



TREASURE ISLAND: A VISUAL STORY

A visual resource to accompany today's relaxed performance.

This pack is designed to help familiarise you and your group / family with the story, characters and events of the show. It highlights moments of sudden action, lighting/sound changes, and explains the story to you as it unfolds.

Welcome!

We hope you enjoy our production of *Treasure Island*.

This visual guide can be read before the show. It tells you more about the play, so you will know what to expect during the performance.

How long does the play last?

Act One is 1 hour.

Act Two is 45 minutes.

There is one 20 minute interval.

The Set (what the stage looks like)

- When you arrive at the theatre, the auditorium lights will be on, so you can find your seat and see the stage. Ushers will help you find your seat if you are unsure where to go.
- Our theatre is in the round. This means that the stage is in the middle, and the audience sit all around the stage.
- The actors will use the whole theatre to help tell the story of *Treasure Island*. This means that the actors will sometimes appear on stage, or from the aisles, and in the audience.
- On the stage, you will see a large platform and staircase, with a band. Many of the actors will play the instruments in this band, which includes drums, a keyboard, a violin, a saxophone and an electric guitar! This band is quite loud and the music is often very fast and energetic, but lots of fun!
- On the stage, you will see some barrels, rocking chairs and a chess board. This is because the stage is already set for the first scene of *Treasure Island*, inside the Admiral Benbow Public House.
- The stage also has three trapdoors. We use trapdoors to help tell the story of *Treasure Island*, by bringing pieces of set up to the stage from underneath the floor.
- Above the stage is a large frame - this frame will move during the production so it sits at different heights. Sometimes the frame is high up, like at the beginning of the show, and sometimes it is on the floor. When it is in the middle, and waist height with the actors, it is designed to be the edge of the *Hispaniola* ship - at this height, the frame also sways, to help the actors set the scene and tell the story that they are on a moving boat.
- When the frame is at 'boat height', we will also lower some ropes from the ceiling. These ropes are designed to be the rigging on the ship. Actors will climb these ropes during the production as though they were climbing the sails of a ship!

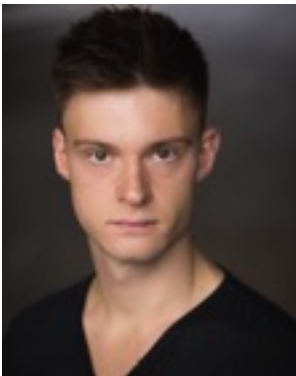
THE ACTORS

Here are pictures of all the actors you will see in the play. There is one picture of each actor out of costume, and two of them in costume. When our actors change character, they will change some of their costume too.

Owen Aaronovitch - BLIND PEW



Matthew Burns - ANDERSON



Andy Burse- SQUIRE TRELAWNEY



Gareth Cassidy - RED DOG



Ellen Chivers - DOCTOR LIVESEY



Nisa Cole - GEM HAWKINS



Richard Costello - CAPTAIN FLINT / CAPTAIN SMOLLETT



Jessica Dyas - MRS H / PARROT



William Pennington - BEN GUNN



Tom Peters - LONG JOHN SILVER



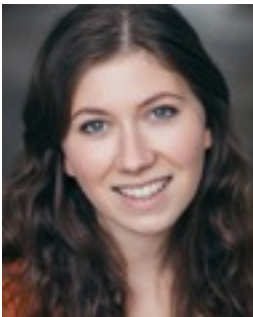
Lauryn Redding - DARBY MCGRAW



Leon Scott - ISRAEL HANDS



Eleanor Toms - ARROW



The Young Company

There are 24 young company actors in *Treasure Island*. The Young Company perform in teams of 8 and play lots of different roles, including tropical birds on the island!!



THE STYLE OF OUR PRODUCTION

Both the adult and young company play lots of different parts to tell the story of *Treasure Island*. All our adult actors also play lots and lots of musical instruments and sing, dance and fight too! This means *Treasure Island* is often quite a loud show!

Look out for this **blue star symbol** in the scene by scene guide, to see which scenes in *Treasure Island* have some loud and sudden noises, or surprising moments. The scene by scene guide will also give you more information about what these noises are, and where they come from.



On stage, there is a band set up above one of the entrances and exits. A lot of the music in *Treasure Island* is played live from here, (which is really exciting!) Look out for this **green music notes symbol** in the scene by scene guide to see which scenes have loud music, and energetic songs!



A very exciting part of our *Treasure Island* production is the projection! We will project moving images across the floor to help you, the audience, see Flint's map in lots of detail. This projection is a bit like a little film; it will move constantly, grow in size and then disappear as though it was never there. Sometimes it will stretch so it covers the whole floor of the stage, and at other times, it will stay in the middle of the frame. Look out for this **red triangle symbol** to see when the projection will appear on the stage.



Not all our characters get along in the story of *Treasure Island*! As Silver's pirate crew hunt for Captain Flint's map, and their treasure, they end up in several large fights with each other, and with Gem and her friends! These fights involve swords, guns and some loud sound effects. Don't worry - although they look dangerous, these fights are very safe! But look out for this **yellow square symbol** to see when the fights take place in the play.



The actors also like you to feel like you are part of Gem's journey. This means it might sometimes feel like they are talking to you from on stage. Our actors will also move through the audience, using the aisles and the promenade at the back of the seats to help tell the story. This means actors might be quite close to you - these moments are included in the story notes, so you can see when they happen.

STORY NOTES

These story notes describes what happens in the play. **Look out for the different coloured symbols above to see where fights, loud music, projection or other surprising moments will happen.** There are also some pictures throughout the story notes to help you see what the stage will look like, and how the set might change during the show.

ACT ONE

The stage will go a little bit darker at the beginning of the show, then Gem enters with other members of the cast. As Gem enters, we can see a sign swaying in the wind, up by the band - and a cello being played to sound like the sign is squeaking in the wind! Altogether, in one loud voice, the actors will tell us that this scene is set in 'The Admiral Benbow Public House!'



Here at the Admiral Benbow Public House, Mrs H (Gem's mother) likes to keep a 'quiet house, for quiet people'. Mrs H, Gem and her regular customers will **sing you a song** about the joys of living a quiet life. But just as Gem dreams of adventure, a ship and the chance to sail the wide open seas...



... a stranger suddenly appears! Nobody at the Admiral Benbow recognises this man. He throws Mrs H a gold coin (which is actually a really exciting magic trick!) which she catches. Everyone is excited, and a little bit scared, by this stranger. He asks Gem about her father, and tells Gem to keep an eye out for a "seafaring man" and to let him know the second she sees anybody suspicious. Before Gem has the chance to ask him any questions though, the stranger offers to buy everyone a drink and teach them a new song!



The **song is called 'Road to Hell'** and is very loud! It involves drums, an electric guitar and lots of loud singing - but the locals in the pub really love the song! And now they quite like the stranger too, especially as he has lots of interesting stories to tell them. For weeks and weeks he stays at the Admiral Benbow, eating bacon and eggs every day, and not paying Mrs H any more money...

Several months later, a new man arrives at the Admiral Benbow Inn. He runs in, and asks Gem if the table is set for “his mate, Bill?” Gem wonders if this man is the “seafaring man” the stranger told her to look out for, but she can’t be sure...

When the stranger arrives, and sees this new man waiting for him, it is clear they do know each other! The stranger is Captain Flint, and this new character is Red Dog. Gem pours them drinks, and is watching the two men argue, when they start to shout at each other! Red Dog wants to know where Captain Flint’s map is, and Flint is refusing to give it to him. **Suddenly, Red Dog and Captain Flint start to fight!** This fight is a big sword fight, and both Red Dog and Captain Flint get injured before Red Dog runs away. Scared he is seriously hurt, Gem calls for Doctor Livesey!.

Captain Flint asks Gem to bring him a small drink, despite the doctors advice to quit drinking rum! As she fetches him one glass, Flint sees a ghost in the corner of the room. We can see the ghost too, but Gem can’t. Flint tells Gem it’s his map they are after - and his fear that they will give him the black spot. Gem doesn’t know who Flint is really scared of, or what the black spot is, so Flint tells her. **The Black Spot is quite a loud song**, and as Flint sings, we see lots and lots of ghostly figures on stage, like the one in this picture.



Next, an old man arrives at the Admiral Benbow Inn - he tells Gem he is blind and asks for her help. When Gem goes to help him, he grabs her arm and threatens to break it, unless she lets him in. Gem does so, and the blind man throws Captain Flint the black spot on a piece of paper! As soon as the blind man leaves, Flint asks Gem to read the paper - it says 10 o’clock. Flint seems excited by this news, and makes to leave, before falling down dead on the floor!

Mrs H is furious that Flint has died in her inn, and without paying his bill! She decides to look through his belongings to see if she can find the money he owes her.

Flint has lots of interesting possessions, including a large bag of gold! As Mrs H looks at all the money, Gem looks at some old papers he had, and finds the most amazing map! **She shows the map to Mrs H, (and to all of us!)** Mrs H reads out the writing on the floor - “*Treasure Island!*”





Suddenly, there is a knocking at the door. Gem tells her mum about the black spot, the ghosts and 10 o'clock. Realising that the people at the door won't go away and that they are in danger, Mrs H tells Gem to take the map and run as fast as she can to Squire Trelawney.



Squire Trelawney and Doctor Livesey realise this map is **a treasure map**, and that Captain Flint was a pirate - Trelawney and Livesey decide to head to Liverpool Docks, buy a ship and set sail to find this treasure!

Liverpool Docks is a very busy place, but Squire Trelawney has found a ship called *The Hispaniola*, and a willing crew to join them on their voyage! Unfortunately, Squire Trelawney is not very good at remembering that the map needs to be a secret and keeps accidentally telling everyone that they are going after Flint's treasure, (something which greatly annoys Captain Smollett!)

Here at Liverpool docks, we meet the new crew of *The Hispaniola*; Israel Hands is sailing master, Darby McGraw is First Mate, Arrow and Anderson are crew and Long John Silver is the cook. Squire Trelawney is very taken with Silver's amazing cooking skills, and his wooden leg. Silver assures Doctor Livesey that he gets on very well at sea and the crew get ready to sail! Gem tries to join them, but Squire Trelawney tells her she must stay behind.



With a very loud whistle, **Darby McGraw begins to lead an exciting sailing song!**



Darby will make her way around the stage, so at certain moments, it might feel a little bit like she's singing directly to you! As the crew sing with her, the frame will begin to lower and the ropes will come down too - here, we build *The Hispaniola* ship! Squire Trelawney and Doctor Livesey are thrilled to finally be at sea and off on their treasure voyage! If only the Squire could remember that the treasure is meant to be a secret and stop telling everyone!



Doctor Livesey can hear something - and the noise is coming from inside a barrel. When Doctor and Squire Trelawney lift the lid off the barrel, Gem jumps out - she's climbed aboard the *Hispaniola*! They can't send her back, so Gem will have to pretend to be a cabin boy and join the *Hispaniola* crew!



As cabin boy, all the crew want to teach Gem how to work on a ship, and all of the special words sailors use to describe the boat. Gem is trying really hard to keep up with all of these new words and phrases - so they help teach her **by singing a loud song!** Gem absolutely loves being on the *Hispaniola* and even gets to climb the ratlines herself, all the way to the top!





The frame moves back up, along with the ropes, and Gem is now under the ship - in the galley, where the kitchen would be. Here she finds Long John Silver the cook, Israel Hands, Darby McGraw and Arrow, and learns that these crew members aboard the Hispaniola all know each other from previous voyages. Thrilled to be part of this exciting group, there is suddenly a strange noise from under a cloth. Darby tells Gem that Captain Flint completes their crew...but Gem knows Captain Flint is dead, so who (or what?) is making the strange noise underneath the cloth?



Gem doesn't want her new friends to think she's scared, so she lifts up the cloth and reveals a parrot! This parrot is a puppet, and comes alive when an actor performs with the puppet, making it move around the theatre and fly, as though it really was a beautiful bird!



Delighted to meet Captain Flint the parrot, but scared of revealing she knows about the real Captain Flint's secret treasure map, Gem must pretend she doesn't know who Captain Flint was. Shocked that Gem has never heard of the most famous pirate in the world, Silver and his friends **sing a very loud song about Captain Flint** and how bloodthirsty and scary this pirate was! There is a loud electric guitar in this song and Israel Hands will play the drums on some pots and pans! But the song is a lot of fun, and there is lots of dancing by all, including the parrot!



At the end of the song, Red Dog arrives - he thinks he recognises the cabin boy, but lucky for Gem, he doesn't realise it is the young girl he met at the Admiral Benbow Inn. Thinking about the fight she saw Red Dog have with Flint, she tells Silver she is pretty sure Red Dog is a bad man. But before she can explain, **the Hispaniola arrives at Treasure Island!**




Here, on the island, Gem can see tropical birds! These birds make their way down some of the aisles so might be quite close to you. But on stage they dance around Gem, and a big musical instrument which moves about the stage! At the end of the dance, the birds fly away and leave behind a new character! His name is Ben Gunn.





Ben Gunn has been marooned on this island for nine years - he's very excited to meet Gem, and desperate for some cheese! Gem doesn't have any cheese, but tells Ben Gunn that when she gets back to the ship, she will get him some and maybe Ben Gunn can leave the island and join them on their journey home. Ben Gunn asks Gem if this ship is Flint's ship. Gem reassures Ben Gunn that the pirate Captain Flint is dead, but when she tells him about the crew who are aboard the Hispaniola, including Silver the cook, Ben Gunn panics. Silver is not the cook, he

tells Gem, but Quartermaster and a very dangerous man and Ben Gunn used to be the cabin boy. But before Gem can find out anything else, Ben Gunn runs away.



Gem wants to run after Ben Gunn, but she hears voices - it is Silver and Anderson. Gem decides to hide and listen in on their conversation. Silver is talking to Anderson about Captain Flint, and Captain's Flint's pirate crew. When Anderson says he doesn't know anything about them, Flint's crew appear (in the aisles, and at the top of the setting bank, so the actors might be quite close to you!) Gem's friends and the crew of the Hispaniola are pirates, and were part of Flint's crew! Ben Gunn was right and Anderson is their newest recruit!





The pirates, thrilled at recruiting Anderson and thrilled that they are now here on Treasure Island, are persuaded by Silver to wait a little longer before they reveal their true intentions to Captain Smollett and take the map. As they **sing a loud song about their treasure** and dance around the island, Gem senses an opportunity to escape! But before she can get away, the parrot spots her - Gem runs for her life!


END OF ACT ONE

There will now be a 20 minute interval. During the interval, some musical instruments and two microphone stands will be set on stage. You will see a large drum kit! This is because Act Two has a big song to start the show!


ACT TWO



At the start of Act Two, the pirates will all come on stage and tell the audience that this is a "pirate takeover!" They will also **sing a very noisy song called 'Oh Fortune'** - during this song, the lights will go green to red to blue! And there is a lot of loud instruments, including an electric guitar and two drum kits! The pirates will sing this song out to the audience, so it might feel sometimes like they are singing right at you! But this song is a lot of fun - and the pirates really hope you enjoy it too!



At the end of the loud song, Squire Trelawney will appear at the top of the band and sing his own solo - as he does, the frame will lower from the ceiling all the way to the floor.



Suddenly, we hear Gem from the top of the audience say "I ran for my life!" Gem will run around the top of the audience and the lights will go quite dark on stage.



Gem sees Ben Gunn, runs through the audience and jumps inside the frame on stage - Squire Trelawney, Doctor Livesey and Captain Smollett are thrilled that they have found Flint's stockade; a hiding place Captain Flint built, and is full of food, drink (and a few weapons all pirates might need!) As they look around the stockade, the Doctor, Squire and Captain are introduced to Ben Gunn and Gem tells them that Silver and his crew are actually pirates!



Devastated that the crew of the Hispaniola are actually dangerous pirates, Gem and her friends are shocked to see Silver approaching the stockade with a flag of truce. Silver will make his way through the audience to try and negotiate with Gem and her friends - the pirates want Flint's treasure map, and in return, Gem and her friends will be able to leave the island, unharmed.

Gem and her friends refuse to give Silver and his pirate crew the map - so Captain Smollett tells them to all prepare to fight. Guns are loaded and swords are ready, and the pirates will all appear at the back of the audience ready to attack!



This fight might look really dangerous, but it is extremely safe, so don't worry! The pirates and Captain Smollett, Squire Trelawney and Doctor Livesey will pretend to fire their guns, but these are only props and the noise they make is a special sound effect. **As the pirates come down through the audience and onto the stage, they are ready with their swords to fight. This sword fight on stage involves lots of**



people fighting at once, so it looks very dramatic! But a bit like a big dance, this fight is very carefully staged and nothing will hurt you. **There is some loud music with this fight too** and at two moments, the lights will go blue and the fight will go into slow motion.




Despite being so outnumbered, Gem and her friends win the fight and the pirates run away, out through the audience. Captain Smollett has a broken shoulder blade and can't move. Doctor Livesey is helping him when they hear the whistle of a cannon! There is a sound effect to help us tell the story of a cannon being fired. This will happen twice.






Scared that they are still under attack, Gem decides to leave her friends and go to the Hispaniola to stop the pirates from shooting at her and her friends. There is a

big scene change here - the lights will go darker, and the frame will raise up slightly off the ground, and the ropes will fly in from the roof again to make the Hispaniola ship.





Gem arrives at the Hispaniola, where she sees Anderson lying on the ground and Israel Hands against the side of the ship. Anderson has died, and Israel Hands is injured. Sad that Anderson has lost his life, and angry that the crew have turned out to be pirates, Gem cuts down the pirate flag - it falls from the top of the ship to the stage, and she uses it to cover Anderson. Israel Hands tells Gem that he will help her sail the ship around the island, where Gem can hide the Hispaniola, and therefore save her friends!



As Gem sails the ship, Israel Hands suddenly grabs her! **They fight on the deck of the Hispaniola and on the ships rigging, climbing high up above the stage!** To try and escape Israel Hands, Gem swings from one side to the other and then points a gun at Israel Hands to put him under arrest! Israel Hands leans back and pretends to throw something at Gem - a little knife! Surprised by the pain, Gem accidentally fires her pistol and kills Israel Hands! He falls backwards from the rigging, and is safely caught by two ghostly figures (just like the one's Flint saw in the Admiral Benbow).



Gem climbs down from the rigging, which lifts up and out of the stage, and the frame will lower back to the ground. Four people covered by blankets enter the frame. Gem is heading back to her friends and the old stockade....



...but when Gem arrives, she is shocked to find Silver and his pirate crew, not her friends! Silver tells Gem that her friends have left her behind, and now she is all alone on the island, unless she joins with him and the pirates. Gem, determined not to become a pirate herself, tries to persuade Silver to surrender which Silver says he will consider. But furious that Silver isn't taking action and frustrated at their lack of leadership, Darby McGraw challenges Silver for the role of Captain. **The pirates sing a song about the articles of agreement all pirates must sign**, and Darby, Red Dog and Arrow throw Silver the dreaded black spot! Sensing that his leadership is under real threat, Gem and Silver become allies against the other pirates.



Just as it seems Silver is about to loose all control over his pirate crew, he reveals that he has Captain Flint's treasure map, **which we see moving all over the floor!** Persuaded that Silver is the best leader after all, Red Dog and Arrow are quick to promise their loyalty to Captain Silver, much to Darby's disappointment. Silver tells the pirates he will keep Gem alive, but only as their hostage, and in the morning, the pirate crew will set out to find their treasure!



The frame rises up off the stage and all the way to the top of the theatre, high above the ground. Grabbing spades, packing up their blankets and keeping tight hold of the map, Silver, Captain Flint the parrot, and the pirate crew make their way around the stage and off to find the treasure!



Just because the pirates now have the map, doesn't mean they find it easy to read! They stop to discuss the map, **which moves across the floor**, and argue about which direction they should be travelling in! Silver urges them to take their time, and the pirates continue to search for the treasure - the map leads them up through the aisles and around the back of the audience, so they might sometimes be quite close to you! **The pirates will also sing a song as they travel, all about their treasure!**



As the pirates come back down the aisle towards the stage, the trapdoor in the middle of the stage will open - it might look like a hole in the ground, but there are people underneath the stage making sure it is safe! **Some fast moving projection** and a skeleton will appear up through the trapdoor and onto the stage - the pirates can see the skeleton too! And they have some ideas about who it might be...



The skeleton is the remains of a member of their old crew, when Flint was Captain! His name was Allerdyce and the pirates are confused by his skeleton - why is it in such a strange position? Silver realises that the bones have been deliberately left in this way. This skeleton is a clue, and **after they consult the map**, the pirates realise his pointing finger shows them which way they should be travelling to find the treasure! But as they are about to leave, the pirates suddenly hear a very familiar voice...



Up above the audience in the balcony, and from the band, **we can see Ben Gunn and Captain Flint singing.** The pirates can only hear Captain Flint though! Knowing that Flint is dead, they panic, in case it is his ghost! Red Dog and Arrow

★ want to run away, but Silver can hear an echo to this ghostly sound. And the voice does sound like Flint, but it also sounds like someone else... together, Darby McGraw and Silver realise that this is not the ghost of Flint, but Ben Gunn! And no pirate is scared of Ben Gunn, whether he is dead or alive - so they head off up through the audience, and in search of the treasure!

★ As the pirates sing and move through the audience in search of the treasure, the trap on stage will open again and the skeleton will disappear... but nothing else appears. The pirates notice that there is an empty hole in the ground, an empty hole where all of this treasure should be!




★ Red Dog jumps into the hole and finds two golden guineas, not exactly the huge amount of exciting treasure the pirates were hunting for! Red Dog, Darby McGraw and Arrow are furious with Silver - and Darby decides to challenge Silver for the role of captain again. Her first job as leader will be to kill Long John Silver.



★ Darby makes Gem and Silver put their guns down, and **Darby and Silver begin to fight! Darby uses the shovel and Silver uses his crutch, as they fight for power and their lives. This fight is loud and can be quite scary, but it is very safe and nobody actually gets hurt!** Just as it looks like Darby will win, we hear two gunshots. These are only sound effects, and are very safe. Darby gets shot and falls on the floor, right by the hole where the treasure should be. Squire Trelawney and Doctor Livesey have shot Darby and saved Gem! As they run after Red Dog and Arrow, Silver shoots Darby and she pretends to die, falling into the trap!

★ Now all the pirates have either run away, or died, Silver is the only one left. He is shocked to see that Ben Gunn has survived nine whole years alone on this island, and even more shocked to learn that Ben Gunn dug up Flint's treasure all by himself and hid it in the caves, far away from its original place. For saving Gem's life, Captain Smollet decides to spare Silver, but he must remain alone on the island - just like Ben Gunn.

★ Ben Gunn shows Gem and his friends exactly where he buried the treasure - on stage, the actors will open the chests and reveal lots of sparkly fabric which looks like gold! Through the trap, a huge pile of golden coins will appear and in the aisles, members of the young company will collect even more gold fabric from the stage and carry it back up the aisles so the whole theatre looks like it is full of treasure!



Then, several golden coins will come down from the roof! These are only small and will stay on the stage, so don't worry, nothing will land on you! **The actors all sing a beautiful song about the treasure.**



Gem and her friends load all the treasure onto the Hispaniola - the fabric will be pulled down the aisles and through another trap which is open on stage, and disappear! We arrive back at Liverpool docks, where a very angry Mrs H is furious with Doctor and Squire for letting Gem go sailing around the world on such a dangerous voyage! But at least Ben Gunn is thrilled to see Mrs H and be off the island! Mrs H is shocked to see how much treasure there is - but she's an honest woman and demands that Gem and her friends take all the treasure back. They agree - this means another exciting voyage for Gem and her friends! The whole cast will sing an exciting song right at the end of the play!

This is the end of the play.

Thank you for coming!

We hope you enjoyed our production of *Treasure Island* and your visit to the New Vic Theatre!