

Arlecchino's Pirate Adventure

By Craig Lee

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DEDICATION

To Katy, Mackenzie and Zoe. For making my life full of lazzi's.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, this adventure follows a commedia troupe as they travel from kingdom to kingdom to present their plays. Unfortunately, Arlecchino has misplaced the map and now they are lost. While looking for the map, they are overrun by pirates searching for buried treasure. Now Arlecchino and his friends are in danger and may have to walk the plank. It's up to Arlecchino to save his friends!

SYNOPSIS

Arlecchino, the crafty trickster, always has his head in the clouds. He doesn't want to do any work or take any responsibility. He would rather pretend he's an adventurous pirate on the high seas or on a remote island looking for buried treasure. Today he is leading his commedia friends to the Kingdom of Isola del Tesoro to present their play. Unfortunately, he's lost the map! Now they are lost and only have a few hours to get to the kingdom. While the company sets up camp for the night, Arlecchino stumbles upon a treasure map to Stromboli Island. Now Pantalone has a new mission – to travel to Stromboli Island and get the treasure. They hire the suspicious Capitano Gorgonzola to take them to Stromboli Island on his ship the Antipasti. Once onboard, Capitano reveals himself to be a pirate in search of the treasure. After Capitano and his crew mutiny, they take prisoners and steal the map. Now Arlecchino and his friends are in danger and may have to walk the plank. It's up to Arlecchino to find his courage and save his friends. Approximately 60 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Arlecchino's Pirate Adventure was originally produced by Trinity Valley Community College in 2017. During its run it was seen by over 3,000 elementary school students from the East Texas area. (See the end of the script for original cast list.)

LA COMPAGNIA DEL CARDINALE COMMEDIA

(The Cardinal Commedia Company)

Flexible cast of 8-10. (5 m / 1 w + 2-4 flexible)

ARLECCHINO: The wily servant of Pantalone. He can be cunning and witty. He can also be lazy and forgetful. He is more interested in playing games and having fun, than doing what he should.

PANTALONE: A grumpy old man and leader of the company. He is more concerned with money than anything else.

DOTTORE: A blustery old man, often a foil to Pantalone. He believes he knows everything about everything, but really knows nothing.

CAPITANO: Thinks he is the bravest, noblest soldier in all the land. However, he is the most afraid.

PEDROLINO: Capitano's poor, put-upon right-hand man, who is smarter than he seems.

COLUMBINA: The smartest of them all. She is a servant to Pantalone. As witty as Arlecchino, but more organized. When trouble arises, she's the one with the plan.

ZANNI – FUSSILI and ROTINI: The worker bees of the company. They fill in anywhere needed. They are also responsible for the live sound effects in the production. You can use as many Zanni as you need.

*The original production included live Foley for all of the sound effects. This Foley was created live on stage by two Zanni (clowns). The set changes were also completed by these Zanni. You could include 2-4 Zanni, depending on need.

*The characters are based on the traditional commedia characters. However, all characters can be played by either male or female actors. Just change Arlecchino to Arlecchina, and so on.

MUSICAL INTERLUDES

The musical interludes are to be used as set transitions. In the original production, we used the Zannis to do all of the scene shifts. You can be as creative as you want. Create a new lazzi, a dance, or some other magical moment.

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(AT RISE: The stage is an empty space. ARLECCHINO enters from the back of the house on his tricycle, honking and making a ruckus. He talks to the audience.)

ARLECCHINO: Hello, hello, ciao, it's so good to see you, ciao! *(Makes HIS way to the stage.)* Greetings, greetings and salad nations! Oh, it is so good to see all of you. I'm so glad you found me. I mean that I found you. I mean that we found each other. You see, I don't know where I am. I'm lost. But you're not lost. You know where you are, you're here. But now, I'm not lost either. I'm here too. Only, I don't know where here is. Oh, where are my manners? Please, allow myself to introduce myself. Buongiorno, I am Arlecchino, the rascalion of the stage! *(Makes a grand gesture.)* You see, I'm an actor. I'm traveling with my friends to the kingdom of Isola del Tesoro to present our play of *Treasure Island*. Unfortunately, Pantalone gave me the map of how to get there. He handed it to me and said, "Arlecchino, take good care of this map. It's our only way to get to Isola del Tesoro." And I said, "Yes sir, Pantalone, sir. I won't let this map out of my sight!" And I didn't. Well, I mean, I did, but I didn't mean to. I stared at that map and stared at that map and then I started to go cross-eyed. So, I decided to put the map in a safe place, so it wouldn't get lost. The trouble is – I forgot the place. But I couldn't let them know I lost the map. Only I didn't know which way to go. We went this way and then that way and then back this a-way. We started going around in circles. I got so dizzy. Then we got separated. Now, they don't know where I am. I mean, I don't know where they are. Oh boy, Pantalone is going to throttle me. I mean first he has to find me, then he's going to throttle me. What am I going to do?

(SFX: We hear the jingle jangle of the COMPANY off in the distance.)

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ARLECCHINO: *(Cont'd.)* Wait? Did you hear that? *(He jumps up and yells offstage.)* Pantalone! Columbina! Dottore! Over here! Sono qui! I'm over here!

(SFX: More noise.)

ARLECCHINO: *(Cont'd.)* They found me! They're here. *(To audience.)* Hey everyone, they're here. Please welcome my friends - La Commedia!

(The rest of the COMPANY enters the theater. Some from the back of the house, others from the side of the stage. All interacting with the audience in a loud cacophony. Two members of the company are pulling the commedia wagon, guiding it to center stage. The Zanni are following behind the wagon, pushing a smaller cart that will serve as their Foley station. Finally, everyone makes their way to the stage.)

PANTALONE: Arlecchino, there you are.

PEDROLINO: Good to see you, Arlecchino.

DOTTORE: Arlecchino, my boy. We thought we had lost you forever.

COLUMBINA: Hoped is more like it.

CAPITANO: I see you have survived on your own. Well done, my good man.

PANTALONE: I knew I should never have given you the map. I should throttle you for getting us lost.

ARLECCHINO: Please, Pantalone, not in front of my new friends. *(Refers to the audience.)*

PANTALONE: *(Looks at the audience. Smiles and waves.)* Oh, yes, of course. Buongiorno ragazzi e ragazze, good morning boys and girls. What a pleasure to see you. How lucky we are to have found you. *(To ARLECCHINO.)* Especially you, Arlecchino.

ARLECCHINO: Please everyone, let me introduce you to my new friends. This is my master and provider, the one and only – Pantalone.

PANTALONE: *(Walks center and does a Pantalone pose. As he does he says.)* Pantalone! *(Pose.)*

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ARLECCHINO: The most learned man in all of the land –
Dottore!

DOTTORE: Dottore! *(Pose.)*

ARLECCHINO: The brave and valiant – Capitano!

CAPITANO: Capitano! *(Pose.)*

ARLECCHINO: My big hearted and cheerful friend–
Columbina!

COLUMBINA: Columbina! *(Pose.)*

ARLECCHINO: The gentle and trustworthy – Pedrolino!

PEDROLINO: Pedrolino! *(Pose.)*

ARLECCHINO: The Zanni Dua.

(The ZANNIS come center and pose.)

FUSSILI: *(Squeak.)*

ROTINI: *(Honk.)*

ARLECCHINO: And I am the cleverest...

COLUMBINA: the clumsiest...

DOTTORE: the silliest...

CAPITANO: the scarest...

PEDROLINO: the ditziest...

PANTALONE: the laziest...

ARLECCHINO: Anyone else?... Anyone?... no?... no?...
okay... Arlecchino!! *(Pose.)* And we are La Compagnia del
Cardinale Commedia! The Cardinal Commedia Company!

(ALL take a grand pose and then bow to the audience.)

PANTALONE: Now that we've been reunited, and
introductions have been made, it is time to stop all this dilly
dallying and get back on our way.

ARLECCHINO: But Pantalone, don't you think we should rest
a little before we continue?

COLUMBINA: We spent so much time going around in circles
and looking for this clown that I need to rest.

PANTALONE: We don't have time for rest. We must get to
Isola del Tesoro today.

End of Freeview

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