

Gaspar! The Musical

The Story:

We open on the crew of the Floriblanca in 1723, celebrating the taking of a British ship, singing **“The Wonder of Plunder”**. We meet their fierce, legendary pirate captain, in the song **“I Am Jose Gaspar.”** Gaspar tosses a two-headed coin to decide the fate of a captured British officer and sends him to Davy Jones. His distraught captive girlfriend, the Mexican Princess, Joseffa, chides Gaspar for his cruelty but also insists they maroon the officer’s beautiful fiancé, Lady Nautixby, before Jose gets any ideas. Gaspar’s unquenchable thirst for pillaging and his ill treatment of his crew, have the men of the Floriblanca on the edge of mutiny.

Moving to Tampa Bay in 2023, we find the Phantom Crewe of the Deep on their tall ship, celebrating Gasparilla and reprising **“The Wonder of Plunder”** with a tongue in cheek take on modern piracy . Their special guest if gubernatorial candidate, Joe Wright, and his campaign manager and fiancé, Rachel “Rae” Manta. Joe is introduced to this quarter of VIPs in “You Can’t Go Wrong With Wright”. With Joe looking like a strong candidate, four power brokers (the same actors who play the crew of the Floriblanca) are looking to throw their financial weight and influence behind Joe in exchange for some “benefits” the future governor could offer. Joe is open to the ideas, but his fiancé shuts them down, trying to keep Joe on the straight and narrow. Finding himself alone on deck, Joe laments in the song, **“Wrong Time”**, about how difficult it is to be a winning politician while also staying true to yourself, and yearns for a simple life at sea that he imagined as a young man.

Below deck, the four power brokers try to formulate new plans in the song, **“Bar Talk”**, realizing Joe’s governorship will be of no use to them as long as Rae is pulling his strings. They devise a plot to entrap Joe is a tryst they are certain will lead Rae to leave him.

Elsewhere, Rae, reprises **“Wrong Time”** pondering the difficult position she is in as both Joe’s loving fiancé and forceful campaign manager. Now, Joe and Rae sing reprises, melding beautifully with the four power brokers singing their reprise in counter melody in **“Bar Talk/ Wrong Time”**.

Still alone on deck, Joe hears a strange siren call and moves to the back of the ship to investigate. We hear a splash. Man overboard!

Back on the Floriblanca, Gaspar, alone on deck, sings a melancholy reprise, **“I am Jose Gaspar”**, yearning to escape the life of a bloodthirsty pirate with a price on his head and a crew ready to make him walk the plank. Gaspar hears a siren call, also goes to investigate and also goes overboard. When the crew extract him from the drink, it not Gaspar but Joe Wright they bring onboard. But, by the same work of magic that brought Joe into the past, everyone sees him as Gaspar. Joe quickly realizes he must accept his strange new reality and do the best he can to

survive it. To the crew's delight, he foregoes trying to sack another ship, and opts for shore leave in the pirate haven of New Providence (Nassau, Bahamas).

We return to Tampa Bay as Gaspar is hoisted onto the Phantom Crew of Neptune's tall ship. Gaspar is likewise fully recognized as Joe Wright, and must also do his best to accept this strange new world and get his bearings.

At Mariana's brothel in New Providence, the Madame and her female employees sing of their lives in the trade ("**Tis No Pity**"). Joe arrives and softens, then melts into indulging this carefree life of wine, women and song ("**Who Knew This Was Paradise?**"). Between his fairness and generosity, he is winning back the hearts of his crew. He even saves Lady Nautixby from being marooned, paying Madame Mariana to keep her on at her brothel but only as a "hostess." The crew convinces Joe that their next venture should be to cross the Atlantic to plunder ships along the African coast. Joe reluctantly agrees.

At a party at a waterfront estate, Gaspar sings the reprise of "**Who Knew This Was Paradise?**, having the time of his life, with the fine drinks, bikini clad women and all the booty he is pilfering from the host. The four power brokers are finding Joe Wright (Gaspar) a changed man, who seems perfectly willing to go along with their schemes as long he is well paid for it. They decide to call off setting Joe up for a romantic tryst in a reprise of "**You Can't Go Wrong With Wright**".

Back home, Rae is weary, having spent an entire weekend with carousing revelers, but Joe (Gaspar) has a new found love of drink and friskiness. When Rae shuts him down, a spat ensues and Gaspar leaves for a clandestine meeting that was arranged with one of the power brokers and his beautiful, young second wife. In "**Surviving in a Man's World**", Rae comes to grips with the sad fact that no matter how smart and able she might be, she will never be fully accepted as an equal among these Type A men.

The Floriblanca is at sea and Joe is in bed with Joseffa, having convinced himself that since he is not really himself and Rae won't be born for another 260 year, he is not cheating. As Joe and the crew prepare for an approaching storm, Joseffa is relegated to cleaning the cabin and staying safe below. Joseffa sings a reprise, "**Surviving in a Man's World**", a more accepting version of "this is my lot in life and there is not much I can do about it."

Gaspar arrives at the home of the one of the power broker's who had offered to set Joe (Gaspar) up for a scandal with the help of his wife, Geia. Gaspar and Geia are both surprised that the other is interested in a tete-a-tete and Geia tries to explain her life and choices ("**Affordable Regret**"). Unfortunately, the word that the set up was called off was not made clear to her. Gaspar has had quite the adventure in his attempts to master modern transportation and Geia confides she is far from happy with her marriage and where her decisions have taken her in the duet, "**How Did I Get Here?**". Geia decides not to go through with entrapment (which she thinks is just another chapter in she and her husband's swinging

life), but, in a mishap, Geia and Gaspar end up accidentally stuck in what appears to be a compromising position just as Rae arrives, leading to a reprise of **“How Did I Get Here?”**. Next, Geia’s husband arrives. In the tumult that follows, Rae declares that their wedding is off and Geia declares that her marriage is over.

As the crew of Floriblanca returns to the ship after plundering a Dutch vessel along the African coast, Joe is finding the pirate life to be far less romantic and far more horrifying and dangerous than he had imagined (**“This Ship is Out of Control”**). He realizes he has to try and get home to his time before his crew, who have become mutinous over what they see as his weakness, toss him overboard. Joe commands the crew to take him to Tampa Bay.

At the Shady Links Golf Club, Gaspar (Joe) is playing a round with the President of the United States. The power brokers have his campaign back on track and with the President’s endorsement, Joe (Gaspar) can’t lose. To both men’s surprise, Rae shows up, privately telling Joe (Gaspar), that she was not going to sabotage her own career as a campaign manager, but still is breaking their engagement. The POTUS is aware of some rumors and other unflattering reports about Joe’s recent behavior, and counsels him about the best way to deal with bad press (**“Believe in Your Lies”**). The POTUS is willing to give Joe his endorsement for some quid pro quo. Joe (Gaspar) heartily agrees. After the POTUS leaves, Rae is shocked that Joe agreed to all of his demands. “What do you think you were doing?” she demands. “I was lying,” Gaspar replies. “Isn’t that what he told me to do?”

Joe has survived the voyage across the Atlantic but when they stop in New Providence, Joe and his crew are immediately clapped in irons and sentenced to hang by the new governor, who has been handsomely paid to do so by a privateer named Captain Shelley, working for the British government and bent on ending piracy and especially bringing to justice the notorious, Jose Gaspar.

At the yacht club, the four power brokers are chagrined to find that Joe (Gaspar) has double-crossed them and the President, following none of their edicts (**“This Ship is Out of Control Reprise”**). When he shows up wearing the uniform of the club’s admiral (a position he bought for himself with a few million dollars of their campaign contributions), a brawl ensues and Joe (Gaspar)

Joe and Gaspar find themselves in jail cells in their different places and times, separate, but sharing the stage for the first time. Both sing a reprise of **“Wrong Time”**. Through the mysterious magic that has been at work throughout the story, they discover suddenly that they can hear each other through time and space, and try to catch each other up on what has happened. (**“How Did I Get Here? Reprise”**). Together, they formulate a desperate plan to escape prison and return to their own times.

Back aboard the Floriblanca, Gaspar (Joe) and his crew are in shackles facing stormy seas (**“Find the Wind, Fill the Sails”**). Joe has convinced Drydock he has a vast, buried treasure in Tampa

Bay. Suddenly, they find themselves under attack and outgunned by a man-o-war and the fierce pirate, Captain Shelley.

Gaspar has slipped out of jail, and Rae and Geia track him down to the Phantom Crewe of the Deep's tall ship. Gaspar tries to convince them to help him man the ship and sail it into Tampa Bay. We discover the secret of the magic that has created this whole adventure, as Gaspar is pushed overboard and into the sea.

Back on the Floriblanca, we discover that Captain Shelly is, in fact, Lady Shelley Nautixby. After escaping the brothel, she has used all of her and her dead fiancé's resources to procure a ship and crew to wreak revenge on Gaspar. Joe is about to be put to death when he realizes he is in Tampa Bay and jumps overboard. When he is drawn out of the water, it is not Joe, but the real Gaspar who emerges. Although Nautixby tries to run him through, she cannot because, Gaspar explains, "You can't kill a legend." Nautixby is accidentally shot by a British officer, but she doesn't die, either. For we realize that Nautixby and Geia are both one single being, a celestial siren who has been the cause of this magical journey, and, Nautixby explains, "You can't kill a siren either," before leaping back into the sea.

Rae pulls Gaspar out of the sea but, of course, now it is the real Joe, much changed and much wiser. ("**Here to Stay**"). Rae and Joe patch things up and adopt a new strategy to be honest, truthful and transparent whether they win or lose the election.

The bows and Finale include the entire cast in a reprise of "**Who Knew This Was Paradise?**"
The end.

GASPAR! THE MUSICAL
BUDGET FOR PRODUCTION AT PALLADIUM

LIBRETTIST - \$3,000
COMPOSER - \$3,000
DIRECTOR - \$2,500
MUSICAL DIRECTOR - \$2,500
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER - \$1,500
CHOREOGRAPHER - \$500
SET DESIGNER - \$1,000
COSTUME DESIGNER - \$1,000
LIGHTING DESIGNER - \$1,000
PROP DESIGNER - \$500
ASST. STAGE MANAGER - \$500
LIGHTING AND SOUND OPERATORS- (included)
STUDENT SET CREW \$200 X 4 - \$800

SUBTOTAL: \$17,800

CAST: (4 WEEK REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE PERIOD)

Gaspar - \$1,600
Joe Wright - \$1,600
Rae/Joseffa - \$1,200
Geia/Nautixby - \$1,200
Gaspar's Crew/Power Brokers - \$1,200 X 4= \$4,800
President Scud/Mariana - \$900 X 2 = \$1,800
Additional Ensemble - \$500 X 3= \$1,500
CAST TOTAL: \$13,700
SUBTOTAL: \$31,500

ORCHESTRA:
\$10,500

REHEARSAL SPACE/SCENE SHOP RENTAL:
\$3,500

SET MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION
\$10,500

PROPS
\$1,000

COSTUME MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION, RENTAL
\$5,000

PROMOTIONS, PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS AND PROGRAMS
\$3,000

SUB-TOTAL: \$68,000

Miscellaneous/Contingency
\$7,000

TOTAL:
\$75, 000