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*Dramatic Publishing*





# Polly Wants a Curtain Call

By Victoria Sayeg

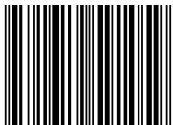
# Polly Wants a Curtain Call

**Comedy. By Victoria Sayeg. Cast: 2m., 6w., 14 to 23 either gender.** It's going to take more than a few crackers to balance the monotony of mindless repetition in the life of the Shakespeare-reciting parrot, Pauline. One day, in the midst of a ship-looting-gone-wrong, she flies away to pursue an acting career. After all, a life surrounded by pirates can ruffle anyone's feathers. However, when the pirates discover that Polly has run away, they decide to change their scoundrel ways, which leads them to Aargaholics Anonymous. The reforming pirates overcome 30 days in the program, and, on the last day, they are awarded a free cruise. All is smooth sailing until a collision with another ship begs the question: what, really, are the true treasures in life? *Polly Wants a Curtain Call* is as engaging as it is funny and incorporates a hilarious cast of characters to keep you smiling all the way home. *One ext. set. Approximate running time: 45 minutes. Code: PM5*



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# **Polly Wants a Curtain Call**

By

VICTORIA SAYEG



**Dramatic Publishing Company**

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*Polly Wants a Curtain Call* was first produced by Young Artists Ensemble in Thousand Oaks, Calif., on Oct. 17, 2015, with the following cast and production staff:

Cast:

Pearl Clinkenbeard.....	Ava Ahlberg
Peggy.....	Ariela Behar
Director/Bandmate.....	Annaliese Cancilla
Chef.....	Emery Eckman
Monkeys.....	Chloe Skye Garcia, Estella Garcia, Nour Rayess
Polly the Parrot/Bandmate .....	Samantha J. Green
Christy Clinkenbeard .....	Lia Grinsell
Carson .....	Gabe Hyman
President/Serious Pirate #2/Bandmate .....	Kylah Kennedy
Danny .....	Molly Kreitman
Jamie .....	Pooja Krishnan
Carly.....	Jenna Lay
Waiter/Sandy.....	Kelli Lay
Emerald Clinkenbeard .....	Riley Mays
Upside-Down Sword Guy.....	Kai Moore
Drew Clinkenbeard .....	Kaige Moore
Patchy.....	Kieran Moore
Sous Chef.....	Sophia Roberts
Davy Jones .....	Megan Smith
Clown/Serious Pirate #1/Bandmate .....	Emily Shyer Tuso
Ruby Clinkenbeard .....	Grace Younes
Charley.....	Jacqueline Zucker

Production:

Producer ..... Megan McDonough  
Director/Properties Coordinator..... Victoria Sayeg  
Assistant Director/Props Coordinator .....Amy Moore  
Costume Designer/Props Coordinator ..... Kayla Sayeg  
Monkey Costume Builders .....Charlie Masin, Ryann Roberts  
Costume Assistant/Dresser/  
Monkey Makeup Artist ..... Tina Eckman  
Set Designer ..... Mark Andrew Reyes  
Lighting Designer ..... Jeff Calnitz  
Stage Manager/Sound Operator .....Lauren Alexander  
Lightboard Operator..... Allison Zatlin  
Polly Drawing ..... Jessica Strohmeier  
Poster Design/Program Layout ..... Natalie DeSavia



Special thanks to Fred A. Sayeg, my dad,  
the real writer of the family.

# Polly Wants a Curtain Call

## CHARACTERS

CARLY (w): Apprehensive about becoming a pirate, but tries to see the positive side of everything.

CARSON (m): Ship's captain. Greedy and demanding. Takes pirating very seriously.

CHARLEY (either): Polly's owner.

POLLY THE PARROT (either): The ship's loot appraiser, searching for something more than just crackers.

DANNY (either): So ... very ... very... lazyyyyyyyyyyy ...

SERIOUS PIRATE #1 (either): Always working, always swabbing the deck.

SERIOUS PIRATE #2 (either): You missed a spot.

CHEF (either): Food is the way to a pirate's heart! A total carnivore.

SOUS CHEF (either): A vegetarian.

CLINKENBEARD (m): A novice, melodramatic pirate always trying to please his wife.

CHRISTYCLINKENBEARD(either):Equallymelodramatic, loves rubies and gold.

EMERALD, PEARL and RUBY CLINKENBEARD (w): Their ditzy daughters.

UPSIDE-DOWN SWORD GUY (either): Has a really hard time with the concept of sword fighting.

PATCHY (either): Has a really hard time with the concept of eye patches.

PRESIDENT (either): Of Aaargaholics Anonymous, confident for no good reason.

JAMIE (either): A reformed pirate who sees the ARRRR-or of his ways.

SANDY (either): A hipster pirate of copywritten material.

WAITER (either): Spunky and full of puns.

CRUISE SHIP COORDINATOR (either): Energetic and sneaky.

PEGGY (w): An elderly ballerina and former pirate who has never, at any point in time, had a peg leg.

SEA DOG AND THE BILGE RATS: A rock band!

CLOWN (either): A clown.

DAVY JONES (m): A high-school student just trying to find his locker.

DIRECTOR

THREE SMALL MONKEYS

# Polly Wants a Curtain Call

## SCENE 1

AT RISE: *Lights up on a pirate ship. SERIOUS PIRATE #1 and SERIOUS PIRATE #2 are swabbing the deck; one holds the mop while the other is following with the bucket, whistling. MONKEY #1 is chasing her tail nearby. DANNY, another pirate, is sleeping and snoring.*

*(Two pirates, CARSON and CARLY, run onstage with their freshly acquired loot. To CARSON this is a breeze, despite his hook for a hand. CARLY is exhausted, as it is her first day as a pirate.)*

CARSON. Ah, looting and pillaging! Raiding and stealing! It never gets old, does it, m'lady?

CARLY *(pants for a bit, holds up a finger like "hang on")*. No.

CARSON. Ay, mate, whatcha got in your plunder, there, anyhow? Come on, it's your very first ransack, let's get a good look! Anything good down in Davy Jones' locker?

*(DAVY JONES, a high-school student, wearing a backpack, enters hurriedly. He is carrying a lunch sack that reads "DAVY JONES," and he is on the brink of a breakdown.)*

DAVY JONES. You found my locker?!

CARSON. Matey, have you SEEN *Pirates of the Caribbean*? Your locker is at the bottom of the ocean!

*(DAVY JONES looks more confused than ever, consulting a campus map.)*

DAVY JONES. The bottom of the ocean?! Is that next to the math building ... ?

MONKEY #1. We don't know nothin' about your locker, kid!

SERIOUS PIRATE #1. YEA! Catch you on the flip side, Zack Morris!

SERIOUS PIRATE #2. DAVY JONES! The kid's name is DAVY JONES.

*(DAVY JONES exits.)*

CARSON. Carly, how did ye fare, beauty?

*(CARLY looks through her loot. She has her back to CARSON and holds up what is clearly junk: a rubber chicken, a dirty sock, whatnot.)*

CARLY. It's ... I got... GOLD, matey!

CARSON *(trying to see)*. Gold, me lady?

CARLY *(trying to hide stuff)*. Ay! Gold, diamonds ... rubies ... piles and piles of cash ... *(Picking up an old flip phone.)* an iPhone 6s\*..... *(Picking up a scrap of cardboard.)* a google cardboard\*.... *(\*Or whatever is relevant.)*

MONKEY #1. OOHh! OooHh! Ahh! Aaha!!! I want it! I want it! I want it!

DANNY. Could ya keep it down? I'm trying to catch up on me booty sleep. *(Goes back to resting.)*

CARLY. Sorry, Danny. Ay! Carson! How'd you fare there, matey?

*(CARSON looks at his gold bricks and diamonds.)*

CARSON. I mean, this loot is all right, but it's certainly not what I was hoping for. It's not the crown jewel or anything. We gotta wait for the official numbers from Polly.

CARLY. Polly?

CARSON. Ay, Polly is the ship's loot manager. She is the only one who knows what anything's worth. She's been appraising our plunders since day one.

CARLY. Sounds like a thankless job.

SERIOUS PIRATE #1. We wouldn't know anything about that.

SERIOUS PIRATE #2 (*to SERIOUS PIRATE #1*). You missed a spot.

CARSON. Ay, they're a dime a dozen, matey, but Polly loves it. Watch this. (*Calls to them.*) Charley! Polly! Get over here!

CHARLEY (*entering with POLLY*). Avast, mateys! At glance you've got good loot here, but I can tell you, it's not enough! It certainly is no crown jewel.

CARLY. What is this crown jewel stuff?

CHARLEY. Ay, the crown jewel is the treasure of the sea! It is what all pirates are in search of. And one day, they will be ours! (*CARLY and CHARLEY laugh evilly.*) But for now (*To POLLY.*) why don't you tally this cull like a good little seed-counter?

POLLY. You got like, a brock fifty here. See me at the cage, and I'll cash you out.

CARLY. A brock fifty! That's great! (*Goes to high-five CARSON, realizes he has a hook for a hand. Retracts.*)

CHARLEY. It's fine, yes, but there are far more treasures untold, boundless beauty, and we need them all!

CARLY. We need them ... all, matey? Why? We already have all this ... and a monkey ...

(*MONKEY #2 enters.*)

MONKEY #2. You actually have two monkeys!

*(MONKEY #3 enters.)*

MONKEY #3. Three, actually.

CARLY. OK. Three monkeys. I'm pretty happy with that. I don't know why we have them, but I like them.

MONKEY #1. We like you too, Carly.

MONKEY #3. We like you too.

MONKEY #2. A lot.

*(CARLY is rather uncomfortable.)*

CARLY. That ... was weird.

CARSON *(rolling his eyes, looking her over)*. You sure are a rather green pirate.

CARLY *(looking over attire)*. More of red and white, really—

CARSON. What I'm saying, beauty, is you clearly are a new pirate, with a lot to learn. You need to get your sea legs.

CARLY *(looking at her legs)*. I thought these ones were all right—

CARSON. Pull up an ear. It's never fair that the bountiful treasures stay on the other ships, in the other ne'er do well hands. We must voyage forth, dreadnaught,—

*(MONKEY #2 has handed CARLY a Pirate to English dictionary, and she is frantically flipping through.)*

MONKEY #2. Pirate to English dictionary.

CARLY. Thank you.

CARSON *(noticing the book)*. Have I bored you?

CARLY. It's just that I don't understand what you're saying, exactly, yet—

CHARLEY. Ay, landlubber. Simple terms. Let me put it to you like this. We need things! More things! Other people's things! Listen. In jewels, we find happiness. In rubies, love.

CARSON. We only take what is owed to us—

CHARLEY. Which is everything!

*(CHARLEY and CARSON laugh. CARLY is beginning to warm up to this idea.)*

CARLY. Well, it would be kinda nice to have a few more things ...

CARSON. ARR!! It'd be more than nice, beauty. It is the way of life! I say we commandeer the next sail we see, and the next, and the next, and the next—

CHARLEY. And the next!

MONKEY #1. And the next!

MONKEY #2. And the next!

MONKEY #3. And the next!

DANNY. And the next! *(Turns into a yawn.)* But not the one after that.

*(All three pirates slowly look to POLLY. Beat.)*

POLLY *(stands slowly, as if she totally doesn't want to participate. Then, grandly, speaking to a skull she's holding)*. "To be, or not to be. That is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind—"

*(All pirates groan.)*

CARSON. Oh Polly, not again ...

POLLY. It's Pauline. Pauline. Pauline! That is my stage name. It's simply not that difficult to just call me by—



CHARLEY. OK, we know, you want to be an actor. So why not start with ACTING LIKE A PARROT.

PARROT (*flatly*). Brock.

CHARLEY. Does Polly want a cracker?

PARROT. Polly wants social justice! Individuality! Eradication of injustice! World pe—

CHARLEY. Polly wants a cracker.

*(CHARLEY shoves a cracker in POLLY's mouth. POLLY dramatically spits it out. SERIOUS PIRATE #1 and SERIOUS PIRATE #2 rush over to mop up.)*

PARROT. Ugh. Gluten.

MONKEY #1. You can't be a gluten-intolerant parrot.

MONKEY #2. Yeah. That's like me being a banana-intolerant monkey.

*(Another pirate, the SOUS CHEF on board, enters with a banana.)*

SOUS CHEF. Hey man, want a banana?

MONKEY #2. No thanks, man, I'm deathly allergic.

*(MONKEY #3 angrily takes the banana. SOUS CHEF exits.)*

MONKEY #3 (*to MONKEY #2*). The nerve.

*(MONKEY #3 throws the banana on floor; SERIOUS PIRATE #1 and SERIOUS PIRATE #2 clean it up.)*

POLLY. I can be whatever I want. I was born this way. I am what I am. I don't want to spend my life repeating what people tell me to say. I am an individual, and I am a gluten-intolerant parrot!

CARLY. OK, Pauline, but... do you even know what gluten is?  
CHARLEY (*to POLLY*). Yeah! And can you at least just talk in the parrot voice?

POLLY (*in quintessential parrot voice*). Gluten is the mixture of proteins found in cereal grains, especially wheat, responsible for the elastic texture of dough. (*Drops the bird voice.*) In the future, expect only that I take di-rection from my di-rector on set. (*Goes to exit.*) I take no more from you. Not this nonsense, this constant fighting, this greediness. I am constantly counting, but it never adds up to anything of true value.

CARSON. Whoaaa. Down, boy.

POLLY (*with a sigh*). I'll be on the poop deck. (*Goes upstage and squats. She is still seen by audience but not included in the action.*)

*(Suddenly, a group of inexperienced pirates including a very short man named CLINKENBEARD, his very tall wife, CHRISTIE, and their three daughters, PEARL, EMERALD and RUBY, storm in. UPSIDE-DOWN SWORD GUY and PATCHY storm in as well. UPSIDE-DOWN SWORD GUY carries his sword by the blade, and PATCHY wears two eye patches. Throughout, it is more or less PEARL's job to make sure her father always has a block to stand on, and EMERALD and RUBY's job to make sure PATCHY hasn't wandered into a wall, or into oblivion.*

CLINKENBEARD, CHRISTY, PEARL, EMERALD, RUBY, PATCHY & UPSIDE-DOWN SWORD GUY (*happily, greeting friends/ not in unison*). Ahoy!!!! Hi there!! Greetings, salutations (*Etc.*)

*(Everyone else looks thrown/puzzled, and they laugh at the other pirates' terrible method of pirating.)*

CHARLEY. Ahoy?! AHOY?? Scoundrels, you are here to commandeer our ship and you *greet* us?

CARSON. That's the funniest thing I've ever heard!

*(CARSON's clan erupts in laughter again.)*

CLINKENBEARD'S CREW *(seriously)*. ARRR!!

CHARLEY'S CREW *(mocking)*. ARRRR! *(Laughing.)*

CARLY *(has had a good laugh over this)*. I mean, I'm new to pirating and all, but you guys are really a riot! That one's not even holding his sword the right way. *(Referencing PATCHY.)* And he's got two eyepatches.

PATCHY *(to no one in particular)*. *She* clearly hasn't read this week's issue of *Vogue*.

CARLY. And plus, you don't even look like pirates. You look like a group of chickens!

*(CHEF runs onstage.)*

CHEF *(stereotypical Italian)*. A'chickens?! Where'a'the chickens?!

PATCHY. Beets me.

*(SOUS CHEF runs onstage.)*

SOUS CHEF. BEETS?! WHERE?!

DANNY. I'm literally never going to eat anything you guys ever make.

CHEF . But we are a'great a'chefs! We a'make a'meat a'everything! A'meat a'pies! A'meat a'patties! A'meat a'cookies! A'meat a'milkshakes!

SOUS CHEF. Meat should never be in milkshakes, or in anything else, for that matter.

CHRISTIE (*to CLINKENBEARD*). Honey, did you hear?  
They have meat ice cream on this ship! You never make  
meat ice cream!

CLINKENBEARD. True. But I do make a delectable eggplant  
a l'orange parmesan.

SOUS CHEF. Ah, see there! (*About CLINKENBEARD.*) Now  
that man ... that man is a real chef. A true culinary mastermind  
can create without beef or chicken or any meat at all!

CHEF. But I need'a the turkey—

SOUS CHEF. Nope.

CHEF. But I need'a the fresh fish—!

SOUS CHEF. No you don't.

CHEF. But I need'a the—

UPSIDE-DOWN SWORD GUY. What about Spam?

PEARL. What is Spam?

*(A hush falls over the crowd.)*

SOUS CHEF (*like a ghost story*). No one knows what Spam is.

CHEF (*threatening*). No a'one!

SOUS CHEF. Some say it's a hot dog ... in a can!

CHEF. Some ... say it's not!

*(Awkward pause.)*

CHRISTY (*to CLINKENBEARD*). Well ... do something,  
darling!

CLINKENBEARD. Give us all your money!

UPSIDE-DOWN SWORD GUY. Yeah!

PATCHY. Yeah! You heard 'em!

EMERALD. Yeah! (*Very threateningly.*) And give us your  
spam, too!

RUBY (*threatening*). ALL OF IT.

(*A psudeo-intense beat is interrupted with CARLY's laughter.*)

CARLY. I'm sorry ... but really? That's how you pirate?

CLINKENBEARD. ... I don't know. We've never done it before. ARRR!!!

CLINKENBEARD'S CREW. ARRR!!!

CARLY. ARRRR!!!

CARSON'S CREW. ARRR!!!

CHRISTY (*notices gold*). Darrrling, look at his gold over there!

Loot me *that* gold! You never loot me gold like *that*.

CLINKENBEARD. I've never looted you ANYTHING! I've never looted anything, for anyone!

CHRISTY. Well I *need* it.

CLINKENBEARD. What do you need gold bricks for? What do pirates even do with gold?

CHRISTY. Well I don't know. I do see it in their teeth sometimes.

CLINKENBEARD. Oh, that's gold? I always thought that was corn.

SOUS CHEF. Oh, it's definitely not corn. I do know a thing or two about corn.

CHRISTY. Maybe it's just a reflection?

CLINKENBEARD. Yeah. Like red eye or something.

CHRISTY. Is that why they wear eye patches?

PEARL. Eye patches?

EMERALD. What are eye patches?

RUBY. Is that an app?

(*This banter continues to go nowhere, and CARLY, CARSON and CHARLEY notice that these other pirates really are as*

*inexperienced as they look. Attention shifts to the trio and POLLY.)*

CARSON. Mateys, I have a plan.

CARLY. A plan?

CHARLEY. A plan?

DANNY. A plan?

SERIOUS PIRATE #1. A plan?

SERIOUS PIRATE #2. A plan?

MONKEYS. Ooh ahh?

*(All look to POLLY, who is reading War and Peace or something.)*

POLLY *(without looking up)*. Nope.

CARSON. Follow my lead.

CARSON *(artificially, over the top)*. Hey, guys, is that Captain Jack Sparrow over there?

*(CLINKENHEARD and his CREW all look in the direction CARSON has gestured. In one swift motion, CHARLEY, CARSON and CARLY grab their swords and change the direction of the draw. It's organized chaos.)*

CLINKENBEARD. Well that sure wasn't supposed to happen.

*(Here, an epic swordfight ensues. During the fight, we see POLLY gather the pirate's stolen loot, pack it in a suitcase and write a note. POLLY exits DC, looking frustrated and determined. The end of the fight leaves the inexperienced pirates captured, along with their loot. CHARLEY, CARLY and CARSON have not noticed that POLLY is missing.)*