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*Dramatic Publishing*

# THE SOMEWHAT TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD

by

MARY LYNN DOBSON



**Dramatic Publishing**

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WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING about *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*.

“Excellent! It is funny and witty. My 7th- & 8th-graders enjoyed working on it and seeing it. I hope to be able to direct this one again. I would love to act in it. We added physical, visual humor to the great dialogue.”

Doug Dixon,  
*Carman-Ainsworth Junior High, Flint, Mich.*

“This is a very clever play, good for many ages. For instance, opening night I sat between a 5-year-old and a 20-something—both enjoyed it immensely. My wife (40), not often charmed by children’s plays, had a great time as well.”

Bruce Tinker,  
*Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.*

“Everyone enjoyed it very much—old folks down to primary grades. It was funny, in good taste and fun to perform—enough action to suit the teen boys and enough female parts to look pretty.”

Lucy Hannegan,  
*St. Louis Catholic Home Association, St. Louis, Mo.*

“*Robin Hood* is perfect for middle-schoolers. It gives so many kids a chance to be part of a production without too much pressure. At the same time it presents a challenge for the leads. Jokes that stand on their own help immensely.”

Kevin Appleby,  
*Bunker Hill Middle School, Sewell, N.J.*

*The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* is a wonderfully funny, well-written spoof on the traditional tale. Bumbling merry men complete w/ wooden spoons for swords, a skin-condition-obsessed Lady Marian and an egotistical Robin make for a great script.

Mary Jane Smith,  
*Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hamden, Conn.*

To my darling Jim

pebble...pebble...

*THE SOMEWHAT TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD*  
opened at Playhouse 22, East Brunswick, N.J., on July 16,  
1999. The production was directed by Mary Lynn Dobson  
and included the following artists:

## CAST

Robin Hood . . . . . THOMAS A. THORPE  
Lady Marian . . . . . FAITH AGNEW  
Town's Guy . . . . . SETH BIEN-HERSH  
Prince John . . . . . CHRIS LOWRY  
Sheriff of Nottingham . . . . . JEFF DWORKIN  
Friar Tuck . . . . . CHARLES N. GIRARD  
Will Scarlet . . . . . JODY BARDIN  
Allan Adale . . . . . PATRICK GIANOTTO  
Little John . . . . . RICHARD LEN MCCARTY  
Lady In Waiting . . . . . ROSSLYN D. DAVIS  
The Fawning Ladies . . . . . STACY ALBENICE  
CARRIE SUZANNE COUZENS  
KIRSTEN LIEDAHL  
KATHLEEN LOCKARD

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer . . . . . PETER RIGA JR.  
Associate Producer . . . . . AMY LEVINE  
Set Design . . . . . JIM PARKS SR. and VAUNE PECK  
Lighting . . . . . PATRICK GIANOTTO  
Costumes . . . . . JAMES HERRERA  
Production Stage Manager . . . . . BARBARA GIANOTTO

# THE SOMEWHAT TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD

A Play in Two Acts  
For 8 men and 6 women\*

## CHARACTERS

ROBIN HOOD . . . . . Dashing hero with a large ego.  
LADY MARIAN . . . . . Lovely damsel in distress.  
PRINCE JOHN . . . . . The head bad guy.  
SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM . . Prince John's cohort in crime.  
TOWN'S GUY . . . . . The local-yokel.  
LADY IN WAITING . . . . . Lady Marian's attendant.  
FRIAR TUCK . . . . . Holy relic.  
WILL SCARLET . . . . . The wise guy.  
LITTLE JOHN . . . . . Big lummoX with an I. Q. of six.  
ALLAN ADALE . . . . . Slightly brighter than Little John.  
FAWNING LADIES . . Four ladies who "fawn" over Prince John.  
GUARDS (2) . . . . Can be cast singly or doubled by male Merry  
Men wearing long black robes and black hooded masks.  
RICH MAN . . Can be cast singly or doubled by the actor playing  
Prince John. (Non-speaking role.)  
POOR LADY WITH A BABY . . Can be cast singly or doubled  
by a Fawning Lady. (Non-speaking role.)

\*The cast as described here is the most popular casting for this show. However, if you require a larger cast, please see the supplemented scene in the production notes at the end of the script. With the addition of this scene, the cast can be expanded to 25 or more with new roles for either male or female actors. Should your production require a smaller cast, there are also directions on how to condense the cast size to 10.

Additional character notes can be found at end of playbook.



*(As the lights dim, the SHERIFF and PRINCE exit with the FAWNING LADIES following. The MERRY MEN, silhouetted, enter and change the scene to Sherwood Forest. TOWN'S GUY enters.)*

TOWN'S GUY. Ah, plans, plots and intrigue. It seems that evil never rests. And so, good folk, we return again to Sherwood Forest. Just when Robin and the Merry Men thought things were finally going right, a shocking message had just been sent their way.

*(The MERRY MEN are using LITTLE JOHN as a table. ALLAN has a Yahtzee dice roller. As lights come up he exclaims.)*

ALLAN. YAHTZEE!

*(ROBIN enters running.)*

ROBIN. Another bull's-eye! That's my six-hundredth in a row! The Prince and the Sheriff will rue the day they came against Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest. I am unbeatable. *(Holds up his bow and strikes a heroic pose.)*

TOWN'S GUY. Robin, a shocking message has just been sent your way! *(Holds up message.)*

ROBIN. Not now, Town's Guy. I am posing. *(Smiles a heroic smile.)*

TOWN'S GUY. But this is really important.

ROBIN. Nothing could be more important than striking bull's-eye after bull's-eye!

TOWN'S GUY. Robin, they've changed the sport for the tournament.

ROBIN (*looks at TOWN'S GUY*). What?!

TOWN'S GUY. Listen! (*Reads from paper.*) "His Royal Highness hereby decrees that the game for the tournament be changed. What was once to be an archery tournament, will now be a battle of bowling."

ROBIN (*drops bow and arrow and grabs the message*). WHAT?!?! Give me that! (*Looks over the paper.*) BOWLING! This is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard! We're in medieval England! You fence, or you joust! You don't bowl!

WILL. Well, boss, it looks like the times, they are a-changin'.

ROBIN. But I can't be seen bowling! I'm a great character of literature! Great characters of literature don't bowl!

ALLAN. Well, sir, maybe you can be the first. Then, other great characters of literature will follow in your footsteps.

ROBIN. Oh, right! Yes, I'm sure someday you'll open up a novel and find Madame Bovary picking up a seven-ten split at Flaubert's\* Bowl-o-Rama! I DON'T THINK SO!

TUCK. My son, stay calm. Remember, good will always triumph over evil.

ROBIN. Friar, I don't think you understand. I can't be seen bowling because... (*Looks down at the floor.*) I don't know how to bowl.

MEN (*gasp, then, to AUDIENCE, in unison*). OH, SHOCK AND DISBELIEF!

ROBIN. It looks as though I am going to fail the Lady Marian and the good people of England. I have fought so hard to help the poor and now I face defeat. True, I

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\* Pronounced: "flo-bear."

may be brave, trustworthy and kind...but alas, Merry Men, I am no bowler. (*Sits on the ground and puts his head into his hands.*)

TOWN'S GUY. Ah, Robin, things may not be as desperate as they seem.

ROBIN. Have you a suggestion, Town's Guy?

TOWN'S GUY. Better yet, I think I have a solution to the problem.

ROBIN. Then speak, I listen with both ears.

TOWN'S GUY. Well, the tournament was changed because the Sheriff and Prince discovered that you are the best archer in all the land, no doubt.

ROBIN. No doubt.

TOWN'S GUY. So they picked something that the Sheriff is the very best at, no doubt.

ROBIN. No doubt.

TOWN'S GUY. So they chose bowling because the Sheriff is the very best bowler in all the land, no doubt.

ROBIN (*getting aggravated*). NO DOUBT! AND YOUR POINT IS...?

TOWN'S GUY. My point is, they missed one small detail in choosing a new sport for the tournament. The Sheriff of Nottingham may be a master bowler, but he is not the very best bowler in all the land... (*Pause.*) I am! (*They all turn and look at the TOWN'S GUY.*)

ROBIN. What? You?! The greatest bowler in all the land?

TOWN'S GUY. Yep!

ROBIN. But how?

TOWN'S GUY. Well, I was considered one of the lowly poor. I was never allowed to play on any of the royal leagues. The Sheriff and Prince have no idea that I am the finest bowler there is!

TUCK. This is wonderful news! Robin, the Town's Guy can enter the tournament. He'll win, give the gold to the poor, and Marian won't have to marry the Sheriff.

TOWN'S GUY. That's right! She'll marry me! (*ROBIN shoots a look of death to the TOWN'S GUY.*) It's a joke!

ROBIN. Swell. You'll win the tournament, save the poor, marry Marian and live happily ever after. Well, I guess I'm not the most important person in this play anymore. (*To TOWN'S GUY.*) You are! Congratulations! Well, I won't get in your way. Farewell to you all. (*Begins to exit.*)

WILL. Boss! You don't mean to tell us that you're quitting!

ALLAN. How can you quit now when we've come this far?

TUCK. The men are right, Robin! You can't abandon all of us who count on you.

ROBIN. For shame! For shame on me! You're right! I am not a quitter! I am Robin Hood, the most popular person in all the land! I shall not rest until England is safe once again. You should never give up the fight if you're fighting for what's right! (*Looks to AUDIENCE, points to them and says quickly.*) Did you all get that? Good. (*To TOWN'S GUY.*) Town's Guy, you must teach me how to bowl. Teach me now. That's an order.

TOWN'S GUY. No, Robin, I won't.

ROBIN. What do you mean, you won't? I said that's an order.

TOWN'S GUY. Robin, I'm your friend. You shouldn't order me around. If you want my help you can ask for it nicely. Because just because someone is popular, doesn't mean they can order their friends around and boss them

all over the place. (*Looks to AUDIENCE, points to them and says quickly.*) Did you all get that? (*Directly into ROBIN's face.*) GOOD!

ROBIN (*after a pause*). You're right. I have treated you badly. Town's Guy, will you please do me the honor of teaching me how to bowl? (*ROBIN extends his hand in friendship.*)

TOWN'S GUY. It will be my pleasure, Robin Hood of Sherwood. (*They shake hands.*)

MEN (*to AUDIENCE, in unison*). HOORAY!

ROBIN. See, Merry Men? Even the most popular person in all the land must be humble at times. And as we all know, I possess thousands of praiseworthy qualities. But out of them all...HUMILITY IS ONE OF MY FINEST! (*MERRY MEN applaud ROBIN. He waves to them in acknowledgment.*) Yes, thank you! Huzzah, huzzah!

TOWN'S GUY (*to AUDIENCE*). He hasn't grasped the point yet. But hey, it's a start.

ROBIN. Merry Men, I have a plan! I shall disguise myself and go to the tournament. Then, when I win, I shall claim Lady Marian's hand and declare the Prince a traitor! At that point, I will need your help. But until that moment, men, you are to (*stresses this point*) ...hide in the trees.

MEN (*in unison*). Hide in the trees?

ROBIN. Yes, hide in the trees. (*Exit.*)

TOWN'S GUY. Robin, it's time to get to work. We only have one day to make you the greatest bowler in all the land.

ROBIN. Right you are, teacher! To work! (*Exit.*)

TOWN'S GUY. Robin Hood wasn't one to back down from a challenge! He was determined to conquer the

sport of bowling before dawn. (*The sounds of bowling pins being knocked down are heard.*) As time passed, Robin listened carefully, memorized my every instruction. He never took a break in the grueling hours of practice. He embedded every rule of the game in his mind.

(*Bowling sounds stop. ROBIN walks into the light and stands next to the TOWN'S GUY. The following exchange goes quickly.*)

ROBIN. Town's Guy! I have mastered the game of bowling! I'm sure I know exactly what I'm talking about! I seize my rolling globe...

TOWN'S GUY. You take your bowling ball...

ROBIN. Point it midway...

TOWN'S GUY. Aim it center...

ROBIN. Spin it down the aisle...

TOWN'S GUY. Roll it down the lane...

ROBIN. And restrain it from the sewer.

TOWN'S GUY. Stay out of the gutter.

ROBIN. Precisely! (*Calls to MERRY MEN offstage.*) Merry Men, it is official! I am an expert bowler.

MEN (*offstage in unison*). HOORAY!

ROBIN. Now watch and marvel as I knock down all the bobby pins! (*Exits.*)

TOWN'S GUY (*yells after him*). BOWLING PINS! (*To AUDIENCE.*) It's going to be a long night. Mr. Technical Director, if you please, make the hands of time spin quickly. Bring us to the castle and the day of the tournament.

*(ROBIN enters.)*

ROBIN. Town's Guy, look! I acquired an extra!

TOWN'S GUY. YOU PICKED UP A SPARE!

*(They exit. Lights fade. Regal trumpet music plays as the MERRY MEN change the sets. The tournament set is hanging banners and flags on poles, etc. There should be some sort of "royal box" or a designated area with a chair or throne for the PRINCE to watch the tournament from. The TOWN'S GUY enters wearing a sports jacket over his tunic and tights. He has a microphone in his hand.)*

TOWN'S GUY. Good morrow to you all, sports fans, and welcome to the first annual Bowling for the Hand of Lady Marian in Marriage Tournament. The crowd is the biggest we've ever seen here. And look! The royal family approaches!

*(The PRINCE, MARIAN and LADY IN WAITING enter with the FAWNING LADIES following throwing rose petals.)*

TOWN'S GUY. Why, here's the lovely Lady Marian...

*(MARIAN waves as we hear cheers offstage. The LADY stands behind her.)* ...and the ruler of our land...THE EVIL PRINCE JOHN. *(The PRINCE waves.)*

MEN *(offstage in unison)*. BOO, HISS! BOO, HISS!

*(PRINCE looks around in bewilderment. He sits. The SHERIFF enters and begins to prepare for the tournament.)*

PRINCE *(to MARIAN)*. I don't see your beloved Robin Hood, my dear. Perhaps he realized he has been outsmarted.

MARIAN *(looking out in the crowd for ROBIN)*. Do not count him out yet, oh bunion breath.

PRINCE. If I were you, I'd start thinking of where I'd like to go on my honeymoon.

MARIAN. You know, the Sheriff may not be as good a bowler as you think! *(The SHERIFF rolls the bowling ball offstage. We hear the pins drop. The repeats should happen quickly in succession.)*

TOWN'S GUY. Strike for the Sheriff!

MARIAN *(to PRINCE)*. So he got lucky. *(The SHERIFF rolls the bowling ball offstage. We hear the pins drop.)*

TOWN'S GUY. Strike for the Sheriff!

MARIAN *(to PRINCE)*. Two strikes doesn't mean I should plan a honeymoon. *(The SHERIFF rolls the bowling ball offstage. We hear the pins drop.)*

TOWN'S GUY. Strike for the Sheriff!

MARIAN *(to PRINCE)*. You know, I've heard Cancun is lovely this time of year. Oh, I cannot bear to watch this. Call me when it's over. *(Begins to leave, then stops.)* May hangnails create anarchy amongst your fingers and your toes. *(Curtseys and exits.)*

TOWN'S GUY. What an unbelievable day is ahead of us. This Super Bowl of bowling is being held at none other than the royal castle itself! Why, just take a look at the



beautiful grounds and the lush landscape that surrounds us.

*(The MERRY MEN enter disguised as trees. They are covered with bark and hold branches with leaves. LITTLE JOHN is crying softly.)*

WILL. We look stupid!

ALLAN. Friar, are you sure this is what Robin meant when he said “hide in the trees”?

TUCK. Quiet, please! We must remain out of sight until Robin is ready to execute his plan.

WILL. Fine! But if I see any squirrels gathering nuts for the winter, I’m outta here.\*

ALLAN *(to LITTLE JOHN, who is still crying softly)*. Why are you crying?

LITTLE. I’m a weeping willow. *(WILL smacks him in the head with his branch.)* Ow!

*(ROBIN enters. He wears his trademark green hat, but has “disguised” himself by wearing the novelty plastic glasses, nose and mustache.)*

ROBIN. Men, get in place! Remember, after I win the tournament, I’ll confront the Prince and Sheriff. Your signal to come out of hiding will be when I declare them to be tyrants and thieves. Don’t forget, the signal words are *tyrants* and *thieves*

MEN *(loudly in unison)*. TYRANTS AND THIEVES!

ROBIN. SHHH!

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\* No crotch grabbing or anything like that. Again, let good taste prevail. This line may be cut if found questionable.

MEN (*quietly in unison*). Tyrants and thieves!

ROBIN. Good! (*Takes his bowling shoes. The SHERIFF stares at ROBIN. ROBIN, trying to avoid him, sits as far as he can from him. The SHERIFF, noticing this, walks up to him.*)

SHERIFF (*looking at ROBIN suspiciously*). Good morrow to you, sir.

ROBIN (*trying not to look him in the eye*). Good morrow.

SHERIFF. I don't believe I've ever seen you in our kingdom before.

ROBIN (*turns from SHERIFF*). No, no, I'm not from around here. (*Sits down with shoes.*)

SHERIFF. Well, let me introduce myself. I am the Sheriff of Nottingham.

ROBIN (*with his head turned away from SHERIFF, shakes his hand quickly*). Pleased to meet you.

SHERIFF. And your name?

ROBIN (*pauses*). My name?

SHERIFF. Yes, your name. I assume you have one.

ROBIN. Yes. Of course I have one. And my name is... (*Looks into his shoe.*) Dr. Scholl.

SHERIFF. Ah, a physician! Well, best of luck to you, Doctor.

ROBIN. Yes, thank you. Same to you, sir. (*SHERIFF walks center. ROBIN realizes he doesn't have time to put on his shoes, hands them to one of the MERRY MEN dressed as a tree. Joins SHERIFF.*)

TOWN'S GUY. And now, let us wait in anticipation for the starting signal from the ruler of this land...THE EVIL PRINCE JOHN.

MEN (*quickly in unison*). BOO, HISS! BOO, HISS!

PRINCE (*looks at the trees, then waves a little flag*). I declare the tournament to commence. (*ROBIN and the SHERIFF mime rolling imaginary bowling balls. We hear bowling sound effects.*)

TOWN'S GUY. And what a thrill-a-minute tournament it turned out to be! A thousand strikes were scored. However, soon the bowlers began to drop out one by one. The Sheriff of Nottingham and Dr. Scholl were the only two bowlers left in the game. They continued to bowl nonstop for six hours. And the way things were going, it looked like the Prince was going to have to declare the tournament a hopeless tie.

PRINCE. Stop the tournament! I think the competitors could use a small break. I declare a two-minute timeout. (*He waves to the SHERIFF to join him. ROBIN crosses to the MEN—two of them fan ROBIN with their branches.*) Sheriff, what are we going to do? If you don't win soon, I shall have to declare the tournament a hopeless tie.

SHERIFF. Sire, I don't know what to say! This Dr. Scholl is not a better bowler than me. But he is certainly just as good.

PRINCE (*laughs*). Yes, he may be equal to you as a bowler, but can he match you at archery?

SHERIFF. Archery? What do you mean?

PRINCE. You may not be able to beat Dr. Scholl with a bowling ball, but you certainly can beat him with a bow and arrow! Sheriff, watch in awe as I belch forth brilliance! (*Walks downstage to AUDIENCE.*) Good people of England, these two master bowlers have reached a stalemate! So I have come up with an ingenious solution to end the tournament. The Sheriff and Dr. Scholl will

each have one shot at a target with a bow and arrow. The best shot will be proclaimed the winner! (*ROBIN looks at the TOWN'S GUY, who gives ROBIN an enthusiastic "thumbs-up."*) Good people of England, if you would like to see a one-shot, winner-take-all finish, let me know by a round of applause. (*ROBIN, the TOWN'S GUY and the MERRY MEN stand behind the PRINCE and the SHERIFF and prompt AUDIENCE to cheer by giving them the "thumbs-up," applauding, etc.*) Boy! They really like this idea! So be it! The people have chosen! (*The TOWN'S GUY exits to get the bow. PRINCE snaps his fingers, a FAWNING LADY brings him a target.*) Lady in Waiting (*she walks over to him*), this is the target for the tie-breaking shot. (*Points to the "trees"—the MERRY MEN.*) Choose a tree!

MEN. NO! (*In unison, scattering in all directions, screaming*). AHHHHHH!! (*Exit. All remaining on stage watch in amazement as the landscape disappears.*)

PRINCE (*pause, then to SHERIFF*). Remind me to have the gardener cut back on the Miracle-Gro.

(*THE TOWN'S GUY comes on with their bows and arrows.*)

LADY (*to PRINCE with target in hand*). Excuse me, Sire, but what should I do with this?

PRINCE. Good question. (*Looks offstage.*) Ah! Lady, look... (*Points offstage.*) there's a tree that isn't fleeing for its life in terror. Place the target upon that one.

LADY. Yes, Your Most High-Upness. (*Curtsies and exits.*)

PRINCE. Now I decree that the tie-breaker commence! (*To FAWNING LADIES.*) Ladies!

***End of excerpt. Following are production, props and character notes.***

## PRODUCTION NOTES

**CASTING:** To expand the cast size, an additional scene can be added after Robin meets the Sheriff and Marian for the first time in Act One. This will increase the speaking roles and bring the cast from 14 to 20. The characters in the new scene can be male or female.

Gender changes:

BEULAH or BYRON

LADY or LORD LAUGHALOT

MARY or MARTY

LIONEL or LENORE

DONALD or DONNA

DEBBIE or DENNIS

The following is the point of the script where the new scene is to be inserted. This is found on page 19.

TOWN'S GUY. When he learned of Marian's allegiance to Robin Hood, he was swift to engage her to the Sheriff of Nottingham, thus securing his position. This now takes us out of the flashback and back to the present time. And so, friends, it seems I'm finished here. I am going back to town. (*To ROBIN.*) WHERE I'M APPRECIATED! (*To AUDIENCE.*) I hope we'll see each other again. Farewell. (*Bows and exits.*)

[Begin additional scene:

ROBIN. Friar! Have the applicants for the Merry Men positions arrived yet?

TUCK. Yes, my son, they have.

ROBIN. Good! Bring them forth, be they men or be they women. After all, we here in Sherwood Forest are an equal opportunity employer and do not discriminate. (*FRIAR leaves to get applicants.*) Merry Men, I have placed a help wanted ad in the Sherwood Forest Daily Gazette. We will add to our merry band. Remember, number one: there is strength in numbers, and number two: the more the merrier. (*Cracks himself up while the MERRY MEN look at him with no expression.*) Get it? (*No response.*) You're Merry Men. (*No response.*) Ooh, tough crowd.

(*FRIAR enters with the applicants. LITTLE JOHN runs over to ROBIN, gets on all fours and is used as "a table" throughout the interviews.*)

FRIAR. Beulah of Bellowsbank

ROBIN. So, Ms. Bellowsbank, what prior experience have you had at being merry?

BEULAH/BRYON. Well sir, I was merry at Christmas.

ROBIN. I see. Have you had other occasions at which to be merry?

BEULAH. Well, I've been jovial at times, sir. That's just like being merry only louder.

ROBIN. Fine. You're hired. Pick up your spoon and report to work.

BEULAH. Yes, sir!

ROBIN. Next.

MARY. Hello sir, I'm Mary.

ROBIN. Ah, I see. So Mary, are you merry?

MARY. Yes sir, I'm most merry. In college I majored in merry, minored in merriment and got my master's in merrymaking.

ROBIN. Oh, what college?

MARY. Marymount.

ROBIN. Marvelous. Get a spoon.

MARY. Thank you.

ROBIN. Next.

LADY LAUGHALOT. Hello, sir, I'm Lady Laughalot.

ROBIN. So, Lady Laughalot, what experience have you had at being merry?

LADY LAUGHALOT. Very extensive experience, sir. For the past five years I've written the opening monologue for David Lettermerryman.

ROBIN. You're hired, get a spoon. (*To FRIAR.*) I love that show! Next!

LIONEL. I'm sorry, sir, I think I'm at the wrong interview. I thought I was applying for a Jolly Good Fellow.

ROBIN. Oh. Well, are you a Jolly Good Fellow?

LIONEL. That nobody can deny.

ROBIN. Close enough. (*Hands him a spoon.*)

LIONEL. Thank you, sir.

ROBIN. Next! (*A very stiff-looking guy walks up to ROBIN.*) Hello. Who might you be?

DONALD (*a very expressionless, monotone voice*). Donald.

ROBIN. So, Donald, are you merry?

DONALD (*almost robotic*). Yes.

ROBIN. Are you sure?

DONALD. Yes, I'm merry.

ROBIN. Well then...why don't you give me your most merriest expression?

DONALD (*pauses, then without expression*). Yowza.

ROBIN. Well, I guess that'll do. Grab a spoon.

DONALD. What about my sister?

ROBIN. Your sister?

DONALD. Yeah. Debbie.

DEBBIE (*steps forward, as stiff and expressionless as DONALD; waves to ROBIN, and in a monotone*). Yowza.

ROBIN. Okay, fine. But you have to share a spoon.

*(DONALD and DEBBIE get a spoon and join the other MERRY MEN.)*

End of additional scene. Continue as written, with:]

ROBIN. Oh, Friar, what to do, what to do.

FRIAR. My son, why don't I go to town to see if there is news. Perhaps an answer to our problem lies there. (*Etc.*)

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You may add some or all of the new characters, just adapt their genders appropriately throughout the rest of the text. However, if you do use the new scene, it is best to bring at least three new characters to make the scene worthwhile. Please note: Any new female Merry Men will still be referred to as Merry Men. If you want to cast all the new Merry Men with men, just cut the lines: "Bring them forth, be they men or be they women. After all, we here in Sherwood Forest are an equal opportunity employer and do not discriminate" from the new scene. You can also cast the Town's Guy as the Town's Girl—again, adapting the character's gender throughout the show. The new Merry Men speak all of the men's collective lines such as, "BOO, HISS! BOO, HISS!" and "SURE WOULD!" etc. To add even



more characters, cast the Guards, the Rich Man and the Poor Lady singly. You can also add extra Merry Men. This will bring the cast to 25 or more.

To condense the cast size: If you require a smaller cast, simply cut the Fawning Ladies, their lines and all references to them. You'll have to change the Town's Guy/Girl's line in the tournament to: "The first shot will be taken by the Sheriff of Nottingham," instead of: "The first shot will be taken by...the *Shermif* of Nottingham." Make sure you double the Guards, Rich Man and Poor Lady. This reduces the cast from 14 to 10.

**SETS:** Sets can be as simple or elaborate as you like. One suggestion for sets is sturdy, two-sided turning flats—trees on one side, stone walls on the other. (A triangular set piece on wheels, may also be used instead of a two-sided flat to give you more variety of scenes.) As it states in the stage directions, the Merry Men turn them to form the forest or the castle. Another suggestion for sets is to have a curtain with trees or a forest scene painted on it that can open in the center or be pulled completely offstage right or left. The castle scene is behind the curtain. This way, you simply close the curtain to go back to Sherwood Forest. When changing scenes, it is very important not to stop the play's action. The changes should be done during the specified stage directions in the script and flow smoothly throughout the show. Not doing this properly will cause the production to become disjointed. I've directed productions using both types of set pieces. I preferred the Sherwood Forest curtain to the two-sided flats, but both types of sets worked well.

**COSTUMES:** Costumes for the characters should follow a general storybook look but lean toward cartoon rather than romantic, if possible.

**ROBIN HOOD** should be the best-dressed of all the men of the forest. Earth tones with perhaps a hunter green cape that falls just below his tunic. He should have boots and wear his trademark Robin Hood cap complete with feather. (Should you not know what this looks like, rent the Robin Hood movie with Errol Flynn.)

**THE MERRY MEN** (even if they are girls) should wear tunics with long sleeve T-shirts, big leather belts, and tights. An alternative to tights (for those actors too macho to wear them) are dyed long-john bottoms. It's also convenient for the tunics to have pockets so the Merry Men can easily carry their small props, such as the cards, kazoo, a place to put their yodels, etc. Their footwear should be boots, such as lace-up work boots (no obvious cowboy boots). If boots are not available or affordable, the Merry Men can wear old-fashioned, Converse high-top basketball sneakers. They *do not* wear high-tech Nike stuff. Friar Tuck's costume is a typical brown, floor-length robe with a robe belt. A burlap fabric does well for this costume. A friar is not a priest, do not confuse the two. Please make sure the Merry Men and Robin have *large, wooden* mixing spoons.

**PRINCE JOHN** should have a crown, of course. He wears a tunic and can also wear a turtleneck under his tunic for a different look, and tights. His cape should be floor-length. His footwear: slip-on leather house slippers. A jeweled medallion around his neck is a nice touch, as well as lots of big jeweled rings on his fingers. However, try to avoid making him look like Liberace.

THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM should be costumed in a tunic—your basic dark, bad-guy colors, and tights or dyed long-johns. His cape should be shorter than Prince John’s cape. Medieval-looking, black leather gloves are a nice touch for him. He wears dark leather slippers or boots.

LADY MARIAN, THE LADY IN WAITING and the FAWNING LADIES wear floor-length gowns, preferably with empire waists. The colors of the Lady in Waiting’s and Fawning Ladies’ gowns should be muted in comparison to Marian’s gown. The Fawning Ladies’ dresses can be identical or match either in color and/or style, if possible. Lady Marian should have the prettiest dress. Please don’t make the girls look like they are going to the prom or walking down the aisle in cousin Ursula’s wedding. Some theatre companies think the audience won’t notice, but they always do. Then everyone goes out after the show and talks about it over coffee. Trust me, I’ve done it—so have you, you know you have.

Something fun you might want to consider—Robin and the Sheriff can wear large bowling shirts for the tournament. These shirts should be large enough to fit nicely over their tunics. A fun touch is to put the name of a local business on the back of their shirts. (Especially if the local business is willing to sponsor your production.) If you do not wish to use a local business, the Sheriff’s shirt should say: THE JOUST JOINT, and Robin’s shirt should say: WOODHAVEN LUMBER. Make the logos readable to the audience, otherwise it becomes a distraction. It is not mandatory that these characters have bowling shirts. If they do, however, they should take off the shirts during the Prince’s “tie-breaking” monologue to the audience. They should be out of the shirts before they take their tie-breaking shots.

## PROP LIST

### Act I

#### Sherwood Forest – Scene 1

Merry Men: playing cards

Allan: pewter mug and coaster (mug should hook onto Allan's belt after it's used)

#### Another part of the forest – Scene 2

Rich Man: bag of money

Poor Lady: baby wrapped in a blanket

Sheriff: pouch of gold

Marian: small wooden chest and large jeweled ring for her finger

Merry Men: large, wooden mixing spoons with “sword”-type handles which they keep with them throughout the rest of the show, preferably in a sheath or tucked into their belts

#### Sherwood Forest – Scene 3

Allan: Slinky

#### Throne Room – Scene 4

Fawning Ladies: 4 baskets with rose petals

Fawning Lady 1: nail file

Fawning Lady 2: fan

#### Sherwood Forest – Scene 5

Friar: large box of Yodels (a brand of cake), proclamation

Robin: target

Allan: bow and quiver

#### Marian's Chamber – Scene 6

Dress dummy with wedding dress

Lady: wedding veil, arrow with message

Sheriff: dagger  
Robin: spoon  
Town's Guy: bouquet of roses  
Fawning Ladies: rose petals

### Sherwood Forest – Scene 7

Merry Men: earrings

## **Act II**

### Throne Room – Scene 2

Sheriff: clipboard with paper  
Fawning Lady 1: nail polish  
Fawning Lady 2: magazine (Glamour, Cosmo, Seventeen,  
or whatever you want)  
Fawning Lady 3: eyebrow tweezers and small mirror or  
compact  
Fawning Ladies: white accordion-folded wedding bells,  
“Just Married” sign

### Sherwood Forest – Scene 3

Allan: Yatzee dice roller  
Robin: bow and quiver  
Town's Guy: message

### Tournament – Scene 4

Town's Guy: microphone, bow and quiver, pouch of gold,  
proclamation  
Merry Men: tree branches and tree trunks  
Robin: plastic “Groucho Marx” nose, glasses and  
mustache, bowling shoes  
Fawning Lady 1: target—a square piece of cloth, approx-  
imately 24 in., with a red target on it that can be easily  
folded and carried on by the Lady without hassle  
Fawning Ladies: pompoms  
Allan: kazoo

## SOME ADDITIONAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

**ROBIN HOOD:** He's quite impressed with himself. (A cross between Dudley DoRight and *Frasier's* Niles Crane.) To feed his ego, one must fill a void the size of the Grand Canyon. However, his heart is good, for his mission is to help the homeless and poor of England.

**LADY MARIAN:** She is the niece of King Richard and Prince John. She is also Robin's true love. She is a cross between Emma Thompson and Miss Piggy. She is kind, charming and shares Robin's quest to aid the needy. However, she has a strange obsession with skin conditions.

**PRINCE JOHN:** He's typically evil, selfish, greedy and has positively no regard for the welfare of England or its people. Should be largely despicable.

**SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM:** Shares all of Prince's prime qualities. Moreover, he is a master sportsman and Robin's chief rival. He also hopes to marry Marian.

**TOWN'S GUY:** Befriends Robin and helps him out of a few tight situations while teaching him some valuable lessons at the same time. Serves as the story's narrator.

**LADY IN WAITING:** Fed up with life in the castle.

**THE MERRY MEN:** Collectively, the Merry Men should behave somewhat like a pack of happy, but none-too-bright stray dogs.