

THE PIRATES OF PAN'S PANTS

By Jeff Dunne

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## CHARACTERS

ALASTAIR	The more serious of the two pirates. He wears an eyepatch.
PEACHTREE	The less serious, more flamboyant of the two pirates. He is more prone towards bouts of absurdity.
PETUNIA	She's the pswamp where the whole show takes place.
PETER PAN	The one, the only, the Pan.
SHADOW	Peter Pan's shadow. This is a non-speaking, highly audience interactive role.
PARROT	A colourful, feathery, ukulele-wielding bird. If the show includes the temporary intermoosion, this person also plays a cow.
CLOUD	The cloud is responsible for moving set pieces around, but mostly for facilitating Peter Pan's flight.

SETTING

The show occurs in a pswamp. Petunia the Pswamp, to be specific.

TIME

Indeterminate.

*(Alastair and Peachtree, two pirates, enter from Right, each holding one leg of a pair of pants. Trailing behind them is a parent from the audience.)*

ALASTAIR

Aaagg, why d'ya have to be walkin' so close? Back away!

PEACHTREE

I'll not be lettin' the likes of you run away with the treasure, leavin' me with naught but this scallywag for company!

*(Both turn to the parent.)*

ALASTAIR

What d'ya have to say for yourself?

PARENT

<whatever>

PEACHTREE

Just as I thought. Well, there's naught to do about it. I'll not be lettin' go of these trousers while your thieving hands are on them.

ALASTAIR

Nor will I.

PEACHTREE

Well, obviously not. If you let go of them while your hands are on them, then...

ALASTAIR

No, you scurvy dog! I'll not be lettin' go while *your* hands are on them.

PEACHTREE

But we can't keep movin' like a pair o' trouser-carryin' bilge rats through this here swamp.

*(They stop to look around.)*

ALASTAIR

Aye, it's a problem swamp if ever I've seen one.

PEACHTREE

A particularly problematic swamp.

ALASTAIR  
And pungent.

PEACHTREE  
Pungent?

ALASTAIR  
It means pstinky, you pompous, popeyed, piratical pest!

PEACHTREE  
That's quite a periphrastic proclamation, you piscivorous, polytonal... Say... do ya' perceive somethin'... pfishy goin' on?

ALASTAIR  
Well yes, now that you posit it... But I can't put my pfinger 'pon it. You?

PARENT  
<whatever>

PEACHTREE  
Ya know what I be thinkin? It's got to be this pswamp. I'd prefer to perambulate precipitantly!

ALASTAIR  
pWhat?

PEACHTREE  
Let's get out of here!

ALASTAIR  
Aye. Pdefinitely!

*(The pirates exit. Petunia reveals from back Center.)*

PETUNIA  
That's what it's like. Every time someone walks through me, they get scared and run away. Ai, what is a poor pswamp to do?

PETER PAN  
*(Entering...)*  
Did I just hear someone?

PETUNIA  
Well, you heard *something*. Who are you?

PETER PAN  
I... am Peter Pan.

PETUNIA  
*The Peter Pan?* From Neverland.

PETER PAN  
The very same. Who are you?

PETUNIA  
I'm the pswamp. But you can call me Petunia.

PETER PAN  
What's a pswamp?

PETUNIA  
I am! All around you. Look. The trees, the water. Don't you see me?

PETER PAN  
I suppose I do. Well, it's nice to meet you.

PETUNIA  
And you. Say, do you mind if I ask you something... personal?

PETER PAN  
I suppose not.

PETUNIA  
Why are you wandering around alone in your... um... well...

PETER PAN  
Oh, these (*indicating tights*). Yes, well, that is because someone has stolen my trousers.

PETUNIA  
But why are you walking? I thought you could fly.

PETER PAN  
Not without my pants. That would be undignified. And chilly. It's tough to have a proper happy thought when you're not wearing pants.

PETUNIA  
And as for being alone? I thought you led a whole troop of boys in Neverland.

PETER PAN

I did. But I... er... well... I lost them. Oh wait! *(Stares into the audience, but then shakes his head)*. Nope. Not them. I definitely lost them.

PETUNIA

You lost a whole troop of boys? That seems impossible.

PETER PAN

Oh, no. *(Proudly)* I'm really good at losing things. *(Bragging)* I even lost my shadow.

PETUNIA

You can't lose your shadow.

PETER PAN

But I did. Oh, sometimes it comes around...

*(Peter Pan's shadow comes onstage, crosses behind Peter and Petunia, sneaking, but clearly smiling and having a good time. During this next part, the shadow makes a sshhh sign to the audience.)*

PETER PAN

But it likes to hide from me. What I really need is a shadow proximity detector. You know, something or *someone* who can let me know if my shadow is sneaking around. Behind me.

*(If the audience doesn't respond, Peter can look at them and use extra cues, like "Right now", "Hint, hint", "You know, so if it was here now then someone would let me know", etc.*

*During the next few lines, the shadow should try to mimic the postures/motions of Peter Pan, except when responding.)*

PETER PAN

Ah ha! My shadow! Come here at once!

SHADOW

*(Shakes head no)*

PETER PAN

You are my shadow, and I'm telling you to come here this instant!

SHADOW

*(Does a little "I'm not gonna" dance)*

PETER PAN

Oh, come on.

SHADOW

*(Thinks for a moment, then shakes head again)*

PETER PAN

Please?

SHADOW

*(Smiling broadly – shakes head again)*

PETER PAN

Pretty please?!

SHADOW

*(More smug motions of no-ness)*

*(Peter Pan then jumps towards his shadow, but the shadow dashes away at the same instant that Peter Pan starts to move (it's like he knooooows), and hides behind Petunia. She smiles at the shadow, who puts its head on her shoulder with a big sigh as she pats him/her in a friendly manner. Peter Pan gives her a "what gives?" look, and she replies...)*

PETUNIA

I'm a pswamp. It's all shadows and dankness here.

PETER PAN

I see. Well, one thing at a time, and right now that has to be finding my pants. I don't suppose you saw a gang of pirates running through here with them, did you?

PETUNIA

As a matter of fact, I did. There were three of them, although one seemed a bit confused. They headed off towards the Plague Pools.



*(Peter Pan starts to exit, then stops to ask...)*

PETER PAN

A pswamp with Plague Pools. *(To the audience)* I think I am detecting a theme *(To Petunia)* What are Plague Pools?

PETUNIA

They are the marshy areas that lie to the west, between here and the great city of Pshaw. They are home to the Plague of Pfrogs.

PETER PAN

Frogs? That doesn't sound too dangerous. What do they do?

PETUNIA

Not frogs, pfrogs. Each individual pfrog is not dangerous itself, but they multiply very quickly. If you can't keep up, well... it can get messy.

PETER PAN

So if the pirates get past the... pfrogs, then they will reach Pshaw and I will never see my pants again.

PETUNIA

Then you should hurry.

PETER PAN

Won't you come with me?

PETUNIA

I'm the pswamp. I'm already there, and so are the pirates. Quickly, now.

*(Peter Pan attempts to fly away, but fails.)*

PETER PAN

Oh yeah, right. No pants.

*(Petunia drifts back into hiding, and Peter Pan exits. Pirates enter, now arrived at the Plague Pools.)*

ALASTAIR

Did ya' hear that?

PEACHTREE

Hear what? I didn't hear nothin'.

ALASTAIR

So ya' heard something.

PEACHTREE

Nay, ya' picaroon. I just told ye, I didn't hear nothin'!

ALASTAIR

Aye, and if ya' didn't hear *nothin'*, then ya' must have heard *somethin'*.

*(Sound of frogs from somewhere)*

ALASTAIR

Thar. Surely ya' must have heard that.

PEACHTREE

Aye, it sounded like... I dunno. What da' you think?

PARENT

<Whatever>

ALASTAIR

Honestly, what kind of buccaneer are ye?

PEACHTREE

That's what ya' get, I suppose, when ya' shanghai yer crew from the local <wherever the show is being held>.

ALASTAIR

I think we should be testin' his/her mettle.

PEACHTREE

Aye!

ALASTAIR

A test! Ta see if s/he's worthy of bein' part of our fearsome crew.

PEACHTREE

Aye!

ALASTAIR

What say ye all? A test?

PEACHTREE AND AUDIENCE

Aye!!

ALASTAIR

A pirate worth his/her salt should be able sing a good sea shanty, wouldn't ya say?

PEACHTREE AND AUDIENCE

Aye!!

*(One of the pirates whistles, and their ukulele-playing parrot comes flapping onto the stage.)*

*(Peachtree (P) and Alastair (A) trade off singing lines as shown:)*

P: Oh, a pirate king is a fearsome thing

A: It's a fact every scallywag knows

P: From the locks of his brow

A: and his milky white cow

A+P: To the tips of 'is buccaneerin' toes!

P: But in the pirate clan there is one great man

A: Most afeared in every port he goes

P: He has sailed these seas

A: with a beard to his knees

A+P: And the extemporary temper that he shows

A: The greatest captain, far and wide

P: With a fearsome wrath most amplified

*(After this, they are just stalling until the parent sings)*

A: That leaves the villagers petrified

P: He's a wooden leg and thunk-thunk stride

A: He likes his... taters.... deeply.... fried

*(Now dropping out of the song for the moment...)*

PEACHTREE

Are 'ya goin' to sing or aren't ya!?!

ALASTAIR

You said he was a pirate!

PEACHTREE

I saw him copying some DVDs so I just figured...

ALASTAIR

Alright, look. We'll help you out this once...

PEACHTREE

But next verse you sing the chorus yerself, aye?!

ALASTAIR

Take it again.

*(Both pirates return to singing)*

ALASTAIR AND PEACHTREE

The greatest captain, far and wide  
With a fearsome wrath most amplified

ALASTAIR

*(Spoken...)*

Now listen, you. Ready?

*(Both pirates return to singing)*

ALASTAIR AND PEACHTREE

He's the...  
silly nilly hilly billy  
butter batter pitter patter  
terrifying pirate  
Captain Pink Beard

PEACHTREE

*(To the parent...)*

Now you.

*(They help the parent work through it a few words at a time. Then Peachtree (P) and Alastair (A) trade off singing lines as shown:)*

P: There are some folks claim Captain Pink Beard's fame

A: Come about from his murders on the seas

P: Or the profit that he makes

A: from the booty that he takes

A+P: But it's all just a pile o' fallacies

P: For his greatest deed, and it's great indeed

A: And I'll tell ya' 'bout it if ya' please

P: Using tiny chairs

A: and his own beard hairs...

A+P: He's trained a troupe of acrobatic fleas

A: Oh they jump about and twirl with glee

P: The most awesome sight, ya' e'er did see

*(Again stalling for the parent now)*

A: They're fierce and deadly, as only fleas can be

P: They perform on Saturdays... from two to three

A: You can see 'em on deck... or at the library...

ALASTAIR

Arrr, ya' chickened out again, didn't ya?

PEACHTREE

It's time for the final chorus, matey. What kinda pirate are ya'?

*(If the parent can actually remember the line, then they let him/her sing it and shake their head like s/he a total idiot and explain that that was the last one, not this one. If not, they mutter about trying to find good pirate help these days. Eventually they just sing the final chorus...)*

They're the  
Flutter flutter nitter nutter  
Jumpy dumpy fancy dancy  
Acrobatic fleas o'  
Captain Pink Beard

Yes... They're... the...  
Flutter flutter nitter nutter  
Jumpy dumpy fancy dancy  
Acrobatic fleas o'  
Captain Pink Beard

PEACHTREE

Well, I won't be sayin' it's the best shantying I've heard...

ALASTAIR

But seein' as how we don't have a big crew just now...

Or, in fact, any crew... PEACHTREE

Aye... ALASTAIR

We'll keep ya. PEACHTREE

ALASTAIR  
And ye can even hold on to our trouser treasure. Now be careful with these. They're the Pants of Pan, ye know. Aaarr. And they be worth a fortune when we reach Pshaw.

PETUNIA  
Pirates! Do you know where you are?

PEACHTREE  
Who was that?

ALASTAIR  
I don't see no one.

PEACHTREE  
So you do see someone?

ALASTAIR  
Nay, ya buffoon, I just said that I don't see no one.

PEACHTREE  
Aye, so that means—

ALASTAIR  
Right, fine. I *do* see no one. What about you, matey?

PARENT  
<Whatever>

PEACHTREE  
Aaarr, and I really thought we had made some progress with him/her.

PETUNIA  
I am Petunia, the Pswamp. And you are in the middle of the Plague Pools!

ALASTAIR

Plague Pools?

PETUNIA

Yes. Look before you. There. Do you see all the pfrogs?

PEACHTREE

*(Down to stare at kids)*

Frogs?

PETUNIA

Pfrogs!

ALASTAIR

You mean there? *(Pointing to the kids in the audience)* They don't look too dangerous.

PETUNIA

No, but they multiply quickly. Let me show you.

*(Petunia coordinates the kids and parents in the audience, who start multiplying... two times three, four times six, one times eight, and so forth... as quickly as possible. Each time they do, the pirates react as if they are getting beaten.)*

PEACHTREE

Aaarr, Alastair! Shiver me timbers, we can't take much more of this. What can we do?!

ALASTAIR

There are too many of them. Our only hope is to divide and conquer!

*(The pirates start calling out division problems. Easy ones at first, then getting harder. Eventually the problems get too hard.)*

PEACHTREE

That was a close call!

ALASTAIR

Aye! Quick, let us set sheets to the wind and be gone afore they refactor!