

Scene 1

(To **opening intro music** (CD 8) the whole cast enters for the first song.)

(CD 9) **song All Aboard** – see page 18
(whole cast)

(In a prominent position to one side stands a traditional 'Chorus' of four narrators. If possible these four speak together as one. If not, lines can be spoken by individuals. To the other side of the main stage is a smaller stage, which will represent the boat.)

Chorus ~ A warm and friendly welcome we extend to all of you.
(We trust you're not just here 'cause you have nothing else to do!)
How nice to see so many bots on seats for this, our show.
Ok, that's pleasantries dealt with – ready, set, let's go!
Now, just to stop confusion we need to fill you in
On a bit of background before we properly begin.
So pay attention, concentrate, make sure you comprehend,
'Cause there will be a test on all the details at the end!

(A cast member enters with a large flip chart, on which there is a sequence of cartoon pictures depicting the content of the following few lines. The pages are 'flipped' as the history is recounted.)

Aeson and Pelias were brothers from Thessaly.
Their dad, the king, popped his clogs, leaving the throne empty.
Pelias, who was a wrong'un, killed his elder bro' one day,
And little Jason, Aeson's son, was forced to run away.
He lived upon Mount Pelion, away from any harm,
While in Thessaly his wicked uncle ruled with a strong arm.
Years passed by and Jason grew into a fine young man.
He returned to claim the throne.....at least that was the plan!

(The flip chart is removed. Two fan-waving slaves bring on a throne. Pelias enters followed by 'hangers-on,' and sits. A maiden is feeding him grapes as Jason enters and stands to one side. When Jason announces himself the shocked Pelias chokes on a grape, requiring an emergency 'squeeze' from the maiden until he spits it out.)

Jason ~ Uncle, it is I, Jason. Yes, I've filled out a tad (*choke – squeeze – spit*)
Since you last clapped eyes on me – that day you 'dealt with' Dad.
To right some wrongs is why I've unexpectedly come home.
You need sorting out Pelias. I'm here to claim the throne!

Pelias ~
(*sneakily*) Oh Jason, dearest nephew, there's no need for us to fight.
I wanted you to come back, for the throne is yours by right.
I'll happily vacate it, but for the people's sake
To show you're worthy, there's a task that you must undertake.

Chorus ~ We know Greek heroes liked a challenge, it's what they all lived for,
And Jason longed for glory. Without thinking he said.....

Jason ~ Sure!

Chorus ~ So with a cunning smile crafty Pelias said his piece....

Pelias ~ In a distant land called Colchis there's a Golden Fleece.
Whoever owns it brings to their homeland prosperity.
Fetch it back and you'll be an 'A list' celebrity!

(Pelias and entourage exit with smug expressions. The throne is removed and a table, two stools, a writing tablet and stylus are brought on. Jason sits on one side of the table, the vacant stool on the other. A sign saying 'Interview In Progress' stands on the table.)

Chorus ~ Straight away Jason began assembling a crew,
But first he gave each would-be sailor a thorough interview.

(Each character enters and sits on the vacant stool to say a few words, while Jason makes notes. Once Jason has spoken the line 'You're in' each crew member goes to stand on the 'boat' stage, and the next one enters and sits.)

Argos ~ Hi, my name is Argos. Yes, I've heard the jokes before
About me being named after a catalogue retail store!
I have built a boat that cuts through waves like a dolphin.
We'll call it 'Argo' after me. What d'ya say?

Jason ~ You're in!

Herakles ~ It's me folks, Herakles, or Hercules if you prefer.
I'm the ultimate strongman....

Chorus ~ And a bit of a poseur!

Herakles ~ I'm pretty invincible dressed in my lion's skin.
I'll bring some muscle to your crew. What d'ya say?

Jason ~ You're in!

Orpheus ~ I'm the musician, Orpheus, and I will gladly sing
And beat a rhythm for the rowers. What d'ya say?

Jason ~ You're in!

Atalanta ~ Atalanta, huntress, hot shot with a javelin.
I'm as tough as any bloke. What d'ya say?

Jason ~ You're in!

Polydeuces ~ I'm the boxer, Polydeuces. I'll take on the chin
Anything that's thrown at me. What d'ya say?

Jason ~ You're in!

Castor ~ Castor, Olympic wrestler. There's no fight I couldn't win.
I do a mean half-nelson. What d'ya say?

Jason ~ You're in!

Lynceus ~ Lynceus, with perfect eyesight. I can spot a pin
In a haystack. I'll be the lookout. What d'ya say?

Jason ~ You're in!

Typhus ~ My name's Typhus, helmsman. I'll control the ship's steerin'
I'll keep the Argo right on course. What d'ya say?

Jason ~ You're in!

Chorus ~ Enough! Enough! We get the picture. This is just so boring.
If things carry on like this (*pointing at audience*) they'll all soon be snoring!
Jason chose a lot more eager sailors in the end,
But we can't fit that many on our stage, so just pretend
The crew that we've assembled here is at least fifty strong.
Good, that's sorted. Right it's time that we moved things along.

*(A few more non-speaking crew members join the others on the boat stage and the Argo makes ready to sail – see **staging suggestions**. A crowd of waving well-wishers gathers on the main stage.)*

And so our crew of merry souls prepared to put to sea.
They knelt and asked Apollo to ensure health and safety.
The gods heaped blessings on the Argo, the swiftest ship in Greece.

Argonauts ~ Argonauts get ready! We're off to find the fleece!

*(CD 10) **song Argonauts Are Go!** – see page 19
(The Argonauts supported by the whole cast)*

(Continued.....)