TREASURE ISLAND

BY

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

ADAPTED BY

BRYONY LAVERY

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TREASURE ISLAND was first performed on the Olivier stage of the National Theatre, London, England, on December 3, 2014. It was directed by Polly Findlay; the set design was by Lizzie Clachan; the lighting design was by Bruno Poet; the music was by Dan Jones and John Tams; the sound design was by Dan Jones; the fight direction was by Bret Yount; and the movement was by Jack Murphy. The cast was as follows:

JIM HAWKINS ....................................................... Patsy Ferran
GRANDMA ........................................................ Gillian Hanna
BILL BONES ......................................................... Aidan Kelly
DR. LIVESEY ..................................................... Helena Lymbery
SQUIRE TRELAWNEY/PARROT ....................... Nick Fletcher
MRS. CROSSLEY ................................................... Alexandra Maher
RED RUTH ......................................................... Heather Dutton
JOB ANDERSON ................................................ Raj Bajaj
SILENT SUE ....................................................... Lena Kaur
BLACK DOG ....................................................... Daniel Coonan
BLIND PEW ................................................. David Sterne
CAPTAIN SMOLLETT ....................................... Paul Dodds
LONG JOHN SILVER .......................................... Arthur Darvill
LUCKY MICKY .................................................. Jonathan Livingstone
JOAN THE GOAT ............................................. Clare-Louise Cordwell
ISRAEL HANDS ................................................ Angela de Castro
DICK THE DANDY .............................................. David Langham
KILLIGREW THE KIND ..................................... Alistair Parke
GEORGE BADGER ............................................... Oliver Birch
GREY ............................................................... Tim Samuels
BEN GUNN ....................................................... Joshua James
SHANTY MAN .................................................. Roger Wilson
PARROT .......................................................... Ben Thompson
CHARACTERS

Admiral Benbow Inn

JIM HAWKINS, JUNIOR—a teenage girl dressed like a boy
GRANDMA HAWKINS—a landlady
DOCTOR LIVESAY—a doctor and thinker
SQUIRE TRELAWNEY—a squire with a big mouth
MRS. CROSLEY—drinker and churchgoer
RED RUTH—future crew member
JOB ANDERSON—future crew member
LUCKY MICKY—future crew member
SHANTY BAND MAN—various singers and musicians

Visitors

BILL BONES—haunted villain
BLACK DOG—eight-fingered villain
BLIND PEW—blind villain

Crew of the Hispaniola …

CAPTAIN SMOLLETT—captain
LONG JOHN SILVER—one-legged cook, charmer, and villain
JOAN THE GOAT—headbutter
ISRAEL HANDS—clumsy Spaniard
DICK THE DANDY—pirate voguist
KILLIGREW THE KIND—gentle killer
GEORGE BADGER—malcontent
GREY—a grey, forgettable character
CAPTAIN FLINT—a parrot

Island Inhabitants

BEN GUNN—marooned cabin boy
Treasure:
1. wealth stored or accumulated, esp. in the form of precious metals, gold and silver coins
2. a store of anything valuable
3. anything valued and presented as precious
4. to hold or keep as precious

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.”

—John Donne
TREASURE ISLAND

1. An Inn…

Black Cove, South West England.
Above us, all the stars of the Northern Hemisphere in the incredible darkness of 18th-century England…
Under the sky… On the world’s edge…
Jim Hawkins, Junior… A teenage girl in boys’ attire… She sees the audience and …

JIM. Men various
Have chosen me to tell you
From beginning to end
Keeping nothing back but its bearings
All the particulars about Treasure Island…

Crows and rooks caw…
The bitter spiteful winter both my parents died
Before I could read this bright page above us
My old Grandma and I
GRANDMA. Not so much of the “old”!
JIM. …ran the Admiral Benbow Inn
Above Black Cove

A fire blazes into being…

GRANDMA. Head-in-Dreams!!!
Work!!!!
JIM. I hated work.

And Jim multi-tasks as…

Old, overused things break for her as…

On the very coldest of days
With no food in my belly
GRANDMA. Or in mine
JIM. The First arrived and the terrible dreams began

2. The First

*Arriving from a far distant perspective with a large sea chest…
Bill Bones…*

BONES. Don’t sing!

*But the terrible singing continues…*

Don’t sing in my head!!!

*Sees Jim.*

This is a pleasant-sittied grog shop, and a handy cove.
Much company, mate?
JIM. Precious little
BONES. What’s your name, swab?
JIM. Jim Hawkins, sir.
BONES. Be you boy or be you girl?
JIM. That be my business.
BONES. Then this be my business, take my sea chest and stow it safe.
This is the berth for me.

*Although a spectacularly old woman, Grandma lifts the heavy, huge sea chest with ease…*

GRANDMA. *Paying guest!!!*
Thank you, Heavens!!!
BONES. I’m Billy Bones. I’m a plain man. Rum, bacon, and eggs is what I want
and that head up there to watch the road thiswards, and ships arriving thatwards…
JIM. Yes, Mr. Bones
BONES. Yes, Captain
JIM. Yes, Captain
BONES. This…
He throws down three/four gold pieces…
For my vittles and grog. Jim Hawkins.
GRANDMA. And food for us, Jim!

Bones seizes Jim in a painful grip.
BONES. Tell me, if ye dare, when I’ve worked through
Keep a weather eye open always for a seafaring man with one leg
and let no thing at all near that chest!
He looks out to sea, along the road, everywhere…

JIM. Yes Captain!
BONES. Grog!
JIM. He stays.
He drinks
in all weather foul or fair.
From dawn’s earliest light
through all the long hard day to darkest night
we watch the road, the sea
like Hawks, like Eagles for a one-legged man …
so long so hard so afeared
I begin to see this one-legged ghoul in my dreams!
GRANDMA. Head-in-Clouds!
Paying Customers!!!
JIM. He stays
He drinks mightily and watches always for this one-legged seafaring
man who now lives in my nightmares!
I think how he might have lost his leg!!!!

Benbow customers become nightmare leg-choppers!
RED RUTH. Hold still!!!
FIRST UNLUCKY AMPUTEE. Aaaarrrgggghhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!
SECOND UNLUCKY AMPUTEE. Aaaarrrgggghhhhhhhhhhhhh!
THIRD UNLUCKY AMPUTEE. Aaaarrrgggghhhhhhhhhhhhh!
JIM. Or was always a monstrous kind of creature who never had
but one leg
And that in the middle of his body!

A terrible cart goes by with a man so configured.

GRANDMA. Jim! Folks is thirsty
Large brandy, Dr. Livesey? It’s medicinal…
DOCTOR. It’s not, Mrs. Hawkins… But yes.
GRANDMA. Brandy, BrainGone!
BONES. Sing me to distraction, would ye?
I’ll sing ye to distraction!
These landlubbers will drown your voices!!!
Sing!
“Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest
Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum…”

He takes out his knife.
Damn you all, sing or I’ll cut ye!
ALL CUSTOMERS. (Sing, bullied…)
“Drink and the devil had done for the rest—
Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum…”
SQUIRE. Stop that infernal racket!
I cannot hear myself drink!
BONES. Sing!
ALL CUSTOMERS.
“…and a bottle of rum…”
SQUIRE. Silence!
BONES. Sing!
SQUIRE. Silence!!!!

Some competitive fist-thumping, until Bones rises and crosses to stand over the Squire… Between them, with jug, Jim…

JIM. (Whispers.) Squire Trelawney was Black Cove’s most important fellow
BONES. I’ve lived my life among the wickedest men that God ever allowed on the sea… Do not cross me!
SQUIRE. Were you addressing me, sir?
BONES. I was addressing you sir!
SQUIRE. One word, sir, if you keep on drinking rum, the world will soon be quit of a very dirty rascal

Bones draws a huge knife. Puts it to Squire’s throat…

BONES. Sing!!!
SQUIRE.
“Fifteen men on a dead / man’s chest…”

Others join in …

“Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum…”

The Doctor erupts…
16M, 6W

It’s a dark, stormy night. The stars are out. Jim, the innkeeper’s granddaughter, opens the door to a terrifying stranger. At the old sailor’s feet sits a huge sea-chest, full of secrets. Jim invites him in—and her dangerous voyage begins. Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic tale of murder, money, and mutiny is brought to life in this thrilling adaptation.

“Jim Hawkins becomes a girl rebelling against gender roles in this imaginative adaptation, which keeps alive the wit and excitement of the book… it offers variations on Stevenson’s original without vandalising it… This version, like the book, is a tribute to the wit, honour and resourcefulness of children…” —The Guardian (US)

“…remarkable… Bryony Lavery’s sharply written adaptation makes Jim Hawkins a Jemima… and lights up the ambiguous centre of Robert Louis Stevenson’s story.” —The Observer (UK)

“Bryony Lavery [has] taken Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic pirate story by force, and given it quite the refit. TREASURE ISLAND boasts pace, daring, [and] gruesome comedy…” —Time Out (London)

Also by Bryony Lavery
FROZEN

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