

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 School room
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!

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*Mrs Stoneybroke goes back to rejoin the crowd. They have a laugh at Much's expense.
(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) Ooops, 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.
(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

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.

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.

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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!

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 tooooo 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!

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NICKIT
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.

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NICKIT
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?

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SOOTHSAYER

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

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SHERIFF

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

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 luuurrrve 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

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

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!!!

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