



King Arthur's Tale - Sword in
the Stone

by Ellie King

PantoScripts Perusal

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ACT I

PROLOGUE - SCENE 1

FOLLOWING OVERTURE and as MAIN DRAPE flies out or lights come up, we become aware of the sound of waves breaking with

MUSIC - ETHEREAL PIPE MUSIC ECHOING IN THE DISTANCE.

We see a SMALL BOAT moving slowly through the mist across the face of the setting sun

SPFX - MIST

There is the lone figure of a CELTIC WARRIOR standing in the bow leaning on his SPEAR

V.O. Uther Pendragon we bid you farewell
Now in far Avalon's halls you must dwell
Your time here is over and poor mortals sing
Sad songs, recalling the days you were king
Your only son Arthur is nearly full grown
And soon will take his rightful place on your throne
Speed mighty Uther - to your final rest
As we follow your son on his heroic quest.

The FOREST SCRIM if used becomes opaque OR the FRONTCLOTH FLIES IN

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SCENE 2 - SOMEWHERE IN BRITAIN

SFX - FLASHPOT

and the Demon King appears - wearing a kilt. He is apparently Scottish.

DEMON KING Helloooooooooo - it's me - your very own incredibly bonny Demon King! Did I hear a wee boo? (encouraging aud to boo) Och - that's useless! Ye call that a boo? There's more boos at an office party. Try again - (biz) It'll do for the noo. Soo we'll begin! A young man's awa' on a quest - so I think I'm gonna destroy him! (happily) I am! It's what Demon's do best!!

SFX - FAIRY BELLS
Enter Fairy Queen

FAIRY QUEEN (pausing to accept and encourage cheers)
Why thank you all: so glad you remember;
It's been quite a while since last December!
Now don't you worry about a thing
Young Arthur undoubtedly will become king

DEMON KING Och Fairy Queen - don't count your haggisses before they're hatched! 'Cos I've found a wee human so evil (encourage audience to reply 'how evil is she') she makes Meghan Markle (or favourite villain) look like Dolly Parton (favourite hero) - and she's gonna help me bring Arthur tae a horrible, terrible, no good, sassenach end! Ta ta the noo.

EXITS CHORTLING

FAIRY QUEEN I'll ta ta his noo - just you wait and see!
Does he honestly think he can ever beat me?
He can say what he likes, I don't give a jot
For I will bring Arthur to Camelot!!

EXITS

SCENE 3 –

THE VILLAGE OF LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGWYLLGOGERYGHWYRNDROBWYLLANTISILIOGOGOGOGOCH

(HERE'S HOW TO SAY IT: CLAN-FIRE-PUCH-GWIN-GICH-GOGERRY CHWINN-DROBWIL-CLANTIS-SILIOG-GOGOGOCH)

We are in the VILLAGE SQUARE. There are various shops including the POST OFFICE: it is market day. The Villagers, Dai & Rhea Jones, Nurse Gladys, Amaryllis Plant and Owen Money perform

MUSIC – OPENING CHORUS

Enter Dafydd THE DRUID

MUSIC – HAIL TO THE CHIEF (ALL SING)

ALL Hail to the Chief dippy dopey daffy druid!

DAFYDD Now, now, now – that's Dafydd Druid, not daffy: Show a little respect!

DAI Oh we do show a little respect.....

RHEAso little – it's not there at all!

NURSE GLADYS Behave yourselves – or I'll tell your mother!

DAFYDD Thank you Nurse Gladys.

NURSE GLADYS You're welcome.

THEY SHARE A SHYLY SOPPY MOMENT

ALL OoooOOOooo!!!

WHICH BREAKS THE SPELL.

DAFYDD Ahem – now everyone – are you ready for the eisteddfod (Aye-steth-vod) next week.

OWEN MONEY I've learnt a special song – all about sheep. And I'm dedicating it to Rhea.

DAFYDD What's it called?

OWEN MONEY (taking hold of Rhea's hand) I'll never find another you (ewe)

ALL Ad lib baas and groans....

RHEA PULLS HER HAND AWAY AND MOVES OFF FOLLOWED BY OWEN

DAFYDD What about you Dai? Do you have a song?

DAI No – but I'm learning to play the violin
(banjo, ukelele any instrument you happen to have)
to impress Amaryllis. Maestro....

MUSIC – VERY SHORT INTRO AND AWFUL PLAYING WITH MUSICAL DIRECTOR ACCOMPANYING

DAI Well Amaryllis – what d'you think?

AMARYLLIS Well - I think I'd like to hear you play solo.

DAI Really??

AMARYLLIS Yes - so low I can't hear you!

ALL LAUGHTER

SFX - NOISES OFF, PLUS ANCIENT MOTOR CAR SOUNDS WITH HONKING HORN AND BACKFIRING

DAI Ma!!

RHEA Ma!

MUSIC - DAME'S ENTRANCE

We see Widow Jones AND Grandpa Jones enter driving a CARTOON LIKE CAR which does a circuit of the stage. It stops at the centre and....

SPFX - PYRO - EXPLODING CAR

...explodes, depositing them both onto the ground.

OWEN MONEY (waving a CHEQUERED FLAG) The winner!!

DAFYDD (helping Widow Jones to her feet) Widow Jones - you shouldn't drive like that - one day you'll go too far see.

WIDOW JONES (giving him a push) Ooo - chance'd be a fine thing!!

RHEA Ma - why're you still driving that old piece of junk?

WIDOW JONES Piece of junk? I'll have you know this is a Rolls Canardly

OWEN MONEY Yeah - rolls down one hill, can'ardly get up the next!

ALL General Laughter

DAI What did you bring us ma?

WIDOW JONES Fair you - nothing! But I've got lots of sweeties for the kiddies out there.

Widow Jones throws candies out to the children in the audience and everyone else waves and shouts hello.

NURSE GLADYS Now come along Grandpa Jones ...(she has helped Grandpa to his feet) - you look quite rattled.

GRANDPA JONES Who wants a battle?(takes up boxing stance)

NURSE GLADYS No, no - did you have a fright?

GRANDPA JONES Always ready for a fight! (still doing fisticuffs moves)

RHEA No Grandpa - (Shouting) DID YOU HAVE A SHOCK

GRANDPA JONES (looking at POCKET WATCH) Half past one.

ALL General laugh

WIDOW JONES It's a shame - we only keep him around out of cruelty! Just kidding. Come on Grandpa and I'll give you a piece of fruit cake

GRANDPA JONES No, I never get it.

WIDOW JONES What?

GRANDPA JONES Toothache! I'm pretty fit for an old timer

NURSE GLADYS You're not such an old timer....

GRANDPA JONES Half past three

NURSE GLADYS I take it back.

ALL Laughter

AMARYLLIS Widow Jones, could you open the post office please: I need a stamp for my letter.

DAI (all dopey and love-sick) I can give you one from my stamp collection Amaryllis!

RHEA Silly boy - philately gets you nowhere!

ALL General Laughter as everyone leaves....

GENERAL EXIT

Leaving Owen Money alone on the stage watching Rhea leave...

OWEN MONEY Bye Rhea: see you later.... (sigh: then to aud) Hi how are you??? You're a bit quiet - I know just to get us warmed up, everything I say, you say back to me OK?? Right - here we go. Hello..(): how are you (): I'm happy to be () in () Llanfairpwllgwyngychgogerychwyrndrobwillllantyllogogoch() No? Well, here's something else we can do.

Every time I come out here I'm going to shout 'How's it goin' and I want you to shout 'Wonderful Owen' - 'cos that's my name, see. Right, let's practice (usual biz) Well, I'm off to find Rhea. See you later....

EXITS INTO POST OFFICE

Guinevere enters carrying a hat - she looks for a place to hide. We hear Arthur's voice off:

ARTHUR Gwinny - Gwinny!! Come back.....Gwinny...

Guinevere hides as Arthur enters

ARTHUR Guinevere - where are you? That's my best hat - ma'll be mad if I lose it. Gwinny - come on! Where are you.....

Guinevere has crept out from hiding place and is behind Arthur

GUINEVERE Boo!!

There is a short 'chase-me-charlie' ending with them sitting on a bench/hay bale/?? to catch their breath as Arthur puts his hat back on.

GUINEVERE You're too slow to catch a cold Arthur Jones

ARTHUR No I'm not - I let you get away

GUINEVERE Did not

ARTHUR Did too

GUINEVERE Did not

Beat

ARTHUR Gwinny - will you go to the sheep dog trials with me?

GUINEVERE Didn't know they'd been arrested!

ARTHUR (beat) Oh very funny.

GUINEVERE (laughing) Kidding! Yes I'll go.

ARTHUR Gwinny... (beat - then he clears his throat)
Ahem: we've been friends a long time haven't we

GUINEVERE Nearly our whole lives.....

ARTHUR And we've always got on well, haven't we?

GUINEVERE We have.

ARTHUR So. Well, I was wondering..... that is... (pause to collect courage) will you mmmm - will you mmmm - (he can't complete the sentence)

To cover the moment of embarrassed silence, Guinevere steals Arthur's hat again and they begin to chase. Widow Jones, Villagers, Dai, Rhea, Dafydd, Owain, Nurse Gladys and Amaryllis re-enter.

OWEN MONEY How's it goin'?

Arthur and Gwinny bump into...

WIDOW JONES Oi - look out

ARTHUR Sorry ma

GUENIVERE Sorry Widow Jones

WIDOW JONES You're supposed to be working, not running around like a couple of henways.

ARTHUR What's a henway.

WIDOW JONES About two pounds. (aud) Henway? You'll have to be quicker than that. Anyway, get on and do your chores.

ARTHUR What chores?

WIDOW JONES Thank you - I'll have a large gin!! (back to Guinevere) Now you - go and help the girls bring in the sheep

AMARYLLIS (to Guinevere & Rhea) and we'd better make the sheep dip.

GUINEVERE Only make it thicker this time

RHEA Last time it kept slipping off the chips!

Guinevere, Rhea and Amaryllis exit laughing

NURSE GLADYS (to Dai & Owen who are staring after the girls) What's up with those two: are they sick?

WIDOW JONES Lovesick! Go on boys - get off and help them.

AS THEY RUN OFF AFTER THE GIRLS:

DAI Thanks Ma - Amaryllis: wait for me!!

OWEN MONEY Rhea....Rhea - I'm here Rhea

THEY run off after the girls, overlapping ad lib dialogue as.....

WIDOW JONES (grabbing Arthur's ear) As for you - c'mere you little toe tag.

ARTHUR Ow! What's up?

WIDOW JONES Your grandfather's blood pressure that's what. It's time for his bath.

ARTHUR Has it been a year already?

WIDOW JONES Not your grandfather, Idris!

ARTHUR Oh - he won't like that.

WIDOW JONES He never does - now where is he??

ARTHUR Search me..

WIDOW JONES In that outfit? There's only just room for you (calling) Idris, Idris! Come on everybody - help us call Idris.

BUSINESS of everyone including audience calling Idris. Idris - a very cute young, pink DRAGON - enters through house ending up on stage.

WIDOW JONES Where have you been you naughty little dragon??

Business of Idris hiding behind Arthur who snuggles him.

WIDOW JONES Don't encourage him; take him inside for his bath.

IDRIS & ARTHUR EXIT INTO POST OFFICE

WIDOW JONES And now - for the delight and delectation of all I shall sing a little song entitled 'Get off the gas stove grandma, you're too old to ride the range'. Professor.....

MUSIC PLAYS INTRO

Widow Jones opens mouth to sing as Arthur re-enters

ARTHUR Hey ma....

WIDOW JONES Oh you wicked boy - cut me off in mid glissando. That's a terrible thing to do to a woman of my age.

ALL general laugh

WIDOW JONES What d'you want?

ARTHUR Grandpa needs help with Idris.

WIDOW JONES Oh that dragon - he's more trouble than a party full of teenagers. Right (to aud) Keep your motors running, I'll be back.

GEN EXIT

There is a beat and then Merlin and G'norman the Gnome enter. G'norman is carrying a large bag or sack which he puts down.

MERLIN And here we are. Llanfair..... Llanfairpwll..... Llan..... (half beat) The village where I left the baby all those years ago. (looking round) Now I wonder where.....

Merlin makes magic passes over his magical staff

MERLIN Higgledy piggledy hocus pocus, find me Arthur (beat while nothing happens; shakes staff) Come on staff - focus!!

Staff glows or (?)

MERLIN (consulting staff) Ah - he's over - there! (crossing to post office and knocking on door)

WIDOW JONES (off) If that's the rent man there's no-one home.

MERLIN (knocking again) Open up!

WIDOW JONES (opening door) Whatever it is we don't want any, besides I've got a box full of 'em, the carpets don't need cleaning and we've plenty of natural gas as it is - good morning. (closes door)

MERLIN (knocking very hard this time) Widow Jones - I am insistent.

WIDOW JONES No, you're persistent. Go on - beat it (brushes him away with her broom) this is the brush off! (to aud) Brush off!!!

During the above Villagers re-enter

MERLIN Madam - don't move!

WIDOW JONES Eh?

MERLIN The way the light strikes you - you look just like a saint!

WIDOW JONES Oooh - a saint! St. Joan or St. Catherine?

MERLIN St. Bernard!!

ALL Laughter

MERLIN (as WIDOW threatens him with broom again) Just my little joke! Please - accept these (produces FLOWERS from his sleeve or robe)

ALL sounds of awe - 'oooh'; 'aah' etc

WIDOW JONES Oo - magic!

MERLIN Yes - I am a magician.

WIDOW JONES So you'll be stopping for a spell!

ALL Laughter

WIDOW JONES (look to aud - back to Merlin) Actually - you look familiar.....

MERLIN Madam, I wouldn't dream of being familiar with you!

WIDOW JONES Oo, you wicked wizard! (indicating G'norman) And what's that?

MERLIN That is my g'nome - G'norman (pronounces 'G')

WIDOW JONES Isn't he a bit big for a gnome?

G'NORMAN I'm g'normous. But my brother G'nigel's even bigger than me.

WIDOW JONES Oh yes?

G'NORMAN Yes. He's huge, he's gigantically immense: he's so big (pauses).....

WIDOW JONES I'll bite. (encourages aud to join in) How big is he?

G'NORMAN He's so big - he makes Big Bird look like a budgie! (or any reference that works for you)

ALL Laughter

During the above G'nigel has worked his way out of the top of the sack. He is very small. He tugs on G'norman's sleeve

G'NORMAN Oh, hello G'nigel.

WIDOW JONES I thought you said he was huge

G'NIGEL (1/2 beat) I've been sick.

WIDOW JONES I should say - you're not far enough out of the ground to be healthy. Pleased to meet you anyway. And you - if you're a magician - do some magic.

MERLIN Very well - give us some food and we'll make it vanish.

WIDOW JONES Cheek! Well you can join us for lunch.

MERLIN Ah dear lady - what's on the menu?

WIDOW JONES An old Welsh favourite, leek soup, but there's none left.

MERLIN Why's that?

WIDOW JONES It leaked out of the pot! Leek - leaked.....never mind.... We were going to have a ploughman's lunch - but he wouldn't let go of it. (beat) The main ingredient in the shepherd's pie went on his holidays (beat) and the cottage pie was condemned (beat) so we'll have to make do with dessert.

G'NORMAN What's for dessert?

WIDOW JONES Cobblers.

MERLIN He only asked.

WIDOW JONES Silly sorcerer - apple or blackberry cobbler. Come on in - and later on you can show me your magic wand!

GEN EXIT

SPFX - FLASHPOT

Enter Demon King

DEMON KING Och, what a happy wee place: how very Disney!
Much more of this and I'll need insulin. Still - my evil queen is nearly here.
She'll get rid of Arthur before he even leaves this sticky little village and then the future of the kingdom will be dark desolate and doomed - followed by light showers with a 50% chance of flurries.
Och no - can it be that I win so soon???

SFX - FAIRY BELLS

Enter Fairy Queen

FAIRY QUEEN I couldn't help but overhear -
Were you having a gloat? I thought so, oh dear
I'm afraid your friend is going to be late
The spell I cast on her has altered her fate
Instead of arriving before Arthur goes
She won't get here in time and he'll escape his foes

DEMON KING What????? Where is she?

FAIRY QUEEN That's for me to know and for you to find out
She's right where I left her - just wandering
about...

DEMON KING Why you - what did you - how did - Bah

EXITS

FAIRY QUEEN Temper, temper - that Demon is such a grouch
He should know when it comes to spells I'm no slouch!
Well I really must be on my way To keep a close eye on Morgana la Fey

Merlin & Widow Jones enter from Post office followed by Arthur and the G'nomes.

WIDOW JONES I SAID you looked familiar

MERLIN Yes indeed. I brought Arthur to you for safe keeping all those years ago and you've done a fine job. But now he must come to Camelot and undergo one final test to prove he's the king.

ARTHUR I'm right here! And just to be clear, I don't want to be king and I'm not going anywhere.

MERLIN Now my boy - you must know in your heart you are meant for greater things? Be honest - did you ever truly feel you belonged here?

ARTHUR Well....

MERLIN You have to fulfill your destiny. Without you Morgana la Fey will become queen. Then the land will grow barren, the crops will wither, and death and pestilence will be the order of the day.

ARTHUR Really? Oh. (beat and then strongly and a bit heroically) Very well - I will go with you, magician!
(less certainly) Um - just what is this final test?

MERLIN Oh - um - nothing to worry about.

WIDOW JONES You'll keep him safe?

MERLIN Of course!

WIDOW JONES (making Arthur spit on her hankie as she wipes his face and smooths his hair)
Make sure you wear clean underwear.

ARTHUR Ma!! (heroically) Lead on!

Enter Dai, Rhea, Amaryllis Plant, Owen Money, Nurse Gladys, Dafydd and all Villagers

OWEN MONEY How's it goin'?

WIDOW JONES Ooo - you're all just in time to say goodbye to Arthur.

Guinevere has entered with Grandpa & Idris just in time to catch the end of the last speech

GUINEVERE Arthur - you're leaving?

Idris runs to Arthur

ARTHUR Gwinny - it seems I have to. I'll come back for you; (includes Idris) both of you - I promise.

MERLIN (has been observing his STAFF which is giving off an unhealthy glow) My boy - we must leave now.

RHEA Why the hurry? And why's your staff doing that? Is there some danger?

MERLIN Yes... NO! No -(innocently) we just need to - um - to make the most of the daylight. Yes.

DAFYDD

Well boy bach - we'll miss you. Here's a song to remember us by....

MUSIC -

ALL EXIT AFTER SONG

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SCENE 4 –
FRONTCLOTH OR FOREST SCRIM – A PATH IN THE FOREST

Enter Morgana la Fey – furious

MORGANA (to aud) And what're you looking at? Don't – or I'll turn you all into toads. (beat – looking out) Oh – too late I see. Tell me – have any of you seen Sir Mordred? He whom I laughingly refer to as my champion? No? Curse – he must be round here somewhere: how careless of him to have lost me. (she tries to decide which way to go, and shows her frustration) Aaahhh! I've been going round in circles for hours: it's like looking for help in Walmart (or favourite store that fits the bill). Well I'm off – um – (decides) this way.

EXITS

Sir Mordred enters limping and bad-tempered:

SIR MORDRED Ooooh, my feet. Where is that woman. (to aud)
Did you see a short, loud, incredibly evil person pass this way? You did?
Which way did she go? (threatens aud with sword)
Tell me or I'll have your gizzards for garters!
That way?? I don't trust you – I think you're fibbing. So I'm going... (deciding) this way.

Morgana re-enters

MORGANA Mordred!

SIR MORDRED Morgana!!! Sister!! I mean Your Majesty! How truly wonderful to see you; how very beautiful you look: we have been bereft without you.

MORGANA Bereft! Any more and you'll be left – without a major body part.

SIR MORDRED Oh your highness is pleased to jest! How droll, how hilarious, how....

MORGANA much longer before you shut up. Where were you going just now?

SIR MORDRED That way.

MORGANA Wrong.

SIR MORDRED (pointing at aud) It was their fault; turn them into toads! (looks at aud) Oh, too late.

MORGANA So're you – I already did that one. (produces small device and looks into it)

SIR MORDRED What's that, your magnificence?

MORGANA Well brother dear – you know my magic mirror back at the castle?

SIR MORDRED Yes....

MORGANA This is a portable version: it's my I glass.....

SIR MORDRED (awed) Technomancy!!

MORGANAa-a-and it shows me that our little half brother has already left the village. Drat! And tarnation!

SIR MORDRED I like it on my cereal.

MORGANA What?

SIR MORDRED Carnation. Evaporated milk. Yum.

MORGANA You know, I don't think you look as dumb as you are.

SIR MORDRED Thank you. Hey.....!

MORGANA (shakes mirror) Frozen - DON'T sing the song! Grrr - I knew I should have gone android. I can't see anything ... (indicates aud) Hmm - they've seen everything that's gone on up here. Pop down and torture a few of them. They'll soon tell me what I need to know.

As Mordred starts towards audience...

SPFX - FLASHPOT

Enter Demon King

DEMON KING Morgana! It's you!

MORGANA Who were you expecting, the Queen of Hearts?(or pop star/celebrity/politician etc)

DEMON KING Ah ha ha - yes. And how are we today?

MORGANA What're you selling? I'm not buying any Girl Guide cookies.....

DEMON KING Shame - I make 'em out of real Girl Guides.
But no - (ingratiatingly) I bring you information.....

MORGANA So inform me.

DEMON KING Ah - right - (to Mordred) direct, isn't she.

SIR MORDRED You don't know the half....

MORGANA Get on with it or you'll be walking funny

DEMON KING Ah. Well ah've come to tell ye that Arthur's left the village and he's travelling to Camelot with Merlin and the Gnomes.

MORGANA Double drat. I need him alone!

DEMON KING Ahem. (poses) Allow me to assist.....

MORGANA And what exactly are you anyway?

DEMON KING I (with a flourish) am the Demon King!

MORGANA (unimpressed) I suppose a Demon could be useful.....

DEMON KING Not 'a' Demon, 'the'. The Demon. (another pose) The Demon King!

SIR MORDRED What's going on?

MORGANA The plot if you'd pay attention. You (Demon) Demon thing...

DEMON KING ...king!!

MORGANA ...take me to Arthur. You (Mordred) stay close by. (to Demon) Well???

DEMON KING (slightly off his stroke) Oh, um, right uh - follow me! Mwah, ha - ha...
(his laugh tails off on Morgana's look as she pushes past him and they -)

EXIT

SIR MORDRED Oh don't worry Your Low and Rotten Nastiness,
I'll stay really close by, because when them time comes -
I'll get rid of you for good; and then I'll be king

Sir Mordred follows them off, miming an attack - strangling or smack on head or with sword or???

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SCENE 5 –
THE BANKS OF THE LOST LAKE

If we have a FOREST SCRIM we bleed through and if a FRONTCLOTH we fly it to reveal Arthur, G'norman, G'nigel and Merlin – leaning on his staff – entering the scene which is deep in a forest. There is a lake with a very slight mist rising behind some rocks,

MERLIN Dear me, I'm getting too old for this!

G'NORMAN We could make camp here....

MERLIN Good idea. You and G'nigel collect some firewood while Arthur and I clear a space.

BIZ during the following dialogue

ARTHUR Is it much further?

MERLIN Oh dear me yes – we're going all the way to Cornwall

ARTHUR Cornwall!!!?? But that's the other end of the country.

MERLIN Well done. Ah G'nomes. Put it here. (firewood) Now to light the fire.

He prepares to do magic with his staff – this is where we will encourage our audience conjurors to join in by repeating the spell after Merlin

MERLIN Biggety, boogetty I proclaim
Miggetty moogetty let there be flames!

Nothing happens.

MERLIN Mmm – I'll try again:
Biggety, boogetty I proclaim
Miggetty moogetty let there be flame! (Still nothing)

G'NORMAN Maybe you need some help?.

MERLIN Mmm yes. Are there any wizards or princesses out there who know the magic spell? Where are you? Stand up. Good – now I'm going to count to three and then you say the spell with me so we can light this fire. Are you ready? (the G'nomes count too) One, two, three;
Biggety, boogetty I proclaim
Miggetty moogetty let there be flame!

THE FIRE LIGHTS

MERLIN Well done! Now this fire must burn all night, so the three of you go find some more wood: and stay together.

G'NIGEL We will.

Arthur and G'nigel exit

G'NORMAN You be all right with g'no-one here?

MERLIN Of course.

G'NORMAN Because you g'never g'know what's waiting to jump out and g'hobble you....

MERLIN I'll be fine.

G'NORMAN Well OK then - back in a g'nonce...

EXITS

Merlin seats himself and begins to play his pipe. LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD enters carrying her basket.

RED Excuse me.....

MERLIN Yes??

RED Have you seen a wolf?

MERLIN Around here? No - but I've seen a few cougars.....

RED Oh dear - I have to get to grandma's house but I seem to have lost my way. I wonder - why would that be?

Many people stick their heads round the scenery:

MANY PEOPLE WRONG PANTO KID!

RED Oh. That explains it.

Red Riding Hood exits as do Many people and Merlin settles down again to play his pipe. There is a beat and Sir Mordred enters. His clothing is untidy and he is breathing as if he's been running

SIR MORDRED Help! Help!

MERLIN Whatever is the matter?

SIR MORDRED (overacting) Oh kind gentleman, my poor lady and I were robbed and she lies senseless and wounded. Will you help?

MERLIN (to aud) What d'you think? Should I help him? (biz - then) Of course! Lead on....

SIR MORDRED (points off) Over there....

Merlin exits, followed by Sir Mordred rubbing his hands and chuckling evillya moment goes by then G'norman, G'nigel and Arthur enter carrying wood.

G'NORMAN Uh oh - G'no Merlin!

G'NIGEL G'no Merlin!?

They carry out a quick search of the area calling his name

ARTHUR He must've gone looking for us - stay here, I'll go find him.

G'NORMAN G'no! Merlin said to stay together!

ARTHUR Don't worry - when I find Merlin then he and I will be together, plus you two are already together, and when Merlin and I get back together, we'll all be together, together. OK?

The G'nomes aren't too sure:

G'NORMAN OK.

GNIGEL OK.

Arthur exits and the G'nomes sit, looking around warily. Enter Sir Mordred playing the same role as before:

SIR MORDRED Help - oh help!! An elderly gentleman lies unconscious on the path - will you help?

G'NORMAN Merlin!

GNIGEL Merlin!

SIR MORDRED This way...

They all exit running back along the path, Sir Mordred last out, chuckling evilly. There is a beat and Arthur re-enters

ARTHUR No sign G'norman? G'nigel? (looking around) I guess they went to look for Merlin. Well from now on, I'm staying put.

MUSIC - WEIRD, ECHOING PIPE MUSIC IN THE DISTANCE GROWING CLOSER

SPFX - fog rises

ARTHUR (yawns) I'm so tired all of a sudden. I'll just close my eyes for a minute...(sleeps)

SPFX - A STRANGE GLOW HAS APPEARED ON THE LAKE AND A MIST HAS RISEN - A BOAT GLIDES INTO VIEW

Morgana appears DL (or in the MIDDLE OF THE LAKE exact place tba) and makes magic passes with her hands:

MORGANA Arthur, Arthur hearken to me
Your father is calling from over the sea
He bides on the shores of far Avalon
And would say a farewell to his beloved son
This craft across the waves will glide
Bearing you safely to his side

ARTHUR (rising & moving as if under a spell) Father -

Arthur steps onto the boat which immediately leaves the shore.

MORGANA Bon voyage! (evil laugh)

ARTHUR (partly coming out of the trance) Who are you?

MORGANA Oh tut tut, where are my manners. I'm Morgana la Fey - Queen of the Britons.

ARTHUR But - I'm to be king!

MORGANA Wanna bet!

PFX - FINGER FLASH AND SQUIB EXPLODES ON SIDE OF BOAT WHICH TIPS DANGEROUSLY

Enter Merlin

MERLIN Morgana!

MORGANA Merlin - you meddling old fool. Stay out of matters that do not concern you.

MERLIN (appears to grow in stature and drops the kindly older man act to become a commanding figure) On the contrary - this concerns me greatly. Bring him back to the bank - now.

MORGANA I think not Merlin

MERLIN Do as I command!!

SPFX - A BEAM OF LIGHT SHOOTS FROM HIS STAFF, HITTING A ROCK CLOSE TO MORGANA. THE ROCK EXPLODES INTO PIECES.

Morgana backs away

MORGANA Curse you Merlin - you win this time. But be warned - the closer you come to Camelot the closer you'll be to the dark heart of my power. The next time we meet this story will have a different ending.

Morgana magically disappears. Merlin's power has brought the boat safely to the bank and he helps Arthur to disembark.

ARTHUR Merlin thank you: you saved my life.

MERLIN That won't be the last we see of Morgana: she'll stop at nothing to take the throne.

ARTHUR Well she doesn't scare me!

MERLIN She should boy - she certainly scares me.

Enter G'norman AND G'nigel

G'NORMAN (seeing Merlin & Arthur) Merlin! Arthur!

G'NIGEL What happened??

MERLIN It's a long story - but now we must rest. Soon it'll be dawn and with daylight comes safety....

They all settle down to sleep except for Merlin who sits playing his pipe by the FIRE'S GLOW as the scene fades to black and the FRONTLOTH comes in.

SCENE 6 –
JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF LLANFAIR PG

Enter Rhea, Guenivere & Amaryllis, while Dai and Owen enter from the opposite side.

OWEN MONEY How's it goin' (Aud response) Hello Rhea (crossing and taking her hand)

DAI (has done same action with Amaryllis) Hi Amaryllis

Guenivere sobs

RHEA Oh Gwinny – don't cry.

During dialogue, Villagers enter.

AMARYLLIS I'm sure Arthur will be OK.

OWEN MONEY So am I – listen:

MUSIC – CHEERING UP KIND OF SONG – OWEN, RHEA, DAI, AMARYLLIS, GUENIVERE AND VILLAGERS

Following song:

GUINEVERE Thank you everyone. I feel much better now.

OWEN MONEY Good. Now let's all go and have some ice cream.

ALL Hurray!!!

MUSIC – REPRIS SONG AS THEY EXIT, SINGING, CHATTING & LAUGHING

Enter Widow Jones through the house

WIDOW JONES Oh hello – nice to see you again. Are you behaving yourselves out here? You are? (chat ad lib until on stage) Now as a little treat for you I'll sing you a little song entity tittled 'She was only a clockmaker's daughter but she'd plenty of time on her hands".....professor.....

MUSIC – INTRODUCTORY ARPEGGIO

WIDOW JONES (looking round-no-one there...) Right – now's our chance: Professor...

MUSIC – DAME'S SOLO

Enter Idris running chased across the stage chased by Rhea, Guinevere and Grandpa Jones

RHEA Come back here you little monster: I'll teach you to hide the soap

GRANDPA JONES Yes – that's a good idea.

WIDOW JONES What is?

GRANDPA JONES A piece of rope. We'll tie him up with it.

GUINEVERE No Grandpa – she said soap. Detergent.

GRANDPA JONES Oh yes - very urgent.

WIDOW JONES Oh get off out of it. You need one of these. (SOMEONE hands Widow Jones a very large butterfly net)

RHEA What's that for?

WIDOW JONES Four? No it's just the one. And it's to catch dragons - it's a dragon-net!

MUSIC - DRAGNET THEME

WIDOW JONES (to aud) Showing your age! Right - I'll get the little tearaway. (TO Grandpa) You couldn't catch him anyway; you're slower than a one legged snail.

EXITS

GUINEVERE Never mind, Grandpa - she's not really cross with you. She's just worried about Arthur - and so am I.

RHEA Come on Gwinny - cheer up.

GRANDPA JONES Yes come on Gwinny bach: let's go find Idris!

GUINEVERE OK Grandpa, Rhea - I'll be along in a minute.

GRANDPA & REHA EXIT

GUINEVERE Oh Arthur - suppose I never see you again... (cries)

SFX - FAIRY BELLS

Enter Fairy Queen

FAIRY QUEEN Sweet child don't cry: listen to me
Arthur was in danger, but now he is free
Still he must have help if he's to succeed
For the dangers he faces are dreadful indeed.
So run to the village and tell all your friends
That Arthur will need them before his quest ends.
Then you must journey to fair Camelot
And once there you will need all the courage you've got
To battle the evil and conquer the fear
That threatens young Arthur - and you Guinevere

GUINEVERE Me too? But why would anyone want to harm us?

FAIRY QUEEN The evil Morgana will do anything
To stop young Arthur becoming king
But now please make haste for time hurries on
And you and your friends must swiftly be gone

EXITS

GUINEVERE Oh no - this is awful.....

EXITS RUNNING

SCENE 7 –
INSIDE THE POST OFFICE

A panto interior. There is a POST OFFICE COUNTER diagonally at one side, also GENERAL STORE SHELVES and various GENERAL STORE TYPE ARTICLES. Widow Jones is behind the counter doing post office stuff as Dai runs in.

WIDOW JONES Morning

DAI Afternoon.

WIDOW JONES Evenin' ow time flies.

DAI Is this the post office

WIDOW JONES You know it is

DAI Do you keep stationery?

WIDOW JONES No, I move round a lot! (goes to swat him and he runs out passing Dafydd who is entering)

DAFYDD Is this the post office?

WIDOW JONES Don't you start

DAFYDD Well I need a penny stamp.

WIDOW JONES Do you dear? Come here (bottom end of counter) where's your penny? (takes proffered penny & stamps on Dafydd's foot) there you go. A penny stamp!

As Dafydd exits hopping and 'owing'

WIDOW JONES Another satisfied customer.

Amaryllis enters

WIDOW JONES Now what?

AMARYLLIS You told me to come and help you wait on people.

WIDOW JONES Did I? Then what are you waiting for? Come round here.

Nurse Gladys enters

WIDOW JONES Yes?

NURSE GLADYS I want a jar of plum conserve

During following set piece, Amaryllis produces LABELLED JAM JARS ETC which she hands to Widow Jones.

WIDOW JONES Ooo, conserve. Aren't we posh. Well if that's your jam (to aud) jam, eh?? Please yourselves. Well I haven't got any plum jam - I've got rasp-berry (pronouncing 'p') or strawb-berry (pronouncing 'b')

NURSE GLADYS Raspberry or strawberry? Hmm - I'll have blueberry

WIDOW JONES There you are - a pound of blackberry jam.

NURSE GLADYS I don't want this - it's full of stalks!

WIDOW JONES That's what it says on the label - branches everywhere!

NURSE GLADYS Well I don't want it. Do you have gherkins?

WIDOW JONES Don't be personal.

NURSE GLADYS I'll have a jar of gherkins instead of the jam.

WIDOW JONES (hands jar) Here.

NURSE GLADYS No I've changed my mind - have you got apricots?

WIDOW JONES Not since I've been using the ointment.

Hands apricots to Nurse Gladys

NURSE GLADYS Thank you. (begins to leave)

WIDOW JONES Oi - you haven't paid me for those apricots.

NURSE GLADYS No, I gave you the gherkins for them

WIDOW JONES But you didn't pay me for the gherkins

NURSE GLADYS No - I gave you the jam for them

WIDOW JONES But you didn't pay me for the jam

NURSE GLADYS Certainly not - you don't expect me to pay for something I don't want do you? Good morning.

EXITS

WIDOW JONES Why the very nerve! Amaryllis - go and get my jam back.

AMARYLLIS EXITS

Owen & Rhea enter carrying a bath.

OWEN MONEY How's it goin'?

WIDOW JONES And what do you think you're doing?

RHEA It's Friday night -

OWEN MONEY - so we're taking a bath. Get it - taking a bath!!

WIDOW JONES Silly sausages - put it down!

They do as Idris enters at a run followed by Grandpa Jones.

MUSIC - SINGING IN THE BATHTUB OR TINY BUBBLES OR?

Slapstick scene bathing the dragon ending with dragon swallowing soap and bubbles coming out of his mouth.