Acts 27 & 28

CHARACTERS: Captain, Julius, soldier, sailors 1 & 2, Paul, optional extras as prisoners, sailors and soldiers
COSTUMES: Period
PROPS: optional rope for measuring depth
SETTING: shore and ship
RUN TIME: 4-6 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 27 & 28
FK reading level: 3.3

Scene 1

CAPTAIN: All Aboard! Ship setting sail for Italy

JULIUS: Get the prisoners on board. Its high time we Romans went home.

SOLDIER: The wind is against us, sir. We'll be stopping in Fair Haven.

JULIUS: Delays! I hate them!

CAPTAIN: Just a temporary stop. This harbor won't work to winter in so we'll be heading to Crete.

PAUL: I'd advise against that. Voyaging at this time of year would be dangerous. If you go, this ship, cargo and lives could be lost

CAPTAIN: What does a prisoner know of the sea? We'll be fine.

JULIUS: Round up the prisoners and get on board.

(Optional: Sing, chant or rap song parody of Gilligan's Island)

Scene 2 - the Storm at Sea

JULIUS: *(shouting over the wind)* Captain, what's with the weather.

CAPTAIN: It's called a northeaster and a tempestuous wind it is.

JULIUS: Can you secure the boat?

CAPTAIN: Aye. We'll use supports to undergird the ship.

JULIUS: Will that keep us from running aground?

CAPTAIN: We might have to jettison the cargo.

JULIUS: It's not enough. We're still riding low in the water and all the waves and hurricane force winds will swamp the ship!

CAPTAIN: Aye. Look lively boys. Throw the ship's tackle overboard!

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PAUL: (aside to audience) I hate to say I told them so, but I told them so.

JULIUS: Captain, it's not enough. We haven't seen sun or stars for days now and no small tempest tosses us about.

CAPTAIN: I'm afraid we must abandon all hope of being saved.

PAUL: Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

CAPTAIN: How do you know that?

PAUL: This very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you the lives all those who sail with you.'

JULIUS: That's good news.

PAUL: So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. We will run aground on some island.

Scene 3

AT RISE: CAPTAIN and SAILORS are talking. PAUL seems asleep.

SAILOR 1: It's a dark midnight it is. *(shouting)* Twenty fathoms.

CAPTAIN: Fourteen days and not a beam of light. This is the worst storm I have ever seen.

SAILOR 2: I suspect we're nearing land. Look, the depth is now 15 fathoms.

SAILOR 1: I fear we'll run around on the rocks.

CAPTAIN: Lower four anchors from the stern and pray for day to come. *(moves away)*

SAILOR 1: I say lower a lifeboat and pretend it is to drop anchor.

SAILOR 2: *(catching on to his plan)* And escape*! (SAILORS exit; PAUL moves to wake JULIUS, pointing to exiting men)*

PAUL: Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.

JULIUS: Cut the ropes and let the lifeboat fall into the sea.

PAUL: For two weeks all 276 of you have worried in suspense, not eating a thing. I suggest everyone eats something now to make sure you have strength to survive because my God has promised that not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you. *(takes bread, bows head and prays)* God, we give you thanks for our lives, this bread and especially your son Jesus who saves us from all peril.

JULIUS: Throw any food not eaten overboard to lighten the ship.

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Scene 4 – the shipwreck

CAPTAIN: Cut anchors! Look! See the bay and the beach? Steer us toward it.

SAILOR 1: We've hit a reef. The bow is stuck.

SAILOR 2: The stern is being beaten to pieces by the waves.

CAPTAIN: We're breaking up. Abandon ship!

SOLDIER: *(to JULIUS)* The prisoners might swim away and escape. Shall we kill them?

JULIUS: No. Have those who can swim to jump overboard first and make for the land. The rest can float in on planks or on pieces of the ship.

ALL: And so it was that all were brought safely the island of Malta.

OPTIONAL SONG (to the tune of Gilligan's Island theme song)
Just sit right back and we'll tell a tale
A tale of a fateful trip
Paul sailed the seas to Italy
But a storm wrecked his ship, a storm wrecked his ship

The Romans headed back to Rome
Prisoner Paul was wearing chains
He took this opportunity
The gospel to proclaim, the gospel to proclaim

The seas got rough, the weather bad
A storm raged for 14 days
The soldiers and the crew gave up
But Paul knew they'd be saved, God said that they'd be saved

They struck a reef and ran around
The waves destroyed the boat
Those who could swam to shore
While others had to float, while others had to float

Paul used the time to preach the word
He healed all those who were sick
The gospel came to Malta
God's power was no trick; God's power was no trick

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So join us here each week my friends
To hear more tales of faith
Like NOOOOAH
And the floating zoo
Jonah and Jesus, too
Just remember when the storms arise
That God is there for you, God is there for you

http://www.feautor.org/uploads/contributions/12052788542/shipwreck_paul.pdf Alternative version
http://www.fpc-bethlehem.org/_PDF/TheStory/youth/TEEN_TOOLCHEST_Ch30.pdf Acts lesson (first 3 pages are a Gilligan's Island spin off monologue about Paul's shipwreck

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