

How I Became a Pirate

by Janet Yates Vogt & Marck Friedman
Based on a book by Mellinda Long

Directed by Maria Chattin-Carter
Musical Direction by Michael Huseman

Co-producers Marie Tingle, Mark & Pam Bracher,
Justin & Lynda Gilbert



The Cast

Jeremy Jacob.....	Mason Carter, <i>East Ridge Middle</i>
Braid Beard.....	Noah Phillips, <i>CSAS</i>
Swill the Pirate.....	Jared Palmgren, <i>Grace Academy</i>
Sharktooth the Pirate.....	Will Hunt, <i>McCallie</i>
Pirate Pierre.....	Augusta Westhoff, <i>St. Jude</i>
Max the Pirate.....	Sarah Cox, <i>East Ridge High</i>
Pirate Seymour Braunschwagger.....	John Gilbert, <i>Nolan Elementary</i>
Pirate Scurvy Dog.....	Sophie Lyle, <i>Signal Mtn Mid/High</i>

Production Staff

Stage Manager.....	Miya Scruggs, <i>CCA</i>
Sound Engineer	Pattie Davenport
Lighting Technician	Kyla Downs

About the Director

Maria Chatten-Carter: This is Maria's tenth season as Youth Theatre Director. Her production of *Pinocchio Commedia* in 2003 garnered several awards from the Tennessee Theatre Association. Maria has also directed *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *The Outsiders* and *Number the Stars*. Maria has appeared in several productions including: *Baby With the Bath Water*, *Noises Off*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *The Last Leaf*, and, *Stop Kiss* here at CTC. She has worked in the Education and Outreach Department of The Chattanooga Theatre Centre, and also at several other theatre and educational institutions including Baylor School. She received her BFA in Theatre from Stephens College in Missouri. She has three children: Mason, Addison, and Clayton.

From the Director

I'm so excited about directing How I Became a Pirate. When I first saw this show at the Tennessee Theatre Association's Children's Theatre Festival a couple of years ago, my first thought was "that's a fun show." And it has been a very fun show to direct and watch evolve from the beginning. The characters are so colorful and full of energy. The songs are catchy. I've really had fun with stepping into the play each night as if to step into the pages of a book. The cast of this show has been so much fun to work with. Each one of them bring a different element to the play, much like their characters do to the story. I think the lesson I learn most from this show is adventure is great and a lot of fun but there is no place like going home and being with your family. I hope everyone enjoys their time as a pirate while watching this amazing cast.

Acknowledgments

Warren Brady, Nancy Anderson, Tom Wall, the cast and crew

**Check out these other plays for young audiences
at The Chattanooga Theatre Centre**

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May 10-19

The | Play

30 words in 30 minutes

May 3 - 18

The Chattanooga Theatre Centre Staff

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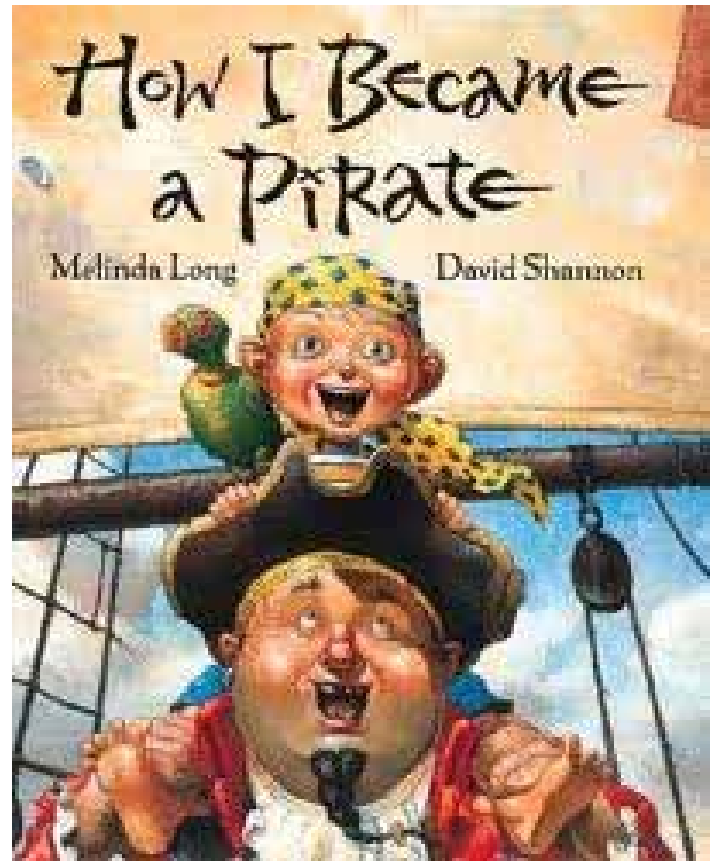
Education Director - Chuck Tuttle
Youth Theatre Director - Maria Chattin-Carter
Technical Director/Master Carpenter - Warren Brady
Artistic Director - Scott Dunlap

About...

Melinda Long

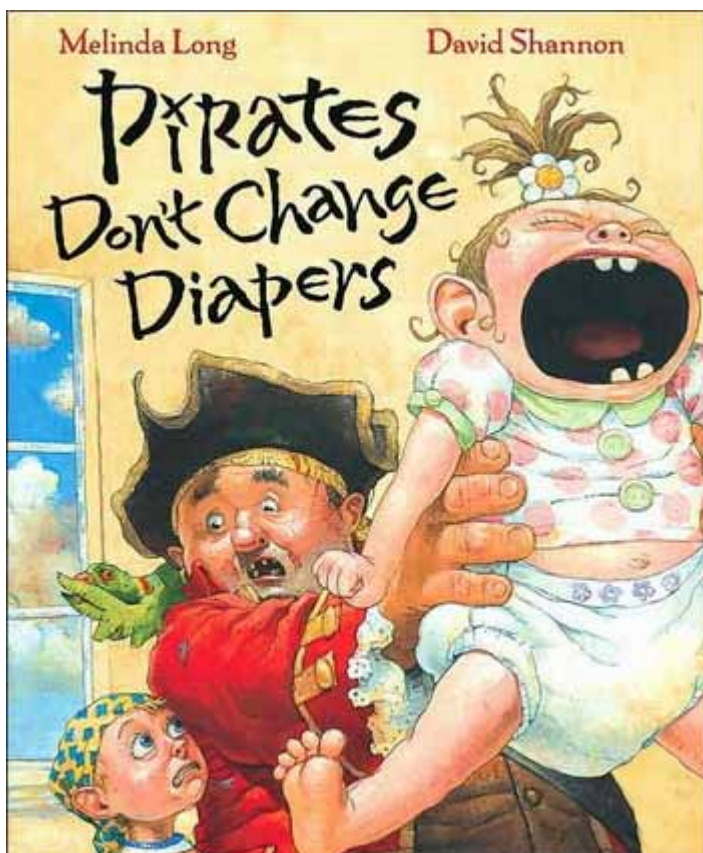
Melinda Long, the author of the book *How I Became a Pirate*, started writing when she was only in the first grade. She started writing when her Mom suggested that it might help cure her awful case of boredom. She even wrote one of her very first stories on a typewriter. It took her almost twelve years of applying for publication before anyone ever bought her first book.

Melinda is a middle school teacher but she also enjoys acting in and directing plays, while also visiting schools to meet the students who have read her book and been a part of the musical inspired by it. Melinda even has a blog where she writes about all of the teachers and students she visits, and there are tons of fun pictures of all those teachers and students dressed up like pirates. One last fun fact, her favorite cartoon character is Spongebob.



David Shannon

David Shannon also started at a young age. He wrote and illustrated his first book at the age of five. He graduated from an arts college and continued to draw and write. While Melinda says many ideas come from a simple catchy line or her own imagination, David says that many of his books and drawings are based on his own life and people he know. He even wrote one book based on all the animal noises his daughter made before she learned how to talk. He lives with his daughter, wife, and dog Fergus in Los Angeles. He also illustrated a book where instead of getting the chicken pox, a girl gets a bad case of the stripes. Usually David says that he writes the book before he draws the pictures, but with *The Bad Case of the Stripes* he actually drew the pictures first and then the story came together. When it comes to *How I Became a Pirate* he says that he enjoyed giving each of the pirates their own personality and that he and his daughter even named each individual pirate



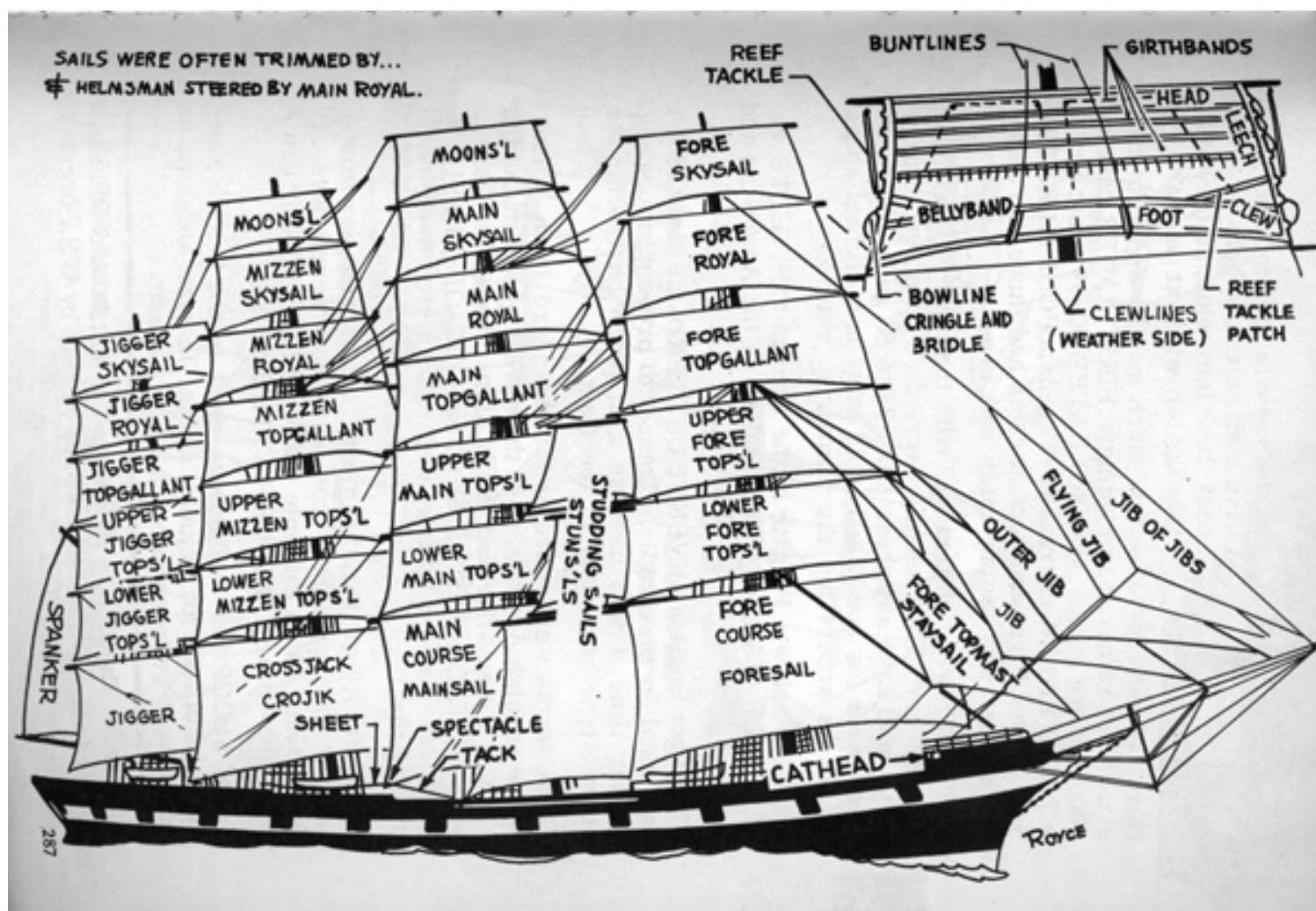
Sailing the Tall Ships

Whether pirate, privateer, or merchantman, it was a hardy lot that took to the sea. Long hours, horrid weather and bad food plagued every sea journey. Here are just a few of the travails of the common seaman:

Food: Because there was no refrigeration, meals consisted of food that would not spoil on the long voyages: salted meats so hard the crew sometimes made small boxes out of it. This would often be mixed into a stew with hard tack and dried peas.

Work: Common seamen worked long hours keeping the sails trimmed and the rigging from fouling. This was a constant battle. With the many masts, sails and lines, one bad move could damage the rigging or worse, the ship.

Weather: Ships sailed in all weather and seamen had to keep them on an even keel no matter the seas. Heavy winds could bring waves large enough to overcome the ship. Even worse were days and weeks with no wind. Those who sailed around Cape Horn would face freezing weather. Most seamen of this sort carried scars on their fingers where the ropes froze to their hands and ripped the skin off when removed.



Diagram

“Power Moby-Dick: the Online Annotation. <http://www.powermobydick.com/Moby143.html>

Nautical Terms in common use

Life at sea has had a profound influence on our language. Here are a few terms that come from sailing vessels and their crews

As the Crow Flies ~

When lost or unsure of their position in coastal waters, ships would release a caged crow. The crow would fly straight towards the nearest land thus giving the vessel some sort of a navigational fix. The tallest lookout platform on a ship came to be known as the crow's nest.

Leeway ~

The weather side of a ship is the side from which the wind is blowing. The Lee side is the side of the ship sheltered from the wind. A lee shore is a shore that is downwind of a ship. If a ship does not have enough "leeway" it is in danger of being driven onto the shore.

Windfall ~

A sudden unexpected rush of wind from a mountainous shore which allowed a ship more leeway.

Footloose ~

The bottom portion of a sail is called the foot. If it is not secured, it is footloose and it dances randomly in the wind.

Groggy ~

In 1740, British Admiral Vernon (whose nickname was "Old Grogram" for the cloak of grogram which he wore) ordered that the sailors' daily ration of rum be diluted with water. The men called the mixture "grog". A sailor who drank too much grog was "groggy".

Pooped ~

The poop is the stern section of a ship and higher than the main deck. To be pooped is to be swamped wave high enough to clear the poop deck..

Overreach ~

If a ship holds a tack course too long, it has overreached its turning point and the distance it must travel to reach its next tack point is increased.

Rummage Sale ~

From the French "arrimage" meaning ship's cargo. Damaged cargo was sold at a rummage sale.

Mind your P's and Q's ~

Some taverns extended credit to sailors. A chalkboard with headings of "P" for pints and "Q" for quarts was checked off next to the seaman's name. The tally was kept 'til payday.

Sources

Graf, William. "Nautical Origins of Some Common Expressions." Fort Ogden.com. Fort Ogden Design, Jan. 22, 2012. Web. March 28, 2013

Wilbur, C. Keith. Tall Ships of the World. The Globe Pequot Press, Old Saybrook, CT, 1986.



Yo Ho, Yo Ho A Pirates Life

Piracy has been around as long as cargo has been transported by ships but the golden age of pirates is the mid-eighteenth to early nineteenth century along the Atlantic coast of the Americas, the Caribbean sea and the coast of Africa. The pirate century was started as a way for the large sea powers, Spain, England and France, to fight each other without a direct battle. These soon-to-be pirates started as “privateers,” ships sanctioned and licensed by the crown to raid and plunder coastal towns and ships of the wealth they plundered from the natives of the Americas. When peace was made, the privateers were no longer needed but continued with their livelihood. Most were eventually caught and hung, but some retired and lived full lives.

Articles of Agreement

Most pirate ships were the model of democracy with the rights and responsibilities clearly spelled out. Here is a typical Article of Agreement:

- Every man had a voice in all affairs
- Every man had equal title to all fresh provisions and strong liquors seized.
- Captain and Quartermaster received two shares in a prize. Sailing Master, Boatswain, and Gunner receive one-and-one-half shares. Other officers one-and-one-quarter shares. Sailors, one share. If one lost a limb or became a cripple in the common service, one received more of a share.
- No gaming for money at cards or dice at sea.
- Lights and candles out before 8 o'clock. Any drinking done after 8 o'clock must be done on open decks
- Every man must keep his gun, pistol, and cutlass clean and ready for service. If he did not, he would be cut from his share and suffer such punishment as the captain saw fit.
- To desert the ship or abandon quarters in time of battle was punished by death or marooning. The marooned was usually given a bottle of water and some powder, shot and a pistol.
- If someone cheated the company of an article of value, he would be punished by marooning.
- If robbery took place between two crewmen, the guilty one had his nose and ears split and would be marooned.
- No women were allowed on board. If any man carried a woman on board disguised, he would be put to death.
- No striking another on board ship. every man's quarrel would be settled on shore with sword and pistol. Quartermaster would accompany both to shore. The disputants were set back to back at 20 paces. At the command, they turn and fire immediately. If both miss, they take up their cutlasses.

Source

“Articles of Agreement.” The New England Pirate Museum. <http://www.piratemuseum.com/edagreem.htm>

Famous Pirates

Henry Morgan - Born in 1630 to a Welsh farmer, he worked as an indentured servant in Barbados. After serving his time, he joined a group of French and English privateers who attacked Spanish gold ships. After a successful career plundering the Spanish new world, peace was declared between England and Spain. At Spain's insistence, Morgan was taken to England for trial. There, he was knighted and returned to Jamaica in 1674 as its Lieutenant governor.

Blackbeard, A.K.A. Edward Drummond, A.K.A. Edward Teach or Edward Thatch - Born in Bristol in the late 1600s, he became a privateer for England during the War of Spanish Succession. Like many privateers of the time, when a peace treaty was signed Teach turned to piracy. The Name "Blackbeard" came from his enormous black beard, which he would braid and, during battle, fit with lighted fuses. Blackbeard's weapon of choice was fear and there is some controversy as to whether ever harmed his captives. Blackbeard finally met his end in a battle with a couple of British navy sloops under the command of Lieutenant Robert Maynard.

Black Bart, A.K.A. Bartholomew Roberts- Born 1682 was a seasoned sailor when he became a privateer during the War of Spanish Succession. His turn to piracy when he was forced into the crew of famed pirate Howel Davis. At Davis' death, Roberts was elected captain by the crew and given the name "Black Bart." He was one of the most successful pirates in history, taking more than 400 ships in his four years as captain. He was killed in an exchange with the British Navy off the western Africa.

Anne Bonny - The most famous of female pirates, Bonny was the daughter of a an Irish lawyer who, after some shady dealings, moved to the Carolinas and bought a plantation. After marrying pirate James Bonny, she caught the eye of Jack Rackham (AKA Calico Jack). The two ran away together and cut a swath of terror and destruction. Dressed in men's clothing Bonny became one of the most ruthless pirates to said the seas. She was captured in a fight with a Navy sloop when her crew was too drunk to fight. Sentenced to hang, she received a stay because of pregnancy. There is no record of her ever being hanged and it is speculated that her father use his influence to get her released.

Captain Kidd, A.K.A. William Kidd - Born in Scotland in 1685 Kidd took to the sea at an early age. He came from a wealthy family and became a respected merchant in New York who became a privateer to secure the sea route to the East Indies. He soon turned to piracy and, upon returning to New York was arrest and sent to England for trial. There, he was hanged and his rotting carcass was hung by the Thames River as a warning against piracy.

Jean Lafitte - Born in France in 1780, Lafitte was commissions as a privateer to raid Spanish ships in the Caribbean. He and his brother Pierre established a base at Barrataria, near New Orleans. During the War of 1812, the British tried to buy his help in the war. But he through his support behind the United States and helped General Andrew Jackson defeat the British at the Battle of New Orleans in 1814. He continued to raid along the Gulf Coast and was forced from the area by the American Navy. Later, he was offered a privateering commission to the Colombian Navy where he continued to raid and plunder Spanish merchant ships. Off the coast of Honduras he met his end when he engaged two merchant ships that turned out to be heavily armed.

Sources

Mulder, Kenneth W. Piracy: Days of Long Ago. Mulder Enterprises, Tampa FL: 1998.

Ossian, Rob. "Rob Ossian's Pirate's Cove." <http://www.thepirateking.com/index.htm>

Wikipedia. "List of Pirates." Wikipedia Foundation. March 21, 2013. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_pirates

Famous Pirates Word Search

E R F N A G R O M Y R N E H
T I Y R E V E Y R N E H K E
T D Z W M U U W Q Y K O Y D
I T Y M X Q W W G Y Q A Y U
F R Z M Q D E K H O Z D R O
A A P Q N A L K E U E K C V
L B B D D I K N I A T P A C
N K W E T S A M O H T W F W
A C N D R U Z I F O M Q Q V
E A B L A C K B E A R D V J
J L Z I Z Y T A Z R F U F D
H B A N N E B O N N Y G O O
G C U F V F M N T U R Q J X
D T B R M A R Y R E A D A E

Anne Bonny

Black Bart

Blackbeard

Captain Kidd

Henry Every

Henry Morgan

Jean Lafitte

Mary Read

Thomas Tew

Teacher Evaluation Form

How I Became a Pirate

School _____ Grade _____

Please indicate your answers to the following questions by circling the appropriate number or giving a short explanation.

1. Did your students appear to understand what was happening in the play?

Did not
1 2 3 4 Did
5

2. Did any portion(s) of the play seem to confuse them?

Y N (If yes, please identify.)

3. Did your students seem attentive most of the time?

Did not
1 2 3 4 Did
5

4. What segment(s) seemed to lose your students' attention?

5. Did your students discuss the play freely after seeing it?

Did not
1 2 3 4 Did
5

6. How meaningful was this experience (in an educative sense) to your class?

Not very
1 2 3 4 Very
5

7. How does this production compare with other CTC productions you have seen?

None seen Worse 1 2 Equal 3 4 Better
5

8. How does this production compare to other theatres' programs you have seen?

None seen Worse 1 2 Equal 3 4 Better
5

9. Did you find this study guide helpful?

Did not
1 2 3 4 Did
5

10. What is your overall rating of this production?

Poor
1 2 3 4 Excellent
5

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Please return it to:

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