

TOP GALLANT

Full length: Two acts

Audience: General / Family / Children

Ethnicities portrayed:

white, Hispanic, Sicilian, multi-ethnic

Developed through the

Musical Theatre Writers Workshop

John Sparks, Artistic Director

CONCEPT

The narrative, set in 1832 New England, features a young lad searching for his father, lost at sea, and a prostitute, seeking her fortune along a Massachusetts waterfront. Together they form an enduring alliance, as the boy bravely confronts a perilous nautical world standing between himself and his father. Their earnest bond ultimately triumphs over the social hurdles tightened into place by New England tradition. Filled with high adventure and tender introspective moments, *Top Gallant* promises to appeal to a large theater audience that is young at heart, as well as promote a world premiere.

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

The original sit-down readings of *Top Gallant* were performed on June 20-21, 2006 at Theatre Building Chicago, with the creative development and support of the Musical Theatre Writers Workshop.

Since the readings, a number of songs have been added and the show has been significantly revised. Most recently, it has benefited through timely suggestions from Cheryl Coons (<https://www.cherylcoons.com>), teacher of musical theatre writing for Chicago Dramatists and a member of the National Council of the Dramatists Guild.

The current arrangement for two pianos well supports both the singers and the action. While the musical is not yet orchestrated, Pianos I and II, when performed by accomplished pianists on two grand pianos, are scored to fill a large theatre for a full production. Expanded orchestration, that would further enhance the musical, is welcome depending upon the producer's choices.

The recordings on the Synopsis/Music pages for Acts I and II, expressively supported by electronic piano, are intended to give a robust preview of music for the show, while echoing the harmonies of early America.