

NODA Pantomimes Present....

THE SWORD IN THE SCONE

BY

STEVEN J YEO

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NODA PANTOMIMES

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**Noda Pantomimes
15 The Metro Centre
Peterborough
PE2 7UH
Tel: 01733 374790
E-mail-info@noda.org.uk
Website-www.noda.org.uk
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SYNOPSIS

Good king Uther Pendragon has died with no heir. It's up to Merlin, yet again, to find the next king of Camelot. With the help of some dubious knights and some really, bad cooking, Merlin finds the next future king, Arthur, when he pulls the sword of Avalon from an overbaked scone. With the sword in hand Arthur reluctantly sets out to defeat the evil witch Morgana and the Dragon in a riotously funny quest to become the true king of Camelot and rescue the Lady Guinevere held captive by the dragon.

CAST LIST

Principle roles

Merlin	-
Phyllis Glass	-
Morgana	-
Arthur	-
Sir Prise	-
Sir Glance a Lot	-
Sir Tified	-
Sir Vive	-
Lady Guinevere	-

Supporting roles

Dragon	-
Young Boy	-
Director	-
Chorus	-

LIST OF SCENES**ACT 1**

SCENE ONE	-	In front of Camelot castle
SCENE TWO	-	The Dragon's Inn
SCENE THREE	-	Front of tabs
SCENE FOUR	-	The Dragon's Inn Kitchen
SCENE FIVE	-	Front of tabs
SCENE SIX	-	The Dragon's Inn
SCENE SEVEN	-	Front of tabs

ACT 2

SCENE ONE	-	The great forest
SCENE TWO	-	In front of the Dragon's cave
SCENE THREE	-	Front of tabs
SCENE FOUR	-	Inside Camelot Castle

MUSIC/SONGS SUGGESTIONS

Act 1: Scene 1

Help (By the Beatles) Suggestion only

Act 1: Scene 2

Working 9-5 (By Dolly Parton) Suggestion only

Act 1: Scene 3

The Memory Song (By Tom Rush) Suggestion only

Act 1: Scene 5

Trouble (By Lieber and Stoller) Suggestion only

Act 1: Scene 7

Always look on the bright side of life (By Monty Python) Suggestion only.

Act 2: Scene 1

Busy doing nothing, (By Bing Crosby, William Bendix and Cedric Hardwicke)
from A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthurs court

Do you want to know a secret (By the Beatles) Suggestion only Change the words "I'm in
love with you" to "I love Guinevere"

Act 2: Scene 2

I'm not wearing underwear today (By Jeff Marx and Robert Lopez) Suggestion only.

Act 2: Scene 3

None

Act 2: Scene 4

Celebrations (By Kool and the Gang) Suggestion only
The Birdie Song (By the Tweets) Suggestion only

SOUND EFFECTS**Act 1: Scene 1**

Dragons voice (If recorded)
 Big flapping wings
 Clap of thunder

Act 1: Scene 2

None

Act 1: Scene 3

Dragons voice (If recorded)
 Big flapping wings

Act 1: Scene 4

Steam pressure building
 Clap of thunder

Act 1: Scene 5

Dragon roar
 Big flapping wings
 Dragon roar
 Steam pressure building

Act 1: Scene 6

None

Act 1: Scene 7

None

Act 2: scene 1

Flapping wings
 Voice of dragon (If recorded)
 Dragon Roar
 Dragon Roar
 Flapping wings

Act 2: scene 2

Flapping wings
 Louder flapping wings
 Dragon Roar
 Flapping wings
 Dragon roar
 Gulp or swallow sound

Act 2: scene 3

None

Act 2: Scene 4

None

LIGHTING EFFECTS**Act 1: Scene 1**

Candle lighting (If not using real candles)

Act 1: Scene 2

None

Act 1: Scene 3

A shadow cast on stage

Act 1: Scene 4

Dimming

Spotlight on scone

Flash of lights

Act 2: Scene 1

None

Act 2: Scene 2

Spot light on scone

Flash of lights

Act 2: Scene 3

None

Act 2: Scene 4

None

PROPS LIST**Act 1: Scene 1**

Magic wand (Merlin)
Candles (Townspeople)

Act 1: Scene 2

Collapsing table (Set on stage)
Glasses (Set on stage)
Cleaning cloth (Phyllis Glass)
Glass of Cider (Set on stage)
Glass of Ale (Set on stage)
Small scone (Set off stage)
Bag of coins (Merlin)

Act 1: Scene 3

None

Act 1: Scene 4

Kitchen table (Set on stage)
Oven (Set on stage)
Large mixing bowl (Set on stage)
Apron (Phyllis Glass)
Goldfish bowl with water and carrot inside (Set on stage)
A string of sausages with fishing line attached (Set on stage)
Baking tray (Set on stage)
Flour (Set on stage)
Gun (Set on stage)
Three pieces of dough (Set on stage)
Cardboard box with an "X" on it (Arthur)
Flower (Set off stage)
Currants (Set off stage)
Large scone (Set off stage)
Sword (Set off stage)

Act 1: Scene 5

Newspapers
Clip board (Director)
Sword in the scone (Set off stage)
Fake Beard and moustache (Sir prise)

Act 1: Scene 6

Normal table
Glasses

Act 1: Scene 7

Sword in the scone

Act 2: Scene 1

A Camp fire (Set on stage)
Pieces of straw or grass (Phyllis Glass)
Sword (Arthur)
Dragons head and neck (Set off stage)
Smoke from dragon
More smoke
Sword

Act 2: Scene 2

Dragons head (set off stage)
Cardigan
Tree branches (Sir Tified)
Hump (Sir Tified)
Smoke
Wand (Morgana)

Act 2: Scene 3

None

Act 2: Scene 4

Sword
Tray of scones (Phyllis Glass)

ACT 1**SCENE ONE - THE KING IS DEAD**

The curtains open to show in front of Camelot castle. The Chorus dressed as town's folk and the knights are gathered with candles in a vigil to the dying king. Enter MERLIN

MERLIN: Good people of Camelot. The king wanted me to thank you for your concern and your loyalty to him over the years. But it is with great sadness that I tell you all that the king has passed away quietly in his sleep tonight.

A gasp of sadness from the knights and townsfolk

TOWNSPERSON #1: But who will rule over us now?

TOWNSPERSON #2: Yes, the king didn't have a wife or any children.

TOWNSPERSON #3: Oh, what are we going to do? Who will keep us safe from the dragon and the evil witch Morgana?

Song 1 Help! by the Beatles, sung by the chorus
(Suggestion only) See production notes for suggested lyrics.

MERLIN: Good citizens I will look after Camelot, with the help of the knights until a king is found.

TOWNSPERSON #1: Oh, great and powerful wizard, will you choose the king for Camelot?

TOWNSPERSON #2: Yes, we trust your judgement.

TOWNSPERSON #3: We know you will choose the right king for Camelot.

MERLIN: Good people of Camelot it is late. Go to your homes and sleep. I will start looking for the new king tomorrow.

THE TOWNSPEOPLE exit. Suddenly the big booming voice of the DRAGON can be heard off stage and a shadow falls on the stage

DRAGON: Merlin. Give me back the sword of Avalon. I will burn Camelot to a pile of ashes if you don't.

MERLIN: You are never getting it, not while I'm alive. Be off with you. **(Waving His wand into the air)** DRAGO BANISHO!

There is a flash of lights and a clap of thunder

DRAGON: **(Screams in pain)** Ahhh! I'll be back, Merlin. You may be powerful, but you won't keep me away for ever.

MERLIN:

Oh dear. I will have to do something about that dragon soon. I can't have him burning down Camelot. If only I could remember where I put that blasted sword. **(Notices the audience)** Oh hello you lot. Have you come to see Arthur become king? **(Waits for audience reaction)** I said have you come to witness history in the making? **(Audience says yes)** Oh good. Well let me fill you in so far. Our king, a great and just man, Uther Pendragon has died. He defeated the Saxons, the dragon and the evil witch Morgana and has kept Camelot safe for over thirty years. But now he is dead, and he has no heir to take his place, it looks like I am going to have to choose his successor. **(Moves to the very front of the stage and stage whispers)** But if the enemies of Camelot find out we have no king they will try to take Camelot for themselves. Especially, that evil witch Morgana. Which reminds me. Which, witch. Did you see what I did then. Oh, please yourselves. If you do see her boys and girls, you will boo and hiss at her? **(Audience says yes)** Oh brilliant. Let me hear you boo and hiss. Can you do that boys and girls? **(Audience say yes)** OK then after three. One, two, three. **(Audience will boo and hiss)** Well that wasn't loud, enough was it? You'll have to be much louder than that because I'm a little deaf. Ready One, two, three. **(Audience boo and hiss)** That was fantastic. Oh, she is pure evil. Just boo and hiss as loud as you can; let her know we don't like her. Right, well I'm off to think about who I shall make king. See you later boys and girls.

MERLIN exits stage left. Enter MORGANA stage right. The audience boos and hisses

MORGANA:

Oh, shut up you lot. **(Assertive)** Silence or I'll turn you all into dragon food. So, the king is dead is he. Well good riddance to him. Camelot should have been mine in the first place and now king Uther is dead, maybe Camelot will be mine after all. That stupid old wizard Merlin will probably use his feeble magic to make the right choice for king, but maybe I can thwart his plans and get Camelot for myself. Ha, ha, ha, ha. **(Audience will boo and hiss again)** Oh shut up peasants! Now I must go and talk to my magic ball and make some evil potions. I'll see you later dragon food. Ha, ha, ha.

Exit MORGANA stage right. The audience will boo and hiss. Enter MERLIN stage left

MERLIN:

Was she here? **(Audience reaction)** She was. Are you all OK? **(Audience reaction)** Oh thank goodness for that. I told you she was nasty, didn't I? **(Nervously looking around)** Has she gone now? **(Audience reaction)** oh, good. Well if she has gone and you are all safe, that is all that matters. Phew, I think I better go and have a cider to steady my nerves and think about the new king while I'm there. Mrs Glass at the Dragons inn has the best cider and bacon butties in the kingdom. Do you want to see? **(Audience reaction)** Come on then, I'll show you.

MERLIN exits stage left

SCENE TWO - THE DRAGONS INN

Tabs open to reveal the Dragons Inn. There is one table stage right which will collapse at the slightest knock. PHYLLIS GLASS is cleaning glasses behind the bar and the chorus can be customers.

Song 2 "working 9-5" by Dolly Parton, sung by Phyllis Glass. (Suggestion only)

PHYLLIS GLASS: **(Singing and cleaning her glasses until song is finished before noticing the audience)** Oh hello me dears. Welcome to the Dragons inn. I'm the landlady, barmaid, chief cook and bottle washer here. It's my job to fill all the glasses at the bar. My name is Phyllis Glass. Yes, a funny name for a barmaid, isn't it? But most people call me Mrs Glass. I live here with my son Arthur glass. Get it half a glass, Arthur glass because he's small. Oh well please your selves. He's a good boy, been an angel to me since his dad; my husband, **(crosses her chest)** God rest his soul, up and died one day and left me with all this. It was the drink that killed him you know. He fell into a vat of ale, and to this day I have never heard such a beautiful rendition of "I'm forever blowing bubbles". **(Remembering)** Yes, it was good while it lasted, but he did eventually sink. It was my husband that named this place. **(Remembering)** I can always remember him saying to his friends repeatedly, Shh the dragons in. I think that's why he named this place the Dragons inn. But I'm not complaining I could be dead like old king Uther Pendragon up there in the castle. **(Crosses herself)** God bless him. I always had a soft spot for old Uther.

Enter MERLIN stage left

MERLIN: Hello Mrs Glass. How has your day been?

PHYLLIS GLASS: Hello Whizzy. It's been rather quiet today. I heard about the king. A sad day it is for us all. I shall miss his little late-night visits.

MERLIN: Yes, it is. **(Moaning)** Now I must find yet another king for Camelot.

PHYLLIS GLASS: How many times is that now then whizzy?

MERLIN: Uther was the ninth. So now it's going to be lucky number ten I suppose. **(Reminiscing)** Cor, I've seen nine kings since I've been here in Camelot. It only seems like yesterday this whole valley was full of trees.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Dinosaurs running around.

MERLIN: Dinosaurs running around... hey I'm not that old.

PHYLLIS GLASS: **(To the audience)** you know boys and girls Merlin is so old he thought we were bringing him a birthday cake with candles last year. But it wasn't it was just his shed on fire. **(To Merlin)** So how old are you now?

MERLIN: Oh, I don't know any more. I stopped counting when I reached two hundred and seventy something.

PHYLLIS GLASS: **(To the audience)** you know he's so old that every time he orders a three-minute egg, they ask for the money up front. **(To Merlin)** And here's me thinking you didn't look a day over seventy.

MERLIN: I get that a lot these days. A pint of cider, please Mrs Glass. I put it down to my night time tipple. Oh, and my bedtime routine.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Oh, what bed time routine is that then? Maybe I could try it.

MERLIN: It's quite simple. I just squeeze the juice from ten slugs and mix it with the sweat of a horse and the blood of a lizard. Then gargle it for ten minutes before swallowing.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Yuck! Maybe I'll just stick with my face cream **(modelling herself)** it's obviously working.

Enter SIR TIFIED and SIR VIVE stage left

SIR TIFIED: **(Clucks like a chicken then whistles un-melodically)** OK Mrs Glass put Merlin's pint on my tab.

MERLIN: Why thank you young... **(Forgot his name)** young... um.

SIR TIFIED: **(Clucks like a chicken then whistles un-melodically)** how could you forget me? I'm Sir Tified.

MERLIN: Yes, you are. Um, thank you, young man.

MERLIN takes his cider and sits at the collapsing table carefully, so it doesn't collapse yet

PHYLLIS GLASS: What'll it be boys the usual couple of ciders, then staggering about falling over and cleaning my floor with your faces?

SIR VIVE: Yes, please Mrs Glass and two of your finest scones please.

SIR TIFIED: **(Frantically clucks like a chicken then whistle un-melodically)** No you don't want one of those. **(Cups his hand to his mouth realising he said that out loud so he then stage-whispers)** They are as hard as stone.

PHYLLIS GLASS: **(Annoyed)** and why wouldn't he want one of my world-famous scones then?

SIR TIFIED: Oh, um, **(Clucks like a chicken then whistles un-melodically)** um, **(Panics realising she heard him)** Um... **(Clucks like a chicken then whistles un-melodically, then looks around trying to think of an excuse)** because we've got tea waiting for us back at the castle.

SIR TIFIED breathes a big sigh of relief

- PHYLLIS GLASS:** I do hope you weren't making fun of my cooking again chicken little.
- SIR TIFIED:** **(Clucks like a chicken then whistles un-melodically)** oh no I wasn't, honest.
- SIR VIVE:** But I do want one of her scones.
- SIR TIFIED:** **(Clucks like a chicken then whistles un-melodically)** you do?
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** You do? **(Calls out to Merlin)** Ere whizzy I think Sir Vive here is coming down with something. **(Feeling his forehead for a temperature)** He may not make it through the night.
- SIR VIVE:** I'll be fine, I'll survive. I'm Sir Vive. How much are your scones Mrs Glass?
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** Two Cameloons each.
- SIR VIVE:** Cheap at twice the price. Yes, I'll have just one of your excellent scones then please Mrs Glass if Sir Tified doesn't want one.
- SIR TIFIED:** No thank you! **(Clucks like a chicken then whistles un-melodically then feels SIR VIVE'S forehead for a temperature)** Are you sure you are feeling OK?
- SIR VIVE:** **(With a knowing smile)** Yes fine thank you.
- PHYLLIS GLASS walks stage right and yells as loud as she can off stage**
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** Arthur. Bring me a scone, and don't touch the fresh ones, bring one of the old looking ones on the table. **(Walks back to the bar and smiles at SIR VIVE)**
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** **(Says calmly)** do you want some jam and fresh cream with your scone my little dumpling?
- SIR VIVE:** No thanks Mrs Glass, I'll have it to go.
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** **(Goes back to stage right and yells again)** No jam or cream it's for a real man this time, he got all his own teeth this one. **(She goes back to the bar and smiles at SIR VIVE)** He won't be long my little dumpling. **(Flirting)** Can I interest you in something else?
- SIR VIVE:** No Thanks Mrs Glass.
- SIR VIVE takes his ale and sits carefully with MERLIN. Leaving a puzzled SIR TIFIED at the bar**

- MERLIN:** Doorstop?
- SIR VIVE:** Yes doorstep. They want four Cameloons in the market. One of her scones will out-last any wooden stump from the market. **(Stage whispering)** I hear the scones are so hard because she uses the smoke alarm as a food timer.
- MERLIN:** That still doesn't explain the weight of them. I was in her kitchen chatting one night and she tried to get me to take out the rubbish. Can you believe the cheek of it?
- SIR VIVE:** What did you tell her?
- MERLIN:** I said you cooked it, you serve it.
- Enter ARTHUR stage right, struggling with the weight of the small scone and places it carefully on the bar. PHYLLIS GLASS picks up the heavy scone one handed, takes the arm of ARTHUR and leads him to MERLIN and SIR VIVE**
- SIR VIVE:** **(Stage whispers)** Shh, the dragons back.
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** There you go my little dumpling one scone.
- She smacks it down on the table and it collapses as both SIR VIVE and MERLIN grab their drinks at the same time in anticipation**
- SIR VIVE:** Thank you Mrs Glass.
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** Whizzy Have you met my boy Arthur?
- MERLIN:** No, I have not Mrs Glass. **(Holds out a hand)** Hello I'm Merlin the court wizard.
- ARTHUR:** Oh, I know who you are sir. You are a legend in these parts. Very pleased to meet you sir.
- They shake hands and MERLIN goes into a trance like state whilst keeping hold of ARTHUR'S hand**
- ARTHUR:** Are you OK sir? Mr Merlin. **(Shakes MERLIN'S still outstretched hand again)**
- MERLIN:** **(Waking from his trance)** so sorry about that. I've just had a fright.
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** **(Wafting her hands)** I wondered why you were stood like that.
- MERLIN:** No that's not what I meant. I've just had a vision.
- PHYLLIS GLASS:** Just the one? Most people in here usually get double vision.

MERLIN: And it gives me a wonderful idea.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Good God man, you are full of it today.

MERLIN: Mrs Glass, now I've seen your scones, I want one too. Can you make me a scone please? The biggest and heaviest one you have ever made. Here is fifty Cameloons that should cover it.

MERLIN passes her a bag of coins. SIR TIFIED comes to join them and peers from behind PHYLLIS GLASS

SIR TIFIED: (Clucks like a chicken then whistles un-melodically) you what?

PHYLLIS GLASS: Sure, thing whizzy. It'll be ready in the morning as soon as we open.

PHYLLIS GLASS leaves the group and goes back to the bar. SIR TIFIED is very animated in total disbelief as to why MERLIN would want a scone at all. Looking at PHYLLIS GLASS then at MERLIN then back again, repeatedly in disbelief as MERLIN exits stage left

SIR TIFIED: But... why? But...why?

Blackout

Curtains

SCENE THREE - FRONT OF TABS

Enter MERLIN stage left

MERLIN: At last, I have a plan to find the new king. (**Puzzled**) now, if only I could remember, where I put that blasted sword. I had it at the king's birthday last week. The king used it to cut his birthday cake. Then the cook took it to wash it for me. Then I can't remember. Did I get it back? Maybe the cook has it still. Oh, I don't know.

**Song 3 "The Memory Song" by Tom Rush, sung by MERLIN.
(Suggestion only)**

The booming voice of the dragon is heard and a shadow falls on the stage

DRAGON: (**Annoyed**) Merlin. Give me back the sword of Avalon or I will burn Camelot to a pile of ashes. **GIVE ME BACK THE SWORD!**

MERLIN: I will never give you back that sword. It belongs to the king of Camelot. With it he can slay all enemies including mighty dragons like you, so beware my scaly fiend.

DRAGON: I'll give you until the dragon moon is full to return the sword of Avalon to me or feel my wrath Merlin. You have been warned.

A sound effect of flapping wings as the dragon flies away

MERLIN: Oh, dear the dragon moon is in three days. Where did I put that blasted sword?

SCENE FOUR - THE DRAGONS INN KITCHEN

Tabs open to reveal the kitchen of the Dragons inn. There is a large table on which sits a large mixing bowl, a goldfish bowl half filled with water and a carrot in it to signify the fish, a string of sausages, a large baking tin, flour, a gun, and three pieces of dough. 1 piece is tennis ball sized and another is a long sausage shape and a third will become the large scone. PHYLLIS GLASS is standing behind the table rolling out some already prepared dough for the scone and kneading it.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Oh, hello my dears. You caught me preparing some dough for my scones. I can't believe old whizzy wants such a big one. He must be having a party or something. **(Loudly slaps the dough onto the table)** Maybe he'll invite me. Or better yet maybe the party will be here at the Dragons inn. **(She kneads the dough some more. Then stops, goes to the left side of the stage and yells off stage)** ARTHUR! Come down here and help me with Merlin's order! **(To audience)** You know I should consider losing a bit of weight. I tried 100 pull ups this morning. Yes, I've done 100 pull ups today this belt is useless. I would try jogging to lose weight? But no, they are always the ones who find dead bodies.

ARTHUR enters stage left with a cardboard box with a big X on it

ARTHUR: Sorry mum I was playing with my new X box.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Well put it away and help me prepare Merlin's order.

ARTHUR puts his box to one side

ARTHUR: Oh, I love cooking with you mum. What are we making?

PHYLLIS GLASS: I'm making a scone for Merlin.

ARTHUR: Just the one? What can I do to help?

PHYLLIS GLASS: Go and get me a little flour.

ARTHUR exits stage right and comes back with a small flower

ARTHUR: Here you go mother a little flower.

PHYLLIS GLASS: No not a little flower, a little flour. Oh, never mind. What kind of flower is it anyway?

ARTHUR: It's a chrysanthemum.

PHYLLIS GLASS: No, it's not, it's a rose.

ARTHUR: It's a chrysanthemum.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Alright spell chrysanthemum.

ARTHUR: Err... yes, you're right it's a rose.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Stop messing about. Now I need some currants, but I think I've ran out and I forgot to buy some more.

ARTHUR: No, I'm sure we got some. I saw them earlier today.

PHYLLIS GLASS: Oh really, I thought I'd ran out of them. Well go and fetch them for me please, there's a good boy.

ARTHUR exits stage right and returns with some currants in his hand

ARTHUR: Here you go some lovely currants.

He tips them into the mixing bowl. PHYLLIS GLASS sprinkles them onto the table and kneads them into the dough. Sees one left on the table and puts it into her mouth

PHYLLIS GLASS: Oh, I love currants. Where did you find them?

ARTHUR: Oh, I found a hidden pile of them in the back of the rabbit hutch.

PHYLLIS GLASS: **(Spits out the currant)** Oh you, horrible little boy. **(Slaps the dough on the table angrily)**

ARTHUR: **(Pointing at the dough)** Say mum, do you knead the dough?

PHYLLIS GLASS: Of course, I need the dough. Do you think I'm doing all this for fun? I'm skint!

ARTHUR: I don't mean need, the dough. I mean knead the dough. **(Sticks his finger in the dough)**

PHYLLIS GLASS: Don't put your dirty little fingers all over the dough. I don't want germs on my food. Look it's all grubby now. **(She spits on the dough and rubs it with her apron)** This table is none too clean either. **(She wipes the table with the dough then dusts the table legs with it and ends up cleaning the floor with it)** That's better. I can't stand a dirty kitchen. **(She puts the dough back in the mixing bowl)** Now I need some more flour.

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