



Treasure Island

Audience Guide

Baylor
Theatre

Ahooy!

Welcome to Baylor Theatre's production of *Treasure Island* written by Robert Louis Stevenson and adapted by Bryony Lavery. During this production, you will see the work of many students, staff, and faculty who make up our department's close-knit community of intellectually curious and artistically daring theatre-makers.

This show has a little bit of everything - singing, fighting, and dazzling scenic design. So many people have worked together, in the spirit of adventure and community that makes up the novel, to bring you this experience.



Anchors away!

P.S. Hidden throughout the lobby are crossbones like this, can you find them?

Suzi Elnaggar

MSA in Theatre Studies, 2022

Audience Guide Curated by
Suzi Elnaggar

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DeAnna Toten Beard

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Special Thanks to
Preston Kirk and La Vega ISD

Produced by

*Baylor
Theatre* 2

Index

A Word from the Director.....	4,5
The Novel	6,7
Robert Louis Stevenson.....	8
Bryony Lavery.....	8
Being a Pirate, an Actor's retrospective.....	9,10
Real Pirates of History.....	11,12
Making Of Captain Flint the Parrot.....	13,14
The Golden Age of Piracy	15
Making of Historical Costumes.....	16,17
Sea Shanties.....	18
Ship Terms.....	19

3 *An adventure for all awaits...*

Note from the Director

From the very beginning, this story of *Treasure Island* was about a great search. Under the pretext of a treasure hunt, I feel as though the real treasure for Jim Hawkins is finding the gift of the community she has surrounded herself with.



My director's concept was wrapped with **the idea of how we form community**, the support that it brings us, and that our personal presentation is dependent on the people we surround ourselves with. With this in mind, I was drawn to our provided map for clues of inspiration.

*So I may always find my pile.
Lat E 62 17 20 Long L E 19 3 40
will find the isle
The heart protected by the ribs
Who knows this will get his dibs*

*Upon it
If unfair of face
It's simple
Escalate the biggest pimple
Upon that spot I suggest you linger
Until you see a pointing finger*

The ribs! Our first clue to finding this treasure and I thought, reflecting on my own how the bones are wrapped around me as well as the treasure. The ribs main function in our body is to protect. They protect the

vital organs of the body including the lungs and heart, which are commonly referred to for breath and emotion. The ribs also maintain space and support. There are 12 ribs total and 3 dif-



ferent sections of your ribs. The first is the piece of bone that attaches to your spine, I thought about how for Jim, this is her base community. The people she's grown up amongst, the people that are there with her throughout the story and act as a positive support system. The second section of your ribs give you space, for Jim they are the world around her and take the most impact if you were to be harmed.

This felt like the pirates to me, exposing Jim to the different sides of the world and the impact the people surrounding you can have. Finally, the last section of the ribs is actually free floating toward the center front of your chest. This is the part of the ribs we most present to the world. I thought about how Jim has to decide for herself who she presents to the world.

Pirate or pirate hunter?

My concept quickly formed to a thematically appropriate skeleton's ribcage. And the idea of fleshing out bones, just as Jim is growing up and growing in her own perspective and experiences. It may have been a little on the nose, but it acted as such a support to us in thinking about where we fit in the world surrounding Jim Hawkins and **how we define community.**

"Fair Winds and a Following Sea"

Abigail Dillard

MFA in Directing, 2022



Treasure Island

the novel

Quick Facts

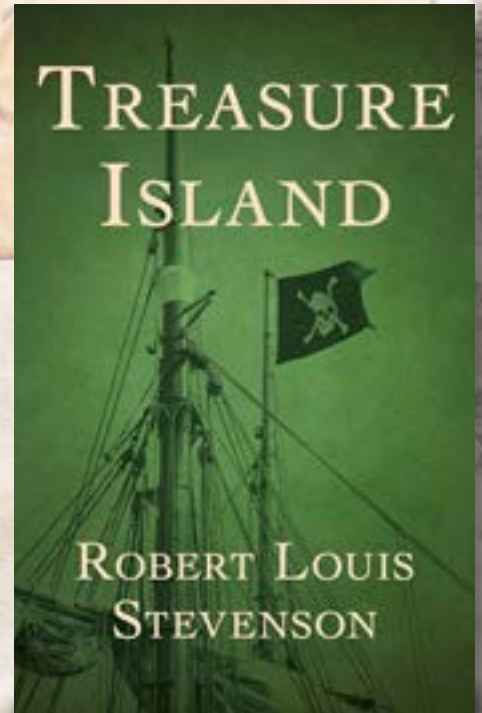
- ◇ Written under the pseudonym “Captain George North”
- ◇ Originally titled *The Sea Cook: A Story for Boys*
- ◇ Originally serialized as *Treasure Island, or the Mutiny of the Hispaniola*
- ◇ Published from October 1881 to January 1882
- ◇ Adventure Novel, Children’s Book

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson is one of the most beloved adventure novels from the Victorian era. Stevenson, who struggled with illness throughout his life, used several unique literary devices in the novel that captured readers imaginations.

First, Stevenson began the novel in a familiar, realistic setting (near Bristol, England) before bringing the characters on a **fantastical voyage with pirates and treasure**. However, very little of the facts that Stevenson created about pirates are accurate, but the grounding of the story in the English setting makes it feel real and historically accurate.

Another special detail that stood *Treasure Island* apart was **the inclusion of the map**. In some early editions, it even featured notes from Captain Flint and Bill Bones in different colored ink. This made the novel interactive, the readers felt like they too were searching for the treasure along with the hero, Jim.

Click the image
to read a virtual copy of the novel



Treasure Island is one of the most adapted novels of all time. Even beyond that, the influence of *Treasure Island* on the depiction of pirates in the popular imagination is far reaching.



From parrots to Pieces of Eight, to the Black Spot and one-legged men looking for gold and jewels the imagery of pirates written by Stevenson has become definitive of the genre.

Read a short review of the novel: [Historical Novel Society](#)

Themes from the novel



Adventure



Good



Evil



Fatherhood



Courage



Coming of Age



Deception



Treasure



Pirates

Robert Louis Stevenson

QUICK FACTS

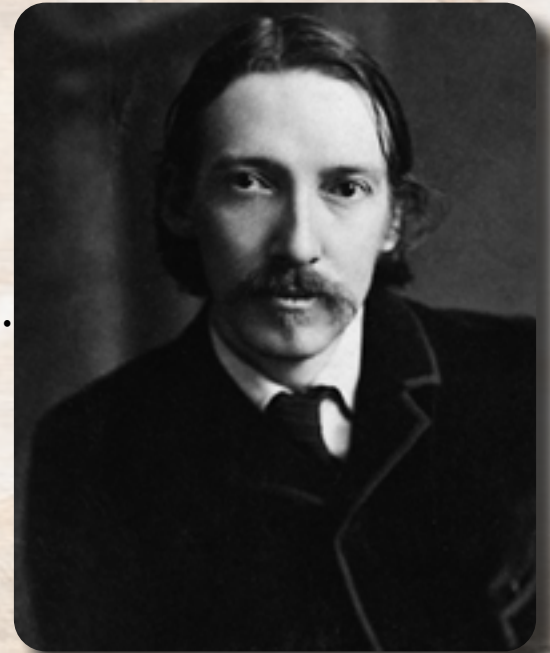
- ◇ Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson
- ◇ Born in Edinburgh, Scotland
- ◇ Lived Nov. 13 1850 - Dec. 3 1894
- ◇ Was sick with tuberculosis during his life.
- ◇ Lived in Samoa at the end of his life and had an unfinished masterpiece
The Beach of Falesá.

Most Famous Novels

Treasure Island

Kidnapped

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde



Click the image

visit <http://robert-louis-stevenson.org/>
Includes timeline, gallery, and much more

Bryony Lavery

QUICK FACTS

- ◇ Born in 1947 -
- ◇ Grew up in Dewsbury, England
- ◇ Known as a feminist and queer playwright.
- ◇ Founded the theatre companies *Les Oeufs Malades* and *Female Trouble*
- ◇ Has a unique writing style that includes choppy lines with distinct pauses that allow movement
- ◇ Has written over 15 adaptations

Most Famous Plays

Treasure Island

Frozen

Her Aching Heart



Being a Pirate



Miquela Lopez is a junior BFA Theatre Performance major at Baylor University. Her Baylor roles include the Old Pagan Woman in *Verma*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and most recently, Nina in *Airress*. Miquela plays Israel Hands in *Treasure Island*.

My character, the dynamic Israel Hands, was an exciting challenge to take on when cast in *Treasure Island*. I had never been given the opportunity before to speak in Spanish on stage, and now that was all I was doing for the show! **As a Hispanic woman, it meant the world to be able to dive in**

and create a character such as this. The challenge arose when finding the balance between historically accurate representation and an exaggerated fictional character. Characters like Inigo Montoya from *The Princess Bride* and Angelica from *Pirates of the Caribbean* helped inform my flamboyant character choices.

What you may not know is that **my version of Israel Hands was also inspired by a very real pirate.** Anne Bonny was the name and piracy was the game. Though Bonny was Irish rather than Spanish, she was also a woman who chose to disguise herself as a man and follow the pirate life. Israel Hands chose a fake mustache and pistol whereas Anne Bonny chose loose clothing and a sword. Bonny grew up being dressed as a boy to help earn money for her family, as options were limited for young girls. As she grew, so did her notorious reputation for a short temper, violence, and frequenting local taverns. Eventually she became a sailor and a fearsome pirate, dressing as a man when fighting with other ships.



Being a Pirate

Israel Hands is firm in her beliefs, in her Catholic faith, and her understanding that women can be just as fearsome as men. Although I personally would not recommend piracy to anyone, I grew to love Israel Hands and her story. I share Israel's desire for equality and her zeal for all she does, although I think I'll pass on the mustache. Israel Hands was forced to forge her own path to survive in the world, and it is because of real historical women with similar stories (like Anne Bonny) that I am able to express femininity and maintain power and dignity among my male colleagues. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to dive into this history and character... It was truly a *blast!*

Miquela Lopez
Israel Hands



Anne (left) is pictured here with companion Mary Reed.

Anne Bonny
aka Anne Cormac
(c.1698 -1782)

A red-haired Irish pirate, Anne is remembered by history as one of the fiercest female pirates. She is known for sailing

with Calico Jack and Mary Reed. All three were captured after a naval battle with the governor's forces. While Mary and Jack's deaths are recorded, Anne's fate is lost to history.

To read more about Anne Bonny, visit the link below:

[Smithsonian Magazine: If There's A Man Among Ye: The Tale Of Pirate Queens Anne Bonny And Mary Read](#)

Real Pirates of History

Were actual pirates like *Treasure Island*? While some pirates were white men -- many were people of color, women, or both. Pirate ships were sometimes more equitable than land. One thing is certain, **like Anne Bonny**, no matter the pirate's background, their stories were fascinating and varied.

[Excerpt from the Smithsonian Article] A surprising number of women ventured to sea, in many capacities; Anne herself was likely inspired by Grace O'Malley, whose fierce visage (she claimed her face was scarred after an attack by an eagle) became infamous. Still, female pirates remained an anomaly and perceived liability; Blackbeard, for one, banned women from his ship. Anne refused to be deterred by this sentiment. Upon joining Rackam's crew, she was said to have silenced a disparaging shipmate by stabbing him in the heart.

Blackbeard aka. Edward Teach Edward Thatch (c. 1680-1718) (pictured right)

A notorious English pirate (right) who sailed the Caribbean who is **the basis for characters in *Treasure Island***.



While pirates like Blackbeard might be infamous, for some piracy was a means of freedom and a better life. One of these people was a man known as "Black Caesar" **a formerly enslaved man who became a pirate** aboard Blackbeard's ship *The Queen Anne's Revenge*.

[Excerpt] During the "golden age" of piracy in the late 1600s and early 1700s, a pirate ship was one of the few places a black man could attain power and money in the Western Hemisphere. Some of these black pirates were fugitive slaves in the Caribbean or other coastal areas of the Americas. Others joined pirate crews when their slave ships or plantations were raided; it was often an easy choice between perpetual slavery and freedom through lawlessness. It is estimated that up to one-third of the 10,000 pirates during the golden age of piracy were former slaves.

Click here to read more [Black Pirates and the Tale of Black Caesar](#)



Real Pirates of History

Mary Read aka. Mark Read (c.1690-1721)
(pictured with Anne Bonny on page 10)

She was known, like Anne Bonny, for wearing long trousers, loose shirts and jackets, with handkerchiefs wrapped around her head. In addition to their memorable fashion, the women would wield both machetes and pistols, one in each hand, when they went into battle. An account said of them **“They were very active on board and wiling to do any Thing.”**



Click on the pirate to explore PirateGlossary.com to see more famous pirates of history

The most successful pirate in history...

Zheng Yi Sao aka Ching Shih (born Shi Yang)
(c. 1775-1844)

Born in poverty, she rose to become **the most fearsome pirate in the South China Sea**. These are just some of her accomplishments: she was known as the *Chinese Pirate Queen*, became the leader of the Red Flag Fleet, ruled the South China Sea, and defeated the Mandarin Army. After fighting the Portuguese Navy she accepted amnesty from the Chinese Emperor. She had several more children, remarried, and opened a brothel. Died in her sleep at age 69.

pictured left, undated.

Read more about her life [History of Yesterday](#)
Watch a video about her on [Epic Moments in History](#)



Making of... Captain Flint The Parrot

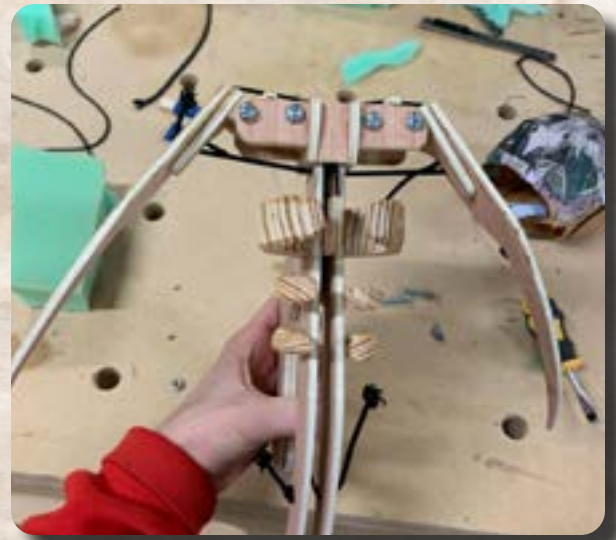


TK Stevens is a Junior BA theatre arts, baylor business fellows, and BBA economics major from South Bend, Indiana. He last served as the Assistant Properties Supervisor for Footloose, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, and Much Ado About Nothing.

He is the Properties Supervisor for Treasure Island.

I began designing Captain Edward Flint (or Eddie, as we call him) back in October. I started by researching parrots in the wild, studying how they move and interact with the world. I looked at their anatomy and noted how their bones move and fit together.

From there I narrowed my design into a puppet with **two core mechanisms: The head and the wings.** My main focus was on the wings. They went through lots of different phases; first, I just messed around with cardboard and string, moving the pieces around until it worked correctly. I then moved through several different versions of the wooden mechanism before landing on the final product. It's a simple mechanism, where the trigger pulls back and the wings flap up, but it had to be troubleshooted a lot to achieve an organic looking flap.



Once I refined that part, Shelby and I worked together on the feathering. We knew that if we used the right materials, we could achieve some beautiful passive movement to further mimic actual wings. We spent lots of days cutting different strips of fabric and attaching them, and in the end **it looks pretty magical!**



Making of... Captain Flint The Parrot

Helping to build Eddie [the parrot] was without a doubt one of my favorite projects at Baylor Theatre. It was an incredible experience to build from the ground up such a mischievous and zany character.

My roles on this project were to build the head mechanism for the parrot puppet and decorate his body. After TK

communicated his vision to me, I got to work on the head. I first started with

some light study of parrot anatomy to get the basic idea of what the “skeleton” of the puppet should look like.



After TK built the wing mechanism, I also helped to pad up the body with upholstery foam to give it dimension and a more realistic parrot body look. To decorate the body, we had the idea to use fabric strips to give the parrot lots of movement so that it would be whimsical and eye catching,. We wanted the parrot to look a part of the world, so using frayed, roughed up fabrics seemed the most ‘piratey’. I built the legs out of twine to give the appearance that they were made of rope, and used inspiration pictures to achieve a realistic paint on the face.

Overall, this entire experience has been beyond magical, fulfilling, and immensely memorable. We hope you will enjoy the show, and be transported to a wonderful world of pirates, fencing, and squawking parrots!!

Shelby Lynn Adams is a senior from West, Texas.

*She is a properties/puppetry-centric theatre artisan. Most recently, She had the privilege to act as props supervisor for the Baylor Theatre productions of *Uninetown* and *Airress*.*

*Shelby is the Assistant Properties Supervisor for *Treasure Island*.*



The Golden Age of Piracy

1716-1726

This period is estimated by some scholars to be only about ten years in the 18th century.

This period captured the Victorian imagination and is the period in which author Robert Louis Stevenson set *Treasure Island*.



Piracy created a worldwide crisis, some historians estimate that there were about 5,000 -10,000 total pirates roaming. When you compare this to the average navy of a European country which might have 10,000 sailors total, it becomes even more clear what a problem pirates could cause.

Pirates disrupted global shipping patterns and robbed merchant vessels during a time shipping was the main (and sometimes only) means to conduct international trade. Because of this, pirates became a common enemy of many governments. A worldwide campaign was launched to capture and hang pirates. However, many common people saw pirates as Robin Hood type figures and would even help break them out of jails.

What's in a name?

Pirate is the most general of the four terms. Originating with the Greek *peiratēs*, meaning brigand, it can be applied to a wide range of nautical misbehavior, including coastal raiding and intercepting ships on high seas.

Privateer - A privateer was a pirate with papers.

Buccaneer - Specific to the Caribbean and the Pacific coast of Central America

Derived from the French boucan (a grill for smoking meat.)

Corsair - Corsairs were essentially privateers, although the term corsair carried an added religious connotation because the conflict was between Muslim and Christian powers.

To read more, [Pirates, Privateers, Corsairs, Buccaneers: What's The Difference?](#)

Making of... Historical Costumes



Jim's Design

When beginning the costume design for *Treasure Island*, I took inspiration from Abigail, the director, when she was talking about her idea for the show. She wanted it to be **exciting and a call to adventure for everyone**. I played with the idea of excitement and how I could show that in the costumes. I ended up starting the story in a poor world with dull and muted colors. Then while the pirates are introduced, we get to see these fun characters paired with pops of color that get to excite Jim and the audience as we set out on our grand adventure.

Continuing this same idea, Jim's costume becomes brighter blue through the course of the show. She starts off as a young girl who has never had much opportunity for adventure, and as she grows and learns more about the world, **she also becomes a stronger, bolder young lady**.



Making of... Historical Costumes

Grey's Design



My personally favorite character in this show is Grey. He is such a funny character and offers so many moments for humor.

Part of his character is being forgotten; so, I wanted to make his blend in and be unseen. In order to achieve this, I tried to find **pieces that matched the set of the ship**. He has the warm wood tones, and even a belt that looks like the rope of the ship.

Squire and Captain Smollet's Design

The Squire and Captain's relationship is a battle for power, that I rather enjoyed during my first few readthroughs of the script. Squire thinks he is in charge because of his money, but in actuality **it is the Captain that has real experience** and mans the ship. I really loved the possibility to heighten the playfulness of their interactions. I decided that I wanted both of them in the same color palette. Except, the Captain would look powerful and put together, while Squire looks dorkier.

Working on the costumes for this show was intense, but I had a good team to help me reach my goals, and we had fun along the way!

Christina Vargas is from Houston, Texas. She is a senior Design and Technology major with a focus in costuming, and an Art Studio minor. She was the assistant costume designer for Baylor Theatre's Last Night at Ballyhoo and Rhinoceros and the costume designer for Baylor Theatre's Urinetown.

She is the costume designer for Treasure Island.



Sea Shanties



Bright Morning Star A-Rising
Bright Morning Star A-Rising
Bright Morning Star A-Rising
Day Is A-Breaking In My Soul

Oh Where Are My Dear Sisters?
Oh Where Are My Dear Brothers?
Oh Where Are My Dear Brethren?
Day Is A-Breaking In My Soul



Click to watch "The Music Theory of TikTok Sea Shanties"

Music was a huge part of sailing, and sea shanties are part of the glue that held the community together. These shanties are a type of work song; the sailors could use the rhythm to help get themselves through monotonous or difficult work. In our production, sea shanties are used for the set changes - a different type of work.

[Excerpt]We often found a great difference in the effect of the different songs in driving in the hides. Two or three songs would be tried, one after the other, with no effect;—not an inch could be got upon the tackles—when a new song, struck up, seemed to hit the humor of the moment, and drove the tackles “two blocks” at once. “Heave round hearty!” “Heave round hearty!” “Captain gone ashore!” and the like, might do for common pulls, but in an emergency, when we wanted a heavy, “raise-the-dead” pull, which should start the beams of the ship, there was nothing like “Time for us to go!” “Round the corner,” or “Hurrah! hurrah! my hearty bullies!”

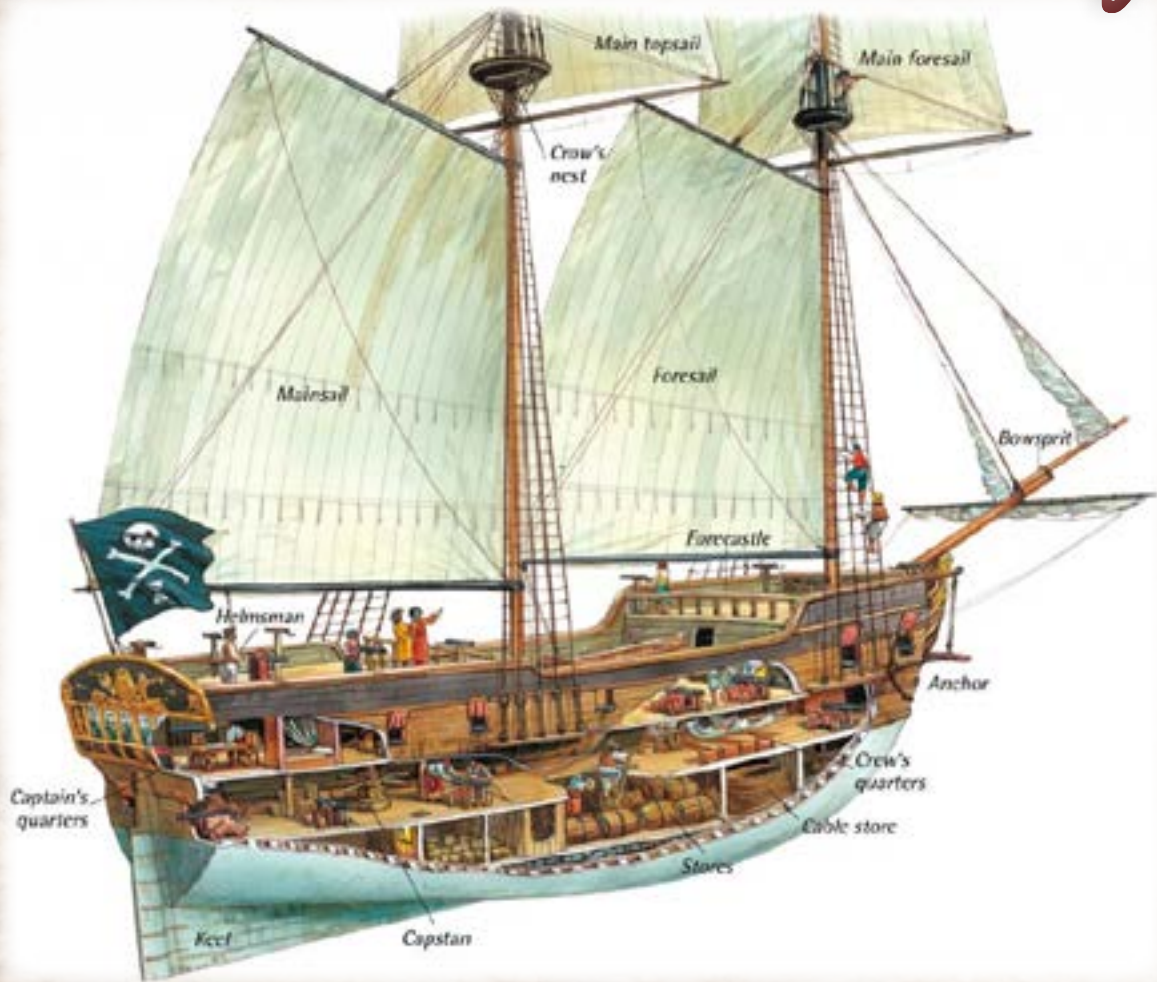
from Two Years Before The Mast and Twenty Four Years After (Harvard, 1909)

To read more about the history of sea shanties, click here [Shady Isle Pirate Society](#)



Love the Music? Click the headphones to listen to a selected spotify playlist of shanties heard during the show.

Ship Terms & Flags



Need Directions?

The right side of the ship is **starboard**, and the left is **port**.
To the front of the boat is **the bow** and the direction is **forward**, and
towards the back is **the stern** and the direction is **aft**.

Did all pirates fly the Jolly Roger? Actually, pirates used a variety of flags, but the Jolly Roger is the one that has been popularized by movies and novels like *Treasure Island*.



Read more about pirate flags, [Why Did Pirates Fly The Jolly Roger - Scientific America](#)

[Click on the pirate to explore the anatomy of a ship.](#)