

# STORY SUMMARY

TIM BRAY  
THEATRE COMPANY



## THE GREAT PIRATICAL RUMBUSTIFICATION

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## Hoist the Flag of Fun & Mayhem

Join our young hero, Oliver Terrapin, as he opens up the doors of his oblivious parents' home for a party – a party with real pirates! Mayhem ensues in this rollicking, rumbunctious rumpus of an escapade by Tim Bray Theatre Company that promises the most piratical fun you've had in years. Yo ho ho!

During this sensory relaxed performance, we have not changed the plot, characters, or story from our standard performances. Instead, we have done our best to adjust for sensory sensitivities and preferences while still staying true to the spirit of the play, and we provide as much information as possible so you can prepare in advance for the show you are attending. Everyone is unique in their requirements for enjoying the performance, and we have tried to accommodate a wide range of preferences and needs. Please keep in mind that you know your child best in deciding if this show will be suitable for them, and that during a live theatre performance unpredictable events and last-minute changes may occur.

**Warning- Spoiler Alert! If you do not want to learn about details and surprises in the show, do not read any further.**

### There are 17 scenes

- Scene 1: Small house
- Scene 2: Pirates circle round the house
- Scene 3: Larger house
- Scene 4: Pirates meet up
- Scene 5: Oliver and Dad play pirates
- Scene 6: Pirates hide and seek
- Scene 7: Oliver keeps the pirates out
- Scene 8: Babysitter organised
- Scene 9: Babysitter arrives
- Scene 10: Orpheus shoots party flare
- Scene 11: Restaurant
- Scene 12: Sir John sees Pirate Party in sky
- Scene 13: No Sir John at restaurant
- Scene 14: Terrible Crabmeat with Stop Go
- Scene 15: Pirate party begins
- Scene 16: The Terrapins drive home
- Scene 17: Party and interruption

**This story summary will give details about each scene, along with pictures.**



## Scene 1: Small house



1/ We hear the pirates singing off stage. Oliver is racing his mother, Mrs Terrapin, home. The Terrapin family live in a very small house. Mr Terrapin arrives home. Oliver, their eight year old son, is studying pirates at school and asks Mr Terrapin to teach him a sea shanty. The singing of sea shanties, for school homework, by Mr Terrapin and Oliver leads to an argument about needing a bigger house. This argument ends in a stylised and silly tango by the family. At the end of the short tango, they remain seated and frozen at the table.



## Scene 2: Pirates circle round the house



2/ The pirates who live in the city circle round the house as they look for a possible place for a pirate party in the future. The pirates sing a song in a round - each pirate sings a different part of the song. At the end of the scene, the family looks out the window listening.





## Scene 3: Larger house



3/ The family hears the singing and we see them all looking out the window. Oliver is convinced it is pirates. The argument about needing a bigger house becomes a reality. During a lighting change the house grows bigger and we find Mr Terrapin, who is worried about all the costs of a new house, hiding under the table. Mrs Terrapin and Oliver love the size of the new house. Every time Mr Terrapin thinks about money he turns green (through the use of lighting) and goes limp.



## Scene 4: Pirates meet up



4/ Three pirates, Roving Tomasina, Orpheus Clinker and Terrible Crabmeat, meet up and express their desire for a pirate party. As they leave Terrible Crabmeat drops his handkerchief which Oliver picks up and offers it back to him.





## Scene 5: Oliver and Dad play pirates



5/ Oliver knows he has seen a real pirate and wants to play pirates at home. But Mr Terrapin says they must hang the washing out. They hang two sheets out on a washing line extending from the left hand side of the house to offstage left. Oliver then encourages his father into playing on the furniture as if it were a pirate ship. Mrs Terrapin enters with two cupcakes as afternoon tea, and Mr Terrapin and Oliver pretend she is a mermaid with treasure.



## Scene 6: Pirates hide and seek



6/ The three pirates appear from behind the sheets and sing enticingly to Oliver. His father doesn't see them. Oliver goes to look for the pirates but keeps missing them. He takes off the sheets but only finds his mother behind them bent over the washing basket.





## Scene 7: Oliver keeps the pirates out



7/ Oliver puts jam from a jam sandwich on the outside door handle and barricades the front door with the furniture to keep the pirates out. He calls out to his mother for help with folding one of the sheets. He pulls it suddenly which ties up his mother and he pretends she is his pirate captive. Mr Terrapin arrives and can't enter the front door so climbs in the window to find his wife tied up. He wants to take her out to a dinner hosted by a rich man, Sir John, to learn how he made his fortune. Mrs Terrapin asks him to organise a babysitter through the Mother Goose Babysitting Service.



## Scene 8: Babysitter organised



8/ As Mr Terrapin waits for Mother Goose to answer the phone, he moves the table and two chairs into centre of the stage. Mother Goose enters and they have a conversation on the phone while seated across the table from each other. Mother Goose gets very confused and mishears things leading to an unnecessarily complicated phone call but she organises Orpheus Clinker to be the babysitter. When she asks for his credit card number Mr Terrapin goes green and he faints.





## Scene 9: Babysitter arrives



9/ Oliver finds his father on the floor and gets him up. They then get disturbed by the thumping steps and shadowy lighting effect of the babysitter as he approaches the house. Orpheus is invited into the house and Mr Terrapin questions his experience and wonders aloud about his piratical appearance. Mrs Terrapin enters and is shocked to see the pirate. Mr Terrapin hurriedly escorts her out of the house.



## Scene 10: Orpheus shoots party flare



10/ Orpheus shares his plan with Oliver about using their house as the location for a pirate party. They go outside and Oliver is startled when Orpheus pulls out a gun. But it is a party flare which spells out 'Pirate Party' in the sky to alert the other pirates in the city as to where the party is.

**NOTE: We use a confetti cannon for the party flare which creates a loud bang and then there are bangs from the fireworks. There are flashy firework lighting effects. The actors pretend they can read the words 'Pirate Party' behind the audience – there are no words behind you.**





## Scene 11: Restaurant



11/ Three waiters enter and move the table and chairs across to the left of the stage. They set it with a tablecloth, napkins, soup bowls and spoons. Mr and Mrs Terrapin enter and are overwhelmed at the expensive and fancy restaurant they find themselves in. They taste the soup but Mr Terrapin finds it to be thin and tasteless and calls out for some salt. Mrs Terrapin is embarrassed by his behaviour. He spies the party flare and questions why there's a party happening in their part of town. He surprises himself and Mrs Terrapin when he describes it as a rumbustification.

## Scene 12: Sir John sees Pirate Party in sky



12/ Sir John is getting dressed by his servant so he can attend the dinner that the Terrapins are at. He doesn't want to go. He spies the party flare and asks his servant to bring his pirate clothes and wheelchair. He reminds the servant that he's not really Sir John but called Terrible Crabmeat as Sir John is just a guise for his incredible pirate wealth. He heads off in the motorised scooter.



## Scene 13: No Sir John at restaurant



13/ Back the restaurant, Mr and Mrs Terrapin are struggling with a very boring after dinner speaker. Mr Terrapin is annoyed that Sir John hasn't shown up and that the soup was so tasteless. They hurriedly exit.

## Scene 14: Terrible Crabmeat with Stop Go



14/ Two road workers with a Stop Go sign each enter. Terrible Crabmeat enters on his motorised wheelchair. He gets frustrated at being stopped so frightens the workers off with a piratical cry.



## Scene 15: Pirate party begins



15/ Oliver and Orpheus enter with a large cauldron for the pirate stew and an open fire which Orpheus lights with a match. He then lights a bonfire (lighting effect only) out the back on the patio. Roving Tomasina arrives having seen the message from the party flare. She gives Oliver her contribution to the stew. Rumbling Dick Rover arrives with their contribution to the stew. Terrible Crabmeat arrives but crashes upstage behind the house. He meets Oliver and gives him his contribution to the stew. The party continues and then the pirates begin to dance in slow motion. **NOTE: There is no actual fire. These are all lighting effects.**



## Scene 16: The Terrapins drive home



16/ The Terrapins are sitting in the chairs on the left of stage and Mrs Terrapin is holding a steering wheel as if she is driving a car. They talk about the disaster of the evening but then Mr Terrapin sees the party and the pirates at their house out the car window.



## Scene 17: Party and interruption



17/ The party continues and two more pirates have since arrived. Oliver looks out into the audience and notices that more pirates have arrived (the audience). The pirates encourage the audience to stand and teaches them a simple routine to a pirate song. The pirates continue with the party but each stop as they notice Mr and Mrs Terrapin arrive in their midst. **NOTE: When Oliver says, "Look, more pirates have arrived" there are no other pirates in the audience. He is meaning the people in the audience and he may see children who have dressed up as pirates or children who may want to pretend to be pirates for a short time. You don't need to stand and join in and the pirates won't be coming in to the audience.**

## Scene 17: continued



16/ Oliver is pulled up by his parents and asked what is the meaning of what is going on. Oliver says that his mother said he could expand once they got a bigger house. Terrible Crabmeat interrupts and ask why it has to have a meaning. Mrs Terrapin recognises him as Sir John. The Terrapins bow and make a fuss of the fact that if Sir John is there then the party must be respectable. Sir John introduces himself as Terrible Crabmeat and tells the Terrapins to get out of their 'silly clothes' and to relax and enjoy themselves.

Oliver gets his parents to try the pirate stew which they agree is tasty with the right amount of salt. Terrible Crabmeat asks Orpheus to wipe out the pot and for the pirates to fill it with their treasure. He explains that the treasure now belongs to the Terrapins. They can now pay for the bigger house and Mr Terrapin will stop going green.



## Scene 17: continued



17/ The show ends with all the cast singing a song and performing party tricks to each other.

At the end of the show the cast bow and indicate their thanks to the lighting and sound operators and the backstage crew.

