

The Captain and the Crab

by
Members of
the Young People's Theater Workshop

HOW TO WRITE A MUSICAL
June 2008

This is the first scene and song in a 10-minute musical conceived and written by a group of students ages 15-18. It was written, rehearsed and performed over the course of one week.

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Red-Blooded Men: CREW

As the CREW prepares to sail, the CAPTAIN takes out a camcorder and begins filming himself.

CAPTAIN

(to CAMERA)

Day 1. This is the first installment in the video documentation of my voyage. I'm captain of this humble ship, the Southern Belle and they call me Barnacle Bob. I begin my journey at port here in Great Bear Alaska, where I've hired the finest crab fishermen for my crew. Our goal: to at last, unveil the greatest mystery of the sea. Today we set sail on our quest for the Giant Crab!

CREW

WE'VE COME TO SEEK OUT OUR DESTINY
DESPITE WHAT PERILS MAY BE
WE SAY GOODBYE TO OUR FAMILIES
AND GIVE OURSELVES TO THE SEA

CAPTAIN

Day 26. Spirits are high as we press on toward the mighty crab. Legend states that the beast resides in the "Iconic Reef".

CREW

OVER MILES AND MILES OF WINDS AND WAVES

CAPTAIN

I believe I've succeeded in calculating its location.

CREW

FROM DUSK WE SAIL UNTIL DAWN

CAPTAIN

Our progress towards the reef has been steady.

CREW

THE SEA IS CHURNING AND FAST, MY FRIENDS

CAPTAIN

The crew remains optimistic.

CREW

TIE DOWN THE SAILS TO THE MAST, MY FRIENDS
FOR STILL "THE BELLE" PRESSES ON.

CAPTAIN

Day 52. Today we stopped in a small island port city called Utila. We replenished our water and food supply. Unfortunately, a pair of exotic girls from the village took a liking to Salty Sam and offered him some native rum.

The poor fool accepted and followed them back to their home so we were forced to press on, leaving one man behind.

CREW

THOUGH THE JOURNEY SOMETIMES FEELS LUDICROUS
THE CAPTAIN SEEMS WELL OFF COURSE
YOU'LL FIND YOUR STRUGGLES PAY OFF AT LAST!
SO HOIST THE RIGGING UP!

CAPTAIN

Let's go, men!

CREW

LASH THE BALLAST DOWN!

CAPTAIN

The crab awaits!

CREW

WE SAIL TO VICTORY!
HEAVE, HO!
GRAB ON TO THE ANCHOR LINE
LET YOURSELF BE A MAN AGAIN
AND THROUGH EVERY WAVE, EVERY GALE
STILL WE STAY, STILL WE SAIL
ON AND ON
IT'S THE LIFE FOR US RED-BLOODED MEN!

CAPTAIN

Day 83. Earlier this morning my crew and I received the news we've been waiting for. A trustworthy source has informed me that he spotted the crab just off the stern of our ship. Even though I've not seen him myself, I am reassured in my goal. The crew's spirits are lifted for they see the end in sight and I know destiny is at hand.

CREW

AS WE SAIL TOWARD THE ICONIC REEF.

CAPTAIN

Day 88. We were beguiled into allowing a stranger to come aboard the ship.

CREW

THOUGH OUR FORTUNES TURN FOR THE WORSE.

CAPTAIN

He misguided us and as a consequence we have experienced a great loss of hope.

CREW

THERE'S AN EVIL WIND AND IT BLOWS NO GOOD.

CAPTAIN

The crew and I are vulnerable now but I will not allow them to become discouraged.

CREW

IT'S THE LEAST OF EVERYTHING WE'VE WITHSTOOD.

CAPTAIN

We're getting close to the crab.

CREW

WE CAN'T LOSE SIGHT OF OUR GOAL.

CAPTAIN

I can feel it in my bones.

CREW

WE CAN'T ABANDON OUR ROLE.

CAPTAIN

We will emerge victorious!

CREW

WE ARE THE SOUTHERN BELLE.
ON WITH A YELL AND A HEAVE, HO!
GRAB ON TO THE ANCHOR LINE
LET YOURSELF BE A MAN AGAIN
AND THROUGH EVERY WAVE, EVERY GALE
STILL WE STAY, STILL WE SAIL
ON AND ON
IT'S THE LIFE FOR US RED-BLOODED MEN!

CAPTAIN

Day 113.

CREW

HEAVE HO!

CAPTAIN

I fear that our troubles are far from over.

CREW

HEAVE HO!

CAPTAIN

I've been watching the skies and I sense that there's a storm coming

CREW

HEAVE HO!

CAPTAIN

Or worse... we're heading right for it.

CREW

OH OH OH.
OH OH OH.
OH OH OH.
OH OH OH.

CREW

(simultaneous with above;
various)

Men, batten down. A storm's brewing. The wind's picking up!
Secure the hatches. Lock up the hold, sailor. It's a whopper.
Man your posts! All hands on deck.

CAPTAIN

Hunker down, boys. This like to be a biggen.

CREW

HEAVE, HO!
GRAB ON TO THE ANCHOR LINE
LET YOURSELF BE A MAN AGAIN
AND THROUGH EVERY WAVE, EVERY GALE
STILL WE STAY, STILL WE SAIL ON AND ON.
WE SAIL ON AND ON.

CREW

(various)

The galley's flooding! Watch the ballast! Hard to port! Look
out for the aft-mast! Watch the deck!

CREW

WE ARE THE SOUTHERN BELLE.
ONWARD THROUGH HELL WITH A HEAVE HO!
GRAB ON TO THE ANCHOR LINE
LET YOURSELF BE A MAN AGAIN
AND THROUGH EVERY WAVE, EVERY GALE
STILL WE STAY, STILL WE SAIL
ON AND ON
ON AND ON
ON AND ON
ON AND ON

CAPTAIN

(simultaneous with above)

Hold fast! The worst is passing! We've almost made it! I can
see it! I can it!

CAPTAIN

The Iconic Reef. One last push, boys!

CREW

IT'S THE LIFE FOR US RED-BLOODED MEN!