

## II. Captain Blood

Irish doctor **Peter Blood**, played by **Errol Flynn** in his first high profile lead role, is wrongly convicted of treason and sentenced to transportation and enslavement in the **West Indies**. While in **Port Royal** he becomes personal physician to the cruel and petty governor. When a Spanish privateer attacks the town, **Blood** seizes the moment to escape, capturing the Spanish vessel and fleeing. Over time he rises to become the leader of a fleet of pirate vessels and eventually captures an English royal envoy. *Will Blood be able to clear his name?*

Based on the 1922 bestselling novel of the same name by **Rafael Sabatini**, this **1935** film followed a 1925 silent adaptation of the book. This film also uses footage originally shot for a prior silent adaptation of another **Sabatini** novel, **THE SEA HAWK**, which in turn was itself remade in 1940, and which we will be watching next. That 1940 film also stars **Errol Flynn** and was directed by **Michael Curtiz**, who directed the film we will watch today, **CAPTAIN BLOOD**.

So to recap, this **CAPTAIN BLOOD** is a remake of a prior adaptation and this film also *will have used* footage from another *prior* adaptation of the same author's work which *will itself*, in time, *that is*, be *remade* - that is to say, *has been remade* - by substantially the same creative team that will have made, well, *did in fact*, make this film.

Got that? Good. That may *well be* a *relation* set before ye to recount as an element of your next *board examination*, gentlemen! I certainly hope you were *attending* to your *properly detailed notes*.

By 1935, swashbuckling costume dramas were no longer the surefire successes they had been in the silent era, and this film had a complicated preproduction with a number of players declining roles. The studio turned to a fresh face, the new to **HOLLYWOOD** **Errol Flynn**, cast opposite **Olivia deHavilland**. The pair would work together many times over long screen careers. **Flynn** was rightly perceived to be the heir to **Douglas Fairbanks'** throne after the immediate and sustained success of **CAPTAIN BLOOD**. In fact, **Flynn** and **deHavilland** would go on to remake one of **Fairbanks'** most important films, **ROBIN HOOD**.

Cast off there! *Ready the hawsers* and ma'e fast the *futtocks*! Inveigle the walnut tree and *clap yon nuts together*, with a *whimsy* I say! Lovely now! Away then I say, away for **Port Royal** and to where the winds of fortune may take us!