

Synopsis

Robin of Loxley returns from fighting alongside King Richard in the crusades to discover that the Kings brother, Prince John, is plotting to over throw the throne. Prince John has increased taxes and is claiming land and property in lieu of payment, and has appointed a merciless Sheriff to govern Robin's hometown of Nottingham. Unable to pay the extortionate taxes, the poor folk are being forced to leave their homes and take refuge in the forest. They are forced to steal to provide for their families and have been outlawed by the ruthless Sheriff.

Robin discovers that, in his absence, his home and land have also been claimed. All that's left is his faithful steed Trigger, who he finds wandering aimlessly.

Robin befriends an outlaw, Little John, who introduces him to a exiled community and their protectors - The merry men. He decides that he must defend the Kings throne and persuades the merry men to join his plight. He teaches them how to fight and to protect their families and when

an opportunity arises to enter an archery competition and compete against the Sheriff, Robin jumps at the chance. Especially as he prize is one thousand gold pieces. Robin convinces the villagers that if they all work together, they can defeat the Sheriff and take Nottingham. In the run up to the competition, Robin does his utmost to make the Sheriffs life difficult and in doing so is re-united with his childhood sweet heart, Maid Marion, who is King Richard's cousin. Things heat up when the Sheriff decides to marry Marion. Now Robin has to win the archery competition and save his sweetheart.

Can Robin and the merry men save the throne or will The Sheriff of Nottingham and his flunky's triumph? There can only be one winner and maybe with a little luck and a touch of fairy magic, it could be Robin Hood.

Characters

Robin Hood The hero. Fearless and brave

Maid Marion Robin's childhood sweet heart and the cousin of King Richard. Stubborn and strong-minded, she fancies the tights off of Robin.

Sheriff of Nottingham The villain. A heartless and greedy man appointed by Prince John.

Little John Self appointed leader of the merry men. Little by name, big in stature.

Big Ron Little John's twin brother. Big by name, little in stature.

Will Scarlett One of the merry men who needs convincing of Robin's sincerity

Friar Tuck A man well known for his love of ale.

Lady Molly Coddle (Dame) Marion's Lady in Waiting.

Captain Percy Honey The Sheriffs Commander in Chief.

The Narrator Keeps us abreast of the story throughout Robin's adventure.

Mavis the sprite Forest fairy, but never call her that...she's technically a sprite!

Pilfer, Nobble and Nab The Sheriffs tax collectors. Always together and a little on the dim side..

Trigger (one or two people) Robin's trusty steed. Plenty of whinnying required. Trigger also has a particular skill for charades that is rather uncanny in a horse!

Tom Tomas A merry man with a bad sense of direction.

Russell Hobbs A merry man who likes to cook.

Dr Martin Boots A merry man who's also a physician.

Bob A merry man who is good at DIY.

King Richard Small part that can be combined. Appears at the end of the story only.

Chorus x 3

ACT 1

Scene 1. Home from the Crusades

Scene 2. The Merry men and Marion

Scene 3. The Sheriff

Scene 4. Robin and The Merry men

Scene 5. A close encounter

Scene 6. Villagers and Children

ACT 2

Scene 1. Ready. Aim. Fire!

Scene 2. The encounter

Scene 3. The outlaws' camp

Scene 4. The sacrifice

Scene 5. The golden Arrow contest and grand finale

Song Suggestions

Song 1 Teamwork from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang the Musical

Song 2 Material Guy (Girl) - Madonna

Song 3 I Can Hear The Bells from Hairspray

Song 4 I'm Too Sexy – Right Said Fred

Song 5 Rockin' All Over The Word – Status Quo

Song 6 Ain't No Mountain High Enough – Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell

Song 7 Could It Be Magic – Take That

Song 8 Men In Tights (from Robin Hood Men In Tights)

Song 9 Uptown Girl - Billy Joel

Song 10 The Lazy Song – Bruno Mars

Song 11 Honey Honey - Abba

Song 12 Reach – S Club 7

Robin Hood

Act 1

Scene 1

Front of tabs.

Narrator enters and reads from a large book.

Narrator Legend tells of a brave outlaw,
Who stole from the rich and gave to the poor.
And as you have an hour or two,
We're going to tell his tale to you.
Way way back, many centuries ago,
There lived a young lord who was good with a bow.
When the king called for knights to join his crusade
He was there like a shot to his majesty's aid.
Though he was loyal and fought very well,
He was caught by the enemy and thrown in a cell.
This could well have been the end of his tale
Locked up in chains and no prospect of bail.
But he was a fighter - he would not surrender,
Nor stay behind bars like a common offender.

Robin enters with chorus dressed as prisoners.

Chorus 1 Will we ever escape this awful place?

Chorus 2 I long to see the shores of good old England.

Chorus 3 I long to see my family.

Chorus 1 I long for bacon roll with extra ketchup.

Robin We must stay positive, men. We can't wait to be rescued. It may never happen! We have to break out...I have a cunning plan!

Chorus 2 What's the plan?

Chorus 3 The guards are armed and they're bigger than us.

Robin What's with this negative attitude? Are we not English soldiers? If we pull together we can achieve anything...all it takes is teamwork!

Chorus 1 He's right, you know!

Chorus 2 Let's do it!

Robin and the chorus exit.

Narrator *(reading from the book)* So they made their escape in the dead of the night
And then they kept going 'till home was in sight.
Once back in England they all knuckled down

As each planned the journey back to his own town

The Narrator exits as the curtain opens. Robin and the chorus enter a woodland clearing. There is a sign pointing to Nottingham.

Robin Well, this is it! Nottingham, my home! It's time to part ways. Good luck men.

Chorus You can't leave us Robin!

Robin I have to, this is where I belong. You have homes and families waiting for you. We've done the hard part. You don't need my help from here.

Chorus 3 Of course we do.

Chorus 1 Who will tell us what to do?

Chorus 2 Who will show us where to go?

Chorus 3 Who will lead us on our way?

Robin You're a team! Work together and you'll succeed.

Song 1

Robin Goodbye men and good luck.

He exits.

Chorus 1 What do we do now?

Chorus 2 I don't know about you, but I'm going home.

Chorus 3 Me too. Who's up for a bit of teamwork?

They cheer and exit.

The Narrator enters opposite followed by Pilfer, Nobble and Nab who put up signs that say 'Private Property' and 'Trespassers will be prosecuted'.

Narrator What Robin didn't realise is since he's been away,
Things have changed in Nottingham, there has been foul play.
His stately home is boarded up and something's not quite right,
There are trespass signs across his land, and not a soul in sight.
There's someone in the distance and as he's getting bigger,
He sees that it's his trusty steed, the horse that he calls Trigger.
Together, they set off to find out what is going on,
What awful thing has taken place whilst Robin has been gone?

SFX Horse hooves. The Narrator exits as Robin enters opposite with Trigger. Robin carries a staff.

Robin Whoa boy. I think we're lost! This all looks so different. Do you have any idea where we are Trigger?

Trigger Neigh.

Big Ron enters carrying a small staff.

Big Ron Stop! Who goes there? If you want to pass through this 'ere forest, it's gonna' cost you!

Robin I'm Robin and this is my faithful steed Trigger. What do you mean, cost me? It's a public right of way! This is my land. If anyone is trespassing here, it's you.

Big Ron This land belongs to Prince John and I am collecting taxes on his behalf. So pay up, or you can't pass.

Robin And who are you?

Big Ron The name's Big Ron.

Robin *Big Ron?*

Big Ron That's right, Ron after me dad and Big after me personality! Hold on a minute, you say your name is Robin and that this is your land? Surely you're not *Lord* Robin of Loxley? Word on the street is that Robin perished, whilst fighting in the crusades.

Robin The word on the street is wrong. I am Robin of Loxley.

Big Ron Ah, well in that case I'm afraid much has changed since you left Sire. You will find things quite different here now. Prince John has claimed all this land for unpaid taxes. Whatever you had when you left England now belongs to him. We're all in the same boat. We do what we must to scrape by (*Holding out his hand*). So, pay up, or I'll take it from you. (*He points his staff at Robin*)

SFX Eastenders finale drums. They both look around confused.

Robin Unpaid taxes? I haven't got any unpaid taxes. I've only just arrived home from the crusades. It looks like Prince John has already taken everything I own. I don't have any money and I refuse to be bullied by a little pipsqueak, like you. (*He holds out his staff in front of him*)

Big Ron Are *you* calling *me* a pipsqueak? Watch what you say, or I'll get my twin brother to sort you out.

Robin Ha! Am I supposed to be scared? If he's anything like you then I'll have no trouble taking both of you!

Big Ron Is that right. (*Calling off stage*) Hey, Little John...this fella is refusing to pay his taxes.

Robin *Little John?* He's doesn't sound much of a threat!

Little John enters carrying a very small staff.

Little John What's up Ron? Is this bloke hassling you?

Robin turns to face Little John, to see he's is not so little.

Robin You're *Little John*?

Little John Yep, John after me mum...(*aside to audience*) She was a butch woman! Little after my...

Robin Personality?

Little John (*holding out his staff*) No...my staff! Now, let's see what you're really made of.

ACT II

Scene 1

The Narrator enters.

Narrator For families in Nottingham it was a trying time. Folks were getting tense, there was a sharp increase in crime. Meanwhile in the forest, the men were pretty jumpy. The sheriff's mood was terrible, in fact he was quite grumpy. The tournament was almost here and time was getting tight. So came the hour for Rob to teach his merry men to fight.

Mavis enters.

Mavis Excuse me, you with the book.

Narrator (*looking around*) Are you talking to me?

Mavis I don't see anyone else here with a book? I love to a good book. I read a book on helium once...couldn't put it down!

Narrator What can I do for you madam? Make it quick. I'm in the middle something.

Mavis No need to be so rude. I don't suppose you could skip to the end of that book and let me know if I'm needed, could you?

Narrator What do you mean? Who are you?

Mavis I'm Mavis the sprite.

Narrator The what?

Mavis Here we go again! I said I'm Mavis the sprite. I'm sort of a woodland nymph with magic power. More clever than a pixie, not as grand as a fairy, less naughty than a leprechaun, better looking than an elf!

Narrator I see. I'm afraid not. If I could draw your attention to rule 1.1 of the pantomime code, which clearly states that it is forbidden to skip to the conclusion of a story to satisfy the curiosity of any participants. You will have to wait until the end, like the rest of us.

Mavis Won't you consider bending the rules just a tiny bit, for the sake of a happy ending?

Narrator No. No rule bending!

Mavis Oh dear. The carpenter is working flat out to mend my wand, but what if it's not ready on time? What if good doesn't overcome evil? What if I can't save the day? (*she wails*)

Narrator Calm down, lady. I haven't the faintest idea what you're rabbiting on about. But one thing I do know, is that this is pantomime! In panto, there is always a happy ending.

Mavis That's because there's always a fairy with a magic wand, to put it right. It's going to end in tears and it'll all be my fault! *(She sniffs)*

Narrator Can I make a suggestion? Take a break. Have a cuppa and some cake. Woody the carpenter is very efficient. I'm sure that when you go back, he'll have fixed your...umm...problem.

Mavis That's good advice. Thank you, I'm sorry to interrupt. *(She composes herself)* Panic over. Please continue.

She exits, mumbling to herself about needing a holiday.

Narrator I apologise for that folks. Now where was I? Oh yes...
The competition was almost here and time was getting tight.
So came the hour for Rob to teach his merry men to fight.

Robin and the men enter with bows and arrows and mime practicing their bowman-ship as the Narrator continues.

SFX Twanging, followed by arrows flying through the air, followed by thuds and screams.

Narrator He picked a clearing in the wood where there was lots of space.
And as they started to take aim, he found a hiding place.
He dodged the arrows deftly as they flew straight through the air,
But not one hit the target and he started to despair.

Surely they were not that bad? Rob began to fear,
As an arrow shot right past his head and narrowly missed a deer.

Robin *(waving a white handkerchief)* That was too close for comfort! Stop right now, before you have someone's eye out.

Little John *(with an arrow in his bow ready)* I think we need more practice.

Robin You could say that.

Will We're a lost cause!

Robin Your not that bad.

Big Ron We're terrible!

Friar Tuck We'll never be ready on time.

SFX Horses hooves. Trigger enters behind the merry men and whinnies. Little John swings round to greet him still with his arrow ready to shoot. Everyone ducks as he turns. (Mexican wave style)

Little John Hello, Trigger.

Trigger panics.

Robin John, put down the bow.

Little John swings back towards Robin and everyone ducks down again. (Mexican wave style)

Little John Did you say something?

Robin *(With his hands in the air)* P-p-put the b-b-bow down and s-s-step away!

Little John does as instructed and everyone breathes a sigh of relief.

Robin Rule number one. Never point a loaded bow, unless you intend to use it.

Little John Oops!