

**ROBIN HOOD
AND THE
BABES IN THE WOOD**

© PETER DENYER 2000

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PAGE INDEX

4	Publisher Information / Conditions of License
5	Music Packages
6	A Note from the Writer / Other Titles Available
7	Previous Productions / About the Writer
8	Cast List
9	List of Scenes
11-59	The Acting Script
60-61	Music Suggestions and Notes
62-63	Character Descriptions
63-65	Costume Descriptions
65-67	Scenery and Props Suggestions
68	Sound Effects
69	Merchandise

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NEW MUSICAL PACKAGES - an innovation!

We now have available two musical packages prepared by our musical director to aid your rehearsals and/or compliment your performances. These will revolutionise your productions!

Package 1 This package is intended for rehearsals. It contains a CD with piano recordings of the suggested songs in the script, arranged and formatted with the right number of verses, dance breaks etc. We also include the sheet music of the same arrangements with lyrics and lead lines. This means that you can have musical accompaniment whenever you want it - without the need of a pianist. The CD can also be used by the choreographer, director and technicians to plan their routines, moves and cues in advance, and the actors to work on their songs in their own time. [We have also included some examples of the full orchestral backing tracks available in Package 2 - to show you the full potential of the system.] **Cost: £30** [+VAT]

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A NOTE FROM THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Package 1 is principally used as a tool for rehearsals, though it also gives you the songs in a format that you will want to use in performance. Your Musical Director will use the sheet music to arrange the other band parts for his musicians, at the same time adding all the incidental music. Please note that this package contains only the songs listed in bold type on pages 60/61; not the alternate choices nor the incidental music, overture, entracte etc.

Package 2 is more complex, and contains all the music you need to do the full production as detailed in the script, including the incidentals, play-ons, scene changes, walkdown etc and to a quality suitable for performance. You can use this recording to augment whatever band line up you choose, though interestingly this package means that you don't actually need to have any 'live' musicians at all! Though in our experience the ideal combination is to retain at least the Musical Director on piano and the drummer, who then play along with the pre-recorded tracks making a sound like a full orchestra. The recordings in Package 2 include drums, but these can be left off if requested. A click can also be added if required.*

If you decide that your production requires some specific music not included in the above (ie. a full arrangement of a different song, a written out bass guitar part etc), contact me via Sylvia Sims at Show Souvenirs Ltd (01304 361919) and I will tailor the package accordingly. Please note that I need at least four weeks notice, and that this service is subject to an additional charge. Finally, remember that all the music you use (unless entirely original and written by you) is subject to copyright regulations. This means you have to inform PRS (the Performing Rights Society) giving them titles, approximate length, and composer/lyricist, thus ensuring that these people or their estate gets the royalties due to them.

*A click is a metronome sound fed to the musician's headphones when playing along with a track, so that they can keep perfect time. Especially handy for drummers!

PETER GOLDING
Musical Director

A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

"Robin Hood and The Babes in the Wood" follows the usual tradition of using the character of Robin Hood as the hero who rescues Janet and John, the Babes, from the evil clutches of The Sheriff of Nottingham. The romantic interest is provided by Maid Marian, who in this version is The Sheriff's ward, and becomes the link between the life in Nottingham castle and the Merry Men's lair in the Greenwood. It is a dramatic tale and the device of asking the Audience to become members of Robin's gang ensures plenty of participation.

Before I sat down to write this version, the script had been used in several different professional productions, and while the basic construction has always remained the same, different scenery, songs, and the various talents of each cast has made each show unique. You will need to add various local references, and there are sure to be new topical references to add to the comedy scenes. Don't be afraid to feature the particular skills of your actors - if your Little John has acrobatic skills then make sure you feature them in one of the numbers! Allow the characters who talk directly to the audience to "customise" the exchanges so that the actor can express his or her personality.

Above all else - enjoy it! The good feeling that comes with a happy company really does come over the footlights - if the audience can see you're having fun, so will they.

Good Luck.

PETER DENYER

OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE BY THE SAME AUTHOR FROM NODA

ALADDIN AND HIS WONDERFUL LAMP

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THE SNOW QUEEN

PETER PAN (Apply direct to Show Souvenirs Ltd (01304 361919))
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

This script, like all Peter Denyer Pantomimes, was originally produced by Kevin Wood with a professional cast. Over the years the structure and dialogue were adapted to suit the requirements of the many star actors who appeared in the show. In 1997, at the invitation of NODA, the scripts were subjected to a cleansing process returning them to something like their original form, removing the quirks demanded by particular actors, and adding stage directions and technical tips, thereby making them more suitable for licensing. During the 1998/99 Season there were over sixty productions by amateur societies. Following their comments and suggestions, the scripts were revised again in 1999, in 2000, and once more in 2005/6 - this is the version you have here.

We thought you would be interested to know a little about the background to the piece, and the various actors who have played the roles. So we've trawled through the archives and come up with this potted history. This version of **BABES IN THE WOOD** was first produced at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford in 1987. Since then it has been seen at The Connaught Theatre Worthing, The Theatre Royal Brighton, The Wyvern Theatre Swindon, The Hackney Empire, The Princes Hall Aldershot, The Harlequin Theatre Redhill, The Devonshire Park Theatre Eastbourne, The Royalty Theatre London, and The Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage.

Over that time, amongst the many fine actors that have appeared, were the following notable performers;

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Sheriff - | Brian Hibbard, Bruce Montague and Paul Darrow |
| Robin - | Peter Duncan, Su Pollard, Tony Hawks and Stifyn Parri |
| Marian - | Jo-Anne Sale, Karen Clegg, Pollyann Tanner and Jane Hardy |
| Nurse - | Roy Barraclough, Kathy Staff, Colin Devereaux and Oscar James |

ABOUT THE WRITER

PETER DENYER has been writing for the theatre for more than thirty-five years, he has also directed hundreds of plays, musicals, and pantomimes, and in 1986 became the Artistic Director of Kevin Wood Pantomimes. Peter's pantomimes have been hailed as the best in the field, and his scripts cover the full canon of titles. Each Christmas there are countless presentations, making Peter one of the "most produced writers" in the country. But in spite of his success as a writer, it was as an actor that Peter became best known to the general public, with over two hundred television appearances to his credit. He is probably best remembered as the delightfully dopey Dennis in *Please Sir!* and *The Fenn Street Gang*, Michael in *Agony*, Malcolm in *Thicker Than Water* and Ralph in *Dear John*. What is not so well known, is that Peter's love and life long connection with the stage began as an amateur with the Erith Playhouse back in the mid-sixties. In producing these scripts for your use, he feels he has gone some way to completing the circle.

CAST LIST

Principal Roles

The Sheriff of Nottingham -

The Spirit of the Greenwood -

Robin Hood -

Maid Marian -

Will Scarlet -

Friar Tuck -

Little John -

Herman The Henchman -

Nurse Norah -

Janet -

John -

The Voice of Beelzebub -

Chorus Roles

Villagers -

Soldiers -

Merry Men -

Toys -

Birds -

LIST OF SCENES

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE:

SCENE 1: The Fair at Nottingham Castle

SCENE 2: A Path in The Forest

SCENE 3: The Schoolroom

SCENE 4: A Corridor in The Castle

SCENE 5: The Nursery

SCENE 6: A Corridor Revisited

SCENE 7: The Heart of The Greenwood

ACT TWO

PROLOGUE:

SCENE 8: The Encampment in The Forest

SCENE 9: A Path in The Forest

SCENE 10: Deep in The Dungeons

SCENE 11: The Corridor Again

SCENE 12: The Hanging of Hood

SCENE 13: The Same Old Corridor

SCENE 14: The Wedding of Robin and Marian

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

MUSIC CUE 1: OVERTURE (INSTRUMENTAL)

FX 1: THUNDERCRASH

The Mask of BEELZEBUB flies in. The voice of BEELZEBUB is heard over an off-stage microphone.

BEELZEBUB: From Hell I come!! Through flame and fire!
And with me....all the Fates conspire!
I warn you now - it's my delight
To give all boys and girls a fright!
To help my plans to rule this earth
I've chosen one of human birth
A Prince of Evil, a King of Crime...
He really is a bag of slime...

MUSIC CUE 1a: SHERIFF'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: The SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM enters DL.

SHERIFF: He surely can't be referring to me -
'Cos I'm so lovely...don't you agree?
The Sheriff of Nottingham is my name...
And crushing the peasants is my game!
Beelzebub, I'll serve you - do whatever you ask!
If wickedness is what you want, I'll enjoy the task!

BEELZEBUB: I'll make you rich, if you'll agree
To make human life a misery...
Tax them! Rob them! Squeeze them dry!!
I want to see those peasants cry!!

SHERIFF: I'll do it! I'll do it - just as you say!!

BEELZEBUB: With your help, Sheriff - Evil will always hold sway!

FX 2: THUNDERCRASH

The Mask of BEELZEBUB flies out.

SHERIFF: Robbery and violence...oh, what treats!!
Oh shut up, you lot - or I'll poison your sweets!

MUSIC CUE 1b: SPIRIT'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD enters DR.

SPIRIT: Though this monstrous man makes lots of noise...
Don't let him worry you, girls and boys -
For now the Spirit of the Greenwood is here...

I'm the Good Fairy! Well, give me a cheer!!

SHERIFF: You'll never stop me, Spirit - although you fight for good,

SPIRIT: But I will summon one who can - his name is Robin Hood!

SHERIFF: Robin Hood doesn't scare me - don't try to be funny!
I'll kill him! Then I can steal the people's money!!
So rest assured that in less than an hour -
I'll have you all within my power!!

MUSIC CUE 1c: SHERIFF'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)
The SHERIFF exits DL.

SPIRIT: We'll see about that! Robin won't be denied -
He'll fight for what's right...and with me on his side
And the help of these children - Good's sure to win!
So, without further ado...let our story begin...

The SPIRIT exits.
Blackout. Cloth/Tabs out. Lights up revealing...

SCENE ONE

THE FAIR AT NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

**MUSIC CUE 2: OPENING NUMBER – CHORUS AND MAID
MARIAN. WILL SCARLET AND FRIAR TUCK ARE JOINING
IN**

MARIAN: That was fun - I never knew you were such a groovy mover, Tucky!

FRIAR TUCK: Neither did I! Phew!! I'm completely knickered!!!

MARIAN: You mean knack -

FRIAR TUCK: No I don't!...I mean knickered! Me breath's coming in short pants!

WILL: It's a nice change to see all the villagers happy for once!

MARIAN: I know...everyone's been so miserable lately...the Sheriff says it's
because they're all terrified of that outlaw - Robin Hood!

WILL: Maid Marian...

MARIAN: Yes, Will?

WILL: Your guardian is the Sheriff of Nottingham...

MARIAN: He is.

WILL: He is an ugly, evil and vicious man!

MARIAN: I suppose he does get a bit grumpy sometimes...

FRIAR TUCK: A bit grumpy?! He's a cruel and callous tyrant!

MARIAN: I admit...he does have a bit of a temper.

WILL: Then you mustn't believe a word he says!! Robin Hood is the only one that cares about the poor people! He's a good man.

MARIAN: The Sheriff's not as bad as you think - he means well.

HERMAN is heard shouting "Make way! Make way!" Enter HERMAN The HENCHMAN with some SOLDIERS. HERMAN plays a discordant fanfare on his toy bugle.

HERMAN: Sorry!...Right! Let's hear it...for the man of the moment...your cuddly councillor...the Sheriff of Nottingham!!!

Enter The SHERIFF: The VILLAGERS "Boo".

SHERIFF: Shut up...shut up, you morons!! As this is the only day you get off per year, I suggest you enjoy it!! Iøve come to make an announcement about your taxes.

The VILLAGERS "Boo".

SHERIFF: I know that some of you have been having difficulty paying...so I'm going to do something about it...

The VILLAGERS "Cheer".

SHERIFF: I'm going to double them!!...Then you'll all have difficulty paying!!

The VILLAGERS "Boo".

SHERIFF: You already pay V.A.T...so now you'll pay C.A.T...

HERMAN: What's that, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: A tax on anyone who owns a pet!...You will also pay M.A.T...

HERMAN: Which is...?

SHERIFF: A tax on everyone who has a carpet...!!

WILL: What about a tax called R.A.T.? Then you'd be the only one to pay it!

The VILLAGERS laugh.

SHERIFF: Watch your lip, you Saxon dog - or I'll send my guards to capture you ...and you'll find out just how painful it is to be grabbed by the Normans!

MARIAN: It was only a joke, Sheriff...

SHERIFF: Really? It didn't make me laugh, my pretty one...

The SHERIFF tries to touch MARIAN who shies away.

SHERIFF: Charming...**[Blows a kiss at her]**...I would also like to announce that the annual archery contest - for "The Golden Arrow of Nottingham", will start in half an hour's time; though why I'm bothering to tell you lot I can't imagine! I mean, what do you know about the archers?

The VILLAGERS sing the theme tune of "The Archers".

SHERIFF: Oh, very amusing - you pathetic peasants!...Shut up!!...**[To The AUDIENCE]**...And you!!!

The SHERIFF, HERMAN and The SOLDIERS exit.

WILL: Do you still think the Sheriff's a nice man, Miss Marian?

MARIAN: No, I don't! You were right about him - he's horrible!

1st VILLAGER: The Sheriff's just doubled our taxes!

2nd VILLAGER: I can't afford to pay mine now...

3RD VILLAGER: There must be someone who can help us! Isn't there anyone who'll stand up to him?

WILL: There is one man brave enough...

MARIAN: You mean Robin Hood?

WILL: The very same; and I think it's time he knew just what's going on. Tucky - you go east, along by the river, and I'll head north, back towards Sherwood.

MARIAN: Can't I come with you?

FRIAR TUCK: You don't seem to understand, Miss Marian: the Sheriff has declared Robin an outlaw - anyone found consorting with him will be arrested.

Enter HERMAN with an archery target.

WILL: ...And the Sheriff's spies are everywhere...we'll see you later...

FRIAR TUCK and WILL exit.

MARIAN: Good luck...

HERMAN: Maid Marian! Miss!!

MARIAN: What do you want, Herman?

HERMAN: I hope you're going to stay for the archery contest, Miss - I mean I am the champion; I've won the golden arrow for the last three years!

MARIAN: You've been the only person who's entered the contest in the last three years!

HERMAN: That could have something to do with it, I suppose...

MARIAN: And it could have something to do with the fact that none of the villagers are allowed to own a bow and arrow!

HERMAN: I never thought of that...

MARIAN: When you won last year, you shot yourself in the foot!

HERMAN: I've still got the scar...

MARIAN: Anyway, I must go and talk to the villagers - I want them to know that there's someone on their side.

HERMAN: Then I'd better go with you, Miss - there's some very odd people about!

MARIAN: You said it, Herman...you said it!

HERMAN exits. MARIAN starts to follow as WILL and FRIAR TUCK run on.

WILL: Marian, Robin Hood's on his way. We've just seen him.

MARIAN: Thank goodness. Help is at hand.

**MUSIC CUE 2a: ROBIN'S FANFARE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Enter ROBIN HOOD**

ROBIN: Hello my friends. I've heard that the sheriff's put up your taxes again. So he's up to his old tricks again, is he?

4TH VILLAGER: You'll help us fight The Sheriff, won't you Robin?

VILLAGERS: We need you to help us!/Please, Robin!/You've got to!!

ROBIN: Of course I will! And we're not alone. **[gestures to the AUDIENCE]** This lot look like a friendly bunch. Will you help us too? Will you? Great. Now we can't fail.

VILLAGERS: Hooray!/You're our only hope, Robin!/That Sheriff's an evil man!

WILL: Robin, the Sheriff's just announced an archery contest...

ROBIN: Which I, of course, shall enter!

WILL: And the prize is a golden arrow!

ROBIN: Which we could sell and give the money to the villagers!

WILL: Exactly! But we'll need to find you a disguise, the place is sure to be swarming with soldiers...

ROBIN: **[Noticing MAID MARIAN with the VILLAGERS]** Who's that girl?

WILL: She's Maid Marian - the Sheriff's ward. Isn't she beautiful?

ROBIN: She is indeed. **[to the VILLAGERS]** Right, all of you listen ó we must all band together to fight the wrongs being done here. The sheriff is sending the poor people to prison for not paying their taxes. He's setting fire to their farms. He's torturing the defiant ones. But one day King Richard will return from the crusades. I know he will. And when he does, he will bring liberty back to our land. **[The VILLAGERS cheer]** But until then, we are on our own. We must fight these evil deeds. We must fight for our rights. We must fight for freedom.

MUSIC CUE 3: TRIUMPHANT SONG FOR ROBIN, WILL, FRIAR, MARIAN AND VILLAGERS
At the end of the song, HERMAN's wonky fanfare is heard.

WILL: Look out! Here comes Herman ó you must go!

WILL pushes ROBIN off as MARIAN moves towards him.

MARIAN: Will, was that really who I think it was? Was it really -

WILL: Careful, Miss Marian - don't give the game away! Fear not - we'll be back in time for the contest.

WILL and FRIAR TUCK exit as HERMAN enters.

HERMAN: I'm getting ever so excited about the archery contest, Miss - I've got butterbeans in my tummy!

MARIAN: You mean butterflies, Herman!

HERMAN: No I don't; I mean butterbeans!...I always have a quick snack when I'm nervous!

MUSIC CUE 3a: NORAH'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
NURSE NORAH is heard shouting "Gangway!!"

MARIAN: What on earth's happening...?

The VILLAGERS react in disbelief as NURSE NORAH enters.

NURSE NORAH: All right! All right! Don't be overawed! I know I'm unbelievably lovely - but don't faint...just throw money! It's not cheap looking like this, you know!! But I always say...if you've got it - flaunt it!! Ooh! Look...a man! Well...nearly! Excuse me, sunshine...but is that Nottingham Castle?

HERMAN: Er...yes, ma'am...

NURSE NORAH: Thank goodness!! I've been on the road so long I think I need a retreat! I am looking for the Sheriff.

MARIAN: I am Maid Marian, ma'am - the Sheriff is my guardian.

NURSE NORAH: Pleased to meet you, dear - I am Nurse Norah...**[Attempts a curtsy]** ...Ooh...I think I've done myself a mischief!

HERMAN: What do you want the Sheriff for?

NURSE NORAH: Because his brother, the Baron of **[Local place name]**, has gone off on the Crusade; and he wants the Sheriff to look after his two children while he's away...

HERMAN: I'd better go and tell him the news then.

HERMAN exits.

MARIAN: Which two children are they, Nurse Norah?

NURSE NORAH: Why...Janet and John, of course...the little dears - they never leave my side!

MARIAN: Well...where are they?

NURSE NORAH: That's a point...where are they?...**[Calls]**...Janet! Jo - **[Looks offstage]**...John - don't do that...come here!

Enter JANET and JOHN.

JANET: Is this the place, Nursey?

NURSE NORAH: Yes, dear...

JOHN: I'm ever so hungry, Nursey...

MARIAN: Why don't we don't go and get some toffee apples...?

JANET: Oh, yes please!

MARIAN: Then we can come back and watch the archery contest!

JOHN: That sounds exciting!!

MARIAN: I wouldn't bet on it!

NURSE NORAH: How very kind of you, Miss Marian...off you go then!

MARIAN, JANET, JOHN and The VILLAGERS exit.

NURSE NORAH: What a nice girl - but I'm glad she's gone! I mean, it'll give us a chance to get to know each other...now, I'm Nurse Norah - so when I say "Hello, boys and girls" you can say "Hello, Nurse Norah"...ready? Hello, boys and girls!...Now when I say "boys and girls" I don't just mean the little boys and girls...I mean all the big boys and girls too ...the ones with the muscles and moustaches...and the Dads!...Right... Hello, boys and girls! **[Repeats as necessary]** Great! That's really cheered me up...'cos, in fact, I've had a very sad life...**[Aah!]**...I said "I've had a very sad life!"...**[Aah!]**...It's sadder than that!... **[Aah!]**...You see I'm a woman alone...**[Aah!]**...ever since my husband passed on...**[Aah!]**...Don't waste your sympathy on him! When I said "passed on" I didn't mean he'd passed away - I meant "passed on"...last time I heard he'd passed on as far as **[Local place name]**. But we can't live in the past, can we? Who knows - Mister Right could be just around the corner...

The SHERIFF enters with HERMAN, who is carrying the golden arrow, and several SOLDIERS.

SHERIFF: Ah-ha!!

NURSE NORAH: And then again...he might not!!

SHERIFF: Are you the woman who's brought me the two brats?

NURSE NORAH: No...I am the lady who has brought you two delightful little darlings!

HERMAN: They do seem very charming children, sir...

SHERIFF: Don't get me wrong - I love children...though I couldn't eat a whole one! Just tell me why I should look after my brother's offspring?

NURSE NORAH: Because...they're family, because...it's your duty...and because he has sent you his entire fortune to pay for their keep!

SHERIFF: You've convinced me!! Where's the gold!!!

NURSE NORAH: In my chest...

SHERIFF: Come here...**[Grabs NURSE NORAH]**

NURSE NORAH: Get off! Men...they're all the same! All they want to do is burglarise your bazookas! I meant my treasure chest!!

Enter MARIAN with JANET and JOHN who are holding toffee-apples.

Ah! Here are the babes now; Janet...John - this is your uncle...The Sheriff of Nottingham.

JANET: How do you do, sir. **[Curtseys]**

JOHN: Hi, Unky-Wunky!

SHERIFF: Don't call me that!

JOHN: Sorry...

JOHN holds his hand out; as the SHERIFF goes to shake it he gets the toffee-apple instead.

SHERIFF: Yuk! You little monster! I'll -

NURSE NORAH: John, that was very naughty! **[Sniggers]**

HERMAN: I'm sure it was an accident, sir...

SHERIFF: Oh are you...? **[Wipes his hand on HERMAN]** When I want the opinion of a cretin - I'll ask you for it!! Now, sound a fanfare - it's time for the archery contest!

HERMAN: Yes, sir...at once sir!...**[Plays an awful fanfare]**...Sorry...

SHERIFF: You plonker!!

The VILLAGERS, WILL and FRIAR TUCK enter.

FRIAR TUCK: Where's Robin?

WILL: I don't know, but I'm sure he'll be here when he's wanted.

SHERIFF: Right! The competition for the golden arrow will now begin...

The VILLAGERS cheer and gather round the target.

SHERIFF: The first contestant is my champion - Herman the Henchman!

The VILLAGERS scream and scramble for cover.

SHERIFF: Alright! Cut the comedy! Go on, Herman - fire away! And this year, do try and hit the target!

HERMAN: I'll do my best, sir...

SHERIFF: That's what's worrying me!

HERMAN fires and scores an outer...general surprise.

SHERIFF: Blimey! Have you been practising? Now, in the absence of any other contestants, I award -

WILL: Wait! There is another man who wishes to enter - Robert the Tinker!

ROBIN enters disguised in a hooded cloak and beard.

SHERIFF: Robert the Stinker? Yuk! How smelly! Anyway, he's too late, the winner is -

The VILLAGERS "Boo".

FRIAR TUCK: You've got to give him a chance!

NURSE NORAH: Yes! Let him have a go!

MARIAN: Please, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: Oh...very well! Just one shot - alright?

ROBIN fires and scores a bull: ALL Cheer.

SHERIFF: Mmm...not bad - but Herman was closer...

JOHN: Rubbish! He just got a bull's-eye!

SHERIFF: And you'll get a black eye if you don't shut up!

WILL: The boy's right! Robert's the winner, isn't he?

The VILLAGERS Cheer.

ROBIN: I think the prize is mine, Sheriff...**[Takes the golden arrow]**

SHERIFF: Hang on! That arrow's worth a lot of money!

ROBIN: Indeed it is...money that will divided up and given to the poor - a gift from...**[Pulls back his hood]**...Robin Hood!!

The VILLAGERS Cheer.

SHERIFF: Robin Hood!!? Seize him!

HERMAN: Yes, sir...at once, sir...

ROBIN disappears into the crowd of VILLAGERS pursued by HERMAN. ROBIN - having given his cloak to HERMAN - exits, unseen by The SHERIFF. As The SOLDIERS try to follow them, FRIAR TUCK and WILL obstruct them.

FRIAR TUCK: I'm so sorry - how clumsy of me!

WILL: I think he went that way.

SHERIFF: After him, you fools! Don't let him escape!!

The SOLDIERS plunge into the crowd and drag out a cloaked figure.

SHERIFF: At last! Well, Hood - prepare to meet your doom!!

The SHERIFF pulls back the hood to reveal HERMAN.

HERMAN: Sorry, your Sheriffship - I did my best.

SHERIFF: Herman - you're useless!! I've seen better soldiers round a boiled egg!

MARIAN: Didn't you think Robin was handsome, Nurse Norah?

NURSE NORAH: Indeed I did! One glance at his bow and I was all a-quiver!

SHERIFF: Well...your pretty boy will soon learn it doesn't pay to mess with me!
Now get back to your stinking hovels, you Saxon dogs - or I'll have you all thrown into the dungeons!!

WILL, FRIAR TUCK, The VILLAGERS and SOLDIERS exit.

NURSE NORAH: You're very macho, aren't you?

SHERIFF: And take those little whippersnappers back to the castle! I'm sick of the sight of them!!

NURSE NORAH: Whatever you say, oh hairy one! Actually I'll need to find somewhere to use as a schoolroom; Janet and John wouldn't like to miss their lessons - would you, my darlings?

JANET: } [Miserably] No, Nurse Norah!
JOHN: }

NURSE NORAH: With conviction, dears - or not at all! Now, you two stay with Marian. She'll keep an eye on you for half an hour whilst I go and make myself beautiful ready for teaching!

HERMAN: Half an hour? I think it'll take longer than that.

NURSE NORAH: Cheek! See you all later. By-ee!

MARIAN: By-ee!

NURSE NORAH: [To The AUDIENCE] By-ee!!...

NURSE NORAH exits.

SHERIFF: Go with them, Marian, I need a quiet word with Herman.

HERMAN: Sshh!

SHERIFF: What?

HERMAN: Sshh!...that's a quiet word...

SHERIFF: You fool!! Go on, Marian - move it!

MARIAN: Yes, Sheriff...

MARIAN, JANET and JOHN starts to exit but lingers to overhear...

SHERIFF: Herman...I've been thinking...

HERMAN: I tried that once...[Shakes his head]

SHERIFF: Shut up and listen!...If Janet and John were to die then, as their guardian - I would inherit their entire fortune!!

HERMAN: But why should Janet and John die, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: Because, numbskull...you are going to kill them!

HERMAN: I couldn't do that!!

SHERIFF: Of course you could...just think of it as a mercy killing...

HERMAN: A mercy killing?!

SHERIFF: Yes...if you don't kill them - I'll show you no mercy!

The SHERIFF belabours HERMAN and they both exit.

MARIAN: I don't believe it! I know The Sheriff's a nasty piece of work...but to kill you!? You need protecting from that evil man.

MUSIC CUE 4: SOLO FOR MAID MARIAN

MARIAN: What can I do...? Who can help me...?...Why not?...Should I ask Robin to help me...? Should I...? Right, let's get you two back to the castle and then I'll have to go into the forest and find him...so wish me luck, boys and girls.I'll see you soon.

MARIAN, JANET and JOHN exit. Blackout. Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...

SCENE TWO

A PATH IN THE FOREST

Enter ROBIN and WILL.

ROBIN: [Looks behind him] Where is he...? Tucky!

FRIAR TUCK enters...very slowly.

Come on, my little, fat friar! Best foot forward!

FRIAR TUCK: I don't think either of my feet are very well at the moment, Robin! Why do we have to live right in the middle of Sherwood Forest?

ROBIN: Because it's the only place we can be safe from the Sheriff!...

WILL: Robin...**[Pulls him close and whispers]**...have you noticed anything?

ROBIN: Yes...you've changed your after-shave...it's nice!

WILL: I meant...have you noticed that we're being followed?

From offstage LITTLE JOHN gives the secret whistle...[The first 6 notes of the Robin Hood Theme - "Robin Hood, Robin Hood!"]

FRIAR TUCK: By a very large blackbird...?

ROBIN: That was Little John!...**[Gives the secret whistle]**

FRIAR TUCK: **[Sings]** "With his band of Men!"

WILL: Shut up, Tucky!

Enter LITTLE JOHN.

ROBIN: What's happening, John?

LITTLE JOHN: There are strangers in the forest, Robin!

WILL: I knew it!!

ROBIN: Come on - let's all hide...and we'll try and catch them...

ROBIN, WILL, FRIAR TUCK and LITTLE JOHN exit in different directions. Enter MAID MARIAN.

MARIAN: Hello,, boys and girls...! I've been walking for hours, and I can't find the camp...! Where can it be?

Enter LITTLE JOHN who seizes MARIAN.

LITTLE JOHN: Aha!!! Well, Missy...what are you after...?

MARIAN: Robin's camp!

Enter ROBIN, WILL and FRIAR TUCK.

ROBIN: No I'm not! It's just the way I walk!

WILL: John - release the lady. Robin, this is Maid Marian.

ROBIN: I know...**[Bows]**...A pleasure to meet you, Miss Marian. How may I help you...?

MARIAN: It's The Sheriff, he's supposed to be caring for his young niece and nephew - but, in fact, he plans to murder them! You've got to save them!

ROBIN: Of course we shall!

WILL: Steady on, Robin - the castle is full of The Sheriff's soldiers.

MARIAN: But Robin's got all his Merry Men to help him...?

WILL: That's the trouble, Miss Marian - Little John, Tucky and I...

WILL: }
LITTLE JOHN: } We are the Merry Men!!
FRIAR TUCK: }

MARIAN: You four - are a band of outlaws?!

ROBIN: Well...a small bandí more of a quartet, really!

FRIAR TUCK: The rest of the men have gone to the Crusade with King Richard...

MARIAN: Well, I can help you too. I can get inside information from the castle and pass it back to you, so you've got one more person in your band now.

ROBIN: And I've found lots more new recruits...all the boys and girls out there!

LITTLE JOHN: Are you sure they can be trusted, Robin?

ROBIN: Of course! With all these people to help us, how can we fail? Welcome to our merry band, Marian.

MUSIC CUE 5: SONG FOR ROBIN, MARIAN, FRIAR TUCK, WILL SCARLET AND LITTLE JOHN

WILL: But Robin, we've still got to find a way of getting into the castle.

MARIAN: Well...Nurse Norah is going to start a school - why don't you four become pupils...?

FRIAR TUCK: Us..?! Go back to school!

LITTLE JOHN: I don't fancy that, Robin - I failed my eleven plus!!

WILL: Lots of children do that, John...!

LITTLE JOHN: I know - but I was twenty-four at the time!

ROBIN: Look, it's the best way we can protect the babes! You three go back to the camp and try and find some disguises we can wear...I'll escort Maid Marian back to the castle.

LITTLE JOHN: I hope this idea's going to work...

FRIAR TUCK: Of course it will - stop whingeing!

WILL: We'll see you later, Robin...goodnight, Miss Marian

WILL, FRIAR TUCK and LITTLE JOHN exit.

MARIAN: Thanks for your help...I don't know what I'd have done without you...

ROBIN: Maid Marian - we may have only just met...but I promise you...I'll always be here...whenever you need me. Now come on ó I'd better get you back to the castle before anyone notices you're missing.

ROBIN and MARIAN exit.

**MUSIC CUE 5a: SPIRIT'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Enter The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD.**

SPIRIT: So...Robin's met Marian!...Oh, happy day!!
All join with me...Hip, Hip...Hoo-Ray!!
Because I'm a Fairy - I had a dream -
I knew they'd make the perfect team!
Now Nurse Norah may seem a bit of a fool
But she's a Headmistress...when running a school
Though with John and Friar Tuck, Robin and Will...
Her classroom will always be more like Grange Hill!

**MUSIC CUE 5b: SPIRIT'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)
The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD exits: Blackout. Cloth/Tabs
out. Lights up revealing...**

SCENE THREE

THE SCHOOLROOM

There is a blackboard, a teacher's desk and three benches. Enter NURSE NORAH in a gown and mortar board.

NURSE NORAH: Oh, you're back again...how lovely! Hello, boys and girls...! Just in time for school, too - I'm a highly qualified teacher, you know: I've been to Oxford and Cambridge...those "Away-day" tickets are quite cheap, you know! Now, where are my class?

**NURSE NORAH rings the School-bell...[It has no clapper]...
FX 3: BIG BEN STRIKING. NURSE NORAH examines the bell.**

Ooh?...I think someone's been tampering with me donger!

Enter MARIAN, JANET and JOHN.

There you are, dears - come and sit down...are you joining our little school, Miss Marian?

MARIAN: Yes please, Nurse Norah...and I've got some friends who'd like to come too - will that be alright?

NURSE NORAH: Of course, dear - wheel 'em in! The more the merrier!!

MARIAN: Come on then, lads...

Enter ROBIN, WILL, LITTLE JOHN and FRIAR TUCK - dressed as SCHOOLBOYS.

NURSE NORAH: Robin Hood, eh? Aren't I a lucky little lecturer!

MARIAN: Hands off, Nursey - he's mine!

NURSE NORAH: A girl can dream! Take your cap off, dear...

ROBIN: Yes, Nurse Norah...

**ROBIN draws a hook on the blackboard and hangs his cap on it...
[See PROPS list].**

NURSE NORAH: I can see I shall have to keep an eye on you...now, who's the mini-monk?

FRIAR TUCK: I'm Friar Tuck - but you can call me Tucky!

NURSE NORAH: If that's what you want, ducky...

FRIAR TUCK: Tucky!

NURSE NORAH: Sorry, dear - and how about the one with the red legs?

WILL: I'm Will Scarlet.

NURSE NORAH: Really? I knew your sister...O'Hara! And who is this handsome hunk?

LITTLE JOHN: I'm Little John, ma'am.

NURSE NORAH: What a very unsuitable name...Now sit down and we'll begin...

ROBIN, MARIAN and JANET sit on one bench: WILL, LITTLE JOHN, and JOHN on another: FRIAR TUCK on the trick bench.

NURSE NORAH: Goodness...we've quite a crowd! Now, who can tell me how many pupils I've got?

JOHN puts his hand up.

NURSE NORAH: Yes, John?

JOHN: Two, miss...one in each eye!

NURSE NORAH: You cheeky boy! Come out here - I'm going to smack your bottom!

ALL: That's not fair!/It was only a joke!/Don't smack him!

NURSE NORAH: Alright! Alright - settle down! It sounds like Question Time in the House of Commons!

The SHERIFF is heard shouting "Nurse Norah! Nurse Norah!!"

NURSE NORAH: That's The Sheriff!

ROBIN: He mustn't find me here...

WILL: Come on, everyone, get together - we'll hide him...

WILL, FRIAR TUCK, MARIAN, LITTLE JOHN, JANET and JOHN form a most unnatural group: ROBIN hides behind them: Enter The SHERIFF.

SHERIFF: Ah, Nurse Norah! Your class is assembled, I see...[Looks at LITTLE JOHN]...He's a bit big for a schoolboy, isn't he?

NURSE NORAH: Indeed he is!...Do you know, if he played his cards right...he could be teacher's pet! [Winks and blows a kiss at LITTLE JOHN]

SHERIFF: Well, I've got a new recruit for you - a sweet little thing...come along, Buttercup - don't be shy!

Enter HERMAN, disguised as a small schoolgirl - BUTTERCUP.

HERMAN: [Aside to The SHERIFF] I feel stupid!

SHERIFF: [Aside to HERMAN] I would have thought you were used to that! Stop moaning, man - and remember what you're here for! You've got to lure those babes away - right?

HERMAN: [Aside to The SHERIFF] Right!

SHERIFF: Off you go then, Buttercup - there's a good girl!

The SHERIFF pats BUTTERCUP's bottom and exits.

NURSE NORAH: See you later, dictator! Right, sit down everybody!

ALL sit down, except BUTTERCUP.

HERMAN: Can I sit next to Janet or John, Miss?

JANET: No, you can't - I'm sitting next to Marian and Robin!

JOHN: I wouldn't want sit next to you anyway! You're so ugly, you make Nursey look pretty!!

NURSE NORAH: Thankyou, John...pardon?

FRIAR TUCK: She can sit next to me, Nurse Norah!

NURSE NORAH: What a good idea...go on then, Buttercup - sit next to Tucky...

HERMAN reluctantly complies.

NURSE NORAH: Now, I'm going to call the register...anyone not here answer ðAbsentö.

ALL: Absent!

NURSE NORAH: Good, that's done! **[Throws register away]** Now, who can remember how far we'd got in mathematics? **[JANET puts her hand up]** **Yes, Janet?**

JANET: **[Rises]** The differential calculus of square logarithms as applied to the coefficient of the speed of light passing through a vacuum at zero expansion rate...

NURSE NORAH: Of course...right, that's maths done...sit down, Janet.

FRIAR TUCK: **[Rises]** Please, Nurse Norah...

The bench tips, depositing HERMAN on the floor.

NURSE NORAH: Get up, Buttercup - your knickers are showing! Sit down, Tucky...

FRIAR TUCK: But I didn't understand -

NURSE NORAH: Quiet! Sit down - both of you! **[FRIAR TUCK and HERMAN sit]** Now, what's next...

HERMAN pokes FRIAR TUCK in the ribs: FRIAR TUCK falls off the bench - the bench tips, HERMAN falls off.

.NURSE NORAH: What's going on? Tucky - what are you doing down there?

FRIAR TUCK: Getting up...

NURSE NORAH: Who caused this confusion?

ALL: Buttercup, Nurse Norah!

NURSE NORAH: Buttercup - come out here...bend over.

NURSE NORAH smacks BUTTERCUP with a slap-stick.

HERMAN: Ow!

NURSE NORAH: Now, sit down! The next lesson is geography; who can tell me the shape of the world...?

ALL: We don't know, Nurse Norah!

NURSE NORAH: Well, I'll give you a clue...what shape is my hat?

ROBIN: It's square, Nurse Norah!

NURSE NORAH: No, not this hat - the one I wear on Sundays!

WILL: Round, Nurse Norah!

NURSE NORAH: That's right...so - what is the shape of the world?

HERMAN: Square on weekdays and round on Sundays...?

NURSE NORAH: Who said that?

ALL: Buttercup, Nurse Norah!

HERMAN: It's not fair!

NURSE NORAH: Buttercup - come out here...bend over...

NURSE NORAH smacks BUTTERCUP.

HERMAN: Ow!

NURSE NORAH: Now, sit down!...[HERMAN sits]...Right, who can tell me what happens when you throw a green rock into the Red Sea?

ROBIN: It gets wet!

NURSE NORAH: ...It's a good job you're so handsome!! Well, that's geography covered...what next?

MARIAN: What about history?...I like history, Nurse Norah!

HERMAN: [Mimics her] I like history, Nurse Norah!

NURSE NORAH: Who said that - was that you, Tucky?

FRIAR TUCK: [Rises] No, Nurse Norah...

The bench tips: HERMAN falls off.

ALL: It was Buttercup, Nurse Norah!

NURSE NORAH: Oh, was it? Buttercup - come out here...bend over...

HERMAN: Don't hit me again, Nurse Norah...

NURSE NORAH: Why not?

HERMAN: My feet are killing me...

NURSE NORAH: Do as you're told!

NURSE NORAH smacks BUTTERCUP.

HERMAN: Ow!

NURSE NORAH: Now, sit down...gently! Right - a little quiz: what was Louis the 14th responsible for?

MARIAN: Louis the 15th!

NURSE NORAH: What was Gandhi's Christian name?

LITTLE JOHN: Goosey-goosey!

NURSE NORAH: Where did they sign the Magna Carta?

ROBIN: At the bottom!

NURSE NORAH: Why do bees hum?

WILL: Because they don't know the words!

NURSE NORAH: Where is Hadrian's Wall?

FRIAR TUCK: Round Hadrian's garden!

NURSE NORAH: Why do cows wear bells?

HERMAN: Because their horns don't work!

NURSE NORAH: Because their horns don't work...? That was a silly answer, wasn't it, Buttercup? Come out here...

HERMAN: It's not fair! They all gave silly answers too...

FRIAR TUCK: **[Rises]** Oh, no we didn't...!

The bench tips: HERMAN falls off.

NURSE NORAH: Buttercup - you've caused nothing but trouble since you arrived! Come here...bend over...

NURSE NORAH smacks BUTTERCUP.

HERMAN: Ow!

NURSE NORAH: Now you can go and stand in the corridor until the end of school!

HERMAN: ...Can't Janet and John come with me?

NURSE NORAH: Of course they can't! They're good children, aren't you dears?

JANET: Yes, Nursey...**[Pulls a face at HERMAN behind NURSE NORAH's back]**

JOHN: Ever so good, Nursey...**[Blows a raspberry at HERMAN]**

NURSE NORAH: Who did that?

ALL: Buttercup, Nurse Norah!

HERMAN: You fibbers!!

NURSE NORAH: Buttercup - you're a bad, bad girl! Get out of my classroom...go on...off you go!!

NURSE NORAH chases BUTTERCUP off, hitting her with the slapstick.

NURSE NORAH: Now, come along! It's time for our music lesson - we're going to sing the school song...

ROBIN: We don't know the words, Nurse Norah.

NURSE NORAH: Janet and John do - don't you, dears?

JANET: } Yes, Nurse Norah...!
JOHN: }

NURSE NORAH: Off you go then - it's all yours!! And you can all join in.

MUSIC CUE 6: SCHOOLDAYS
At end of song Blackout: ALL exit. Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...

SCENE FOUR

A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

HERMAN, dressed as BUTTERCUP, is wandering around.

HERMAN: I did my best...that teacher had it in for me...it's not fair...I've got the sores -

Enter The SHERIFF.

SHERIFF: Ah! So there you are, Herman...

HERMAN: Yes, sir!!

SHERIFF: You're back!

HERMAN: **[Looks over his shoulder]** What about my back?!

SHERIFF: I meant...you're here!!

HERMAN: **[Touching at his ears]** This ear...or that ear?!

SHERIFF: You numbskull!! Where are the babes?!

HERMAN: They're still in the schoolroom, sir...

SHERIFF: I see...well...why aren't you?!

HERMAN: Nurse Norah threw me out, Sheriff!! It wasn't right, you know - I could have answered all the questions if they'd given me time to have thought...er...thanked...er...thank!?

SHERIFF: You dismally, dumb, dimwit! It's obvious that you need a hand...

HERMAN: I do, Sheriff...I do...

SHERIFF: Well - you can have mine!!

The SHERIFF hits HERMAN.

HERMAN: Ow!!

SHERIFF: Right! Be ready at midnight...once Janet and John are asleep...we'll nick 'em from the nursery!

HERMAN: But Nurse Norah'll be looking after them...and she's a hard woman!
...[Rubs his bottom]...Very hard!!

SHERIFF: We can deal with that old bag! Once we've got the babes, you can take them into the forest and...**[Draws his finger across his throat]...**
Scheck! Finish 'em off!

HERMAN: What...me?...**[Draws finger across his throat]...**Scheck!

SHERIFF: Exactly!!...**[Draws finger across his throat]...**Scheck!

HERMAN: Oh, I couldn't do that, Sheriff!

SHERIFF: Why not?

HERMAN: **[Shows The SHERIFF his finger]** Me finger's blunt...

SHERIFF: Are you really thick - or just good at impressions? Listen, pea-brain! Janet and John have got to be done away with, so that I can inherit all their money!! Now, don't you think it's time you changed?

HERMAN: Into what?

SHERIFF: A man!! Unless you like dressing-up as a schoolgirl...?

HERMAN: No, I don't! I'm not like that...!

HERMAN tosses his head and exits.

SHERIFF: I'm getting worried about Herman...you just can't get the staff these days, can you...? No matter - once he's served his purpose and murdered the babes...I'll get rid of him, too...Hahaha!!!
And you lot'll soon regret the time
You came here to see this...pantomime!
Shout yourselves hoarse...I don't give a damn -
For I'm the Sheriff of Nottingham!
So, come on, you dummies - give me a cheer...?
You're even stupider than you appear!
I'm the wickedest Sheriff that there's ever been!
Let me tell you...it's wonderful being so mean!!!

MUSIC CUE 6a: SHERIFF'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)

Blackout: The SHERIFF exits. Cloth/Tabs out: Lights up revealing...

SCENE FIVE

THE NURSERY

Two beds, SR and SL: a toybox SL, a screen and chair are SR. JANET and JOHN, in night attire, are having a pillow fight. Enter NURSE NORAH.

NURSE NORAH: And just what do you two think you're doing?

JOHN: Getting ready for bed, Nursey.

NURSE NORAH: That's not what it looked like to me! Have you been to the bathroom yet?

JANET: No, Nursey.

NURSE NORAH: Then off you go - teeth and hair! Teeth and hair!!

JANET: } Yes, Nursey!

JOHN: }

JANET and JOHN exit.

NURSE NORAH: I'd better get myself undressed, I suppose...ooh! I hadn't noticed that you lot were back again...Hello, boys and girls!...Lovely! Now, I hope you're not going to peep while I get into my nightie...'cos underneath it all, I'm a very shy and retiring woman...

MUSIC CUE 6b: NORAH'S STRIP (INSTRUMENTAL)

At the end of the Strip Routine NURSE NORAH exits behind the screen and puts on a "dressing gown". Enter ROBIN and MARIAN.

N.B. If your NURSE NORAH does not want to do a Strip Routine then let her exit with JANET and JOHN.

ROBIN: I won't do it, Marian - I won't!

MARIAN: Robin, you must go! It's too dangerous for you to stay here in the castle!!

ROBIN: I've got to look after the babes...anyway - where are they? And where's Nurse Norah?

Enter NURSE NORAH.

NURSE NORAH: Did somebody call...? Why are you getting your tights in a twist, Robin?

MARIAN: He's worried about the babes...

NURSE NORAH: They'll be back in a minute...all they're doing is abluting...in the bathroom.

ROBIN: I can't leave you and Marian to guard them, Norah!

NURSE NORAH: Why not?! I know, that to you, I appear a helpless female...a mere slip of a girl...but if that Sheriff wants to hurt Janet and John - he'll have to get round me first!!

ROBIN: Well...at least that'll delay him for a while...

MARIAN: If there is any trouble, we've always got all your friends

ROBIN: Of course. Knowing they're here makes me feel much better about leaving you...

MARIAN: Then do it - now! Before any of the guards see you.

ROBIN: Alright, now don't forget the plan: tomorrow morning you say you're taking Janet and John for a walk and then bring them to Sherwood - they'll be safe with me in the forest.

NURSE NORAH: I'll look after them tonight, I promise. I'm going to stay awake all night to keep an eye on them.

MARIAN: Come with me, Robin, I'll help you get out of the castle - there's a secret passage in the dungeon that goes under the moat.

ROBIN: Right, good-bye Norah...and good luck.

MARIAN: If you need me, just shout - my room is just along the corridor.

NURSE NORAH: I will - now get going, the pair of you!

ROBIN: } Yes, Norah.

MARIAN: }

ROBIN and MARIAN exit.

NURSE NORAH: It's sweet of them to worry - but we can cope with that nasty Sheriff, can't we girls and boys...?

Enter JANET and JOHN.

JANET: We've finished, Nurse Norah!

NURSE NORAH: There's good children; now, before you get into bed, you'd better have your lovely syrup of figs!

NURSE NORAH takes an ominous brown bottle and a large spoon.

JANET: } Yuk!!

JOHN: }

NURSE NORAH: Now, now - inner cleanliness is very important!

JOHN: But it tastes horrible!

NURSE NORAH: Nonsense! I think it's lovely...in fact I'll have the first spoonful myself ...Open the mouth, round the gums - look out tummy...here it comes!...**[Swallows spoonful]**...Mmm! Now, a lovely big spoonful for Janet...**[Gives JANET a spoonful, who winces]**...another lovely big spoonful for me...**[Swallows spoonful]**...and a lovely, lovely, big spoonful for John...**[Gives JOHN a spoonful, who winces]**...and my own lovely, lovely, lovely, big spoonful...**[Swallows a spoonful]**... Aargh! That's three I've had! I'm going to have a busy day, tomorrow! Come on now, you two - into bed!

NURSE NORAH tucks JANET into bed.

JANET: Night, night, Nurse Norah

NURSE NORAH: Goodnight, my darling!

JOHN: I'm not tired, Nurse Norah.

NURSE NORAH: Well, sleep on the edge of the bed.

JOHN: Why?

NURSE NORAH: You'll soon drop off! Right, I'll tuck you in...**[Tucks JOHN into bed]**
...Night night, John, sleep tight - mind the bugs don't bite! Don't worry,
I'll stay with you all night...

NURSE NORAH sits down...Pause.

JOHN: Nurse Norah, may I have a glass of water?

NURSE NORAH: No you may not. Now go to sleep!

JOHN: But Nurse Norah...

NURSE NORAH: If I have to come over there my boy, I'll smack your bottom! ...**[Pause]**...

JOHN: Nurse Norah...?

NURSE NORAH: What is it now?

JOHN: You know when you come over here to smack my bottom...

NURSE NORAH: Yes?

JOHN: Will you bring me a glass of water?

NURSE NORAH: Go to sleep!...**[Pause]**!

JANET: Will you sing us a song please?

NURSE NORAH: Oh all right. But if I do, will you promise to go to sleep?

JOHN: We will.

MUSIC CUE 7: SONG FOR NORAH, JANET AND JOHN
At the end of the song, NURSE NORAH drops her head and starts to snore...The BABES are asleep. Enter The SHERIFF and HERMAN.

SHERIFF: How sweet...! Herman - have you got the rope?

HERMAN: Yes, your ugliness - it's here.

SHERIFF: Then tie her up! Good and tight!!

HERMAN: It's not the first time you've told me to get knotted...

HERMAN ties NURSE NORAH to the chair.

SHERIFF: It really is fun - being such a swine!
I promise you...once those Babes are mine
[To The AUDIENCE] I'll have more time to deal with you!

Your insolent ways...you all will rue!!

NURSE NORAH: **[Waking up]** Oh...Oh!!...Oi! What's going on?

HERMAN: It's...er...just a game, Nurse Norah...

NURSE NORAH: Well, play it on your own! I'm not into bondage!!

SHERIFF: Gag the old bag!

NURSE NORAH: I beg your pardon?!!

HERMAN: I'll use my hanky...

HERMAN produces a grubby hanky.

NURSE NORAH: Yuk!!

HERMAN gags NURSE NORAH.

SHERIFF: Now, let's pull this screen round her...

The SHERIFF and HERMAN put the screen around NURSE NORAH.

SHERIFF}: And make sure she's safely out of sight...Right - you get the girl, while I wake the boy...

HERMAN: Janet...Janet - Wakey! Wakey

JANET: Is it morning already?

HERMAN: Not quite...no.

SHERIFF: **[To JOHN]** Come on, you little worm - wake up!

The SHERIFF shakes JOHN who wakes up and screams.

SHERIFF: What's the matter?

JOHN: I thought I was having a nightmare - but it was only you, Unky Wunky!

SHERIFF: I've told you before...don't call me that!!

JANET: Why have you got us up in the middle of the night?

SHERIFF: Because I've arranged a little treat for you - Herman's going to take you into the woods for a midnight picnic!

JOHN: But it's dark out there!

SHERIFF: It usually is at midnight!

JANET: Where's Nurse Norah?

SHERIFF: She's...er...gone to the little girls room...

JOHN: I knew she'd had too much syrup of figs!

SHERIFF: Off you go then - Herman will "take care" of you - won't you, Herman?
[Draws finger across his throat]

HERMAN: Yes, your Sheriffship...come on, kids...

HERMAN exits with JANET and JOHN.

SHERIFF: Instead of being safely tucked up in bed
Those two little brats will soon be dead!
Then I'll be rich as rich can be...
Admit it - don't you all just love me...?

MUSIC CUE 7a: SHERIFF'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)

The SHERIFF exits: NURSE NORAH appears from behind the screen, she is still tied to the chair.

NURSE NORAH: What a horrible man! My poor babies!! I must get help - I'll go and find Marian. **[To The AUDIENCE]**...Will you help me, boys and girls? Call her for me...Marian! Marian!!...That's it - keep going...

MUSIC CUE 7b: SCENE CHANGE (INSTRUMENTAL)

NURSE NORAH hobbles off, still tied to the chair. Blackout: Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...

SCENE SIX

A CORRIDOR REVISITED

Enter MARIAN.

MARIAN: What's the matter...? What are you shouting for? It's the middle of the night...

Enter NURSE NORAH, still tied to the chair.

NURSE NORAH: Oh, Marian - I'm glad I've found you...!

MARIAN: Why have you got that chair on your back, Nurse Norah? Is it some sort of game?

NURSE NORAH: No!! The Sheriff tied me up so that he could kidnap Janet and John!

MARIAN: What?

NURSE NORAH: He's sent them off into the forest with Herman - he's going to have them killed!! My poor little babies!!

MARIAN: Don't worry, Nurse Norah - I'll go to Sherwood now and find Robin ...he'll save them! **[Starts to exit]**

NURSE NORAH: Oi! Just a minute - could you untie me first? I'm getting cramp in some very personal places!

MARIAN: Of course...oh, these knots are so tight...I need a knife...

Enter The SHERIFF.

SHERIFF: Will this one do...?

Seizes MARIAN and holds a knife to her throat: MARIAN screams.

NURSE NORAH: Leave her alone, you big bully!

SHERIFF: Marian is my ward! She could soon become...a casualty!

NURSE NORAH: Even your jokes are rotten!

MARIAN: You don't scare me, Sheriff!

SHERIFF: Is that so, my dear? I think you may change your mind after a night in my dungeons!

NURSE NORAH: You won't get away with this!

SHERIFF: But I already have! You're looking tired, Nurse Norah - why don't you sit down?

SHERIFF pushes NURSE NORAH who falls back on the chair.

SHERIFF: Now, come along Marian - your chains are waiting!

MARIAN: Let go of me! Let go...!!

The SHERIFF drags off a struggling MARIAN.

NURSE NORAH: He must be the wickedest man in the world! Well, it's all down to me now, isn't it...? I'm the only one who can go and warn Robin...

NURSE NORAH starts to hop, slowly, off.

NURSE NORAH: Mind you...it could take some time...and I'll tell you something else... I'm not looking forward to swimming the moat!!

NURSE NORAH exits: Blackout. Cloth/Tabs out: Lights up revealing...

SCENE SEVEN

THE HEART OF THE GREENWOOD

FX 4: OWL'S HOOTING.

Enter HERMAN, JANET and JOHN.

JANET: How much further, Herman?
JOHN: We've been walking for ages!
HERMAN: We're nearly there...
JANET: Can't we have our picnic here? I'm tired!
HERMAN: I suppose we could rest for a while...
JOHN: Great! Come on, Janet - let's sit down here...

JANET and JOHN sit down and fall asleep.

HERMAN: Well...this is it, I suppose? Now's the time to do the dirty deed! [**Takes his dagger and moves towards the BABES. Talks to The AUDIENCE**]...What...? I know - you're right! I shouldn't kill them, should I?...Should I?...Are you sure...? It's alright for you lot - if I don't kill them...the Sheriff'll kill me!...Charming!...I've no choice - I'll have to do it! [**Moves towards the BABES**] It's no good - I can't do 'em in, can I?...Oh yes I can! ...[Etc]...Oh no I can't!...It's horrible being a henchman, it really is! I don't even like leaving them here, but I'll have to go and lie to the Sheriff, and tell him the Babes are dead...I just hope he'll believe me... and I do hope they'll be alright...

HERMAN exits.

MUSIC CUE 7c: SPIRIT'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: Enter The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD.

SPIRIT: I know I've been absent for quite some time...
(You have to think hard when you speak in rhyme!)
But I made a promise that I must keep -
While Janet and John lie here asleep
The birds of the Greenwood I now will charm
To keep the Babes warm - and safe from harm...

MUSIC CUE 7d: BIRD BALLETT (INSTRUMENTAL)

During this JANET and JOHN are covered with leaves.

Now that the pair are fast asleep
A vigil Robin Hood must keep
I promised the babes would be safe and sound
So now in the forest they've gone to ground.
This is the mystic midnight hour

When fairyland holds all its power
The Sheriff of Nottingham we must forstall
So Robin Hood, on you I call!

**ROBIN HOOD enters with WILL, FRIAR TUCK, LITTLE JOHN
and The VILLAGERS.**

MUSIC CUE 8: SHORT REPRISE OF MUSIC CUE 3

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

PROLOGUE

MUSIC CUE 9: ENTR'ACTE (INSTRUMENTAL)

MUSIC CUE 9a: SPIRIT'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: Enter The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD.

SPIRIT: So...Janet and John are safe and sound!
With Robin, and his men, they now are found
Protected from the Sheriff's evil schemes...
But, down in the dungeons, Marian dreams
Of escaping the clutches of that evil man...
While Nurse Norah is hopping, as fast as she can,
To Sherwood Forest; where, upon this day...
Robin and his men are singing away...

MUSIC CUE 9b: SPIRIT'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)

Blackout. The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD exits. Cloth/Tabs out. Lights up revealing...

SCENE EIGHT

THE ENCAMPMENT IN THE FOREST

MUSIC CUE 10: SONG FOR ROBIN AND HIS MEN

ROBIN: You see, Janet and John, with all the Merry Men to protect you - you'll be quite safe here.

WILL: We should never have left you with that Sheriff...!

ROBIN: But I thought that Nurse Norah would look after you.

JANET: She would have done - but she had too much Syrup of Figs!!

ROBIN: Pardon?

Enter an exhausted NURSE NORAH...complete with chair.

NURSE NORAH: Infamy! Infamy!! They've all got it in for me!!!

ALL: Nurse Norah!/Are you alright?/What's happened?

NURSE NORAH: [Sees JANET and JOHN] My darlings - you're safe!!

JOHN: Of course we are!

JANET: Robin's looking after us!

ROBIN: Untie the lady, lads...What's been going on, Norah?

WILL and LITTLE JOHN untie NURSE NORAH - they drop the chair.

NURSE NORAH: Careful!...I was very attached to that chair...! Thankyou, boys. **[Goes to JANET and JOHN]**...Are you sure you're alright, dears?

JOHN: We're fine!

NURSE NORAH: Where's Herman?

JANET: We don't know, he brought us into the forest...

JOHN: Then we fell asleep, and when we woke up...

JANET: Herman had gone - and Robin was here...

NURSE NORAH: Thank goodness for that! I was so worried about you. **[Staggers]** Ooh! Ooh!! I've gone all unnecessary...

ROBIN: Calm down, Norah - everything's alright now...

NURSE NORAH: That's what you think - the Sheriff's got Maid Marian locked up in the dungeons!!

ROBIN: Marian...? Then we must rescue her!

WILL: Don't worry, Robin - we'll storm the castle!!

FRIAR TUCK: Yes! We'll go in...mob-handed!!

ROBIN: Mob-handed? There's only four of us!!

NURSE NORAH: Make that five!

JOHN: Six!

JANET: Seven!

ROBIN: That's great - but we can't risk an all-out attack on the castle, not while Marian's a prisoner...I can get straight into the dungeon through the secret passage.

FRIAR TUCK: We'll come with you, Robin!

ROBIN: No - we need to divide our forces! And it's a very narrow tunnel, Tucky! In any case the Sheriff doesn't know that you're on our side, so you can

just walk over the drawbridge into the castle. I may need some inside help.

FRIAR TUCK: I'm on my way.

FRIAR TUCK raises his habit, revealing "joke" hairy legs - [See COSTUME List] - and runs off.

NURSE NORAH: No wonder he wears a long frock! Now, what about us, Robin?

JOHN: We could get through the secret passage!

ROBIN: No - you'll be much safer staying here in the forest.

JANET: } But we want to help!

JOHN: } That's not fair!

ROBIN: No arguments! Norah, take Janet and John for a walk - but don't stray far from the camp!

NURSE NORAH: Oh, I love you when you're masterful! Come on, kids!

NURSE NORAH, JANET and JOHN exit.

WILL: What do you want us to do, Robin?

ROBIN: You go and alert the villagers, Will - if it comes to a battle we'll need all the help we can get!

WILL: If it means defeating The Sheriff, they'll be only too happy to help us! Good luck, Robin!

WILL exits.

LITTLE JOHN: What about me, Robin?

ROBIN: You must get as close to the castle as you can without being seen, John; once I've got Marian out of the dungeon I'll signal to you - we'll need your help to cross the moat.

LITTLE JOHN: I suppose we could float...across the moat...in a boat!

ROBIN: Exactly! So go and find one!

LITTLE JOHN: Right, Robin...

LITTLE JOHN exits.

ROBIN: I'm going to rescue Marian if it's the last thing I do.

MUSIC CUE 10a: SCENE CHANGE (INSTRUMENTAL)

SCENE NINE

A PATH IN THE FOREST

Enter NURSE NORAH, carrying a large bag of sweets.

NURSE NORAH: Janet! John! Ooh! The little tinkers! They've run off again...still they won't have gone far; but it's such a pity because I've found this big bag of sweets for them...[To The AUDIENCE]...I wonder if there's anyone else who likes sweets...? Do You...? Well, you don't get Nursey Norah's sweeties for nothing, you know - first you have to learn a little song - I'll show you how it goes...

MUSIC CUE 11: THE SWEETIES SONG

During the song NURSE NORAH throws sweeties to The AUDIENCE. Enter JANET and JOHN.

JANET: Have you got any sweeties for us, Nursey?

NURSE NORAH: You shouldn't wander off on your own, should you? I've given them all away now - I'm completely sweetied out!

JOHN: Haven't you got any left?

NURSE NORAH: Well, as it happens...I did save two - though you don't deserve them!
[Gives JANET and JOHN two sweets]

JANET: } Thanks, Nursey.
JOHN: }

NURSE NORAH: I'm getting quite used to this outdoor life - in fact I think it's fantastic fun here in the forest!!

Enter The SHERIFF, HERMAN and SOLDIERS.

SHERIFF: I'm glad you think so!

NURSE NORAH: The Sheriff!!...And his posse!

SHERIFF: Well, well...what a surprise! **[Crosses to HERMAN]** Herman - you told me these two brats were dead...?

HERMAN: I must have made a mistake, sir...

SHERIFF: Obviously! Herman - you're next to an idiot!

HERMAN: You shouldn't talk about yourself like that sir...

SHERIFF: Shut up! **[Stamps on HERMAN's foot]** I've a good mind to slit their nasty little throats myself!

NURSE NORAH: Leave them alone - they're under the protection of Robin Hood!

SHERIFF: Really...? I don't see him anywhere...?

NURSE NORAH: That's 'cos he's not here!

JANET: But we know where he's gone...

JOHN: And we won't tell you - Unky-Wunky!

SHERIFF: **[To The AUDIENCE]** I'm going to enjoy killing him - I really am!!
Grab the little horrors!

**The SOLDIERS seize JANET and JOHN: The SHERIFF leads
NURSE NORAH to one side.**

SHERIFF: Now...Nurse...I'm sure you're going to tell me where that outlaw Hood has gone, aren't you?

NURSE NORAH: Never!! My lips are sealed!

SHERIFF: I can always extract the information by torture...

NURSE NORAH: Oh, no you won't! You can whip me...stretch me on the rack...put lighted matches under my fingernails - and I'd still not tell you that Robin's going through the secret tunnel to the dungeon to rescue Marian!!

JANET: Nursey!!

JOHN: You twit!!

NURSE NORAH: Oh dear...

SHERIFF: Thankyou, Nursey...right - take them back to the castle and lock them in the Nursery...when we've got rid of Hood we'll deal with them... once and for all!

SOLDIERS: Yes, sir!

The SOLDIERS exit with NURSE NORAH, JANET and JOHN.

SHERIFF: Not you, Herman - I've got a little job for you...

HERMAN: Not more murdering, sir?

SHERIFF: No, you fool! Why do you think I locked Marian in the dungeons? I knew Hood would try to rescue her - and that would be my chance to capture him. Get yourself to the secret tunnel; immediately inside the entrance I have concealed a box...find it, and await my instructions.

HERMAN: Do I have to, your hugeness? I don't like the dark!!

SHERIFF: Well, keep your eyes shut and you won't notice! Now - get going!!

The SHERIFF kicks a protesting HERMAN off.

SHERIFF: So you peasants think Robin Hood is a hero...?
His chance of survival's precisely...zero!!
By finding his way into Marian's cell...
That upstart will have sounded his own death knell!
And all my plans will be fulfilled...
For Robin Hood will soon be killed!!

MUSIC CUE 11a: SHERIFF'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)
The SHERIFF exits: Blackout. Cloth/Tabs out: Lights up revealing...

SCENE TEN

DEEP IN THE DUNGEONS

SL a door: SR a grille, about 3 foot high: MARIAN is chained to the wall.

MARIAN: Hello!...Hello!! Is there anybody there...? It's no good, the place is deserted - even the guards seem to have disappeared. I wonder if Nurse Norah managed to get a message to Robin...? I do hope so - if anyone could get me out of here, he could...

MUSIC CUE 12: SOLO FOR MARIAN
At the end of the song, ROBIN is heard from offstage calling "Marian!"

MARIAN: Robin? [**Moves towards the door**] Is that you, Robin?

ROBIN appears behind the grille.

ROBIN: Over here!..I've just got to open this grating...it's all rusted in...

MARIAN: I wish I could help, but they've chained me to the wall.

ROBIN: So I see...ah! There we go!!

ROBIN removes the grille and enters.

ROBIN: Are you alright, Marian?

MARIAN: I am now you're here...

ROBIN: Good...now let's get these chains off and we'll have you out of here in no time...

The SHERIFF, with drawn sword, enters through the door.

SHERIFF: I think not!

As ROBIN draws his sword: The SHERIFF holds his sword at MARIAN's throat.

SHERIFF: Don't even consider it..or I'll cut her to pieces!

ROBIN: You villain!

SHERIFF: Yes...and I'm ever so good at it! Just put your sword on the ground, please...**[ROBIN does so: The SHERIFF picks it up]**...Thankyou so much!...Hahaha! At last, Robin Hood - you are in my power!! And now for my master plan!!

ROBIN: What "master plan"?

SHERIFF: You'll find out soon enough! **[Calls through the grille]** Herman! Are you there?

HERMAN: **[From Offstage]** Yes, oh great one!

SHERIFF: Put my plan into operation...you know what to do, don't you...?

HERMAN: **[From Offstage]** Yes, sir...

SHERIFF: Then do it!

MARIAN: Herman's not a bad man at heart - I don't why he still works for you.

SHERIFF: Who else would employ him?!

ROBIN: And Herman does have a problem...

MARIAN: What problem?

ROBIN: He's terminally stupid!

SHERIFF: Just you wait! Not even a booby like Herman gets it wrong every time...

FX 5: LOUD EXPLOSION AND FALLING ROCKS. Smoke comes through the grille: MARIAN screams.

SHERIFF: Well...perhaps not!

ROBIN: What was that?

SHERIFF: I've just blocked your means of escape; the only way out of this dungeon is through that door...and I have the key!

A "blown-up" HERMAN enters through the grille.

HERMAN: Ooh! Ooh! I've been det-on-et-on-ated!!

SHERIFF: You were supposed to get out of the tunnel before the bomb went off, you dumbo!

HERMAN: I was only following the instructions, sir - it said "Light the fuse and retire immediately"...

SHERIFF: So...?

HERMAN: So I lit the fuse...and went to sleep!

SHERIFF: Herman...how do you manage to do so many stupid things in one day?

HERMAN: I get up early!

ROBIN makes a move towards the SHERIFF.

SHERIFF: Stay where you are! [To HERMAN] Go on, mastermind - free the girl...and put the outlaw in her place!

HERMAN releases MARIAN and chains ROBIN to the wall.

ROBIN: You won't get away with this, Sheriff!

SHERIFF: You fool - I am getting away with it!

HERMAN: I hope these manacles aren't too tight, Robin...

SHERIFF: Out of the way, you big girl's blouse - I'll finish the job myself!! Go and double the guard...I don't want any of his "Merry Men" mucking up me machinations!

HERMAN: It's past my bedtime...

SHERIFF: Get out!!

HERMAN exits: The SHERIFF tugs on ROBIN's chains.

SHERIFF: That seems secure - I do hope they're comfortable...!

The SHERIFF pulls MARIAN away.

MARIAN: I hate you, Sheriff!!

SHERIFF: They do say hate is very close to love, Marian...which is good news, really - for tomorrow we will be married!

MARIAN: Marry you?! I'd rather die!

SHERIFF: Oh no, no, no...that's his job! [Indicates ROBIN]

ROBIN: I'll kill you for this, Sheriff!

SHERIFF: I think you'll find that a teensey-weensey bit difficult; for as Marian says "I do" - which she most definitely will - you, Robin Hood, will be hung before her very eyes!!

ROBIN: You swine!

SHERIFF: Sleep well tonight, Robin...it's your last night on this earth! Hahaha!!

The SHERIFF and MARIAN exit.

ROBIN: You'll never win, Sheriff! Evil will never triumph over Good!! His threats don't frighten me - because he doesn't know how many people are on my side.

MUSIC CUE 12a: SCENE CHANGE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Blackout: Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...

SCENE ELEVEN

THE CORRIDOR AGAIN

Enter HERMAN.

HERMAN: Ooh! It's horrible being a henchman, you know! I mean, I'm used to getting bawled out and beaten - but now I've been blown up! It was awful when that bomb went off...I thought I'd had it - the whole of my life flashed before me...very depressing that was! Now I've got to stay on guard duty all night, and tomorrow there's the public hanging of Robin Hood!...[Sings]...It's a wonderful world...

Enter FRIAR TUCK.

FRIAR TUCK: Is that you, Herman?

HERMAN: I think so...oh - hello, your reverence.

FRIAR TUCK: Listen - is there anyone else about?

HERMAN: Yes.

FRIAR TUCK: Who?

HERMAN: You.

FRIAR TUCK: No, no! Is there anyone else about?

HERMAN: Yes.

FRIAR TUCK: Who?

HERMAN: Me.

FRIAR TUCK: This could be a long night...listen, do you know what's happened to Robin Hood?

HERMAN: Well...er...yes - but I can't tell you, the Sheriff would have my guts for garters!!

FRIAR TUCK: It's about time you stood up to the Sheriff, Herman - are you a man or a mouse?

HERMAN: **[Thinks]**...Squeak!

FRIAR TUCK: Look, if you help us - we won't let the Sheriff hurt you!

HERMAN: Do you mean that?

FRIAR TUCK: Of course I mean it...

HERMAN: You promise?

FRIAR TUCK: I promise...

HERMAN: Cross your heart and hope to die?

FRIAR TUCK: Cross my hear - Listen, Herman!...**[Grabs him by the throat]**... Where's Robin?!!

HERMAN: I don't like it when you're rough...

FRIAR TUCK: I'm sorry...**[Releases him]**...Just tell me where he is!

HERMAN: He's locked in the dungeon, surrounded by soldiers, and tomorrow morning - after the Sheriff has married Marian -

FRIAR TUCK: What?

HERMAN: ...Robin's going to be hung!

FRIAR TUCK: Hanged...

HERMAN: Same difference...and I've got to be the Hangman!!...And I don't want to do that!...I like Robin...he's a nice man, a very nice man, a very, very nice man...**[Cries]**...I get all the rotten jobs!

FRIAR TUCK: There, there, Herman - don't you worry about that...! You've given me an idea...

HERMAN: I didn't know I had one...?

FRIAR TUCK: There's a friend of mine who'd be a perfect Hangman...I'll get him to stand in for you. So why don't you go and have a little lie-down - it's going to be a busy day tomorrow...?

HERMAN: Can I really go "beddy-byes"? I haven't seen my teddy for days...

FRIAR TUCK: Of course you can...off you go, now...sleep well!

HERMAN: Nighty-nighty!

FRIAR TUCK: Pyjama-pyjama!!

HERMAN exits, sucking his thumb.

FRIAR TUCK: Poor old Herman - his heart's in the right place...it's his brain I'm worried about! Now to go and put my plan into action.

MUSIC CUE 12b: SCENE CHANGE (INSTRUMENTAL)

FRIAR TUCK exits: Blackout. Cloth/Tabs out: Lights up revealing...

SCENE TWELVE

THE HANGING OF HOOD

The Castle grounds: ROBIN stands on a scaffold, his head in a noose: NURSE NORAH, JANET and JOHN are guarded by SOLDIERS. Other SOLDIERS guard The VILLAGERS.

MUSIC CUE 12c: FANFARE (INSTRUMENTAL)

The SHERIFF enters.

SHERIFF: Well, what's happened to my usual welcome?

ALL: Boo!!

SHERIFF: Shut your faces!! I do hope you're comfortable, Hood? I realise it's been a long wait for you - but you'll get used to hanging around! Hahahahaha!!

ROBIN: The game's not over yet, Sheriff...

SHERIFF: No...but I think we're playing extra time! Now, where is my intended? Bring on the bride!!

Enter FRIAR TUCK, HERMAN and MARIAN, her hands are tied together.

SHERIFF: Marian, my dear - how are you?

MARIAN: None the better for seeing you!

SHERIFF: That defiant expression makes you look more attractive than ever. How about a kissy-wissy for your new hubby-wubby?

MARIAN: **[Spits on the ground]** That's what I think of you!

NURSE NORAH: That's my girl!

SHERIFF: Shut up, you old boot - or you'll be next for the noose! Right, Tuck - perform the ceremony!

FRIAR TUCK: Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here...well, not quite in the sight of God...to join together ó

SHERIFF: You can forget all that old-fashioned rubbish - here's your new script...**[Hands him a scroll]**

FRIAR TUCK: Ahí .**[Reads]**...Do you, Sheriff, take Marian to be your wife for however long or short you fancy? To do to her whatever you like? To mistreat and mistrust her? To deprive her of all earthly comforts and to always be beastly and rotten to her?

SHERIFF: I do.

ALL: Boo!!!

SHERIFF: Silence! Or I'll cut your tongues out! Proceed, Friar...

FRIAR TUCK: Do you, Marian agree to love the Sheriff? To tell him three times a day how handsome he is? To cook, clean, scrub the floors, iron his shirts and always clean the bath out after him? To expect no favours or rewards in return, but to appear pretty and smiling and in your best frocks?

MARIAN: I do -

MARIAN is about to say "not" but the SHERIFF puts his hand over her mouth and stops her.

SHERIFF: Right - that's that over with!

HERMAN: **[To FRIAR TUCK]** Very nice service...

SHERIFF: How about three cheers for the happy couple...? Hip, Hip...

ALL: Boo!!!

SHERIFF: And now for the main bout of the evening - the hanging of Hood!! So glad you were able to come to my wedding, Robin...what a pity you have to miss the reception! Herman - hang him!!

HERMAN: I...I...I can't do it, Sheriff!

SHERIFF: You dare to disobey me?!!

HERMAN: I mean...I'm unable to do it - I've pulled a muscle!

SHERIFF: I didn't know you had one...

FRIAR TUCK: As it happens there is a replacement available, Sheriff...a professional hangman.

SHERIFF: Really? Bring him before me!

FRIAR TUCK: Bring forth the hangman!

Offstage voices repeat the summons until WILL enters with LITTLE JOHN, disguised as a hangman.

WILL: This is the man, Sheriff...Big Boris!

LITTLE JOHN: **[Deep voice]** 'Ullo...

SHERIFF: He certainly looks the part...are you experienced?

LITTLE JOHN: These 'ands 'ave 'ung 'undreds!

SHERIFF: Perfick! I'm afraid there's only one for the drop today...but there are several other candidates if we decide to go for a job lot! So, Boris - do the dirty deed!

LITTLE JOHN: It'll be a pleasure, guv!!

LITTLE JOHN goes to ROBIN - as he surreptitiously unties his hands the others try to distract the SHERIFF's attention.

JANET: Please don't kill Robin, Uncle!

JOHN: I promise I'll never call you "Unky-Wunky" again!

NURSE NORAH: Yes - spare him, sire! He's too young to die! Remember - the quality of mercy is not sprained!! **[Drops to her knees]** I beg you! I beseech you!! I implore you!!! Let him live!!!!

SHERIFF: What are you after...an Oscar? Why are you waiting, Boris? Get on with it!!

WILL: He's just making sure the noose is nice and tight, Sheriff

LITTLE JOHN: Yeah...it tends to 'urt more!

SHERIFF: "'Urt more!"...Ooh! A man after my own heart!!

MARIAN: You haven't got a heart!

LITTLE JOHN releases ROBIN.

ROBIN: No! But he has got a fight on his hands!!

WILL hands ROBIN a sword.

WILL: Your sword, Robin...

ROBIN: Thankyou, Will...

SHERIFF: What is this treachery?! Seize him!!

As ROBIN advances on The SHERIFF, FRIAR TUCK, WILL and LITTLE JOHN disarm three SOLDIERS and NURSE NORAH karate chops another - the BABES sit on him. HERMAN, who is guarding MARIAN, draws his dagger.

SHERIFF: Stop where you are! Aren't you forgetting something? One word from me...and Herman will slit Maid Marian's throat!

HERMAN: Oh, no I won't! [Sheathes his dagger]

SHERIFF: What?!!!

HERMAN: I'm not working for you anymore, I'm on Robin's side!

VILLAGERS: Good for you, Herman!/Well done!/You're on your own, Sheriff!

SHERIFF: Well...well...even a worm can turn, eh?

ROBIN: What's the matter, Sheriff? Are you scared to face me?

SHERIFF: Why should I be scared? I've got a Black Belt...

ROBIN: Do you wear it with your yellow streak?

The VILLAGERS laugh.

SHERIFF: You've gone too far, you foolish boy!
To run you through will be a joy...

**MUSIC CUE 12d: FIGHT MUSIC (INSTRUMENTAL)
Sword Fight between ROBIN and the SHERIFF which ROBIN eventually wins - he holds his sword at the SHERIFF's throat.**

SHERIFF: Alright! Alright...I surrender!!

ROBIN: For all your wickedness, Sheriff - prepare to die!

NURSE NORAH: Stop! You mustn't do it, Robin - if you kill him in cold blood...it makes you as bad as he is!

SHERIFF: Listen to her - she's right!

ROBIN: I can't just let him go, Nursey!

NURSE NORAH: Then, let me have him! I'll make sure he toes the line!!

SHERIFF: **[Bares his throat]**...Kill me! Come on, get it over with! Do me in!!

NURSE NORAH: Methinks the Sheriff doth protest too much! Even so - I'll marry him ...once he and Marian have been divorced, of course...

FRIAR TUCK: There's no need for a divorce, Nursey - they were never properly married...

MARIAN: Why's that?

FRIAR TUCK: I kept my fingers crossed all through the ceremony!

MARIAN: Oh, Tucky...you're a genius!!

MARIAN kisses an embarrassed FRIAR TUCK.

ROBIN: It's a brave decision, Nursey - but even you would need help looking after this villain...

**MUSIC CUE 12e: SPIRIT'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Flash. Enter THE SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD.**

SPIRIT: Ah! That sounded like a cue for me!
(We Immortals have our uses you see)
Let the Sheriff marry Norah...for I expect
He'll prove a model husband, totally...hen-pecked!

The SPIRIT gestures. FX 6: STRANGE SOUND. The SHERIFF cowers in terror.

SPIRIT: Just tell him and he'll do anything you say...
(I always knew we "goodies" would win the day!)

The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD exits.

SHERIFF: My dear, delicious, Norah...how lusciously, lovely you're looking!

ROBIN: That was some spell, wasn't it?

NURSE NORAH: Charming! Well, don't just stand there, Sherry...come with me - my boudoir needs some urgent dusting!

SHERIFF: Yes, my dear! Of course, my dear!! Anything you say, my dear!!!

NURSE NORAH and a grovelling SHERIFF exit.

ROBIN: Now there's nothing to stop Marian and I getting married!

MARIAN: Apart from one thing...

ROBIN: What's that?

MARIAN: You haven't asked me yet!

ROBIN: I'm sorry...**[Kneels]**...Marian - will you marry me?

MARIAN: ...Of course I will!

ALL: Hooray!!!

MUSIC CUE 13: TRIUMPHANT SONG
Blackout. Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...

SCENE THIRTEEN

THE SAME OLD CORRIDOR

Enter NURSE NORAH.

NURSE NORAH: Hello, boys and girls!...The Sheriff, or 'Omar' as I call him...Think about it, think about it!...and I are getting on ever so well, you know...he does everything I tell him...at the moment he's on the sewing machine...treadling away on some curtains for the spare room! Oh, I love having a man under my thumb! By the way, we've got some very special people in tonight...

NURSE NORAH reads out the names of any "groups" and "parties" in The AUDIENCE and then the names of anyone with a Birthday. She then invites The AUDIENCE to join her in singing...

MUSIC CUE 14: SONGSHEET

Blackout: NURSE NORAH exits. Lights up revealing...

SCENE FOURTEEN

THE WEDDING OF ROBIN AND MARIAN - WALKDOWN

MUSIC CUE 14a: WALKDOWN (INSTRUMENTAL)

The CHILDREN are set on stage before the curtain/front cloth opens. They bow and then gesture with their on-stage arms, thereby heralding the entrances of the rest of the cast. Each actor enters from alternate Up Stage entrances, briskly making their way Down Stage Centre and with a flourish bow to the audience. The arm gesture made by the on-stage company should be choreographed so that the arms all go up together, and sweep down-stage at the same time and at the same speed as the actor. When the actor bows the arms should drop. As each actor is completing their bow, the next actor should be starting to enter, so that he is in view just as the first actor is coming up out of his bow. After their bow, the actor should step backwards and to one side to make way for the entering actor, joining in the gesturing for their fellows, and taking up a position

which will allow the formation of the final line-up to happen without anyone having to cross each other.

The Cast should enter in the following order, from alternate sides,

CHORUS

JANET and JOHN

THE SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD

LITTLE JOHN

FRIAR TUCK

WILL SCARLET

HERMAN

THE SHERIFF

NURSE NORAH

NURSE NORAH: Three Cheers for Robin and Marian. Hip Hip!! Etc

MUSIC CUE 14b: WEDDING MARCH (INSTRUMENTAL)

ROBIN and MARIAN

After ROBIN and MARIAN have taken their bows, the principal actors should form a line across the stage, the Chorus should do the same behind them, possibly on a higher level, and the children should move to the highest level, so that the full company are visible. The down stage line should feature the actors who came down last in the middle, and preferably be alternate male/female. The full company (taking their lead from the tallest actor down stage centre) should bow together twice (or more or less depending on audience reaction). As the applause subsides...

SPIRIT: And so our story ends - as you all hoped it would

LITTLE JOHN: We're grateful for your help, supporting Robin Hood

WILL: You helped the Babes survive the Sheriff's evil plots

JANET/JOHN: So we would like to thank you...lots and lots and lots

HERMAN: Good's triumphed over Evil...but now it's time to go

FRIAR TUCK: Thanks to all you Merry Men, we hope you liked our show

NURSE NORAH: Now The Sheriff is a good boy - so I hope you'll be his mates...?

SHERIFF: Forget it, Norah - I'm used to being..."the one that everyone hates!"

MARIAN: But before you go home, we'll ask for one final cheer

ROBIN: As we wish you all...A Very Happy New Year

MUSIC CUE 15: FINALE

There should be one final bow.

MUSIC CUE 15a: PLAYOUT (INSTRUMENTAL)

The cast wave as the final curtain descends.

THE END

SUGGESTED SONGS AND UNDERSCORING

The choice of music for the show is entirely up to you*, but to help we've made some suggestions. The numbers correspond with the Music Cues in the script. The songs in bold are the ones we've tried and tested the most, and which we think work best. It is these songs plus lyrics that are included in the Music Packages (see page 5). An alternate song is sometimes suggested should you not wish to use our choice. The entire score, including all the instrumental music, is available in Music Package 2.

*Not strictly true! The Disney catalogue and the songs of Abba are not able to be performed.

ACT ONE

Cue	Song/Music (Composers)	Performer(s)
1	Overture	Instrumental
1a	Sheriff's Entrance	Instrumental
1b	Spirit's Entrance	Instrumental
1c	Spirit's Exit	Instrumental
2	"Who Will Buy" (Bart) <i>(alt. "Brand New Day" (Vandross) - more modern!)</i>	Chorus/Children/Marian/ Friar Tuck/Will Scarlet
2a	Robin's Fanfare	Instrumental
3	"Gonna Change The World" (Matthews/Harris)	Robin/Band/Chorus
3a	Norah's Entrance	Instrumental
4	"Not While I'm Around" (Sondheim) <i>(alt. "You've Got A Friend" (King))</i>	Marian
5	"Consider Yourself" (Bart)	Robin/Band
5a	Spirit's Entrance	Instrumental
5b	Spirit's Exit	Instrumental
6	"Schooldays" (Bricusse)	Norah/Robin/Band/ Herman/Janet/John/ Marian
6a	Sheriff's Exit	Instrumental
6b	Norah's Strip	Instrumental
7	"You Two" (Sherman)	Norah
7a	Sheriff's Exit	Instrumental
7b	Scene Change	Instrumental
7c	Spirit's Entrance	Instrumental
7d	Bird Ballet	Instrumental
8	"We're Gonna Change The World" – Reprise	Robin/Band/Chorus

ACT TWO

9	Entr'acte	Instrumental
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9a	Spiritø Entrance	Instrumental
9b	Spiritø Exit	Instrumental
10	“Nothing Can Stop Me Now” (Bricusse)	Robin/Band
10a	Scene Change	Instrumental
11	“The Sweeties Song” (Golding)	Norah
11a	Sheriffø Exit	Instrumental
12	“On My Own” (Boublil/Schonberg)	Marian
12a	Scene Change	Instrumental
12b	Scene Change	Instrumental
12c	Fanfare	Instrumental
12d	Fight Music	Instrumental
12e	Spiritø Entrance	Instrumental
13	“The Best Of Times” (Herman) <i>(alt. “It’s Not Where You Start” (Coleman/Fields))</i>	All on Stage
14	“Amarillo” (Sedaka/Greenfield) <i>(alt. “There’s A Worm” (Scott-Coomber/Martin))</i>	Norah
14a	Walkdown	Instrumental
14b	Wedding March Instrumental	Instrumental
15	“The Best Of Times” (Reprise)	Full Company
15a	Playout	Instrumental

Please note that all the music you use in your production (unless it is entirely original, and written by you) is subject to copyright regulations. This means you have to inform PRS (the Performing Rights Society) what music you are using, the approximate length, and the composer/lyricist, thus ensuring that these people or their estates gets the royalties due.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS AND CASTING TIPS

Sheriff of Nottingham: The evil Sheriff is Robin's arch-enemy, and his character is cruel and greedy. He is frustrated in his plotting by imbecile servants, but he is able to turn on the charm, if somewhat slimily, to try to woo Maid Marian. The actor playing this part should not be afraid of the boos and hisses of the audience, but must be competent enough to control the reaction. Think "Richard III" when casting this part and you won't go far wrong!

Spirit of the Greenwood: This Fairy represents the forces of Good opposing the plots of the evil Sheriff, and can be played as a very traditional fairy if you like, although I think it's more fun to make the part more like Shakespeare's Puck - a little mischievous and athletic, a rather physical performance, creating confusion and havoc among the Sheriff's cohorts.

Will Scarlet: One of Robin's trusted outlaw friends, Will and the rest of Robin's gang should ideally be played by young men who can dance and sing well! If this is too tall an order, you can of course play the gang as girls dressed as men!

Friar Tuck: He should ideally look like everyone's image of the jolly friar - fat and round of face, though of course you can cheat a lot of this with padding and make-up.

Maid Marian: She is a rather feisty heroine, who in this version of the Robin Hood tale, is as prominent in the story as Robin himself. Marian needs to be played by a girl who is attractive, can sing and dance, and who has a gentle, motherly quality in her dealings with the Babes. The audience has to believe that she's a strong enough personality to defy the Sheriff, her guardian, and join the outlaws in the forest.

Herman The Henchman: The dopey right-hand man of the Sheriff, Herman is always the butt of all his frustration and exasperation, usually quite deservedly! He tries hard but somehow everything he does turns out wrong. The character requires a certain degree of comic ability, in timing and maybe in appearance as well.

Robin Hood: The hero of the story, Robin could be played by either a male or female, but whichever, should be traditional hero material! Athletic, energetic, romantic, a leader who inspires the devotion of his gang, and the audience, and of course Maid Marian. Like all heroes, Robin can be very "Goody-goody", but this can be avoided if the actor can play the part very slightly tongue-in-cheek!

Little John: Another of Robin's Greenwood companions, Little John is of course famous for his height and strength, so ideally he should be played by a tall, broad actor.

Nurse Norah: This Pantomime Dame is not really a medical nurse, but the children's Nanny, who like most Dames, is rather more interested in fixing herself up with a handsome, rich man than in her job. However, she is devoted to her young charges, especially when she discovers that their guardian, the Sheriff, is unattached! As with all Dames, the character works best when played comically, not "glam", and the actor needs to be able to play the audience and to control their reactions to the plot.

Janet and John: The "Babes" of the title, so these parts are a great opportunity for aspiring young actors to prove their worth. Although the parts are not too onerous, the children are on stage a great deal and have very important roles to play in the development of the plot, so it is essential that the children chosen to play these parts have stamina, confidence, clear voices as

well as youth and vulnerability. They need to be able to appear on stage alone as well as interacting with the adult members of the cast.

COSTUME DESCRIPTIONS

This pantomime, being based on the story of Robin Hood, is traditionally costumed in a general medieval style, which suits the swashbuckling nature of the action. Everyone has an idea of what Robin, Marian and the Merry Men look like, and it is as well to design costumes that basically conform to the audience's expectations. The all-purpose medieval style, using tunics and tights or leggings into boots for the men and low-waisted dresses for the women, works very well; the men's costumes are practical and easy to fit on a variety of shapes, and are generally flattering, while the girls provide a very pleasing contrast in their long floaty dresses. As with all pantomime costumes, you can go to town with bright colours especially for the chorus, which work well in this medieval style - black velvet with bright plain contrasting colours looks particularly good.

Sheriff of Nottingham: As I said in the character description, I like to think of this villain as being a bit like Richard 111, rather sly and creepy as well as rich and powerful. If the actor has the physique for it, the Sheriff looks great in a black velvet short tunic, black tights into long black boots, long dagged hanging sleeves and maybe a medieval roll hat with dagged trailly bits - you might even give him a Richard 111 black page-boy wig! Alternatively, a more mature actor, or one who's shy about wearing tights, would be better in a longer medieval gown with full long sleeves and maybe a fur collar. It's as well to use dark rich colours to reinforce his appearance of evil!

Spirit of the Greenwood: If you cast a mature lady to play this part, you would be best to give her a traditional fairy dress but as she represents the greenwood, you could make it in shades of green, and perhaps give her a green leafy headdress and wand. You may alternatively decide to play the part more as a "Puck" character, in which case the costume could be based on tights and leotard, painted or dyed in greens, with leafy motifs applied on. She could be thus more of a spirit, using movement and dance as well as speech and song. Greenish make-up and hair might also be used.

Will Scarlet: As one of the Merry Men, Will's costume needs to look more rustic than The Sheriff's cohorts, and because of his name, I like to put him in a costume that has scarlet in it - a brown wool tunic with red tights and a red dagged medieval hood, and brown knee-length boots would be good. If the part is to be played by a girl, she could wear something similar but shorter.

Friar Tuck: The Fat Friar really needs a brown wool ankle - length robe with a separate brown wool shoulder hood, with a rope belt and simple sandals on his feet. You could add a separate over-robe if you wished. If your actor is on the slender side, you may need to provide a padded stomach, easily made by stuffing a calico cushion shape with wadding. Unless your actor is suitably bald or prepared to shave his head, you will need to make a small flesh-coloured tonsure (or buy a rubber one from a joke-shop!) The "joke hairy legs" are made quite simply by threading thick black wool through a pair of pink tights.

Maid Marian: Although Marian begins the show in the Sheriff's court, and so should be quite richly dressed, she joins the outlaws in their camp and it's quite good if her costume can reflect her change of allegiance. Perhaps she could begin the show in a floaty medieval dress, which is made like a coat which fastens at the front under the bust, and when she joins Robin, this can be taken off to reveal a simpler, plain dress. The medieval feel can be created

by using long tight sleeves underneath long floaty dagged ones, lacing at the bodice or down the back, or by giving Marian long plaited hair on which she could put a plaited wreath of flowers and leaves when she goes into the Greenwood.

Little John: He is ideally played by a big tall man, whose costume should emphasise his size and strength -- a woollen tunic in rustic colours, perhaps parti-coloured, with a medieval shoulder hood, wrist gauntlets, tights into knee-length boots would be fine. When Little John disguises himself as Big Boris the Hangman, he needs at least a black hangman's hood over his face with two eyeholes, but if you fancy going a bit further, he could have a black leather waistcoat, leather gauntlets, and black trousers into boots.

Herman The Henchman: The Sheriff's henchman, being the comic character he is, needs to have a costume that both emphasises his idiocy and his status as a servant. If he is to be played as a dopey red-neck with brawn but no brain, you could give him a suede studded tunic over a full-sleeved shirt with suede laced gauntlets at the wrists, and wool leggings laced to the knee with leather thonging. Alternatively, Herman could have a chain-mail style tunic worn under a tabard, with a chain-mail hood - chain-mail can be quite effectively simulated using dyed cotton hospital blankets with a holey weave, which you can afterwards spray with silver spray. As "Buttercup" he should look like a St Trinians schoolgirl - a wig with plaits, straw hat and gymslip!

Robin Hood: Robin's costume should help to make him look heroic and athletic, whether he is played by a boy or a girl - a green short tunic, perhaps made from corduroy, belted at the waist and with dagged detailing on the sleeves or at the hem, perhaps worn over a full-sleeved green shirt and green tights into knee-length boots would be ideal. You could give him a traditional feathered cap, Errol Flynn-style. He will need a full cloak with a hood for a disguise in the archery contest.

Nurse Norah: Although she is not strictly speaking a medical nurse, Norah looks quite funny dressed to begin the show in a traditional nurse's uniform, with a silly starched frilled hat and a red shoulder cape. She will then need a teacher's costume for the school-room scene, which can simply consist of a brightly coloured academic gown and mortar board with an out-size tassel worn over her basic costume. In the nursery, Norah may need a funny set of strip clothes as she gets into her nightwear - this could consist of a series of funny bloomers, or a funny corset with chains and padlocks on, or even a washing line of underwear wrapped round his/her waist. The nightdress itself of course can be funny, either in the choice of fabric or in the style - baby-doll? - and she could have a wig with big rollers in.

Janet and John: The two babes need to look charmingly young and sweet. I like to dress them alike, giving Janet a miniature version of a medieval dress with a high waist and puffed slashed sleeves, perhaps made in red velvet, and John in a tunic of the same fabric worn with tights. They may need a cloak each for the opening and for the woodland scenes, and then nightwear for the nursery, which could be a nightdress and a nightshirt made of the same fabric.

CHORUS

Schoolchildren: This is where I think the medieval convention must go out of the window! It looks best if in the schoolroom scene the pupils wear traditional school uniform. I like to put all the boys in grey shorts, white shirts and sleeveless pullovers, with striped ties and grey caps, and the girls in gymslips ó a la St Trinians!

Villagers: The chorus in this pantomime represent the villagers in the opening scenes and at the fair, and can be costumed either in a variety of medieval dresses or tunics, or as an ensemble all in identical costumes. Personally, I think it looks more interesting and exciting if the villagers wear a variety of costumes but perhaps linked by a common colour theme, maybe black velvet with reds, yellows and oranges. The girls can wear white chiffon wimples, or have plaited hairbands. If you wish to give them a change of costume for Scene 8 then use more homespun fabrics, in rustic shades of green and russet.

Soldiers: See the notes for chain-mail tunics and hoods under Herman's character. Worn with black tights, boots and gauntlets.

The Bird Ballet: For this scene, you need as many dancers as you can to be dressed as birds who watch over the lost babes. The costumes can be made quite easily, based on black or brown leotards, and by adding strips of various coloured chiffon or other floaty fabrics to represent feathers. You can make capes from the same strips to represent wings, and ideally hoods covered in the coloured strips with a peak for the beak.

The Toy Ballet: When the children's toys come to life in the nursery, you can use as many dancers as you want to be a variety of toys - rag dolls, with short polka-dot dresses and woollen plaits, toy soldiers with fur-fabric busbies, red buttoned tunics and wooden swords, teddy bears made from fur fabric, etc.

A General Point About The Finale: The finale, or walkdown as some people call it, is a traditional feature of pantomime, and should be included if budgets will stretch that far. Sometimes the finale forms an essential part of the plot - for example, the wedding of the hero and heroine. However, more often than not it is seen as an opportunity to show off another set of costumes, which exceed in glamour, inventiveness and splendour those which have gone before! If budgets are tight, you may decide to do without a full-scale change of costume, preferring to make additions to the actor's working costumes. You will find that a very acceptable end to the show can be provided by giving the principal characters a glitzy cloak, or a smart hat to take their bow in. If you choose to do a full-scale finale, the usual way is to give each character a more splendid version of their main costume, often following a general colour theme - all in red and gold, or blue and silver, for example.

SCENERY AND PROP SUGGESTIONS

This section is intended to serve as a guide for the Stage Manager, Producer, and Designer. Please don't treat our recommendations as either essential or exhaustive, they are intended as a starting point. It is far better that you make the production your own, and unique to yourselves. So just because we've said you need a certain prop, or that some scenes should be in front cloths while others should be full stage, don't assume that that has to be. Only you know your capabilities in terms of facilities, budgets and staffing - so stick to what you know you can achieve. Although there seem to be a lot of locations there need only be three basic sets, which by adding various items can be made to look very different. The pantomime will work however you set it, and on whatever scale you and your fellows are comfortable at. So don't be fazed by the following...

PROLOGUE:

The Prologue should be played down-stage of a frontcloth or gauze, or failing that, the tabs. If none of these are available use lighting to concentrate attention at the front of the stage. We flew in a giant mask of a devil's face, with eyes that lit up; if this is impractical for you

there is no reason why the character should not be played by an actor - preferably a large one, with a full devil's mask, horns and a pitchfork!

SC 1: THE FAIR AT NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

This is the first main setting, and with addition of a gallows also serves as the basis of Scene 12. You can also use profiled tree wing flats or cut cloths, which could later be used in the Greenwood scenes, at the sides of the stage. If the budget runs to it, you could paint some shaped flats to look like colourful medieval tents. The exterior of the castle should be upstage - either painted on a backcloth or as free-standing flattage. We had a medieval type grandstand - of the type seen at tournaments, basically a 6' x 4' rostrum, 3' high, with banners hanging from a frame and a painted hardboard frontpiece. [The same piece, with the frame and frontpiece removed can double as the gallows in Scene 12.]

Props:

HERMAN's bugle	Archery target
HERMAN's bow and arrow	ROBIN's bow and arrow
SHERIFF's sword	2 x Toffee apples
A "golden arrow"	GUARDS' pikes

SC 2 & SC 9: A PATH IN THE FOREST

If you have a Forest front cloth use it for these scenes, otherwise tabs.

Props:

LITTLE JOHN's quarterstaff

SC 3: THE SCHOOLROOM

You don't need the full stage for this scene, it merely needs to look like a room inside the castle - i.e. stone walls. With different dressings this set could also be used for Scene 5 and even, if space is limited, Scene 10! The teacher's desk should be of the lectern type, which NURSE NORAH stands behind. A blackboard and easel and three benches are required. The trick bench is simply made, it looks like the others but the seat extends beyond the legs far enough for it to tip up when a person's weight is not holding down the other end. NB: For Robin to hang his cap on the drawn hook merely requires a small nail, painted black in an appropriate place.

Props:

School handbell [No clapper]	Slapstick
School register	

SC 4, SC 6, SC 11 & SC 13: A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

If you have a suitable front cloth use it, otherwise tabs.

SC 5: THE NURSERY

If you have scenery suitable for a children's nursery this can be quite a colourful scene; if not use the same setting as Scene 3 with the addition of two small beds for the BABES, a toybox, a folding screen and a plain wooden chair - all of which can be painted in bright colours. It will help NURSE NORAH if the chair is not too heavy! If the backless toybox is placed against one of the wings then the TOYS can easily emerge out of it.

Props:

Two Beds	Toybox
Bedclothes and pillows x 2	Bottle of "Syrup of Figs"
Large spoon	Children's story-book
Length of rope to tie up NORAH	HERMAN's grubby hanky
Screen	

SC 6: As SC 4

SOUND EFFECTS and LIGHTING

In the script we have indicated where sound effects would be beneficial by using the common abbreviation FX, and then describing what the effect should sound like. You'll find most of what you need on the BBC sound effect discs, though some of the stranger sounds will be amalgamations of several effects. If you get really stuck give us a call.

Suggestions as to what the lighting should be like, are contained within the script, but only every so often. Basically we've left this area to you to decide how you want it to look. There is usually a lighting designer or technician who has strong views on what can be achieved, so follow their advice. If however you do find that you are on your own, just remember the golden rule that all comedy must be lit brightly, and songs have more moody states than dialogue. Finally, always end a song with either a black-out, or a full-up.

Robin Hood And The Babes In The Wood - Sound Effects:

1. Thundercrash
2. Thundercrash
3. Big Ben Striking
4. Owls Hooting
5. Loud Explosion and Falling Rocks
6. Strange Sound

PANTOMIME MERCHANDISE

A full range of pantomime merchandise, to enhance your production and increase your profits, is available from:

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