

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

THE PANTOMIME ADVENTURES
OF
ROBIN HOOD

BY
BRADFORD & WEBSTER

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The Pantomime Adventures of Robin Hood

By Toby Bradford & Tina Webster

Scenes

ACT 1

Scene 1	Nottingham Town
Scene 2	Nottingham Castle
Scene 3	The Schoolroom
Scene 4	Sherwood Forest
Scene 5	Nottingham Castle
Scene 6	Sherwood Forest

ACT 2

Scene 7	Nottingham Town
Scene 8	Sherwood Forest
Scene 9	Nottingham Castle
Scene 10	The Sheriff's Bedroom
Scene 11	Sherwood Forest
Scene 12	Nottingham Town ~ Goose Fair Day
Song Sheet	
Finale	

The Pantomime Adventures of Robin Hood - Cast List

ROBIN HOOD	Principal boy. Traditionally played by a female. Just as in the traditional tale, Robin is a confident hero, who fights for what is right and just. He falls in love with Maid Marian.
MAID MARIAN	Principal girl. Confident, good-natured and intelligent. She soon falls for the hero, Robin.
NANNY NORA TITTLE TATTLE	The Dame. She is Maid Marian's nanny. Traditionally played ~ flirty, fun and larger-than-life.
MUCH, THE MILLER'S SON	The "Buttons" character – a friend to the audience and all-round-good-guy. Confident enough to carry the story along in a light-hearted way.
THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM	The bad guy! Typical panto villain, but with a touch more realism. He is evil and wicked – and confident enough to work the audience. His aim is to marry Maid Marian.
NICKIT & SCARPER	The Sheriff's Tax Collectors. The panto's "comedy duo". Nickit is the brighter of the two, but both are idiots! They need to be played by two people with a good instinct for comedy.
THE ENCHANTRESS OF THE FOREST	The "Good Fairy" character. She narrates much of the story and helps the "good guys" along the way. Lines are in rhyme, and must be delivered well.
THE SOOTHSAYER	Works for the Sheriff, giving him guidance for the future, with help from her crystal ball. She is quite miserable, with a touch of evil. Played well, she can pull off some good comedy moments.
ALAN A-DALE / SCARLET / LITTLE JOAN / FRIAR TUCK	Robin's men & women - change names to suit eg Alarna Dale! All of these characters have lines.
KING RICHARD	Act II Scene 12a only. Can be doubled with "Friar Tuck".
JENNY, JILL & JESS	The "Hoodies" – trainee "Merry Men", played by teenagers (there can be more than three). "Teen-speak".
MRS STONEYBROKE	"Know-it-all" villager. Lines in Scene 1 only.
MRS SKINT & MRS PENNILESS	Villagers, with a few lines. Scene 1 only

CHORUS ROLES:-

Peasants, Merry Men & Hoodies, School Children, Talent Competition Entrants

NB It is a good idea to give your Merry Men their own names/characters, for example:-

Tam the Tanner, Peg the Pedlar, Pat O'Green, Bold Jane Downey, Lil Stutely, David of Doncaster etc

ACT I**Scene 1 Nottingham Town****OPENING SONG: "Footloose" (Peasants)**

Much enters carrying a fishing rod.

MUCH

(upbeat) Hi kids! I said hi kids! Welcome to Nottingham! ... *(downbeat)* Yeah, I know it's not the greatest place in the world, but we'll have to make the best of it.

(indicates to peasants) Look, even the poor peasants are managing to look happy, but they're not really happy at all – it's that nasty Sheriff of Nottingham – he makes their lives a misery. He's the meanest person in the town probably the world! Give me a boo! Give me another boo!! He's so mean, he's doubled petrol duty and car tax and cars haven't even been invented yet!

But there's no need to worry because I'm here now *(strikes heroic pose)* Do you know who I am? No? *(glint in his eye)* Excellent! I'm ... er ... *(looks round to make sure no-one's listening as he might get told off)* Robin Hood! *(heroic stance again)*

Peasants take notice and start to whisper among themselves.

PEASANTS

... Robin Hood? ... It's Robin Hood ... (etc)

One peasant, Mrs Stoneybroke, steps forward

MRS STONEYBROKE

Robin Hood? *(she looks Much up and down. She is amused)* So, you're **Robin Hood**, are you?

MUCH

Er ... yes! *(heroic pose)*

MRS STONEYBROKE

(not convinced) Really?

MUCH

Yes, do you not recognise my mighty long bow?

MRS STONEYBROKE

That's a fishing rod.

MUCH

It's ... er ... in disguise ... *(thinks)* what about *(thinks)* my tunic of Lincoln Green!

MRS STONEYBROKE

It's blue.

MUCH

Er ... my green one's in the wash.

MRS STONEYBROKE

Robin Hood? Don't make me laugh!

Mrs Stoneybroke goes back to rejoin the crowd. They have a laugh at Much's expense.

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(SFX tinkle) Enchantress of Sherwood enters and speaks to audience.

ENCHANTRESS

Beneath the Forest's shady trees
A story, carried on the breeze,
A tale of people, good and true
That I would like to share with you

Peasants draw back in awe

PEASANTS

Who's that? ... it's the Enchantress of the Forest ...

Much is looking sheepish.

ENCHANTRESS

Ah! Much, the miller's son is here
And telling lies again, I fear

MUCH

I'm sorry.

ENCHANTRESS

No time for 'sorry', there's work to do
And I think it's time to start, don't you?

MUCH

Right ... er sorry.

(to audience) Oops, got caught out. She's right, I'm not Robin, I'm Much, the miller's son. But I am Robin Hood's best mate. And we're really very **much** alike ...*(thinks)* well, except for the bravery ... and the fighting and the archery talents and the hero stuff ...

(looks a little defeated, but then brightens up) But Robin says I'm the best friend a hero could have. Hey! Tell you what! Would you lot like to be my friends too? Would you? That's brilliant! I know! ... every time I see you, I'll shout "How's it going, kids?" and you can shout back "Much better, Much" which is funny cos it's my name. Shall we have a go? Here goes ... HOW'S IT GOING, KIDS?

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

I said HOW'S IT GOING, KIDS?!

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

Oh, that's just brilliant! Ace!

ENCHANTRESS

Thank you, Much. That's much better.

MUCH

Hey ... you're doing it too, now!

Enchantress blushes.

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(SFX horn)

ENCHANTRESS

Ah, Robin approaches, the **real** Robin Hood,
The much-loved hero of the poor and the good!
These people could do with a helping hand,
With King Richard away in the Holy Land.
His evil brother, Prince John, now reigns
And the Sheriff of Nottingham counts his gains
From the taxes collected each day from the poor
His people are starving, but the Sheriff wants more
It's time for a change now, a hero they need
Will our brave Robin Hood be the one to succeed?

Enchantress exits. Robin enters carrying money bags.

ROBIN

(to Much) Ah, Much, there you are!

MUCH

Oh, hello Robin - have you met my new friends? They're fab! How's it going, kids!??

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

I said how's it going, kids!??

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

Ace!

ROBIN

Fantastic!

MUCH

Kids, this is my best friend, Robin Hood, who I was telling you about. He's a real hero. He robs from the rich and gives to the poor. What a guy! He calls it *(thinks)* "redistribution of wealth".

ROBIN

You'd better believe it! Hey, Much, what about helping me "redistribute some of this wealth" to our poor friends?

MUCH

Can I? Really?

Robin hands Much a couple of bags. They hand money & goods to nearby peasants.

MRS SKINT

Oh, Robin, thank you ... we've been living on slugs and snails for days the slugs are alright, but the snails are a bit crunchy.

MRS PENNILESS

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Yeah, that nasty Sheriff keeps thinking up new taxes to wring every last penny out of us. He taxes shoes, hats, sheep, goats, ducks ...

MRS SKINT

I've heard he's going to start taxing underwear next, so I've taken mine off.

Mrs Skint goes to lift up her skirt - Robin stops her

ROBIN

It's alright - I believe you! Here (*hands them some coins*) take this. My merry men and I waylaid some rather well-to-do travellers in Sherwood Forest. They were more than happy to hand over their loose change ... with a little encouragement.

MUCH

He means he robbed some rich people.

MRS STONEYBROKE

You know, Robin, it won't be so easy to ambush rich folk in Sherwood Forest, once the Sheriff cuts down all the trees.

ROBIN

What!!!!

MRS STONEYBROKE

Oh yeah, I read in the Nottingham Evening Post (*insert name of local paper here*), so it must be true, that the Sheriff is so angry about that little village down the road and their new Westfield Centre (*replace with local shopping mall*), that he's going to build a new shopping centre right in the middle of Sherwood Forest.

ROBIN

Over my dead body!

MRS STONEYBROKE

I think he said that as well.

ROBIN

Tell me more.

Robin, Mrs Stoneybroke, Much and peasants go upstage to hand out cash with their backs to audience.

Marian and Nanny enter.

MARIAN

What a relief to get out of the castle. I just needed to get away from the Sheriff and his ... (*shudders*) hands.

NANNY

Yes, Marian, it is nice to get out into the fresh air ...

Nanny takes a deep breath, then notices audience.

NANNY

Ooooh, would you look at that? What a lovely looking lot! Let me introduce myself. I'm Nora Tittletattle, confidante to the stars and Nanny to Maid Marian. This is Marian. (*snooty*) She's the King's cousin, you know.

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MARIAN

Since when were you 'confidante to the stars'?

NANNY

Well, I read Heat magazine, and Hello, and Chat, so I know all their secrets.

(to audience) Well, thank you so much for coming, oh, isn't it lovely when people make the effort to dress up posh for the occasion? *(looks around the audience)* oh, you didn't bother, then?... never mind, at least you turned up! Which is more than my fiancé did all those years ago left me at the altar, he did *(waits for reaction)* ... it's much sadder than that! *(waits for reaction)* Thank you!

MARIAN

Why did he change his mind?

NANNY

He said he could afford the engagement ring and the wedding ring, but not the suffering.

MARIAN

Oh, Nanny, that's awful! And did you never find another man?

NANNY

No, but I've never given up hope, I'm always on the look-out... there are a couple in tonight (today) that I've got my eye on *(peers out to audience and waves)*... ooh, hello, gorgeous!

MARIAN

Oh, Nanny, I can't bear the thought that I might end up an old spinster, like you

NANNY

Don't pull any punches, dear!

MARIAN

Oh, I'm sorry, Nanny, I didn't mean I just meant Oh, I'm looking for that special someone, too, someone young, handsome, heroic but ... but all the young men are off fighting the crusades with King Richard and ... *(sighs)* I don't think I'll ever fall in love.

NANNY

Oh dear, dear. Don't be so downhearted. Come here for a Nanny Nora hug.

Nanny comforts Marian.

The peasants are happy. Robin and Much come forward to downstage left. NB Marian & Nanny do not see Robin & Much (& vice versa)

MUCH

You certainly know how to make the peasants happy, Robin.

ROBIN

Yes ... *(sigh)*

MUCH

But **you** don't seem very happy.

ROBIN

Much, ever since I returned from the crusades, I've just felt there was something **someone** missing in my life you know, that "someone special" But every pretty maiden I meet, has already found her Prince Charming ... (*sigh*) I don't think I'll ever fall in love.

MUCH

Ahem, right, slightly embarrassing. Wasn't expecting that. (*embarrassed pause*) Er, but you've got **me** and your Merry Men and ...

Robin turns to walk to centre stage.

ROBIN

But without love, what's it all for?

MUCH

(*thinking*) Excitement?

Robin turns to face Much

MUCH

Adventure? ... having a laugh? a few pints at the pub, with the lads?

Marian breaks away from Nanny's embrace and turns to walk across the stage.

MARIAN

Oh, Nanny, without love, what's it all for?

NANNY

Pretty dresses?

Marian turns, disappointed, to face Nanny.

NANNY

Fabulous parties! Quilt-making sessions?

MUCH

Well, Robin, we'd better get back to the forest.

NANNY

Well, Marian, we'd better get back to the castle.

Robin, Much, Marian and Nanny exit.

Enchantress enters.

ENCHANTRESS

Robin and Marian, destined to be
Together as one, just you wait and see
I really thought that today was the day
But, true love, as always, will find its own way

Nickit enters, followed by Scarper.

SCARPER

Nickit! Hold up! What's your hurry?

NICKIT

For Heaven's sake, Scarper, get a move on! We've got work to do!

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SCARPER

Have we? (*puff*) Work? (*puff*) Really?

NICKIT

Yes, the Sheriff told us to get down to the village, pronto! And I do what I'm told. Mainly cos the Sheriff scares the heebeegeebies out of me.

SCARPER

Right! Village! Pronto! Oh ... why? Did he want us to get some sandwiches for lunch?!

NICKIT

No!

SCARPER

.....pick up his dry cleaning?!

NICKIT

No!

SCARPER

Did he wants us toooooo to take the poor peasants for everything they've got.

NICKIT

Exactly!

SCARPER

Yesss!

NICKIT

Well, come on then!

Nickit and Scarper go to work among the peasants and take the bags of cash that Robin has just given them.

ENCHANTRESS

How quickly is the calm air stirred
By idiot and brainless nerd

*Enchantress produces a very small trumpet from somewhere and blows it (SFX horn)
Nickit and Scarper have finished collecting the loot.*

NICKIT

The Sheriff is going to be so pleased! We might even get a promotion for this.

SCARPER

Great! A promotion! I've always wanted one of those!

NICKIT

You don't even know what a promotion is, do you?

SCARPER

Oh, yes, I do!

NICKIT

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Oh, no, you don't!

SCARPER
Oh, yes, I do!

NICKIT
Oh, no, you don't!

(audience may join in with this)

SCARPER
Nickit?

NICKIT
What?

SCARPER
What's a promotion?

*Nickit hits Scarper.
Robin enters.*

ROBIN
Did somebody call?

*He sees Enchantress. She indicates Nickit and Scarper. Robin nods, then strides over.
Robin holds up a coin, and then visibly throws it into the left wings*

ROBIN
Good afternoon, gentlemen

NICKIT & SCARPER
(look around, then realise he means them) Afternoon.

ROBIN
(touches his hat, slight bow of head) Robin, Robin Hood. Is that yours? That coin over there?

NICKIT & SCARPER
Where?

ROBIN
Over there! Times are hard – you can't afford to be throwing money away. Here, let me hold those heavy bags while you pick it up.

*Nickit and Scarper hand over the bags to Robin and then go over to search for the coin.
Robin exits calmly with cash.
Nickit and Scarper return with the coin.*

NICKIT
What a nice chap. He could have picked up this farthing for himself, but he did the honest thing, and told us.

SCARPER
A very nice chap. Nice hat, too.

NICKIT

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Very nice.

SCARPER

And he held those big heavy money bags for us

NICKIT

Yes. What a lovely chap ...

Nickit & Scarper continue this conversation as they exit the stage.

Blackout

Scene 2 Nottingham Castle

Sheriff enters

SHERIFF

(singing to himself, Abba style) Money, money, money ...

Sheriff notices the audience and stops singing.

SHERIFF

Oh, for Heaven's sake! *(shouts off)* Nickit! Scarper! They've let the rabble in again! Throw them out, will you?! *(pause)* Nickit! Scarper! Oh, of course, they're out in the village, bleeding the peasants dry. I'd throw you out myself, but it's a rather menial task, and I am, after all, the **Sheriff of Nottingham!**

Audience reaction.

SHERIFF

Is that all you've got? Pathetic! I'd have thought you, of all people, would have been able to summon up a little more venom. You insipid bunch of ... Maybe I will throw you out, after all!

Sheriff moves towards auditorium but Marian is heard singing to herself, off stage.

SHERIFF

Oh, the Lady Marian...

Sheriff checks his breath.

SHERIFF

How's my hair. Mmmmmmm. Marian. Soon to be **Mrs** Sheriff of Nottingham, if I get my way. Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha. Power is the greatest aphrodisiac and, once Prince John takes his rightful place on the throne of England, no woman will be able to resist me. Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha! But I think I'd better check. *(shouts)* Soothsayer! *(pause)* Soothsayer!!!

Soothsayer appears behind him.

SOOTHSAYER

You called, my lord?

Sheriff jumps

SHERIFF

Yes, I called. Have you got that infernal glass thing with you?

SOOTHSAYER

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My crystal ball? Of course. I never go anywhere without it.

SHERIFF

I intend to marry Maid Marian before the year is out. At the moment, she resists me. To say she is playing hard to get is an understatement. *(pause)* What does ...

SOOTHSAYER

(interrupting) What does the ball of destiny say on this matter?

SHERIFF

Er ... yes.

Soothsayer starts to stroke the ball. Grainy pictures appear on the screen.

SOOTHSAYER

Yes, yes, I see, I see.

SHERIFF

What do you see? What do you see?

SOOTHSAYER

Shush!

SHERIFF

Don't you shush me! I'm the Sheriff. You can't shush the Sheriff!

Crone resumes stroking the ball. She sings to herself.

SOOTHSAYER

(singing) I shushed the Sheriff, but I didn't shush the deputy ... *(talking)* ah, ah, I see, I see.

Soothsayer looks sideways at Sheriff to see if he is going to interrupt.

SOOTHSAYER

I see Marian. I see love. Marian will find love. She will marry. Before the year is out.

SHERIFF

Ha ha ha ha. I knew it! I knew it! Excellent!

SOOTHSAYER

He is tall and handsome....

SHERIFF

It IS me!

SOOTHSAYER

Oh, I wouldn't get your hopes up. Marian is destined for another.

SHERIFF

What!?!?

SOOTHSAYER

I sense wit and charm and generosity of spirit

SHERIFF

Are you sure it's not just me wearing a different coat?

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SOOTHSAYER
Generosity of spirit?

SHERIFF
Well, who is it, then? Tell me!! Tell me!!! His days are numbered!!!

SOOTHSAYER
I can't see his face. It's all a little hazy

SHERIFF
Enough! Begone, evil Soothsayer!

SOOTHSAYER
(*eyebrows*) A pleasure, I'm sure.

Soothsayer exits

SHERIFF
(*mean*) Ha! Looks like I'm going to have to cheat destiny. (*shouts*) Marian **will** be my bride!

Marian enters with Nanny.

SHERIFF
Oh, er, Marian ...

MARIAN
Did you call me? I thought I heard you shout my name.

SHERIFF
Me? Oh, er

Sheriff regains his composure and sleazes up to Marian.

SHERIFF
Perhaps it was the angel of luuurrrrve guiding you to me.

NANNY
Oh, purlease!

MARIAN
(*cringing*) Er ... perhaps ...

Marian keeps moving to avoid being trapped by the Sheriff and what ensues is almost like a tango. Often, Sheriff starts talking to Marian but she moves off and he is left facing Nanny.

SHERIFF
I thought we could go riding out tomorrow ... find somewhere secluded for an ... intimate picnic.

NANNY
If you like ... I'm sure I could find some titbits for you to nibble on

SHERIFF
Not you! **Marian!! Marian!!!!**

The "dance" continues

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SHERIFF

We could spend the day together get to know each other

MARIAN

Um, I ... er.... think I know you well enough already....

SHERIFF

..... but, there is more to me, than meets the eye

NANNY

Ooh, Sheriff, I do hope so!

SHERIFF

(bottling up the anger) Marian, is it absolutely necessary for your nanny to follow you around like a stray mongrel?

NANNY

Well, I ...

MARIAN

Nanny is my only true friend.

SHERIFF

(exploding) Just tell the old bat to buzz off!!

NANNY

Ooooh! I've never been so insulted ...

SHERIFF

I find that difficult to believe!

MARIAN

I beg your pardon, Sheriff.

SHERIFF

(calmer) Would you mind asking her to leave us alone for a moment? There is a private matter I wish to discuss with you.

Marian and Nanny exchange concerned glances. Marian nods.

NANNY

I'll see you in school, dear. And don't let him ... you know.

Nanny exits.

The dance continues.

SHERIFF

Marian, I want you!! *(overstepped the mark, rein back)* ... to accompany me to the ... er ... cloisters. We could take a walkhave a chat

MARIAN

A chat?... about what?

SHERIFF

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Well, we might, perchance, come across the bishop and ... maybe, we could chat about wedding plans.

Marian stops dead. The Sheriff, who has been following her around exactly like the stray mongrel he accused Nanny of being, narrowly avoids bumping into her.

MARIAN
Wedding plans!!!????

SHERIFF
Oh, Marian, I ...

MARIAN
(panic) I'm washing my hair!!

SHERIFF
Then, perhaps, tomorrow ...

MARIAN
(interrupting) Tomorrow as well! I'm very hairy! Excuse me, Sheriff!

Marian exits.

SHERIFF
(angry) Aaaaaarrggghhhh! Marian **will** be mine ... oh yes she will ... *(possible audience response)* oh yes she will ... Aaahh, shut up, you filthy peasants.

Nickit and Scarper enter.

SHERIFF
Ah, Nickit and Scarper, my loyal tax collectors.

NICKIT
Afternoon, your Sheriffness.

SCARPER
Hello, your Sheriffosity.

SHERIFF
Well?

SCARPER
Very well, thank you for asking. We had a lovely lunch, didn't we, Nickit? Feeling quite melloooooow *(burp)*.

NICKIT
Scarper!

SCARPER
What?

NICKIT
That's so rude!

SCARPER
What is?

NICKIT

Don't you know that it's good manners when you burp to cover your mouth and say "I beg your pardon".

SCARPER

Cover your mouth and say I beg your pardon?

NICKIT

Exactly!

SCARPER

OK. (*puts his hand over his mouth and mumbles ...*) I beg your pardon.

Nickit clouts Scarper

SCARPER

What was that for?

SHERIFF

Will you both just shut up!!!

Nickit and Scarper stop messing about.

SHERIFF

I wasn't asking after your well-being! Did you relieve those pathetic peasants of all their cash, like I told you to?

NICKIT

Oh, yeah, we took everything they had!

SCARPER

Every last penny.

NICKIT

Bags of the stuff.

SHERIFF

Excellent!

Sheriff looks at them.

SHERIFF

So, where is it, then?

NICKIT

Where's what?

SHERIFF

The money! Show me the money!!!

NICKIT

Oh, right.

Nickit and Scarper look about their persons. There is no money to be found.

NICKIT

Well, we did have it and then ... *(trying to think of an excuse)*

SCARPER

(as he talks, Nickit is trying to shut him up) Yeah, we did have it, then ... then, that nice chap with the hat ... er....Robin, Robin Hood – he offered to hold it for us ... and

SHERIFF

You idiots!!! Could you be more stupid!??!

SCARPER

Maybe, if you'd really like us to... we'd do **anything** for you, sir

NICKIT

But we'd probably have to have special stupid lessons to get more stupid.

SCARPER

Yeah, maybe even go to universally... uniternity ... univ ... college.

SHERIFF

Ahhhh! Get out of my sight!!!!

Nickit and Scarper exit.

SHERIFF

That Robin Hood!! I'll get even with him if it's the last thing I do!! And his little ... hat, too!

Blackout

Scene 3 The Schoolroom

*The trick bench is set downstage. The classroom is empty.
Much enters carrying a pile of books.*

MUCH

How's it going, kids?

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

Cool! I'm just calling into school – don't worry, I'm not staying! I'm just dropping off these books Robin and Scarlet 'acquired' them from a couple of toffs in the forest – it's the only way we can get books these days - that nasty Sheriff confiscates them all, to stop us peasants getting "ideas above our station". Huh! *(Places books on a chair/desk)* Better get back to Sherwood! See you later, kids!

Much exits.

Nanny (dressed as a teacher), Marian and the children enter

NANNY

Move along now boys and girls, into class.

Nanny ushers children to their seats.

Marian sits on her own, in the middle of the trick bench. The other children sit down.

NANNY

Settle down, now! Good morning, class!

CLASS

Good morning Miss!

MARIAN

Nanny, why do I have to keep coming to school? I'm a grown-up, but you treat me like a child!

NANNY

Marian, I made a vow to care for you and anyway, you're safer here with me, away from all of those thieves, vagabonds and ne'er do wells of Nottingham.

Nickit & Scarper *enter*..

NANNY

Talking of which (*looks the pair up and down, with distaste*)

NICKIT

We have a note (*hands note to Nanny*)

Nanny reads note

NANNY

It's from the Sheriff. It says that you're both so unbearably stupid that you don't even know who you are

NICKIT

I'm Nickit

SCARPER

And he's Nickit

NICKIT

And he's Scarper

SCARPER

And he's Nickit!

NANNY

Well, you can't stay here, school is for children...

MARIAN

(sulkily) And me!

NANNY

(Reading note)....attend school.... make them less stupid payment of **three gold sovereigns** ...*(sudden change of mind)* Welcome! Welcome!
But you're late! You should have been here at 9 o'clock

NICKIT

Why? What happened?

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NANNY

Oh dear, I think I may have my work cut out with this pair. (*indicates for Nickit & Scarper to sit down*) Take a seat

Scarper goes and picks up a bench/chair and is heading off stage

NANNY

Scarper! What are you doing?

SCARPER

You said take a seat

NANNY

I can see what the Sheriff means! Come back, and sit down over there (*points to front bench*)

Nickit and Scarper take hats from two of the girls and move to either side of Nanny

Song "Three Little Maids from School" (*short and sweet*)

After song, Nickit & Scarper sit one each side of Marian, Scarper on the side that drops down (Nickit must sit first!)

MARIAN

Hello, I presume that you don't really want to be here, either?

NICKIT

No, but the Sheriff thinks we're stupid

MARIAN

Why?

SCARPER

It's that Robin Hood's fault!

MARIAN

Robin Hood? You've met him? What's he like?

NICKIT

He's a thief! He stole all of our money

MARIAN

But I thought he just robbed from the rich, to give to the poor?

SCARPER

Well, it wasn't our money, exactly - it was the Sheriff's tax money.

MARIAN

So he stole the slimy Sheriff's tax money to give back to the poor? How exciting! What does he look like?

NANNY

Marian, please stop chattering, I need to take the register. When I call out your name, please stand up. Marian (*Marian stands*) Eliza (*stands*) Mary (*stands*) Katie (*stands*) Nickit (*stands, causing the trick bench to tip Scarper to the floor*)

SCARPER

Ouch!

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Everyone laughs

SCARPER

It's not funny, I really hurt my bum!

NANNY

Scarper! You've been here five minutes and you're already causing chaos!

NICKIT

It doesn't usually take him that long!

NANNY

Right then, class, quieten down and take out your exercise books and pencils

SCARPER

I ain't got a pencil

NANNY

I ain't got a pencil? I haven't a pencil, you haven't a pencil, he hasn't a pencil, she hasn't a pencil...

SCARPER

Blimey, ain't nobody got a pencil? did someone nick 'em all?

NANNY

I was correcting your English

SCARPER

Yes, you're correct, I am English

NANNY

Your English grammar!

SCARPER

Yes, my Grandma's English as well why do you need to know about my family?

NANNY

Give me strength! Our first lesson today is maths. Nickit. If one plus one equals two, and two plus two equals four, what does four plus four equal?

NICKIT

That's not fair, you answered the easy ones, and then ask me the difficult ones!

NANNY

Four plus four, anyone?

Children put hands up to answer

NANNY

Mary?

MARY

Eight, Miss

NANNY

Correct. (*writes 8 on the blackboard*). And Scarper, what is half of eight?

SCARPER

I know this one!

NANNY

Do you?

NICKIT

(*amazed*) Do you?

SCARPER

Yes! It's three!

NANNY

Three?

SCARPER

Yes, three

NANNY

Incorrect!

SCARPER

No it isn't (*walks to blackboard and rubs out half of the 8, so that it looks like 3*) See! Three!

Everyone laughs

NANNY

Very funny! Now please sit down again

Just as Scarper sits down, Marian and Nickit stand. The bench tips and Scarper lands on the floor again

SCARPER

Ouch! My bum! Again!!

Marian and Nickit sit back down again. Scarper examines the bench, pushing it down. It doesn't move now, because the other two are weighing-down the other end. Scarper, very puzzled, sits down, cautiously.

NANNY

So, Nickit, if I have seven oranges in this hand, and eight oranges in this hand, what do I have?

NICKIT

Very big hands, Miss!

There is a knock at the door

NANNY

Answer the door, please, Scarper

Scarper goes off-stage "to answer the door", then quickly returns.

SCARPER

It was a salesman with a really ugly face I told him you already have one

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NANNY

Thank you WHAT??!! Why, you you wait until I get hold of you ... you cheeky little

Nanny chases Scarper around the classroom. A comedy chase ensues, until she is out of breath

During this, Marian and Nickit turn the bench around, so that the “trick side” is now on the opposite side of the stage

SCARPER

I’m sorry, Miss, I really am

NANNY

(out of breath) Ooh, I should think that you are I’m all out of breath now I need to sit down

SCARPER

Why don’t you sit down here *(indicates to what he thinks is the “trick side” of the bench)*

NANNY

You must think I’m as stupid as you are! If I sit here, the bench will tip and I will land on the floor in a heap. I’ll sit this side.

Nanny sits down. The bench tips, and she lands on the floor in a heap, displaying some large, bright underwear. Scarper looks confused. Nickit & Marian look guilty. Pupils laugh.

MARIAN

Oh, Nanny! Come on, I’ll help you up!

NANNY

Oooh! I’ve never been so humiliated! *(looking angrily at Scarper)*

SCARPER

It wasn’t me, Miss honest, it wasn’t

The bell rings

NANNY

Oh, there’s the bell! And I haven’t reminded you about the camping trip

Everyone is suddenly attentive

ALL

Oh, the camping trip / Great! / Can’t wait!

NANNY

(still brushing herself down & tidying herself) As you all know, it’s the Cubs’ and Brownies’ annual camping trip this weekend. We’re going to Sherwood Forest.

MARIAN

Sherwood Forest? Isn’t that where Robin Hood lives?

NICKIT

Camping trip? Can **we** come?

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SCARPER
Can we? Can we?!

NANNY
What? You pair of trouble-makers?! You'll have to ask the Brown Owl – she's in charge.

NICKIT
Where will we find her?

MARIAN
(*indicating to Nanny*) Here!

NICKIT
You're the Brown Owl?

NANNY
Yes

SCARPER
Oh dear!

MARIAN
As well as being my Nanny, and the school teacher, she is also the leader of the Brownies and the Cubs

NANNY
Work, work, work! It's the Sheriff's taxes! I have no choice! I teach, I work part-time on a market stall I do a bit of cleaning I used to work at a florist as well – until I was deflowered ...

MARIAN
Sacked!

NANNY
Yes, that as well. Oh, and I work part-time at the castle helping the knights out of their armour – but that's more of a hobby

MARIAN
Nanny!

NICKIT
So, can we come on the camping trip?

SCARPER
Pleeeeeeeze??!!

NANNY
Well, there is one job that no-one's volunteered for as yet

NICKIT & SCARPER
We'll do it!

NANNY
It's a very important job

NICKIT & SCARPER

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We'll do it!

NANNY

You could say, we couldn't GO without it

NICKIT & SCARPER

We'll do it!

NANNY

It's a WEE bit smelly but you shouldn't POO-POO it for that reason

NICKIT & SCARPER

We'll do it!

NANNY

Latrine duty!

SCARPER

We'll do it!

NICKIT

You're on your own with this one, mate!

NANNY

Alright, everyone, class dismissed - except for you two (*Nickit & Scarper*) you can stay behind and help me to tidy the classroom

*All exit, except Nanny, Nickit & Scarper. They start to tidy up.
Sheriff enters*

SHERIFF

(*to Nanny*) Well, how did they do?

NANNY

I would say that "Stupid" was an understatement

Nanny exits, shaking head

NICKIT

But we're going on the camping trip to Sherwood Forest!

SCARPER

Yes! And we're the latrine monitors – it's an important job!

NICKIT

... for the important jobs!

SHERIFF

Sherwood Forest, eh? If you're going to Sherwood Forest, I want you to keep your eyes peeled – and if you find yourselves anywhere near that Robin Hood, I want you to 'take him out'

NICKIT

You mean ask him on a date?

SCARPER

Buy him some flowers?

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NICKIT

Say nice things about his hair?

SHERIFF

No! I mean kill him! Cut his throat!

Dramatic chords

Blackout

Scene 4 Sherwood Forest.

Enchantress enters

ENCHANTRESS

Welcome to Sherwood Forest, deep
Her secrets will forever keep
And whispered words from years apart
Are held forever in her heart
For centuries, it's been my home
This place where evil dare not roam
And only the good are safe, it's said
So, even the Sheriff fears to tread

Much enters.

MUCH

How's it going, kids!???

AUDIENCE

MUCH BETTER, MUCH!

MUCH

Oh, that's just ace!!!

ENCHANTRESS

Much, you make the girls and boys
Disturb the peace with all that noise!
And what, my dear Much, I pray
Have you been doing with your day?

MUCH

We've been down by the river. While King Richard's been off looking for the Holy Grail, I've been fishing for the Da Vinci cod!

Much holds up a fish on a line.

MUCH

Da Vinci cod! Gettit?

ENCHANTRESS

(shakes head)

Forget the jokes now, if you would

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And tell me, where is Robin Hood?

MUCH

Oh, Robin's on his way. And all the Merry Men.

ENCHANTRESS

Although it's later than I'd planned
It's time to meet the Merry Band

Funky catwalk music starts.

Robin enters.

ENCHANTRESS

In Lincoln Green and feathered hat
Here's Robin looking quite "all that"

ROBIN

Hello kids!!

AUDIENCE

Hello Robin!

Scarlet enters

ENCHANTRESS

And Scarlet, always on the beat
Quick with wit and looking neat

SCARLET

Yo!

Little Joan enters

ENCHANTRESS

Little Joan, who's not so small
Her Lincoln green needs to be tall

LITTLE JOAN

Greetings, fellow little people!

Tuck enters

ENCHANTRESS

Next, we have our dear Friar Tuck
To Merry Men, a useful cook
Pies and puddings, loaves and cakes
But he eats most everything he makes

Alan/Alarna enters

ENCHANTRESS

... and our company minstrel, Alan a-Dale/Alarna Dale.
Who's duty it is, to sing our tale

Alan/Alarna enters carrying a lute

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Funky catwalk music stops.

ALAN/ALARNA

(sings) I sing a song of a merry band
Known for valour across the land
They make their home by the greenwood tree
....and ... and ...

He looks around puzzled - can't think of a line to finish off the verse.

TUCK

(eating) ... they're always home in time for tea?

ALL

Tuck!!

MUCH

They use the bushes to go for a wee?

ALL

Much!!

ALAN

(downhearted) Sorry ...

Other Merry Men enter

ENCHANTRESS

And here, the rest of the Merry Band
Some of the bravest in our land

Song "All in this Together"

(Hoodies enter during song, and join in)

Enchantress exits.

MUCH

Oh, look, it's Jenny from the Hood and the other young Hoodies. They're like trainee Merry Men.

Jenny stands heroically in front of Robin.

JENNY

Robin, we're ready!

ROBIN

Ready?

JENNY

Like, ready to take on the Sheriff, right. You know, like, rob the rich and give to the poor, right.

JILL

Yeah ...right sound

JESS

Yeah right.... er innit

ROBIN

Ah, my young apprentice ... es. Your training is not yet complete.

JENNY

But we're, like, ready ...

ROBIN

Ready for the three-headed dragon of Trowel?

JENNY & HOODIES

Er ...

Jenny and the Hoodies back off as the Merry Men continue to reel off a list of scary adversaries (use local place names to add interest).

SCARLET

The 15 murderous horsemen of Cotmanhay?

JENNY & HOODIES

Um ...

LITTLE JOAN

The monstrous bloodthirsty beast of Beeston?

JENNY & HOODIES

Well ...

TUCK

The ferocious fire-breathing monster of Alfreton?

JENNY & HOODIES

Ooh ...

MUCH

The two likeable loonies of Ilkeston?

All turn to look at Much

ALL

Eh?

ROBIN

So, are you ... ready?

JENNY

Um ...

JILL

Oh, my mum says I've got to tidy my room.

Hoodie Jill exits.

JESS

I've got to finish my homework.

Etc. All hoodies exit, except Jenny

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ROBIN
Jenny?

JENNY
But you're never going to meet the three-headed dragon of Trowel either.

ROBIN
But, if we do, we are ready.

Merry Men look hard. Flex a few muscles.

JENNY
(*accepting defeat*) Then I'd better practise my kung fu.

MUCH
Oh, yeah, I'll have some sweet and sour king prawn ...

Jenny glares at Much.

MUCH
Sorry.

*Jenny exits.
A horn sounds.*

ROBIN
Come, my Merry Men! That'll be the tax collector's caravan, heading for London. I think it's time we applied for a rebate!

ALL
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

All exit.

Nanny enters wearing a Brownie/Guide outfit

NANNY
Not far now! Do keep up!

*Nanny carries very little, just a pole with a flag and a map.
Each of the 'campers' is attached to the next, with pieces of string, on which are hanging various camping 'bits and bobs'.
Nickit enters, loaded up so much, that he is barely visible. Scarper enters, loaded up the same, followed by Marian, then the other children. As each person exits the stage, he/she returns, backstage or behind tabs, to the original entrance, ready to re-enter.
As the last child enters, Nanny re-enters behind the last child i.e. the whole process is repeated*

NANNY
Not far now! Nearly there!

NICKIT
I think we're going around in circles Look, there's that piano-player again!

NANNY

Rubbish! My map-reading skills are second to none Onward!

Nanny reappears for the third time

NANNY

Nearly there!

NICKIT

(pointing to pianist) Look! There he is again!

Marian stops dead, causing Scarper, Nickit, then Nanny to 'domino fall' to the floor

MARIAN

That's it! I refuse to go any further! We are definitely going around in circles!

Nanny, Nickit & Scarper are all struggling to get up

Nanny turns the map and realises that it had been upside down all along

NANNY

Whoops! Yes, I think we're here! Set the camp! Light the fire!

NICKIT

Start singing!

NANNY

Singing?

NICKIT

Yes, singing around the campfire all Brownies and Cubs do it *(starts to sing)* Ging gang
goolie goolie goolie ...

NANNY

Goolie goolie what?! Stop that at once! I will not have that sort of language here, thank you!

They continue to set up the camp and the fire. Other children exit to wings.

NICKIT

But...

NANNY

No buts...

SCARPER

It's getting dark, Nickit. You know I'm scared of the dark

NICKIT

You're scared of your own shadow! Don't be such a wimp!

An owl hoots.

NICKIT

Aaagh!

Nickit runs and jumps into Nanny's arms

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NICKIT

It is a bit scary here. I don't like creepy crawlies and stuff

SCARPER

Like worms and slugs?

NICKIT

Yuk!

SCARPER

..... and spiders?

NANNY

Oh, a little spider won't hurt you!

At that, a very large spider descends from the rig, right above Nanny's head. Nickit spots it, but is too scared to speak, and just points above Nanny's head

SCARPER

Spiders are harmless tiny little things

Nickit grabs Scarper and points to the spider

SCARPER

... except for that one! Eeek!

Nickit & Scarper hold each other and look up at the spider

NANNY

What on earth is the matter with you two?

*Nickit & Scarper continue to cling to each other and point at the spider
Marian comes forward*

MARIAN

What's going on?

*Nickit & Scarper continue to cling to each other and point at the spider
Marian then clings to Nickit & Scarper*

NANNY

What? What is it?

Nanny looks to the right, then the left, then behind her. The spider ascends to the rig, just before Nanny looks above her head

NANNY

Nothing! Nothing there! *(addresses audience)* did you see anything, children?

*The spider starts to descend again. Audience shouts. Marian, Nickit & Scarper cling and point.
Nanny reacts to the audience*

NANNY

Alright then, I'll have another look.

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Nanny looks to the right, then the left, then behind her. The spider ascends to the rig, just before Nanny looks above her head

NANNY
Nothing there! Are you all trying to frighten Nanny Nora?

Nanny reacts as appropriately to the audience.

NANNY
I think you're all having a little joke ..

Nanny looks to the right, then the left, then behind her. This time she looks above, and the spider is still there. She screams. All scream. Spider ascends again.

NANNY
My, that was a big one! But he's gone now!

NICKIT
I'm still scared!

SCARPER
And me!

MARIAN
Oh, Nanny, I'm scared, too ...

NANNY
Marian, you're not frightened of insects and bugs! even when you were just a little girl, you loved that story I used to tell you!

MARIAN
Oh, yes, Nanny, I remember please tell me again, now!

SCARPER
Oooh, a story ... I like stories

NICKIT
It's not scary, is it?

NANNY
No, it's not scary at all. Come along, we'll sit by the camp fire.
There was once a very lonely caterpillar ...

MUSICAL NUMBER: "The Ugly Bug Ball" (A UV-lit piece)

NANNY
So, you see, there's really no need to be afraid of creepy crawlies.

NICKIT
Absolutely no need at all!

ELIZA
We'll go and set up the tents

NANNY
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Jolly good! And will you two go down to the stream to get some water for the kettle?

NICKIT

But what about the killer fish?

Nickit & Scarper hug each other in fear

NICKIT

Nanny Nora, will you come with us? Please?

SCARPER

Please.

NICKIT

Please.

NANNY

Oh, for Heaven's sake, you big babies!

MARIAN

You go, Nanny. I'll be all right on my own. It's so lovely and peaceful here.

NANNY

Come on, then, you cowardly custards.

MARIAN

See you later.

Nanny, Nickit and Scarper exit.

MARIAN

It's lovely here in the forest. The Sheriff says it's full of bandits and cut-throats – but I can't believe anywhere so beautiful can be the least bit dangerous.

Marian goes to front corner and stares out into the distance.

Robin enters and crosses to opposite front corner.

ROBIN

Well, we collected our tax rebate! The Merry Men are off to 'redistribute the wealth' to the poor people of Nottingham.

Marian is in such a reverie she doesn't notice Robin.

Robin sees Marian, who is looking the other way. He does a double take.

ROBIN

Oh! A finely-dressed lady, wandering alone in the forest. Must be lost. I'll be a gentleman and lead her back to the road after taking her purse, of course! *(to Marian)* Excuse me ...

Marian turns as Robin steps forward.

ROBIN

...I ...

Marian also takes a step towards Robin. Their eyes meet.

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MARIAN

Oh! I ...

They are grinning now.

ROBIN

Are you lost?

Robin strides over. Marian takes a step forward and their hands touch.

MARIAN

Lost? ... no not any more

Love Story music.

Nickit & Scarper enter.

NICKIT

I can't believe we went all the way to the stream without the kettle.

Scarper shrugs.

NICKIT

I thought you had it.

SCARPER

I thought ... no, I didn't really think anything.

NICKIT

Just go and get it.

Nickit clouts Scarper. Scarper takes a couple of steps then sees Robin and Marian.

Scarper stops and turns to Nickit, giggling.

SCARPER

Hey, Nickit, have you seen this?

NICKIT

What?

SCARPER

Look, it's Marian ... with a man.

NICKIT

Oh yeah ... Blimey!

They gawp.

SCARPER

Do you think she's going to kiss him?

NICKIT

Dunno. He looks kind of familiar.

SCARPER

Well, he's getting 'kind of familiar' with Lady Marian!

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Nickit & Scarper giggle & just stand and watch.

ROBIN
So, my lady ...

MARIAN
Marian ...

ROBIN
Lady Marian, what brings you so deep into the forest?

MARIAN
It must be destiny, my lord ...

ROBIN
No, not 'my lord' ... not any more.

Marian looks at him questioningly.

ROBIN
I used to be known as Lord Robin of Locksley but, when I returned from the crusades, the Sheriff had stolen all my lands. Now, I am known as Robin Hood.

MARIAN
(*gasp*) Robin Hood?

NICKIT
Robin Hood?

SCARPER
Robin Hood?

NICKIT
That name sounds ever so familiar ...
Horn sounds

ROBIN
Oh, that signal's for me – I have to go now but we **will** meet again, Lady Marian

MARIAN
I do hope so, Robin.

As Robin departs, Marian follows him towards the wings.

MARIAN
My Robin Hood.

*Marian stands, her hand outstretched, looking in the direction of Robin's departure.
Nickit slaps his forehead.*

NICKIT
Robin Hood! Of course!

SCARPER
(*confused*) Of course.

NICKIT

That's the fellow the Sheriff wanted us to ... the Sheriff wanted us to ...

SCARPER

...cut ... his hair?

NICKIT

Yes! ... No! ...er ...

SCARPER

...cut ... his monthly outgoings, by consolidating all his bills into one easy payment?

NICKIT

Yes! ... No! ... er ...

SCARPER

... cut ... his throat!!

NICKIT

Yes! That's right!

SCARPER

Right!

NICKIT

But ... hold on a minute you're **never** right so, it **can't** be that Oh, now I'm all confused!

SCARPER

I'm confused, too but ...erm... no more than usual ...

NICKIT

Maybe we'd better go back to the castle to ask the Sheriff.

Nickit and Scarper exit. Blackout.

Scene 5 Nottingham Castle

Sheriff enters

SHERIFF

I hardly slept at all last night. My mind was awl with visions of cruelty and murder. Nickit and Scarper have not yet returned. I must know if Robin Hood is dead. *(Calls into wings)*
Soothsayer! Soothsayer!

Marian enters with a dreamy smile on her face.

MARIAN

You're shouting again, Sheriff. You're always angry! Don't you realise it upsets people? Although, not even you could upset me today.

SHERIFF

Ah, Marian. *(looks past Marian, to check that Nanny isn't there)* And, alone. It is such a relief to be able to talk to you without your oaf of a nanny hanging onto every word.

Nanny enters

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NANNY

Sorry I'm late – have I missed anything?

SHERIFF

Oh, for Heaven's sake!

NANNY

It seems to be taking me longer and longer to put on my makeup in the morning.

MARIAN

Nanny, it's two o'clock in the afternoon!

NANNY

Well, exactly.

SHERIFF

Perhaps a paper bag would be more appropriate. And a lot quicker.

NANNY

Ooooh, you rude man..

Sheriff ignores Nanny.

SHERIFF

So, Marian, how was your little camping trip? Nothing ... untoward occurred, I trust ...

Evil smirk crosses Sheriff's face.

MARIAN

No. Nothing untoward at all. Quite the opposite, actually.

Another dreamy look from Marian. Sheriff looks disappointed.

NANNY

But that Nickit and Scarper wandered off without so much as a by your leave.

Sheriff perks up.

SHERIFF

(delighted) Oh, did they?

NANNY

Up to no good, no doubt.

SHERIFF

I do hope so! Excellent. Excellent. *(shouts)* Soothsayer! Soothsayer! Where is that ugly old ...?

Soothsayer enters

SOOTHSAYER

You called, my lord. How can I be of service?

SHERIFF

(to Marian and Nanny) Ladies ...

Sheriff looks Nanny up and down suspiciously.

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SHERIFF

Could you please excuse me? I have some official business to discuss.

MARIAN

Certainly, my lord.

Marian and Nanny start to exit.

SHERIFF

(to Soothsayer) Well, Soothsayer I wish you to er....**soothsay** tell me of Robin Hood.

Marian stops at Robin's name.

MARIAN

(to herself) Robin!

Marian stops Nanny leaving, and she and Nanny eavesdrop on Sheriff's conversation.

SHERIFF

Did the mission succeed? Is the bandit dead?

Marian and Nanny are shocked.

Soothsayer takes out her crystal ball and starts to stroke it.

SOOTHSAYER

I see, I see ... Nickit and Scarper

SHERIFF

Yes!

SOOTHSAYER

They are running!

SHERIFF

Yes! Yes! But have they killed Robin Hood?

SOOTHSAYER

Wait! The picture is changing. I see. I see. . Robin Hood ... he seems somehow familiar.

Marian is interested and tries to peer more closely. Sheriff is too focused on the ball himself to notice.

SOOTHSAYER

The little hat with the feather. I've seen it somewhere before ...

SHERIFF

But is he dead!?!??? That is all I want to know.

SOOTHSAYER

... oh, it's gone a little hazy.

SHERIFF

Well, sort it out!

Soothsayer starts bashing the ball.

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Marian and Nanny move away again.

MARIAN

(to Nanny) I have to know! We must return to the forest. Oh, Nanny, I'm so scared. The thought of Robin ... dead. Oh!

Marian puts her hand to her mouth. She is almost in tears.

NANNY

Come quickly.

Marian and Nanny exit.

SOOTHSAYER

I've lost the image. It doesn't help with you shouting all the time. It's not good for the concentration. Would you like me to try again?

SHERIFF

No! Begone, old Soothsayer!

SOOTHSAYER

Less of the "old" if you don't mind!

Soothsayer exits.

SHERIFF

Is it too much to expect those two imbeciles to have carried out their mission? And why am I asking you? You pathetic peasants!

Nickit & Scarper burst in, panting.

NICKIT

Sheriff!

SCARPER

Sheriff!

SHERIFF

Nickit and Scarper! At last! Well?

SCARPER

Well? No, not really. We've just run all the way back from the forest ...

SHERIFF

And?

NICKIT

...and we got completely lost ...

SCARPER

...several times. So it took ages. And we missed breakfast ...

NICKIT

And? Oh, yes, there was something else ... erm ... now, what was it? Scarper?

SCARPER

(proudly) I've got no idea what you're talking about.

SHERIFF

Robin Hood!!!!

NICKIT

Robin Hood!! Of course!!

SCARPER

Robin Hood!! Of course!! Who's he again?

SHERIFF

He's the notorious bandit I sent you to kill!

NICKIT

Kill! There you go, Scarper, I told you the Sheriff would remember.

SCARPER

Good old Sheriff.

SHERIFF

Remember!? Remember what?

NICKIT

Well, **we** couldn't remember what exactly it was, that you wanted us to do to him.

SHERIFF

I wanted you to kill him!!!! To cut his throat!!!!

NICKIT

Well, we know that now, obviously.

SCARPER

Obviously.

SHERIFF

So!! Did you cut his throat?

NICKIT

Not exactly

SHERIFF

Not exactly?

SCARPER

Exactly.

SHERIFF

Give me strength!

Sheriff manages to restrain himself and doesn't murder them there and then. He takes a deep breath

SHERIFF

Well, what are you waiting for? Get back out there and finish the job! Get rid of that Robin Hood once and for all.

NICKIT

Oh, I don't think we need to bother with that, my Lord.

SHERIFF

What!?! Why not?

NICKIT

I can't see him doing much more of that there banditing. He'll be far too busy snogging Lady Marian to be bothered about stealing stuff, I reckon.

SHERIFF

What!!!!!!??????

SCARPER

(giggling) Yeah, they'll be kissing and cuddling and all that yucky stuff.

NICKIT

(sniggering) Yeah, we saw them holding hands, gazing into each other's eyes. Everything.

SHERIFF

Did you now!?! Right, that's it!! No more Mister Nice Sheriff!! Lock down the castle!! No-one goes in or out!! Move it!

NICKIT & SCARPER

Er ... yes boss.

Nickit & Scarper exit to wings, shouting

NICKIT

Lock down the castle!

SCARPER

Lock down the castle!

NICKIT

No-one goes in or out!

SCARPER

No-one goes in or out!

SHERIFF

Wealthy, powerful, extremely good-looking why can't she see it?

Sheriff stares out into the darkness as the music starts

SHERIFF

(sighs) Oh, my Marian

*Nickit & Scarper enter. They look at each other then back at Sheriff.
Sheriff starts to sing*

Song: "I'm All Alone" (from "Spamalot") - Sheriff, Nickit & Scarper

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Nickit & Scarper shrug, then exit

SHERIFF
Soothsayer! Now!!!

Soothsayer enters.

SOOTHSAYER
You called ...**loudly** **again**my master.

SHERIFF
Yes, I have succeeded where your crystal ball has failed. It would appear that Robin Hood is my rival for Marian's affections.

SOOTHSAYER
Ah, of course, that's where I'd seen the little hat with the feather in it before.

SHERIFF
Tell me. Where will I find this Robin?

Soothsayer takes out crystal ball and waves her hands over it.

SOOTHSAYER
I see, I see ... a forest, my lord!

SHERIFF
I know he's in the forest! But, where?

SOOTHSAYER
I see, I see ... oh, it's all gone a little hazy again.

SHERIFF
Damn it! Can't you fix that thing?

SOOTHSAYER
The reception's been terrible since I got Freeview

SHERIFF
You are nothing but a third-rate fairground act. Get out of my sight!

Soothsayer exits.

SHERIFF
Now, I will warn Lady Marian that, King's cousin or not, if she ever sees Robin Hood again, she will stand accused of harbouring a known criminal.

As Sheriff makes to leave, Nickit & Scarper enter dragging on someone wearing a cloak with a hood (Marian)

NICKIT
My Lord, two good-for-nothings were attempting to flee the castle.

SCARPER
We apprehe ... we appreha ... we got one of them, my Lord.

SHERIFF
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Well, well, well. Trying to flee the castle, eh? Someone with a guilty secret, no doubt. Show yourself!

Marian flings back her hood.

SHERIFF

Lady Marian! Oh, I see, going to warn your boyfriend, Robin Hood, that I plan to see his head on a spike. Deny your love for him! I dare you!

MARIAN

(defiant) I will not deny it! I am proud of it! I love Robin. And he will know that you're keeping me prisoner. Nanny escaped, and she's on her way to Sherwood as we speak.

SHERIFF

Perfect! What we have now, is a hostage situation. Robin is bound to try to rescue you, and he will fall straight into my trap! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

Blackout

Scene 6 Sherwood Forest

Enchantress enters

ENCHANTRESS

Back in the forest, all is calm ...

Much enters

MUCH

How's it going, kids?!!!!

AUDIENCE

MUCH BETTER, MUCH!

MUCH

Ace! I've just been fishing again. After my success with the Da Vinci cod, I thought I'd have a go at catching the Michaelangelo trout. It was this big!!!

Much opens his arms wide.

ENCHANTRESS

Much, you mustn't tell these lies
Your nose will grow to twice its size

MUCH

Ha ha, it won't really, will it?! *(feels his nose, just to make sure)* Oh, mighty Enchantress, you were saying ... here in the forest, all is calm

ENCHANTRESS

Here in the forest, all **was** calm *(she glares at Much)*
And everyone seems safe from harm
But changes are afoot, I fear
A turning point for someone dear

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Robin and Merry Men enter.

MUCH

It's changing, all right. Robin's been behaving very oddly, all light-headed, like he's been on the mead.

Robin walks forward.

MUCH

(to Robin) You all right, Robin?

Robin just stands and sighs, dreamily.

Merry Men approach Much.

SCARLET

Much, you're going to have to do something about *(indicates to Robin)* him. We haven't done any robbing from the rich for days ... supplies are getting low ...

TUCK

(who is still eating) I'm wasting away.

MUCH

I can tell.

LITTLE JOAN

What's the matter with him?

MUCH

How should I know?

ALAN A-DALE

(sings) Life in the forest had begun to get harder,
We're left with dry bread and old cheese in the larder.
Our once happy band is no longer so merry,
Erm ...

LITTLE JOAN

Um ... er ... um ...

MUCH

(sings) I'm worried that Robin has been on the sherry.

Nanny bursts in.

Merry Men notice, but Robin is still staring dreamily out into the distance.

NANNY

Robin! Robin!

MUCH

Oh, look, boys and girls, it's that enormous trout I was telling you about! Hee hee.

NANNY

(to Much) Are you Robin Hood?

Much stands heroically.

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MUCH
Of course I am...

ENCHANTRESS
Much!

MUCH
... not.

Nanny rushes past Much, to Scarlet

NANNY
Robin! Robin!

SCARLET
How can I be Robin, I'm a girl

LITTLE JOAN
Before you ask, so am I

Nanny approaches Tuck

NANNY
Are you Robin?

TUCK
(*stopping eating for a moment*) For you, baby, I could be.

NANNY
(*breaking down*) Oh Robin! Robin! It's Marian!

Robin finally comes out of his daydream.

ROBIN
Marian?

MERRY MEN
Who's Marian?

ROBIN
My Marian?

MUCH
Your Marian? Ah! That explains everything! Robin's got a girlfriend! hence the dreaminess
.... and general reluctance to go out robbing from the rich

Robin approaches Nanny.

ROBIN
What of Marian?

NANNY
I am Lady Marian's nanny and ...

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SCARLET

Lady Marian? The King's cousin?

MUCH

Ooooh, Robin's cavorting with royalty.

ROBIN

Quiet, Much!

MUCH

Ooooh, so-rry!

NANNY

Oh, Robin, the Sheriff is holding Marian against her will.

ROBIN

(heroic) I must rescue her!

MUCH

Robin, what if it's a trap!

SCARLET

Surely the Sheriff wouldn't dare harm Lady Marian. She's the King's cousin.

ROBIN

Trap or not, I shall rescue her!

LITTLE JOAN

Then we are right behind you.

ROBIN

No, my friends! This is not our usual raid on some poorly-guarded rich folk. Nottingham Castle is among the best-defended in England. I will not put you in danger.

SCARLET

Robin, danger is our middle name.

TUCK

Mine's not, it's Millicent

All turn to look at Tuck

TUCK

... my mother wanted a girl!

SCARLET

Robin, where you go, we follow.

ENCHANTRESS

Have faith in yourself, be the hero we need
Follow your heart, and you will succeed

SONG: "Holding out for a Hero" – Merry Men & Enchantress

Blackout

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INTERVAL

During the interval, posters are put up in the bar and coffee bar areas. The posters advertise the “Nottingham’s Got Talent” competition. It states that only competitors for the competition will be allowed into the locked-down town of Nottingham.

ACT II

Scene 7 Nottingham Town

SONG: “The Only Way Is Up” (Peasants)

Much enters, eating a sherbet dip

MUCH

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How's it going, kids?!

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

Great! But, not so great for me - I came into town for a sherbet dip and now I can't get out again. The Sheriff's surrounded the town walls with his guards. I need to warn Robin that it's too dangerous to try to rescue Marian, but I can't get out to tell him.

Sheriff enters with Marian and two guards, to keep an eye on her.

MUCH

Blimey, look, that must be Lady Marian. Oooh, I can see why Robin likes her. She's beautiful.

SHERIFF

Morning peasants!! How are you all this morning??!!

MRS STONEYBROKE

Pretty miserable, actually.

SHERIFF

Excellent! Perfect! Just what I wanted to hear. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than keeping the peasants miserable. No! There is something ...

A small child walks across the stage holding a packet of sweets. The Sheriff takes the sweets from the child.

SHERIFF

Taking sweets from children. Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

Child runs off crying.

CHILD

Mummy!

Sheriff sees Much with his sherbet dip.

SHERIFF

You there! Here! Give me that sherbet dip!

Much looks over his shoulders and then points at his chest, questioning whether or not the Sheriff is talking to him.

SHERIFF

Yes, you! Here!

MUCH

Hold on, I distinctly heard you say "children". I think we can all agree that I'm not a ...

SHERIFF

NOW!!!!

MUCH

All right! No need to shout.

*Much hands over the sherbet dip.
Sheriff turns to audience.*

SHERIFF
Right, you lot are next. Hand over your ...

MARIAN
Take, take, take! That's all you ever do! You never give anything back.

Sheriff gives Marian the "hark at her" raised eyebrows.

SHERIFF
My dear Marian, this is so not true. Only this morning, I gave a promotion to Nickit and Scarper for services rendered ... bringing you to me. They are now my official deputies.

MARIAN
Oh, really.

SHERIFF
You don't believe me? Just ask them.

*Sheriff clicks his fingers.
Nickit enters, wearing a cowboys outfit with a nice big shiny deputy badge.*

SHERIFF
Ah, so obedient ...

Sheriff notices outfit and does a double take.

SHERIFF
What on earth are you wearing??!!

NICKIT
Well, you, er, said I was, like, the deputy sheriff, so I thought ...

SHERIFF
You thought? Really? And I suppose the other idiot is also dressed like a reject from Bonanza?!
...

Scarper enters, grinning, wearing a squaw outfit.

SHERIFF
Don't tell me ...

SCARPER
They'd run out of cowboy outfits.

Sheriff shakes his head.

SHERIFF
(pointing at audience) Just get out there and take every last sweet from every last child.

Nickit and Scarper make a move towards audience. Marian steps forward. Guards react.

MARIAN
No! You can't!

Nickit and Scarper stop.

SHERIFF

Can't!? Can't?? Oh, my dear Marian, I can do anything I want. Who's going to stop me? Your beloved Robin Hood? I don't think so! *(to peasants)* Where's your hero now, eh? Ha! I've even got his girl! Nothing can stop me!

MARIAN

I wouldn't be so cocky if I were you, Sheriff. This story isn't over yet!

SHERIFF

But it will be very shortly. I've got the place surrounded. There's no way Robin will be able to get past the guards. Boo hoo. He'll be cut to ...

Robin, Merry Men and Nanny rush in.

ROBIN

I wouldn't be so sure about that, Sheriff!

MARIAN & MUCH

Robin!

SHERIFF

But ... but ... but ... how did you get past my guards?

ROBIN

Oh, we used our secret weapon.

Nanny steps forward.

NANNY

I used my feminine wiles.

Nanny pouts. Pout, pout.

LITTLE JOAN

She means the guards ran away screaming.

NANNY

For some reason, they feel threatened by a beautiful, successful woman.

SHERIFF

(to guards) Get them!!

Guards take a step forward, as does Nanny. Nanny pouts, guards run away screaming. Nanny approaches the Sheriff.

NANNY

Ooh, Sheriff, forget Marian you need someone older and more experienced come on, give us a kiss!

Sheriff is frozen. Then he screams.

SHERIFF

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Aaaaaarrgh!

Sheriff runs away.

MARIAN
Oh, Robin!

ROBIN
Oh, Marian!

They hug.

NANNY
Oh, Sheriff!!

Nanny chases after Sheriff

Blackout.

Scene 8 Sherwood Forest

Enchantress enters

ENCHANTRESS
One and all, be of good cheer
For good has triumphed over fear
Lady Marian is safe and sound
With Robin, now, and Sherwood-bound

Much enters with the rest of the Merry Men and Nanny

MUCH
How's it going, kids!?

AUDIENCE
Much better, Much!

MUCH
So am I, now that we've rescued Marian and taught that evil Sheriff of Nottingham a lesson. But I was a bit worried, just for a moment, what with all those guards. Good job Nanny Nora was there.

NANNY
It's always a ... pleasure to be of service.

MUCH
So I've heard.
Robin and Marian enter. Merry Men cheer.

MERRY MEN
(cheer) H'raaay!

ROBIN
I would like to introduce you properly, to the Lady Marian.
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MERRY MEN

Lady Marian ... my Lady ... etc

MARIAN

I cannot thank you enough for coming to rescue me. And Nanny you led the assault, I hear?

NANNY

I didn't assault anyone, they ran away before I got the chance!

ROBIN

And Marian is now with me with **us**, as we fight the tyranny of the evil Prince John and the Sheriff of Nottingham.

MERRY MEN

We come! / Good! / Bravo! etc

ROBIN

We have a duty to the poor of this land, and to King Richard!

MERRY MEN

The King!

Merry Men exit, chatting and slapping each other on the back in a very comradely way. Robin and Marian remain centre and turn to face each other. They gaze into each other's eyes. Nanny looks at them proudly.

MUCH

Isn't it great, Robin! We'll fight together! We'll become a famous duo!

ENCHANTRESS

Much!

MUCH

... like Batman and Robin, Cagney and Lacey, Abbot and Costello, ...

NANNY

Much!

Nanny signals to Enchantress. They take Much one on each arm and drag him off as he continues to talk.

MUCH

... the Two Ronnies, Ant and Dec, Dangermouse and Penfold, (etc)

Enchantress, Nanny and Much exit.

MARIAN

Oh, Robin, I'm so happy ...

Much enters, having struggled free. He raises his finger to continue his point.

MUCH

... French and Saunders, The Chuckle Brothers ... (etc)

Enchantress and Nanny enter and drag Much off again.

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Marian and Robin have not been paying any attention to Much.

MARIAN

Oh, Robin ... I'm so glad that you came to my rescue! The thought of being with that creepy Sheriff for the rest of my life ... oh, I just couldn't bear it*(starts to cry)*

ROBIN

That won't happen, Marian

MARIAN

(still crying) ... but ... how can I be sure? what if ...

SONG: "You'll Be In My Heart" (Robin & Marian)

MARIAN

Oh, Robin!

ROBIN

Oh, Marian!

Big hug.

A horn sounds. Robin disentangles himself.

He looks to the wings, then at Marian.

MARIAN

I think that's for you.

ROBIN

Yes, I ... really ought to ...

MARIAN

It won't be long before I'm coming along with you! Joining in the fight! Just got to pass my Merry Men Induction Course! Come on, I'll wave you off!

Robin takes Marian by the hand and they exit.

Nickit and Scarper enter. They do some silly ninja action poses, running about and throwing martial arts shapes. Finally, Scarper stops, gasping for breath, and holds up hand.

SCARPER

Right, that's me, I'm all in. Let's go back to the castle.

NICKIT

Yeah, I'm pretty tired myself. Come on ...

Pair head towards wings. Nickit stops.

NICKIT

Hold on. Didn't we come to the forest for a reason?

Scarper stops.

SCARPER

A reason?

NICKIT

Yes, you know, we were going to ...

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SCARPER
Have a picnic ...?

NICKIT
No ...

SCARPER
Pick some wild flowers?

NICKIT
No, something else ... I'm sure there was something else. Think back to this morning

SCARPER
(thinks very hard, then shakes his head) No, it's no good, I can't think that far back

NICKIT
Oh! Of course! I've remembered!

SCARPER
Great!

NICKIT
The Sheriff wants us to kill Robin Hood and take Lady Marian back to the castle, because the Sheriff wants to marry Marian!

SCARPER
Yeah! *(beat)* Oh!

NICKIT
What?

SCARPER
Are you sure the Sheriff didn't want us to kill Lady Marian and take Robin Hood back to the castle, because the Sheriff wants to marry Robin Hood?

NICKIT
No! *(beat)* Oh ... now you've said that, I'm not sure.

SCARPER
Well, don't look at me. I'm never sure of anything.

NICKIT
So, what do we do?

SCARPER
Erm ... have a picnic? Pick some wild flowers?

*Nickit and Scarper start scratching their heads.
Soothsayer enters. She looks Nickit and Scarper and shakes her head.*

SOOTHSAYER
That Freeview's not so bad...I've been watching a Derren Brown programme.... picked up a few tips. Watch this!

(to Nickit and Scarper) Why don't you go back to the castle and hide in the cellars so the Sheriff doesn't find out how completely and utterly useless you really are?

NICKIT

(without even noticing Soothsayer is there) I know, Scarper, let's go back to the castle and hide in the cellars so the Sheriff doesn't find out how completely and utterly useless we really are.

SCARPER

Why don't we ... er do what you just said

Nickit and Scarper exit.

SOOTHSAYER

(to audience) What idiots! This is not usually part of my job ... getting involved in the hands-on evil stuff *(looks into crystal ball)* ah ... Marian should be here at any moment. Better get ready.

Soothsayer puts ball away and pulls hood over her head. She picks up a basket of apples, takes out a shiny red one and holds it up to inspect it.

SOOTHSAYER

(to audience) You can't beat the old classics. This one never fails. Don't worry, they're not poisoned. Just drugged a little.

Marian enters dreamily.

SOOTHSAYER

Ah, right on cue.

Marian sees Soothsayer.

MARIAN

Oh, hello.

SOOTHSAYER

Hello, deary.

MARIAN

Who are you?

SOOTHSAYER

Oh, no-one in particular.

MARIAN

Haven't I seen you somewhere before?

Soothsayer does some hypnosis-type moves with her fingers

SOOTHSAYER

Ahem ... You've never seen me before in your life.

MARIAN

I've never seen you before in my life.

SOOTHSAYER

Have one of my juicy red apples.

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MARIAN

I've just eaten, thank you.

Soothsayer does some hypnosis-type moves with her fingers

SOOTHSAYER

But you're still hungry and want one of my juicy red apples.

MARIAN

I'm still hungry. Can I have one of your juicy red apples?

SOOTHSAYER

(playing up to audience) Of course, my dear.

Marian takes the apple, takes a bite and collapses.

SOOTHSAYER

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha *(shrugs)* It's a living.

Blackout.

Scene 9 A Corridor in Nottingham Castle

Nickit and Scarper enter.

NICKIT

Ere, Scarper, can you remember why we went down into the cellars.

SCARPER

No idea.

NICKIT

Me, neither. We must have been down there for hours. What time is it?

Scarper pulls out pocket watch and looks at it.

SCARPER

I have no idea.

NICKIT

Is it broken?

SCARPER

No. I can't tell the time.

NICKIT

So, why have you got a watch?

SCARPER

It was an unwanted gift.

NICKIT

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Who from?

SCARPER
Me!

NICKIT
What?!

Nickit slaps forehead.

NICKIT
There's really no hope for you.

SCARPER
No hope at all.

NICKIT
Life just passes you by.

SCARPER
Just passes me by.

NICKIT
No idea what I'm talking about.

SCARPER
No idea at all.

Sheriff enters wearing night clothes and night cap.

SHERIFF
Ah! There you are! I've been looking for you two!

NICKIT & SCARPER
Ulp!

SHERIFF
I wanted to congratulate you!

NICKIT & SCARPER
Really? What for?

SHERIFF
For bringing Marian back from Sherwood of course!

NICKIT
(to Scarper) Did we?

SCARPER
(to Nickit) Dunno.

SHERIFF
She's now safely locked in her apartments. And I've got the whole regiment stationed on the town walls. I'd like to see that Robin Hood rescue her now! Ha ha ha haha ha!

NICKIT
Ha ha ha ha!

SHERIFF
You have shown real bravery and ingenuity...

NICKIT
(to Scarper in a there-you-go kind of way) Bravery!

SCARPER
(to Nickit) ...and inji...and inji... bravery!

SHERIFF
Now all you have to do is dispose of Robin Hood! But that can wait til tomorrow. It's late. I'm off to bed to dream of Marian and weddings...

Sheriff exits

NICKIT
G'night your Sherifffness.

SCARPER
(to Nickit) Nickit.

NICKIT
What?

SCARPER
I don't remember capturing Lady Marian.

NICKIT
Me neither. But we must have done.

SCARPER
Must have.

NICKIT
Maybe our skills are so finely tuned we did it without realising.

SCARPER
Yeah! Finely tuned ... like my new radio!

NICKIT
What?

SCARPER
Finely tuned! It's pinpoint accurate, digital, hi-fi, stereo, state-of-the-art, guy in the shop told me.

NICKIT
What's the point?

SCARPER
What do you mean?

NICKIT
What's the point in buying a radio when you have to wait 700 years for the first broadcast?

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SCARPER
It's an investment.

Nickit clouts Scarper

Blackout

Scene 10 Sheriff's Bedroom, Nottingham Castle

Sheriff is asleep. He is restless. He calls out

SHERIFF
Marian! Marian! My Marian!

The lights dim and (pre-filmed, on-screen) thought bubbles with the word "Marian" on them drift from the Sheriff's head. On screen (all in mime, with an underscore, a bit like a silent movie) A slo-mo of Marian and Sheriff running towards each other – in a woodland glade. They meet, centre, he picks her up and spins her around. He goes down on one knee, to propose, she says yes.

Cut to wedding. Sheriff is wearing his best clothes in a church setting (or perhaps with an altar in a forest glade?). There is a priest. And then Marian wearing a wedding dress. She is veiled so you can't see her face, but it is obviously Marian.

Priest does some waving of hands. Sheriff gives a sleazy look to camera, then moves to Marian to lift the veil. As he lifts, his arm blocks lens. Sheriff lifts veil. It is Nanny behind the veil pouting kissy kissy. Her pouting face looms forward, filling the screen. Sheriff wakes up screaming. Picture on screen goes fuzzy and fades. Lights up.

SHERIFF
Aaaaaaargh!.....Aaaaaaargh!!!

Soothsayer runs in, she's wearing a dressing gown, and maybe some rollers in her hair

SOOTHSAYER
Sheriff?! Is the castle being attacked?

Sheriff looks around. He checks himself.

SHERIFF
Oh, what a relief. It was just a bad dream!

SOOTHSAYER
You woke me from my beauty sleep!

SHERIFF
You'd better get back to it quickly – you need as much as you can get!

Soothsayer turns haughtily and storms off stage

Sheriff lies back down, lights fade. Screen flickers back into life.

(Pre-filmed, on-screen) Marian sits at a desk, writing. Nickit enters at the front left and she holds out the card that she is writing. It is a wedding invitation – as she holds it forward, it fills the screen. Nickit exits, left, holding the invitation.

Marian, picks up a button-hole flower, stands and walks forward smells the flower & smiles. She then walks towards the right, until she is off screen. Just as she disappears from the screen, Real Marian enters the stage, DSL, wearing the same dress, and carrying the flower, as though she was walking from the screen..

Marian goes to the bed.

MARIAN

Come on, sleepy head, wake up!

Lights up a little. Sheriff stirs.

SHERIFF

What?

Sheriff sits up. Looks around.

SHERIFF

What? What?

MARIAN

Time to get up! Can't have you lying in bed on your wedding morning.

Sheriff bolt upright.

SHERIFF

Wedding!?

MARIAN

You need to get ready. And so do I! Hurry up!

Marian gives him the button-hole flower, then exits. Sheriff clammers off bed. He follows Marian for a few step. Breathes in her perfume, then sniffs the flower.

SHERIFF

Marian...

Sheriff turns to face audience.

SHERIFF

All my hopes and dreams...finally!

SONG: I'm getting Married in the Morning

SHERIFF

I'm getting in the morning etc

Music vamps under.

Nickit and Scarper enter.

NICKIT & SCARPER

Morning boss.

All three sing.

SHERIFF & NICKIT & SCARPER

I'm/He's getting....

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Bit of a dance. Vamp. Robin enters carrying morning coat.

ROBIN
Morning Sheriff.

SHERIFF
What!?! You varlet! How dare you!? Where's my sword?

ROBIN
Calm down, calm down. I'm your best man. Marian asked me. How could I refuse? And it was either me or one of those idiots.

Nickit and Scarper wave at Sheriff grinning. Robin helps Sheriff into coat. Robin takes the button-hole flower & attaches it to the lapel of Sheriff's coat.

ROBIN & NICKIT & SCARPER
(sing) You're getting married in the morning...

SHERIFF
I know!!!

ROBIN & NICKIT & SCARPER
Ding dong...etc

As song continues mores characters continue, merry men, dancers, peasants. Finally, music stops. Intro to Wedding March. Everyone gets into lines. Robin pulls Sheriff over to front left.

SHERIFF
How do I look?

ROBIN
Come here.
Sheriff turns to face Robin (i.e. away from bride's entrance) and Robin fusses with him. Wedding March...Nanny enters as bride with Marian as bridesmaid so audience see joke before Sheriff. Nanny stops centre. Music stops. Sheriff turns. He see Nanny. His face drops. His mouth falls open. He tries to turn away but Robin holds him there.

NANNY
(sings) I-ee will always love you oo oo oo oo I will always love you!

SHERIFF
Noooooooo!

Sheriff falls to his knees.

ALL (bar Sheriff)
He's getting married...

Lots of crazy dancing. Sheriff picked up by his shoulders to join in. Duo bring in a large "custard pie" wedding cake. A pie-fight develops, the Sheriff gets "splatted". As the song builds to a climax, Marian and Robin spin Sheriff around at front. Robin pulls off Sheriff's morning coat. Spin. As crescendo burst, all exit, leaving Sheriff spinning towards bed. He falls splayed across bed. Sheriff sits up with a start.

SHERIFF

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Aaaaargh! Aaargh! Aaargh! Mummy!

Soothsayer runs in again

SOOTHSAYER
What now???!!!

SHERIFF
Oh, it's you! I've had another nightmare!!

SOOTHSAYER
What's that on your face?

Sheriff scrapes cream from face, and looks at it in horror

SHERIFF
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaargh!!!!!!!

Blackout

Scene 11 Sherwood Forest

Merry Men are on stage. Robin enters.

ROBIN
Much, have you seen Marian? She said she'd wait here for me.

MUCH
No, I've not seen her, but she's probably with Nanny Nora

ROBIN
Yes, that'll be it

Nanny runs on in a panic.

NANNY
Robin! Robin! You have to help me! The Lady Marian is being held captive by the Sheriff!

ROBIN
Again? Is this true?

NANNY
No. I just ran all the way from the castle for a bit of exercise! Of course it's true!

Enchantress enters

ENCHANTRESS
Alas, each word she speaks is true
And time is short – it's up to you
Your Marian must be released
For the Sheriff plans his wedding feast

ROBIN
Wedding feast? You mean the Sheriff and Marian?

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SCARLETT
He's bright, this boy!

NANNY
You have to help us, Robin! She can't marry that monster....my poor baby

ROBIN
We must rescue Marian!

MUCH
But, no-one can get into the town, it is locked down and guarded day and night

ROBIN
But there must be a way?

ENCHANTRESS
Think **Goose Fair Day**, and you will see
A way to set your Marian free
Use your "**talents**" to get inside
Or soon she'll be the Sheriff's bride

Enchantress exits
All stand, looking puzzled

ROBIN
We have to think

SCARLETT
The Enchantress said "Think Goose Fair Day"

ALAN
..... "Goose Fair day" and

JOAN
.... and "use your talents"

ROBIN
But what could she mean?

Much suddenly realises ...

MUCH
Of course!

Much pulls out a Goose Fair poster and unrolls it

MUCH
The Goose Fair! Look (*points*) "Nottingham's Got Talent" it's a competition. And it says here (*points as he reads*) "...all competitors will be allowed access to the town on the day of the competition..."which is(*points as he reads*) tomorrow!

ROBIN
Brilliant! Well done, Much!

Robin takes the poster and reads it

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SCARLET

Of course! We enter the Nottingham's Got Talent Competition – then, **as competitors**, we can get into the town

TUCK

Great idea! Does it mention hog roast or candy floss??

MUCH

Then, after the competition, we can rescue the Lady Marian

NANNY

Oh, I knew you boys would come up with a plan!

ROBIN

Wait! Has anyone noticed the one slight flaw in this "plan"?

MUCH

Flaw?

ROBIN

This word here (*points to the word Talent*) what does it say?

All study the word for a moment

ALL

Talent!

ROBIN

Talent! Exactly! Not exactly brimming with it, are we?

NANNY

Ooh, I don't know, I was thinking of entering myself – I have hidden talents

MUCH

Very well hidden!

ALAN

Well, I can do a song...

SCARLET

And I can dance a bit....

HOODIES

So can we!

ROBIN

What can I do?

JOAN

Robin, you're one of the best archers in England – that's a talent!

TUCK

You could put this apple on top of Much's head, then shoot an arrow into it

MUCH

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What????!! Shoot an arrow into my head?!

TUCK

No, shoot an arrow into the apple that will be ON your head!

MUCH

I've got a MUCH better idea!

TUCK

What's that, then?

MUCH

Put the apple on **your** head!

TUCK

No! I ... er...

ROBIN

Don't worry, Much, it'll be fine! Me and you work well together!

MUCH

Me and **my head** work well together and I'd like to keep it that way!

SCARLET

Right! We don't have much time, and we've got a lot of work to do! So, better start practicing!

ALAN

(sings) We'll practice our skills for the talent show
With song and dance, and arrow and bow
Or Marian and Robin will have broken hearts
And we'll all look like proper

Joan stops Alarna and drags her off stage

Scene 12a Nottingham Town, the day of the Goose Fair

(This can be a short tabs scene, if required)

Soothsayer enters, stage left, she shakes her crystal ball then peers into it.

SOOTHSAYER

There's something afoot, I can feel it in the ether something dark and dismal *(peers again into the crystal ball)* or something light and hazy ?

Enchantress enters

ENCHANTRESS

And now the finale of our tale
Where love will succeed and evil will fail

SOOTHSAYER

Have you been talking to the trees again?! I have looked into my crystal ball and it did not predict that evil would fail.

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ENCHANTRESS

A crystal ball I do not need
To predict that goodness will succeed
So, tell me what you saw appear
In that crystal ball you hold so dear

SOOTHSAYER

Er.... it was a little hazy..... “goodness will succeed”? Ha! Don’t make me laugh! Evil is stronger and more powerful! Your namby-pamby Robin doesn’t stand a chance against my nasty Sheriff of Nottingham.

ENCHANTRESS

Amidst some periods of confusion
Our tale will reach a good conclusion

SOOTHSAYER

I can’t see that happening (*looks into crystal ball & shakes head, angrily*) but I can’t actually see anything happening.... aagggh! (*she bashes the ball*)

ENCHANTRESS

Pantomime tradition, tried and true
The good guys win, they always do

SOOTHSAYER

Well, this time it’ll be different! Just you wait and see! Evil will triumph! it has to, or I’m out of a job
Soothsayer exits

ENCHANTRESS

As the Soothsayer rightly says,
Things are rather in a haze
But, time for the Goose Fair to begin
And, fingers-crossed, the good guys win!

Enchantress exits

Scene 12b

(Open to Full Stage, if 12a was a tabs scene)

Scene opens with a short, lively routine.

SONG “Me Oi’ Bamboo” (Group of “Morris Dancers”)

Sheriff enters

SHERIFF

Pray, **what**, is that dreadful noise?!
All this singing and “making merry” – it should be banned! (*looks out to audience*) And, you! Rabble! Why are you still here?! You’re pitiful and pathetic!

PEASANT & AUDIENCE

Oh, no we’re not!

SHERIFF

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Oh, yes you are!

PEASANT & AUDIENCE

Oh, no we're not!

SHERIFF

Oh, yes you are!! And the sooner these time-wasting shenanigans are over, the sooner I can be married to the lovely Lady Marian!

Nickit & Scarper bring on a struggling Marian

SHERIFF

Ah right on cue, my dearest Lady Marian!

MARIAN

Leave me alone! Tell these two idiots to let go of me!

SHERIFF

But, if they let go, then you will run away and I have promised the peasants that you will be at my side during the Goose Fairand I have promised **myself** that you will soon be at my side permanently and I'd hate to disappoint either of us especially me!

Nickit & Scarper bring Marian to the Sheriff. Sheriff holds Marian tightly by the arm.

MARIAN

You will not get away with this! I am the King's cousin! And when King Richard returns, you will regret this!

SHERIFF

But, he's away fighting the Crusades, he may never return sad, I know (*evil smirk to audience*) So, why don't we just enjoy the day?

NICKIT

We could watch "The Golden Arrow Competition"!

SHERIFF

Ah, "The Golden Arrow Competition"! The most talented archers in the land would come to Nottingham, to compete for that golden prize. But, alas, no more!

SCARPER

No? Why not, Your Sheriffness?

SHERIFF

Council cut-backs!to save money, the Goose Fair Committee was merged with the **Allotments** Committee, and they came up with the "Nottingham's Got Talent" competition, to win I can hardly bring myself to say it

With that, amongst a flurry of excitement, The Golden Marrow is carried on stage

ALL

The Golden Marrow!!

Sheriff shakes his head in despair

SHERIFF

The Golden Marrow? To what depths have we plunged? What sort of idiot would compete in the "Nottingham's Got Talent" competition to win a Golden Marrow?

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NICKIT

We've entered! Haven't we Scarper?

SCARPER

Yes! Yes, we have!!

SHERIFF

Just when I think that things can't sink any deeper! If you two are an indication of the level of talent in the competition *(shakes his head)*

NICKIT

Do you want our autographs now? it'll save time later

Sheriff is momentarily speechless with exasperation. Nickit shrugs

SCARPER

Come on, Nickit, we need to get ready

Nickit & Scarper exit, excitedly

SHERIFF

It's going to be a long day but it will make tomorrow seem all the sweeter, my love

MARIAN

I am **not** "your love"

GUARD

Sire, the competitors are ready for you, please take your seat.

Guard shows Sheriff & Marian to their seats, on USR. Guard collects the red "X" sign & oversized hammer or club.

SHERIFF

I'll just test the buzzer

Sheriff hits Guard with the hammer/club, Guard yells and holds up the red "X" sign.

SHERIFF

Right, let's just get on with it! First competitors!

A group of ladies does a medieval-style dance, to "Greensleeves" type of music. After a few seconds, Sheriff hits the buzzer. The ladies walk away, complaining loudly.

SHERIFF

D. U. double L - dull! Next!

Merry Men do "River Dance" - starts OK, but goes very wrong! Sheriff "buzzes".

SHERIFF

Next!

"Cheerleader" dancers do a routine with pom-poms. They each have a letter on their back, to spell out "NOTTINGHAM", but on the first attempt, it spells "MAN TONIGHT" and on the second attempt, it spells "A MINT THONG". Finally, they get it right. Sheriff hits the buzzer.

SHERIFF
Next!

Alan-a-Dale starts a song....

ALAN-A-DALE
I come along on Goose Fair Day
To sing a song, so if I may
I'll sing of brave men, good and true
But he makes me nervous and I need a - **Sheriff hits buzzer!**

SHERIFF
Next!

Nickit & Scarper enter and street-dance to "Singin' in the rain". Nickit spins Scarper by grabbing his ankle and pulling him around. Then fetches a watering can, for the "Rain" finale. Sheriff hits the buzzer!

NB This can be any type of routine – to suit your actors' abilities & to keep it topical & up-to-date.

Nanny enters, she has a feather boa around her neck. Stripper music starts – buzzer is pressed, immediately, before she even starts. She tries again but each time she makes even the slightest movement, the Sheriff hits the buzzer.

NANNY
Well!! You haven't given me time to display my talents

SHERIFF
I'd rather you'd keep your talents to yourself, thank you! Next!

Robin Hood enters, he is disguised with a hood(!). He steps forward, ready for his "spot". Marian sees him, and before she can stop herself, she calls out

MARIAN
Robin!

MERRY MEN
Shhhhhhh!!!!!!

SHERIFF
Robin? Where?

MARIAN
Oh er (*points to sky*) there! Look, a lovely little robin! Oh, it's gone!

*Sheriff looks at Robin, suspiciously.
Much steps to the front*

MUCH
How's it going, kids?

AUDIENCE

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Much better, Much!

MUCH

That's great! But we've got to do this archery thing, now, so wish me luck!
(addresses his on-stage audience) Fellow competitors and friends! Witness a demonstration of outstanding archery skills! And even more outstanding bravery! I will stand upon yonder hillock, an apple atop my head. My partner, the Mystery Archer, will fire an arrow, which will split the apple in two.... and hopefully, miss me completely!

*Much walks to the rear of the auditorium, to get ready.
 Sheriff has worked out that the mystery archer is Robin. He stands / steps forward*

SHERIFF

I have decided, that the winner of the "Nottingham's Got Talent" competition *(evil smirk)* and it may well be you, oh "Mystery Archer", will be rewarded with a special tour of Nottingham Castle *(aside)* dungeons!

Marian then stands

MARIAN

And I have decided, that the winner of the "Nottingham's Got Talent" competition *(love-dovey breathiness)* and it may well be you, oh "Mystery Archer", will be rewarded with my hand in marriage!

SHERIFF

What?! You can't do that! You're going to marry me! You can't make decisions – you're a **girl!**

MARIAN

I am **also** the King's cousin!

SHERIFF

Oh drat! I keep forgetting that! My plan has been thwarted – if I'd known, I'd have entered the competition myself

SOOTHSAYER

It's not too late, sire – here is an entry form, fill it in whilst I consult my crystal ball, to see what talent you posses ... *(peers into ball)* hmmmit's very hazy...

SHERIFF

And we'll need a judge *(he points into the crowd)* You! Peasant! Here!

A 'peasant' steps forward. It is King Richard, disguised, wearing a long hooded cloak

SHERIFF

(to 'peasant') You're the judge *(then quietly, threatening)* And, if you buzz me out, it will be the last thing you ever do!

SOOTHSAYER

(still peering into ball) ... no, still too hazy either this things not working, or you actually don't have any talent...

MARIAN

The only talent he possesses is being cruel and heartless!

SHERIFF

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Cruel and heartless? If that is what you really think, then perhaps I should display that talent now!

Sheriff jumps forward, towards Robin, wielding a sword.

MARIAN
Robin!

Robin turns. He throws off his hood.

SHERIFF
So, it **is** you! Prepare to die!

ROBIN
Wait! We can fight this out like men. I challenge you to a duel! Put down the sword, and take up your bow!

MARIAN
And the winner takes my hand

Sheriff is worried.

SHERIFF
What? A duel? (*worried look turns to a confident, evil smirk - he's going to cheat*) The winner takes your hand? and the rest of you, obviously?

MARIAN
Obviously.

SHERIFF
Then, Robin Hood, I accept your challenge!

Robin and Sheriff stand back to back.

ROBIN
We will walk ten paces, then turn and fire

SHERIFF
Ten paces, then turn and fire (*smirk*) of course

Marian blows a kiss to Robin, raises her hanky aloft, then drops it down to signify the start of the duel.

The steps are counted aloud, as they walk apart. But, on "one", Sheriff calmly stops and turns, smirks at the audience, casually lifts his bow, and is about to shoot Robin in the back

MARIAN
Robin!

Robin turns, Sheriff messes up, his arrow going astray, it flies up to rig and the big spider drops down "dead" with the arrow through it.

Robin has the upper hand, and looks as though he is about to shoot, but instead, he lowers his bow.

Sheriff drops to his knees, grovelling

SHERIFF

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Spare me!

*The 'peasant' judge steps forward and removes his cloak to reveal that he is King Richard
All bow.*

ALL

(whispered, in awe) King Richard! etc.

KING RICHARD

Word has travelled far, about the happenings in my land. I have learned of my brother's betrayal, and his treatment of my people. I have witnessed first-hand the despicable behaviour of those I entrusted to protect my kingdom.

SHERIFF

Your Majesty! Welcome back! I lay prostrate before you in an embarrassing act of over-played grovelling!

KING RICHARD

Your grovelling cuts no sway with me take him away!

As two knights or peasants drag the Sheriff away, he continues to grovel

SHERIFF

..... It was all Prince John's idea

KING RICHARD

Well, you can discuss that with Prince John ... you'll be sharing the same dungeon in the darkest depths of the castle!

ALL

Hooray!!

MARIAN

(curtsies) Your Majesty

KING RICHARD

Ah, Marian, I see my little cousin has grown up into a beautiful young lady!

Marian smiles

KING RICHARD

..... Nanny has obviously cared for you well - she must be rewarded!

NANNY

Oooh! Thank you, Your Majesty

KING RICHARD

I will make you a Dame

NANNY

You ... will **make** ... me a ... Dame? So, for the last two hours ... I have been, **what**, exactly???

MARIAN

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And this is Robin, Robin Hood – we are to be married with your blessing, I hope?

KING RICHARD

Robin Hood? No, this is Lord Robin of Locksley!

Robin steps forward and bows

ROBIN

Your Majesty

KING RICHARD

Yes, Marian, you do have my blessing. And Robin, your lands will be returned to you, along with your title.

Furthermore, to repay the true compassion you have shown here today, I announce an end to all taxes!

ALL

Hooray!!!

KING RICHARD

Lord Robin, could you ensure that all tax money is returned to my people?

ROBIN

Of course!

ALL

Hooray!!!

Robin and Marian smile at each other, then hold hands.

Enchantress enters right, Soothsayer enters left

ENCHANTRESS

I knew we'd win, just didn't know when

You didn't see this coming, then?

SOOTHSAYER

It was all a little hazy

SONG: "Everybody"

Blackout

Song Sheet

Much enters

MUCH

How's it going, kids?!

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much

MUCH

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Well, hasn't it all turned out great? I've got a great job, I just help Robin, giving money to people, and sweets to the children. I've got some spare – would you like some?

*Much throws sweets out to the audience
Nickit and Scarper enter, Much sees them*

MUCH
Hey! How's it going, Nickit and Scarper?!

NICKIT & SCARPER
Much better, Much!!

MUCH
That's good to hear!

NICKIT
Much better ... because we don't have to work for the Sheriff any more
SCARPER
I'm so happy (*he smiles, idiotically*)

MUCH
Well, how about you helping me here? I've just got a few hello's to do then we'll have a bit of a sing-song

SCARPER
I love singing!

MUCH
Great! Our first song is "Happy Birthday" which we're going to sing to the following people.....
(*read names from list*)
isn't it great they they want to spend their birthday here with us?
Right, here we go then!

All sing "Happy Birthday"

MUCH
Fantastic! And now we're going to say hello to a few people

(*read names from list*)

OK, now it's time for the big sing-song - but I think we've got some very loud people in the audience, so I think the band are going to need some helpers!
(*calls*) Enchantress of Sherwood, please bring the names of the helpers and the extra musical instruments!

Enchantress enters and hands the box of instruments to Much

ENCHANTRESS
Hello there! First of all, do any of the birthday children want to come up and help? Put your hand up if you do. Katherine? James? (*or whatever their names are!*)
And here are the other helpers' names that we picked out. If I call out your name, put up your hand, and I'll come down to fetch you.
(*name ... name name name*)

Enchantress fetches children

MUCH

And whilst the Enchantress is fetching our helpers, we'll have a practice with the song we need some song-words

SCARPER
I've got an idea

Scarper fetches Soothsayer from St L

SCARPER
..... now that you're all nice and good like us, can you "magic" the song-words with your crystal ball?

SOOTHSAYER
Yes, of course

Waves hand over ball. Words appear on the screen.

MUCH
Ready, everyone? Off we go, then
Sing song

Enchantress brings helpers onto stage

MUCH
Let's have a little chat with our helpers

SCARPER
We'll go first cos we've got the microphone

Scarper and Nickit chat to their helpers, then Much to his.

MUCH
Well, I think that we should have a bit of a competition now, don't you? My side, over here, against your side, over there. And see who can sing the loudest?

NICKIT
Sounds good to me!

SCARPER
And me!

MUCH
You go first, then

Song "Robin Hood, Robin Hood, riding through the glen"

MUCH
Not bad But we can do MUCH better ... can't we, kids?!

Song "Robin Hood, Robin Hood, riding through the glen"

SCARPER
Have you started singing yet?

MUCH
Very funny! OK Mr Soundman Which side won?

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MR SOUNDMAN
(announces winner)

MUCH
Well, we'll just find a little something to say thank you to our helpers!

Sweets to helpers.

MUCH
I know, shall we sing through the song once more, all together whilst the Enchantress shows our helpers back to their seats?

Song "Robin Hood, Robin Hood, riding through the glen"

Much, Nickit & Scarper exit

Finale

Walkdown & Bows

ENCHANTRESS
And so, the ending of our tale
Has proved that goodness will prevail
The Sheriff should, this lesson heed
That evil never will succeed
It really only goes to show
What Robin and his friends now know
On one true thing we can depend
That love will triumph in the end

SONG: "Crazy Little Thing Called Love"

Additional Notes

Music Content

Your choice of music is important; choose songs that are suited to your company and your audience. In general, it is best that songs are well-known and kept fairly short. Up-tempo songs work well, but you will usually need to include at least one slower ballad, or love song. It is likely that most of your audience will be familiar with chart music, rather than musicals. Whatever you choose, remember that the performance of any copyright music (including those suggestions made in this script) is subject to permission and payment of royalties. The Performing Rights Society licenses most popular songs and also collects royalties.

Filming and Projection

If it is at all possible, you will find that this production works very well with the inclusion of some pre-filmed clips. Ideally, two projectors should be used. The first projector shows the vision inside the Soothsayer's crystal ball, projected onto a large circular screen in front of the stage-left prosc. arch. Each time the Soothsayer "sees" something in her crystal ball, the audience sees it projected onto the screen. The second projector is set up to project onto a full-stage gauze – this is used for Scene 10's "Dream Scene". If it is not possible to use two projectors, then use one, and project everything onto the side-screen. The pre-filmed clips must be well-rehearsed and accurately-costumed if you can do it, it is definitely worth the effort. It will add another dimension to your production along with another comedy aspect, which, if is done well, will be very well-received. The Scene 10 "Dream Scene" can be a very successful "set piece" – but again, it takes sufficient planning and rehearsal to make it work well. It is done in a similar way to that incorporated into some big musicals' "Dream Scenes", eg. "Fiddler on the Roof".

Ultra-Violet Lit Number "The Ugly Bug Ball"

You can use any suitable music for this piece, but acting out the story of "The Ugly Bug Ball" with UV-painted puppets can be a popular "set piece". The various puppets will have to be made and painted – if they can have movement, then that will be even more effective. For example, the caterpillars can be made in sections, loosely joined – their boots/shoes attached so that they swing as they move. Attach strings (black cord) and operate as a "string puppet" (it may take two people to operate each caterpillar). Use your imagination to make the other "bugs" to suit the words of the song. All of the puppets must be as large as your stage will allow. The choreographer or Director will need to set story with the UV-painted side of the puppets always facing front. It has to be well-rehearsed to be effective – and operating in the dark is not easy, so it's better if everyone knows exactly what they are doing! NB When using UV reactive paint, make sure that there are no gaps in the paintwork (or any paint where it shouldn't be!). If you use white paint as an undercoat, you should only have to use one coat of UV reactive paint. Use a sufficient number of UV lighting tubes. Ensure that all other light sources are switched off (including the musicians' lights). And a UV scene must have a black background!

Interval Posters

It adds to the show, if some of the "Peasants" & "Guards" go front-of-house at the interval and hang up pre-printed posters advertising "Nottingham's Got Talent" (see Scene 11 for the details).

Trick Bench

This works very well! The bench has three pairs of legs, the pair in the centre and the pair on the right-hand end are solid wooden legs. The pair on the left-hand end are made of sponge, painted to look exactly the same as the real legs.

If no-one is sitting on the bench, the two pairs of solid legs will hold it upright. If someone is sitting on the right-hand side (over the solid legs) and someone sits on the left-hand side, the bench will not tip but as soon as the right-hand person stands – the bench will tip!