that. I dream that some day a brave strong man will take me away from all of this. Well, I've known lots of handsome men but none have ever rescued me. Now, of course, there is Nate. I love him much more than the rest of the fellows, and I think he loves me back, but oh, he's just a simple sailor. He could never save me. Why, everyone knows that a real hero must be well bred and nobly born. Oh, well, I guess I'll just keep on dreaming.

**End of Script Sample**

## PRODUCTION NOTES

ONSTAGE: Mop, bucket, any optional items that give a seventeenth-century ship deck effect.

BROUGHT ON: Wine bottles (NATE); rolling pin (MARGARET); cutlass (JOLLY ROGER); necklace with golden pinkie [ring] (LADY LOVEADUCK, ANNABELLE, JOLLY ROGER, NATE, DICK).

### COSTUME

Clothing appropriate to maritime seventeenth-century.

### SOUNDS

Offstage scream, offstage giggle.

### MUSIC

*Blow the Man Down*; chase scene music.

### A NOTE ABOUT THE LOOK-ALIKES

At the discretion of the director, you may choose one of several ways of handling the look-alike characters. In the parts of NATE and JOLLY ROGER, and DICK and ANNABELLE, you may cast actors who resemble each other, or make them look alike with masks, makeup and/or costuming. When dressed as ANNABELLE, DICK should wear exaggerated feminine makeup.



# We hope you've enjoyed this script sample.

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