

Your Family Arts Center

DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER

HOW I BECAME A PIRATE

Based on the book by Melinda Long

SYNOPSIS

Act I (36 minutes)

Yo ho ho! Join young Jeremy Jacob on an adventure with Captain Braid Beard, Max (a pirate with a stuffed parrot), Pierre, the French cook, and the rest of the pirate crew as Jeremy learns how to become a pirate.

Jeremy is playing pirates by himself on the beach when he suddenly notices **REAL** pirates in the distance. He tries to tell his mom and dad, but they are distracted and absentmindedly tell him he needs to return home when it's time for soccer practice. Now on shore, the pirates notice Jeremy's sandcastle and invite him to join their crew as a digger to bury their treasure. Jeremy happily agrees!

The crew heads back to their ship with Jeremy in tow. Captain Braid Beard welcomes the young boy on board the ship and instructs the crew to show him around. Jeremy has a lot to learn including pirate manners (like talking with a mouth full of food and never saying please or thank you). But, as Captain Braid Beard informs him, he really needs to learn how to talk like a pirate in order to truly become one.

After practicing their pirate lingo, the crew asks Jeremy to tell them a little about himself. Jeremy talks about his baby sister (and changing dirty diapers), going to school, and playing soccer. Captain Braid Beard doesn't know how soccer can possibly be fun, so Jeremy teaches them all how to play soccer "by the rules."

Jeremy is exhausted! He asks Captain Braid Beard where he can sleep, but the pirates declare that they don't have to go to bed, take a bath, or change into pajamas. In fact, pirates don't have to do anything they don't want to do...well, except clean out the bilge, swab the deck, take care of the rigging, clean the cannon barrel...

Sharktooth, a pirate with an eyepatch, tells Jeremy he will get used to a life of piracy. Jeremy hesitantly asks Sharktooth what happened to his eye, and Sharktooth reveals that he thinks another pirate gave him pink eye. Which reminds him it's time for more eye drops – ouch! And, although he may look fierce, Jeremy learns Sharktooth is really "just a sensitive guy."

Shiver me timbers! Lightning flashes and thunder cracks – a storm is quickly approaching. The pirates prepare the ship as the storm hits.

Intermission (15 minutes)

Act II (25 minutes)

After the storm, Jeremy comments that the storm was more fun than a roller coaster. But, when Captain Braid Beard says they experience those kinds of storms all the time, Jeremy seems hesitant.

Time to bury the treasure! Captain Braid Beard wonders where they should bury it. As the pirates discuss, Jeremy tries to interject that he knows where to bury their precious treasure but none of the pirates pay any attention. Finally, Jeremy holds up a map and the pirates realize that he knows the perfect spot.

The pirates begin to follow the instructions on the map, moving this way and that until they finally reach their destination – Jeremy’s backyard! As they bury the treasure, Captain Braid Beard, Jeremy, and all the pirates agree that “it’s good to be home.”

Unfortunately, it’s time for the pirates to head back out to sea. Jeremy is sad to see them go, but they remind him they will be back for the treasure and that, if he looks around, he will see pirates everywhere. And, of course, he can always find them at “pirates dot argghh.” It’s time for soccer practice, and Jeremy holds up his soccer ball to reveal a jolly roger painted on it.

Notes:

- This is a musical with singing, dancing, and even some kazoo playing!
- The pirates are sometimes in the aisles by the audience (during the opening scene, as well as near the end of the play).
- The storm (lightning and thunder) may be scary for some audience members.