

Skit Notes: Found at Sea

Rebecca Locklear

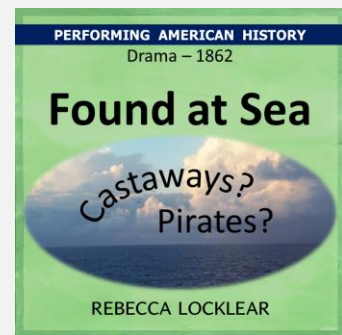
Summary: Rowena Crosby, grasping the rail of the ship, saw a speck in the distance. Was it men adrift? Castaways? Pirates? Find out in this true story of life at sea during the time of *iron men and wooden ships*.

Cast of Characters	# of Lines
Elijah Crosby, Captain of the <i>Schamyl</i>	35
Rowena Crosby, Captain's wife	27
Mr. Jones, Mate	19
Smith, sailor	4
Ben, sailor	3
Captain Wood, survivor of a British	27
Other sailors	

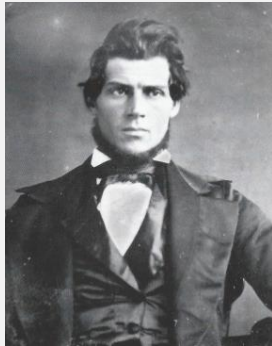
Grades: 9-12

Setting: 1862 on board ship, later in a home.

Performance Time: 10 minutes



Background Information



Elijah Crosby about age 26 when he attained ship master status (captain).

Captain Elijah Crosby was born in Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1819. At age ten he went to sea, attaining master at age 26 in 1845. He continued to work as a ship captain until 1871 and was engaged with shipping interests until 1884. Captain Crosby also contracted for and built several vessels.

With his first wife Emma, he had five children. (Three died young.) After Emma died at age 30, he married Rowena and had five more children. (One died young.) Rowena and their children at times accompanied him aboard ship.

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How can this skit be used?

- In history classes as reader's theatre or semi-performed with scripts in hand.
- As an introduction into further study of life at sea as well as shipwrecks and search and rescue. (See topics in the resource.)
- In history or history-arts performances.

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Scene 1 On deck of the *Schamyl* off the coast of Chile

ROWENA: (*standing at ship rail, calls to MATE JONES*) Mr. Jones. I see a speck out there. It's something. (*squints*) Not moving. (*keeps looking*) It's not a whale. Do you see it?

JONES: (*with spyglass looks in that direction, CAPTAIN CROSBY approaches*) Yeah, I see. Capt'n?

CROSBY: What is it? (*takes spyglass from JONES*)

JONES: Looks like men in an open boat. Could be men adrift. Could be pirates comin' afoul of us. We're nearin' Valparaiso.

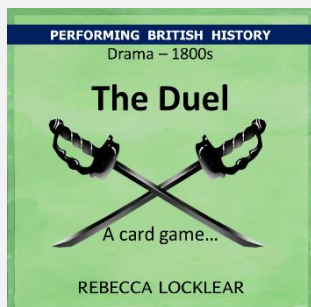
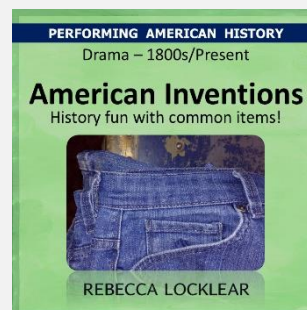
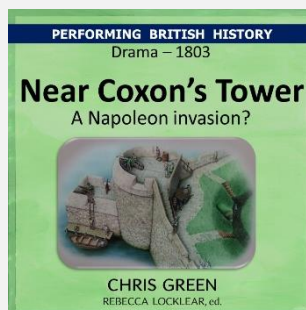
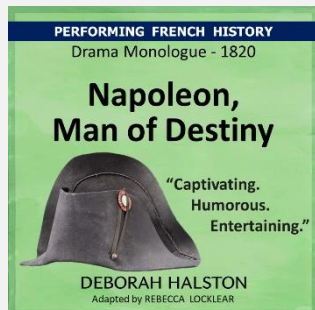
CROSBY: Hmm. (*takes a moment, as he keeps looking, responds*) Looks like a signal of distress. (*to JONES*) Mr, Jones, all hands on deck. Armed. Starboard the wheel. Let's see what this is all about.

JONES: Aye, Capt'n. (*blows whistle three times, SAILORS appear, get armed*)

CROSBY: (*to JONES again*) Take us starboard. (*to ROWENA*) Rowena. (*motions toward stateroom door indicating for her to go quickly*) Get inside. Keep the kids quiet.

CONTINUED....

Need other skits set in the 1800s?



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