plastic pirates – by niki davies

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| **Narrators** | **Sea Creatures** |
| *Narrator 1* – Robin | *Tara Turtle*- Jess |
| *Narrator 2*- Somto | *Tiny Turtle*- Ziyannah |
| *Narrator 3* – Lottie | *Timmy Turtle*- Charlie |
| *Narrator 4* – Mason | *Larry Lobster*- Chace |
| *Narrator 5* – Maisie-Lou | *Lucy Lobster*- Hanna |
| **Pirates** | *Freddie Fish*- Jack |
| *Captain Clingfilm*- Bobby | *Fiona Fish*- Piper |
| *Polly Styrene*- Amber | *Dr Olga Octopus*- Cayden |
| *Gunner Grim*- Oliver | *Nurse Neap Tide*- Shajpreet |
| *Percy Patch* – Omreyansh | *Nurse Starfish*- Bella-Rose |
| *Quartermaster Quinn*- Ella-Grace | *Ollie Octopus*- Noah |
| *Barnacle Bill* – Luca | *Jade Jellyfish*- Frankie |
| *Rosie Redbeard* – Emma | *Jemma Jellyfish*- Ghaytha |
| *Salty Sid* – Isabela | *Carson Crab*- Henry |
| *Sabre Sue* – Tanishi | *Steven Starfish*- Darren |
| *Hilda Hawkeye*- Ruby | *Spencer Starfish*- Gurvansh |
| *Canon Kate* – Harveen | *Sammy Seagull-* Christopher |
| *Cutlass Clare* – Maisie | *Sonny Seagull*- Pasha |
| *Pirate Peg*- Aidan | **Posh Passengers** |
| *Bessie Browntooth*- Savannah | *Cecil Da-Ville*- Rafael |
|  | *Portia Blemont*- Sahibpreet |
|  | *Prunella Vanderbilt*- Mia |

SCENE ONE

All the pirates are gathered, filling the stage. They act out hoisting the sails, moving the tiller etc. Some are in dramatic pose looking ahead to the distance, with flat hands above eyes.

Q’master Quinn Hoist the mainsail!

Cutlass Clare Helm a starboard!

Cannon Kate Set all sail!

Salty Sid Full sail ahead!

Instrumental (**Pirate Code - Interlude**) plays whilst the pirates continue as before. At the end of the instrumental, they pause.

Narrator 1 (to the audience) Welcome, me hearties, to a story of the seas, where ships set sail and pirates roam free.

Narrator 2 May I introduce you to Captain Clingfilm and his trusty parrot, Polly Styrene.

Captain Clingfilm steps forward wearing one enormous plastic earring. He bellows at the pirates.

Captain Clingfilm Get to it, you band of barnacles!

Polly Styrene (directed loudly at the pirates) Band of barnacles, band of barnacles!

The parrot follows the sailors around, gesticulating orders with her wings.

Captain Clingfilm Scrub the deck!

Polly Styrene Scrub the deck!

The pirates spring into action again to scrub the deck and undertake various other jobs.

Narrator 2 (to the audience) Well, landlubbers, the day has come. After much merriment down the Jolly Jellyfish, our pirates have taken to the high seas. But there is still a strict code to be observed on a pirate ship.

Narrator 1 All pirates must follow the Pirate Code. And if they don’t …

Quartermaster Quinn steps forward, speaking to the other pirates.

Q’master Quinn If ye agree to all aspects of the pirate code, ye may sail on the Plastic Pearl.

Gunner Grim And what if I don’t?

Q’master Quinn Then it’s the plank for you, Gunner Grim!

Polly waddles swiftly up to Gunner Grim.

Polly Styrene The plank, the plank, walk the plank!

Gunner Grim looks defiant.

Captain Clingfilm Well you set of scallops.

Polly Styrene (loudly, to the pirates) Set of scallops!

Captain Clingfilm Let’s see if you can remember what the pirate code is? Cannon Kate!

Cannon Kate Be smelly and dirty at all times, Cap’n.

The pirates grin widely and look particularly pleased with themselves.

Everyone Aye, be smelly and dirty!

Captain Clingfilm Rosie Redbeard.

Rosie Redbeard Burp at least three times a day.

Hilda Hawkeye lets out a burp. Everyone laughs.

Rosie Redbeard You be one of us, Hilda Hawkeye!

Captain Clingfilm Percy Patch.

Percy Patch Scowl and growl as often as possible.

Everyone Arrrr! Arrrr!

Captain Clingfilm You’ve missed two out, you miserable molluscs!

Polly Styrene (loudly at the pirates) Miserable molluscs!

The pirates look around at each other, shrugging their shoulders.

Captain Clingfilm Are you listening?

Short pause as all pirates lean dramatically towards the captain, listening intently.

Captain Clingfilm Don’t argue with the captain!

Polly Styrene Don’t argue with the captain!

Everyone shakes their head profusely.

Pirates No Cap’n / certainly not Cap’n, etc.

Captain Clingfilm And don’t argue with the parrot!

Polly Styrene Parrot, parrot, don’t argue with the parrot!

All look round at each other with bewilderment.

Percy Patch But it’s just a bird!

Polly waddles up threateningly to face Percy, wings outstretched.

Percy Patch Okay, okay, don’t argue with the parrot.

Captain Clingfilm Be that plain enough for you?

Pirates (shout) Aye, Cap’n!

Captain Clingfilm Any questions?

Pirates No, Cap’n!

Captain Clingfilm Do we honour the pirate code?

Pirates Aye, Cap’n, we honour the pirate code!

THE PIRATE CODE

We never change our socks, oh no,

It’s part of the pirate code.

We want to be proper pirates

When we’re sailing round the globe.

Following the code, yo, ho, ho,

It’s the rules, it’s what we know.

Following the code, yo, ho, ho,

Following the pirate code, ARRR!

Following the pirate code.

We never clean our teeth, oh no

It’s part of the pirate code.

We like to be quite laid back

And simply going with the flow

Following the code, yo, ho, ho,

It’s the rules, it’s what we know.

Following the code, yo, ho, ho,

Following the pirate code, ARRR!

Following the pirate code.

Do what the parrot tells you to

It’s part of the pirate code.

Or you can expect her temper

And she’ll send you down below

Following the code, yo, ho, ho,

It’s the rules, it’s what we know.

Following the code, yo, ho, ho,

Following the pirate code, ARRR!

Following the pirate code.

Following the code, yo, ho, ho,

It’s the rules, it’s what we know.

Following the code, yo, ho, ho,

Following the pirate code, ARRR!

Following the pirate code.

ARRR!

With most of the jobs now done, the pirates settle down and start admiring various plastic items, perhaps showing large plastic jewellery items to each other, deciding on which eye patch to wear, polishing buckets and plastic bottles etc.

Narrator 3 So maties, that’s all settled then. With the pirate code established, our intrepid pirates have left the port for the high seas.

Narrator 4 But there is something that hasn’t been made at all clear yet. Avast!

The narrator pauses and raises an index finger towards audience to make a point.

Narrator 4 These are no ordinary pirates.

Narrator 5 (to Narrator 4) Do they have table manners?

Narrator 4 Like most pirates, they have none.

Narrator 3 Are they smelly?

Narrator 4 They certainly are.

Narrator 5 Do they plunder and pillage?

Narrator 4 They certainly do.

Narrator 3 Do they love gold and silver and precious jewels?

Narrator 4 No! Not in the least bit interested!

Narrator 5 (with surprise) Not interested in gold and silver and precious jewels!

Narrator 4 No, Captain Clingfilm and his crew only have eyes for one type of booty.

Bessie Browntooth steps forward displaying her brightly coloured shoes.

Bessie B Have you seen these, Sabre Sue? Best plastic. Got them from the last plunder.

Sabre Sue Not as good as this though.

She reveals an enormous plastic necklace around her neck.

Sabre Sue And have you seen the captain’s latest earring? Very flashy. Eighteen carat plastic I believe.

Narrator 4 Well, me hearties, let’s have a look around. Do you see what I see? Everything aboard the Plastic Pearl is made from plastic. The crew’s shoes and boots, their coats, the peg legs and patches and the captain’s hat. Plates, bowls, bags and the latest bottle communicators.

A pirate has been putting a message inside a plastic bottle and now throws it ‘out to sea’.

Narrator 4 Even the Plastic Pearl is made from plastic, including the sails and the Jolly Roger itself. These pirates LOVE plastic.

Narrator 3 Well it is a very durable and useful material. And waterproof!

Narrator 5 And the pirates are always on the lookout for it. Here they go now, on their way to find the next big haul.

We Love Plastic

We adore it, can’t be without it.

It’s amazing, hear us praising plaaaaastic!

We just love it, nothing’s above it.

So if you’re passing by,

It’s not yours to reason why.

Give us your plastic,

Give us your plastic,

Give us your plastic, ARRR!

It’s fantastic, lov-er-ley plastic.

It’s a wonder, so we plunder plaaaaastic!

We admire it, and we require it.

So if you’re passing by,

It’s not yours to reason why.

Give us your plastic,

Give us your plastic,

Give us your plastic, ARRR!

It’s our passion, it’s so in fashion.

Very pricey, nice and shiny plaaaaastic!

We go searching, we’re always lurking.

So if you’re passing by,

It’s not yours to reason why.

Give us your plastic,

Give us your plastic,

Give us your plastic, ARRR!

The pirates move off or towards the back of the stage and stay still.

Suggested scene change music: Celebrating – Interlude

Two starfish, one wearing headphones, swim together onto, then around, the stage, followed closely by two jellyfish.

**SCENE TWO**

Steven Starfish What are you listening to?

Spencer Starfish doesn’t respond.

Steven Starfish WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

Spencer Starfish (taking headphones off) Oh, it’s the Sea Spider Rockers, their new song. Want a listen?

The Starfish share the headphones and they swim/bop off the stage. Elsewhere …

Jade Jellyfish (to Jellyfish 2) Have you heard about Mildred?

Jemma Jellyfish What about her?

Jade Jellyfish She’s taken up karate. She’s fed up with those sharks watching her all the time.

Jemma Jellyfish I could do with learning karate: the turtles have been after me again. Talking of which!

Two turtles swim slowly onto the stage, one of them clutching their tummy. The jellyfish and starfish hurriedly leave the stage.

Tara Turtle Did you know there’s lots of food out there? I’m sooo full. Only thing is I have a really bad tummy ache.

Tiny Turtle Have you been eating that plastic again? I did warn you.

Tara Turtle Is it plastic? But it looked so nice!

An octopus and some fish swim onto the stage. They are adorned with various plastic items.

Ollie Octopus (to the turtles) Hey, do you know how to get this lot off?

The turtles shake their heads.

Freddie Fish It’s slowing down my swimming time!

Fiona Fish Where’s it all come from?

Tiny Turtle (pointing up) Somewhere up there I think.

Tara Turtle (continues to clutch her tummy and groan)
My tummy ache’s getting worse!

Tiny Turtle Follow me, I’ll find you some help.

The sea creatures swim off stage and the pirates move forward.

Scene Three

Hilda Hawkeye looks out from the crow’s nest with a telescope.

Hilda Hawkeye (shouting) Sail ho!

Cutlass Clare Ship on the horizon!

Cannon Kate Ship in sight!

Q’master Quinn (also looking through a telescope) Stone the crows! If it ain’t the Pompous Puffin.

Pirate Peg Shiver me timbers, so it is!

Captain Clingfilm Well me hearties, here’s our chance! The Pompous Puffin is burstin’ with riches. We’ll be showering in plastic produce! Full sail ahead!

Polly Styrene Full sail ahead!

Gunner Grim (to Barnacle Bill) Hey, Barnacle Bill, have you noticed, the captain always gets most of the plastic to himself?

Barnacle Bill Yes, the scoundrel, who does he think he is? We should get the most.

Gunner Grim Yeah, we work hard for it and he never shows his appreciation.

Barnacle Bill He treats us like bilge rats then he gets all the best booty!

Gunner Grim First chance we get, he’s off this ship.

Barnacle Bill Arrrrr! I be with you there Gunner Grim!

Pirate Peg Here she is, the Pompous Puffin!

Q’master Quinn Get the booty!

All Pirates Get the booty!

Some seafarers and their finely dressed, haughty looking passengers come on to the stage, wearing plastic hats and oversized plastic jewellery, some with rubber swimming rings and holding various plastic items such as rubber ducks, frisbees, plastic bags etc. Cecil Da-Ville, holding a plastic bottle of water, hides behind the others.

Salty Sid Hand over your plastic!

Narrator 1 Nobody argues with the pirates of the Plastic Pearl. These pirates are the terror of the high seas, so as you can see, the sailors and passengers of the Pompous Puffin are now handing over all the plastic they have.

As the passengers hand everything over to the pirates, the pirates immediately adorn themselves with the booty, showing off flamboyantly as they prance about.

The passengers exclaim in shock and horror, some in snooty voices.

Passengers et al. It’s disgraceful! / Who do they think they are?! / Crooks! / Shameful! / Tyrants / Oh, how beastly! / Villains / How shocking!

Barnacle Bill (to Prunella) Give me that bucket!

Prunella hands over the bucket.

Salty Sid (beckoning to Portia) The pipe!

Portia gives Salty Sid the pipe who puts it into his mouth and strikes a pose.

Sabre Sue speaks to Prunella and Portia, who wear enormous necklaces of oversized pearls.

Sabre Sue The finest plastic pearls I’ve seen in all my years! They must have cost a fortune. Hand those beauties over!

Prunella V (haughtily) This is outrageous! You reckless ruffians!

Portia Belmont (haughtily) You’ll hear from my lawyer about this! You shan’t get away with it!

Sabre Sue It’s the plastic or the plank for you!

The two passengers squeal in fear and hand over their plastic pearls.

Elsewhere, pirates spot the two passengers clutching plastic bottles of water and make a beeline for them.

Cecil Da-Ville Not the bottled water!

Cannon Kate That’s prime booty, hand it over!

Gunner Grim Arrrr! All that lovely crumply plastic!

Cecil Da-Ville Brutes! We’ll have to drink out of common cups!

The passengers exit, continuing with loud commentary about the disgraceful pirates.

Captain C’film Arrrrrr, the perfect plunder! Now back to the ship, me hearties!

Cheering, the pirates go to their ship with all of their plastic swag.

Q’master Quinn Well done Maties. Good haul. Pick out the best and you know what we do with the rest.

Pirates (shouting together) Throw it overboard!

Salty Sid Want this, no use for that.

He throws some plastic overboard.

All the pirates sift through their stuff with a general chorus of …

Pirates Want this, no use for that …

Whilst throwing all unwanted plastic objects overboard.

Q’master Quinn Time for a celebration. Get the grog and the ship’s biscuits!

Celebrating

Celebration, celebration,

Floating on the sea, on the big blue sea.

Celebration, hey! Celebration, plastic pirates living free.

We’re ha, ha, celebrating

We’re ha, ha, celebrating

Plastic, plastic pirates, out for what we can find,

Plastic, plastic pirates, floating on the sea, on the big blue sea.

Hullabaloo, Hullabaloo,

Making a commotion is what we do.

Hullabaloo, hey! Hullabaloo, we’re a noisy pirate crew

We’re ha, ha, celebrating

We’re ha, ha, celebrating

Plastic, plastic pirates, out for what we can find,

Plastic, plastic pirates, floating on the sea, on the big blue sea.

Party all night, party all night,

Goin’ on and on till the morning light.

Party all night, hey! Party all night,

Partying is what we like.

We’re ha, ha, celebrating

We’re ha, ha, celebrating

Plastic, plastic pirates, out for what we can find,

Plastic, plastic pirates, floating on the sea, on the big blue sea.

Narrator 2 So great celebrations are taking place aboard the Plastic Pearl. The pirates are mighty pleased with themselves. There’s singing and dancing and plenty of grog to wash down the ship’s biscuits.

Narrator 1 There’s so much noise that it can be heard way down in the briny deep, where, fathoms under the ocean, there is much activity.

 Let me take you to the Olga Octopus Deep Sea Hospital, where things are particularly busy today.

Suggested scene change music: Plastic Soup – Interlude (slow tempo version)

Scene Four

The pirates move to the back of the stage and freeze.
Props are brought on for the hospital scene.

The hospital. A variety of sea creatures are laid on the floor on ‘beds’ clutching their tummies and groaning. There is a row of chairs with sea creatures waiting to be seen by the doctor. Each is adorned with plastic items such as carrier bags, frisbees, plastic bath hats, plastic rope, rubber rings etc. that they can’t get off.

Larry Lobster, Tara Turtle and Timmy Turtle are recovering on ‘beds’ after their operations.

Tara Turtle (to Timmy Turtle) I hate having to stay in bed.

Timmy Turtle I’ll cheer you up with a joke then. How do you cut the sea in half?

Tara Turtle I don’t know, how do you cut the sea in half?

Timmy Turtle With a sea-saw.

Tara Turtle (tries not to laugh) Oh don’t make me laugh, it makes my tummy hurt even more!

The pirates sing loudly, a couple of lines of their celebration song.

Timmy Turtle What a racket! It’s those pirates again.

Larry Lobster Crabsticks! Can’t a sick lobster get a nice rest?!

The pirates sing a bit more of their ‘Celebration song’ again, this time even more rowdily. Ollie Octopus, and Freddie and Fiona Fish sit on chairs waiting to be seen by the medical staff.

Freddie Fish Bloomin’ noise pollution on top of everything else!

Ollie Octopus Not to mention all the plastic. I’ve been caught in this carrier bag
for weeks. They chuck it overboard you know, when they’re fed up with it.

Fiona Fish Yes, there’s loads of it, it just keeps coming!

Freddie Fish I tell you, us fish have had our chips.

 Tiny Turtle enters looking worried and runs over to Tara and Timmy.

Tiny Turtle What’s wrong with my friends?

Nurse Neaptide Doctor Olga, what do you think the problem is?

Dr. Olga Octopus It’s the same old thing I’m afraid: plastic ingestion. We will have to do a laparotomy.

Nurse Neap Tide Will the poor creature survive?

Dr. Olga Octopus It will be touch and go, Nurse Neap Tide, but we will do our best. Scalpel!

Nurse Neap Tide hands Olga an oversized scalpel (See ‘Props & Costumes’, page 10).
She pretends to make an enormous horizontal incision at the bottom of the sea creature’s tummy, then from under their top pulls out lots of small plastic items which she places into a bowl held by Nurse Neap Tide.

Dr. Olga Octopus (loudly to Nurse Neaptide) Stitch this patient up! Next!

As Dr. Olga moves to the next bed, another patient is wheeled in.

Jade Jellyfish Emergency, emergency!

Other creatures, clutching their stomachs walk behind, led by a nurse.

Nurse Starfish Emergency, emergency! Doctor Olga, emergency!

Dr. Olga Octopus Doing my best, I’ve only got four pairs of hands!

Tara Turtle See what the plastic deluge is doing to our health service!

All the recovering and waiting Sea Creatures improvise amongst themselves as music begins …

Sea Creatures It’s shocking / it’s terrible / it just gets worse and worse etc.

Plastic Soup

We’re living in a plastic soup,

From bottles to wellie boots.

We don’t know what to do,

It’s getting beyond a joke, that’s true.

Soup, soup, we’re living in a soup,

We’re living in a plastic soup.

We need to have a plan right now,

And find a way soon, somehow.

Gather round, have a think

Before it gets beyond the brink

Soup, soup, we’re living in a soup,

We’re living in a plastic soup.

It’s all been going on too long,

It’s clear that we can’t go on.

It’s as bad as it could be

With all this plastic in the sea.

Soup, soup, we’re living in a soup,

We’re living in a plastic soup.

We’re living in a plastic soup,

From bottles to wellie boots.

We don’t know what to do,

It’s getting beyond a joke, that’s true.

Soup, soup, we’re living in a soup,

We’re living in a plastic soup.

Harmony to last verse

Soup, soup, living in a soup.

Soup, soup, living in a soup.

Plastic, plastic everywhere,

Plastic here, plastic there.

Soup, soup, we’re living in a soup,

We’re living in a plastic soup.

Timmy Turtle Here it comes again! Take cover!

The sea creatures duck/dive down onto the floor with their ‘hands’ over their heads as a variety of bits of plastic is thrown from the ship onto the stage around them.

Nurse Starfish Alert, Alert! Plastic invasion! Evacuate, evacuate! Evacuate the hospital!

Suggested scene change music: Plastic Soup – Interlude (fast tempo version)

The sea creatures panic and all swim off the stage, wading through the plastic as they go. A Props Person then sweeps plastic off stage.

Narrator 3 (to the audience) So my salty sea goers, as you have just witnessed, the Underwater Health Service is extremely stretched. Let us go back to the Plastic Pearl and find out what those haphazard pirates are up to now.

Scene Five

A half screen is brought onto the stage to represent the front of the Captain’s shower.

Narrator 5 Up above, on the water’s surface, the Plastic Pearl glides over the ocean. Morning is here and all is still and quiet on deck – even big scary, smelly Pirates need plenty of beauty sleep. But Avast! What is that we hear?

Captain Clingfilm stands behind the half screen brandishing a large tube of bodywash and a back scrubber. He could also wear a shower cap!

Oh, I Love My Microbeads

Captain Clingfilm

Oh, I love my microbeads,

They are just what a pirate needs.

They’re lovely in the morning with a scrub, scrub, scrub,

Then in the evening with a rub a dub, dub.

This is what I like to do

When I’m sailing on the ocean blue.

Made for a pirate of a certain breed,

I love my microbeads.

Pirates

Oh, he loves his microbeads,

They are just what a pirate needs.

They’re lovely in the morning with a scrub, scrub, scrub,

Then in the evening with a rub a dub, dub.

This is what he likes to do

When he’s sailing on the ocean blue.

Made for a pirate of a certain breed,

He loves his microbeads.

Captain Clingfilm

Oh, I love my microbeads,

Especially when I am out at sea.

I use them every day to get me nice and clean,

They always give me such a wonderful sheen.

All Pirates

This is what he likes to do

When he’s sailing on the ocean blue.

Made for a pirate of a certain breed,

He loves his microbeads.

Captain Clingfilm comes out of the shower.

Captain C’film Well that’s better!

Pirates enter stage, yawning and rubbing their eyes.

Pirate Peg Cap’n, isn’t having a shower breaking the pirate code?

Everyone The captain’s broken the pirate code etc.

General banter among themselves but overheard by the captain.

Gunner Grim (to all the pirates) How come HE can get away with it?

Everyone nods in agreement.

Captain C’film Because I am the captain, you lazy landlubbers!

Polly Styrene (at the pirates) Lazy landlubbers!

Captain C’film And I have to get rid of me scurvy!

Hilda Hawkeye Scurvy! Everybody’s got scurvy on this ship. We don’t complain!

Everyone No we don’t complain!

Gunner Grim (to Barnacle Bill) This is our chance. (to all the pirates) Throw him into Davy Jones’ locker!

Barnacle Bill Throw the captain into Davy Jones’ locker!

Percy Patch You can’t throw the captain overboard!

Gunner Grim Aye, we can Percy Patch, and you can go with him too!

Captain C’film This be mutiny! You will all walk the plank!

Gunner Grim No Captain, you will walk the plank! And I will be the new captain!

Everyone (chanting in unison) Walk the plank, walk the plank, walk the plank, walk the plank!

Two pirates take the captain, one arm each and a further two take Percy Patch to the plank which they walk. Captain and Percy jump off together and exit.

Captain & Percy (as they jump off) Ahhhh!

Scene Six

Narrator 1 (to Narrator 2) Would you believe it!

The pirates move to the back of the stage and settle down for a rest.

Narrator 1 (to the audience) Well Maties, we know that before long those pesky pirates will be up to no good again. But for the time being they seem to have settled down for a rest.

Narrator 2 Our buccaneers are dozing and being generally lazy. But at least things are nice and quiet for our sea creatures right now.

Narrator 1 Let us go back down into the salty fathoms and meet up with them again.

Suggested scene change music: We Need You Polly – Interlude

The sea creatures assemble at the front of the stage and sit down, some on chairs that they have brought onto stage with them.

Tara Turtle What are we going to do? If we don’t keep the plastic out of our oceans, we’ll be in real trouble!

Tiny Turtle My shell is deformed because I got stuck in a plastic ring.

Tara Turtle I almost choked in a plastic bag last week. Next time I might not be so lucky!

Fiona Fish My tummy ache is getting worse and worse, any more microbeads and I’ll be a gonner!

Ollie Octopus We need to communicate with the pirates. I’m sure they would change their tune if they realised how many problems their plastic booty is causing us.

Larry Lobster Let’s go and speak to them!

Everyone Yes! / Let’s go! / Let’s sort it out!

Tara Turtle Come on, let’s tell them!

Sea creatures swim off stage, then enter at the other side, next to the pirate ship.

Gunner Grim Get up you scurvied scoundrels, show a leg! I’m your captain now and this isn’t a cruise to the Bahamas! Scrub the deck and raise the rigging!

Pirates stretch and yawn, but move very slowly.

Polly waddles fast towards the pirates, wings outstretched, and shouts …

Polly Styrene GET UP! GET UP! SCURVIED SCOUNDRALS! GET UP!

The pirates immediately step to it.

Gunner Grim And throw all this waste plastic overboard!

Polly Styrene THROW IT OVERBOARD!

With superiority and an air of authority, Polly follows the pirates around, directing them.

Pirates throw soft plastic which hits the sea creatures as they return to the stage. The sea creatures can address the pirates from the side of the stage.

Sea Creatures Woah! / Stop it! / Ouch!

Canon Kate Hey what’s happening? Who invited you guys up here?

Barnacle Bill Aaah, how sweet, I think the turtle loves his new plastic cape! Hello there, Super-turtle!

Rosie Redbeard No sea creatures on board! The quartermaster has a fish allergy!

The quartermaster nods profusely.

Sea Creatures Please, help us! / no plastic in the seas! / Stop it! / Please stop throwing all that plastic in / Help, we’re desperate! Etc.

Gunner Grim Shoo! ‘Orrible animals, they’re trying to steal our plastic swag- chase them away!

Polly Styrene CHASE THEM AWAY! CHASE THEM AWAY!

Pirates chase sea creatures off stage.

Tara Turtle They don’t understand what we’re trying to say!

Timmy Turtle Mission abort! Mission abort!

The sea creatures leave stage in a hurry.

Gunner Grim Now back to work you lazy lubbers!

Polly Styrene BACK TO WORK, BACK TO WORK, LAZY LUBBERS, LAZY LUBBERS!

Polly brushes her feathers down, looks pleased with herself, puffs out her chest and takes centre stage for her song. The pirates move to the back of the stage.

The Real Boss is Me

Polly

Take a look at me, what do you see?

There may be a captain on this ship

But the real boss is me.

My name is Polly Styrene

And to this ship I’m true,

But you lot can do as you’re told

Or I might get beaky with you.

All Pirates

Take a look at her, we have to concur,

There may be a captain on this ship

But the real boss is her.

Her name is Polly Styrene

The captain set her loose.

So careful what you say to her,

Because she rules the roost.

Polly

Take a look at me, I’m forty-three.

With age and wisdom, I’m the one

Who make the rules at sea.

Pirates

Her name is Polly Styrene

And she is quite unique.

So please don’t try to sell her on,

‘Cos she’s not going cheap.

Polly

Take a look at me, what do you see?

There may be a captain on this ship

But the real boss is me.

Polly moves to the back of the stage with the pirates.

Suggested scene change music – The Real Boss Is Me (Interlude)

Scene Seven

Captain Clingfilm and Percy Patch enter. They are stranded on a desert island (front of stage to the side). The Captain is stamping about in a very frustrated, cross state.

Captain C’film Those tyrannous traitors! Mutiny! Mutiny, that’s what it is!

Percy Patch Aye Cap’n, mutiny!

Captain C’film This is disastrous, disastrous! What can we do?

The captain sits down with his head in his hands.

Percy Patch We could send an SOS out in one of these plastic bottles?

Captain C’film Good thinking Percy. We’ll soon be saved, then we will teach those barefaced barnacles a lesson!

The captain puts a message in a bottle and throws it out to sea.

Captain C’film Arrr, there it goes; it won’t be long now.

Percy Patch (looking out to sea) What’s happening out there, Cap’n?

Captain C’film Ahoy, that’s strange, can you see those turtles?

Turtles (loudly from backstage) Help! Help!

Percy Patch They’re stuck in all that plastic bounty we’ve been throwing overboard!

Turtles Help! / we’re stuck / we’re not going to make it!

Captain Oh, those poor turtles, they’re completely stuck! There’s nothing we can do!

Percy Patch And it’s not just the turtles that are stuck.

Captain C’film What are you talking about?

Percy Patch The bottle’s got stuck too.

Captain C’film The bottle?! The bottle’s stuck?! (he looks out to sea then speaks extremely dramatically) Noooh! We’re goners Percy! We’re doomed, we’re doomed!

The Captain and Percy move to stage right and sit quietly, heads in hands.

Suggested scene change music – Plastic Soup (Interlude) – normal tempo.

Scene Eight

Sea creatures re-enter and sit to the left of the stage opposite the island.

Tara Turtle We need a Plan B! Those pirates couldn’t understand a word we were saying!

Lucy Lobster They can’t understand our language! And we can’t speak theirs! How will we tell them about the plastic?

Timmy Turtle We could try interpretive dance!

Lucy Lobster I’ve got 5 left feet!

Tara Turtle How about putting an ad in the paper?

Larry Lobster Pirates don’t read, they just like the pretty pictures.

Carson Crab What about the seabirds? They can pass on our message.

Ollie Octopus They don’t speak pirate language either.

They all sit ‘chins in hands’ etc. looking deep in thought.

Ollie Octopus (to the crab) What do you think Crabbie?

Carson Crab I just don’t see a way sideways!

Timmy Turtle Well, we don’t speak pirate language. The seabirds don’t speak pirate language. But ...

Tiny Turtle The seabirds do speak parrot language!

Tara Turtle And the pirates understand the parrot! She’s bilingual!

Freddie and Fiona Fish look bewildered.

Freddie (to Fiona Fish) Does that make sense to you?

Tara Turtle We have to get the seabirds involved, after all, they’ve been complaining as much as we have. They have been suffocating in
plastic bags!

Larry Lobster Yes, they can explain to the parrot, and the parrot can speak to the pirates.

Fiona Fish Who’s going to risk their neck by trying to talk to the seabirds?

Larry Lobster It’s just after feeding time so we’ll be safe. We’ll go up as a united front.

The sea creatures stand as the narrators speak.

Narrator 3 And here those sea creatures come, ascending from the briny depths. A message has been put out to the seabirds to meet with them at
ten o’ the clock.

The seabirds enter from the right.

Narrator 4 Look, the seabirds have arrived, pelicans, albatrosses, terns, tropic birds and seagulls, to name but a few, all swooping down to the sea.

Narrator 5 The meeting is about to begin. How exciting!

Freddie Fish (to the other sea creatures) Are you sure this is a good idea?

Fiona Fish They’ve got such big beaks; they could gobble me down in one.

Freddie Fish (stepping forward and speaking to a seagull) Er… Mr Gull, Sir, I hope you had a lovely breakfast?

Sammy Seagull Yes, but I’m always hungry!

The fish look worried and scuttle off behind the turtles.

Larry Lobster Greetings all seabirds and thank you for agreeing to this conference.

Sammy Seagull What can we do for you?

Timmy Turtle We need to ask the pirates to stop throwing their plastic into the ocean.

Tara Turtle We must explain that it’s not doing us lot any good.

Sonny Seagull And how do we do that, we don’t speak Pirate?

Tiny Turtle You must speak to the parrot.

Sammy Seagull Polly Styrene? That old bird?

Sonny Seagull She’s got some attitude!

Sammy Seagull And a voice like a shrieking banshee.

Ollie Octopus Exactly. The pirates can’t ignore her. And they have to obey the parrot, it’s part of the pirate code.

As the narrators speak, the sea creatures and seabirds all nod among themselves and shake ‘hands’. The sea birds make their way to the pirate ship whilst the rest of the sea creatures exit. The pirates remain still at the back of the stage.

Suggested scene change music – We Need You Polly (Interlude)

Narrator 2 (to Narrator 1) Well these sea creatures are showing such intelligence!

Narrator 1 Extraordinary! And the seabirds have agreed. They’re on their way to find those pirate scallywags.

Scene Nine

Narrator 2 (to the audience) Ahoy there! Are we awake? Well, keep a weather eye open, Maties, because there’s more to come. Let’s go and see how our marooned marauders are doing on their island.

Captain and Percy re-enter to the front of the stage. The captain sits down with his head in his hands looking miserable whilst Percy Patch paces up and down, intermittently looking out to sea through a telescope.

Percy Patch There’s no hope Cap’n. And to think that because of our plastic,
no-one will get our message.

Captain C’film (dramatically between sobs and flaying arms about) Oh no, no! We’re stuck here for ever. What will we eat?! We’ll pop our clogs on this ‘ere island! I’m being struck down in my prime!

Percy Patch Now calm down Cap’n. Think about those poor turtles. At least we’re on dry land!

Captain C’film (still sobbing) Oh no, oh no, the turtles too, the turtles!

Percy Patch stands at the far right of the stage, looking through the telescope, does a double take and looks again.

Percy Patch There’s something out there. Ship! Ship! It’s a ship! It’s the Plastic Pearl! Do you think it’s coming for us after all?

Captain C’film Ship, ship, a ship?! No!......YES! It’s a ship!

He leaps up and over to Percy, waving his arms wildly towards the ship.

Captain C’film Here, we’re here, over here! Percy, we’re saved! Oh it’s a miracle, a miracle! (more sobs)

Percy Patch Uh oh! I’m afraid there’s more bad news Cap’n.

Captain C’film What do you mean?

Percy Patch The ship’s got stuck in the plastic.

Captain C’film Nooooooh!

They both go to the side of the stage and sink back onto the sand, heads in hands.

Scene Ten

Hilda Hawkeye Well, shiver me timbers we’re stuck!

Gunner Grim Can we reverse?

Barnacle Bill No, we’re completely stuck!

Gunner Grim Ye floundering fools! What did you bring us this way for? Get this ship moving or it’s the plank for the lot of you!

Rosie Redbeard Look, there’s an island over there.

He points over to Percy and the Captain.

Bessie B Well that’s not much use to us is it? We’re stuck!

Narrator 1 Well me hearties, what are those pirates going to do about that then?

Narrator 2 They have got themselves into a right old pickle.

Narrator 1 And there’ll be more to deal with any second now, because here come the seabirds.

The seabirds enter from the left followed by the sea creatures

Sonny Seagull Ahoy, Polly Styrene!

Sammy Seagull Good day to you Polly.

Polly Styrene Good day, good day!

We Need You Polly

As the seabirds and sea creatures sing their song, Polly Styrene listens intently, showing great interest.

Polly Styrene, Polly Styrene,

Can you help us? We need you Polly.

Polly Styrene, Polly Styrene,

Can you help us, we need a way

To tell those pirates “No, no, no!”

All that plastic is not the way to go.

Polly Styrene, Polly Styrene,

Can you help us? We need you Polly.

Polly Styrene, Polly Styrene,

Can you help us, we need a way.

Plastic, plastic all around us

And it’s getting worse, you can see now.

Suffocating, devastating

And we need you to help it change.

So tell those pirates “No, no, no!”

All that plastic is not the way to go.

Plastic, plastic all around us

And it’s getting worse, you can see now.

Suffocating, devastating

And we need you to help it change.

All that plastic in the sea

It’s got as bad as it could be

Surely you must agree? So

Polly Styrene, Polly Styrene,

Can you help us? We need you Polly.

Polly Styrene, Polly Styrene,

Can you help us, we need a way.

Pirate Peg Well shiver me timbers, the parrot’s talking to the seabirds! I always thought that parrot was weird.

Sammy Seagull We need you to tell the pirates that their plastic is hurting the sea creatures.

Polly Styrene Hurting the sea creatures?! (to the pirates) Plastic is hurting the sea creatures!

Some of the pirates look concerned. Gunner Grim looks dismissive.

Sonny Seagull It’s making them ill!

Polly Styrene Making them ill?! (to the pirates) It’s making them ill!

Sammy Seagull Birds are suffocating!

Polly Styrene Birds are suffocating?! (lets out a horrified shriek) AAAAAAhhh, birds
are suffocating!

Sammy Seagull They must try to find other ways.

Polly Styrene (to the pirates) FIND OTHER WAYS!

Polly waddles, wings outstretched and intimidatingly towards the pirates.

Pirates (general banter) I never knew that / never really thought about that /
oh dear, don’t want to hurt any sea creatures / we’d better not use so much etc.

Salty Sid Arrr, we’d better stop throwing all that plastic in the ocean!

Barnacle Bill stays close to Gunner Grim.

Gunner Grim Stop throwing plastic in the ocean! We’re pirates, we do what we want! And while you’re at it, get that parrot off the ship, I’m not havin’ a bloomin’ parrot telling me what to do!

Barnacle Bill nods in agreement. The pirates look horrified.

Sabre Sue We can’t get rid of Polly Styrene!

Gunner Grim Throw her off now Sabre Sue, or it’s the plank for you! Give her a hand, Barnacle Bill.

Barnacle Bill (looking pleased) Aye, aye, Gunner Grim.

Sabre Sue and Cannon Kate escort Polly to the edge of the ship and throw her off. Polly lets out a squawk and exits.

Narrator 3 (to the audience) Well, landlubbers, all this drama! I don’t think I can take any more!

Narrator 4 But the parrot is making her way to the island. So resourceful!

Polly re-enters the stage and flies to the island.

Narrator 5 And definitely not stupid. I think Gunner Grim has not heard the last
of her.

Percy Patch Cap’n, Cap’n, it’s Polly!

Polly lands on the island.

Captain C’film Polly Styrene! My trusty friend!

Polly Styrene The sea creatures are dying!

Captain C’film The sea creatures are dying?!

Polly Styrene It’s the plastic!

Captain C’film Oh no! The plastic!

Polly Styrene You must get to the ship.

Captain C’film There’s only one thing for it, Percy.

Percy Patch We’ll have to swim!

Narrator 1 And, Maties, there they go, swimming through all that plastic.
Will they make it?

Narrator 2 Oh no, the captain’s got stuck!

Narrator 1 Jumping Jellyfish! They’re not going to make it!

Narrator 2 Can Percy pull him free?

Pause

Narrators 1 & 2 (shout) YES!

Narrator 1 They’re off again.

Narrator 2 Polly’s guiding them through the plastic! She’s shouting instructions.
What a trooper!

Narrator 1 Not far now.

Narrator 2 I can’t bear the tension!

Narrator 1 They’re not going to do it!

Narrator 2 Yes they are!

Narrators 1 & 2 YO HO, HO! THEY’VE MADE IT!

Narrator 1 They’re climbing up the sides!

Narrator 2 They’re on board!

Brandishing a cutlass, Gunner Grim leaps onto the deck to meet Captain Clingfilm, Percy Patch and Polly.

Gunner Grim ARRRR!

Captain C’film Throw down your weapon Gunner Grim, it’s over!

Percy Patch We need to talk about the plastic.

Polly Styrene Plastic, plastic! Oh dear, oh dear!

Gunner Grim My plastic! Never! Throw them overboard!

Narrator 1 Well, my merry band of watchers, you would think that that was a straight forward command from Gunner Grim, but apart from Barnacle Bill the other pirates are looking reluctant.

Pirate Peg We think the captain’s right, Gunner Grim. We need to talk about the plastic.

Barnacle Bill Don’t listen to them, Gunner Grim!

Gunner Grim How dare you, you treacherous tube worms, I will never give up my plastic!

Q’master Quinn Well then, there’s only one thing for it Gunner Grim.
(to two of the pirates) Grab him.

Two pirates take Gunner Grim’s arms and two more take Barnacle Bill’s to escort them to the plank.

Gunner Grim You can’t do this, you mutinous minions! You’ll be sorry!

Q’master Quinn Don’t worry, Gunner Grim, I believe there’s a lovely little island over there where you can stay out of trouble.

Gunner Grim and Barnacle Bill walk the plank.

Grim & Bill Ahhh!

All the pirates cheer.

Q’master Quinn Thank you Polly, for returning our captain to us.

Polly ‘puffs up her feathers’ and looks pleased with herself.

Captain C’film Now then, what are we going to do about our plastic?

Cutlass Clare We could just use the plastic that we need?

Polly walks amongst the pirates, cajoling them.

Polly Styrene Just use what we need, just use what we need!

The pirates nod in agreement.

Sabre Sue Yes I suppose I don’t really have to replace all my jewellery every week.

Salty Sid And I threw three buckets overboard last week even though they were perfectly alright.

Hilda Hawkeye What about the messages in the bottles?

Rosie Redbeard I suppose we could just send emails?

Pirate Peg We could get refillable bottles to drink from!

Cutlass Clare We could use rucksacks and bags for life instead of plastic carrier bags!

Polly Styrene Bags for life, bags for life!

Captain C’film (looking a touch upset) I think I’m going to have to give up my microbeads.

Pirate Peg Good for you Cap’n!

Salty Sid We could make you a nice salt scrub Cap’n?

The Captain looks like he’s thinking about it.

Cutlass Clare Good thinking, Salty Sid.

Rosie Redbeard What about all the plastic we already threw in?

Captain C’film We could fish for it! We’ll cast out the nets! We’ll recycle the lot!

Polly Styrene Recycle, recycle!

Pirates Arrr! Yo ho ho! Brilliant!

Narrator 2 Well, slap me with a wet fish and call me Hugo! It seems that even pirates can be reasonable sometimes.

Narrator 1 Especially when there’s a Polly Styrene on board!

Captain C’film Well my merry band of briny bobbit worms. I suppose it’s back to plundering gold and silver again. Let’s go and find some doubloons.

Pirates Aye Cap’n, find some doubloons, doubloons. Arrr! Arrr!

Q’master Quinn Anchors away!

Everyone Anchors away!

Everyone gathers on the stage for the final song.

Off to Sea

Pirates

We’re off to sea on a pirate ship,

Haul away, haul away,

We’re going on another trip,

Haul away, haul away, on the ocean blue.

Sea Creatures

They’re off to sea on a pirate ship,

Haul away, haul away,

They’re going on another trip,

Haul away, haul away, on the ocean blue.

Pirates

We are going to change our ways,

Everyone will be amazed,

We will end our plastic craze,

It all begins today.

All

So hoist the sails up to the sky,

Haul away, haul away,

And raise the flag up way on high,

Haul away, haul away, on the ocean blue.

Singing as we sail away,

Bouncing through the salty spray.

New adventures every day,

It’s time to go again.

We’re off to sea on a pirate ship,

Haul away, haul away,

We’re going on another trip,

Haul away, haul away, on the ocean blue.

On the ocean blue.