Pirates Witches and Robbers

Adapted by Roger Hall

From the book by Margaret Mahy

R Hall 1995

**Casts**

Pirates and robbers and witches (who then take the parts listed below)

This is like 3 mini-plays in one.

Chief Pirate

Pirates

Chief Robber

Robbers

Chief Witch

Witches

Margaret Mahy

**The Great Piratical Rumbistification**

Mr Terrapin

Mrs Terrapin

Alpha

Olivia

Omega

Orpheus Clinker

Millicent

**The Librarian and the Robbers**

Serena Laburnum

Chief Robber

Robbers

Town Clerk

Police Inspector

**The Princess and the Clown**

Princess

King

Queen

Attendant

Servants/Courtiers

Cecil Sibilant

Lacklustre Bland

Esterhazy Smarm

Clown (Jim Smith)

Running Time = approx 1 hour

*Empty Stage*

*Some robbers appear. They are traditional robbers as found in books: striped T shirts. Black berets, masks and carrying bags marked “SWAG”. They tip toe in, making every effort to be quiet.*

*Off-stage is heard the sound of the pirates, The robbers hurriedly hide, but parts of them should still be seen (Eg Boots sticking out from under curtains)*

*Pirates enter cheerfully, singing “What shall we do with the drunken sailor?”*

*Chief pirate calls for silence.*

*Steps up onto podium*

CHIEF PIRATE: Welcome Gentlemen – not that any pirate IS a Gentleman! – to the annual—

*A pirate brings to his attention the bits of robbers that are visible.*

*Chief Pirate puts fingers to lips. The tip toe towards robbers and flash back curtains or whatever to reveal all the robbers.*

*A moment of shocked silence. Each group appears to be hostile towards the other. Then they laugh, greet each other, embrace etc. Then everyone settles down to listen to the chief robber resume his speech.*

CHIEF PIRATE: Yes, welcome to the Pirates’ and Robbers’ Convention. The time when we robbers and pirates meet to discuss the latest techniques in pillaging and plundering, demonstrate new ways to walk the plank; and to swap yarns of derring, doing, wooing and pursuing. (To the pirates) As we all know, the robbers would rather be pirates, but they get sea sick! In other words...Landlubbers!

ROBBERS Boooooo!

CHIEF PIRATE But before we get to the serious part of the convention, we have the usual entertainment for you.

OTHERS Yes

CHIEF PIRATE We bring on the ladies!

OTHERS Yes

CHIEF PIRATE Aristocratic ladies! Ladies with cherry red lips and eyes that flash defiance.

OTHERS Yes

CHIEF PIRATE Above all...Ladies who are....scantily clad!!!!

PIRATES/ROBBERS Yes! Yes! Yes!

CHIEF PIRATE So without further ado – here are our favourite dance group – The Heaving Bosoms!!!

*Music starts*.

*From various entrances a whole lot of witches enter and begin to dance.*

*The pirates and robbers are dismayed.*

*They begin to BOO.*

PIRATE What? Who? Stop, stop stop!

*The music stops and so do the witches.*

PIRATE Who are you? How dare you? Where are the ladies?

CHIEF WITCH Right here

CHIEF PIRATE We want the ladies we had last year. We *ordered* the ladies we had last year. We paid good stolen money for them.

PIRATES/ROBBERS Where are The Heaving Bosoms?

WITCH Right in front of you. That’s us!

CHIEF PIRATE Impossible

CHIEF WITCH You booked us, so here we are. You said nothing about dress.

SECOND WITCH Or undress.

CHIEF WITCH And now you see us as we really are. We think it’s time we took over your sill gathering.

PIRATE Take over?

ROBBER Silly?

CHIEF WITCH Last time we pranced around for your pleasure.

SECOND WITCH Now it’s time you pirates and robbers pranced around for *our* pleasure

CHIEF ROBBER Not likely. Robbers don’t dance. Do we?

ROBBERS Never!

CHIEF PIRATE Neither do pirates. Not when they’ve paid others to dance for ‘em!

CHIEF WITCH Oh really? Let’s show them, girls. Witchcraft Promotions presents...The Wobbling Bottoms.

*They weave a spell aimed at the pirates.*

*The pirates go into a brief dance against their will.*

*Robbers all laugh at them.*

CHIEF WITCH And joining them...The Raging Bellybuttons

*They aim a spell at the robbers, who are also forced to dance despite themselves.*

ROBBERS AND PIRATES Stop, stop. We’re sorry. Enough. please.

*A signal from the witches and the spell ceases.*

THIRD WITCH We thought you’d see it our way.

SECOND WITCH So we’ve brought our own entertainer

*A penguin waddles on.*

PIRATE 1 A penguin!

PIRATE 2 What’s this – an appeal for Greenpeace?

CHIEF WITCH This isn’t any sort of Penguin....

*The penguin takes off its head*

PENGUIN I’m Margaret Mahy.

CHIEF PIRATE And what sort of entertainment do you provide?

MAHY I’m a story teller. *She goes into verse.*

 I’m a teller of tales

 A spinner of yarns

 Of babies balloons

 Burglars baboons

 Custards and cakes

 Ducks and mandrakes.

 I’ve told hundreds of stories all over the world

 And now that I’m here I’ll tell one to you...and you...and you!

 Wait, I’ll have to use some of you in the stories---

 Who would like to be in the ....

ALL Me! Me!

*She selects some and they run off stage*

MAHY The story I am going to tell you is THE GREAT PIRATICAL RUMBUSTIFICATION. There was a mother and a father – Mr and Mrs Terrapin...

*Mr and Mrs Terrapin enter*

MR TERRAPIN Mr Terrapin

MRS TERRAPIN Mrs Terrapin

MAHY Their three children...

*The children enter...*

ALPHA Alpha

OLIVIA Olivia

OMEGA Omega

MAHY They had just moved to a new house.

MRS T It’s not a new house, it’s an old house, but it’s new to us.

MR T I was talked into it.

MRS T It is large, the rooms are huge, it is positively luscious.

ALPHA We used to live in a tiny flat

OLIVIA Where we weren’t allowed to do *anything!*

OMEGA This is, we weren’t allowed to do anything *adventurous!*

AOO Adventurous.

ALPHA Whenever we tried to do anything...

AOO Adventurous.

ALPHA Our mother would say:

MRS T Do wait, my dears until we have a bigger house. Then you can expand.

OLIVIA We are now IN a bigger house.

OMEGA We have not expanded.

MR T I was talked into it. I shall never be able to pay for it.

ALPHA When we were living in the flat, our daily lives were:

AOO Get up. Go to school. Dinner. Shortland Street. Homework. And always...always..

MRS T Tidy your rooms!!!!!!!

MR T I won’t. I’ll never be able to pay for it.

OMEGA And now, in this new house, it is...

AOO Get up. Go to school. Dinner. Shortland Street. Homework. And always...always..

MRS T Tidy your rooms!!!!!!!

ALPHA And

OLIVIA We

OMEGA Are

AOO Restless!!!!!!

MAHY And they weren’t the only ones who were restless. As we shall see. One day Mr Terrapin came home from work and said:

MR T Millie. I’m taking you out for an important dinner.

MRS T How important?

MR T Sir John is going to be there.

ALL Sir John!

MAHY The children had never heard of Sir John. They said that merely for effect.