

NODA PANTOMIMES
PRESENT

Robin Hood

The story of a man with more than one
string to his bow.

By
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Welcome to what is our sixth pantomime in the series. Who would have thought we would have come this far? Not us that's for sure.

Here we have the re-imagined tale of the fabled Robin Hood and how he escapes the evil clutches of the Sheriff of Nottingham and ultimately wins the hand of the fair Maid Marion. It is a colourful story of evil doings and heroic derring do with all the usual characters making an appearance plus some others that really should have been there as well.

When putting this panto script together we always think about our own operatic society and so with a more compact stage in mind we've envisaged the stage settings largely as a manageable open set, just bringing in for instance, tables and chairs to distinguish the sheriff's office from the clearing in Sherwood Forest. However, full sets can also be used if desired and although worked for a smaller stage, we feel, with a bigger budget, that these would scale up quite nicely for the larger stages and venues.

Again, we like the words / names we've used and have made suggestions where music and songs should / could appear. But we appreciate that directors and groups like to put their individual stamp on a show and we're happy with that. So, if you want to alter words or put in your own 'in' jokes then feel free.

As we always say, whatever you do make it fun!

Best of luck

Rob and Leo

Others in the series

Cinderella

A Christmas Carol – the panto

Puss in Boots

Snow White

Jack and the Beanstalk

Cast

Narrator (M/F)

Or Lincoln Green. Straight laced narrator that appears frequently to keep the show moving along and is the foil for Alan-a-Dale's jokes.

Alan-a-Dale (M/F)

The jester. the narrator's sidekick and provides the comedy interplay between the two and the audience.

Robin (M/F)

The hero of the piece. Should be played with plenty of swagger. Should also be able to sing and move. Can be either male or principle boy.

Much the Millers son (M/F)

A smallish part suitable for a younger cast member. Should be played with a bit of spark and has some comedic lines.

Will Scarlett (M/F)

Brave and feisty. He is a swordsman and is willing to take on anyone.

Friar Tuck (M)

The 'plump' cleric. A comedic role more suitable as a male.

Little John (M/F)

This has been written as a smaller persons part rather than being very big. Though with a few line amendments can be played by a larger person as well. Comedic.

Flora Bud (F)

Part for a younger female member of the cast perhaps. Runs the 'ruse' scene and interacts with the audience so should be a confident performer.

Maid Marion (F)

The heroine of the piece and Robin's love interest. Should be able to sing, act and move.

Bow (M/F)

Part of the comedy double act and with many scenes with his/ her partner. Should have good timing, be a confident performer and be able to sing and move.

Nurse Nellie (M/F)

The dame role. Can be either male or female, though if female some lines might need to be adjusted. Works with Marion and has a love interest with Little John.

Arrow (M/F)

Part of the comedy double act and with many scenes with his/ her partner. Should have good timing, be a confident performer and be able to sing and move.

Chorus 1 and 2 (M/F)

Occasional comedy interjections so should be able to deliver a line.

Sir Guy of Gisborne (M)

The sheriff's foil and slimy side kick. Should be able to act, sing and move.

Sheriff of Nottingham (M)

The villain of the piece with some comic lines and interactions with the audience. Should be able to sing or at least carry a song and be able to move. Has a sword fight with Robin! Could double as King Richard if required.

Bishop (M)

Only appears in one scene and has some comic lines. Should have good timing and be able to act. Can double with King Richard if required.

King Richard (M)

Only appears towards the very end of the show. Can double with the Bishop / Sheriff if required.

SCENES

General – We have tried to look at this in a more modern way and envisage where possible that changes take place on an open stage, though the more traditional method of drawing tabs to facilitate the changes will work equally as well.

Act 1

Scene 1 – Set full stage with as much greenery as possible to indicate a forest.

Scene 2 – This can either be in front of tabs set with a desk or a desk can just be brought on to indicate the change in place.

Scene 3 – This is a traditional front of tabs scene and can be such but if its full stage as it comes to an end the chorus should come on and be setting the next scene behind them.

Scene 4 - This is the Villager's chorus and market scene so should be full stage. Props and stalls should indicate the change of place.

Scene 5 – Full stage but in the forest.

Scene 6 – As per Scene 2

Scene 7 – Full stage but with props to indicate Robin's camp

Scene 8 – This is full stage and full company. It is the archery contest. We envisage it can be done with real bows and safe arrows fired into a sheet at the side of the stage. Every care should be taken but if groups do not want to fire arrows on stage

then bows can be used and imaginary arrows will probably work just as well so long as everybody on stage 'believes' it.

Act 2

Scene 1 – Full stage in Robin's camp

Scene 2 – Full stage or front of tabs with Robin in 'jail'

Scene 3 – Front of tabs / full stage Sheriff's office as per Act 1 scene 2

Scene 4 – This is full stage wedding scene and should be set so that the audience can hear and see the Bishop as well as the action between Marion / Sheriff and the Bishop. This is also where the sword fight between Robin and the sheriff takes place.

Scene 5 – Full stage, Robin's camp

Scene 6 – Front of tabs for song sheet

Walkdown – Final rhyme and song

The End

Act I

Scene 1

(Lights come up on an open stage dressed as a forest. All the chorus and Robin Hood's men are there. They sing an opening song. It should be a lively number. At the end of the song they exit laughing and full of fun. The Narrator and Alan-a-Dale who can be part of the opening song pick up the story).

Narrator *(Stiff and starchy)*. Hello my good people and welcome to Sherwood Forest.

Alan *(Excitable and, loud)*. Helloooo boys and girls.

(Narrator gives him a dirty look, shakes his head then continue to address the audience).

Narrator That was fun wasn't it, all that dancing and singing? Well, it doesn't get any better. No seriously it doesn't get any better. I suppose I should introduce myself. My name is Lincoln, Lincoln Green.

Alan I know his sister, Theresa, Theresa Green. Don't you get it? *(Emphasises)*. Trees are green.

(Another dirty look from Narrator).

Narrator I am your narrator.

Alan *(Animatedly)*. And I am Alan-a-Dale the roving minstrel. *(Strums his guitar or stringed instrument – the more out of tune the better)*. Here to entertain you *(to audience)* and generally get on his nerves. He sounds very posh doesn't he, but you know where he comes from don't you? *(Insert name of a local town or village)*.

Narrator *(Interrupting)*. Who are you talking to you crispy covered chocolate?

Alan *(To audience)*. I think he's got the wrong kind of minstrel.

Narrator Please ignore him he's being silly. He's as useless as a blancmange doorstep. *(Alan looks sad and gets a big aaahhh, he starts to cry)*. Oh stop that, here take my hankie. *(Alan blows his nose gives it back to narrator. The hanky now sticks to the narrator's hand)*. As I was saying I am the narrator. *(Tries to shake the hankie off his hands as he speaks but it sticks. He has to peel it off and put it back in his pocket)*. The narrator is the most important person in a pantomime for many reasons, let me spend some time listing them. It is the narrator who creates the suspense.

(Alan now responds to Narrator in an over the top way).

Alan *(Sings scarily)*. Suspense.

Narrator It is the narrator who brings the elements of the plot together.

Alan (*Hugs the narrator*) Together.

Narrator And it is the narrator who.....

Alan (*Interrupts, singing the line*)is the most boring person I have ever met.

Narrator Sorry?

Alan (*Points to a member of the audience*) Him there with the (*describes someone in the audience*), he is the most boring person I've ever met. (*An aside to the audience member*) you're not really he is the most boring, actually you're second.

Narrator Now let me set the scene. This is Sherwood Forest, the biggest and darkest forest in the whole of the known world.

Alan Tell them about Richard the Lionheart. (*He strums his guitar in a rock star fashion*).

Narrator If you don't mind. (*Clears his throat*). Ehemmm. Richard the Lionheart, the King of England has left his little brother John to look after things whilst he's away. That's a little like letting your dog look after your sweets. It's not going to end well. The evil Sheriff of Nottingham has taken advantage of this and he's trying to get all the money for himself by making his subjects very miserable. Robin, our hero, is determined to stop him at any costs. Now, it could be argued that Robin is a criminal even though he steals from the rich and gives to the poor, nevertheless, stealing is a crime and one which you must never do.

Alan What a load of rubbish.

Narrator Pardon?

Alan At the back there, I can see a big bag of rubbish. (*To audience while Narrator is distracted*). Ok kids, so he steals, but he only takes back what the crooked Sheriff is forcing the poor people to pay in huge taxes. That of course would never happen today would it?

Narrator Let's get on with this shall we.

(*Robin and his men can be heard off stage*).

Alan Here comes Robin with his band of merry men, we'd better scarper.

(*Narrator walks off and Alan stamps his feet as if walking off behind him but he stays on the stage*).

Alan (*To audience*). Listen kids, would you like to help Robin? (*Audience respond*). Well, someone keeps putting up wanted posters for Robin so, if you see one like this

(holds up a poster) I want you all to shout out 'take it down, take it down' and hopefully someone will come and remove it. Ok let's give it a go. I'll put this poster up and you shout. *(he pins up the poster and the audience should shout)*. That, was, rubbish. Come on put some effort into it. Let's have another go. *(Audience shout again)*. Ok that was much better *(takes poster down)*. See you later and don't forget about the posters.

(Robin enters with Much).

Robin *(Shouts off stage)*. Come on men catch up. Why are they so slow Much?

Much A late night sire. They were celebrating after capturing all that gold from the Sheriff of Nottingham and I think they had one too many *(he coughs)*, sherbert's.

Robin Sherberts Much? I didn't know we'd got some sweeties off the sheriff. How yummy.

Much Not sweeties Robin *(makes a drink sign and then stresses the word)*, Sheerberts!

Robin Ahh I see what you're saying, sweeties, in a big jar. *(Robin looks proud that he's worked it out. Much shakes his head. Then Robin has a bright idea)*. I know Much, let's play a trick on them, I will hide and you tell them I have been captured by the sheriff's men.

Much *(Unenthusiastically)*. Do we have to?

Robin Yes we do! Why are you so miserable, at your age I was full of life.

Much *(To audience looking miserable)*. I don't know what he means, this is my excited face.

Robin Come Much, give me a smile.

Much I am smiling!

Robin *(Not sure)*. Right! Much, I'll hide here

Much If you must.

(Will Scarlett enters with chorus / outlaws, and Flora Bud).

Will I can't believe I was dancing, on the tables, in my Y fronts. What a night. *(Chorus all cheer)*. *(To Friar Tuck who is off stage)*. Still at least I didn't kiss that donkey, hey Friar Tuck.

Friar *(As he enters he has his habit hood up)*. I hope you are not suggesting that I kissed a donkey, I certainly did not. *(He takes down his hood to reveal giant kisses)*

on his face. Chorus all laugh). What are you laughing at! What's wrong? Much, have you seen Robin?

(Flora Bud takes a big cloth and wipes the kisses of Friar Tucks face).

Much *(Unconvincingly and with some over acting)*. Some guards came and captured him. They've taken him away.

(Robin speaks from his hiding place).

Robin Put your hands up you thieving scoundrels, we have caught Robin and you are next.

(Everybody immediately puts their hands up except Will who draws his sword).

Friar It wasn't me, I didn't do anything. *(As he puts his hands up some knives and forks fall out the bottom of his habit).*

Will *(Looking around)*. Come out and face me you cowards. I will show you who is the best swordsman in Sherwood Forest.

(Little John enters with some more of the men).

LJ What are you doing Will?

Will Stay back Little John. This could be dangerous and you are too, erm, too, well you know?

LJ Sorry, I'm not sure what you mean?

Will You know? *(Makes a sign with his hand to indicate Little John is small).*

LJ What does that mean?

Will *(Not wishing to offend)*. Err, your stature, its err.

LJ What?

Will Well, small.

LJ *(Angry)*. Small? Did you say small? Right that's it. *(Little John goes to fight Will Scarlet but he holds him off comedy style with one hand on Little John's head whilst Little John has his arms flailing. The others eventually pick Little John up and put him down away from Will).*

Robin *(He is still hiding)*. Lay down your weapons and surrender.

(Flora Bud has spotted Robin behind the bush and indicates the others should play along but Much hears another noise coming from off stage, possibly the sound of marching or horses hooves being played quietly).

Much What's that?

Flora Bud *(Still playing along she thinks)*. Oh yes what can that noise be? I think it is the sheriff's guards coming to get us.

Much No, really I can hear something, someone is coming.

Flora Bud *(Still playing along)*. Yes, we must lay down our weapons and surrender.

Will *(Will looks round to where the noise is coming from. The sound is getting louder)*. Actually Flora, I can hear something too.

Flora Bud *(She realises it's the sheriffs men coming)*. Quick, it is the sheriff's men. Everyone hide!

(All on stage exit. Enter Bow and Arrow with Maid Marion and Nurse. They are well dressed and both Nurse and Marion have jewellery. Bow and Arrow are carrying some boxes).

Marion Can we rest here a while?

Bow It's not safe here my lady. I hear tales of a man dressed in green tights who is the scourge of this forest.

Nurse A man in green tights doesn't sound very frightening to me. Why would a man in lady's clothing be scary?

(Bow and Arrow look at Nurse knowingly. If Nurse Nellie is played by a woman then an extra line could be added for Nurse 'I've told you before I'm not a man!' and the following two line for Bow and Arrow omitted.)

Arrow I have no idea.

Bow Me neither.

Marion I am tired and this seems like a beautiful place to rest and besides we have two trusty guards to keep us safe don't we? Come on Nurse Nellie let us ladies rest our tired and delicate feet.

(Nurse Nellie sits on a log / stool and takes off her shoes and wiggles her toes. Bow and Arrow put down their baggage).

Nurse Oh yes, my delicate tootsies are feeling better already.

Marion My, what big feet you have.

Nurse Wrong panto love.

Robin *(He is unaware of the change on stage and jumps out from behind the bush to surprise them). Ahaaaaa! Fooled you.*

(Bow and Arrow immediately point their swords / weapons at him. Nurse and Marion cling to each other in fright).

Bow Fooled who exactly?

Robin Err, men? Merry men? *(He looks around)*. Can you hear me men? Will? Friar? Little John?

Bow Is this the scary fella?

Arrow Well, he is wearing green tights.

Bow The sheriff would be very happy with us if we caught him.

Arrow He would probably give us this reward. *(He takes out a wanted poster from his jerkin and they both look at it).*

Bow Let's have a look. *(He keeps his spear / sword on Robin).*

(They hold the poster beside Robin to see if it looks like him. He meanwhile has spotted Marion who is now looking at him).

Arrow I'm sure it's him. Could you pull this sort of expression and turn a little to the side? What do you think?

(Robin pulls the expression and looking at Marion gives her a look and 'smoulders').

Bow I'm not sure, it could be the light, I mean he has a likeness but...

Robin *(Indicating the poster)*. The problem is it is all creased. Now you hold it with both hands so you can pull it tight and if you stand back over there so that you can get a good look.

(Bow and Arrow put down their weapons to complete the tasks. Robin picks them up whilst they are studying the poster).

Robin Ha hahh! Gotcha! *(He looks around and shouts)*. For goodness sake, Merry Men could you be so kind as to come and help me? *(He has an idea)*. I have some cakes.

(Friar Tuck comes charging back onto the stage. Marion and Nurse jump to their feet in surprise and cling to each other but this time Nurse spots Tuck and gives him a look. Bow and Arrow realise that they have been tricked. Little John and Will Scarlett guard them).

Bow That was completely unfair!

Arrow He took advantage of our kindly nature.

Robin Be quiet you two. Tuck, please call the rest of the men. (*Friar Tuck waves the others and chorus on who enter first a bit nervous until they see it all under control*). I think I have got us some more gold.

(*Robin bows to Marion and then takes off the gold chain around Marion's neck and throws it to Little John*).

Marion Get your hands off me you scoundrel. You have no right marching over here with your, your (*she is struggling for words*) manly shoulders, and incredible good looks. It is a travesty.

Robin (*He is full of swagger and charm*). Forgive me my ladies. I only wanted to make your journey home lighter, by removing some of your excess baggage.

Nurse How dare you suggest I have excess baggage! (*With a sweep of her hands down her body*). They're just feminine curves that's all. (*Again she gives Tuck and look, Tuck notices and is taken aback a little*).

Robin Alright empty your pockets, your purses and your personals. (*They begin to empty jewels coins etc. and this is collected by Flora who is putting it all in a sack*). Tuck open that box over there. I shall open this small box labelled 'good things from (*name of a local town*)'. (*Makes a big thing of opening it*). Oh it's empty! My lady (*He looks at her almost as if for the first time*) I am so sorry if we have upset you but please let me and my band of merry men escort you through the forest to safety.

Marion If you must.

Robin We must! (*Speaks generally to those on stage*). Right men!

Chorus 1 And women!

Robin Yes and women.

Chorus 1 That's better (*She nods to the others on stage looking satisfied*).

Robin Right me..(*almost says men again and looks at Chorus 1 who is about to correct him again*) everyone, gather up the booty and get the horses saddled and let's get our charges back to where they belong.

(*Everyone begins to exit except Marion, Robin is the last to go off. Marion is centre stage and sings a song*)

(*As the song ends Robin re-enters*).

Robin (*He holds out his hand for her*). Mi lady, we are waiting.

(*They exit*)

(Bow comes back on with a poster and pins it up. The audience should respond 'take it down, take it down'. Bow exits. As Bow exits and the audience shout Much sneaks on rips the poster down and gives the audience thumbs up and exits).

(Lights to black out)

(End scene)

Scene 2

(The lights come up on the sheriff's office. This can be front of tabs, a small set or even just a table with a large expansive chair for the sheriff to sit in. The sheriff isn't there as Bow and Arrow enter).

Bow Phew! That's lucky, the sheriff's not here.

Arrow How's that lucky?

Bow It means we've got time to get our story straight

Arrow Straight?

Bow Yes! We were out with the Maid Marion and Nurse Nellie with strict instructions to look after them and make sure they got home safely from their shopping trip to ye olde Markus Sparkus and what happened? We got set upon by villains, thugs and thieves.

Arrow Yes, but that's not quite right is it? They actually turned out to be jolly nice in the end. They fed us, let us play with the hoop and stick and gave us a few pennies for our troubles before letting us go.

Bow Right! Do you want to stick with that one and get slung in a dungeon to play catch the whip with some sweaty torturer or do you want to go with my story?

Arrow *(He gets out an arrow from his quiver and sticks it in his hat and taking his sword out puts it under his arm as if he has been run through and staggers a bit).* Agh! Those villains, thugs and thieves got me.

Bow *(Slaps him on the back).* That's my boy!

(Chance for a song here from Bow and Arrow)

(End of song if there is one, Sheriff enters along with Guy of Gisborne. Guy is quite fawning. They are in discussion and don't see Bow and Arrow).

Guy Of course your most excellent Sheriff. I will see to the torching of the village instantly!

Sheriff Good! And bring me those two incompetent guards who were set upon whilst escorting Lady Marion. I want to hear what they have to say. *(He turns from Guy to look at papers on his desk).*

(Bow and Arrow cough. Guy sees them and brings them forward).

Guy *(Fawningly)*. My most glorious Sheriff, they are here.

Sheriff *(Impressed)*. Quick work Gisborne! Now then, you two worthless oafs, what happened and it better be good?

Bow *(Slightly over acting)*. Oh sire, my lord liege, it was terrible. We were set upon by a most terrible band of cutthroats. *(He looks at Arrow to contribute).*

Arrow Oh yes and villains.

Bow And thieves. Look at the poor man sire he was almost run through and speared by an arrow.

Sheriff Pity! If they'd actually got him it would have saved me a job.

(Maid Marion and Nurse enter unlit and unseen).

What do you think I should do with them eh Gisborne? Boil them in oil? *(Guy nods his head and rubs his hands in anticipation)*. Or stretch them out for a day or two on the rack for their incompetence? Perhaps not, we'd have to buy them bigger uniforms.

(Guy seems to relish this thought).

(Maid Marion steps forward to speak with the sheriff).

Marion *(She is very bold and does not hide her dislike of the sheriff)*. My dear Sheriff these two guards were brave and daring and when the outlaws attacked us they risked their very lives to ensure our safety.

Sheriff And what about you Nurse Nellie, is that what you say?

(Nurse Nellie looks at Marion).

Eyes front Nursey!

Nurse *(Nurse Nellie looks forward)*. It's exactly as she said. They roughed up those two and then robbed us leaving us barely with our dignity but I managed to hide that. Unlike yourself, you leave yours lying all over the place.

Sheriff You think you're so clever with your snide remarks.

Nurse *(To Marion)*. It's like he almost knows me. Oh thank you Sheriff I work very hard on them. I spend hours and hours writing them just so I can amaze and mystify you with my witty banter.

Sheriff Witty banter you call it, I call it cheek. Gisborne take her away and those two lumps called guards, make them watch her until I've done with Lady Marion.

(Guy bustles them together to usher them out. Nurse slips round him to speak to the sheriff).

Nurse There's no need your sheriffship. I'm quite happy to wait for her.

Sheriff Are you still here?

Nurse *(She looks around)*. It appears I am.

Sheriff *(Not quite losing his temper)*. Gisborne get her out!

(Guy comes back and takes her by the arm and leads her off protesting. Guy, Bow and Arrow and Nurse Nellie exit leaving Marion with the sheriff).

Sheriff *(He brings a chair round for Marion)*. Lady Marion would you like to sit?

Marion No!

Sheriff Sit! *(Marion sits)*. That's better. Now tell me everything. I know those two buffoons could not possibly put up the fight you suggest. I don't think they know the blunt end from the pointy one! Did you perhaps notice where Robin of the Hood was camped?

Marion No, but I noticed a lot of other things. He was very good looking for one with striking blue eyes and quite manly, for a man.

Sheriff Yes, yes, manly, broad shoulders, blue eyes

Marion That's him. Have you met him?

Sheriff No, but we will meet, very soon. *(Now starts speaking to himself)*. I have a plan forming and that will be his end.

Marion You do know that I can hear you?

Sheriff What?

Marion *(Worried)*. What do you intend to do?

Sheriff *(Simmering anger)*. Never mind what I intend to do, mi lady. When it is done just know it will be final!

(Sheriff storms out leaving Marion looking very worried to either reprise her earlier song or sing another short song about Robin).

(End song). (Blackout).

(End Scene).

Scene 3

(Lights come up front of tabs. Narrator and Alan-a-Dale are on).

Narrator Are you following me?

Alan Of course I am, I'm part of the double act

Narrator Well, just remember it's seventy, thirty.

Alan No it's not, it's *(looks at sundial on his wrist)* half past two.

Narrator You can be so annoying sometimes. *(Alan starts crying and encourages sympathy from the audience). (To audience) Oh stop that he's always crying. (To Alan). Here you go. (Hands Alan a hanky. Alan blows his nose comically and puts the hanky in his pocket).*

Narrator Oy, I will have that back if you don't mind. *(It is a magic hanky and as he hands it back it keeps coming out of Alan's pocket. Narrator gets exasperated).* Oh keep it.

Alan Where are we going anyway?

Narrator To see what Robin and his men are up to. Heaven only knows what they will do with all that gold.

Alan He'll give it to the poor like he always does, which when you think about it is a little odd.

Narrator Odd? Why?

Alan As you know Robin lives with his men in the trees. He has no roof over his head, no running water, no Netflix *(or some such popular software)*. He has nothing, yet he gives all that gold away.

Narrator What would you do with the gold?

Alan First, I'd buy an everlasting bottle of lemonade.

Narrator Typical, and then what?

Alan I'd buy another one.

Narrator You're being daft.

Alan I think I'd buy an X Box as well.

Narrator What on earth is an X Box?

Alan Oh it's brilliant, *(Goes off stage and gets a cardboard box and stands all over it)* There it is, ex box. Then I would give loads to charity because that's what you're supposed to say. And lastly I would buy Maid Marion the biggest diamond ring you've ever seen.

Narrator Alright alright. What do you think I would buy?

Alan Some marbles!

Narrator Marbles, why?

Alan I heard you'd lost yours.

Narrator Very funny! After I had given a large amount to charity, I would buy my wife the finest silk from Sudan, diamonds from Durban and rock from Blackpool *(or some other seaside town)*.

Alan Blackpool? Don't you like your wife then?

Narrator Oh the first two years were OK but I've not spoken to her since. It's rude to interrupt. *(Points to a member of the audience)*. What would you do with all that loot? *(Audience response and general ad lib around discussing riches with the audience)* and what about you etc. etc.

(As they are chatting Friar Tuck and Will Scarlett enter).

Will Look Friar it is Lincoln Green and the minstrel Alan-a-Dale.

Friar Good day to you both. What are doing here?

Alan Just a bit of this and that.

Will That narrows it down then. Are you coming to the camp later to enjoy a spot of feasting?

Alan Oh I do enjoy a spot of feasting. *(To Narrator)*. Can we go?

Narrator I don't see why not. I'm actually in the mood for some food!

Friar *(To Alan)*. Will you be playing us some tuneful songs to delight us?

Alan Oh yes without a doubt.

Friar *(To Will)*. That'll be a change then. Can we not just burn his instrument?

Alan Sorry, what was that?

Friar *(Smiling)*. I said I really must learn an instrument.

Will Come Friar we can't stand around here chatting all day we must be off. Good day to you Lincoln, minstrel.

(Narrator and Alan wave to them as they exit and Narrator shouts after them).

Narrator Good day to you Will, Friar. We'll be along shortly. *(To audience)*. Now here's a quick re-cap. Robin continues to steal from the rich and gives it all to the poor.

Alan Likely story.

Narrator *(Gives Alan a look for interrupting him)*. It seems that Robin and Marion may actually like each other and the sheriff has a dastardly plan for Robin which we don't yet know about.

Alan *(Takes out a script from his pocket)*. I do.

Narrator What?

Alan I'm already up to page forty five. All I am going say is that it involves

(Alan starts whispering into the Narrator's ear, unheard by the audience).

Narrator *(Looks aghast)*. No!

Alan *(Alan continues)*. And then ...

Narrator *(Narrator puts his hand over Alan's mouth)*. Enough I don't want to know anymore! *(Exaggerated)*. What I actually want to do is listen to the poor and simple villagers as they sing through their hardships and dance away their woes.

(End scene). (Lights stay up).

Scene 4

(The curtains open, lights up on the villagers just setting up for the day with their meagre offerings to sell. Opportunity here for a chorus song and dance. Nurse Nellie and Maid Marion can be either on or off depending on numbers in the chorus. If they are off stage they will enter as the chorus finishes. If they are on stage as the music ends they will be surrounded by the children. If there is no opening chorus then as the lights come up Nurse and Maid Marion will enter. Arrow enters and puts up a poster of Robin. Audience should react. Much again sneaks on and takes it down).

Nurse (To Marion). Remind me why we are here again? (Children surround them and grab them begging for money. Nurse speaks without looking at them). Get off me you little beggar. (Realising). Oh sorry, you actually are a little beggar.

(As they speak the following lines the children clamour for their money).

Marion Nurse Nellie show some kindness to the poor children. As you're very well aware we are here to do some shopping at ye olde local village stores.

Nurse Interesting, normally we get ye olde online delivery.

Marion That's true but I thought it would be nice to get out and go to the local shops for a change.

Nurse So, nothing to do with the fact that we might bump into.... (Marion interrupts Nurse as Robin enters).

Marion Robin!

Nurse (Nurse doesn't see Robin plus all his men / women enter). As I was saying, Robin.

Marion No, I mean yes, I mean no, look he is here, quick hide (She hides behind Nurse).

Nurse (She spots him). Why should we hide?

Marion Just do as I say Nurse Nellie. I don't want him to see me, I mean us.

Nurse It's hard to hide with all these kids crowding round us. Get off me and stop your whinging.

Marion Here behind this (Marion drags Nurse into a hiding place which is either off or on stage).

(The Narrator and Alan are already there and they all poke their heads round onto stage to have a conversation. The children are still there begging for money).

Narrator Do you mind? This is our hiding place.

Nurse And who are you?

Narrator I am the narrator, the most important person in the pantomime.

Alan (Looking at the Nurse). Sorry sir we are erm, just leaving, come on you daft..... (Alan is obviously smitten by Marion) Bye bye Maid Marion.

(Narrator and Alan exit).

(The children spot Robin and his men and leave Marion and Nurse and run to them).

Robin *(To a child beggar ruffling his hair).* Hello you little scamp. Now, are you taking good care of your grandfather? I hope so. *(Gives him a bag of money).* Take this and makes sure you buy some food and some logs for the fire.

LJ *(Ruffling a young child's hair who can be taller than him as per Robin).* Here you go sunshine. Take that to your dad and tell him we'll have more as soon as we can persuade the sheriff to part with it.

(All the chorus cheers at this and Robin and his men hand out lots of gold to the villagers).

Much *(One or two members of the chorus are stood with Much. He is being very mean and handing out only one or two coins from a very big bag).* Here you are, one big penny. Now don't spend it all at once.

(Friar Tuck sees this).

Friar Much!

Much *(Gives the whole bag to the chorus member who goes away very happy).* Fine! Have the lot.

(Robin stands on a wooden box and addresses the villagers).

Robin Friends, my men and I will not let you be starved out of house and home by the wicked Sheriff.

(Chorus cheer).

If his evil tax men return then do not worry for what they take off you we will take off them and it will always find its way back into your purses.

(Chorus cheer).

And when the good king returns to our glorious land we will once again be free and happy.

(More cheering from the chorus. During the following dialogue the chorus crowd round Robin and his merry men / women and there is a general good natured mime).

Marion Did you hear that Nurse Nellie?

(Little John comes forward from the crowd looking self-satisfied in his own world. He should be lit by a light).

Nurse *(Sees Little John as if for the first time and is smitten).* Hear what? All I can hear is the sound of violins and voices of angels singing. Who on earth is that glorious specimen of a man?

Robin *(The money is running out so he shouts to Little John).* Little John would you mind bringing the other gold from the horses.

(The light on Little John goes out and he exits to get some more gold).

Nurse *(Stands up or come out of her hiding place and sings in a sing song voice).* Little John, his name is Little John. Nursey and Little John sitting in a tree, K.I.double S, I.N.G.

(Robin hears Nurse singing and approaches to where they are hiding)

Marion Oh Nurse Nellie calm yourself. I now understand. Robin Hood simply steals the sheriff's gold to feed the poor. He is a good and honest man and I think...

(Robin arrives just in time to hear the last word).

Robin Think what Maid Marion?

Marion *(Almost a swoon).* Oh Robin of Sherwood, prince of thieves, it is you.

Robin *(He takes a heroic pose).* Yes it is. And what may I ask brings you and your nurse man err maid to these parts?

(Nurse does a double take).

Marion *(Not very convincing and being quite casual).* Oh just doing a little window shopping, some browsing, looking for a bargain. The usual.

Robin I am afraid that you will not find any of the things a refined lady like yourself is used to here.

Marion I'm glad to see that goodness is not in short supply in Sherwood Forest. *(Marion removes a gold ring from her finger and gives it to Robin).* Take this.

Robin I'm flattered Maid Marion but this is all a bit too soon.

Marion Sorry? Ohh *(she laughs at the misunderstanding).* No please use this to help feed the poor and to keep them out of the clutches of the wicked Sheriff.

Robin Of course.

(Chance for a song here with Robin and Marion. During the chorus Nurse approaches Little John who is still giving out money to the chorus and speaks to him).

Nurse Excuse me my good man, but.....

LJ Sorry madam please join the queue behind these (*he looks up and sees Nurse for the first time*) beautiful, stunning, gorgeous....erm I mean madam how can I be of assistance to you?

(They stay gazing into each other's eyes).

(Robin and Marion pick up the duet and sing to the end).

(End song).

Robin Maid Marion will you allow me to escort you back to the edge of Sherwood?

Marion That would be most kind of you, again.

Nurse (*Sees Marion leaving with Robin and gives Little John a quick peck on the cheek before racing after Marion and Robin*) Hang on, I'm coming too. (*To audience*) You never know what they might get up to?

(Lights fade to Blackout). (End scene).

Scene 5

(The lights come up on a forest scene. This can be front of tabs or separate scene full stage. Maid Marion and Nurse Nellie enter carrying baskets with goodies in. They are on their way back to Nottingham Castle from the village and have taken a short cut through the forest).

Marion Nurse Nellie, can we just stop for a little rest?

Nurse Alright but we mustn't be long. (*She looks round apprehensively*). It's getting dark and who knows what comes out at night when we are fast asleep in our beds.

Marion (*Getting all excited at the thought*). Oh Nurse Nellie never mind that. What about the gallant Robin of Sherwood? Who'd have thought it? He really does steal from the rich and gives to the poor.

Nurse You're right he is very generous (*pause*), with other people's money, some of which is yours.

Marion I know but I don't care. Do you not think he is handsome?

Nurse I suppose he is in a devil may care type of way. Not quite as good looking as that Little John.

Marion I see you are quite taken with him.

Nurse I am Indeed. I'm hoping he might plight his troth.

Marion Is that legal?

Nurse (*Clarifying*). What are you talking about? I mean I hope he asks me to marry him. If you'd not rushed off with Robin I might have had a chance to discuss it with him.

Marion Oh!

Nurse (*She looks round*). Anyway it's getting darker by the minute. If we don't hurry the sheriff will be sending his men out to look for us.

Marion (*Getting scared now*). You're right it is getting darker. Are there still bears in these woods?

Nurse I stood in something earlier (*shakes her foot*) so I think the answer to that is yes.

(*A sound is heard off of a little growl*).

Marion What was that?

Nurse Wasn't it your stomach? I'm certainly getting hungry.

(*Noise off again of a growl*).

Marion Was that your stomach?

Nurse No, I think it's a bear. Do you think we could kill it?

Marion Have you ever been hunting bear?

Nurse No, I always wear my corset!

(*Another growl*).

Nurse / Marion (*Hugging each other and looking round*). Ooooh!

(*A big character bear / large animal enters and creeps up behind Nurse and Marion. The audience should respond with behind you etc.*).

Nurse (*To audience, acting scared*). Wha' what do you mean there is something behind us. Is it a pretty little bunny rabbit?

(*Audience should respond*).

Where is it? Shall we look this way? (*They both turn left and the 'animal stays behind them*). Nothing there. What about this way? (*They both turn right again the animal stays behind them*). What if we look right round then? (*they turn in a big circle again the animal stays right behind them*).

Marion (*Looking at her basket of goodies*). Do you think it's after our baskets?

Nurse Let's put it this way it's not getting anything else. On the count of three let's jump round, surprise it and give it our baskets and run. Got it?

Marion Got it!

Marion / Nurse One, two, three. (*They both jump round at the same time to face the animal. This scares the animal who runs off leaving Nurse and Marion holding their baskets out with outstretched arms. They also get scared and run in the opposite direction straight into Bow and Arrow who also scream and run off. Nurse Nellie realises who it is and shouts them*).

Nurse Come back you daft pair. It's Nurse Nellie and the Maid Marion.

(*Bow and Arrow creep back on*).

Bow Sorry, we just heard the roar of a wild animal and thought it was behind us.

Arrow Yes, a bear behind.

(*They all check their behinds*).

Marion Come my faithful companions we need to get back to the castle or the sheriff will be most displeased and may take his anger out on us.

Bow (*Looking round*). The sooner the better. But have we got time for a song?

(*Chance here for a song for Nurse Nellie, Maid Marion, Bow and Arrow*)

(*End song all exit*).

(*As they exit the bear / animal comes back on and puts up a wanted poster for Robin Hood then sneaks off. The audience should shout, 'take it down, take it down' and Nurse Nellie runs back on, spots it, rips it up and runs off again*).

(*Lights down*).

(*End scene*).

Scene 6

(*Lights come up on the sheriff's office. Again it can be set quite simply front of tabs with a table and chair or with its own back drop. He is sat at his chair brooding over his papers. Sir Guy is sat to one side on a stool, writing. Sheriff looks up and starts speaking to the audience*).

Sheriff Welcome to my humble office (*gets up and gives a slight bow to the audience*). This is where the real action starts. My plan to capture that green clad outlaw is coming together nicely. He has become a thorn in my side thwarting my every move and as everybody knows nobody likes being thwarted. But soon he will stumble into my carefully laid out plan and that will be the end of him. And when he is out of the way I can set to woo.....

Guy (*Sat on a stool scribing*). To whit!

Sheriff (*Looks at Guy*). To woo the Lady Marion. She is obviously smitten by that outlaw with all his stealing from the rich and giving to the poor. I'm as good as anyone at stealing from the rich, except (*emphasises*) I'll just give it to me! (*Audience should react*). Yes, yes boo all you like but when I capture Robin it will be (*rubs his eyes in mock crying*) boo hoo to you. Now, talking of Lady Marion I sent my bumbling guards to find her and bring her home. I wonder where they are? Guards!

(*Bow, Arrow, Maid Marion and Nurse Nellie enter. Bow and Arrow have hold of Maid Marion and Nurse Nellie. They bow*).

Bow We have them sire. We found them wandering in the woods.

Sheriff Did you now? (*To Nurse*). And where have you been? Leading the Lady Marion astray by consorting with the Hooded Man?

Nurse Who?

Sheriff Robin of Locksley.

Nurse Who?

Sheriff Robin of Sherwood.

Nurse Oh you mean Robin Hood. Well, if you must know ye...(*She is interrupted by Maid Marion*)

Marion No! (*Softer*). We were in the village to buy a few things and we lost track of time that's all.

Sheriff (*To Bow*). And how come it took you so long to find them and bring them back?

(*Bow and Arrow start and look to each other for support*).

Bow Well, actually, we went this way....

Arrow Then that.

Bow We went up hill.....

Arrow And down dale.

Bow We went in.....

Arrow And out.

Bow We went round and round....

Sheriff (*Interrupting*). The mulberry bush. Yes I think I've got the idea. Gisborne save me from any more rubbish from these two.

Guy (*Looks up, still fawning*). What? Nurse Nellie and Lady Marion, that's a bit harsh sire.

Sheriff No, (*smiling through gritted teeth*) of course not (*angry again*) these two, tweedle dum and tweedle dumber.

Bow That's (*stressing and speaking just a bit louder*) Officer Bow and Officer Arrow, my liege

Sheriff Are you being funny? Enough of this tomfoolery! Gisborne take them away to the stables. I think we've had a few bears in there and it could do with a clean. When you've put them to work return to discuss our plan. Nurse Nellie you may leave us. I have something I wish to say to Lady Marion. (*He brings a chair for Marion to sit on and indicates she should sit. She does*).

Marion (*Looking a little worried*). Anything you have to say to me you can say in front of my nurse.

Sheriff I don't think so. Gisborne take Nurse Nellie away. (*He indicates she should leave*).

Nurse (*In a stage whisper as she leaves*). Don't worry. If he tries anything I'll be back in a trice to thump him one.

(*Nurse Nellie and Guy exit*).

Sheriff (*Out to audience*). Good! Now we are alone I will attempt to woo the Lady Marion and win her for myself.

Marion Seriously, I can hear every word you're saying.

Sheriff In that case I can hide it no longer. (*He drops on one knee and takes Marion's hand*). We are to be married in two weeks' time.

Marion And that's you wooing me?

Sheriff Yes! I thought I would remove all the messy business of chocolates and flowers and just cut to the chase. Perhaps we could seal it with a kiss? (*He puckers up and shuts his eyes and Marion is about to slap him when Gisborne enters. Marion transfers the slap to patting her hair in place*).

Guy (*Seeing the sheriff puckered*). Are you alright sire? You look like you're sucking a lemon.

Sheriff (*He opens his eyes still with lips puckered and speaks*). No I was just ... (*realises he still has his mouth puckered gets up and starts again*). No, I was just telling Lady Marion a funny story, wasn't I?

Marion Oh yes it was hilarious. It was about this very strange man who wanted to marry a virtuous maid. But of course it didn't work out.

Sheriff (*To Audience*). We shall see.

Marion (*Sing song*). I can still hear you. (*The sheriff looks exasperated*). Should I leave my lord?

Sheriff No, stay there I have not finished with you. The plan Gisborne.

Guy (*Looking at Maid Marion and speaking in a stage whisper*). Are you sure my lord? Perhaps she should leave.

Sheriff (*Still a stage whisper*). No matter Gisborne we can whisper it here. I have created such a plan that when he hears it he just won't be able to resist. But that will be his downfall. It will be an archery contest for the greatest bowman in the shire and we all know that is the traitor Robin Hood!

(Sheriff and Gisborne both look at Marion to check she is not listening. They then huddle back up)

Guy So, your plan sire? How will it unfold?

Sheriff When Hood wins the competition and claims the golden arrow we will spring the trap.

Guy That sounds most excellent. (*He rubs his hands*).

(Maid Marion has been listening in and when she hears this she puts her hand to her mouth to stifle a cry).

Marion Oh!

(Guy and the sheriff exchange a look)

Sheriff What's the matter my dear? Did you hear what we were saying?

Marion Oh no not a word, honest.

Sheriff Good. It would have been a pity to do away with you. Let us go and brief the men.

(As they exit Nurse Nellie sticks her head onto stage).

Nurse Have they gone?

Marion Yes, but I don't know for how long. Have you been listening?

Nurse Heard every word, even the ones meant for the audience.

Marion Then you will know we need to go and warn Robin and his men. He is such a hero he will be unable to resist the temptation of such a competition.

Nurse *(To audience)*. That actually translates to he is such a clot he will be unable to resist showing off. *(To Maid Marion)*. Yes you're right of course. I will go and try and persuade him not to take part. *(To audience)*. That will prove pretty difficult I fear.

Marion Hurry. There isn't a moment to lose. *(Nurse Nellie gives Marion a quick hug and exits. Marion looks out to the audience as if speaking to him)*. Oh Robin my love. Stay safe until we meet again.

(Sheriff and Guy enter).

Sheriff *(Talking as he enters)* ... and what's left of him we'll throw to the dogs. *(They both laugh but Guy's laugh should be comical. Sheriff spots Marion)*. Maid Marion I had completely forgotten about you.

Marion You'd forgotten *(sarcastically)* your love?

Sheriff *(Lighter in tone as he is a little embarrassed with Guy there)*. Yes, yes, you may leave us now. *(Then he takes her arm and speaks in a hushed tone to her but angrier)*. We'll speak later!

Marion Yes, much later. *(She turns on her heel and exits)*.

Sheriff That's it Gisborne all we have to do now is wait.

(Guy can exit here or remain and either a solo or duet can be sung by the sheriff and / or Guy).

(End Song, Blackout).

(End of scene).

Scene 7

(Lights come up on the chorus on stage and can open with a chorus song. It can be quite lively. They are in Robin's camp. As the song ends Robin continues humming and singing a love song to himself as he dances alone across the stage perhaps a waltz).

Friar (*Sees Robin and goes to him*). Are you alright Robin?

Robin Of course, never felt better my good Friar. What could possibly be wrong with me or indeed the world. I am in love with... erm, in love with maid marry me I mean, my merry men. Yes, yes I love my merry men.

Friar Can I ask you a personal question Robin?

Robin Of course you can dearest Tuck.

Friar Is it remotely possible that you've fallen in love?

Robin Of course I'm in love. I love you and I love the rest of our companions like they are my brothers. I love this forest and I love the people of this gentle land.

Friar I was thinking more of, you know, romantic love, squidgy, kissy, holding hands sort of love.

Robin What? (*To audience now looking less in love*) Ugh, no way Jose. Not me. No, definitely not.

Friar (*To audience*). I think I have seen this condition once before, the singing, the dancing, the belief that everything is good in the world. However, I have one fool proof test.

Robin Do your best Friar. You won't find any secrets here.

Friar (*To audience*). A simple game of word association will sort this out. (*To Robin*) I will say a word and you must respond with the first word that comes into your head.

Robin I will indulge you in your little game Friar and prove once and for all that I harbour no feelings for anyone other than my marry men err, merry men.

(Two stools are brought on and they sit facing each other. The lights go down and the music from who wants to be a millionaire is heard. All on stage watch).

Friar Are you ready?

Robin Black suit.

Friar I've not started yet. I'm starting now. Sheriff!

Robin Where? (*He jumps up and looks round*).

Friar No, not here. Sheriff!

Robin Oh! Crook.

Friar Kiss.

Robin If you insist Friar though it is a little irregular. *(Robin goes to kiss Friar Tuck).*

Friar *(Friar Tuck palms his face away).* No.

(Robin is still there).

Robin Yes!

Friar Stop!

Robin Start.

Friar *(Looking round).* Help.

(Robin is getting into this).

Robin Assist.

(Friar grabs Robin by the lapels and sits him back down).

Friar Let's start again.

Robin If you must.

Friar Love.

Robin Maiaiaiaid in China.

Friar Beautiful.

Robin Marrrrrio, err, Mario Lanza.

Friar Wedding.

Robin Maaaaarry Celeste.

Friar Thank you Robin. I think the results are conclusive.

Robin Did I pass?

Friar Ummm yes. It was fine.

Robin *(To the camp).* See told you.

(Lights come back up. Robin is no longer listening and continues to sing to himself as he dances across the forest floor. Will goes over to Friar Tuck).

Will So, is he in love then?

Friar Hook line and sinker I'm afraid. While I'm at it let's get Little John over here. I have a test for him as well. Have you seen how he behaves around that nurse?

Will Is it the same test?

Friar No, I'm going to test his eye sight.

(Much enters looking his usual forlorn self and puts up a poster. People begin to gather around showing an interest. It is clearly a competition poster).

Robin *(Still dancing and singing to himself).* What are you all looking at? Will? Little John? *(He stops dancing and pushing his way through the chorus who have crowded round it pulls the poster down).* An archery competition!

Will *(Looking at the poster over Robin's shoulder. Much and Little John are there too).* Look at the prize Robin.

Robin A golden arrow.

Will And of course the title of best archer in the land.

Robin *(Statement of fact).* It's a trap isn't it.

Will Of course it is and there is no way you could enter. You would be captured and in a dungeon before your deer greased fingers could touch its shiny yellow point.

Robin But I can't allow someone else to be given the title.

LJ We all know you're the best Robin, no need to prove it to anyone else.

Robin *(Suddenly looking very heroic).* You're right! I will put it out of my mind.

LJ Good! Now I have it on sound advice that a cart carrying taxes will be coming through the forest in three days' time.

Robin What about a disguise?

LJ No, I think it will look like a cart.

Robin No! Not them, me.

LJ Sorry! Not sure we would need to disguise ourselves. We just do what we always do, jump out of the trees, take them by surprise then take the goodies.

Robin *(Still thinking about the competition).* A pauper. I could enter the competition dressed as a pauper

LJ I thought you had put the competition out of your mind.

Robin Yes, yes of course, you're right. I will put it right out of my mind. There we are gone, never to be thought of again.

Much (*Reading from the poster*). The winner also gets a kiss from the Maid Marion. (*Makes a big show of looking at a sun dial on his wrist as a watch*). Can I go now please? I have to get ready for a party.

Robin (*Snaps his fingers*). Fancy dress!

Much No just a casual affair, it's for my grandmother's ninetieth birthday.

Robin (*An idea*). Dressed as an old lady.

Much She normally is.

Robin (*Another idea*). A beard and big curly moustache.

Much She's got a few whiskers on her chin, but it's not very polite to point it out Robin.

Robin (*Suddenly realising Much is speaking to him*). What? Yes of course you can go Much. Now, could a man possibly get away with dressing as a woman and it not be completely obvious?

Nurse (*Nurse enters out of breath from running*). It's a trap, it's a trap, it's a trap. (*She collapses on the floor*).

Robin (*Steps over Nurse, looking down at her closely*). Perhaps not.

Nurse (*A last gasp from her position on the floor. She raises her head to look at the audience*). It's (*short pause*) a (*short pause*) trap! (*She is now flat on the floor*).

Robin Thanks Nurse Nellie. (*Almost ignoring her*). Men gather round. (*He waves his arms to bring them closer*). I am going to enter the competition and we're going to use the opportunity to get even more gold from that evil Sheriff.

(*All on stage start trying to convince him not to go and gather round him*).

All You know it's a trap / you'll be hung or worse / think of the children! Etc. Etc.

Nurse It's a (*Rolls onto her back holding her arms out*). I think I need the kiss of life, any chance, anyone.

Robin (*His head comes up from the midst of the gathered group*). Would you mind Little John?

(*Black out*).

(*End Scene*).

(All exit).

(Curtains).

Scene 8

(The curtains open. It is a full stage and well lit. Narrator enters. As the narrator explains what is going to happen the stage is being set for the contest. A banner is hung 'Ye Olde Arrow Shooting Contest' and two thrones / chairs set for Sheriff and Maid Marion.

Narrator This is all very exciting! No, not just because I'm here but because there is going to be a live archery competition. It's always very exciting when we have one of these. The arrows fly all over the place and people get skewered by the odd one. It's very dangerous. The sheriff has asked me to get volunteers to hold the target and fetch the loose arrows. Anyone interested? *(Looks out to the audience).* No I didn't think so. I think I've got a volunteer anyway. *(Narrator calls for Alan-a-Dale but he doesn't readily appear. He shouts him as per the meerkats – see you tube).* Alan, Alan, Alan.

Alan *(He runs on).* Alright alright, I heard you the third time!

Narrator Good, I'm glad you're here. You're a bit of dare devil aren't you, very fast on your feet?

Alan Ooh yes I love all those extreme sports and I'm very quick. I was champion at out running the wolf pack and nobody could get near me at dodge the lance, I wasn't very good though at trying not to drink from the poisoned cup. I'm better when I don't have to think.

Narrator That's good. Well the sheriff's man-at-arms is looking for some help with the archery competition. Do you think you could go and give him a hand?

Alan Oh I do love an archery competition. It'll be great being right there watching it all happen at close quarters. The skill of the archer, bow against bow.

Narrator Yes, you should get the best view of all really. Right you need to be off if you're going to help.

Alan *(He's very excited)* I can't wait. *(As he runs off).* See you later.

Narrator *(To audience).* He'll be fine, *(pause)* I think.

(There is a big fanfare and the sheriff, Maid Marion, Sir Guy of Gisborne, all Robin's men, in disguise, the more ridiculous the better and chorus enter. As they enter there is opportunity for a song / music. As the music finishes the sheriff, Maid Marion, and Sir Guy Gisborne take their seats. As they do this one of the guards puts up a poster of Robin and Much comes on but instead of taking it down makes it look like Robin in disguise by placing a beard on it and shushing the audience. Narrator steps forward. As Narrator takes up the announcement the chorus cheer and clap his words).

Narrator My Lord Sheriff, Lady Marion. Today you are to see the very best archers that Nottingham has to offer. They will stand toe to toe firing arrows at a target placed at the end of my Lord Sheriff's field. After a series of arrows the winner of the Golden Arrow (*all the chorus ooh as the arrow is lifted up and walked round the stage by Bow*) will be the archer who achieves the best score. The arrow will be presented by Lady Marion herself who will give the archer her favour to wear at the next Michaelmas Day festival.

(Half-hearted cheer by the chorus).

Chorus 1 (*Shouts out to all around*). We should be so lucky!

(Chorus cheer that. They get a bit raucous and Sheriff starts looking round almost worried as the chorus look as though they are moving to take the arrow).

Chorus 2 Let's get the arrow and flog it!

(The sheriff nods at Bow and Arrow who draw their swords as if to protect the arrow)

Narrator (*Steps forward with his arms raised*). Please everyone! Let's see how the day unfolds. (*The chorus grumbling return to watch the event*). Let me introduce to you your contestants. First the sheriff's man, Sir Guy of Gisborne. (*The chorus all boo him but the sheriff stands up to look at them and they all cheer*). Next is Nurse Nellie of Netherwich (*she looks round as if to say 'me' and a bow is thrust into her arms. The chorus all laugh. Nurse gives them a look and they cheer again. Narrator looks round for more contestants*). Surely we have more competing for this gift of great price. (*Much steps forward with his arm up only to be pulled back by Will. Guy and Sheriff exchange looks as if to say where is Robin*).

Will Much what are you doing? You know it's a trap don't you.

Much Is it?

(Robin in disguise enters).

Robin (*His voice can also be disguised*). My dear Sir Lincoln if you please (*he bows*).

Narrator Your name good fellow?

Robin Dickie, Dickie Flynn.

(Robin gives Friar Tuck and the rest a little wave. They all start to wave back and Will starts slapping their hands down).

(Maid Marion gasps in an exaggerated fashion).

Marion Oh!

Sheriff (To Guy when he hears Maid Marion). It seems our trap is sprung.

Guy (To Sheriff). Do you wish to arrest him now sire?

Sheriff No, not yet. I wish to be amused. Gisborne, now he's here don't let me down, win the contest. *(He waves him away).*

Guy *(Guy bows).* Sire.

Narrator Contestants to your marks. *(They all move into one line)* The first up will be Nurse Nellie of Netherwich *(Nurse steps forward).*

Nurse *(To Narrator).* I hope you know what you're doing, cause I don't.

(Nurse aims into the wings at the 'target' and shoots. Everybody on stage is looking off).

All Ooooooh!

(Alan enters with an arrow stuck out of his hat to announce the score)

Alan Miss! *(He exits shaking his head).*

(Guy steps forward and shoots).

Alan *(Enters).* Bullseye! *(Exits).*

(Robin steps forward and shoots).

Alan *(Enters).* Bullseye. *(Exits).*

(Nurse shoots another arrow into the wings).

All AAAaah!

(Alan enters with an arrow stuck out of his shoulder).

Alan Miss! *(He exits).*

(Guy steps forward and shoots).

Alan *(Enters).* Bullseye. *(Exits).*

(Robin steps forward and shoots).

Alan *(Enters).* Bullseye. *(Exits).*

Narrator This is your final arrow Nurse Nellie. If you don't score this time you will be eliminated.

(She fires again).

All *(No sound other than an intake of breath. They all look away and shield their eyes. Some remove their hats).*

Alan *(Enters this time with an arrow out of his bottom).* Miss!

All *(They see the arrow and laugh).*

Narrator Nurse Nellie, you are eliminated. Sir Guy of Gisborne and Dickie Flynn are in a deadlock. Sir Guy?

(Guy shoots his arrow).

Alan *(Enters)* Bullseye dead centre!

Narrator How can master Flynn win? Surely the winner must be Sir G....

Robin *(Still in disguise, he interrupts).* One moment my dear Sir Lincoln. I fear you are being a tad previous!

(Robin draws his bow and shoots).

Alan I don't believe it! *(Alan runs off and returns with the target).* He has split Sir Guy's arrow!!

Narrator Then I declare the winner to be Dickie Flynn!!

(All the chorus cheer. Guy looks at the sheriff who is fuming).

Robin *(Taking the plaudits).* Thank you, thank you, you're all wonderful.

Narrator *(Indicates he should go to the sheriff).* This way master Flynn.

(Robin moves to the sheriff and Maid Marion. He bows but can't take his eye off her. She looks worried).

Sheriff I suppose you are after your prize?

Robin Well, I was rather hoping for my kiss first.

Sheriff Kiss? Kiss? I don't give kisses!

Robin No, not you my dear Sheriff I mean Lady Marion.

Sheriff There will be no kisses from her either, it's a scarf and a golden arrow. Take it or leave it.

Robin *(Looking confused he shouts to Much).* Much I thought you said the winner got a kiss.

(Much shrugs his shoulders).

Marion Wait my Lord Sheriff I feel I can oblige. *(She beckons him forward and leans in to him and kisses him on the cheek).*

(All on stage whoop and cat call)

LJ Steady Robin err I mean Dickie. *(Will punches his shoulder).*

(Sheriff waves Bow and Arrow over).

Sheriff Now my dear master Flynn or should I say Robin Hood. You thought to get your hands on the golden arrow. You also thought I wouldn't see through your flimsy disguise. Hood, the trap is sprung and you my fellow are well and truly caught. Guards take him away.

(Bow and Arrow take Robin by the arms and start to lead him off). (Will goes to draw his sword).

Friar Stay your arm young Will we will have time a plenty to rescue him. We have the whole of the second Act!

Bow *(Stage whisper).* Sorry Robin.

Arrow *(Stage whisper).* Yes, we don't really want to do it but if we don't, you know how it is.

Robin Don't worry chaps. I completely understand.

(Robin is escorted off held by the guards as those on stage look on. Marion looks worried and upset).

(As Robin leaves the stage the chorus freeze until blackout).

(Curtain) (End of scene) (End Act 1).

Act 2

Scene 1

(The lights come up on Narrator and Alan. They are in Robin's camp but the lights are only on them at the moment. Narrator and Alan are worried things are not going to plan).

Narrator Did you see what happened?

Alan *(Looking out at the audience)*. I know, I am still in a state of shock. She only bought one ticket and then she goes and wins the best prize. Some people have all the luck.

Narrator Not the interval raffle, to Robin, did you see what happened to Robin?

Alan Of course, it's terrible. *(To audience)* What do you think is going to happen? Do you think he will escape or will the sheriff, you know, do something horrible to him?

Narrator I fear this could be the end for Robin. I heard the sheriff likes to torture his prisoners before he finally disposes of them.

Alan I know, he tortured me once.

Narrator Really, what did he do to you?

Alan I don't know if I want to say. It was so awful, I try not to think about it.

Narrator Oh go on, you might feel better if you talk about it.

Alan Ok. He made me *(struggling, bites his finger as he relives the memory)*.... he made me eat, grilled fish.

Narrator Grilled fish? That doesn't sound too bad,

Alan No, it doesn't. Not until I tell you that he served it with a glass of red wine. *(Now over dramatic)*. Red, I ask you, the depravity of it all.

Narrator *(Exasperated)*. I think we should check on the merry men, I have a feeling they are not going to be in good spirits.

(The lights come up, or curtains open as the merry men enter. This could be a chance for a song. They all sit around looking glum. Will is the first to speak).

Will I did tell him that no good would come of this competition. I feared he would be caught.

Friar No point looking back, we need to think how we get him out of that cell before the sheriff has him hung and drawn.

LJ I've never been sure why it is so terrible being drawn, I would have thought being sketched would be quite relaxing.

Friar It doesn't mean drawn, it means Right has anyone got any bright ideas for how we can rescue Robin?

(General mumbling).

Will Let's think about the problem before us. Robin is being held in a reinforced steel cage.

All Yes.

Will He is being guarded twenty four hours a day.

All Yes.

Will He is inside an impenetrable castle.

All Yes.

Will So.....

All *(Expectantly).* Yes!

Will I think he's a gonna!

Friar We can't give up yet. Where there is will there is a way.

Will But I am a Will and I can't see a way.

LJ We could do a rain dance.

Friar What good would that do?

LJ It might rust the bars on his cage.

Will In about fifty year's maybe!

Friar I have it, we could go to the castle dressed as carol singers, and when the guards open the gates to invite us in, we sing Silent Night so sweetly that they fall fast asleep and then we sneak off to the dungeon and get Robin out.

Will Sweetly? Have you heard this lot sing? *(To audience).* I know you lot have and I also know it is the only thing keeping you awake so far. *(To Friar).* No, it will never work, besides no one can fall asleep with their fingers in their ears.

(They all look deflated).

Much What's the point? It's useless. *(To audience)* I said it's useless *(The audience should respond oh no it's not)* oh yes it is etc.

(Nurse enters and interrupts the exchange).

Nurse What are you lot doing, shouldn't you be planning, you know drawing maps, digging tunnels, coming up with code names, that sort of thing.

Much No point Nurse Nellie. All is lost.

Nurse All is lost? You can't just give up. What would Robin do? He would never leave you. This is not the merry men that I know, the merry men that the whole of England fears.

LJ But my sweet, the impenetrable castle, the guards, the dungeon, the cage. What can we possibly do?

Nurse We can stiffen the sinews. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight them in Sherwood, we shall fight them in the forest and in the castle.

All In the castle.

Nurse We shall fight with confidence and strength.

All Strength.

(Nurse gets handed a little stick which assumes the role of a cigar).

Nurse We shall defend our people, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight them on the beaches, we shall fight them on the landing grounds.

(She gets handed a hat which is very Churchillian and starts to imitate him).

All Landing grounds.

Nurse We shall fight in the fields, we shall fight to the last man is dead.

All *(A bit unsure).* We shall fight in the fields!

Nurse We shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.

All Surrender. *(Look around at each other confused. Much puts up a white flag).*

Nurse *(Emphasises 'never').* Never surrender. *(Much takes the flag down).*

All *(They all nod their heads now).* Never surrender.

(Second World war music plays in the background – perhaps the theme from the Great Escape. Maybe an air raid siren could sound and a spotlight circle the auditorium. A table is brought on and a big map laid out. Nurse has a pointer stick).

Nurse Now, gather round *(she hands out some WWII helmets)*. There are three secret tunnels into the castle, we will call them Tom, Dick and Harry.....

(They all gather round as if looking at the plans).

(Lights fade to blackout).

(All exit, end of scene).

Scene 2

(The lights come up full stage. Robin is in jail being guarded by Bow and Arrow. He is still wearing his disguise from the contest which will consist of a cape with a hood for the ruse which will occur during this scene. Robin appears as though he's asleep. Opportunity here for duet by Bow and Arrow).

(End of song).

Bow That was all a bit easy wasn't it?

Arrow It was. Robin could have won that contest with his eyes shut.

Bow I didn't mean that. I meant the sheriff capturing him. All too easy. If he wants to be a successful outlaw he needs to take more care. Be a bit cleverer.

Arrow You mean like you?

Bow I'm not as daft as I look.

Arrow *(To Audience)*. What do you think boys and girls? *(He encourages them to shout)*. Oh yes you are.

Bow *(To Audience)*. Oh no I'm not etc. etc.

(This sequence carries on until Robin eventually interrupts them).

Robin *(He is stretching his arms)*. Boys, boys, keep it down. A hero can hardly sleep with all this racket. Anyway they'll be here soon so you need to be on your guard.

Bow Who will be here?

Robin My men, *(corrects himself)* oh, and women, to rescue me.

Arrow They'll not get past us. We've been having training in origami.

Robin That sounds deadly.

Arrow It is. *(Now wimpish)*. Those paper cuts really hurt!

(Sounds from off stage. Bow and Arrow are suddenly alert).

Bow Who goes there?

Flora Bud *(She pokes her head on stage and then enters)*. It's only me.

Bow Is that you Flora?

Arrow *(Peering)*. Who's that?

Bow It's Flora Bud. She's from the village where I live. She lives with her father Bud the wiser. *(To Flora)* What are you doing here?

Flora Bud I've brought Robin a little food and some of my friends *(she waves them in. Some of the merry men and chorus enter. There needs to be about eight in total. Half are dressed in white tops)* to entertain you whilst you're looking after him.

(Flora moves to Robin and tries to give him the food wrapped up in a cloth).

Robin Thank you Flora I can always count on you.

Bow Alright Flora, let me see. *(He inspects the food then hands it to Robin)*. Right, step away from the prisoner. I can't have you helping him to escape.

Flora Bud Wouldn't dream of it. *(To Bow and Arrow)*. Now, you're going to love this. *(She takes out a cabbage)*.

Arrow No, hate it already. Cabbage ugh!

Bow Me too. Just the sight of it gives me wind

Arrow *(Sniffs)*. You're right it does.

Flora Bud No sillies you don't have to eat it. We're going to throw it to each other and all you have to do is count how many times my friends in white catch it.

Arrow This sounds fun.

Bow Alright, what's in it for us though? Anyone can count, *(counts up to five on his fingers correctly but gets the numbers wrong)* one, two, five, six, eight, see, easy.

Flora Bud *(Almost sarcastic)*. That was very good Bow. Well, if you get it right you get these sweeties *(she holds up a bag of sweeties. Bow and Arrow now look excited)* *(to audience)* and perhaps if a boy or girl counts correctly the first right answer might win some as well. Is everyone ready? Here we go.

(THE RUSE. All of the group move to the left or right of the jail (which should be positioned for ease of access). The group all weave in and out of each other going round in a circle. Only those in white throw the cabbage to each other. They do this for fifteen throws. During this, Robin has sat down on a stool and put the hood of the cloak over his head. During the throws he swaps with another member of the cast wearing the same type of cloak and exits the stage. The movement and focus of the audience on the throwing group should ensure that this happens relatively unseen for Robin to then magically re appear at the back of the theatre).

Flora Bud Alright boys how many did you get?

Bow Twelve?

Arrow Fourteen?

Flora Bud That's not very good. What about you boys and girls *(Hopefully someone will have the right answer and get the bag of sweets)*. That's right fifteen. Well done. *(Hands out bag of sweets)*.

Bow That's a shame I was looking forward to a cheeky sweet. Never mind, maybe Robin's got some spare tuck. *(Speaks to 'Robin' expectantly)*. How's the food Robin? It did look delicious.

Chorus 1 *(Speaks from under the hood)*. The food's excellent.

Arrow *(A bit suspicious)*. Hang on a minute say that again.

Chorus 1 *(Still has the hood over his head)*. That again!

Arrow Not, that again, what you just said before.

Chorus 1 *(Takes hood down for big reveal)*. Oh, you mean, the food's excellent.

Bow What the? Who are you and what have you done with Robin Hood and it better be witchcraft because that's our only excuse?

Arrow We are going to be for it now.

Robin *(From the back of the theatre)*. Why don't you come and join my band of men?

Flora Bud Annd women.

Robin Yes, and women, sorry keep forgetting *(he joins them on stage)*.

Bow It's a great offer but we need to think about it.

(Possible song here from the chorus and merry 'men' on stage).

(End song).

Robin Thank you *(pause)* everyone. Let's get my stunt double out and away back to the village. *(Chorus 1 is released from jail).*

All Hurrah!

(They all exit except for Bow and Arrow).

Bow That's great, Robin's escaped and we've no prisoner to guard. I think we may be out of a job if the sheriff finds out.

Arrow And what's more to the point we didn't win the sweeties. Perhaps we should take Robin up on his suggestion?

Bow What and be an outlaw?

Arrow Why not?

(Possible song here for Bow and Arrow).

(End song, Blackout).

(Exit).

(End scene).

Scene 3

(Lights come up on the narrator and Alan as they enter. This is either front of tabs or just lit at the front of the stage. Alan strikes up a ditty, perhaps accompanied on his guitar / lute again very out of tune).

Alan *Dear old Robin they tried to bind him
They tried their best now they can't find him
He's all dressed in green and so rarely seen
They wouldn't know if he was behind them.*

Narrator What a load of old rubbish!

Alan No it's not! It's a load of new rubbish. I do love a good ditty.

Narrator Well, keep working on it. Anyway enough of your rubbish let's get back to ours.

Alan Y'mean what's happening in the show?

Narrator Yes! As everyone knows Robin was captured after the shooting contest but by some clever shenanigans ...

Alan Are you allowed to say that?

Narrator What?

Alan Clever!

Narrator Getting back to the story. Robin escaped leaving the poor old guards prisoner-less and is now in his hideout in Sherwood Forest. The guards have gone missing and the sheriff has put a price on their heads.

Alan How much?

Narrator A chicken, an old shoe and a smelly sock!

Alan Phew! That much!

Narrator *(Looks round)*. But wait I know that sound *(puts hand to his / her ear)*.

Alan *(Has a hand to his ear now, looking round)*. What is it?

Narrator It's the sound of some evil goings on in the sheriff's office.

(They exit as curtains open or the lights come up on the sheriff, Guy of Gisborne, and a couple of other henchmen perhaps. They can open with a song here or just go straight into the dialogue. They are gathered round the sheriff's desk and they are plotting).

Guy *(Very oily)*. Well then sire, what are we to do?

Sheriff We Gisborne? We?

Guy Sorry sire, I've just been.

Sheriff Oh no the time for *(stresses)* we has come and gone *(pauses and looks at the audience)* I'm going to take matters into my own hands. If I can't have Robin Hood's head on a pike staff outside my door then I will have his beloved Lady Marion as my bride. Let's see how he likes that for stealing.

Guy Oh very good squire.

Sheriff I know. I can be quite witty for a villain some times. So, Gisborne we need to make some arrangements. I would like a church wedding. Perhaps the cathedral with the Bishop presiding?

Guy Excellent choice sire, perhaps we should go for a colour scheme. *(Takes out a board with some swatches of fabric on)*. I have made a mood board for just such an occasion my liege. I thought it might help with your choices. I was thinking an ivory silk for your bride and for yourself a nice deep burgundy.

Sheriff *(Raises his voice)*. Mood board! The mood I'm in I am thinking more along the lines of a hint of steely armour and just a splash of sword.

(Nurse Nellie appears but remains hidden from Guy and the sheriff).

Guy And what about the Lady Marion is she aware of your plans sire? Should I go and inform her of her impending nuptials?

Sheriff Oh no, that pleasure will be all mine. However, once she is told she must be held under lock and key along with that dreaded nurse of hers. I'm sure they are both in cahoots with Hood and his merry men.

Guy *(Confused)*. Cahoots sire? Is that anywhere near Sherwood Forest?

Sheriff I mean in league, working with and we wouldn't want her spoiling her special day would we?

Guy Of course sire, I understand *(still a bit confused)*.

Sheriff In fact let's go now and give her the glad tidings. Care to join me Gisborne?

Guy The pleasure will be all mine sire. *(As they exit)*. Does cahoots have a spa?

(Nurse enters to centre stage and talks to the audience).

Nurse That didn't sound very good. Lady Marion was afraid he would try something like this. Marrying the sheriff? Ugh. I can't think of anything worse. Well, actually I can, me marrying the sheriff. I think I need to get out of here before Gisborne and the sheriff realise I am not with Lady Marion and come looking for me. If you see them don't tell them where I've gone will you? *(Bow and Arrow enter behind Nurse and the usual behind you gag occurs. The audience should shout out 'behind you' etc.)*. What there's something behind me? It's not the sheriff is it?

(Nurse looks left and then right ad libbing to the audience as Bow and Arrow move with her out of sight then finally looks all the way round and sees Bow and Arrow).

Bow / Arrow Ahhaaaa!

Nurse Ahhaaa to you too *(She starts to run off)*.

Bow No wait. Don't run off. We came back to find you. We want to join Robin and his gang. Can you take us?

Nurse Strange you should say that I was just on my way. You can come but I don't want any funny business.

Arrow It's alright we're incapable of being funny.

Nurse Yes I think you are.

(Chance for a song here or all exit).

(Black out, end scene).

Scene 4

(The wedding scene. As the Chorus enter they line up with their backs to the audience. The Bishop is higher than all the rest and is facing forward to carry out the wedding. Sheriff, Maid Marion, Nurse, Guy are also on stage. Maid Marion is bound and gagged. Bow and Arrow are the 'meeters and greeters').

(The chorus begin to enter along with all of Robin's men. They should be in disguise so they can throw their cloaks off later on to reveal their Lincoln green).

Arrow Groom's guests to the left brides to the right. *(To Bow)*. This is boring. I thought working for Robin Hood would open more opportunities, you know for personal development, training, promotion, but here we are doing the same kind of stuff.

Bow *(Speaking to more chorus and Robin's men but not taking any notice)*. Groom to the left, bride to the right. *(Now to Arrow)* We *(stresses)* are only pretending to work for the sheriff now aren't we?

Arrow Yes of course. Still boring though isn't it? *(More enter)*. Groom to the left, bride to the right.

Bow Watch this. I know how to make it more fun. Bride or groom?

Chorus 1 *(Should be a male)*. Bride!

Bow Could have fooled me. I've seen a monkey with less hair on its face.

(Chorus 1 enters and is affronted).

Arrow That joke never wears thin does it?

Bow You're right it doesn't, you try it.

Arrow I will. *(Will Scarlett enters in disguise)*. Bride or groom?

Will *(Gruff)*. Groom!

Arrow Could have fooled me, err, you've got a face like a monkey.

Will Monkey? *(Grabs Arrow by the scruff of the neck and takes out his knife)*. You will fool with my blade in a minute.

Bow *(He watches as Arrow hangs in Will's clutches)*. Joke just wore thin didn't it?

Arrow Yep!

(Will lets Arrow go and storms in).

(Other guests enter and take their places).

(Perhaps a topical wedding song could be sung here).

Bishop Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today *(to audience)* in the blind spot of God. To celebrate, *(to the sheriff)* are you sure that is the correct word, cel-eb-rate?

Sheriff Quite sure Bishop. Continue.

Bishop To celebrate the marriage of *(looks again questioningly at the sheriff)* are you absolutely sure you want me to do this bit?

Sheriff Quite sure, I want it all done properly, all above board.

Bishop Some people may snigger.

Sheriff I care not. I shall deal with any tittering or giggling myself.

Bishop If you insist. *(Carry's on)*. To celebrate the marriage of *(slight pause)* William De Trumper.

(Chorus laugh as should the audience).

Sheriff *(To the audience)*. It is William De Err! The trump is silent!

Bishop *(To audience)*. And the most deadly.

Sheriff Just get on with it.

Bishop We are gathered here today to celebrate the marriage of The Honourable William De *(to audience)* Trump, *(to Sheriff)* Err, otherwise known as the evil Sheriff of Nottingham to the Lady of May herself. That intelligent, daring and independent woman known of course as Maid Marion.

Sheriff Do get on with it you buffoon.

Bishop Sorry, I digress. *(To chorus / audience)*. Does anyone here know of any reason why these two should not be joined in holy matrimony? *(Chorus raise their hands. Audience should also be encouraged to raise theirs as well)*.

Sheriff *(He sees the raised hands)* Oh very droll *(he waves the hands down)*.

Bishop *(Bishop ignores Sheriff)*. I can't hear you. I said does anyone know of any reason why these two should not be joined in holy matrimony?

(Sheriff pulls the bishop to one side and speaks in a stage whisper).

Sheriff My lord Bishop if you don't get on with it I have a dagger and I'm not afraid to use it!

Bishop All seems to be in order then. Clearly there are no objections to be raised. Do you William De, er, err, take this woman the wonderful and graceful Maid Marion to be your unlawfully wedded wife?

Sheriff *(With menace).* Yes I do.

Bishop And you Maid Marion do you take this man to be your unlawfully wedded husband?

Marion Ummghh! *(She turns and the audience sees that she has her hands tied at the front and has been gagged).*

Bishop Sorry, didn't quite catch that.

Nurse *(Leans in).* She said ummgh!

Bishop Oh!

Marion Ummghh noooggh

Bishop No. Try again. I'll listen really hard this time.

Marion Ummghh noooggh grooo eeyyee rroonnt.

Bishop Yes it is a concern about the poor level of output in the domestic economy, but are you saying that you do take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband or not?

Sheriff *(Leans in towards Marion and imitates her in a high pitched voice).* I do.

Bishop Have you got a cold my dear?

Sheriff She said 'I do', now let's get to the kissy bit.

Bishop I'm sorry Sheriff, but I need to be clear in my own mind that she has consented to this marriage of her own free will.

Sheriff *(Leans in and again imitates Marion's voice).* Yes, I do take this man now get on with it or the sheriff will hurt you a lot.

Bishop *(Looking flustered),* Well err, in the circumstances, I think I can now declare you man and....

(Robin interrupts).

Robin Wait just a minute Bish', I think I heard someone objecting.

Bishop Really?

Sheriff Quickly you fool declare us man and wife.

Bishop But who has objected?

Robin That would be me, *(throws off his disguise)*, Robin Hood. *(To chorus)*. She can't marry this crook, this villain, this *(to Sheriff)*, oh nice suit!

Sheriff *(Suddenly genial)*. Thanks very much I got it hand made in Fleetwood *(or some other local town)*. *(Nasty again)*. Oh just get on with it Bishop.

Robin *(Speaking again to chorus)*. She can't marry this traitor because, well, because I am, err,

Bishop *(Confused)*. I thought he was Err.

Robin Men!

Flora Bud *(Interjects)*. And women!

Robin Show your colours!

(The merry men and women throw off their disguises to reveal their Lincoln green beneath. Nurse Nellie runs to Marion and frees her hands and removes her gag).

Robin Step aside your Bishopness whilst I take care of this criminal once and for all.

Sheriff *(Pulls out his sword and looks at it)*. No spoon, oh well this will have to do. Gisborne, Bow, Arrow, defend your Sheriff

Gisborne Not really fond of the sword fighting thing. Just need to check I haven't left the oven on, you know what it's like when you get ready in a hurry, always forget to do something. *(He is chased off by some of the merry men)*.

Bow Sheriff, myself and Arrow would like to take this opportunity to formally tender our resignations. *(Hands the sheriff a piece of paper)*.

Sheriff There's nothing on it you buffoons.

Arrow Of course there isn't, we can't write. Why don't you write your resignation on it?

Sherriff You really are the comedy double act!

(Throughout the next sequence chorus members react appropriately to the action as it unfolds).

Robin *(To Sheriff).* Prepare to defend yourself. En garde! *(He draws his sword).*

Sheriff Really? Must I? It all seems so animal.

Robin Yes we must.

Sheriff Ow!

Robin What's the matter now?

Sheriff *(Over acting).* Got a bit of twinge in my wrist.

Robin *(Taken in).* Too bad. Let me see I might be able to fix it. *(He drops his guard and makes to go towards the sheriff. The sheriff leaps at him with his sword).*

(A fight scene ensues between Sheriff and Robin. This can be comic or serious, but should be choreographed. To conclude the fight Nurse Nellie hits the sheriff comically over the head. Little John is there, and he congratulates Nurse Nellie with a hug).

Robin Bow, Arrow, take this scoundrel away and lock him in the dungeons of his own castle.

(Bow and Arrow take Sheriff by the arms and the chorus all cheer his exit).

Marion Robin you were so brave. I thought you'd left it too late and I would be forced to marry that hideous man.

Robin I would never have allowed that to happen to you Marion. And now everyone, back to Sherwood Forest to celebrate.

(Chorus cheers and a song is sung).

(End song, lights slowly fade as everyone exits).

Scene 5

(As the lights come up on stage chorus and all the merry men enter perhaps singing the reprise of either the last song or another chorus number as they set up the camp site. As the song ends Little John stands up centre stage).

LJ Three cheers for Robin Hood. Hip hip hooray *(Three times).*
(All on stage give three cheers).

(Robin speaks to the whole stage).

Robin It's good to be back men.

Flora Bud Annnd women!

Robin Yes, and women. I thought it was all going to turn a bit iffy for a moment what with the sheriff and Sir Guy.

Marion I'm glad he's been dealt with. He was a very nasty man.

Will But there is still the problem that you are an outlaw with a price on your head, just like the rest of us. It's not much fun being famous for all the wrong reasons.

(General chorus grumbling).

LJ I must admit just once I'd like to be able to go down to ye olde local Spa and get my bread without somebody shouting out it's Little John and running after me to try and claim the reward or just running after me.

Will Yes, but that is usually Nurse Nellie!

(They all laugh as they do so Nurse enters, they laugh a bit more. She is carrying a package underneath her arm).

Will Great timing Nurse Nellie.

(Nurse Nellie looks a little bemused).

Marion Where have you been?

(All on stage are listening).

Nurse I've just been back at the castle taking care of a couple of things. Firstly, Sir Guy. Once the sheriff was imprisoned Sir Guy tried to do a runner but between me and Bow and Arrow we managed to corner him, tie him up and throw him into the jail next to the sheriff.

(All on stage cheer).

By the way has anyone seen that daft pair? I thought they would have been here.

Marion And what's the second thing? Has it anything to do with the parcel under your arm?

Nurse Funny you should ask. I thought you might be needing it.

Marion What is it? Something soft to sleep on? I am heartily weary of sleeping on leaves. Perhaps a nice pillow for my head? Logs are not terribly soft.

Nurse None of those. *(She opens the package).* It's your wedding dress!

(All on stage cheer and Robin looks a little abashed but Marion looks sad).

Flora Bud What's the matter Lady Marion? You don't look very happy at the prospect of marrying Robin. I know, it's probably his smelly feet.

Will That's very true they do whiff a bit.

Robin How come you've never told me this?

Will Didn't really want to tell the best bow and swordsman in the whole of the county he had smelly feet.

Robin Ah yes see your point.

Marion It's none of those things. It's as Will says you're all still outlaws and I'm still legally a ward of the true king Richard and need his permission to wed so until I have that it will not be possible.

Robin Marion, don't say that. What if the king is dead?

Marion I don't even want to think about it. I would have to go to his beastly brother King John and as you've just seen off his right hand man in Nottingham I don't think he will look on you too kindly.

Robin *(To Friar Tuck).* What say you Friar? Is there any way round this?

Friar I'm afraid not Robin. It's as Lady Marion says. The church will not consider marriage unless she gets permission from her legal custodian.

(Noises off).

Much *(He speaks to whole stage).* Stand ready lads

Flora Bud *(Hands on hips).* Really?

Much *(He shouts).* Invaders. *(He raises his sword and races off).* Chaaaarge!

Robin Much wait! Too late. Will, Little John go after him and make sure he doesn't hurt himself. You know what he's like with pointy things. If there's a problem give the secret call.

Will Secret call? Do we have one?

Robin Yes it's *(gives an unconvincing impression of an owl)* hoot hoot!

LJ Are you sure Robin I thought it was more a t'wit t'woo. *(Again unconvincing).*

Friar Nooo. I'm sure it was whooo whooo, more like a pigeon.

(All on stage pick this up and start giving their own impression of what they think the secret call is, hooting and twittering and saying things like 'no it's like this' or 'I'm sure it's this way' etc. etc. Whilst they are all doing this King Richard and perhaps a couple of men at arms, Much and Bow and Arrow enter unseen but with swords at their backs).

(All on stage suddenly stop doing the bird calls and draw weapons and are in high state of alert. Robin sees them).

Robin *(Slightly sarcastic).* Good job Much!

Richard I'm looking for Robin of Locksley.

Will *(Steps forward).* Who's asking?

Richard Are you the man they call Robin Hood?

Will And if I am.

Richard Then kneel Sir Robin, it is I your king returned from the crusades. *(He throws off his cloak to reveal his crown and crusader garb).*

Robin I can take it from here Will. King Richard! *(He drops to one knee).*

Richard I thought he was Robin Hood?

Robin Sorry my Lord. They are all brave men and would gladly give their lives to save me.

Will Actually, I've been meaning to have a word with you about that.

LJ Me too Robin.

Friar And me.

Richard Right! *(He dubs him with his sword).* Arise Sir Robin of Locksley.

Robin My Lord?

Richard Can't have a common outlaw marrying my ward, can I?

Robin I don't understand. In fact I've been in the whole show and I don't understand.

Marion Oh Robin you're so daft.

LJ He is and no mistake. Robin, you've been pardoned.

Richard Your little friend here is quite correct. You can now take your rightful place as lord and reclaim the Locksley estate.

Marion And at last we can be married.

Robin I'm sorry I can't do it.

Marion *(Double take)*. What?

Friar Robin this is what you've wanted for so long you can't give it up now.

Robin No, I can't do it as long as you, my merry men are all still outlaws.

Richard Well that is easily fixed. Kneel!

Much Neal, Neal? Do we have a Neal in the show?

Friar No he means kneel.

(Friar kneels and they all follow suit).

Richard *(He raises his sword over them and makes a big proclamation)*. By the power vested in me as king over all of England I pardon you of your errors as outlaws and pronounce you all free men.

All And women!

(All on stage cheer as they stand).

Will I can't believe it I'm a free man.

Nurse So am I.

Marion Don't be silly you've always been free.

Nurse No I mean free to marry my Little John. *(She goes up to him and gives him a big squeeze)*.

(All on stage laugh and cheer).

Richard Then I decree a double wedding!

(Another cheer on stage and then song).

(End of song, blackout) (End scene).

Scene 6

(The lights come up on Narrator and Alan-a-Dale. This can be front of tabs or full stage).

Narrator That's it then, Robin is free, the sheriff is in the tower and the king has returned. A perfect ending! This is a story that'll live on forever. They'll call it the tale of Lincoln Green Prince of Narrators.

(Alan is looking the other way in his own world but saying the same thing).

Alan Just think, one day they might perform it for unsuspecting fools, I mean respected customers, who will pay to see the tale of Alan-a-Dale Prince of Minstrels. They'll probably sing songs and dance really badly and tell awful jokes. I bet they'll have women dressed as men and men dressed up as women.

Narrator That *(stressing)* is ridiculous. You know Alan I have enjoyed our time together. I've become very fond of you.

Alan *(Starts crying)*. Really? That is so nice of you to say because I was just thinking the same thing. I've become fond of me as well.

Narrator Here you go *(hands him a hanky)* and yes I will have it back when you've finished.

Alan OK *(wipes his nose)*. Was it red or green?

Narrator Green!

Alan This one can't be yours then *(hanky has changed colour)*. Oh no here it is. *(Hanky changes colour again)*.

Narrator Keep it Alan, you've had the rest you may as well have that one as well.

Alan What are you going to do Lincoln, now it's all over?

Narrator I have some plans, maybe travel around a bit, doing important things and meeting important people, you know I move in very cultured and civilised circles.

Alan You haven't got anything to do have you?

Narrator No!

Alan Why don't we do something together?

Narrator Like what?

Alan We could travel the country, telling the tale of Alan-a-Dale.

Narrator Of Lincoln Green.

Alan and Narrator Of Robin Hood.

Narrator That sounds like a great idea, we could act out the different parts.

Alan Yes and we could do some magic.

Alan and Narrator And sing some songs (*they start singing*).

(*Nurse Nellie enters*).

Nurse Hello there, you look happy, what are you two up to?

Alan Oh nothing, just planning what to do now it's all over.

Nurse I've just been speaking with (*coughs*) the king, and he said that I was the one who saved the nation from that tyrant.

Alan That's funny, he said the same thing to me.

Narrator And me. Can I ask you something Nurse Nellie?

Nurse Of course.

Narrator You know how you are quite stocky and forgive me for saying this but a little bit hairy and also, well, your voice can be quite deep at times and I just wondered if you are.....

Nurse Related to (*insert a name of a masculine character / actor*) I get asked this all the time. The simple answer is yes I am, he's my uncle, but I don't like to name drop.

Alan (*To audience, unconvincingly*). That's that cleared up then isn't it?

Narrator What are you going to do Nurse Nellie, now it's all over?

Nurse All over? What are you talking about? Oh no (*to audience*) this lot don't get out of it that easily. It's not over until the fat lady sings and I am as close to a fat lady as you are going to get tonight.

Alan We were just singing a song, why don't we all sing it together?

(*The trio ad lib into the song sheet. At the end of the song sheet the three exit and the finale commences*)

Scene 7

(*Lights up full for the finale walk down and final song. At the end of the walk down and song the characters all step forward in turn to speak their verse*).

Alan,

**This is it, the end of our show
We've given so much I'm all in.
It's been a blast but it won't be our last**

Cause next year we do Rumpelstiltskin. (boom boom)

(Alan starts to cry)

Alternate verse

*(This is it the end of our show
We've given so much to you here
It's been a blast but it won't be our last
When we see you same time next year)*

Narrator

**Don't cry Alan, here have a hankie
Keep that as well, I've got others
I know it's sad when we part, but you're all in my heart.
We're one merry band of green brothers**

Much

**I feel happy now Robin's got Marion
I'm ecstatic Little John's found his bride
I'm so full of joy, like a giddy young boy
Can't you see that I'm smiling inside.**

Will

**I've always been Robins's right hand
Ever ready to fight for the weak
With my friends all in green we're so rarely seen
We're so good at the game hide and seek**

Guy

**He was a ghastly old sheriff
He thought he was mean and so tough
But he was caught bang to rights by the brave men in tights
Now he's locked up in jail, fair enough.**

Little John

**My sweetheart is all I could hope for
I'm so happy my minds in a spin
I love her charms, and her manly rough arms
(To audience stage whisper) Though she does have a bristly chin.**

Nurse Nellie

**Normally, I'd be rudely offended
If they said that I was a man
I've at last found my love, a real man from above
And if anyone can soothe me, he can**

Robin

I used to be a famous outlaw
Dressed in green and destined to hide
The Kings freed me at last it's all in the past
Now Maid Marion's my lovely new bride

All Hurray!

Maid Marion

He is all a maid could wish for
It was really love at first sight
He is handsome and bold, a hero of old
And now he's my favourite good knight

Flora Bud

It was all fun and games in the castle
We've really had a great time
We stole that is sure, but to give to the poor
I'm not sure that is really a crime

All It is!

Flora Bud Oh!

Bow

We started out as the baddies

Arrow

Then spied for Robin Hood now and then

Bow

We fought side by side

Arrow

To save his new bride

Bow & Arrow

And now we are all merry men!

All And women!

Sheriff of Nottingham (M)

That Hood is a thief and a scoundrel
He thwarted my dastardly plan
He gives to the poor, oh how boring I'm sure
Takes my bride and his mate's with a man

Sheriff (*Looking at Nurse*). Oh come on you mean you honestly hadn't noticed, look at her.

Friar Tuck

**I've offered them spiritual guidance
Now my flock can go forth and bring joy
As we share in the spirit, that Christmas brings with it
As we remember the birth of a boy**

(Concluding song if there is one, final bows).

(End song) (Curtain) (End show).