## PREMISE

**Time:** During the War of 1812. Late 1814, before last battle at New Orleans (January 8, 1815).

**Place:** The Bay of Barataria on the Island of Barataria, south of New Orleans. This is a bustling haven for pirates, smugglers, and merchants. Its master is Captain Jean Lafitte.

**Scenario:** All is well on Barataria until there is an unwelcome intrusion by a contingent of the Royal Navy led by Commodore Bell. The Royal Navy wish to enlist the aid of Captain Lafitte, his ships, and men to secure the mouth of the Mississippi. The British seek use of the river to deal a crushing blow to the Americans during the War of 1812. Washington is already in flames.

However, the good Captain Lafitte's sympathies lie more toward the Americans. After all, the American Navy is smaller and, so far, easier to deal with than the mighty British Navy. Captain Lafitte finds himself humoring and stalling the British until a solution presents itself.

Meanwhile, Colonel "Mad Jack" McMadd, of the British Naval Marines, believes they should take Barataria, Capt. Lafitte, his men, and his ships and force them into service. In furtherance of his endeavors, Col. McMadd plots to goad the Baratarians into open hostilities, forcing the Commodore to order a martial response.

To further complicate Capt. Jean Lafitte's life, the Governor of Louisiana has arrived. Ostensibly, he is tagging along with his daughter and friends on one of their many shopping trips to this exotic marketplace. The Governor's goal is to investigate the rumors he's heard about this mysterious market, and why his daughter frequents it so much.

## CAST LIST for the ROYAL PLAYERS ENSEMBLE*

**Baratarians/Pirates**

- Captain Jean Lafitte** — Pirate Captain, Master of Barataria and pirate fleet
- Captain Trey Cook** — Pirate Captain under Lafitte
- Renato Beluche** — Pirate Cannoneer
- Dominique Youx** — Pirate Cannoneer
- Captain Brown — Mutinous Pirate Captain under Lafitte
- Bonnie Brown — Pirate Captain Brown's fiery daughter
- Captain Morgan — Pirate Captain, run-runner
- Others — Merchants, dock rats, comfort women, ne'er do wells, trail ghosts,

**New Orleans Upper Class / Dignitaries**

- William C.C. Claiborne** — Governor of Louisiana
- Annabelle Claiborne — Governor's beautiful daughter
- Others — Various Socialites, consorts

**British Navy**

- Commodore Bell — In command of British fleet at Barataria Bay
- Colonel "Mad Jack" McMadd — Second in command of British fleet at Barataria Bay
- Captain Chaz Ball — Captain of Guards
- Guards — Red coat marines

*Can be adjusted depending on who auditions and their talents and personalities **Historical person

## CHARACTER BIOS**

### Baratarians

- **Captain Jean Lafitte**** (French accent) Master of Barataria "Colony." Born to French planation colonists on Saint Domingue, Haiti. Lafitte attended a military academy at St. Kitts and then began his life of adventure.

  Soldier, merchant, smuggler, pirate. A "gentleman" pirate, noted for restoring crews to their ships after stripping both of valuables. While no choir boy, Lafitte poses as an amoral womanizing lothario to dispel any (correct) rumors of his romantic relationship with the Louisiana Governor's daughter, the beautiful Annette Claiborne.

  Another of the good captain's concerns is the insubordinate Captain Brown. Verging on mutiny, Brown rails constantly against Lafitte's policies of minimizing casualties and ban on the attack of American ships.

- **Captain Trey Cook**** First captain to join Lafitte's fleet. Loyal to Lafitte, somewhat like "Little John" to Lafitte's "Robin Hood." Comic relief side kick. Uneducated but not stupid. Keeps a close watch on Captain Brown and his mutinous rumblings.

- **Renato Beluche**** (French accent) Swabbie under Captain Cook. Excellent cannoneer. Buddies with Dominque Youx. Personality TBD.

- **Dominique Youx**** (French accent) Swabbie under Captain Cook. Excellent cannoneer. Buddies with Renato Beluche. Served under Lafitte in the past with a friendly bond between the two. Somewhat prone to braggadocio and exaggeration.

- **Captain Brown** Mutinous pirate captain under Lafitte. Aspires to be the Master of Barataria. Criminal tendencies with no morals or scruples. Rebels against Lafitte's edicts barring attacks American ships and unnecessary casualties.

- **Bonnie Brown** Captain Brown's daughter. Fiery temperament. Raised in criminal surrounding but has a moral compass. Has a love/hate relationship with Lafitte. She's in love with him, but hates him because her father does.

- **Captain Morgan**** Charming and gregarious pirate. Rum-runner and ladies' man. Rates 1.75 out of 4 on the Jack Sparrow "tipsy" scale. Friendly with Lafitte but uninterested in joining his fleet.

- **Others** Various merchants, dock rats, "comfort" women, Trail of Doom ghosts, etc.

### Louisiana Upper Class / Dignitaries

- **Gov. William C.C. Clainborne**** He has vague notions about the illicit nature of Barataria, but overlooks that because of its popularity with his wealthy and influential friends, including his own daughter. There are also rumors that the British are interested in using Barataria as a base for attacking American forces up the Mississippi. This is all a bit much for the governor, as he is not well-equipped for all this intrigue.

*Can be adjusted depending on who auditions and their talents and personalities **Historical person

- **Annabelle Claiborne** Adventurous daughter of Governor Claiborne. A bit of a handful for the hapless Governor. She has a mutual romantic attraction to Captain Lafitte. (She always had a thing for the bad boys.) Intelligent and quick-witted.

- **Others** Various socialites, consorts, and servants.

**British Navy**

- **Commodore Bell** Commander of British Fleet at Barataria Bay. More politician than military. Ridiculously British and a stodgy blowhard. The lower ranks "affectionately" refer to him a "Comma Doorbell."

- **Colonel "Mad Jack" McMadd** Second in command of British fleet. Somewhat violent. Makes up for lack of intelligence, manners, and logical reason with his enthusiasm. Insane and violent in a "fun" way.

- **Captain Chaz Ball** Captain of the Guard. Observes strict British Military protocol at all times. Drills his men relentlessly. No, not like that.

- **Guards** Red coat marines.

## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNTIES for ROYAL PLAYERS

1. **Street Characters** – Interact with patrons and other characters throughout the festival day.
2. **Street Bits** -- Speed courting, Folk dancing, Storytime (read from a book, story cube add-on story, improv stories acted out), Flag routines, Playing pub dice game, Brag offs, etc.
3. **Combat Croquet** – Game of croquet that devolves into violence when cheating ensues.
4. **Royal Variety Show** - Variety showcase for best talent among Royal Players. MC'd by Lafitte and a comedy sidekick for Governor and British amusement.
5. **Costume Contest** – MC's/hosts (2) that organize patrons by age and help audience decide winners based on audience applause. Award gifts to winners.
6. **Pirate School** – Teach patrons ABCs or I-C-R's of being a pirate (could be combined with pirate recruiting show)
7. **Pirate Recruiting Show** – Opportunity for patrons to showcase their talents on stage to join the pirate fleet and for other Royal Players to get "gonged" or (possibly) walk the plank. MC'd by Captain Morgan and a comedy pirate sidekick or dueling pirate captains.
8. **Pirate Olympics** – Patrons (mainly children) compete in various yard/beach games with assistance of Royal Players.
9. **Royal Player Singers** – Sing as a group at scheduled times to welcome/interact with patrons
10. **Trail of Doom (TBD)** – PG scary trail in wood with tour guide, actors, and pirate displays.

*Can be adjusted depending on who auditions and their talents and personalities **Historical person