



Robin Hood

by Shinn & Petrucci

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Characters

Serena Spirit of Sherwood

Robin Hood

Maid Marion

Sheriff of Nottingham

Lance

Boyle

Dame Wilma Wetherspoon

Wally Wetherspoon

Little John

Will Scarlett

Fryer Tuck

Much Tuck

Not Much Tuck

King Richard

Messenger

Chorus - People of Nottingham, Wood nymphs.

PantoScripts Perusal

Act One
Prologue

(Front of tabs. Serena enters stage right.)

Serena:

I am the Spirit of Sherwood
Serena is my name
I have a tale of Robin Hood Of legendary fame
You'll see quite a lot of me Of that there is no doubt
To help you with our story I'll just pop in and out
The Sheriff rules the country while King Richard is away
He makes a rotten stand in High taxes all must pay
To rob the rich and help the poor There's Robin and his band
Of merry men who travel round He's known throughout the land
Maid Marion is his one true love Of that there is no doubt
They need to be together So everything works out
So now to get things underway And move on with our show
Let's join folk at a local inn To Nottingham we'll go.

(She exits)

PantoScripts Perusal

Scene One – The Golden Arrow Inn

(The curtains open to reveal a backcloth painted as an inn interior. There is a small bar upstage right and the odd small table and a couple of benches placed around. The townsfolk are together for the opening song.)

SONG 1

(Fryer Tuck enters)

Fryer: Well you all sound as if you're enjoying yourselves. I've just come to let you know that the kitchen is now closed as we stopped serving at two.

Town 1: Well the meal I had was lovely. There is no doubt that The Golden Arrow does the best fry ups in Nottingham.

Town 2: And Fryer Tuck is the best cooker of fry ups there is.

(All nod and shout in agreement.)

Fryer: Thank you, that's very kind. Now drink up, we need to start clearing up. The missus won't like it if you're still here when she gets back.

Town 1: So where is she then?

Fryer: She went to the cash and carry to get some stuff for Marion's party that's coming up. Come to think of it she caught the early coach so she should have been back hours ago.

Town 2: Shall I go and see if she's coming?

Fryer: No it's alright, Wally went to meet her.

(Wally enters.)

Wally: Whatcha everybody.

All: Whatcha Wally!

Wally: Is Mum back yet? I reckon I must have missed her. I was waiting for ages.

Fryer: No, we were just wondering where she's got to.

Wally: Oh well if she's not back in the next ten minutes I'll go back to the coach stop. At least I used the time to write some new songs. Would you like to hear one?

(There is a collective groan and general cries of "No not really".)

Wally: **(Sings)** I was standing at the stop for the coach
When a man did me approach.

(He stops. There is silence.)

Fryer: Is that it?

Wally: Yes.

Fryer: It's a bit short isn't it?

Wally: Yeah but it's good though.

Fryer: **(Pause)** Anyway now you're here you can help clear this lot up while I finish in the kitchen.

(Fryer exits and Wally starts to tidy up as the last of the customers leave. He drops a spoon, bends down to pick it up and spots the audience.)

Wally: Oh hello, I didn't see you there. I'm sorry but we stopped serving at two, you'll all have to come back at six. I'm sure you'll find plenty to do around Nottingham, there are lots of tourist attractions. There do seem to be rather a lot of you so when you come back, just ask for me and I'll do you a good deal. I'm Wally by the way, Wally Wetherspoon. When I say whatcha everybody, all my mates say whatcha Wally! Will you do that? Let's give it a try. Whatcha everybody! That's great, it's lovely to have all these new friends. I can't wait to tell my mum. She owns this place. She used to be the nanny to the King's daughter Marion but when she grew up mum was out of a job. So she used her severance pay to buy this place. It's not bad is it? And it's in a nice area which is really quiet.

(There is a shout from outside, the loud noise of something being knocked over and the Dame struggles in laden with shopping bags.)

Dame: I thought you were going to meet me off the coach to help me with these bags?

Wally: I was there and I waited ages. There were loads of other coaches came along but not yours. What happened? Why have you been so long?

Dame: Don't ask!

Wally: Oh all right then.

Dame: No do ask!

Wally: So what happened?

Dame: I don't want to talk about it. I tell you that number nine coach service just gets worse. Not only were we late leaving but I couldn't get a seat. There was even some spotty youth sitting in the seat reserved for the elderly. But I think the driver took a fancy to me because he squeezed me in the luggage rack! That was a first! Then we had hardly got going when we hit a pothole and the axle broke so we all had to pile onto a cart replacement service. Then to cap it all, we couldn't come back through Sherwood because they are upgrading the cart track to make it dual carriageway so we had to follow the diversion which took us hours. There are signs and cones everywhere. We've been all round Will's mothers and I am dying for a cup of tea.

Wally: Well give me the shopping. I'll put it away and make you one.

Dame: You're a good boy.

(Dame hands over all of the bags to Wally.)

Dame: Now off you go and get the kettle on.

Wally: Whatcha everybody!

(Audience responds as he exits. Dame looks out.)

Dame: Oh hello there. I see you have met my son Wally. I hope he hasn't been singing you one of the hundreds of songs he has written has he? He has! Oh bad luck! I'm afraid he fancies himself as a bit of a singer songwriter but to be honest his songs are a bit short. Actually that's a bonus thinking about it. Anyway my name is Wilma Wetherspoon and I run this obviously high class inn with the help of Wally and the chef Fryer Tuck. She specialises in the fry up. Oh yes, there's nothing she doesn't fry, even soup! When I took over this place it didn't have a very good reputation. I can tell you how bad it was, they used to have a pig on the counter as an air freshener.

Actually it wasn't even that busy. In fact they used to have bouncers on the door throwing people in. They used to boast that they had three Michelin stars. They did, you could see them through the hole in the roof. It's a lot busier now since I had it refurbished. There's still a bit of touching up that needs doing if there are any handymen in the audience. **(To man in audience)** You look like a handy man. See me after and I'll take down your credentials! There are a lot of forms to fill in with all this health and safety stuff but Marion helps out with the paperwork. She's a lovely girl. I've known her since she was born. She's King Richard's daughter and I used to be her nanny. I sort of still am because she's living with us while her father is away on the crusades. I can't believe it's her eighteenth birthday in a few days. We're going to have a big party for her and all the regulars have been invited.

(Marion enters.)

Dame: Oh hello lovely. Are you getting excited about your party?

Marion: Yes I am really looking forward to it, especially as Robin promised he would be here. I really hope he can make it.

Dame: Well I am sure he will if he can. But remember he has to be careful not to be seen. After all he is an outlaw and you know that the Sheriff is always out to get him. Now are you sure that you still want us to hold the monthly Open Mic night because it will clash with your party?

Marion: Yes that's all right. It will save us hiring a disco. And I have already started to teach the children a song for that. In fact they should be here any minute for another lesson.

Dame: Well in that case I'll leave you to it. We will be open again in a couple of hours and I'm going to have a cup of tea and put the posters up ready for the Open Mic night. See you later.

(Dame goes to exit as Much and Not Much enter.)

Dame: Well if it isn't the twins Much and Not Much. Have you finished your chores?

Much: **{Together}**

Not Much: {What chores?}

Dame: That's very kind I'll have a double gin and tonic! The old 'uns are the good 'uns.

(Dame exits.)

Marion: Hi twins. Have you been busy?

Much: Yes really busy.

Not Much: But at least we got out of the washing up to come to singing practice.

Marion: Yes I'm really looking forward to it. I've got the words of the song here. **(To Not Much.)** You can give them out when everyone gets here Much.

Not Much: I'm not Much. He's Much. I'm Not Much.

Marion: It's confusing enough you being identical twins without having similar names. Much and Not Much. How did that happen?

Much: Well the firstborn is always called by the family name which is Much, so I am called Much.

Not Much: But because people couldn't tell us apart, they used to call me Much as well.

Much: So mum used to get annoyed and say no that's not Much.

Not Much: So that stuck and now I am Not Much.

Marion: I see. I think.

(The children enter.)

Marion: Hello everyone.

All: Hello Marion.

Marion: Right, I hope you have all been practising your song for the open mic night.

All: Yes we have.

Marion: Good. So let's see how you are doing then.

(They start to sing their song as the curtains close.)

Scene Two – On the Way to the Inn

(Front of tabs. Lance enters stage left.)

Boyle: Come on, come on, clear the way, there's nothing to see here, move along.

(Boyle enters stage left.)

Lance: What are you doing Boyle?

Boyle: Well Lance I'm clearing the way for the Sheriff.

Lance: But there's nobody here. It's already clear. That's why it's called a clearing.

Boyle: So it's worked then!

(Sheriff enters stage left.)

Sheriff: I hate walking through this forest. The sooner the Sherwood bypass is built the better.

Lance: Well Sire, at least coming this way avoids all those protesters with their banners and drums and things.

Boyle: And all their tents and their camp fires. Not to mention gluing themselves to trees.

Sheriff: If King Richard hadn't taken all my best men to the crusades I would have had all that sorted out weeks ago. Instead of that I am left with you two wimps!

Lance: That's a bit harsh.

Boyle: Actually I find that quite offensive.

Sheriff: Well tough! That's the trouble nowadays, people are too soft. Take that lot of peasants the other day who got upset when I turned them out of their house for not paying the rent. "Oh we haven't got anywhere to go! What are we going to do?" It was pathetic. Then there was that sword sharpener begging me not to sack him after the incident. What did he expect? A one-armed sword sharpener is no good to me. Now how much further is it to this Ye Olde Golden Arrow place where Marion's living then?

Lance: Actually Sheriff it's just the Golden Arrow now since the Wetherspoons refurbished it.

Boyle: I see they're having an open mic night, it doesn't cost anything to get in although it's a bit whiffy in there.

Lance: How do you know?

Boyle: I saw it on the poster.

(He takes out a poster.)

Boyle: See it says there's an open mic night, there's no charge but it's a bit whiffy.

Lance: No you idiot, it says open mic night, free Wi-Fi!

Sheriff: Never mind all that! Now listen, let's get this straight. The plan is we are going for two reasons. One, to commandeer the inn for tax collection purposes and two, and most importantly to break the news to Marion that she was betrothed to me at birth and I will be there on her eighteenth birthday which is imminent to claim her hand. I'm really looking forward to that. Don't you just love it when a plan comes together?

(They exit stage left. Serena enters stage right.)

Serena: So the Sheriff has a plan
His news is not so good
This would seem to be the time
To contact Robin Hood
He needs to know what's going on
And try to help his friend
So that he can be here
A message I must send
Shall I send an email?
Or maybe just a text?
Hang on. They're not invented yet
So what shall I do next?
Has he got a Facebook page?
I wonder to myself
But as time's of the essence
I'll have to send an elf!

(Serena exits stage left.)

PantoScripts Perusal

Scene Three – The Golden Arrow Inn

(Set as scene one. On stage there is the Dame, Wally, Fryer, Much, Not Much and some customers.)

Dame: ...and so the vicar said “well I needed somewhere to park my bike!”

(All laugh)

Wally: Whatcha everybody! Hey mum, can I put my name down for the open mic night? I’ve got some new songs I want to try out.

(All groan.)

Dame: Right. Well it looks like being quite a good evening. So far then we have young Byron doing his poem, Mrs Dupp’s husband Stan telling some jokes and Marion’s little group of Sherwood Babes doing their song.

Wally: And me.

Dame: Oh and you yes.

Wally: But I’ll be appearing under my stage name.

Dame: What’s that then?

Wally: Well I haven’t thought of it yet but I’ll let you know

Marion: It all certainly sounds lovely. My birthday is going to be very entertaining and I can’t wait. I’m getting quite excited.

(Sheriff, Lance and Boyle enter stage left. Silence.)

Dame: Oh hello there Sheriff. This is an unexpected... err... pleasure.

Sheriff: Yes and the pleasure is all yours.

(Lance and Boyle move people off table, gesture to Sheriff who comes over and all three sit.)

Sheriff: Bring some ale!

Dame: Certainly Sheriff. **(To Fryer)** You had better go over and take his food order.

Fryer: Right.

(Fryer approaches table with pad and quill)

Fryer: Good day Sheriff...

Sheriff: Oh very well.

(He takes the pad and quill and turns to Lance and Boyle.)

Sheriff: I get this all the time. Who is it to? **(Starts to write)** Best wishes...

Fryer: No I don’t want your autograph, I’m here to take your food order.

(Fryer takes pad and quill.)

Sheriff: Oh well, please yourself. What's on the menu then?

Fryer: Any starters?

Lance: } **(Together)**

Boyle: } Oh yes!

Sheriff: No, straight to mains.

Fryer: So there's fresh game and chips, barbecued chicken wings and chips, eel and chips and the vegetarian option is nuts, roots and cabbage risotto. And chips. Or there's the famous Golden Arrow fry up.

(They talk between themselves as Much and Not Much serve their drinks. Dame, Wally and Marion move to one side.)

Dame: This is the first time I've seen him in here. I would normally be happy to see three men walk in but not this time. This isn't a good sign. I have a bad feeling about this.

Wally: Yes, wherever he goes it's always bad news.

Marion: Well it's better that he's here today rather than at my party.

Dame: That's true.

(Fryer approaches)

Fryer: So that's two more fry ups then...

Wally: I suppose the Sheriff is having the double venison burger?

Dame: No he won't have that.

Marion: Why not?

Dame: Because it's two deer. **(To audience)** Do you get it? Double venison, too dear. Look mate, if you're expecting wit you've come to the wrong place.

Lance: When are you going to tell them about commandeering this place for the tax collection Sheriff?

Sheriff: All in good time, all in good time.

(Sheriff picks up Lance's drink and drinks it.)

Boyle: And when are you going to break the news about marrying Marion Sheriff?

Sheriff: When the time is right, when the time is right.

(Sheriff picks up Boyle's drink and drinks it.)

Sheriff: Yes I think this will be a very successful trip. Let's drink to that.

Lance: But you've just drunk my drink Sheriff.

Boyle: Yes and you've drunk mine as well.

Sheriff: Oh well this one must be mine then.

(He picks up drink and drinks it.)

Sheriff: This food is taking its time. Very poor service. I'll be putting this on TripAdvisor don't you worry.

Lance: Let's have a selfie while we're waiting.

(Lance takes out a pad and quill.)

Sheriff: A what?

Boyle: A selfie. We do it all the time, don't we Lance?

Lance: Yes. Budge up.

(They move together, Lance very quickly holds up pad and sketches selfie.)

Boyle: He can sketch your dinner when it comes if you like.

Sheriff: Why?

Lance: Then we can post it on all the trees around Sherwood.

Boyle: So then everyone would know what you had for dinner.

Sheriff: I don't believe this, it's another world.

Lance: It'll be all the rage in years to come. You mark my words.

Sheriff: I'll mark your face if you don't shut up!

(Dame approaches)

Dame: Sorry Sheriff, bit of bad news but there is a backlog in the kitchen. Be about another twenty minutes.

Sheriff: I see.

(Sheriff stands and faces her.)

Sheriff: Talking about news, I have some for you. In fact there is good news and bad news. I am going to increase everyone's taxes.

Dame: Blimey! So what's the good news?

Sheriff: That was the good news. The bad news, for you anyway is that I have decided to commandeer this inn for a whole day next Thursday to be used as a tax collection point.

Dame: You mean I am going to have to close for a whole day? What about my takings?

Sheriff: I am more interested in my takings. In fact, any trouble from you and I may decide to take inns. Heh! Heh! Heh! **(To Lance and Boyle.)** Laugh! Do I make myself clear?

Dame: Yes Sheriff.

Sheriff: Now I need to speak to your ward Maid Marion. Bring her over here.

Dame: Yes Sheriff.

Sheriff: I think the time is right. Pass me the document.

(Lance gives document to Sheriff as Dame, Wally and Marion come over.)

Marion: You wanted to see me Sheriff?

Sheriff: Indeed. I am aware it is your eighteenth birthday in a few days' time and, as you were betrothed to me at birth, I shall be claiming your hand in marriage.

Marion: What?

Dame: I don't believe it. Betrothed to you at birth?

Wally: That can't be right.

Marion: It can't be true. My father would have told me.

Sheriff: I have the betrothal document here signed by the King himself. There is no mistake.

(He hands the document to Marion.)

Dame: Well this is the first time I've ever heard anything about a betrothal.

Marion: He's right. I can't believe it.

(Marion hands it to Dame)

Dame: Yes it's right.

(Dame hands it to Wally.)

Wally: Yes it's right alright.

(Sheriff snatches document back.)

Sheriff: Well off course it's right. Now as this meal doesn't seem to be forthcoming and I am a busy man I will leave you to prepare for my return. Until your birthday then Marion, my dear. Guards!

Dame: Cheerio Sheriff. Do come again when you can't stay as long.

Sheriff: I'll be back.

(Sheriff, Lance and Boyle exit stage left. There is a stunned silence. Marion starts to cry.)

Marion: What am I going to do? I can't marry him, I love Robin.

Wally: Would it help if I sing a song to cheer you up?

Dame: Well it doesn't usually.

Wally: **(Sings)**

Robin's not marrying Marion now
That's been knocked on the head
The document that the Sheriff has
Says she's marrying him instead.

(All shout him down. There is a whoosh and an arrow with a message tied to it hits the wall. Dame unties the message.)

Dame: It's from Robin. **(Reads)** "Will be back for Marion's birthday. See you then". There you are Marion, Robin is on his way back.

(All cheer.)

Dame: Oh hang on there's a PS. "Need to recruit more men. Please see attachment."

(Dame turns message over.)

Dame: What attachment?

(There is a whoosh and another arrow with a message tied to it hits the wall. Dame unties the message.)

Dame: "Please display on your notice board." Oh it's a recruitment notice for more people. I don't know why he needs to recruit more but I'll put it up anyway.

Marion: I knew he would keep his promise to be here for my birthday.

(All cheer.)

SONG 2

Scene Four – Outside Nottingham

(Front of tabs. Little John and Will enter stage right.)

Little J: There's nobody about Robin, it's all clear.

(Robin enters stage right.)

Will: We're taking a bit of a risk coming back to Nottingham. You know the Sheriff is always on the lookout for outlaws as we have all got a price on our heads. You in particular.

Robin: I know but we need to recruit some more men. Let's face it there are only three of us left now.

Will: Yes it's a shame that all the others had to go back to their own countries after Brexit.

Little J: And the ones we've tried to recruit so far either haven't got the skills needed to be outlaws or just don't want the work.

Robin: I promised Marion that I would be back for her birthday today. It's a long time since we've seen each other.

Will: I know but she's eighteen now so at least you can get married.

Little J: Yes if she'll still have you.

Will: Well nothing much seems to have changed around here.

Little J: Except that there's more litter around. Look at all this stuff here.

(Little John picks up a couple of pieces of paper then notices that one is an Open Mic poster)

Little J: Hey Robin look at this. They are having an Open Mic night at the Golden Arrow as part of Marion's birthday party.

Robin: I didn't know she was having a party. That could make things difficult for us. We can't risk being seen.

Will: Well we know the Sheriff's not likely to be at something like that.

Little J: No but a lot of other people will be.

Robin: I have to be there, I promised. I'll just have to lie low until everybody has left.

Little J: That's just given me an idea. I know how you can get in without being recognized.

Robin: } **(Together)**

Will: } How?

Little J: I'll tell you on the way. Let's go.

(They exit stage left.)

Scene Five – The Golden Arrow Inn

(As for opening scene but with balloons and a Happy Birthday banner added. Dame, Wally, Marion, Fryer and chorus on stage.)

Wally: Whatcha everybody!

(Audience respond.)

Wally: That's great. Well it's Marion's birthday and the party is in full swing. We're just having a twenty minute interval in the open mic night. The first half was pretty good, shame you missed it! Stan Dupp did some good comedy and there was a lovely romantic poem from young Byron. I'm quite nervous actually because it's the first time that Mum has let me take part and I'm opening the second half. Talking of opening, I can't wait for Marion to open the present I got her.

(Dame comes forward.)

Dame: I thought you would be getting ready for your big moment.

Wally: I just want to give Marion her present.

Dame: Well she'll just have to wait, you're on in a minute.

Wally: Oh yes by the way, I've written my stage name on your list.

Dame: Stage name! So what did you choose?

Wally: I've gone for...

(Marion interrupts.)

Marion: Oh nanny thank you so much for all this, it's a lovely party.

Wally: Just a minute. Wait there!

(Wally gets a parcel from behind the bar.)

Marion: Where's he going?

Dame: I think he has a present for you. Brace yourself!

(Wally hands the parcel to Marion.)

Marion: Oh is that for me?

Wally: Well it's just a little something I thought you'd like.

(Marion opens the parcel and takes out a book.)

Marion: Oh..err...um...it's lovely.

Dame: What is it?

Wally: It's a book of lyrics of my hundred greatest hits.

Dame: Right.

Marion: Thank you. I'll put it with my other presents and read it later. I really wish Robin was here.

Dame: Well there is still time. I'm sure he'll turn up. Anyway we must start the second half. Are the Sherwood Babes all ready?

Marion: I'll just go and check.

(Marion exits, Dame grabs her clipboard and moves to performing area.)

Dame: Right everyone, before we start the second half can I just draw your attention to Robin's recruiting poster on the notice board. All those interested can get their application form from me afterwards. Now then, I've finally given in and let him appear. So give it up for Wally Wetherspoon.

(There is muted applause.)

Wally: No Mum, my stage name.

Dame: Oh yeah, hang on.

(Dame hunts through running order.)

Dame: Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a Golden Arrow debut tonight, so make some noise for Adele!

(Everyone goes wild.)

Wally: No!

(Wally whispers in Dame's ear.)

Dame: Sorry, not Adele. Alan A'Dale.

(Muted applause as Wally steps forward.)

Wally: **(Sings)**
I was walking through the forest
When I stopped for a rest
Resting in the forest
Really is the best.

(Silence.)

Dame: Is that it?

Wally: Yes.

Fryer: It's a bit short.

Wally: Yes but it's good though. It's my latest release.

Dame: I don't know about release, you ought to be locked up! Get off!

(Wally moves off. Dame takes over.)

Dame: Now the moment all you mums and dads have been waiting for. Put your hands together for Marion and the Sherwood Babes.

(Applause as Dame is replaced by Marion and kids.)

SONG 3

(During the song, Robin, Will and Little John enter wearing masks and surreptitiously talk to the Dame. After song Dame returns to performing area.)

Dame: That was lovely. Now we have an exciting addition to the programme. Here, for one night only, please welcome The Masked Singer.

(Robin moves to the performing area with Will and Little John who act as backing.)

SONG 4

(After song Dame joins them.)

Dame: That was a surprise wasn't it? Well here is another.

(Robin, Will and Little John remove their masks. Everyone reacts. They all greet each other as Robin takes Marion to one side.)

Marion: I didn't think you were going to make it but I am so glad you did. Such a clever disguise too.

Robin: That was Little John's idea. Anyway I always try to keep my promises. I've been so looking forward to seeing you again. Now that you are eighteen we can start making plans for our wedding.

Marion: That would be lovely but there is something I need you to know. The other day the...

(Dame interrupts.)

Dame: Robin I think this would be a good time for you to talk about your recruiting drive. Come on, the stage is all yours.

(Dame physically propels him towards the performing area.)

Robin: Friends, it's great to be back. I hope you've all seen the notice about recruitment. It's open to all, we are an equal opportunities employer. Anyone interested should come to the clearing in Sherwood early tomorrow morning...

(Townsperson runs in.)

Town 1: The Sheriff and his guards are on their way. They'll be here any minute.

Dame: Hear that Robin? You must go. Quickly, out the fire escape.

(Robin, Will and Little John hurriedly exit stage right.)

Marion: I know he said he was going to claim me when I was eighteen but I didn't think he meant today. My birthday is ruined. And I never had the chance to tell Robin.

(Marion starts to sob. Dame comforts her.)

Dame: Don't worry. Things are never as bad as they seem.

(Sheriff, Lance and Boyle enter stage left.)

Dame: Oh I don't know though! Sheriff! I'd like to say how nice it is to see you. I'd like to say that but...

Sheriff: You know why I am here.

Wally: Not more free drinks.

Sheriff: So where is the birthday girl then?

Marion: I am here Sheriff.

Sheriff: I have brought you the present you have waited for all these years. Me!

(Marion sobs even more.)

Sheriff: I know it's overwhelming. I'd be the same! So drinks all round. Let's celebrate this happy occasion.

(There is a mad rush for the bar.)

Dame: Here hold on, who's paying for all this?

Sheriff: Don't worry, I'll knock it off the extra tax I'll be charging you. Actually, it is time for Marion and I to get back to the castle. She needs to get settled in and start to plan the wedding.

(Everyone reacts.)

Marion: What? Why do I have to come with you now?

Sheriff: Oh didn't I mention that in order to keep you from harm and oh, outlaws and things you'll be staying safely with me in the castle?

Dame: Oh no she won't!

Sheriff: Oh yes she will!

(Repeat a couple of times.)

Sheriff: Enough of this. Guards! Escort Maid Marion to the castle.

(Lance and Boyle move towards Marion. Wally leaps in front of her.)

Wally: Not so fast! You'll have to get through me first.

(Lance and Boyle easily push him to one side. Dame holds on to Marion's arm and a tug of war ensues.)

Dame: You're not taking her.

Lance: } **(Together)**

Boyle: } Oh yes we are!

Dame: Oh no you're not!

Marion: Stop! I have no choice. I will have to go.

Sheriff: I knew you couldn't resist me. You know it makes sense.

(Marion hugs Dame and Wally. Lance and Boyle each take Marion's arm and lead her out.)

Sheriff: You may as well close up. I think you'll find the party's over.

(He exits, everyone reacts as the tabs close.)

Scene Six - On the Way to the Castle**(Front of tabs. Serena enters stage right.)**

Serena: The Sheriff's carried out his plan
 And Marion's in a state
 To the castle she is bound
 She'll soon find out her fate
 Things are really not that good
 I need to help out here
 I'll put a spell on those two guards
 And fill them both with fear
 I will make them full of dread
 No longer safe and sound
 They will think they're being watched
 By wood nymphs all around.

(Serena exits stage right. Lance, Boyle and Marion enter stage left.)

Lance: We had better wait for the Sheriff to catch us up otherwise he'll only moan.

Boyle: I suppose you're right but I don't really want to hang around longer than I have to. I've suddenly started to feel a bit nervous about being here.

Lance: Now you come to mention it, I thought it was just me. What about you Marion, do you feel nervous?

Marion: Only about having to marry the Sheriff.

Boyle: Yes that's bad luck that. Rather you than me.

Marion: Well thanks!

Lance: This feeling is getting worse. I feel like we're being watched by all sorts of weird creatures.

(They all stare out at the audience.)

Boyle: Yes you're right. It's like there are loads of eyes staring at us.

Marion: Perhaps it's the old tale of Sherwood Forest.

Lance: What's that then?

Marion: Well at this time every year legend has it that families of wood nymphs, elves and gremlins gather together at this very spot.

Boyle: What for?

Marion: Young and old they laugh, clap, shout and sing.

Lance: That sounds quite jolly.

Marion: Ah but they can also turn really nasty, sometimes booing, hissing and contradicting you.

Boyle: Oh no they don't!

Marion: Oh yes they do!

Lance: Oh no they don't!

(Audience respond.)

Boyle: Oh no it's happening, let's get out of here.

(Sheriff enters stage left.)

Sheriff: Ah there you are. I thought you would have been nearly back to the castle by now.

Lance: We thought we had better wait for you.

Boyle: In case you were scared of all those wood nymphs and things out there.

Sheriff: What are you on about?

Lance: Look Sheriff, can't you see all those eyes staring at you?

Boyle: Yeah it's really creepy.

(Sheriff stares out at the audience.)

Sheriff: Don't be such wimps. They're not wood nymphs. **(Points to member of audience)** Although he might be but the rest of them aren't. And even if they are they don't scare me.

Lance: Well they scare me.

Boyle: Me too.

Sheriff: Oh no they don't

Marion: Oh yes they do!

(Audience respond.)

Sheriff: Enough! Back to the castle.

(Lance and Boyle run off leaving Sheriff to take Marion and lead her off.)

Scene Seven – Robin's camp in Sherwood Forest

(Tabs open to reveal woodland backcloth. Robin, Will and Little John are seated around camp fire.)

Little J: Are you nervous yet?

Robin: What about?

Little J: In case nobody answers the recruitment notice.

Will: Then they'll still only be the three of us.

Robin: Don't worry. There was a really positive feel when I was talking about it at the Golden Arrow. Shush! What's that noise? Take cover.

(Robin, Will and Little John hide as crowd enter led by Dame and Wally some carrying notices saying "Free the Nottingham One" and "We "heart" Marion".)

Wally: What do we want?

All: Marion back!

Wally: When do we want it?

All: Now!

Wally: Whatcha everybody!

(Audience respond. Robin, Will and Little John emerge.)

Robin: Whatever's going on?

Dame: Robin thank goodness we have found you. I think you need a change of plan. After you'd gone the Sheriff and his men took Marion to Nottingham castle.

Wally: He is going to keep her there until the wedding.

Robin: What? I am not marrying Marion at Nottingham castle.

Dame: No you're not marrying Marion.

Wally: The Sheriff's marrying Marion.

Robin: Says who?

Wally: The Sheriff.

Dame: Didn't Marion tell you?

Robin: Tell me what?

Wally: That she's betrothed to the Sheriff.

Robin: Since when?

Wally: Since she was born.

Dame: And he's got some document to prove it although it's the first I've heard of it.

Robin: Wait! So are you telling me that the Sheriff has a document that says that Marion was betrothed to him at birth and he has taken her to the castle and is going to marry her?

All: Yes!

Robin: But why didn't Marion tell me?

Dame: She was going to but...

Robin: Right folks, this changes everything. Recruiting more people and robbing the rich has to be put on hold. We must now concentrate on getting Marion back. Anybody any ideas?

Fryer: We could put the castle under siege and starve them out.

Robin: That would take too long, the Sheriff would have married her by then.

Town 1: We could storm the castle and break her out.

Robin: But none of you are trained soldiers so I think that's a no on health and safety grounds.

Town 2: We could send Wally to sing at them that would get them out.

(All laugh.)

Wally: Oh thanks a lot. Anyway we don't even know whereabouts in the castle she is.

Robin: That's true. We need to find out where the Sheriff is keeping her. That means we need to get someone inside the castle quickly to find out and report back.

Dame: Yes but who?

Fryer: I could get in by offering to put in a quote to do the catering for the wedding breakfast.

Wally: Somehow I don't think a fry up is going to be high on the Sheriff's menu choices. Whatever we do we need to do it sharpish as the Sheriff already has Marion planning the wedding.

Will: Oh I would have thought he would have had a wedding planner to do all that. They're very popular.

Wally: That's it, we'll send a wedding planner in.

Robin: No, it needs to be me or one of my men.

Will: But we're too well known. Our faces are on wanted posters all over Nottingham.

Little J: So what about if one of us dresses up as woman.

Dame: A man dressed up as a woman? Nobody will fall for that!

Robin: That's a good idea. We'll draw straws for it. Whoever draws the shortest straw goes in.

(Robin, Will and Little John draw straws and Will draws the shortest.)

Robin: It's you Will. So you're going to go in disguised as a wedding planner, find out where Marion is and get back as quick as you can.

Will: Right. Although I don't know about this dressing up as a woman. I don't think it's really me! Anyway, where am I going to find a dress and makeup at such short notice?

Fryer: Don't worry about that. Leave it to us women, we carry all sorts in our handbags don't we girls?

(All the women agree and everyone encourages him.)

Fryer: So what do you think?

Will: Alright, I'll take one for the team.

(All cheer.)

Fryer: Come with us Will, I'm sure we can find something that will transform you.

(Fryer, a couple of women and Will exit.)

Wally: Of course one of the problems might be getting him past the castle guards. What happens if they won't let him in?

Robin: We can't risk it, we'll have to create a diversion.

Dame: I know. I could use my womanly wiles to distract the guards while Will sneaks past.

Wally: Oh you're bringing the womanly wiles out of retirement are you? Well good luck with that!

Dame: I'll have you know I used them not so long ago when I successfully recruited a handyman.
(Winks at man in audience.)

Wally: What's handy about him?

Dame: He just down there!

Wally: I could be a travelling minstrel and entertain them with one of my songs. And I have the very thing.

(Sings)

Out in the wood
It can't be very good
When you are on guard
It must be very hard.

(Silence.)

Little J: Is that it?

Wally: Yes.

Robin: It's a bit short.

Wally: Yeah but it's good though.

(All groan and react.)

Robin: Any other ideas Little John?

Little J: These people are revolting!

Dame: Well there's no need to be like that!

(Everyone reacts.)