

## **Polly's Pirate School - *The Wrath of Snowbeard***

By Albert Jamae

### **STORY**

Polly dreams of being a pirate; the captain of her own ship - the Pollyanna! The life of sailing the high seas in search of treasure; which is far from the reality of being stuck in a boring history lesson at school. However Polly's imagination won't let her down, as she finds her way to Pirate School. As she learns the tricks to being a feisty buccaneer from a quirky bunch of characters, she soon finds herself in deep waters as her crew are drawn into the battle against the ominous Snowbeard.

### **CAST (16) DURATION: 45 mins**

#### ***Classroom***

**POLLY:** Quick witted, bubbly and eager.

**JAKE:** Polly's best friend who looks out for her.

**MISTER CUTTLE:** Monotone school teacher who doesn't move quickly but is very authoritarian.

**BULLY 1&2:** Just your average meanies

**STUDENTS:** the students adopt the same personality as their pirate persona - e.g. Actors playing Snowbeard and Scrubbers are the bullies, actor playing Anchor is studious, Barnacles keeps talking a lot etc

#### ***Cutlass Crew***

**CAPTAIN CUTLASS (played by same actor as Mister Cuttle):** Loves being the boss and tries a bit too hard to prove it.

**XAVIER (played by same actor as Jake):** Good heart but trying to be tough

**MAGNUS:** Hard of hearing weapons expert

**BARNACLE:** An astute history buff who loves a good story

**FEATHERS:** She's off with the birds, dreamy, and trains all the parrots

**ANCHOR:** A strict rule maker, stickler for workplace safety

**FINGERS:** The resident pickpocket

#### ***Snowbeard Crew***

**CAPTAIN SNOWBEARD (played by same actor as Bully 1):** Classic bad guy at the end of his tether; desperate to win

**SCRUBBERS (played by same actor as Bully 2):** Snowbeard's first mate; trying to make a name for him (/her) self - who's getting sick of being second to Snowbeard.

**CLAW:** Has 2 claws for hands.

**PATCH:** Wears an eye patch and potentially is the smallest one

**BOOTLACE:** Ropes expert.

**BLADE:** Great with a sword.

**SPLINTERS:** Has a lot of bandaids on the finger tips.

**KEVIN:** The new guy - on probation.

### Scene 1 - Polly's History Class (day)

*MISTER CUTTLE stands in front of a blackboard with his back to the students while slowly pointing to a map as students watch on bored, fidgeting and JAKE nudges POLLY who has fallen asleep - snoring.*

**MISTER CUTTLE:** ...and so the merchant ships travelled with their cargo of cotton from here all the way... to here. Wait a minute...

*STUDENTS pay attention.*

**MISTER CUTTLE:** I think it may have been from here...to here.

*STUDENTS groan.*

**MISTER CUTTLE:** Sometimes they would carry other things like... sugar... silk... pottery... sugar...(continue in mime)

*POLLY steps out of her seat and walks to the front of stage (Students act as if she's still there)*

**POLLY:** (to audience) Mister Cuttle's history class is the most boring class in the world! So I like to pretend I'm on one of those ships, but not carrying sugar or ...

**MISTER CUTTLE:** Candles...(goes back to miming)

**POLLY:** (to audience) What I imagine I'm doing is sailing the high seas as a Pirate! Captain of my own ship - the Pollyanna! That's me, Polly. My best friend Jake...

*JAKE turns to where Polly was sitting and tries to wake her up.*

**JAKE:** Wake up Polly or you'll get in trouble again!

**MISTER CUTTLE:** Detention for you Jake for talking in class.

*JAKE leaves annoyed.*

**POLLY:** (to audience) Yep, he's always trying to keep me out of trouble but usually gets in trouble instead.

*BULLY 1 & 2 notice Polly and start screwing up paper balls.*

**POLLY:** (to audience) And over here...(referring to bullies)

**BULLY 1:** Fire the cannon!

*BULLY 1&2 toss papers ball at Polly then laugh at her.*

**POLLY:** (to audience) Those two bullies? We'll deal with them later.

*LIGHTS DIM TO BLACK - SPOT ON POLLY - ALL ACTORS CHANGE INTO PIRATE COSTUME- MISTER CUTTLE stays staring at the board.*

**POLLY:** (to audience) So that's me - a wannabe pirate, stuck in a boring class. Which I better get back to before I get into trouble.

*POLLY starts yawning as she returns to the dark.*

**POLLY:** (to audience) If only (yawn) I can stay awake.

*LIGHTS UP - POLLY in her chair - class empty.*

**POLLY:** Wait a minute. Where did everyone go? I wasn't asleep for that long!

*XAVIER enters (Jake dressed as a pirate) - puffed out.*

**XAVIER:** Ahh there you are!

**POLLY:** (confused) Jake? Why are you dressed like that? And why are you talking so weird?

**XAVIER:** Jake? Who's Jake? I'm Xavier. Shipmate to Captain Cutlass's crew. And you better get a move on because we're late for school. And if you're late for Captain Cutlass...(mimes throat cut)

**POLLY:** Um, hello? We're already in school!

**XAVIER:** Pirate School, you scurvy sea slug! Now come on!

*XAVIER rushes off. POLLY still stunned.*

**POLLY:** (to audience) Scurvy sea slug?! I wonder if I'm still asleep. Oh well, it's better than waking up and getting in trouble from boring Mister Cuttles!

**MISTER CUTTLE:** I heard that.

**XAVIER (OFF STAGE):** Hurry up!

**POLLY:** I'm coming I'm coming! (exits)

## Scene 2 - Jungle/Forest (day)

*XAVIER leads POLLY quickly through a dark and scary jungle/forest - he's scared but tries to cover it up.*

**XAVIER:** It's just a little further ahead - we're almost there!

**POLLY:** Can't we rest? It feels like we've been travelling for hours!

**XAVIER:** It's been four minutes.

**POLLY:** Four and a half! And it looks pretty scary up ahead.

**XAVIER:** Scary?! Compared to what you'll be facing this is nothing!

**POLLY:** I don't like the sound of this. Perhaps being a pirate is not such a cool idea.

*As she mopes, XAVIER has an idea and hands her a sword.*

**XAVIER:** Are you kidding?! You'll be swashbuckling with your sword!

**POLLY:** That could be cool.

**XAVIER:** Making scurvy landlubbers walk the plank!

**POLLY:** That could be fun.

**XAVIER:** And if you're lucky, discovering the secret to our long lost treasure!

**POLLY:** Now that's what I'm talking about!

*She swings her sword and almost decapitates him.*

**XAVIER:** Now it's been five minutes!

**POLLY:** Five and a half.

**XAVIER:** (groans) Just hurry. (exits)

**POLLY:** (to audience) So what do you think? Swishing my sword, walking the plank, finding long lost treasure - it sounds a bit scary. Do you think I should go? (wait) - Does Pirate school sound like fun? (banter with audience)

*XAVIER re-enters.*

**XAVIER:** Will you stop talking to yourself!

*XAVIER pulls her off stage and into the next scene.*

### **Scene 3 - Pirate School (day)**

*CAPTAIN CUTLASS, MAGNUS, BARNACLE, ANCHOR and FINGERS prepare themselves as POLLY enters with XAVIER.*

**XAVIER:** Excuse me Captain, this is Polly; she was on the recruitment list.

**CUTLASS:** And she's late!

*POLLY seems to recognise Cutlass.*

**POLLY:** Mister Cuttle?

**CUTLASS:** It's Captain Cutlass! (in her face) Or you can call me CAPTAIN CUTLASS!!!

**POLLY:** (aside to audience as she wipes her eye) More like Captain Spit-less.

**CUTLASS:** Now everyone line up and report for duty!

*CUTLASS CREW line up and say their name one at a time; Polly gets shoved along the line to the end.*

**CUTLASS:** Now the first rule in Pirate School?

*CUTLASS CREW:* Sing the pirate oath!

**CUTLASS:** Correct! (to Polly) You...just watch and learn.

*CUTLASS CREW: (sing in military rhythm)*

*We do our best in Pirate School*

*Swords and cannons, that's our tools*

*When battles loom along our trip*

*We raise the flag on our Pirate Ship*

*We scrub the deck and never rest*

*We'll sail the seas for a treasure chest*

*And if you try to rob our bank*

*We'll make you walk the plank! Arghhhhhhhhh!*

**CUTLASS:** Arghhhhhhhhh!

**CUTLASS CREW:** Arghhhhhhhhh!

**POLLY:** What does that actually mean? Sounds like you have a toothache.

*CUTLASS CREW stunned and confused.*

**CUTLASS:** Well I...er...it's tradition! We've always done that.

**POLLY:** Oh okay. (lame) Arghhhhh!

*CUTLASS CREW anxious as CUTLASS not impressed.*

**CUTLASS:** That's it?

**POLLY:** I'm warming up to it.

*CUTLASS paces annoyed.*

**CUTLASS:** Now as we have our new recruit, what was it? Dolly? Trolley? Boarder Collie?

*CUTLASS CREW laugh.*

**CUTLASS CREW:** Good one Captain! / Boarder Collie! / (woof)

**POLLY:** (annoyed) It's Polly.

**CUTLASS:** Ah yes, don't worry I'll warm up to it. So for...Molly's sake, we'll go over the basics. Magnus!

*MAGNUS steps forward.*

**CUTLASS:** Make sure she knows how to handle a sword.

**MAGNUS:** Aye Captain; but first I think she should learn how to handle a sword.

*CUTLASS goes to say something and stops. XAVIER steps forward to demonstrate.*

**MAGNUS:** Now the trick is to have a wide stance; chin up, and if I thrust like this (lunge at Xavier with sword) then you parry like this.

*XAVIER blocks the attack. They demonstrate more.*

**CUTLASS:** What are you forgetting?

**XAVIER:** Ah yes, the sound effects.

*They repeat demonstration, vocalising the sword 'chinks'*

**POLLY:** Seriously?

**FINGERS:** Oh yeah! It scares the enemy when you're in battle.

**MAGNUS:** Now it's your turn.

*POLLY nervously steps in Xavier's place and shakily holds her sword. FINGERS steals Magnus' sword.*

**POLLY:** (to audience) this shouldn't be too hard. Come on Magnus, show me what you got!

**MAGNUS:** Alrighty young lady, you asked for it!

*Magnus goes to grab his sword and its missing.*

**CUTLASS:** Fingers!!!

*FINGERS appears with the sword.*

**ANCHOR:** Now is not the time to pick pocket Fingers; highly inappropriate.

**FINGERS:** Sorry, force of habit.

*FINGERS gives Magnus back his sword.*

**BARNACLE:** (to Polly) You see Fingers has quite a history in stealing things. Once when he was just a wee lad...

**CUTLASS:** Barnacle! Now is not the time for another one of your stories; we have a battle

underway!

**POLLY:** Well I'd hardly call it a battle...

**CUTLASS:** Resume fighting positions!

*MAGNUS goes into a weird fighting stance with wide legs and POLLY copies. He starts thrusting with his sword - 'Hya! Hya!' Polly blocks it every time.*

**POLLY:** (to audience) Told ya. Piece of cake.

*CUTLASS and MAGNUS share a knowing wink.*

**MAGNUS:** Then let's see how you handle the Magnus Mega Attack! Argh!!!!

*MAGNUS runs towards her with his sword spinning in the air.*

**POLLY:** How about this?

*POLLY steps forward and MAGNUS keeps running off side stage - CRASH!*

**POLLY:** Whoops.

**XAVIER:** Oh great, right into the kitchen.

*CUTLASS CREW sigh.*

**POLLY:** Sorry.

*MAGNUS comes back on stage with a pot on his head and covered in scraps.*

**MAGNUS:** I, er, think I'll give the chef a hand with dinner. (exits)

**POLLY:** (to Cutlass) So did I pass?

**CUTLASS:** (mumbles so no one can understand)

**XAVIER:** Sorry Captain but I don't think we heard...

**CUTLASS:** Yes alright! But let's see how she does on the next lesson!

**FEATHERS:** Parrot training?!

**CUTLASS:** No feathers I already told you, we moved that to tomorrow's class.

**FEATHERS:** But it's such a beautiful day to fly with the birds...I mean, to train our parrots for battle.

**ANCHOR:** Listen to your Captain, Feathers; he has the plan in order.

**FEATHERS:** But I had them all ready and groomed; they were so excited! I even got all the crackers lined up for their treats.

*POLLY sighs with boredom.*

**ANCHOR:** Yes but from what I can see, Polly doesn't want a cracker! Ha ha, ha ha...ha.

*ANCHOR laughs at his(/her) own joke - nobody's laughing.*

**FEATHERS:** Fine! Then I'll have to go and break the bad news to them. (to parrot on her shoulder) Come on Penelope! (exits)

**CUTLASS:** (sighs) As I was saying the next lesson is...treasure map reading!

**CUTLASS CREW:** Oooohhh.

**POLLY:** Whoah! Treasure map reading? You have a treasure map?!