

FLEECED

RHYMING SCRIPT SAMPLE

The following script is written in rhyming couplets. To help your cast deliver the lines so they scan properly, the bold underlined syllables should be stressed.

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. If possible they speak together like a traditional Greek 'chorus'. If not, lines can be spoken individually. To the other side is a smaller stage, representing the boat – **see staging suggestions p26 & p27.**)

Narrators 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**.
That's **pleasantries** now **dealt** with, so **ready**, set, let's **go**!
Now, **just** to stop **confusion**, we will **need** to fill you **in**
On the **background** to this **story**, **before** we can **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 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.)

Narrators In **Thessaly**, in **ancient** Greece, lived **Pelias** and **Aeson**,
Royal brothers – **were** they close? They **weren't** and here's the **reason**:
When the king, their **father**, died and **left** a vacant **throne**,
Pelias killed his **bro**' and took the **kingdom** for his **own**.
And **little** Jason, **Aeson's** son, was **forced** to run **away**,
But **vowed** that he would **get** revenge on **Pelias** one **day**.
The **years** passed by and **Jason** grew **into** a fine young **man**.
He returned to **claim** the kingdom.....**well**, that was the **plan**!

(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**! (choke – squeeze – spit!) **Yes**, I've grown a **tad**,
Since you last clapped **eyes** on me – that **day** you killed my **Dad**!
To **right** some wrongs is **why** I'm here in **Thessaly**, my **home**.
Pelias, your **time** is up. I'm **here** to take the **throne**!

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

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

Jason **Sure!**

Narrators So **with** a sly and **cunning** smile, **Pelias** said his **piece**....

Pelias **In** a distant **land** called Colchis **there's** a golden **fleece**.
Who**ever** owns it **brings** to their hom**eland** prosper**ity**.
Fetch it back and **you** will be a **real** celeb**erity**!

(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.)

Narrators **Jason** straight **away** began **assembling** a **crew**,
But **first** he gave 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 **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 dol**phin**.
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 a real **strongman**....

Narrators And a **bit** of a poseur!

Herakles **I** am quite **invincible** **beneath** this 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 I'm the **huntress**, **Atalanta**! **Here's** my **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 I'm the wrestler, **Castor**. There's no **fight** I couldn't **win**.
My **holds** are inescapable. **What** d'ya say....?

Jason ...You're **in**!

Lynceus I'm **Lynceus**, with **perfect** eyesight. I can spot a **pin**
In a haystack. I'm your watchman. **What** d'ya say....?

Jason ...You're **in**!

Typhus I'm a helmsman, **Typhus**. I'll **control** the ship's **steerin'**.
I'll **keep** the Argo **sailing** straight. **What** d'ya say....?

Jason ...You're **in**!

Narrators **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 let's **pretend**
The **crew** that we've **assembled** here is **nearly** fifty **strong**.
Good, that's sorted. **Right**, it's time that **we** moved things **along**.

(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.)

And **as** 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, **swiftest** ship in **Greece**.

Argonauts **We're** the mighty **Argonauts!** We're **off** to find the **fleece!**

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 adorning themselves in hand-held mirrors.)

Narrators **After** several **days** at sea, **Lynceus** cried **out**...

Lynceus **Land** ahoy! **Hang** her starboard! **Bring** this boat **about!**
If **my** eyes don't **deceive** me, then we **have** a treat in **store**,
An **island** full of **gorgeous** ladies! **Quick**, let's get **ashore!**

Narrators The **island** that the **weary** Argonauts had come **across**
Was **somewhere** only **females** lived; an **island** called **Lemnos**.
It **doesn't** take a **genius** to **guess** exactly **what**
The **sailors** thought when **they** clapped eyes **upon** this lovely **lot!**

Argos We're **running** low on **water**. We should **stop** and get **refilled**.

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 must stop **here** for water. **I've** a raging **thirst!**

Castor **Hurry** up and **drop** the gangplank. **Bagsy** I go **first!**

Jason **Yes**, I must **admit** a stop-off **does** seem quite **appealing**.
But **what** on earth is **that** I hear? Some **funny** kind of **squealing!**

(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. Such **weakness** you are **showing**.
I am staying **on** board ship to **practice** javelin **throwing**.

Herakles If **we** land here I **guarantee** our **quest** will take **forever**.
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, after **all** this time, to **see** some men **about**.
There's **no** point looking **this** good with no **guys** to take us **out**.

Woman 2 I **know** it's hard to **tell** but we're all **getting** on a **bit**.
It's **time** that we **considered** marriage. **Do** you fancy **it?**

Woman 3 **Think** about it, **boys**, you're in an **enviable** position.
Marry us and **stay** here. Just **forget** about your **mission**.

Woman 4 **Everything** that **you** could ever **wish** for is right **here**.
A **life** of complete **luxury**. Come **on**, unpack your **gear**.

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

Narrators So **did** our daring **Argonauts** do **as** the ladies **bid**?
Well **put** yourselves in **their** shoes for a **moment**....**course** they **did**!

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

For **two** contented, **blissful** years they **lived** the life **Riley**,
But **Herakles** and **Atalanta**, **they** were far from **smiley**.

Herakles & Atalanta **Oi**, you lazy **lot**! Unless you **get** back on this **ship**,
The **two** of us are **leaving** on a **proper** heroes' **trip**.

Jason **Okay**, I know it's **time** we got our **priorities** **right**.
I'm **sorry** girls but **we** will have to **say** goodbye **tonight**.

Woman 5 **Ha!** That's **typical** of men. You **get** bored then you **split**.
Well **off** you go, **see** if we care.....

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

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

Narrators And **so** they wept and **cried** out as the **Argonauts** set **sail**,
Pleading for them **to** return, but **all** to no **avail**.
The **threat** of **Herakles** and **Atalanta** jumping **ship**
Had **put** some wind back **in** the sails of **Jason's** little **trip**.
To **focus** everybody's mind **onto** the task in **hand**,
Herakles **announced** he had a **competition** **planned**.

Herakles Who**ever** rows the **hardest** 'til we **get** to our next **port**
Will **win** this medal **and** the title '**Supreme Argonaut**'.

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

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.