



# Robin Hood

by Bradford & Webster

Licensed by



*Panto Scripts*

[pantoscripts.org.uk](http://pantoscripts.org.uk)

PantoScripts Sample

This script is published by

NODA LTD  
 15 The Metro Centre  
 Peterborough PE2 7UH  
 Telephone: 01733 374790  
 Email: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)  
[www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

To whom all enquiries regarding purchase of further scripts and current royalty rates should be addressed.

### CONDITIONS

1. A Licence, obtainable only from NODA Ltd, must be acquired for every public or private performance of a NODA script and the appropriate royalty paid : if extra performances are arranged after a Licence has already been issued, it is essential that NODA Ltd be informed immediately and the appropriate royalty paid, whereupon an amended Licence will be issued.
2. The availability of this script does not imply that it is automatically available for private or public performance, and NODA Ltd reserve the right to refuse to issue a Licence to Perform, for whatever reason. Therefore, a Licence should always be obtained before any rehearsals start.
3. All NODA scripts are fully protected by copyright acts. Under no circumstances may they be reproduced by photocopying or any other means, either in whole or in part, without the written permission of the publishers
4. The Licence referred to above only relates to live performances of this script. A separate Licence is required for videotaping or sound recording of a NODA script, which will be issued on receipt of the appropriate fee.
5. NODA works must be played in accordance with the script and no alterations, additions or cuts should be made without the prior consent from NODA Ltd. This restriction does not apply to minor changes in dialogue, strictly local or topical gags and, where permitted in the script, musical and dancing numbers.
6. The name of the author shall be stated on all publicity, programmes etc. The programme credits shall state 'Script provided by NODA Ltd, Peterborough PE2 7UH'

NODA LIMITED is the trading arm of the NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION, a registered charity devoted to the encouragement of amateur theatre.

PantoScripts Sample

# **The Adventures of Robin Hood**

By Toby Bradford & Tina Webster

## **Scenes**

### **ACT 1**

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

### **ACT 2**

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

Song Sheet

Finale

## The Pantomime Adventures of Robin Hood - Cast List

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

# ACT I

## Scene 1 Nottingham Town

### OPENING SONG: "Footloose" (Peasants)

*Much enters carrying a fishing rod.*

MUCH

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

*(indicates to peasants)* Look, even the poor peasants are managing to look happy, but they're not really happy at all – it's that nasty Sheriff of Nottingham – he makes their lives a misery.

He's the meanest person in the town .... probably the world! Give me a boo! Give me another boo!! He's so mean, he's doubled petrol duty and car tax and cars haven't even been invented yet!

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

*Peasants take notice and start to whisper among themselves.*

PEASANTS

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

*One peasant, Mrs Stoneybroke, steps forward*

MRS STONEYBROKE

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

MUCH

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

MRS STONEYBROKE

*(not convinced)* Really?

MUCH

Yes, do you not recognise my mighty long bow?

MRS STONEYBROKE

That's a fishing rod.

MUCH

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

MRS STONEYBROKE

It's blue.

MUCH

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

MRS STONEYBROKE

Robin Hood? Don't make me laugh!

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

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

ENCHANTRESS

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

*Peasants draw back in awe*

PEASANTS

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

*Much is looking sheepish.*

ENCHANTRESS

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

MUCH

I'm sorry.

ENCHANTRESS

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

MUCH

Right ... er .... sorry.

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

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

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

I said HOW'S IT GOING, KIDS?!

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

Oh, that's just brilliant! Ace!

ENCHANTRESS

Thank you, Much. That's much better.

MUCH

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

*Enchantress blushes.*

*(SFX horn)*



ENCHANTRESS

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

*Enchantress exits. Robin enters carrying money bags.*

ROBIN

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

MUCH

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

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

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

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

Ace!

ROBIN

Fantastic!

MUCH

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

ROBIN

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

MUCH

Can I? Really?

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

MRS SKINT

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

MRS PENNILESS

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

MRS SKINT

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

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

ROBIN

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

MUCH

He means he robbed some rich people.

MRS STONEYBROKE

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

ROBIN

What!!!!

MRS STONEYBROKE

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

ROBIN

Over my dead body!

MRS STONEYBROKE

I think he said that as well.

ROBIN

Tell me more.

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

*Marian and Nanny enter.*

MARIAN

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

NANNY

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

*Nanny takes a deep breath, then notices audience.*

NANNY

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

MARIAN

Since when were you 'confidante to the stars'?

NANNY

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

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

MARIAN

Why did he change his mind?

NANNY

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

MARIAN

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

NANNY

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

MARIAN

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

NANNY

Don't pull any punches, dear!

MARIAN

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

NANNY

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

*Nanny comforts Marian.*

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

MUCH

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

ROBIN

Yes ... *(sigh)*

MUCH

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

ROBIN

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

MUCH

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

*Robin turns to walk to centre stage.*

ROBIN

But without love, what's it all for?

MUCH

(*thinking*) Excitement?

*Robin turns to face Much*

MUCH

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

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

MARIAN

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

NANNY

Pretty dresses?

*Marian turns, disappointed, to face Nanny.*

NANNY

Fabulous parties! ..... Quilt-making sessions?

MUCH

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

NANNY

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

*Robin, Much, Marian and Nanny exit.*

*Enchantress enters.*

ENCHANTRESS

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

*Nickit enters, followed by Scarper.*

SCARPER

Nickit! Hold up! What's your hurry?

NICKIT

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

SCARPER

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

NICKIT

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

SCARPER

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

NICKIT

No!

SCARPER

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

NICKIT

No!

SCARPER

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

NICKIT

Exactly!

SCARPER

Yesss!

NICKIT

Well, come on then!

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

ENCHANTRESS

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

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

NICKIT

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

SCARPER

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

NICKIT

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

SCARPER

Oh, yes, I do!

NICKIT

Oh, no, you don't!

SCARPER

Oh, yes, I do!

NICKIT

Oh, no, you don't!

*(audience may join in with this)*

SCARPER  
Nickit?

NICKIT  
What?

SCARPER  
What's a promotion?

*Nickit hits Scarper.  
Robin enters.*

ROBIN  
Did somebody call?

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

ROBIN  
Good afternoon, gentlemen

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

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

NICKIT & SCARPER  
Where?

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

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

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

SCARPER  
A very nice chap. Nice hat, too.

NICKIT  
Very nice.

SCARPER  
And he held those big heavy money bags for us ....

NICKIT  
Yes. What a lovely chap ...

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

*Blackout*

**Scene 2      Nottingham Castle**

*Sheriff enters*

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

*Sheriff notices the audience and stops singing.*

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

*Audience reaction.*

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

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

SHERIFF  
Oh, the Lady Marian...

*Sheriff checks his breath.*

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

*Soothsayer appears behind him.*

SOOTHSAYER  
You called, my lord?

*Sheriff jumps*

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

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

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

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

SHERIFF  
Er ... yes.

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

SOOTHSAYER  
Yes, yes, I see, I see.

SHERIFF  
What do you see? What do you see?

SOOTHSAYER  
Shush!

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

*Crone resumes stroking the ball. She sings to herself.*

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

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

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

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

SOOTHSAYER  
He is tall ..... and handsome....

SHERIFF  
It IS me!

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

SHERIFF  
What!?!?

SOOTHSAYER  
I sense wit and charm .... and generosity of spirit

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

SOOTHSAYER  
Generosity of spirit?

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

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



SHERIFF  
Enough! Begone, evil Soothsayer!

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

*Soothsayer exits*

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

*Marian enters with Nanny.*

SHERIFF  
Oh, er, Marian ...

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

SHERIFF  
Me? Oh, er ....

*Sheriff regains his composure and sleazes up to Marian.*

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

NANNY  
Oh, purlease!

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

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

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

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

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

*The "dance" continues*

SHERIFF  
We could spend the day together ..... get to know each other

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

SHERIFF

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

NANNY

Ooh, Sheriff, I do hope so!

SHERIFF

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

NANNY

Well, I ...

MARIAN

Nanny is my only true friend.

SHERIFF

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

NANNY

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

SHERIFF

I find that difficult to believe!

MARIAN

I beg your pardon, Sheriff.

SHERIFF

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

*Marian and Nanny exchange concerned glances. Marian nods.*

NANNY

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

*Nanny exits.*

*The dance continues.*

SHERIFF

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

MARIAN

A chat?... about what?

SHERIFF

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

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

MARIAN

Wedding plans!!!????

SHERIFF  
Oh, Marian, I ...

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

SHERIFF  
Then, perhaps, tomorrow ...

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

*Marian exits.*

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

*Nickit and Scarper enter.*

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

NICKIT  
Afternoon, your Sheriffness.

SCARPER  
Hello, your Sheriffosity.

SHERIFF  
Well?

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

NICKIT  
Scarper!

SCARPER  
What?

NICKIT  
That's so rude!

SCARPER  
What is?

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

SCARPER  
Cover your mouth and say I beg your pardon?

NICKIT

Exactly!

SCARPER

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

*Nickit clouts Scarper*

SCARPER

What was that for?

SHERIFF

Will you both just shut up!!!

*Nickit and Scarper stop messing about.*

SHERIFF

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

NICKIT

Oh, yeah, we took everything they had!

SCARPER

Every last penny.

NICKIT

Bags of the stuff.

SHERIFF

Excellent!

*Sheriff looks at them.*

SHERIFF

So, where is it, then?

NICKIT

Where's what?

SHERIFF

The money! Show me the money!!!

NICKIT

Oh, right.

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

NICKIT

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

SCARPER

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

SHERIFF

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

SCARPER

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

NICKIT

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

SCARPER

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

SHERIFF

Ahhhh! Get out of my sight!!!!

*Nickit and Scarper exit.*

SHERIFF

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

*Blackout*

### **Scene 3      The Schoolroom**

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

MUCH

How's it going, kids?

AUDIENCE

Much better, Much!

MUCH

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

*Much exits.*

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

NANNY

Move along now boys and girls, into class.

*Nanny ushers children to their seats.*

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

NANNY

Settle down, now! Good morning, class!

CLASS

Good morning Miss!

MARIAN

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

NANNY

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

Nickit & Scarper *enter*..

NANNY

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

NICKIT

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

*Nanny reads note*

NANNY

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

NICKIT

I'm Nickit

SCARPER

And he's Nickit

NICKIT

And he's Scarper

SCARPER

And he's Nickit!

NANNY

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

MARIAN

(*sulkily*) And me!

NANNY

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

NICKIT

Why? What happened?

NANNY

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

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

NANNY

Scarper! What are you doing?

SCARPER  
You said take a seat

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

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

**Song "Three Little Maids from School"** (*short and sweet*)  
After song, Nickit & Scarper sit one each side of Marian, Scarper on the side that drops down  
(*Nickit must sit first!*)

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

NICKIT  
No, but the Sheriff thinks we're stupid

MARIAN  
Why?

SCARPER  
It's that Robin Hood's fault!

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCARPER  
Ouch!

*Everyone laughs*

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

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

NICKIT

It doesn't usually take him that long!

NANNY

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

SCARPER

I ain't got a pencil

NANNY

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

SCARPER

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

NANNY

I was correcting your English

SCARPER

Yes, you're correct, I am English

NANNY

Your English grammar!

SCARPER

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

NANNY

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

NICKIT

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

NANNY

Four plus four, anyone?

*Children put hands up to answer*

NANNY

Mary?

MARY

Eight, Miss

NANNY

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

SCARPER

I know this one!

NANNY

Do you?



NICKIT  
(*amazed*) Do you?

SCARPER  
Yes! It's three!

NANNY  
Three?

SCARPER  
Yes, three  
NANNY  
Incorrect!

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

*Everyone laughs*

NANNY  
Very funny! Now please sit down again

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

SCARPER  
Ouch! My bum! Again!!

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

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

NICKIT  
Very big hands, Miss!

*There is a knock at the door*

NANNY  
Answer the door, please, Scarper

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

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

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

*Nanny chases Scarper around the classroom. A comedy chase ensues, until she is out of breath  
During this, Marian and Nickit turn the bench around, so that the "trick side" is now on the opposite side of the stage*

Whatever you choose, remember that the performance of any copyright music (including those suggestions made in this script) is subject to permission and payment of royalties. The Performing Rights Society licenses most popular songs and also collects royalties.

### **Filming and Projection**

If it is at all possible, you will find that this production works very well with the inclusion of some pre-filmed clips. Ideally, two projectors should be used.

The first projector shows the vision inside the Soothsayer's crystal ball, projected onto a large circular screen in front of the stage-left prosc. arch. Each time the Soothsayer "sees" something in her crystal ball, the audience sees it projected onto the screen.

The second projector is set up to project onto a full-stage gauze – this is used for Scene 10's "Dream Scene". If it is not possible to use two projectors, then use one, and project everything onto the side-screen.

The pre-filmed clips must be well-rehearsed and accurately-costumed .... if you can do it, it is definitely worth the effort. It will add another dimension to your production .... along with another comedy aspect, which, if is done well, will be very well-received.

The Scene 10 "Dream Scene" can be a very successful "set piece" – but again, it takes sufficient planning and rehearsal to make it work well. It is done in a similar way to that incorporated into some big musicals' "Dream Scenes", eg. "Fiddler on the Roof".

### **Ultra-Violet Lit Number "The Ugly Bug Ball"**

You can use any suitable music for this piece, but acting out the story of "The Ugly Bug Ball" with UV-painted puppets can be a popular "set piece".

The various puppets will have to be made and painted – if they can have movement, then that will be even more effective. For example, the caterpillars can be made in sections, loosely joined – their boots/shoes attached so that they swing as they move. Attach strings (black cord) and operate as a "string puppet" (it may take two people to operate each caterpillar). Use your imagination to make the other "bugs" .... to suit the words of the song. All of the puppets must be as large as your stage will allow.

The choreographer or Director will need to set story with the UV-painted side of the puppets always facing front. It has to be well-rehearsed to be effective – and operating in the dark is not easy, so it's better if everyone knows exactly what they are doing!

NB When using UV reactive paint, make sure that there are no gaps in the paintwork (or any paint where it shouldn't be!). If you use white paint as an undercoat, you should only have to use one coat of UV reactive paint. Use a sufficient number of UV lighting tubes. Ensure that all other light sources are switched off (including the musicians' lights). And a UV scene must have a black background!

### **Interval Posters**

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

### **Trick Bench**

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

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