

TOP GALLANT

A Musical in Two Acts

Act I

Book, music and lyrics
by Paul Wolf

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Main Characters

TOBY	Christopher and Katelyn's son / Age 10	Boy soprano
CAPTAIN MARDOCKE	Hard-bitten master sailor / 50s	Bass-baritone
SUSANNA	Captain Mardocke's flame / 30s	Mezzo-soprano
NICK	Salt-of-the-earth laborer / 30s	Baritone
MAYOR RISELLO	Striving Sicilian immigrant / 40s	Tenor
CECILIA	Self-flattering grande dame / 40s	Contralto
CHRISTOPHER MATHIAS	Toby's visionary father / 40s	Baritone
KATELYN MATHIAS	Toby's perceptive mother / 30s	Contralto
PIERCETON ASHELEY	Toby's grandfather / 70s	(Non-solo)

Supporting Cast

Swain Dawkins (First Mate)

Young Ruffians (Flynn, Edwin, Brent, Josh)

Harbor Women (Buttons, Clarabelle, Vera, Annelle, Penny, Pearl)

Harbor Men (Foreman, Stevedores, Dockworkers, Yeomen, Longshoremen)

Sailors (Old Pegleg, Scully, Green Cookee, Zak, Woolsey, Double Duty)

Black Bess Crew (Sparrow, Rawlings, Reeves)

Two Constables (Officer Spooner, Officer Harbottle)

Townsmen and Townswomen (Dr. Haygood, Mrs. Coppens, Mr. and Mrs. Filpot, Mrs. Gabriel, Mrs. Parish, Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett, Mr. and Mrs. Dunwoody)

Tradesmen (Cabinetmaker, Tinker, Woodjoiner)

Industriymen (Contractor, Paymaster, Shipping Agent)

Craftsmen (Journeyworker, Cooper, Tanner)

Shipyards Workers (Carpenter, Master Sailmaker, Painter)

Market Sellers (Applepicker, Butcher, Flower Seller)

Young Men

Shanghaied Prisoners

Butler

Scene 1
Hill overlooking Winslow Harbor
Early morning

[MUSIC: A BIT OF BLADE]

TOBY paces on a windswept hill. Seagulls and distant waves can be heard.

TOBY

(*scans horizon*)

Not yet . . . you gotta *watch* . . . you gotta *look* . . . *out* . . . where the sun is rising . . . Nope! Too early. The sun has gotta turn *pink* . . . just right . . . behind the sails . . . *that's* what my father said. Not yet. *Will* his ship come in? Oh, well . . .

From his pockets, TOBY pulls a second-hand blade . . . a piece of whalebone . . . a string, a stone . . . and other objects . . .

TOBY

(*sings, improvises*)

A BIT OF BLADE, A BIT OF BONE --
MAY NOT BE MUCH
BUT IT'S THE MOST OF WHAT I OWN.

A PIECE OF STRING, A PIECE OF STONE --
MAKE ME AN ANCHOR
WITH THE BLADE AND WITH THE BONE.

A BIT OF NET, A BIT OF NAIL --
I ADD A PIECE OF ROPE --
I GOT MYSELF A SAIL!

TOBY fantasizes building a ship. He arranges the objects on the hill. YOUNG RUFFIANS (FLYNN, EDWIN, BRENT, JOSH) raise their heads behind the hill, one by one.

TOBY

A BIT OF TIN, A BIT OF TAR --
I ADD SOME RIGGING
AND I GOT MYSELF A SPAR.

A PIECE OF CANE, A PIECE OF COMB --
BUILD ME A SHIP
AND I WILL SAIL AWAY FROM HOME!

TOBY

(cont.)

A BIT OF BRAID, A BIT OF BOARD --
I'LL FIGHT A PIRATE
WITH A HIGH AND MIGHTY SWORD!

TOBY lifts a wooden sword and faces an
imaginary foe.

FLYNN / EDWIN / BRENT / JOSH

(sing)

THERE'S TOBY, MY OH MY --
HE'S GONNA DO OR DIE --
WHY SHOULD WE WONDER WHY?

YOUNG RUFFIANS draw closer. TOBY
admires the whalebone.

TOBY

WHALEBONE -- WHAT'S MINE, I OWN!

From behind trees, YOUNG RUFFIANS follow
TOBY, who moves onward.

TOBY

A PIECE
OF POLISHED BONE --

FLYNN / EDWIN / BRENT / JOSH

A BIT OF BLADE --

-- IT'S ALL HE NEEDS TO PLAY
A GAME HE PLAYS ALONE.

TOBY admires the stone.

-- A TRACE
OF REAL GEMSTONE --

A BIT OF BONE --

-- HE MAKES A FANTASY
WITH SCISSORS AND A STONE.

TOBY admires the blade.

-- THESE THINGS
I CALL
MY OWN!

A PIECE OF CANE --

-- A PIECE OF COMB --

-- HE'S GONNA SAIL AWAY TO
SOMEWHERE FAR FROM HOME!

TOBY notices YOUNG RUFFIANS.

FLYNN, EDWIN, BRENT, JOSH

WHO GIVES A CARE
IF WE DO SOMETHIN' TO ANNOY --
AIN'T NOTHIN' WRONG!

HE AIN'T AWARE
UNLESS HE'S PLAYIN' WITH A TOY --
WE SAY SO LONG!

(raise wooden swords)

EN GARDE!
EN GARDE!
EN GARDE!

YOUNG RUFFIANS become soldiers. They
march and circle TOBY. TOBY raises the
whalebone defiantly.

FLYNN

(grabs the whalebone)

Look at this!

TOBY

Hey!

FLYNN

A piece of whalebone!

BRENT

Toby's trying to make a toy!

EDWIN

"Make me an anchor!"

TOBY

Hey!

JOSH

"Make me a sail!"

BRENT

"Make me a spar!"

FLYNN

It's an old bone!

TOBY

You can't have that!

(grabs the whalebone)

TOBY
(sings)

WHALEBONE!
WHO OWNS THIS BONE!

FLYNN, EDWIN, BRENT, JOSH
(sing)

WHALEBONE!
WHO OWNS THIS BONE!

TOBY moves uphill. YOUNG RUFFIANS follow, teasing him from behind rocks and trees.

TOBY
THESE THINGS

I CALL

MY OWN --

-- A STRING,

A NAIL,

A BONE --

-- WILL LEAD

TO THINGS

UNKNOWN!

A BIT OF BLADE! A BIT OF BONE!
MAY NOT BE MUCH
BUT IT'S THE MOST
OF WHAT I OWN!

FLYNN / EDWIN / BRENT / JOSH

A BIT OF GOOSE --

A BIT OF GAS --

-- HE TAKES A LOOK TO SEE
WHAT'S IN THE LOOKING GLASS.

A BIT OF BUTT --

A BIT OF BLARN --

-- MAY NOT BE MUCH BUT
THEY HAVE GOT A KINDA CHARM.

A BIT OF CORD --

A BIT OF COCK --

-- HE BUILDS A SHIP WE GONNA
KNOCK IT WITH A ROCK!

TOBY LIVES IN CAMELOT!
HE DUNNO FROM DIDDLY-SQUAT!
DUMP HIM IN A FLOWERPOT!

A BIT OF BLADE! A BIT OF BONE!
MAY NOT BE MUCH
BUT IT'S THE MOST
OF WHAT HE OWNS!

Scene 2
Winslow town square / Harbor
Later that morning

[MUSIC: HOME!]

MAYOR RISELLO and a few MARKET SELLERS and TRADESMEN open the market stalls. TOBY and YOUNG RUFFIANS burst into the town square.

TOBY and YOUNG RUFFIANS
Ships are heading in! / They're coming to land! / Rounding the shore! / Ships are sailing in! / Coming home!

MARKET SELLERS and TRADESMEN

(sing)

MORNING SUN LIGHTS UP THE STREETS
AND RUMORS ARE RUNNING A GALE!
HEARTS TAKE OFF AND SKIP SOME BEATS,
WE LOOK FOR THE SIGHT OF A SAIL!

TOWNSPEOPLE enter in twos and threes, filling the town square.

TOWNSPEOPLE

(sing; with MARKET SELLERS and TRADESMEN)

WIDE HORIZON -- WE SEE A BAND OF SAILING FLEETS!
FAR HORIZON -- WE CATCH A WELCOME SIGHT THAT GREETES!

AND LIFTS OUR HEARTS ON SUNNY STREETS!
SHIPS THAT SAIL! SHIPS THAT SAIL! HOME!

MORNING SUN LIGHTS UP THE STREETS! HOME!
A WELCOME SIGHT THAT GREETES! HOME!

MRS. COPPENS and MRS. FILPOT enter.
TOWNSPEOPLE visit market stalls. MARKET and FLOWER SELLERS sell wares and flowers. CAPTAIN MARDOCKE and SWAIN DAWKINS enter, scouting to conscript YOUNG MEN.

MRS. COPPENS

Good morning, Mayor Risello.

MAYOR RISELLO

Buon giorno, Mrs. Coppens! A beautiful day. The first day of summer!

It is! That's a flat fact.

MRS. COPPENS

TOBY and YOUNG RUFFIANS run by shouting.
They surround TOBY.

BRENT

I know! It's his father. He wants to see his father come home on a ship!

JOSH

My pa says your father is dead!

EDWIN

He don't have no mother, either. Do you? You're an orphan!

TOBY

I am not! --

FLYNN

-- maybe you don't know that! --

TOBY

-- I *do!* I mean . . . my father is *alive!* --

BRENT

-- nobody's seen 'im, have they!

TOBY

I know . . . he *will* come home! --

JOSH

-- says who! --

TOBY

-- my father! He won't *never* forget me! --

MAYOR RISELLO
(*breaks up TOBY and YOUNG RUFFIANS*)

-- hey, hey, hey, hey!

MRS. FILPOT

Aren't these children perfectly naughty! --

MRS. COPPENS

-- oh my, yes!

MAYOR RISELLO

Boys will be boys!

YOUNG MEN enter. SUSANNA and HARBOR WOMEN enter from the opposite side.

NICK enters. CAPTAIN MARDOCKE and SWAIN DAWKINS furtively size up YOUNG MEN, including NICK. SUSANNA and HARBOR WOMEN flirt with NICK and YOUNG MEN. TWO CONSTABLES enter.

TOBY and YOUNG RUFFIANS run by, startling the TWO CONSTABLES and amusing SUSANNA. MRS. FILPOT and MRS. COPPENS visibly disapprove.

TOWNSPEOPLE

(sing)

RACING HEARTS AND SHINING EYES!
 HOPES AND FEARS WILL TANTALIZE!
 YOUNGSTERS RUNNING TO AND FRO!
 HEARTS WILL BURST AND TEARS WILL FLOW!

More TOWNSPEOPLE enter, swelling the town square.

TOWNSPEOPLE

DRIFTERS, DREAMERS! BROTHERS, LOVERS!
 DRIVE YOUR SHIPS HOME FROM THE SEA!
 RAMBLERS, ROAMERS! TRAV'LERS, TRAMPERS!
 RUN THE ROUTE HOME FROM THE SEA!

SUSANNA and HARBOR WOMEN cross paths with NICK and YOUNG MEN.

TOWNSPEOPLE

COMES THE STRANGER -- RETURNING FROM ETERNITY!
 SAFE FROM DANGER -- YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY HOME FROM SEA!

WE RAISE A SONG OF JUBILEE!
 SHIPS THAT SAIL! SHIPS THAT SAIL!
 YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY HOME FROM SEA!

SHIPS THAT SAIL! SHIPS THAT SAIL!
 HOME AT LAST! HOME AT LAST!

RAISE A SONG OF JUBILEE!
 YOU'VE SAILED ACROSS THE STORMY SEA!
 YOU'RE HOME!

CAPTAIN MARDOCKE signals SUSANNA and retreats with SWAIN DAWKINS. A reluctant SUSANNA lingers, then disappears with HARBOR WOMEN. TOWNSPEOPLE look expectantly to MAYOR RISELLO. He seizes the moment.

MAYOR RISELLO

Buon giorno! Grazie! Good people of Winslow! Ladies and gentlemen! In Sicily we have a saying, "As good as bread."

(grabs breadstick from bread stall)

What are the ingredients of bread? Grain, sweat, tears. In America we have a saying, "As good as gold." What are the ingredients of America! Every . . . one . . . of us! You . . . you . . . and you come by ship. I come by ship. The world cries for ships! Now we are able-bodied builders of ships to the world! Winslow, Massachusetts! But we are not done. My friends, one day we will out-Baltimore *Baltimore!* We will double the size of Deacon's Yard!

(cheers)

TOWNSMAN

(far upstage)

Ships are coming in!

MAYOR RISELLO

And now, my friends, once more our men sail homeward! May every man-jack return home safe!

[MUSIC: SAILORS' DANCE]

TOWNSPEOPLE

Down to the harbor! / Ships have arrived! / Look at all the sails! / They're coming into harbor!

TOWNSPEOPLE move toward the harbor *(upstage/offstage)*. TOBY dodges the crowd.

1ST STEVEDORE

Watch where you're going, young man! --

2ND STEVEDORE

-- you there! Outta the way! --

3RD STEVEDORE

-- let 'er fly! Lower the gangway!

TOBY struggles to the booth of a SHIPPING AGENT, doing business next to a PAYMASTER.

TOBY

Please, sir, is my father aboard one of the ships?

The name! SHIPPING AGENT

Christopher Mathias. TOBY

OLD PEGLEG enters.

Mathias! No, my boy, he's not registered. Ask the paymaster there. Mr. Paymaster. Sir! SHIPPING AGENT

Procession of TOWNSPEOPLE and SAILORS begins (*upstage/offstage*).

I'm looking for someone on your ship! TOBY
(*to PAYMASTER*)

The name! PAYMASTER

Christopher Mathias. TOBY

Mathias? No. You come searching for him last week, son. I doubt he's going to turn up this week! PAYMASTER
(*searches roster*)

Please, sir! TOBY

Does anyone know of Christopher Mathias! SHIPPING AGENT

LO LO LO LO SAILORS
LO LO LO LO LO! (*sing; upstage/offstage*)

Mathias? Aye! I did hear of him. OLD PEGLEG

NA NEE NA NEE NA NEE NA NEE SAILORS
NA NEE NA NEE NA NEE NA!

TOWNSPEOPLE

(sing; upstage/offstage)

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA LA LA!
LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA!

SHIPPING AGENT

You have news of Mathias?

OLD PEGLEG

Aye. He has come up . . . amongst the missing --

TOBY

-- what do you mean, sir!

SHIPPING AGENT

My boy, your father didn't leave on this ship. There's little hope he'll come back on it.

OLD PEGLEG

That would be a frightful leap into the dark!

Procession of TOWNSPEOPLE and SAILORS
nears.

TOWNSPEOPLE

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA LA LA!
LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA!

TOBY

What do you mean! Where's my father!

SAILORS

LO LO LO LO
LO LO LO LO LO!

OLD PEGLEG

Ask the devil. Or the deep blue sea!
(exits)

SAILORS

NA NEE NA NEE NA NEE NA NEE
NA NEE NA NEE NA NEE NA!

TOBY

No!

(runs in the direction of the harbor)