

the guide

Pirate adventure with plenty of 'yo ho ho'

THIS rollicking, rip-roaring production literally started with a bang as the booming sound of a ship's cannon reverberated around the hall.

Then we were off on a voyage of thrills and spills as a gang of gold-thirsty pirates and a group of money-grubbing aristocrats pitted their wits against one another in a desperate hunt for treasure.

Paul Regeli's witty and engaging script gave a nod to both Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel *Treasure Island* and Hollywood's hugely popular *Pirates of the Caribbean* series. But it also contained original flair and imagination, with dialogue colourfully peppered with slang and nautical terms in common use in the 18th century.

Under the steady direction of Rosemary Caswell – who also supplied the magnificent costumes – the action begins as pirate chief Long Jake Bones

Review

Avarst Behind

Moot House Players, Moot Hall

(John Childs) plots the hunt over a ragged treasure map with his motley crew (Henrietta Branwell, Anthony Edwards and Robbie Chittick).

En route they press-gang lispng rich boy Frederick Creeper (Dan Powell), who's in love with feisty inn keeper's daughter Millie (Kerry Rowland). It so happens that Freddie's parents Lord Creeper and Lady Virginia Creeper (Alan and Angela Hodgson) and sister Gwendolyn (Janine Gosnell) have also got wind of the treasure map, as have local justice Mr Darling (Michael Rees) and his wife Clarissa (Jennifer Southwell).

They also sail off in pursuit of the treasure while bold Millie disguises herself as a lad and gets a

job as cabin boy on board the pirate ship so she can be close to her beloved Freddie.

There are plenty of villains in this production but no heroes. The only man to show any bravery is the cabin boy . . . and he turns out to be a girl!

The antics of the pirates – and their colourful language – had the audience in fits of laughter, particularly Robbie Chittick's scrofulous, greedy Nobby who manages to eat both the treasure map and the treasure. The scene where he dresses as a 'lady' to try to entice Freddie was hilarious.

A special mention must also go to Geoff Leeds, who took on three roles and was very funny in all of them, particularly as castaway Ebenezer.

This was a thoroughly entertaining voyage of discovery. My one complaint: where was Johnny Depp? I would have loved to have seen him on stage at Moot Hall!

Lyn Foley