

PortSide New York

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Gazela

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Philly's Flagship *Gazela* to grace Brooklyn Waterfront

~the oldest, wooden square-rigger still sailing in the USA~

bringing education by day; pirate cabaret at night

presented by

PortSide New York

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Categories: maritime, museum, tall ships, cabaret, performance, burlesque, outdoor fun, kids, weekend activities, Brooklyn (yes, all that at once!)

Dates: Daytime tall ship tours, Thurs 8/19 to Mon 8/23/2010
Evening pirate burlesque cabaret aboard, Thurs 8/19 to Sun 8/22/2010, 8pm, 10pm

Story angles:

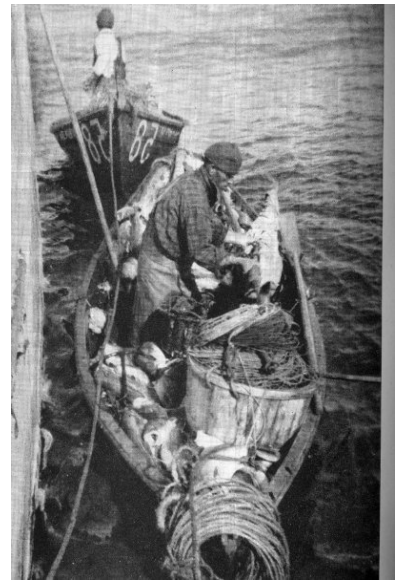
- **Educational tours during visit by rare tall ship**
- **pirate burlesque cabaret on deck**
- **media invited to sail from Philly to NYC on *Gazela***
- **non-profit struggles in the bad economy: sponsors sought via eBay auction**
- **tall ships find it hard to visit NYC**

PortSide New York proudly presents the historic visit of barkentine *Gazela* to NYC, coming to Pier 11, Atlantic Basin, next to the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal. Cabaret performance aboard.

PortSide New York is thrilled to announce that the tall ship *Gazela* will make her first visit to NYC in years, offering public tours of the ship by day and two cabaret shows on deck at night. The *Gazela*'s visit will cap PortSide's seven weeks of programming at Pier 11, Atlantic Basin, in the exciting neighborhood of Red Hook. The *Gazela* will be steered by Captain Robert Rustchak, a Manhattan resident who, when not on the *Gazela*, works on ocean-going tugboats.



The *Gazela* was built in Portugal in 1883 as a fishing vessel. She sailed from Lisbon across the Atlantic over 100 times during 70 years of hard work fishing the Grand Banks off Canada. Visiting *Gazela* offers insights into ship and food history. The *Gazela* is a way to learn about life in the age of sail and about an environmental story: the once bountiful cod, the fishery of the Grand Banks and how it was decimated. Cod changed history, and for 1,000 years was live gold, as award-winning author (and Manhattan resident) Mark Kurlansky illuminated in his 1997 book “*Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World.*” The *Gazela* tells that story well. Her job was bringing in that cod and feeding a European appetite for a fish that went back to the Viking period. Cod stocks have shrunk markedly since the *Gazela*’s dismal last season in 1969. In 1992, Canada imposed an indefinite moratorium on fishing the Grand Banks, the largest industrial closure in Canadian history. In 2000, cod was placed on the list of endangered species by the World Wide Fund for Nature.



Gazela is currently the pride of Philly’s waterfront and attends major tall ship festivals in Norfolk, Baltimore and elsewhere. About bringing her to NYC, Eric Lorgus, President of the *Gazela*, had this to say, “Tall ships have found it increasingly hard to visit this place, and I’ve been trying to crack NYC for years. We really appreciate the efforts PortSide has made on our behalf. Carolina herself has pursued this with tenacity and zeal.”

Carolina Salguero, Director of PortSide New York says about the visit “PortSide was founded to bring the BlueSpace, or the water part of the waterfront, to life in New York City. We are excited that the *Gazela* is coming, because tall ships are education and inspiration afloat. We hope her visit opens the door to more visits by more boats—of all types—at this pier and other piers. We are encouraged by recent government initiatives focusing on the water itself and grateful that the EDC [New York City Economic Development Corp] has made Pier 11 available to us for *Gazela*’s visit.”

The *Gazela* will be open for deck tours during the day. These are run on an open-house basis. To defray costs of the trip, a modest \$5 donation is being requested, but is not mandatory. The cabaret also subsidizes the trip.

Tall Ship *Gazela* Welcomes Actors as Part of Crew for Theatrical Voyage to New York

Members of the Cabaret Red Light vaudeville, burlesque and puppet theater troupe had to learn two sets of lines for their

Hit by the Recession:

“It’s been a dismal year for fundraising,” said Carolina Salguero, director of the young non-profit PortSide New York.

“Right as PortSide was emerging into its own, and finally getting a home here on Pier 11, the economy crashed. We have yet to find major corporate sponsors for this year, our first full summer season.

We get by on spit and grit. We’ve turned to eBay to cover the hard costs of *Gazela*’s visit (dock fees, rental generator for electricity).

This is a chance for the guy around the corner to get naming rights for sponsoring a tall ship.” The auction is open to all and is live at <http://bit.ly/cCFJhl> or <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=170524007476>. *Gazela* is also bringing a cabaret show aboard as a way to defray costs.

upcoming show: those for their show and those that control the historic tall ship *Gazela*, which will serve as their stage.

The actors teamed up with the volunteer crew of the *Gazela* to perform “The Seven Deadly Seas” onboard at the ship's home port of Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. The May show sold out opening night, with overflow audience members sitting on the ship's deck, and remained popular through all its performances.



But to take the *Gazela* to New York, the actors had to become certified members of the crew.

“We really don't carry guests,” said Eric Lorgus, president of the Philadelphia Ship Preservation Guild, which owns the *Gazela*. “The tradition of the *Gazela* is if you sail, you become part of the crew. You do the work as a deck hand, standing watch, going through the watch rotation, steering, running messages, acting as lookout, doing the boat check, washing down the deck, doing your own dishes.”

Besides, in order to preserve the historical integrity of 100-years-old-plus ship, the guild has not made the modifications the Coast Guard required to turn the former fishing vessel into a modern passenger ship.

Peter Gaffney, co-director of the acting troupe, said the actors were thrilled to take the compressed, one-day version of the training required of all new members of the volunteer crew. The troupe's shows are similar to the traveling shows of the Roaring '20s, so taking a show to sea was very much part of the genre's tradition, he said.

The actors also related to the passion of the *Gazela* crew, whose volunteer members do thousands of hours of work every year to keep the historic Portuguese vessel sailing. “It's a labor of love,” Gaffney said. “Just like in our business, you don't make a lot of money. You have to love it to do it.”

The show tells the tale of the pirate Calico Jack, who, unbeknownst to his crew, has decided to get out of the pirate business, and has sailed to Wall Street to make some business deals, secure a 401k, and plan his retirement. The show runs at 8 and 10 p.m. Aug. 19-22 on board the *Gazela* at PortSide's home, Pier 11, Atlantic Basin, Red Hook, Brooklyn. Enter pedestrian gate at Pioneer and Conover Streets. Directions at <http://bit.ly/9cZzBL>. A new version of the show will be performed Sept. 24-26 at Penn's Landing.

Cash bar with beer, wine, water and juice will be available on the pier. Proceeds support PortSide New York and the tanker *Mary A. Whalen*. The cabaret will raise money for the *Gazela*.

Media are invited to sail to join the crew and sail from Phili to NYC on *Gazela*.

She leaves Phili Mon 8/16 and arrives NYC Wed 8/18/2010

Immediately Contact
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See City Paper's article on *The Seven Deadly Seas* (by Emily Currier, May 12, 2010) at <http://citypaper.net/articles/2010/05/13/the-seven-deadly-seas-waylaid--hornswoggled>

Gazela Ship Tour Schedule**	Cabaret Red Light Performances
Gazela Due: Wed 8/18/10	Cabaret tickets are 25\$, available at www.cabaretredlight.com/sevenseas/home.html
Gazela ship tours:	
Thu 8/19 2pm-5pm	Thu 8/19 8pm, 10pm
Fri 8/20 2pm-6pm	Fri 8/20 8pm, 10pm
Sat 8/21 closed ***	Sat 8/21 8pm, 10pm
Sun 8/22 10am-6pm	Sun 8/22 8pm, 10pm
Mon 8/23 2pm-5pm	Mon 8/23 rain date
Gazela Departs: Tues 8/24/10	Show is in the open air, so check the Cabaret Red Light website for details and rain date info

** As *Gazela* still travels by sail, she could be delayed a day by unfavorable winds, or leave a day early if such conditions are forecast.

***PortSide cannot do programming when cruise ships are in the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal; so Saturday 8/21, the *Gazela* will not be open. If winds are favorable, she will go sailing and you may see her in the harbor.

More on Cabaret Red Light:

Cabaret Red Light is a 9+ member troupe of Philadelphia's most talented vaudeville performers, mixing original live music, dark comedy, puppet theatre and burlesque in the spirit of 1920s decadence. Since first forming in 2008, they have performed to sold out audiences at Plays and Players Theater, L'Etage, Chaplin's Music Café and the Palace of Wonders, and have been chosen twice by Philadelphia's City Paper as Agenda Pick of the Week. To learn more about the shows they are currently running, and shows they have in development, visit <http://www.cabaretredlight.com>. For photos of the *Gazela* performances see http://www.cabaretredlight.com/multimedia/2010_05-16_photos/

More on PortSide New York:

PortSide New York is a waterfront-themed non-profit, delivering out-of-the-box educational, community-based, and cultural programming in various locations. PortSide New York was selected by New York's Economic Development Corporation last year to create a maritime hub and cultural center at this location, Pier 11, Atlantic Basin, Red Hook. This year, PortSide is on Pier 11 pier from July 1 to August 24. Programs at <http://bit.ly/altwlm> PortSide also does cultural programs on a ship, the *Mary A. Whalen*, a 172-foot coastal oil tanker whose deck will be open during the day while the *Gazela* is in port.

More at www.portsidenewyork.org/PortSideNewYorkSummer2010programs.htm

More on *Gazela* history:

She is the oldest wooden square-rigger still sailing in the USA. Built in Portugal in 1883, *Gazela* had a remarkably long commercial career.

Gazela was built to carry fishermen to the Grand Banks of [Newfoundland](#). Every spring she would leave Lisbon laden with as many as 35 dories stacked on deck like drinking cups and a crew of 40 men (35 fishermen/sailors, two cooks, two mates and the captain) and a couple of apprentices. Her hold would be full of salt which would be displaced with the fish that were caught (cod, flounder, halibut, haddock and perch) and preserved with that very salt.

The [fisherman's](#) life on the Grand Banks sailing fishing ships was no picnic. They were up at 4:00 AM every day, ate a hasty breakfast and then trooped out into the chilly air to be lowered over the side in one of the small dories. Each would get a bucket of bait, usually scraps or junk fish from the previous catch, a small meal for sustenance, some essential tools and a compass. The boats were rowed clear of the ship, small sails were set and the men were on their way. They would often travel as far as twenty miles from the ship in their search for fish.

More of her working history at www.Gazela.org/ships/Gazela/Gazelahistory.htm

She was described in Allan Villiers' 1951 book, *Quest of the Schooner Argus*, as "the last commercial square-rigger operating out of Western Europe." Her owners retired her after the 1969 season following a disappointing harvest. She was still seaworthy and was soon purchased by William Wikoff Smith, a philanthropist from Philadelphia, who formed a crew of his friends to sail her to the United States. She has been Philadelphia's tall ship since.

Little has changed on *Gazela* since her Portuguese fishing days. The cook still uses the old stove and the anchor windlass is still powered by a hand-cranked 1930's vintage diesel engine. A brass ring on the ship's wheel shows she is from "Lisboa". Posted in the crew's quarters is a list of codes that were once used for radio signals, where a number was short for "You have a new son. Mother is doing well."

When *Gazela* isn't doing educational programs in Philadelphia or visiting other ports, she sometimes gets a movie role. She made a brief appearance in the 1994 film, *Interview with the Vampire*, starring Brad Pitt. A few years later she had extensive screen time in *The Widow of St. Pierre*, starring Juliette Binoche.