

**NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT**

***KING ARTHUR & THE  
KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE***

**BY  
RON HALL**

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# KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

A Pantomime in Two Acts by Ron Hall

## Characters in order of appearance:-

Mary Christmas (Dame) - The Camelot Castle Cook  
Mordred - The King's nephew and generally nasty piece of work  
Morgan-le-Fay - Mordred's mother and Enchantress  
Lancelot - Trainee knight, brave and handsome  
Ethelred - Trainee knight, lacking confidence and a little bit thick  
Merlin - Wizard to the King, fond of money  
King Arthur - Good and just monarch  
Queen Guinevere - His lovely and charming wife  
Gertrude - Lady-in-waiting to the Queen, madly in love with Ethelred  
King Pelleas - Father of the Lady Elaine and Ruler of Astolat  
Serving girl - One of the senior dancers, curvaceous  
The Lady Elaine - Lovely young daughter of King Pelleas  
Large chorus man and pretty chorus girl - To act as 'doubles' for  
Dame in Merlin's magic spell  
Fiery Jack - Mordred's pet dragon consisting of chorus men under a skin  
  
Chorus of courtiers, knights, vendors in 'Joust' scene, etc.  
Senior dancers as page boys, serving and cleaning wenches, sandwich  
board men, bats and entertainers at wedding  
Junior dancers as court children, chefs and Maypole dancers  
Note:- Junior dancers not needed in second act

## Synopsis of Scenes:-

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Note:- It is recommended that Camelot Courtyard scene be permanently set behind other cloths or box sets. Directions are given with regard to drawing of tabs to allow time for manual scene changes.

Scenes in front of tabs have small number of characters so that stage is not congested.

Estimated length of show allowing for songs, dances and 15 minute interval:-

2 hours 25 minutes

On the assumption that the Dame is played by a man and the part of Lancelot by a girl then number of principals required is as follows:-

Female:- Six

Male:- Six

(These figures do not include magic spell people or dragon)

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1978

Revised 1983

KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLEACT IScene 1 - The Courtyard at Camelot

(This can be a series of cut-out towers set against a cyclorama cloth. If possible there should be rostrums along the back of the stage to give the appearance of battlements. The chorus are on stage dressed as courtiers, knights, etc.)

Opening Chorus (Chorus)

Suggested numbers:- Everything's Coming Up Panto (Slightly amended version of 'Everything's Coming Up Roses' (Gypsy))  
The Good Old Bad Old Days (The Good Old Bad Old Days)  
Vitality (Gay's the Word)

(Dame Mary Christmas enters with supermarket trolley full of goods)

Dame:- Hello everybody. Well here we are back in 650 A.D. or to put it another way 1300 years B.C., that's 1300 years before 'Crossroads'. Let me introduce myself. I'm Mary and my surname's Christmas so that makes me Mary Christmas, still I suppose it's better than May Day or April the First. I'm the castle cook, Camelot's answer to Fanny Craddock. I also look after all the cows in the Royal herd and bottle all the milk. This is one of our milk bottles here. (She produces large cut-out bottle with castellated top and 'Camelot Dairies' written on it) So I want all the ladies in the audience to do something for me, will you? (Audience responds) I want all the girls from 1 to 101 to join in. When I say 'Hello girls, how's your curls?' I want you to yell 'Hello Mary, how's your dairy?' Let's try it. Hello girls, how's your curls? (Audience responds) You can do better than that, let's try again. Hello girls, how's your girls? (Audience responds) Not bad, but you can still do better than that. (They go through the routine a third time) Good now remember that. Now Gentlemen, don't think you're getting away with it so easily. I've got something for you to do as well. When I say 'Hello lads, how's your dads?' then you say 'Hi good-looking, how's your cooking?' Let's give it a whirl shall we? Hello lads, how's your dads? (Audience responds) Aren't there any fellers out there tonight? Come on let's try again. (The routine is repeated a further twice)

I've just been down to the Tintagel Tesco (or other well known supermarket). There's threepence off salt and vinegar flavoured yogurt this week. Now let's see what I've got in my little basket shall we? (She brings out the various items as she speaks) Some chest expanders - for Twiggy, some baking powder for - - - (current Chancellor of the Exchequer), it's the only way you'll get a rise out of him, a comb for Yul Brynner (Comb with no teeth), some toothpaste for Esther Rantzen (Enormous tube or packet with Ultrabrite on the side) and some soap for King Arthur and the lads, Knight's Castile of course. Oh yes and I've got some special polish for the Round Table - it'll put a shine on anything, even armour. Listen to what it says on the tin:-

If every evening is deadly dull,  
And a man could make it bright,  
Just remove the little lid,  
And add some sparkle to your knight, (b-boom)

I must try some of that.

(Mordred enters looking stern)

Mordred:- What are you doing here woman? You should be in the kitchen preparing tonight's meal.

Dame:- (To audience) Oh 'eck, it's old ferret face.

Mordred:- What did you say, you old crone?

Dame:- I said you've got such merry ways.

Mordred:- A likely story.

Dame:- And what do you mean calling me an old crone? People say I look like a million dollars.

Mordred:- Yes, all green and crinkled.

Dame:- Ooh, you - - - dirty knight, how dare you!

Mordred:- What would you say if I tore you limb from limb, threw your left leg over there, your right leg over there, your arms over there and your body over there?

Dame:- I'd say that's me all over.

(Enter Morgan-le-Fay)

Morgan:- There you are Mordred dear boy. What are you doing talking to that woman? You must remember you are the King's nephew and you shouldn't associate with any old riff-raff.

Dame:- Riff-raff, riff-raff! Why you old battleaxe I'll belt you round the backside with my bread. (She takes long French loaf from basket and brandishes it)

Mordred:- Take care woman or I'll cut off your priveleges.

Dame:- (Protecting her bosom) You wouldn't dare, they're two of my best features, second only to Barbara Windsor (or other well-endowed personality).

Morgan:- Take no notice Mordred, she's obviously mad.

Mordred:- You're right mother. Let's not demean ourselves further. (He offers Morgan his arm which she takes and they begin to exit grandly)

Dame:- (To audience) That's Mordred and his mother Morgan-le-Fay. Aren't they 'orrible? Let's give them a quick hiss before they go. (She encourages audience to hiss at Mordred and Morgan, who turn and hiss back and then exit) Hey, you did that well. Will you do it every time they come on? (Audience responds) You can do better than that. Will you? (Audience responds) You still don't sound very sure. I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll pretend to be Mordred. (She exits and comes back on walking like Mordred. Audience hisses and she hisses back) You're not trying, I'll go off again. (She exits again returning walking like Mordred. Audience hisses and she hisses back) That's better. Now remember do that every time they come on.

(Fanfare sounds)

It's not time for Wogan's Winner already is it? No I think someone must be arriving at Camelot - I'll have a quick butchers. (She goes over to battlement and looks over displaying her bloomers as she bends) It's young Lancelot - he must be back from his latest quest. He's been to a strange part of the country where they speak an unknown tongue, where the dusky maidens dress in exotic garb and sensual aromas pervade the air - yes you're right - Bradford (or Birmingham). I must go and get ready for tonight's nosh or my jellies will never set in time. See you later.

(She exits. There is another fanfare and general commotion from chorus. Lancelot enters with a young page boy in attendance)



Lancelot:- Hello everybody.

Chorus:- Hello Lancelot.

Lancelot:- How glad I am to be back at Camelot.

Song:- Lancelot and Chorus

Suggested numbers:- I Got Plenty o' Nuttin' (Porgy and Bess)

Hey Look Me Over (Wildcat)

If I Were a Bell (Guys and Dolls)

I Got the Sun in the Morning (Annie Get Your Gun)

Lancelot:- How wonderful to see Camelot again after three months of adventures.  
And how pleased I am to see you all again.

(Enter Ethelred)

Ethelred:- Hello Lancelot, how are you?

Lancelot:- I'm fine Ethelred, how are you? (They shake hands)

Ethelred:- Oh I'm alright I suppose, but I'm fed up of going to Knight School.  
I want to go out and rescue dragons and slay damsels in distress like  
you're doing.

Lancelot:- Haven't you got that the wrong way round?

Ethelred:- Oh yes, you're right. I can't seem to do anything properly.

Lancelot:- But you must remember you're only in your first year of training.

Ethelred:- It's alright for you, you'll soon become a knight.

Lancelot:- Well so will you one day. You can't expect to go on dangerous  
missions until you've learned to defend yourself properly.

Ethelred:- I can understand that but why have I got to do all the rotten jobs  
like helping Mary in the kitchen? I can't see that making jellies  
for tonight's dinner is going to help me to become a knight.

Lancelot:- That's because you've got to learn humility.

Ethelred:- Then why didn't Mordred have to help in the kitchen? He could do  
with some humility.

(Mordred enters without their knowledge)

Lancelot:- His mother, Morgan-le-Fay, managed to persuade the King that her  
son was too much of a gentleman to soil his hands on pots and pans.

Ethelred:- Why, the great idle twit! If he were here now I'd soon tell him what  
I thought of him.

Mordred:- Oh yes and what would you tell him, you refugee from the Muppet Show?

(Mordred grabs him by the front of the doublet and pulls him towards  
him)

Ethelred:- I'd say - - -

Mordred:- Yes.

Ethelred:- I'd say - - -

Mordred:- Yes.

Ethelred:- I'd say what a smart and handsome chap you are.

Mordred:- That's better. Heaven help Camelot if you ever become a knight.

Lancelot:- Come now Mordred. Let's not have any ill-feeling. Shake hands and  
we'll all be friends.

Mordred:- Shake hands with that lily-livered coward? Don't make me laugh - huh!

(Mordred exits. Ethelred looks very downhearted)

Lancelot:- Cheer up Ethelred, it's not the end of the world.

Ethelred:- Oh Lancelot, he's right. I am a coward, I'll never be a knight in a thousand years.

Lancelot:- Of course you will. Just have faith in yourself and you'll turn out to be one of the best knights at Camelot and sit at the round Table with the rest of them.

(A very grand fanfare is heard. Junior dancers as heralds enter followed by Merlin, the Royal Wizard)

Merlin:- Come on everybody, smarten yourselves up. King Arthur and Queen Guinevere are approaching. Let's have a bit of respect for Royalty.

(He goes around the stage smartening up chorus and Ethelred. Another fanfare is heard and King Arthur and Queen Guinevere enter. Everyone bows and curtsies. Merlin bows so low he falls over. Lancelot and Ethelred rush over, pick him up and carry him out of the way. Gertrude rushes on late)

Song:- King, Queen and Chorus

Suggested numbers:- Camelot (Camelot)

Regular Royal Queen (The Gondoliers)

Busy Doing Nothing (A Connecticut Yankee)

If I Ruled the World (Pickwick)

(The junior dancers as heralds can do a routine during the song)

Arthur:- Good day my people. Welcome back to Camelot Lancelot-du-Lac. How was your quest?

Lancelot:- Successful sire. The Viking invaders have now been overthrown and the land of Mercia restored to its rightful king.

Arthur:- We are all well pleased with your efforts. You are learning the art of chivalry well. I can see that there will soon be another knight sitting at my Round Table.

Lancelot:- Thank you your Majesty.

Guinevere:- Lancelot I have a small commission for you.

Lancelot:- Yes your Majesty.

Guinevere:- The Lady Elaine is to become one of my ladies-in-waiting and will require and escort to Camelot from her father's castle at Astolat.

Lancelot:- You order and I obey your Majesty.

Guinevere:- Good then it is settled. Tonight you will rest and tomorrow morning you will set out for Astolat with a platoon of men.

Ethelred:- Can I go with Lancelot your Majesty?

Arthur:- But surely you're only in your first year of training Ethelred.

Ethelred:- That's true your Majesty but I have only got two months to go.

Arthur:- What do you think Guinevere?

Guinevere:- Let him go Arthur. I'm sure he's getting tired of working in the kitchens.

Arthur:- Very well, but I shall expect you to conduct yourself like a true knight of Camelot.

Ethelred:- Oh I will your Majesty. Thank you very much. It's very good of you. It's a proud moment for me, etc.

(Ethelred goes down on his knees kissing Arthur's cloak. Arthur nods

to two courtiers who go over and lift Ethelred out of the way with his legs still bent in the kneeling position)

Arthur:- Come Guinevere we must prepare to welcome our visiting dignitaries and see to the other business of the day.

(Music is played whilst Arthur and Guinevere exit. Merlin beckons courtiers to bow and curtsy. Chorus then begin to exit leaving Merlin and Gertrude. Lancelot and Ethelred exit chatting)

Merlin:- Well I'm glad that's over. Alright you lot you can straighten up now and get on with whatever people who live in castles get on with.  
(He gesticulates to remainder of chorus who exit. Gertrude who is at opposite side of the stage from Merlin tries to attract his attention)

Gertrude:- Pst!

(Merlin looks around without seeing her)

Pst!

(Merlin suddenly sees her)

Merlin:- It's all lies, I haven't touched a drop all day.

Gertrude:- Merlin, do you fancy doing something for me?

Merlin:- Go away girl, I'm much too old.

Gertrude:- No you don't understand. It's him that's just gone off.

Merlin:- I didn't hear an explosion.

Gertrude:- No I mean him that's just left.

Merlin:- Who, Lancelot?

Gertrude:- No the dozey looking one.

Merlin:- Oh Ethelred you mean.

Gertrude:- Yes.

Merlin:- What about him?

Gertrude:- I love him.

Merlin:- What him?

Gertrude:- Yes I love him desperately.

Merlin:- Well they say love's blind but I think it must be blind drunk.

Gertrude:- The trouble is he's so keen on becoming a knight he won't bother about me.

Merlin:- Well what can I do?

Gertrude:- You can mix me a love potion.

Merlin:- Ooh I couldn't possibly do that. (She gives him an old-fashioned look)  
Well it's so difficult to get the ingredients these days.

Gertrude:- Ho do you mean?

Merlin:- Well for a love potion I'd need eye of toad and wing of bat and have you seen how much they are at - - - (local shop)?

Gertrude:- No.

Merlin:- Toads' eyes were 58p a packet this morning and bats' wings are nearly a pound a pair.

Gertrude:- Really?

Merlin:- Oh yes, they're ever so expensive.

Gertrude:- I'd be willing to pay you well.

Merlin:- What a kind sweet girl, of course I'll do it for you. I shall need a bit on account.

Gertrude:- On account of what?

Merlin:- On account of the fact that I'm broke at the moment.

(She delves in her purse)

Gertrude:- Here's — 37<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p; it's all I've got at the moment.

Merlin:- Thank you. I'll expect the other nineteen pounds 62<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p tomorrow night when you collect the potion.

Gertrude:- That's expensive.

Merlin:- Yes but it carries the Merlin guarantee of satisfaction.

Gertrude:- What's that?

Merlin:- If he only kisses you, you get £15 back.

Gertrude:- Yes yes.

Merlin:- If he only kisses you and puts his arm around you, you get £10 back.

Gertrude:- Yes yes yes.

Merlin:- If he only kisses you, puts his arm around you and gives you a cuddle you get £5 back.

Gertrude:- Let's hope that I spend all the twenty quid.

(She nudges him knowingly and he almost falls over)

Merlin:- I must go and lie down for a spell — — — lie down for a spell. (To audience) Oh never mind, forget it.

(He walks into proscenium arch, picks himself up and exits)

Gertrude:- Ooh I am excited. It's like waiting for pay-day at the end of a five week month.

(Tabs draw behind Gertrude. Ethelred enters singing suitable pop song. He suddenly stops when he sees Gertrude. He is wearing outfit that is only held together with velcro and will easily come apart when pulled)

Ethelred:- Oh help, I'm in for a close encounter of a third kind.

Gertrude:- Hello Ethelred, I like your outfit.

Ethelred:- Do you? I got it in the sales at — — — (local tailoring shop)

Gertrude:- If you like you can call me Gert and miss the 'rude' bit out.

Ethelred:- I don't think that would be very nice.

Gertrude:- Oh I see, you'd sooner leave the rude bit in.

Ethelred:- No I didn't mean that. I don't want to know anything about your rude bit.

Gertrude:- I wonder if Hilda Ogden has this trouble with Stan. I hear you're going on a mission.

Ethelred:- Yes.

Gertrude:- If it's anything like your love-making it'll be mission impossible.

Ethelred:- Don't be like that. I'm going to Astolat with Lancelot to escort the Lady Elaine to Camelot.

Gertrude:- Can I come with you?

Ethelred:- No certainly not, it could be dangerous.

Gertrude:- I don't mind.

Ethelred:- There could be lions and tigers to fight.

Gertrude:- I don't mind.

Ethelred:- It's very cold up in the mountains and we might have to snuggle together to keep warm.

Gertrude:- (Amorously) I don't mind.

(She grabs hold of him)

Ethelred:- Ger off.

(He removes her hands)

Gertrude:- No wonder they call you Ethelred the Unready.

(Dame enters)

Dame:- Hello girls, how's you curls?

(Audience responds)

There you are Ethelred, I thought I told you to get those pots washed up ready for tonight's dinner.

Ethelred:- But I'm going on a mission tomorrow. I need to go to bed early.

Dame:- You can go to bed when you've finished in the kitchen.

Gertrude:- What about me?

Dame:- He'll just have to go to bed with you another time, he's too busy at the moment. Come on Ethelred you've still got to clear up the mess you made this morning.

Ethelred:- I only did what it said in the directions.

Dame:- What was that?

Ethelred:- Well I made the jellies just the way it said on the packet.

Dame:- What went wrong?

Ethelred:- It said after you've made the jellies stand in a cold place for an hour.

Dame:- Well?

Ethelred:- I stood in the cellar until lunchtime but the jellies still didn't set.

Dame:- Ooh you are a twit, you can't do anything right.

Ethelred:- No you're right.

Song (Dame, Ethelred and Gertrude)

Suggested numbers:- Nobody Does It Like Me (Seesaw)  
 Busy Doing Nothing (A Connecticut Yankee)  
 The Gentleman Is A Dope (Allegro)

(As the ladies grab hold of Ethelred his clothes start coming apart.  
 The ladies eventually exit with clothes they have torn off and  
 Ethelred exits in his underwear)

## Scene 2 - The Great Hall at Astolat

(This is a grand interior hung with flags and banners. The senior dancers are on stage dressed as servants. They are carrying brooms)

Dance (Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- This Ole' House (Shaking Stevens number)  
 If They Could See Me Now (Sweet Charity)  
 Any up-tempo pop song

(At the end of the number King Pelleas enters. He has all the makings of a dirty old man)

King P:- Very good girls very good. Now off you go and get a meal ready for our guests, who will be arriving at any moment.

(As girls exit he slaps one on the bottom. She yells and turns round)

Girl:- You naughty old king. You shouldn't do that.

King P:- Oh come on, let's be friendly.

(He tries to grab her but she moves away)

Girl:- Really Sire, I think you have a great cheek.

King:- So have you my dear.

(He tries to grab her bottom but she screams and runs off)

I really must concentrate on the business in hand. Elaine. (He calls).

Elaine:- (Offstage) Yes Papa.

King:- Are you ready yet my dear?

Elaine:- Coming Papa.

(She enters)

King P:- Ah Elaine darling, come over here and let me look at you.

(She goes over to him)

You look as pretty as a picture. You'll be one of the brightest jewels in Queen Guinevere's crown.

Elaine:- Thank you Papa.

King P:- Now remember what I told you. Always act like a lady and don't let any dirty old men take you out.

Elaine:- No Papa.

(She laughs)

King P:- Don't laugh Elaine, I'm being serious. You don't realise what the world is like living here with your poor old father who is as pure as the driven snow.

Elaine:- Don't worry, I'll take care.

(The dancing girl re-enters)

Girl:- Sire there is a troop of horsemen without.

King P:- Without what?

Girl:- I mean they're outside the castle.

King P:- Oh I see - - - you are a clever little girl aren't you?

(Again he makes a grab for her but she moves away)

Girl:- Shall I ask them to enter Sire?

King P:- Yes bring them in. No wait, tell them to get off their horses first.

Girl:- Yes Sire.

(She exits)

King P:- (Very excited) They're here, they're here. Now don't get excited Elaine, keep calm and you'll make a better impression.

Elaine:- (As cool as a cucumber) I'll try my best Papa.

(Girl re-enters)

Girl:- Lancelot-du-Lac and retinue.

(Lancelot, Ethelred and chorus men enter)

King P:- Welcome to Astolat! Welcome! You must be Lancelot.

Lancelot:- Yes Sire. (He bows)

King P:- Then you must be Arthur. (To Ethelred)

Ethelred:- No Sire I'm Ethelred. Lancelot and I are mates, you know a bit like Starsky and Hutch (or Batman and Robin).

King P:- I would have said more like Rod Hull and Emu. Still never mind, even Camelot must have its off-days. May I present my daughter, the Lady Elaine.

Lancelot:- Your servant my Lady.

(He kisses her hand)

Ethelred:- Your servant my Lady.

(He kisses her hand and then begins to work up her arm, Lancelot drags him back)

Elaine:- Did you have a safe journey sir?

Lancelot:- Yes thank you my Lady.

King P:- Supper is almost ready. I'll just go and make sure those serving girls know what they're doing. I have to keep my eye on them you know.

(He exits with a sexy grin. There are offstage girls' screams)

Ethelred:- Lovely weather for the time of year isn't it?

Elaine:- Yes - - - yes, very nice.

Lancelot:- Ethelred, wouldn't you like to go and admire the view from the battlements?

Ethelred:- No not really. I came here on a trip with Wallace Arnold (or other tour operator) last year and we went on the battlements then.

Lancelot:- Well how about checking up to see if our horses are stabled for the night.

Ethelred:- Oh it's alright, the stable boy has seen to that.

Elaine:- Ethelred.

(He goes over to her)

It is Ethelred, isn't it?

Ethelred:- Yes Miss Elaine.

(He goes all shy)

Elaine:- Will you do something for me?

Ethelred:- Yes Miss Elaine anything.

Elaine:- Good, will you take the men and slip to the bottom of the garden and pick some fresh strawberries for supper?

Ethelred:- Yes Miss Elaine.

(He curtsies and falls over himself. He picks himself up and exits with the men's chorus)

Elaine:- Oh Ethelred - - - oh dear, he's gone. I meant to tell him to take a horse. The garden is three miles long.

Lancelot:- I'm pleased he's gone. Now we can be alone together.

Elaine:- How can we be alone if we're together?

Lancelot:- Just the two of us without interruption.

Elaine:- Sir, what do you mean?

Lancelot:- Oh Lady Elaine, you are the fairest maiden I have ever seen.

Elaine:- I must admit you have a certain charm yourself Lancelot-du-Lac.

Lancelot:- It will be a real pleasure to escort you to Camelot my Lady.

Elaine:- And it will be a real pleasure going with you Lancelot.

(Tabs draw to allow for scene change)

Duet (Lancelot and Elaine)

Suggested Numbers:- Annie's Song

People Will Say We're in Love (Oklahoma)

Make Believe (Show Boat)

Younger Than Springtime (South Pacific)

### Scene 3 - The Courtyard at Camelot

(Dame is on stage leaning over battlements showing an even more flamboyant pair of bloomers)

Dame:- (Yelling) Left hand down a bit. That's right. Now are you in bottom gear? - - - good. Now slowly ahead, mind the gate post - - - that's it. (There is a loud crash offstage) - - never mind, better luck next time.

(She turns to audience)

Ooh sorry, I didn't know you were there. Hello lads, how's your dads? (Audience responds) I was just helping the delivery man to get through the castle gates. It is difficult with these long articulated carts they have nowadays. And they do make the buildings shake. Still that's progress I suppose.

We're getting some special grub in for a special banquet to welcome the Lady Elaine to Camelot. I think we'd better have an inspection of the junior chefs before they start work. Junior chefs, on parade.

(Junior dancers enter dressed as chefs. They form a line and Dame inspects them)

Dance (Junior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Sunshine Cake

Food Glorious Food (Oliver)

Boiled Beef and Carrots

Dame:- Very good, back to the kitchens and on with the job.

(They march off to the same music. There is the sound of cheering offstage. Dame goes to the battlements)

They're here. It's Lancelot returning with the Lady Elaine.

(Chorus begin to enter in great excitement. Dame exits)

Song (Chorus)

Suggested numbers:- There's A Coach Coming In (Paint Your Wagon)

Something's Coming (West Side Story)

Great Day (Great Day)

(Chorus gradually build up song which finishes with Lancelot, Ethelred and the coach carrying Elaine arriving on stage. There is then a fanfare and Arthur, Guinevere and Merlin enter. Lancelot helps Elaine out of the coach. She curtsies very low to Arthur and Guinevere)

Arthur:- Welcome to Camelot my dear.

(He raises her up)

Guinevere:- May you be as happy here as I am Elaine.



Elaine:- Thank you your Majesties.  
(Guinevere kisses Elaine's cheek. Mordred and Morgan-le-Fay enter)

Mordred:- Don't I get an introduction to our beautiful guest your Majesty?

Arthur:- But of course. Lady Elaine this is my nephew Mordred and his mother Morgan-le-Fay.

Mordred:- You're very beautiful my dear.  
(He touches her cheek and she cringes)

Morgan:- Don't be afraid my dear. My son only wishes to welcome you to Camelot.  
(Elaine goes over to Lancelot)

Lancelot:- It's alright Elaine, you're safe here with me.

Mordred:- Yes, run to your toy soldier Elaine, but wait and see how well he fares on a real battlefield.

Lancelot:- You shall answer for that. On guard.  
(He draws his sword)

Arthur:- Put your sword away Lancelot. Remember where you are, the both of you. If you are determined to fight each other then let it be at the May Day Jousts tomorrow.

Lancelot:- Very well your Majesty, tomorrow it shall be.

Mordred:- I shall look forward to it your Majesty. We'll see how well you boast when you've been thrown from your horse Lancelot-du-Lac.

Arthur:- Enough, enough! I wish to hear no more harsh words until the day of the Jousts. Come Guinevere, let us show the Lady Elaine her quarters.  
(Arthur and Guinevere exit to music. Chorus bow and curtsy and gradually exit. Lancelot escorts Elaine off followed by Ethelred. Morgan exits after first whispering to Mordred. Chorus men take coach off. Merlin is about to exit when Mordred calls him back)

Mordred:- (In stage whisper) Merlin.  
(Merlin does not hear)  
Merlin.  
(He still does not hear)  
I've got a purse full of gold.

Merlin:- Did I hear somebody mention my name?

Mordred:- I thought a purse full of gold would attract your attention.

Merlin:- Well what can I do for you Mordred? Do you want your warts removing or your ears piercing? I have a very good line in hair restorer.

Mordred:- No you old goat. Do I look like somebody wanting his ears piercing?

Merlin:- I don't know, punk rock's still very popular. How about a safety pin through your nose - - - or somewhere?

Mordred:- Enough of this tomfoolery. Have you such a thing as a sleeping draught?

Merlin:- I daresay, for a modest fee, I could concoct something that would make you nod off.

Mordred:- It's not for me you fool, it's for - - -  
(Morgan enters and prevents him saying more)

Morgan:- It's for a friend of ours who suffers with insomnia.

Merlin:- Sleeping draughts work out expensive.

Mordred:- Here's ten golden sovereigns. (He hands him the money)

Morgan:- But you must promise to keep this little deal secret.

Merlin:- Do you know for another ten golden sovereigns I think I could possibly arrange to lose my memory completely by tomorrow.

(He holds out his hand for more money)

Mordred:- Here you are you old miser, but I must have the sleeping draught by tonight so that I can put it in Lancel - - -

Morgan:- He means, in his friend's cocoa before he goes to bed.

Merlin:- Very well, it shall be done.

(Mordred gives him second payment)

Morgan:- And then forget all about it.

Merlin:- Don't worry. For twenty golden sovereigns I'd even forget who's king.

Mordred:- Perfect!

Merlin:- I'll go and prepare.

(He turns to them as he exits and again walks into the proscenium arch)

Morgan:- Ha ha ha ha. When that sleeping draught is placed in Lancelot's cocoa tonight he won't stand any chance at all of winning at the Jousts tomorrow. Then the King will see who's the best knight at Camelot.

Mordred:- And I'll show that proud beauty Elaine. She'll marry me when she sees what a weak kneed idiot Lancelot is.

Morgan:- After all you are next in line for the throne when Arthur dies.

Mordred:- And I'm sure that could be arranged. (Tabs draw)

Evil Duet (Mordred and Morgan-le-Fay)

Suggested number:- 'You Gotta Do A Dirty Deed Now' (Tune:- You Gotta Pick A Pocket Or Two - Oliver) with the following words:-

Mordred:- In this life there's one thing, that's the chance to be king.  
There'll be no throne upon your own,  
You gotta do a dirty deed now folks,  
You gotta do a dirty deed now.

Both:- There's no throne upon your own,  
You gotta do a dirty deed now.

Morgan:- Why should we break our backs stupidly paying tax.  
Better get some untaxed income,  
You gotta do a dirty, etc.

Mordred:- How I hate Lancelot, he would take what I've got.  
I'll be the one to end his fun.  
You gotta do a dirty, etc.

Morgan:- When the church crowns my son, I'll be known as Queen Mum.  
Now is the time to start our crime.  
You gotta do a dirty, etc.

Both:- Oh how great! Oh how grand! To be  $\left( \begin{smallmatrix} \text{King} \\ \text{Queen} \end{smallmatrix} \right)$  of this land.  
We'll make it hot for Camelot.  
You gotta do a dirty, etc.  
(They both exit at end of number)

Scene 4 - The Castle Kitchens

(There is a small table centre stage with a long cloth touching the ground. On the table there are four 'custard pies'. The Dame is working at the table)

Dame:- Hello girls, how's your girls?

(Audience responds)

Hello lads, how's your dads?

(Audience responds)

Lovely! You know you're the best audience we've had all night. Shall I tell you a secret? Shall I? Then I will. I'm thinking of opening a little cafe of my own. Well there's no future at this spot. There's a place for sale at - - - (local resort) right on the sea-front. All the big ships come in full of handsome sailors. On a good day you can get forty males to the galleon.

My sandwich board men are practicing now. I'll let you see their display to advertise my baking.

(Senior dancers enter dressed as sandwich board men. There are six dancers and they have the following words on their boards, one back and one front)

KILL	YOUR	HUNGER	DO	NOT	FORGET
1	2	3	4	5	6
PLEASE	YOUR	WIFE	EAT	MARY'S	TARTS

Dance (Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Tap Your Troubles Away (Mack and Mabel)  
Me And My Shadow  
Come Follow the Band (Barnum)

(It is suggested that this is a tap routine where the girl change places and come up with the following combinations which are shown to the audience:-

DO NOT FORGET KILL YOUR WIFE

FORGET MARY'S PLEASE EAT YOUR WIFE

DO NOT FORGET YOUR HUNGER PLEASE

TARTS DO NOT PLEASE YOUR WIFE

PLEASE YOUR TARTS DO NOT WIFE

They eventually finish up with the correct order as shown above and show back and front to the audience. They exit after dance)

Dame:- Wasn't that clever? Do you like these four custard pies? I made them with all the bits and pieces left over after I'd done the baking for tonight's banquet.

(She shows pies on table to the audience. Gertrude enters with love potion behind her back)

Gertrude:- Hello Mary, how are you tonight?

Dame:- I'm fine Gertrude, how are you?

Gertrude:- Oh I'm alright I suppose, but I can't get anywhere with Ethelred.

Dame:- Oh I am sorry. I used to have the same trouble with men when I was young - last year. They only took me out because they wanted to get their hands on my dumplings.

Gertrude:- I know the feeling.

Dame:- You should be so lucky, but seriously dear how can I help you?

Gertrude:- Well there is something you can do.

Dame:- What's that dear?

Gertrude:- Merlin has made up this love potion for me. A few drops in Ethelred's cocoa tonight and he'll become very romantic and who knows he might make passionate love to me.

Dame:- Give me the bottle and I'll make sure a few drops get into his cocoa.

Gertrude:- Ooh thank you Mary.

Dame:- My pleasure dear.

(Ethelred enters and Dame hides potion in pocket or bag)

Ethelred:- I've done all the washing up Mary and I've hung the Royal laundry out to dry.

Dame:- Good lad Ethelred. Have you milked the cow?

Ethelred:- Is that the big black animal with the long horns?

Dame:- No you fool, that's the bull.

Ethelred:- I thought he had a funny look on his face when I tried milking him.

Gertrude:- Hello Ethelred. How are you feeling tonight?

Ethelred:- Shattered.

Gertrude:- You wait till later, you'll suddenly feel yourself bursting with passion.

Ethelred:- Why? Is - - - (local lady) coming round?

Gertrude:- No.

Ethelred:- What's going to happen?

Gertrude:- Ah that's a secret, but you'll soon find out. You'll come up to me and say 'Your cheeks are like peaches'.

Ethelred:- Yes football peaches (pitches).

Gertrude:- You can mock but just wait.

Dame:- I'll get your supper in a few minutes Ethelred when Lancelot comes back from archery practice. There's a lovely big mug of cocoa for you.

Ethelred:- Smashing, I love cocoa. Eh these custard pies look nice. Can I have one to be going on with?

Dame:- Well there are four of them so we can have one each.

Gertrude:- But there are only three of us and there are four pies.

Dame:- Then somebody can have one extra.

Ethelred:- I'll have it, I'll have it. I'm a growing lad.

Gertrude:- Yes, but you're not growing in the right places. I'm the lady so I should have it.

Dame:- Hang about, hang about. We'll do this thing properly.

I like pepper, I like salt

I like lots of mustard.

I like jam upon my bread.

Which one gets the custard?

(As she speaks she points to each person in turn including herself. It is so worked that she finishes up with herself)

There you are, it's me. I get the extra one.

Ethelred:- Wait a minute, wait a minute. Let me try that.

(He repeats rhyme also finishing up with Dame)

Dame:- That proves it. I get the extra custard pie.

Ethelred:- Would you like the extra pie?

Dame:- Yes please.

Ethelred:- Then you shall have it.

(He takes pie from table, smiles at Dame and then pushes it in her face. Gertrude and Ethelred burst out laughing. Dame takes second pie from table and taps Ethelred on the shoulder from behind)

Dame:- Ethelred, I've got a surprise for you.

Ethelred:- Have you?

(Ethelred bends down to tie his shoelace and consequently Dame hits Gertrude with the pie instead. Dame and Gertrude look daggers at each other and each take one of the remaining pies. Slowly they lift them up and just as they are about to throw them at each other Ethelred straightens up and gets both pies in the face. They clean themselves up with cloths left on the table)

Dame:- I enjoyed that - it does you good to have a quick bite to eat now and again.

(Lancelot enters with bow and arrows)

Lancelot:- Hello Mary.

Dame:- Hello Lancelot. Are you ready for your cup of cocoa?

Lancelot:- Oh yes, the archery practice has made me quite thirsty.

Dame:- Right, I'll get some for you and Ethelred.

Gertrude:- What a good idea! (She whispers to Dame) Don't forget the - - you know what (She winks).

Dame:- I won't, don't worry.

Gertrude:- Goodnight all. (She whispers to Dame) I'll be back later.

Rest:- Goodnight.

Dame:- I'll go and get your cocoa.

(Gertrude and Dame exit)

Ethelred:- How do you feel about fighting Mordred tomorrow Lancelot? Aren't you scared?

Lancelot:- A little I suppose, but if I'm to become a knight I must be prepared to face all dangers.

Ethelred:- Ooh you are brave Lancelot. I wish I were as brave as you are.

Lancelot:- But you are brave Ethelred. All you need is a bit of confidence.

Ethelred:- I hope you're right.

(Dame enters with two mugs of cocoa on tray. She puts them down on the table which is behind Ethelred and Lancelot)

Dame:- There we are, there's your cocoa lads. I'll just leave it on the table to cool a bit.

(She takes love potion and pours some into mug on Ethelred's side of the stage. Ethelred and Lancelot do not notice)

Lancelot:- You are good to us Mary. I don't know what we'd do without you.

(Dame comes forward to join them)

Dame:- Think nothing of it lads. It's part of my job anyway.

(Mordred creeps on behind them with bottle containing sleeping draught. There is hissing from audience and he signals for them to keep quiet)

Ethelred:- What a funny hissing noise. Do you think the cistern's leaking?

Dame:- It's the audience you twit. (To audience) What are you hissing for? Is there somebody there?

(Audience responds)

Who is it?

(Audience responds with name 'Mordred')

Ethelred:- Who?

(Audience responds again with the name 'Mordred')

Lancelot:- Well we'd better look and see. 1,2,3.

(They all turn round on '3' at the same time as Mordred ducks down behind the table)

Ethelred:- There's nobody there.

(They all face forward again. Mordred re-appears and takes sleeping draught top off. Audience again responds)

Dame:- Is there somebody there?

(Audience responds)

well we'll turn round again. 1,2,3.

(They turn round again after '3' as Mordred ducks down)

Ethelred:- You're having us on.

(Audience try to explain to Dame what's happening)

Ethelred:- Alright we'll turn round again, 1,2,3.

(They turn as Mordred ducks down)

Dame:- I told you there's nobody there.

(Mordred pours sleeping draught into mug on Lancelot's side of stage. He then creeps off. Audience reacts)

I'm not taking any more notice of you. I think you're all loonies. I'll serve the lads with their cocoa.

(She takes tray and turns round with it to face the audience. This action switches mugs and should be done very obviously so the audience realise what is happening)

There you are lads.

Lancelot)  
Ethelred):- Thanks Mary.

(They take cocoa and start to drink it. This can be made even more obvious if their names or initials are on the sides of the mugs)

Ethelred:- By this cocoa tastes funny. The cat hasn't been on the table again, has it?

Dame:- Of course not. Drink it up, it'll do you good.

Lancelot:- Mine tastes peculiar as well.

Dame:- It's Tesco's (or other well known supermarket) own brand. I couldn't get Rowntree's.

Ethelred:- I think I'll leave mine.

Dame:- No you musn't do that. You want to grow up to be a strong and handsome knight don't you?

Ethelred:- Yes but - - -

Dame:- No buts, get it down you.

(She more or less forces it down him. Lancelot drinks his. She takes mugs off them and puts them on table. Tabs draw hiding table.)

Right everybody, off to bed. It's May Day tomorrow and we've all got to look our bests for the Jousts. The best of luck to you Lancelot.

Lancelot:- Thank you, you sexy little devil.

(Dame does double take)

Dame:- Pardon.

Lancelot:- I've never realised before what an attractive woman you are.

Dame:- (To audience) It must be my new 'Cross your heart' bra from - - -  
(local drapers)

Ethelred:- The best of luck Lancelot (he yawns and stretches). My how tired I am all of a sudden.

Dame:- Oh no, they've drunk the wrong drinks.

Lancelot:- You are the fairest damsel in all Camelot.

(Ethelred by this time has collapsed onto the floor)

Dame:- Oh help, what am I going to do? (To Lancelot) Give me a hand with Ethelred, he's fallen asleep.

Lancelot:- (Caressing her) Yes you gorgeous creature.

Dame:- Oh my beating heart. (Pulling herself together) No I musn't, they'll have me up for kidnapping.

(They lift Ethelred up between them)

Duet (Dame and Lancelot)

(This should be a comedy routine in which Lancelot declares his passion for Dame whilst they both try to deal with the sleeping figure of Ethelred. They finish off carrying off the limp figure of Ethelred)

Suggested Numbers :- If I Were A Bell (Guys and Dolls)  
Don't Cry For Me Mary Christmas (Don't Cry For  
Me Argentina - Evita, with amended words)  
I Could Be Happy With You (The Boy Friend)

### Scene 5 - The Jousts

(The Castle Courtyard is decked with tents and banners. There is a 'Royal Box' on the centre section of the rostrums at the rear)

#### Song (Chorus)

Suggested Numbers:- On A Wonderful Day Like Today (The Roar of the Greasepaint)

Once A Year Day (Pyjama Game)  
Take Your Girl (King's Rhapsody)

(It is suggested that some of the chorus are dressed as vendors and carry baskets and trays with ribbons, materials, jewels, fruit, etc. At the end of the number the chorus dress the stage whilst Junior Dancers enter with maypole)

#### Maypole Dance (Junior Dancers)

Suggested Numbers:- Portsmouth  
Cornish Floral Dance  
Scarborough Fair

(The Junior Dancers exit after dance. Merlin enters in haste. He is carrying a scroll)

Merlin:- The King and Queen are approaching. Show respect. Show respect.  
 (There is a fanfare. Arthur, Guinevere, Gertrude, Elaine and Morgan-le Fay enter. They take their places in the Royal Box)

Arthur:- Good day my people. Here we are again on the first day of May when by tradition the Spring Jousts take place. Merlin will now read out details of today's tournament.

Merlin:- Welcome to the 21st Annual Camelot Jousting Tournament. On the programme today we have a fifteen round contest between in the red corner, the light heavyweight champion of the southern counties, Mordred the Magnificent.  
 (Mordred enters in 'armour'. He is carrying his helmet. He gets booed by the crowd)  
 And in the blue corner Student Knight of the Year, Lancelot-du-Lac.  
 (Lancelot also enters in 'armour', carrying helmet. He is cheered by the crowd)  
 I want a good clean fight, no fouls and no lances below the doublet. Do you understand?  
 (They both nod)  
 By tradition any lady may bestow her favour on the knight of her choice. If there is a lady who wishes to do this will she now step forward?  
 (Morgan comes forward)

Morgan:- I wish to give my scarf to my son Mordred to bring him luck.

Merlin:- Very well.  
 (She fastens scarf around Mordred's arm)  
 Anyone else?

Elaine:- Yes I wish to give my handkerchief to Lancelot-du-Lac.

Merlin:- Very well.  
 (Elaine comes forward and passes Morgan as she returns to box. Morgan gives her a black look as she passes. Elaine ties her handkerchief around Lancelot's arm and returns to box)  
 Right, to your horses and let the tournament begin.  
 (Mordred and Lancelot exit to different sides of the stage)  
 I will now read out the rules of the contest.  
 (He reads from scroll)  
 Each rider will carry a lance and try to unseat the other with it. If the lance becomes damaged or falls to the ground then the rider will be allowed to use his own sword. When a rider falls from his horse the other contestant will be declared the winner. So let battle commence.  
 (There is a fanfare and suitable music played at speed. Mordred and Lancelot enter from opposite sides of the stage 'on horseback'. It is suggested that the horses are wire frames suitably covered. The riders actually use their own legs for moving but if the 'horses' have decorative 'skirts', they will not be seen. False legs can be made to hang on either side of the 'horse'.  
 There are several passes and the lances eventually fall to the ground. They are handed swords and start to fight again. Although Lancelot looks as though he is about to fall from time to time he manages to keep his balance and at last Mordred falls to the ground)