

# FLEECED

## NON-RHYMING SCRIPT SAMPLE

### Scene 1

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

**Song** **All Aboard** (tracks 1 & 9, lyrics p19)  
(Whole cast)

(To one side of the main stage stand four narrators, reading from scrolls. To the other side is a smaller stage, representing the boat – **see staging suggestions p26 & p27.**)

**Narrator 1** Welcome one and all! How nice to see so many bottoms on seats for this, our very own bit of theatre from Ancient Greece!

**Narrator 2** Right, that's pleasantries dealt with, so let's get on shall we? Now, first of all we need to fill you in on the background to this story, so pay attention and concentrate, because there will be a test on all the details at the end!

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

**Narrator 3** In Thessaly, in ancient Greece, lived Pelias and Aeson, who were brothers and sons of the king. When the king died, leaving the throne vacant, Pelias killed his brother Aeson and took the kingdom for his own.

**Narrator 4** Jason, Aeson's young son, was forced to flee, but vowed that he would return to get revenge on his uncle. The years passed and Jason grew into a strong young man. One day he returned to Thessaly to claim the kingdom!

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

**Jason** Hello Uncle! It's me, Jason! Yes, I've grown a bit since you last saw me, that day you killed my father, your brother! Move aside you wicked man (flexing his muscles) I'm here to take the throne!

**Pelias** (sneakily) Oh Jason, my dearest nephew, I'm happy you've come back, for this throne is yours by right. I'll happily vacate it now, but to show the citizens of our kingdom that you're a worthy ruler, there's a task I'd like you to undertake on their behalf.

**Narrator 1** We know Greek heroes liked a challenge. It's what they lived for and Jason was no different. Without thinking he said.....

**Jason** Sure! Bring it on! Err...what is the task by the way?

**Pelias** Well, in a distant land called Colchis there's a golden fleece. Legend tells that whoever owns it will bring prosperity to their homeland. Fetch it back, Jason, and you will be as a god to your people!

*(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 reading 'Interview In Progress' stands on the table.)*

**Narrator 2** Straight away Jason began assembling a crew of hardy warriors who could help him on his quest. He started by giving each candidate a thorough interview.

*(In turn, 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', that character goes to stand on the 'boat' stage and the next one enters and sits.)*

**Argos** My name is Argos and before you make jokes about my name sounding like a catalogue retail shop, I've already heard them! Anyway, I've built a boat, *(pointing to the boat stage)* the swiftest vessel in Greece, which I've named 'Argo', after me. Let me be part of this mission and that boat is all yours.

**Jason** Argos....you're in!

**Herakles** You'll recognise me no doubt! I'm the hero Herakles, or Hercules if you want to get all 'roman'. My strength and bravery are legendary and I'm...

**Narrator 3** ...a bit of a poseur?

**Herakles** *(casting a menacing glance at the narrator)* I was about to say that I'm invincible to any weapon when I wear this lion's skin. I'll bring some real muscle to your crew, Jason, so what d'ya say....?

**Jason** Heracles....you're in!

**Orpheus** Hey man, I'm the musician, Orpheus. I'll keep things chilled on your mission with a few mellow tunes. I can also beat the drum to keep your rowers in time. I won't be rowing myself of course – gotta look after these fingers, you dig?

**Jason** Orpheus....you're in!

**Atalanta** I'm the huntress, Atalanta, and I'm a mean shot with this javelin. I'm as tough as any bloke you can meet. Your quest could do with some 'girl power', don't you agree!

**Jason** I sure do, Atalanta....you're in!

**Polydeuces** I'm the boxer, Polydeuces. Anything that's thrown at me, I'll take it on the chin and come back fighting. I could do a few rounds on your behalf Jason. Am I in?

- Jason** Polydeuces....you're in!
- Castor** I'm the wrestler, Castor. I love a good rumble and I do a mean body-slam! I promise it'll be a lot of fun fighting alongside me, Jason. So....?
- Jason** Castor....you're in!
- Lynceus** I'm Lynceus, I have perfect eyesight and I can spot trouble a mile away. I'd be the best watchman you could have on this voyage, Jason.
- Jason** Lynceus....you're in!
- Typhus** I'm Typhus, a helmsman. I'll steer the ship through the most treacherous of waters and get us safely to our destination.
- Jason** Typhus....you're in!
- Narrator 4** Enough! Enough! We get the picture! If things carry on like this, (*pointing at audience*) you'll all soon be asleep! Jason chose a lot more eager sailors, but we can't fit many more on our stage! So, let's imagine that the crew of Argonauts (as they would become known) was nearly fifty strong, okay? Good, that's sorted. Right, on with the story!

*(If numbers and space allow, more crew join the others on the boat stage– see staging suggestions p26 & p27. A crowd of waving well-wishers gathers on the main stage.)*

- Narrator 1** And as these brave souls began their voyage to find the golden fleece, they raised their fists in honour to the gods, then raised their voices in song!

**Argonauts** ARGONAUTS ARE GO!

## **Song Argonauts Are Go**

*(tracks 2 & 10, lyrics p20)*

*(The Argonauts, supported by the whole cast)*

*(To the intro music (track 11) the lights fade and the main stage is prepared for the next scene.)*

## **Scene 2**

*(As the lights come up, the beautiful women of Lemnos enter and sit on deck chairs, combing their hair and adoring themselves in hand-held mirrors.)*

- Narrator 2** After several days at sea, Lynceus spotted an island on the horizon.
- Lynceus** Land ahoy! Hang her starboard! If my eyes don't deceive me, then we have a treat in store!
- Narrator 3** The island that the weary Argonauts had come across was somewhere only females lived; an island called Lemnos. And it doesn't take a genius to guess exactly what the sailors thought when they clapped eyes upon them!

**Argos** Errr...we're running low on water. We should really stop here to refill.

**Orpheus** I agree! Just look how much we've 'accidentally' spilled...whoops!

*(Orpheus tips the barrel of water over the side on purpose. The other Argonauts, except Herakles and Atalanta, catch on and pretend to be thirsty, clutching their throats!)*

**Polydeuces** You're right, we have stop here for water. I've got a raging thirst!

**Castor** Hurry up and drop the gangplank! Let me off this boat!

**Jason** Yes, I must admit a stop-off does seem a good idea. But what on earth is that awful squealing noise?

*(The women of Lemnos have spotted the Argo and start squealing excitedly and beckoning to the crew. Everyone but Atalanta and Herakles waves back.)*

**Atalanta** You boys just can't help yourselves, can you? Well, I for one am staying on board ship.

**Herakles** So am I. if we land here then we jeopardise our quest. Argonauts, you must resist temptation!

**Argonauts** Yeah, whatever!

*(The Argonauts eagerly cross over to be greeted by the squealing women. Herakles and Atalanta stay on the boat. The crew are fussed over, flower garlands put round their necks and fancy cocktails handed to them. They stand to one side, overjoyed, as the women sing.)*

## Song **Hello Sailor**

*(tracks 3 & 12, lyrics p21)*

*(The Women of Lemnos, supported by the whole cast)*

**Woman 1** It's so nice to have some men around for once. There's no point looking this beautiful with nobody to appreciate it.

**Woman 2** I know it's hard to tell, but we're all getting on a bit and it's time that we considered marriage. Are any of you big, strong sailors up for that?

**Woman 3** Come on boys, just think about it. Marry us, stay here and forget about your silly mission.

**Woman 4** Everything that you could ever wish for is on this island. A life of complete luxury. It doesn't get any better than this now, does it?

*(The Argonauts stroke their chins as they contemplate the offer.)*

**Narrator 4** So did our daring Argonauts do as these ladies asked? Well, put yourselves in their shoes for a moment....of course they did!

*(The Argonauts and the women have a friendly chat.)*

**Narrator 1** For two contented, blissful years they lived the life Riley! But Herakles and Atalanta were losing patience.

**Atalanta** Oi! You lazy lot, we've a quest to complete, or had you forgotten? Unless you get back on this ship right now, the two of us are leaving!

**Herakles** Yeah, what she said!

**Jason** Of course, you're right. What have I been thinking? I'm sorry ladies, but as lovely as you all are, we will have to say goodbye tonight.

**Woman 5** Ha! Typical men! Well off you go, it's your loss. See if we care!

*(The Argonauts shrug their shoulders and get back on the boat. The women rush towards them.)*

**Women** Come back! We didn't mean it!

**Narrator 2** And so the women of Lemnos wept, pleading for the Argonauts to return, but with no joy. The threat of Herakles and Atalanta deserting the quest had put some wind back in Jason's sails.

**Narrator 3** And to focus everybody's mind onto the task in hand, Herakles announced a rowing competition that would ensure they made swift progress.

**Herakles** *(holding up a large gold medal)* Whoever rows the hardest 'til we get to our next port, will win this medal and the title of 'Supreme Argonaut'! Come on you lot, let's put our backs into it!

## **Song** **PULL ON YOUR OAR**

*(tracks 4 & 13, lyrics p22)*

*(Argonauts supported by the whole cast. Orpheus beats the barrel during the song.)*

# **END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE**

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**Please note, an editable version of the script (MS WORD doc.) is included in the download and CD-ROM formats of this musical. If you buy the book format, the editable version can be emailed to you on request, free-of-charge.**