

## Penshaw Sword Play

### Characters:

<i>True Blue</i>	<i>(Master of Ceremonies)</i>	<i>Singing &amp; Speaking part</i>
<i>The Squire's Son</i>	<i>(Dancer No. 1)</i>	<i>Speaking part</i>
<i>The Tailor</i>	<i>(Dancer No. 2)</i>	<i>Speaking Part</i>
<i>The Sailor</i>	<i>(Dancer No. 3)</i>	
<i>The Skipper</i>	<i>(Dancer No. 4)</i>	<i>Speaking Part</i>
<i>Jolly Dog</i>	<i>(Fool)</i>	<i>Speaking part</i>
<i>Doctor</i>	<i>(Quack)</i>	<i>Speaking part</i>

**The dancers walk as they are named by *True Blue*, each bowing at the end of their introduction and ending up in a line facing the audience.**

*True Blue (sings):*                          Six actors I have brought,  
  Who were ne'er on stage before,  
  But they will do their best  
  And the best can do no more.

### **Enter the *Squire's Son*.**

The first that I call in,  
He is a squire's son.  
He's like to lose his love,  
Because he is too young.  
  
But though he be too young,  
He has money for to rove  
And he will spend it all,  
Before he'll lose his love

**Enter the *Tailor*.**

The next that I call in,  
He is a tailor fine.  
What think you of his work?  
He made this coat of mine.

**Enter the *Sailor*.**

The next that I call in,  
He is a sailor bold.  
He's come to poverty,  
By the lending of his gold.  
  
But though his gold's all gone,  
Again he'll plough the Main,  
With heart both light and brave,  
To fight both France and Spain.

**Enter the *Skipper*.**

Next comes a skipper bold.  
He'll do his part right well.  
A clever blade I'm told,  
As all his crew can tell.  
  
These are the bonny lads,  
As I do understand.  
They dance both fore and aft,  
With their longswords in their hand.

**The dance is performed up to the first lock, reforming the line after drawing their swords. *True Blue* continues singing.**

To join us in this plan,  
Here comes a Jolly Dog,  
Who's sober every day,  
When he can get no grog.

**Enter *Jolly Dog***

But though he likes his grog,  
As all his friends can say.  
He always likes it best,  
When he has nowt to pay.

Last I come in myself.  
I make one of this crew  
And if you'd know my name,  
My name it is True Blue.

**The dance is performed up to the second lock. As the swords are drawn, the *Squire's Son* stabs the *Sailor* who falls to the floor dead. The remaining three line up as before.**

*Jolly Dog:* Alas the Sailor's dead  
And on the ground is laid.  
Someone will pay for it.  
Comrades I'm sore afraid.

**From this point the dialogue is spoken.**

*Squire's Son:* I'm sure it was not me.  
I'm innocent of this crime.  
'Twas him that follows me,  
That drew his sword so fine.

*Tailor:* I'm sure it was not me.  
I'm clear and that's a fact.  
'Twas him that follows me  
That did this bloody act.

*Skipper:* I know it was not I,  
You bloody villains all.  
For both my eyes were shut,  
When this good man did fall.

*Jolly Dog:* Cheer up my bonny lads  
And be of courage bold.  
We'll take him to the church  
And bury him in the mould.

**The remaining three dancers make as if to carry the body away but *True Blue* stops them.**

*True Blue:* But hold you jolly boys  
And don't you rush to go.  
Ten pounds I have in store,  
Call for a doctor oh!

*Doctor:* Here I am.

*Jolly Dog:* Art thou a doctor?

*Doctor:* Yes; that you can plainly see,  
By my art and activity.

*Jolly Dog:* Well, what's your fee to cure this man?

*Doctor:* Ten pounds is my fee,  
But nine pounds ninety nine pence I'll take from thee.

*Jolly Dog:* How far have you travelled Noble Doctor?

*Doctor:* See here, see here, a doctor rare,  
Who travels much at home.  
Come take my pills, they cure all ills,  
Past, present and to come.

*Jolly Dog:* What canst thou cure?

*Doctor:* The plague within, the palsy and the gout,  
The devil within and the devil without.  
Everything but a love-sick maid  
And consumption in the pocket.

*Jolly Dog:* Try thy skill Noble Doctor.

*Doctor:*

Take a little of my niff-naff,  
Put it in your tiff-taff.  
Sailor rise up and dance again,  
The Doctor says you are not slain.

**The *Sailor* slowly rises.**

*True Blue (sings):*

You've seen them all called in,  
You've seen them all go round,  
Wait but a little time,  
Some pastime will be found.

Then fiddler change thy tune,  
Play us a merry jig.  
Before that I'll be beat,  
I'll pawn both hat and wig.

**The music strikes up and the dancers perform the remaining figures with *True Blue* and *Jolly Dog* joining in at the end to form the final six sword lock. Depending on the situation, the dancers then either file off or line up displaying the lock.**