



Robin Hood & Babes in the Woods

by Peter Denyer

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NODA Presents

**ROBIN HOOD
AND THE
BABES IN THE
WOOD**

by
Peter Denyer

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PantoScripts Sample

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A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

"Robin Hood and The Babes in the Wood" follows the usual tradition of using the character of Robin Hood as the hero who rescues Janet and John, the Babes, from the evil clutches of The Sheriff of Nottingham. The romantic interest is provided by Maid Marian, who in this version is The Sheriff's ward, and becomes the link between the life in Nottingham castle and the Merry Men's lair in the Greenwood. It is a dramatic tale and the device of asking the Audience to become members of Robin's gang ensures plenty of participation.

Before I sat down to write this version, the script had been used in several different professional productions, and while the basic construction has always remained the same, different scenery, songs, and the various talents of each cast has made each show unique. You will need to add various local references, and there are sure to be new topical references to add to the comedy scenes. Don't be afraid to feature the particular skills of your actors - if your Little John has acrobatic skills then make sure you feature them in one of the numbers! Allow the characters who talk directly to the audience to "customise" the exchanges so that the actor can express his or her personality.

Above all else - enjoy it! The good feeling that comes with a happy company really does come over the footlights - if the audience can see you're having fun, so will they.

Good Luck.

PETER DENYER

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ALADDIN AND HIS WONDERFUL LAMP

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SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

THE SNOW QUEEN

PETER PAN (Apply direct to Show Souvenirs Ltd (01304 361919)
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

This script, like all Peter Denyer Pantomimes, was originally produced by Kevin Wood with a professional cast. Over the years the structure and dialogue were adapted to suit the requirements of the many star actors who appeared in the show. In 1997, at the invitation of NODA, the scripts were subjected to a cleansing process returning them to something like their original form, removing the quirks demanded by particular actors, and adding stage directions and technical tips, thereby making them more suitable for licensing. During the 1998/99 Season there were over sixty productions by amateur societies. Following their comments and suggestions, the scripts were revised again in 1999, in 2000, and once more in 2005/6 - this is the version you have here.

We thought you would be interested to know a little about the background to the piece, and the various actors who have played the roles. So we've trawled through the archives and come up with this potted history. This version of BABES IN THE WOOD was first produced at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford in 1987. Since then it has been seen at The Connaught Theatre Worthing, The Theatre Royal Brighton, The Wyvern Theatre Swindon, The Hackney Empire, The Princes Hall Aldershot, The Harlequin Theatre Redhill, The Devonshire Park Theatre Eastbourne, The Royalty Theatre London, and The Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage.

Over that time, amongst the many fine actors that have appeared, were the following notable performers;

Sheriff -	Brian Hibbard, Bruce Montague and Paul Darrow
Robin -	Peter Duncan, Su Pollard, Tony Hawks and Stifyn Parri
Marian -	Jo-Anne Sale, Karen Clegg, Pollyann Tanner and Jane Hardy
Nurse -	Roy Barraclough, Kathy Staff, Colin Devereaux and Oscar James

ABOUT THE WRITER

PETER DENYER has been writing for the theatre for more than thirty-five years, he has also directed hundreds of plays, musicals, and pantomimes, and in 1986 became the Artistic Director of Kevin Wood Pantomimes. Peter's pantomimes have been hailed as the best in the field, and his scripts cover the full canon of titles. Each Christmas there are countless presentations, making Peter one of the "most produced writers" in the country. But in spite of his success as a writer, it was as an actor that Peter became best known to the general public, with over two hundred television appearances to his credit. He is probably best remembered as the delightfully dopey Dennis in Please Sir! and The Fenn Street Gang, Michael in Agony, Malcolm in Thicker Than Water and Ralph in Dear John. What is not so well known, is that Peter's love and life long connection with the stage began as an amateur with the Erith Playhouse back in the mid-sixties. In producing these scripts for your use, he feels he has gone some way to completing the circle.

CAST LIST

Principal Roles

The Sheriff of Nottingham -
The Spirit of the Greenwood -
Robin Hood -
Maid Marian -
Will Scarlet -
Friar Tuck -
Little John -
Herman The Henchman -
Nurse Norah -
Janet -
John -
The Voice of Beelzebub -

Chorus Roles

Villagers -
Soldiers -
Merry Men -
Toys -
Birds -

LIST OF SCENES

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE:

SCENE 1: The Fair at Nottingham Castle

SCENE 2: A Path in The Forest

SCENE 3: The Schoolroom

SCENE 4: A Corridor in The Castle

SCENE 5: The Nursery

SCENE 6: A Corridor Revisited

SCENE 7: The Heart of The Greenwood

ACT TWO

PROLOGUE:

SCENE 8: The Encampment in The Forest

SCENE 9: A Path in The Forest

SCENE 10: Deep in The Dungeons

SCENE 11: The Corridor Again

SCENE 12: The Hanging of Hood

SCENE 13: The Same Old Corridor

SCENE 14: The Wedding of Robin and Marian

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

MUSIC CUE 1: OVERTURE (INSTRUMENTAL)

FX 1: THUNDERCRASH

The Mask of BEELZEBUB flies in. The voice of BEELZEBUB is heard over an off-stage microphone.

BEELZEBUB: From Hell I come!! Through flame and fire!
And with me....all the Fates conspire!
I warn you now - it's my delight
To give all boys and girls a fright!
To help my plans to rule this earth
I've chosen one of human birth
A Prince of Evil, a King of Crime...
He really is a bag of slime...

MUSIC CUE 1a: SHERIFF'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: The SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM enters DL.

SHERIFF: He surely can't be referring to me -
'Cos I'm so lovely...don't you agree?
The Sheriff of Nottingham is my name...
And crushing the peasants is my game!
Beelzebub, I'll serve you - do whatever you ask!
If wickedness is what you want, I'll enjoy the task!

BEELZEBUB: I'll make you rich, if you'll agree
To make human life a misery...
Tax them! Rob them! Squeeze them dry!!
I want to see those peasants cry!!

SHERIFF: I'll do it! I'll do it - just as you say!!

BEELZEBUB: With your help, Sheriff - Evil will always hold sway!

FX 2: THUNDERCRASH

The Mask of BEELZEBUB flies out.

SHERIFF: Robbery and violence...oh, what treats!!
Oh shut up, you lot - or I'll poison your sweets!

MUSIC CUE 1b: SPIRIT'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD enters DR.

SPIRIT: Though this monstrous man makes lots of noise...
Don't let him worry you, girls and boys -
For now the Spirit of the Greenwood is here...
I'm the Good Fairy! Well, give me a cheer!!

SHERIFF: You'll never stop me, Spirit - although you fight for good,
 SPIRIT: But I will summon one who can - his name is Robin Hood!
 SHERIFF: Robin Hood doesn't scare me - don't try to be funny!
 I'll kill him! Then I can steal the people's money!!
 So rest assured that in less than an hour -
 I'll have you all within my power!!

MUSIC CUE 1c: SHERIFF'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)
The SHERIFF exits DL.

SPIRIT: We'll see about that! Robin won't be denied -
 He'll fight for what's right...and with me on his side
 And the help of these children - Good's sure to win!
 So, without further ado...let our story begin...

The SPIRIT exits.
Blackout. Cloth/Tabs out. Lights up revealing...

SCENE ONE

THE FAIR AT NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

**MUSIC CUE 2: OPENING NUMBER – CHORUS AND MAID
 MARIAN. WILL SCARLET AND FRIAR TUCK ARE JOINING
 IN**

MARIAN: That was fun - I never knew you were such a groovy mover, Tucky!
 FRIAR TUCK: Neither did I! Phew!! I'm completely knickered!!!
 MARIAN: You mean knack -
 FRIAR TUCK: No I don't!...I mean knickered! Me breath's coming in short pants!
 WILL: It's a nice change to see all the villagers happy for once!
 MARIAN: I know...everyone's been so miserable lately...the Sheriff says it's
 because they're all terrified of that outlaw - Robin Hood!
 WILL: Maid Marian...
 MARIAN: Yes, Will?
 WILL: Your guardian is the Sheriff of Nottingham...
 MARIAN: He is.

WILL: He is an ugly, evil and vicious man!

MARIAN: I suppose he does get a bit grumpy sometimes...

FRIAR TUCK: A bit grumpy?! He's a cruel and callous tyrant!

MARIAN: I admit...he does have a bit of a temper.

WILL: Then you mustn't believe a word he says!! Robin Hood is the only one that cares about the poor people! He's a good man.

MARIAN: The Sheriff's not as bad as you think - he means well.

HERMAN is heard shouting "Make way! Make way!" Enter HERMAN The HENCHMAN with some SOLDIERS. HERMAN plays a discordant fanfare on his toy bugle.

HERMAN: Sorry!...Right! Let's hear it...for the man of the moment...your cuddly councillor...the Sheriff of Nottingham!!!

Enter The SHERIFF: The VILLAGERS "Boo".

SHERIFF: Shut up...shut up, you morons!! As this is the only day you get off per year, I suggest you enjoy it!! I've come to make an announcement... about your taxes.

The VILLAGERS "Boo".

SHERIFF: I know that some of you have been having difficulty paying...so I'm going to do something about it...

The VILLAGERS "Cheer".

SHERIFF: I'm going to double them!!...Then you'll all have difficulty paying!!

The VILLAGERS "Boo".

SHERIFF: You already pay V.A.T...so now you'll pay C.A.T...

HERMAN: What's that, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: A tax on anyone who owns a pet!...You will also pay M.A.T...

HERMAN: Which is...?

SHERIFF: A tax on everyone who has a carpet...!!

WILL: What about a tax called R.A.T.? Then you'd be the only one to pay it!

The VILLAGERS laugh.

SHERIFF: Watch your lip, you Saxon dog - or I'll send my guards to capture you ...and you'll find out just how painful it is to be grabbed by the Normans!

MARIAN: It was only a joke, Sheriff...

SHERIFF: Really? It didn't make me laugh, my pretty one...

The SHERIFF tries to touch MARIAN who shies away.

SHERIFF: Charming...**[Blows a kiss at her]**...I would also like to announce that the annual archery contest - for "The Golden Arrow of Nottingham", will start in half an hour's time; though why I'm bothering to tell you lot I can't imagine! I mean, what do you know about the archers?

The VILLAGERS sing the theme tune of "The Archers".

SHERIFF: Oh, very amusing - you pathetic peasants!...Shut up!!...**[To The AUDIENCE]**...And you!!!

The SHERIFF, HERMAN and The SOLDIERS exit.

WILL: Do you still think the Sheriff's a nice man, Miss Marian?

MARIAN: No, I don't! You were right about him - he's horrible!

1st VILLAGER: The Sheriff's just doubled our taxes!

2nd VILLAGER: I can't afford to pay mine now...

3RD VILLAGER: There must be someone who can help us! Isn't there anyone who'll stand up to him?

WILL: There is one man brave enough...

MARIAN: You mean Robin Hood?

WILL: The very same; and I think it's time he knew just what's going on. Tucky - you go east, along by the river, and I'll head north, back towards Sherwood.

MARIAN: Can't I come with you?

FRIAR TUCK: You don't seem to understand, Miss Marian: the Sheriff has declared Robin an outlaw - anyone found consorting with him will be arrested.

Enter HERMAN with an archery target.

WILL: ...And the Sheriff's spies are everywhere...we'll see you later...

FRIAR TUCK and WILL exit.

MARIAN: Good luck...

HERMAN: Maid Marian! Miss!!

MARIAN: What do you want, Herman?

HERMAN: I hope you're going to stay for the archery contest, Miss - I mean I am the champion; I've won the golden arrow for the last three years!

MARIAN: You've been the only person who's entered the contest in the last three years!

HERMAN: That could have something to do with it, I suppose...

MARIAN: And it could have something to do with the fact that none of the villagers are allowed to own a bow and arrow!

HERMAN: I never thought of that...

MARIAN: When you won last year, you shot yourself in the foot!

HERMAN: I've still got the scar...

MARIAN: Anyway, I must go and talk to the villagers - I want them to know that there's someone on their side.

HERMAN: Then I'd better go with you, Miss - there's some very odd people about!

MARIAN: You said it, Herman...you said it!

HERMAN exits. MARIAN starts to follow as WILL and FRIAR TUCK run on.

WILL: Marian, Robin Hood's on his way. We've just seen him.

MARIAN: Thank goodness. Help is at hand.

MUSIC CUE 2a: ROBIN'S FANFARE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Enter ROBIN HOOD

ROBIN: Hello my friends. I've heard that the sheriff's put up your taxes again. So he's up to his old tricks again, is he?

4TH VILLAGER: You'll help us fight The Sheriff, won't you Robin?

VILLAGERS: We need you to help us!/Please, Robin!/You've got to!!

ROBIN: Of course I will! And we're not alone. **[gestures to the AUDIENCE]**
 This lot look like a friendly bunch. Will you help us too? Will you?
 Great. Now we can't fail.

VILLAGERS: Hooray!/You're our only hope, Robin!/That Sheriff's an evil man!

WILL: Robin, the Sheriff's just announced an archery contest...

ROBIN: Which I, of course, shall enter!

WILL: And the prize is a golden arrow!

ROBIN: Which we could sell and give the money to the villagers!

WILL: Exactly! But we'll need to find you a disguise, the place is sure to be swarming with soldiers...

ROBIN: **[Noticing MAID MARIAN with the VILLAGERS]** Who's that girl?

WILL: She's Maid Marian - the Sheriff's ward. Isn't she beautiful?

ROBIN: She is indeed. **[to the VILLAGERS]** Right, all of you listen – we must all band together to fight the wrongs being done here. The sheriff is sending the poor people to prison for not paying their taxes. He's setting fire to their farms. He's torturing the defiant ones. But one day King Richard will return from the crusades. I know he will. And when he does, he will bring liberty back to our land. **[The VILLAGERS cheer]** But until then, we are on our own. We must fight these evil deeds. We must fight for our rights. We must fight for freedom.

MUSIC CUE 3: TRIUMPHANT SONG FOR ROBIN, WILL, FRIAR, MARIAN AND VILLAGERS
At the end of the song, HERMAN's wonky fanfare is heard.

WILL: Look out! Here comes Herman – you must go!

WILL pushes ROBIN off as MARIAN moves towards him.

MARIAN: Will, was that really who I think it was? Was it really -

WILL: Careful, Miss Marian - don't give the game away! Fear not - we'll be back in time for the contest.

WILL and FRIAR TUCK exit as HERMAN enters.

HERMAN: I'm getting ever so excited about the archery contest, Miss - I've got butterbeans in my tummy!

MARIAN: You mean butterflies, Herman!

HERMAN: No I don't; I mean butterbeans!...I always have a quick snack when I'm nervous!

MUSIC CUE 3a: NORA'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
NURSE NORA is heard shouting "Gangway!!"

MARIAN: What on earth's happening...?

The VILLAGERS react in disbelief as NURSE NORAH enters.

NURSE NORAH: All right! All right! Don't be overawed! I know I'm unbelievably lovely - but don't faint...just throw money! It's not cheap looking like this, you know!! But I always say...if you've got it - flaunt it!! Ooh! Look...a man! Well...nearly! Excuse me, sunshine...but is that Nottingham Castle?

HERMAN: Er...yes, ma'am...

NURSE NORAH: Thank goodness!! I've been on the road so long I think I need a retread! I am looking for the Sheriff.

MARIAN: I am Maid Marian, ma'am - the Sheriff is my guardian.

NURSE NORAH: Pleased to meet you, dear - I am Nurse Norah...[Attempts a curtsy] ...Ooh...I think I've done myself a mischief!

HERMAN: What do you want the Sheriff for?

NURSE NORAH: Because his brother, the Baron of [Local place name], has gone off on the Crusade; and he wants the Sheriff to look after his two children while he's away...

HERMAN: I'd better go and tell him the news then.

HERMAN exits.

MARIAN: Which two children are they, Nurse Norah?

NURSE NORAH: Why...Janet and John, of course...the little dears - they never leave my side!

MARIAN: Well...where are they?

NURSE NORAH: That's a point...where are they?...[Calls]...Janet! Jo - [Looks offstage]...John - don't do that...come here!

Enter JANET and JOHN.

JANET: Is this the place, Nursey?

NURSE NORAH: Yes, dear...

JOHN: I'm ever so hungry, Nursey...

MARIAN: Why don't we don't go and get some toffee apples...?

JANET: Oh, yes please!

MARIAN: Then we can come back and watch the archery contest!

JOHN: That sounds exciting!!

MARIAN: I wouldn't bet on it!

NURSE NORAH: How very kind of you, Miss Marian...off you go then!

MARIAN, JANET, JOHN and The VILLAGERS exit.

NURSE NORAH: What a nice girl - but I'm glad she's gone! I mean, it'll give us a chance to get to know each other...now, I'm Nurse Norah - so when I say "Hello, boys and girls" you can say "Hello, Nurse Norah"...ready? Hello, boys and girls!...Now when I say "boys and girls" I don't just mean the little boys and girls...I mean all the big boys and girls too ...the ones with the muscles and moustaches...and the Dads!...Right... Hello, boys and girls! **[Repeats as necessary]** Great! That's really cheered me up...cos, in fact, I've had a very sad life...**[Aah!]**...I said "I've had a very sad life!"...**[Aah!]**...It's sadder than that!... **[Aah!]**...You see I'm a woman alone...**[Aah!]**...ever since my husband passed on...**[Aah!]**...Don't waste your sympathy on him! When I said "passed on" I didn't mean he'd passed away - I meant "passed on"...last time I heard he'd passed on as far as **[Local place name]**. But we can't live in the past, can we? Who knows - Mister Right could be just around the corner...

The SHERIFF enters with HERMAN, who is carrying the golden arrow, and several SOLDIERS.

SHERIFF: Ah-ha!!

NURSE NORAH: And then again...he might not!!

SHERIFF: Are you the woman who's brought me the two brats?

NURSE NORAH: No...I am the lady who has brought you two delightful little darlings!

HERMAN: They do seem very charming children, sir...

SHERIFF: Don't get me wrong - I love children...though I couldn't eat a whole one! Just tell me why I should look after my brother's offspring?

NURSE NORAH: Because...they're family, because...it's your duty...and because he has sent you his entire fortune to pay for their keep!

SHERIFF: You've convinced me!! Where's the gold!!!

NURSE NORAH: In my chest...

SHERIFF: Come here...**[Grabs NURSE NORAH]**

NURSE NORAH: Get off! Men...they're all the same! All they want to do is burglarise your bazookas! I meant my treasure chest!!

Enter MARIAN with JANET and JOHN who are holding toffee-apples.

Ah! Here are the babes now; Janet...John - this is your uncle...The Sheriff of Nottingham.

JANET: How do you do, sir. **[Curtseys]**

JOHN: Hi, Unky-Wunky!

SHERIFF: Don't call me that!

JOHN: Sorry...

JOHN holds his hand out; as the SHERIFF goes to shake it he gets the toffee-apple instead.

SHERIFF: Yuk! You little monster! I'll -

NURSE NORAH: John, that was very naughty! **[Sniggers]**

HERMAN: I'm sure it was an accident, sir...

SHERIFF: Oh are you...? **[Wipes his hand on HERMAN]** When I want the opinion of a cretin - I'll ask you for it!! Now, sound a fanfare - it's time for the archery contest!

HERMAN: Yes, sir...at once sir!...**[Plays an awful fanfare]**...Sorry...

SHERIFF: You plonker!!

The VILLAGERS, WILL and FRIAR TUCK enter.

FRIAR TUCK: Where's Robin?

WILL: I don't know, but I'm sure he'll be here when he's wanted.

SHERIFF: Right! The competition for the golden arrow will now begin...

The VILLAGERS cheer and gather round the target.

SHERIFF: The first contestant is my champion - Herman the Henchman!

The VILLAGERS scream and scramble for cover.

SHERIFF: Alright! Cut the comedy! Go on, Herman - fire away! And this year, do try and hit the target!

HERMAN: I'll do my best, sir...

SHERIFF: That's what's worrying me!

HERMAN fires and scores an outer...general surprise.

SHERIFF: Blimey! Have you been practising? Now, in the absence of any other contestants, I award -

WILL: Wait! There is another man who wishes to enter - Robert the Tinker!

ROBIN enters disguised in a hooded cloak and beard.

SHERIFF: Robert the Stinker? Yuk! How smelly! Anyway, he's too late, the winner is -

The VILLAGERS "Boo".

FRIAR TUCK: You've got to give him a chance!

NURSE NORAH: Yes! Let him have a go!

MARIAN: Please, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: Oh...very well! Just one shot - alright?

ROBIN fires and scores a bull: ALL Cheer.

SHERIFF: Mmm...not bad - but Herman was closer...

JOHN: Rubbish! He just got a bull's-eye!

SHERIFF: And you'll get a black eye if you don't shut up!

WILL: The boy's right! Robert's the winner, isn't he?

The VILLAGERS Cheer.

ROBIN: I think the prize is mine, Sheriff...[Takes the golden arrow]

SHERIFF: Hang on! That arrow's worth a lot of money!

ROBIN: Indeed it is...money that will divided up and given to the poor - a gift from...[Pulls back his hood]...Robin Hood!!

The VILLAGERS Cheer.

SHERIFF: Robin Hood!!? Seize him!

HERMAN: Yes, sir...at once, sir...

ROBIN disappears into the crowd of VILLAGERS pursued by HERMAN. ROBIN - having given his cloak to HERMAN - exits, unseen by The SHERIFF. As The SOLDIERS try to follow them, FRIAR TUCK and WILL obstruct them.

FRIAR TUCK: I'm so sorry - how clumsy of me!

WILL: I think he went that way.

SHERIFF: After him, you fools! Don't let him escape!!

The SOLDIERS plunge into the crowd and drag out a cloaked figure.

SHERIFF: At last! Well, Hood - prepare to meet your doom!!

The SHERIFF pulls back the hood to reveal HERMAN.

HERMAN: Sorry, your Sheriffship - I did my best.

SHERIFF: Herman - you're useless!! I've seen better soldiers round a boiled egg!

MARIAN: Didn't you think Robin was handsome, Nurse Norah?

NURSE NORAH: Indeed I did! One glance at his bow and I was all a-quiver!

SHERIFF: Well...your pretty boy will soon learn it doesn't pay to mess with me!
Now get back to your stinking hovels, you Saxon dogs - or I'll have you
all thrown into the dungeons!!

WILL, FRIAR TUCK, The VILLAGERS and SOLDIERS exit.

NURSE NORAH: You're very macho, aren't you?

SHERIFF: And take those little whippersnappers back to the castle! I'm sick of the
sight of them!!

NURSE NORAH: Whatever you say, oh hairy one! Actually I'll need to find somewhere to
use as a schoolroom; Janet and John wouldn't like to miss their lessons -
would you, my darlings?

JANET: } **[Miserably]** No, Nurse Norah!

JOHN: }

NURSE NORAH: With conviction, dears - or not at all! Now, you two stay with Marian.
She'll keep an eye on you for half an hour whilst I go and make myself
beautiful ready for teaching!

HERMAN: Half an hour? I think it'll take longer than that.

NURSE NORAH: Cheek! See you all later. By-ee!

MARIAN: By-ee!

NURSE NORAH: **[To The AUDIENCE]** By-ee!...

NURSE NORAH exits.

SHERIFF: Go with them, Marian, I need a quiet word with Herman.

HERMAN: Sshh!

SHERIFF: What?

HERMAN: Sshh!...that's a quiet word...

SHERIFF: You fool!! Go on, Marian - move it!

MARIAN: Yes, Sheriff...

MARIAN, JANET and JOHN starts to exit but lingers to overhear...

SHERIFF: Herman...I've been thinking...

HERMAN: I tried that once...[Shakes his head]

SHERIFF: Shut up and listen!...If Janet and John were to die then, as their guardian - I would inherit their entire fortune!!

HERMAN: But why should Janet and John die, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: Because, numbskull...you are going to kill them!

HERMAN: I couldn't do that!!

SHERIFF: Of course you could...just think of it as a mercy killing...

HERMAN: A mercy killing?!

SHERIFF: Yes...if you don't kill them - I'll show you no mercy!

The SHERIFF belabours HERMAN and they both exit.

MARIAN: I don't believe it! I know The Sheriff's a nasty piece of work...but to kill you!? You need protecting from that evil man.

MUSIC CUE 4: SOLO FOR MAID MARIAN

MARIAN: What can I do...? Who can help me...?...Why not?...Should I ask Robin to help me...? Should I...? Right, let's get you two back to the castle and then I'll have to go into the forest and find him...so wish me luck, boys and girls.I'll see you soon.

MARIAN, JANET and JOHN exit. Blackout. Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...

SCENE TWO

A PATH IN THE FOREST

Enter ROBIN and WILL.

ROBIN: **[Looks behind him]** Where is he...? Tucky!

FRIAR TUCK enters...very slowly.

Come on, my little, fat friar! Best foot forward!

FRIAR TUCK: I don't think either of my feet are very well at the moment, Robin! Why do we have to live right in the middle of Sherwood Forest?

ROBIN: Because it's the only place we can be safe from the Sheriff!...

WILL: Robin...**[Pulls him close and whispers]**...have you noticed anything?

ROBIN: Yes...you've changed your after-shave...it's nice!

WILL: I meant...have you noticed that we're being followed?

From offstage LITTLE JOHN gives the secret whistle...[The first 6 notes of the Robin Hood Theme - "Robin Hood, Robin Hood!"]

FRIAR TUCK: By a very large blackbird...?

ROBIN: That was Little John!...**[Gives the secret whistle]**

FRIAR TUCK: **[Sings]** "With his band of Men!"

WILL: Shut up, Tucky!

Enter LITTLE JOHN.

ROBIN: What's happening, John?

LITTLE JOHN: There are strangers in the forest, Robin!

WILL: I knew it!!

ROBIN: Come on - let's all hide...and we'll try and catch them...

ROBIN, WILL, FRIAR TUCK and LITTLE JOHN exit in different directions. Enter MAID MARIAN.

MARIAN: Hello,, boys and girls...! I've been walking for hours, and I can't find the camp...! Where can it be?

Enter LITTLE JOHN who seizes MARIAN.

LITTLE JOHN: Aha!!! Well, Missy...what are you after...?

MARIAN: Robin's camp!

Enter ROBIN, WILL and FRIAR TUCK.

ROBIN: No I'm not! It's just the way I walk!

WILL: John - release the lady. Robin, this is Maid Marian.

ROBIN: I know...**[Bows]**...A pleasure to meet you, Miss Marian. How may I help you...?

MARIAN: It's The Sheriff, he's supposed to be caring for his young niece and nephew - but, in fact, he plans to murder them! You've got to save them!

ROBIN: Of course we shall!

WILL: Steady on, Robin - the castle is full of The Sheriff's soldiers.

MARIAN: But Robin's got all his Merry Men to help him...?

WILL: That's the trouble, Miss Marian - Little John, Tucky and I...

WILL: }
LITTLE JOHN: } We are the Merry Men!!
FRIAR TUCK: }

MARIAN: You four - are a band of outlaws?!

ROBIN: Well...a small band...more of a quartet, really!

FRIAR TUCK: The rest of the men have gone to the Crusade with King Richard...

MARIAN: Well, I can help you too. I can get inside information from the castle and pass it back to you, so you've got one more person in your band now.

ROBIN: And I've found lots more new recruits...all the boys and girls out there!

LITTLE JOHN: Are you sure they can be trusted, Robin?

ROBIN: Of course! With all these people to help us, how can we fail? Welcome to our merry band, Marian.

MUSIC CUE 5: SONG FOR ROBIN, MARIAN, FRIAR TUCK, WILL SCARLET AND LITTLE JOHN

WILL: But Robin, we've still got to find a way of getting into the castle.

MARIAN: Well...Nurse Norah is going to start a school - why don't you four become pupils...?

FRIAR TUCK: Us..?! Go back to school!

LITTLE JOHN: I don't fancy that, Robin - I failed my eleven plus!!

WILL: Lots of children do that, John...!

LITTLE JOHN: I know - but I was twenty-four at the time!

ROBIN: Look, it's the best way we can protect the babes! You three go back to the camp and try and find some disguises we can wear...I'll escort Maid Marian back to the castle.

LITTLE JOHN: I hope this idea's going to work...

FRIAR TUCK: Of course it will - stop whingeing!

WILL: We'll see you later, Robin...goodnight, Miss Marian

WILL, FRIAR TUCK and LITTLE JOHN exit.

MARIAN: Thanks for your help...I don't know what I'd have done without you...

ROBIN: Maid Marian - we may have only just met...but I promise you...I'll always be here...whenever you need me. Now come on – I'd better get you back to the castle before anyone notices you're missing.

ROBIN and MARIAN exit.

MUSIC CUE 5a: SPIRIT'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Enter The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD.

SPIRIT: So...Robin's met Marian!...Oh, happy day!!
 All join with me...Hip, Hip...Hoo-Ray!!
 Because I'm a Fairy - I had a dream -
 I knew they'd make the perfect team!
 Now Nurse Norah may seem a bit of a fool
 But she's a Headmistress...when running a school
 Though with John and Friar Tuck, Robin and Will...
 Her classroom will always be more like Grange Hill!

MUSIC CUE 5b: SPIRIT'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)
The SPIRIT OF THE GREENWOOD exits: Blackout. Cloth/Tabs out. Lights up revealing...

SCENE THREE

THE SCHOOLROOM

There is a blackboard, a teacher's desk and three benches. Enter NURSE NORAH in a gown and mortar board.

NURSE NORAH: Oh, you're back again...how lovely! Hello, boys and girls...! Just in time for school, too - I'm a highly qualified teacher, you know: I've been to Oxford and Cambridge...those "Away-day" tickets are quite cheap, you know! Now, where are my class?

**NURSE NORAH rings the School-bell...[It has no clapper]...
FX 3: BIG BEN STRIKING. NURSE NORAH examines the bell.**

Ooh?...I think someone's been tampering with me donger!

Enter MARIAN, JANET and JOHN.

There you are, dears - come and sit down...are you joining our little school, Miss Marian?

MARIAN: Yes please, Nurse Norah...and I've got some friends who'd like to come too - will that be alright?

NURSE NORAH: Of course, dear - wheel 'em in! The more the merrier!!

MARIAN: Come on then, lads...

Enter ROBIN, WILL, LITTLE JOHN and FRIAR TUCK - dressed as SCHOOLBOYS.

NURSE NORAH: Robin Hood, eh? Aren't I a lucky little lecturer!

MARIAN: Hands off, Nursey - he's mine!

NURSE NORAH: A girl can dream! Take your cap off, dear...

ROBIN: Yes, Nurse Norah...

**ROBIN draws a hook on the blackboard and hangs his cap on it...
[See PROPS list].**

NURSE NORAH: I can see I shall have to keep an eye on you...now, who's the mini-monk?

FRIAR TUCK: I'm Friar Tuck - but you can call me Tucky!

NURSE NORAH: If that's what you want, ducky...

FRIAR TUCK: Tucky!

NURSE NORAH: Sorry, dear - and how about the one with the red legs?

WILL: I'm Will Scarlet.