

Thoughts on HOW I BECAME A PIRATE from Director, John Maclay

Arrrrrrgh!

Two years ago I had the distinct pleasure of directing a wonderful musical By Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman. The show was GREEN GABLES (produced here at First Stage) and a wonderful relationship began with two exceptionally talented writer/composers. We knew that we wanted the relationship to continue and set about acquiring the rights to *How I Became A Pirate* – a children’s book that was screaming to be turned into a musical.

Last summer at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, we work-shopped the first draft and now you can see a world premiere Pirate musical- complete with Pirate ship, Pirate songs and a Pirate band. Creating new works is never an easy process- but with great risk often comes great reward.

*How I Became A Pirate* was one of the first books that I read to my son and it has become a staple in our reading list. As we now bring the story to life for your enjoyment I hope that, upon leaving the theater, the tunes stay with you and you remember a few good laughs. I hope that you, like Jeremy Jacob, can escape your troubles for an hour or so and enjoy a Pirate adventure. I hope that you can revel in a child’s imagination and ability to create a world around him. But most important I hope you see that HOW I BECAME A PIRATE shows us that adventures have their place – but in the end it really is good, always good, to be home.