

## CRITICAL PRAISE FOR *TREASURE ISLAND*...

**"This is *Treasure Island* done right...**

There's [no] fake nonsense in Robert Kauzlaric's straight-up Lifeline production, **which treats this grand yarn with the upmost dignity**, and features some spectacular violence choreographed by Geoff Coates. This is, of course, a coming-of-age story wherein young Jim Hawkins learns that greed can do a man in; that good and evil invariably co-exist in the same chaps; and that a position in the moneyed classes is no guarantee of personal integrity... A rapt audience clearly appreciated all of this attention to detail, not to mention **the willingness of a big cast of manly men to dig deep into their souls** as they contemplated a potential trip to Davy Jones' locker... **This is an engrossing adventure that Kauzlaric unfolds at break-neck pace.**"

-Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*



**"Nobody does it better than Lifeline Theatre when it comes to spinning a rip-roaring yarn full of derring-do and adventure.** And now, from the company that brought us such high-spirited productions as *The Mark of Zorro* and *Johnny Tremain* comes John Hildreth's smart, funny, often savage stage adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson classic *Treasure Island*. **Directed with enormous zest by Robert Kauzlaric**, the production is being performed by an all-male cast of 10 fearless, continually morphing actors who make their way around a perilous ship deck (sensational work by set designer Alan Donahue) as if they've spent years at sea... **Though shot through with deceit, greed, betrayal and matters of hard-core survival, *Treasure Island* is, at its core, a morality tale** -- one in which a young boy is faced with issues of good and evil, and with the notion of what it means to give one's word to another man... While this might have been a favorite childhood novel, this is quite an adult show, with a complicated plot and considerable brutality."

-Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

**"Directed by Robert Kauzlaric, *Treasure Island* is a complex adventure** that skimps on neither bloodshed nor labyrinthine plot details. Although older children may well find the production thrilling, this is not children's theater – **the stabbings, shootings, stranglings and other assorted murderous goings-on are staged with nightmarish impact**... As Jim Hawkins' allegiances shift from pirates to decent men and back again, you'll be forgiven if you start to feel that you're watching an elaborate sort of ping-pong game between scurvy rapsallions and proper British gentlemen... The supporting cast is an exemplary ensemble. **Kauzlaric accomplishes that signature Lifeline feat of making 10 actors seem like dozens**, filling the two hours stage traffic with an epic array of buccaneering rascals and proper Brits."

-Catey Sullivan, *chicagotheaterblog.com*



“No theatre I know of can adapt and mount finer stage adaptations of novels than the creative folks at Lifeline Theatre... Their latest, *Treasure Island*, adapted by John Hildreth from Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1881 novel, is **another amazing, eye-popping production**. Under Robert Kauzlaric’s innovative staging, the tale comes to life in rich detail, true to Stevenson’s novel.”

-Tom Williams, *chicagocritic.com*

“Theater critics don’t applaud very often. It’s part of their attempt not to be associated with the theater’s marketing department, and if you happen to be at the same show as a critic, god forbid you should know how they feel about the show before it’s in newsprint... However, after Lifeline Theatre’s world premiere stage adaptation of *Treasure Island*, every pair of press kit holding hands was violently smacking together, and we wouldn’t be exaggerating if we said a few critics, even the recognizable ones, were sitting on the edge of their seats, begging for more... **This show is as close to perfection as they come**”

-Suzy Evans, *Chicagoist*



“This Lifeline Theatre adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s late-Victorian novel--about Jim Hawkins, an 18th-century teen swept up in a quest for buried treasure--**boasts plenty of throat-cutting, blood-spurting, rum-swiggling action** along with ingenious scenic design by Alan Donahue, evocative lighting by Kevin Gawley, and pulsing background music by Andy Hansen. Playwright John Hildreth and director Robert Kauzlaric revel in the story’s swashbuckling violence while poking fun at British assumptions about honor and loyalty to ‘king and country.’”

-Albert Williams, *Chicago Reader*



**"You're gonna enjoy Kauzlaric's athletic staging,** Geoff Coates's great action sequences, Branimira Ivanova's rich and raggedy costumes and, especially, Alan Donohue's dead-on scenic design, essentially a multi-level ship ( well-lit by Kevin D. Gawley ) . He's done his research and/or visited a ship's chandler, for his details are accurate down to the belaying pins and the not-too-tightly-strung rope ladder-rigging."

-Jonathan Abarbanel, *Windy City Times*

