

TREASURE ISLAND - THE PANTO

Production Dates

JANUARY 14th and 15th , and 21st and 22nd. Two weekends with a matinee on each Saturday – total 6 shows.

This is a break from our past traditions, and we hope, a change that will prove popular with members and audiences alike.

Auditions

The Henfield Hall - Monday September 6 and Thursday September 9 – both at 7.30pm.

(If you wish to audition but are unable to attend on either of these nights, please contact me direct.)

Rehearsals Mondays and Thursdays plus Sundays in later weeks. We do not intend to have rehearsals over the Christmas/New Year week.

Note: Trevor Hodgson (who is directing The Government Inspector) and I will be working closely together so that as many of you as possible can be in both shows if you wish..

Production Team so far

Director – Peter Ingledew

Assistant Director - Ian Henham

Musical Director – Dave Barnett

Choreographer – Karen Blunden (Music and Movement Lady)

Production Managers – Susanna Seaford and Diane Fuell

Set Design – Ian Henham

Costumes – Lyn Fryer

Lighting – Peter Sheppard

Sound – Sam Barnett

FOH manager – Lyn Sheppard

THE STORY

I'm sure most of you will know the story of Treasure Island from your childhood – back before the Boer War it was certainly a favourite of mine...

Well.... although this is a Panto version, the story is remarkably similar – give or take a bit of gender bending and cross dressing - but that's only to be expected in this day and age....and let's not forget the underlying theme of female emancipation – indeed, Henfield WI will be proud!

Or then again- maybe not...

So... the characters are all there – just not quite as we knew them..

Jim Hawkins and his mum, Squire Trelawney, Long John Silver, Billy Bones, Ben Gunn, The Admiral Benbow Inn, The Hispaniola.... only Blind Pew is missing – replaced by Seadog Sam and Seaweed Willy and also Squire T now has his beautiful daughter added for romantic purposes, members of the Smugglers Cove WI, and more scurvy pirates to make some sense of the revised plot!

In total there are 10-12 female and 10-12 male characters with lines.. Including Polly an aging Parrot – a unique replacement for the usual Pantomime Horse.

So we are unlikely to need extra chorus members to swell numbers..

In keeping with the Panto theme, we have the opportunity to cast Jim's mum as a traditional dame, and Jim could be a principal Boy – but in the spirit of our times, I've decided to open all parts to anyone who wants to have a go.. and may the best man (or woman) win!

6 of the characters I would describe as principals – Mrs Hawkins, Jim, Long John Silver, Squire Trelawney, Jenny Trelawney, Polly and Mrs Henderson, chair of the WI , but everyone is involved most of the time, and certainly in all the main musical numbers.

Unfortunately, as you will have noticed, there are no parts for young people under the age of 16 in this production, and we regret we can't find a way to change that – so my apologies..

We're anticipating that by January, we'll be more or less back to normal, the worst restrictions of the Pandemic will be over, and Henfield will be gagging for a show to make them stamp their feet and laugh out loud..

This is a great Panto with a strong story line, songs , slapstick, romance, and lots of nonsense to welcome the New Year in... don't miss it!

CHARACTERS and Audition pieces

Mrs Hawkins (Mum) - Jim's mum -Warm hearted, rumbustious (Possibly Dame) –

P2-5,P10,P54

Kittie – A maid (Scene1 only) ...any age - General

Jim Hawkins – Our young hero ... Teens – 30's (Possibly Principal Boy) – P7-8, P27-28, P54

Squire Trelawney – Slightly dim but nice... 40 – 60 - P6-7, P29-30, P54

Jenny Trelawney – The Squire's daughter, Feisty and adventurous ... Teens – 30's - P7-8, P27-28, P54

Seadog Sam – A pirate ... any age - General

Seaweed Willy – A nice pirate... any age - General

Billy Bones – A pirate who helps the plot along ... any age - General

**Long John Silver – Pirate leader and Panto Villain ... any age (ability to stand on one leg an advantage)
- P15-16, P28-29, P29-30, P51-52**

Blood Boiler – A ferocious pirate – any age - General

Gizzard Slitter – A very ferocious pirate ... any age - General

The Fridge – a very big, ferocious pirate ... any age - General

Polly – An elderly parrot ... any age to play 70-80 (male or female) – P15-16, P27-28, P28-29

Mrs Henderson – Chair of the Smuggler's Cove WI ...any age. – P19, P32-35,

Mrs Battersby – WI member... any age - General

Mrs Snook – WI member ... any age - General

Mrs Carter-Brown – WI member ... any age - General

Mrs Tubb – WI member ... any age - General

Mrs Dodd – WI member ... any age - General

Mrs Parker – Vice Chair of Smuggler's Cove WI ... any age - General

Mrs Normington (Doris) – Senior and independently minded member of WI ... any age - General

Ben Gunn – Shipwrecked Ship's photographer ... any age - General

Cap'n Bloodheart (Non speaking, Scene 9 only) ... any age - General

General pieces – PIRATES - P10-11, P15-18, P51-52

WI LADIES -P32-35, P47

It will be an open audition, and with the exception of the principal parts, all the other characters will be auditioned reading sections of *'general'* dialogue.

A copy of the full script is available here, so that you can familiarize yourself with the audition pieces. We have permission to tweak the dialogue, so expect some added 'local' references in the final edition!

We would like all members of the cast to participate in the musical numbers when they are on stage – so David will ask everybody to demonstrate their ability to sing in a group situation.

All principal parts will have solo numbers, so please bring along an audition piece that you are happy to sing.

It would be helpful for us to know which night you might audition, so please fill in the Audition reply form and make a note...