

Robin And The Sherwood Hoodies

Junior Script

by

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character also has solo or featured sung lines.

The Narrator

Billy Wigglestick (55)

The Sherwood Hoodies (Merry Men)

*Robin Hood (97)

Will Scarlet (44)

Alan A-Dale (20)

Friar Tuck (19)

Big John/Little John (35)

Much Muscles (15)

Dancing Dave (24)

The Castle Crew

King John (86)

Sheriff of Nottingham (97)

Grabbit (52)

Bolt (44)

Gavin Gutwrencher (29)

Genghis (19)

Nigel the Norman (Guard) (4)

Norbert the Norman (Guard) (4)

Nesbit the Norman (Guard) (4)

Norton the Norman (Guard) (3)

Newt the Norman (Guard) (3)

King Richard (12)

Wealthy Travellers

Guy of Gisbourne (4)

Gladys of Gisbourne (5)

The Sherwood Villagers

*Maid Marion (85)

Nursie Gerty Gusset (70)

Bodkin of Budbury (4)

Inkhorn of Idle (4)

Kettlehat of Kirklington (3)

Napsack of Normanton (4)

Jugmuffin of Jacksdale (3)

Pokewhistle of Pleasley (3)

Scragbucket of Southwell (3)

Manglebutt of Mansfield (3)

Beautiful Betsy (2)

Bubbly Bertha (2)

Beaudacious Babs (2)

The Skunk Scouts

Skunk Lumpy (3)

Skunk Logger (3)

Skunk Stumpy (3)

Skunk Sprout (3)

Skunk Lopper (4)

Skunk Cropper (3)

Skunk Pulpy (2)

Skunk Prune (1)

N.B. There is also an option to have a cast member act as a voice over at the beginning of Track 9. A voice recording is available on the vocal CD if preferred.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

NB. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

*Robin Hood	97
Sheriff of Nottingham	97
King John.....	86
*Maid Marion	85
Nursie Gerty Gusset	70
Billy Wigglestick.....	55
Grabbit.....	52
Bolt	44
Will Scarlet.....	44
Big John/Little John	35
Gavin Gutwrencher.....	29
Dancing Dave	24
Alan A-Dale	20
Genghis	19
Friar Tuck	19
Much Muscles.....	15
King Richard	12
Gladys of Gisbourne	5
Nigel the Norman.....	4
Norbert the Norman.....	4
Nesbit the Norman.....	4
Guy of Gisbourne	4
Bodkin of Budbury	4
Inkhorn of Idle.....	4
Napsack of Normanton	4
Skunk Lopper	4
Norton the Norman	3
Newt the Norman.....	3
Kettlehat of Kirklington.....	3
Jugmuffin of Jacksdale	3
Pokewhistle of Pleasley	3
Scragbucket of Southwell	3
Manglebutt of Mansfield.....	3

Skunk Lumpy 3
Skunk Logger 3
Skunk Stumpy 3
Skunk Sprout 3
Skunk Cropper..... 3
Beautiful Betsy..... 2
Bubbly Bertha 2
Beaudacious Babs..... 2
Skunk Pulpy..... 2
Skunk Prune 1

CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

Alan A-Dale	20
Beaudacious Babs.....	2
Beautiful Betsy.....	2
Big John/Little John	35
Billy Wigglestick.....	55
Bodkin of Budbury	4
Bolt	44
Bubbly Bertha	2
Dancing Dave	24
Friar Tuck	19
Gavin Gutwrencher.....	29
Genghis	19
Gladys of Gisbourne	5
Grabbit.....	52
Guy of Gisbourne	4
Inkhorn of Idle.....	4
Jugmuffin of Jacksdale	3
Kettlehat of Kirklington.....	3
King John.....	86
King Richard	12
*Maid Marion	85
Manglebutt of Mansfield.....	3
Much Muscles.....	15
Napsack of Normanton	4
Nesbit the Norman.....	4
Newt the Norman.....	3
Nigel the Norman.....	4
Norbert the Norman.....	4
Norton the Norman	3
Nursie Gerty Gusset	70
Pokewhistle of Pleasley	3
*Robin Hood	97
Scragbucket of Southwell	3

Sheriff of Nottingham	97
Skunk Cropper.....	3
Skunk Logger	3
Skunk Lopper	4
Skunk Lumpy.....	3
Skunk Prune.....	1
Skunk Pulpy.....	2
Skunk Sprout	3
Skunk Stumpy	3
Will Scarlet.....	44

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Billy Wigglestick
 Maid Marion
 Nursie Gerty Gusset
 Sheriff of Nottingham
 The Guards
 The Skunk Scouts
 The Villagers
 Will Scarlet

Scene Two

Robin Hood
 The Merry Men
 The Skunk Scouts
 Voice over (Optional)

Scene Three

Billy Wigglestick
 Bolt
 Gavin Gutwrencher
 Genghis
 Grabbit
 King John
 Sheriff of Nottingham
 The Guards

Scene Four

Billy Wigglestick
 Maid Marion
 Nursie Gerty Gusset
 Robin Hood
 Sheriff of Nottingham
 The Guards
 The Merry Men
 The Skunk Scouts
 The Villagers
 Will Scarlet

Scene Five

Billy Wigglestick
 Bolt
 Gavin Gutwrencher
 Genghis
 Grabbit
 King John
 Sheriff of Nottingham
 The Guards

Scene Six

Billy Wigglestick
 Bolt
 Gladys of Gisbourne
 Grabbit
 Guy of Gisbourne
 Maid Marion
 Nursie Gerty Gusset
 Robin Hood
 Sheriff of Nottingham
 The Merry Men
 The Skunk Scouts
 The Villagers
 Will Scarlet

Scene Seven

Billy Wigglestick
 Bolt
 Gavin Gutwrencher
 Genghis
 Grabbit
 King John
 Maid Marion
 Nursie Gerty Gusset
 Robin Hood
 Sheriff of Nottingham
 The Merry Men
 Will Scarlet

Scene Eight

Billy Wigglestick
 Bolt
 Gavin Gutwrencher
 Genghis
 Grabbit
 King John
 King Richard
 Maid Marion
 Nursie Gerty Gusset
 Robin Hood
 Sheriff of Nottingham
 Soloist
 The Guards
 The Merry Men
 The Skunk Scouts
 The Villagers
 Will Scarlet

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Basket of flowers Maid Marion
 Quill & parchment Billy Wigglestick
 Bow Will Scarlet
 5 x Spears Guards
 Scroll..... Sheriff of Nottingham
 "The Sherwood Arrow" newspaperNursie Gerty Gusset
 Letter Maid Marion

Scene Two

6 x Swords..... The Merry Men
 Little John puppet Big John
 Giant tomato sauce bottle..... Friar Tuck
 "The Sherwood Arrow" newspaper Friar Tuck
 Lute Alan A-Dale
 Letter Skunk Lopper

Scene Three

Throne King John
 5 x Spears Guards
 Egg & eggcup King John
 Postcard with arrow Scene Prop
 "The Sherwood Arrow" newspaper King John
 2 x Feather dusters..... Gavin & Genghis
 Shackles Grabbit & Bolt

Scene Four

Business card Robin Hood
 Little John puppet Big John
 Bow Will Scarlet
 Rubber chicken..... Scene Prop
 5 x Spears Guards
 Arrow through the head headband Villager/Sheriff of Nottingham

Scene Five

Throne King John
 Cardboard pants Genghis
 5 x Spears Guards
 Arrow through the head headband Sheriff of Nottingham

Scene Six

Drawstring purse Guy of Gisbourne
 Little John puppet Big John
 Bow Will Scarlet
 Gold plated bonker Sheriff of Nottingham
 Blanket..... Sheriff of Nottingham

Scene Seven

5 x Spears Guards
 Blanket..... Maid Marion
 Little John puppet Big John
 Bow Will Scarlet

Scene Eight

Gold plated bonker Grabbit
 Bow Will Scarlet
 Little John puppet Big John
 Cardboard cut-out of the squished Sheriff Scene Prop
 False bottom..... King John
 5 x Spears Guards
 Gold envelope King Richard
 Oswald Statuette King Richard

PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to ***Robin & The Sherwood Hoodies!*** I am sure you will enjoy rehearsing and performing this musical comedy, but to aid you in your production it may be helpful to consider the following notes.

CASTING

The script is written for 43 speaking characters. These range from principal parts to smaller supporting roles. For productions with fewer cast members, condensing and doubling of characters is possible. This can be done in numerous ways, but the following example reduces the cast number to 22 speaking parts:

- Reduce the villagers to just Bodkin and Inkhorn (reallocating lines)
- Reduce the guards to just Nigel and Norbert (reallocating lines)
- Reduce the skunks to just Lumpy and Logger (reallocating lines)
- Double up Guy and Gladys with the two Villagers or two Guards
- Enlist a willing adult to play the cameo role of King Richard

To expand the cast, unlimited chorus parts may be used as additional Villagers, Skunks and Guards, possibly redistributing some lines. An off-stage choir can also be used for chorus backing on songs.

The role of Robin should be portrayed as an egocentric, highly theatrical thespian, always over-excited and over-acting. His Merry Men are entertainers with various performing skills and should be played to highlight this point. Dave is a dancer, Alan is a classical musician, Much is a strongman, Tuck is a magician and Little John is actually a ventriloquist's puppet worked by Big John, who provides a slightly higher voice for Little John's lines. Nursie is an eccentric "pantomime dame" character and may work well played by a suitably adventurous male performer. If working with a wider age range, the troupe of Skunk Scouts (who are not animals but young scouts) are ideal roles for younger, smaller cast members.

COSTUMES

The iconic style of Robin Hood can be used to great effect when costuming this show, with plenty of tunics, tights, feathered hats and chain mail! The Merry Men should sport the traditional "Robin Hood" look with white long-sleeved shirts under a green tunic with a belt, green tights and feathered hat. However, individual touches can be added for different characters. Robin should stand out with perhaps a slightly different coloured tunic, whilst Much can be hairy with muscle outlines drawn on his top. Alan should carry a lute but could also have musical notes to decorate his tunic. The Little John puppet needs to be dressed identically to Big John, possibly using a toddler's dressing up costume. Dave could add leg warmers, wrist and head bands to his costume reminiscent of a 1970s disco dancer! However, the overall look of the troupe should be almost like a uniform, apart from Tuck who should wear the traditional monk's long brown cassock, wig and fat tummy courtesy of a cushion or fat-suit. Will Scarlet should be costumed as the Merry Men, but with red tunic, tights and hat, not forgetting his glasses and his trusty bow over his shoulder.

Mock chain mail is an essential costume element for the Sheriff, Guards and Kings. A comedy element can be added to the Guards costumes by adding striped socks to their

costumes. Gavin's costume can also be comical, dressed as an over enthusiastic holiday camp rep - bright coloured blazer with white shorts, polo shirt, knee length socks and plimsolls. This will contrast well with the unsightly "Quasimodo" look of Genghis – lots of raggedy clothes, unruly hair and a dirty face! Grabbit and Bolt could wear matching bright stripy tights and tunics with a large G or B on the front, whilst Billy Wigglestick could be dressed as a wandering minstrel, court jester or Shakespearian playwright!

The Skunk Scouts need a traditional "scout" look, but with added colour. Try khaki knee-length shorts & t-shirts with stripy knee-length socks and red & white spotty neckerchiefs, topped off with a traditional brown "Baden-Powell" hat. The Villagers should be costumed simply and uniformly, but avoid depressing peasant colours! Girls can wear brightly coloured stripy or spotty skirts topped with a blouse and mob cap whilst boys can wear knee-length trousers, shirts and waistcoats, perhaps with neckerchiefs to match the girls' skirts. Guy and Gladys are wealthy and should be dressed accordingly. Maid Marion could wear a traditional long dress and garland of flowers in her hair, whilst Nursie's eccentric "dame" character can be emphasised by a more outlandish costume, possibly with a comic wig and glasses. Remember, an authentic but colourful look will transport the audience to Sherwood Forest- plenty of tunics, tights and chain mail, but don't forget your stripy socks!

STAGING

This production can be staged effectively with very simple scenery. A forest backcloth of trees would work for most of the show whilst interior scenes in Nottingham Castle can be achieved with painted flats or screens positioned in front of the backcloth to resemble castle walls, and the King's throne positioned centrally in front. The forest and castle walls can be painted realistically, but as this is a fun comedy, consider a splash of cartoon creativity using unusual shapes and bright colours with black outlines.

Props play an important part in this production. The Sheriff's "arrow through head" prop is widely available from joke shops or easily made with two halves of a toy arrow fixed to a headband. Little John is a puppet with a moveable mouth, held and operated by Big John throughout the show. It is advised to allow Big John plenty of rehearsal time with the puppet to perfect the art of puppet manipulation, remembering to keep the puppet moving and allow it to follow action and dialogue with its head and eyes.

A comical highlight of the show is the Sheriff's demise as he falls through the 'squisher' and re-emerges flattened as a cardboard cut-out. The 'squisher' can be achieved in various ways, the most effective being a specially made wooden "mangle" with two large, soft rollers that allow the Sheriff to roll through head-first safely and comfortably. Alternatively, and easier to achieve, the Sheriff could dive through an opening in a scenery flat or cloth painted to look like a 'squisher'. The cut-out can be made by using software to scale up a photo of your Sheriff (in horrified pose) to life size and tile printing on a colour printer. The tiles can be glued onto a large sheet of card and trimmed to image edge. The cut-out should emerge almost instantly from the same place the Sheriff disappeared. Done well, this is a prop that often receives its own round of applause when revealed. Another comic moment in the final scene is the revealing of King John's false bottom, and these foam props are widely available to purchase. Alternatively (although perhaps not as effective) King John could simply reveal some brightly coloured undergarments through the ripped seat.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Each musical number is designed to have movement, and even simple moves will bring the songs to life. For maximum effect, the whole cast is intended to perform all songs and dances on stage as chorus, whether they are in the preceding drama or not. Of course this is at the discretion of the director and can depend on available space. Choreography of individual musical numbers is left to the creativity of your own director/choreographer. This way, moves can be designed that more accurately match the ability of the individual cast. However, example choreography and useful advice for all the musical numbers in this show can be found on the highly recommended Choreography DVD where available.

MUSIC

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects, is found on the Backing Track CD.

Play On, Play Off and Scene Change tracks are provided to allow entrances, exits and scene changes to occur smoothly without pauses, resulting in a slick performance. A vocal recording is provided as a guide and to enable the swift learning of songs. The backing tracks without vocals are ideal to use in rehearsals and performances. Directors may, if they wish, allow a choir or separate character to accompany or replace a soloist in a song or section intended for a soloist. This may be necessary if certain cast members are unable to perform the solo themselves or a larger chorus is required to be employed more fully. In *"Singing All Over The World"*, the opening solo may be allocated to anyone within the scene, speaking or non-speaking. In *"The M-Team"*, directors are free to use the recorded voice track for performances.

AND FINALLY...

This musical has been entirely written in the heart of Sherwood Forest itself - actually in Robin Hood's village, just an arrow's shot from Robin's oak tree and in the shadow of the church where Robin and Marion wed! This possibly makes the show the most authentic Robin Hood musical ever written, even if its historical accuracy is sometimes a little dubious! Above all, this is a fun show to rehearse and perform, so remember to enjoy yourselves and your audience will, too! My best wishes for a successful and enjoyable production.

SCENE ONE**TRACK 1:****OVERTURE**

(As the house lights dim, the Overture music begins. At the end of the Overture, the curtain rises to reveal a forest scene. It is morning in the village of Sherwood. Maid Marion is stood frozen, carrying a basket of flowers. As the sun rises and the birds begin to sing, Billy Wigglestick, our playwright, enters with quill and parchment and addresses the audience in dramatic, Shakespearian fashion.)

TRACK 2:**SHERWOOD FOREST (SONG)**

BILLY: In fair old merry England, eleven ninety two,
We raise the curtain on a play I've written just for you
Our scene is set in Sherwood, beside the Major Oak
Where lives a maid called Marion, with kind and simple folk.
(Louder) Cue opening number!

(Billy exits as the music becomes faster and Villagers enter, greeting each other and Marion happily. Marion begins to sing as the Chorus take their positions.)

MARION: FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS, CROSS THE FOREST FLOOR
THERE'S A WILDERNESS OF WONDER TO EXPLORE!
EVERYBODY LIVES HAND IN HAND WITH NATURE,
IN A LAND OF BIRDS AND BEES,
UNDERNEATH THE SHADE OF ANCIENT TREES!

ALL: WHEN YOU'RE LIVING IN SHERWOOD FOREST,
EVERY DAY IS NEW!
WHEN YOU'RE LIVING IN SHERWOOD FOREST,
SKIES ARE ALWAYS BLUE!
THERE'S NO DOUBT WE'RE CARVING OUT
A LIFE FOR ME AND YOU,
RIGHT HERE IN SHERWOOD—WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE!

IN OUR LAND OF PLENTY, LIVING LIFE FOR FREE,
AN ADVENTURE LIES IN WAIT FOR YOU AND ME!
WE ARE SOWING THE SEEDS OF MOTHER NATURE,
HEAR HER LAUGHTER IN THE LEAVES,
COME AND FEEL THE MAGIC THAT SHE WEAVES!

WHEN YOU'RE LIVING IN SHERWOOD FOREST,
EVERY DAY IS NEW!
WHEN YOU'RE LIVING IN SHERWOOD FOREST,
SKIES ARE ALWAYS BLUE!

- NURSIE:** *(Turning to Marion)* That's right, Marion. *(Turning back to Will)* Kidnapped! *(Realising who it is and turning back to Marion)* Marion! Where have you been, you naughty thing? I've been worried sick! I need to sit down and decompose myself!
- MARION:** Nursie, I'm old enough to take care of myself.
- NURSIE:** You're my ward, remember? I promised your father I'd look after you whilst he was away at the crusades.
- MARION:** That was ten years ago, Nursie. I'm all grown up now!
- NURSIE:** You are still my ward. And you will remain my ward until your father returns.
- MARION:** But I'll be a wrinkly old woman by then.
- WILL:** Then you'd be a geriatric ward!
- NURSIE:** I know you're not my real daughter, but you and Will are all the family I've got.
- MARION:** Why didn't you ever get married, Nursie?
- NURSIE:** I did once. Oh, it was a very emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers! But it was doomed from the start.
- MARION:** Why?
- NURSIE:** Well, he was a tennis player. Love meant nothing to him. *(She pauses and looks at the audience.)* Then I got engaged to a man with a wooden leg.
- MARION:** What happened?
- WILL:** She broke it off!

(Nursie puts a motherly arm around Marion and Will and squeezes them close, a little too tightly for their comfort.)

- NURSIE:** So you see, you're all I've got - and I have to protect you from all the nasty things lurking in the forest. The outlaws, the robbers, King John's guards...

(Marion and Will break away from Nursie's grip as the other Villagers gather around to listen.)

- MARION:** *(Cross)* King John? He's just an impostor! Richard the Lionheart's our true King.
- NURSIE:** Well when King Richard returns, he'll soon put matters right. Until then...
- WILL:** ... we all have to live here in Sherwood Forest, paying taxes to that nasty Sheriff of Nottingham!
- MARION:** That's right! We won't be pushed around by King John. We demand justice, don't we?
- VILLAGERS:** *(Punching the air)* Yes!

MARION: We demand freedom, don't we?
VILLAGERS: *(Punching the air)* Yes!
MARION: And when his men come, will we run and hide?
VILLAGERS: *(Punching the air)* Yes!

(Marion looks a little fed up at her fellow Villagers' lack of fighting spirit.)

MARION: Will, you'd help fight that horrible Sheriff and his guards, wouldn't you?
WILL: Absolutely, Marion! It's like my dad always said. "You've got to fight fire with fire!"
MARION: Well, that was good advice!
WILL: Not really - he was a fireman. But you're right, we need to stand up for ourselves. And you can rely on me - *(posing heroically)* I'm not scared of the Sheriff!

TRACK 4: **HUNTING HORNS #1**

WILL: *(Instantly changing to a petrified pose)* Agh! It's the Sheriff!

(The Guards enter, marching with spears and looking menacing.)

NIGEL: Citizens of Sherwood, pray silence and take heed!
NORBERT: Gather round and prepare to grovel.
NESBIT: As we proudly present King John's right hand man...
NORTON: The Sheriff Of Nottingham!

TRACK 5: **SHERIFF PLAY ON #1**

(The Sheriff Of Nottingham enters dramatically and stands in a self-satisfied pose.)

NEWT: Three cheers for the Sheriff! Hip, hip...
VILLAGERS: Boo!
SHERIFF: Silence, peasants of Sherwood, and show some respect! I am the Sheriff!
BODKIN: Where's your cowboy hat, then?
SHERIFF: The Sheriff of Nottingham, you fool! *(Producing a scroll of parchment to read)* I have the proclamations!
INKHORN: Can't you get ointment for that?
SHERIFF: Silence! *(Reading from his scroll)* His Royal Highness King John needs more money.

VILLAGERS: More money?
SHERIFF: So from now on all taxes are doubled!
VILLAGERS: Doubled?
SHERIFF: *(Looking around above him)* Is there an echo round here?
(Resuming his announcement) He has also decided to tax everyone with blocked up noses.
KETTLEHAT: Blocked up noses?
SHERIFF: Yes - it's called the congestion charge!
NAPSACK: Not more taxes!
JUGMUFFIN: We pay more than enough already!
POKEWHISTLE: Window tax, door tax, chimney tax...
SHERIFF: No, no! You don't have to pay for your chimney.
SCRAGBUCKET: Why not?
SHERIFF: It's on the house! *(He laughs rhythmically at his joke)* A-ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

(The Sheriff clicks his fingers in the air and the Guards instantly echo his rhythmic laugh.)

GUARDS: A-ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!
SHERIFF: Just the Sheriff's little joke. Now, pay up - or my guards will throw you out and burn your houses to the ground!
WILL: *(Stepping forward)* Look here, we've got tenants' rights and we're all revolting!
SHERIFF: *(Waving a hand in front of his nose)* Yes, I'd noticed.
MANGLEBUTT: How can you charge us tax for living in these hovels?
SHERIFF: What are you talking about? You live in five star residences.
WILL: Yes, that's how many stars we can see through the hole in the roof!
SHERIFF: And you have running water.
BETSY: Yes, down the walls every time it rains!
BERTHA: The kitchen's so small, we have to use condensed milk!
BABS: And the walls are so thin, when I peel an onion the neighbours start crying!

(Marion bravely walks forwards to confront the Sheriff face to face.)

MARION: So why don't you just go away, before things turn ugly... big nose!

(Everyone gasps and the Sheriff looks angry, clutching his offended nose. Nursie quickly steps forward and pushes her reckless ward behind her, trying to disarm the situation.)

NURSIE: No, underneath that.

MARION: *(Ignoring Will and talking to herself)* These troubles are getting us down.

WILL: *(Continuing to read)* “Troubles getting you down?”

MARION: *(Still talking to herself)* We need an answer to our problems.

WILL: *(Continuing to read)* “Need an answer to your problems?”

MARION: *(Suddenly having an idea and turning to the others)* I know what we need!

WILL: *(Continuing to read)* “You need a team of highly trained professionals.”

MARION: We need a team of highly trained prof... how did you know?

NURSIE: *(Reading)* “Available anytime, any place, anywhere!” Look!

MARION: *(Taking the paper and reading it quickly)* This is the answer! If we could hire these soldiers of fortune, we could fight off those guards and save our homes! I’ll write a letter straight away. *(She exits, running.)*

WILL: Wow - our own army of soldiers! But how will we ever track them down?

NURSIE: My little troupe of Skunk Scouts! They can track anyone. I’ll give them a whistle.

TRACK 7:**SKUNK PLAY ON #1**

(Nursie puts two fingers in her mouth and whistles. The Skunk Scouts march on, form an orderly line, then stand to attention. They are a troupe of traditionally dressed scouts, of which Nursie is the leader.)

NURSIE: *(Saluting)* Scratch, scratch, scratch!

SKUNKS: *(Saluting)* Sniff, sniff, sniff!

LUMPY: Do you need a helping hand, Brown Owl?

LOGGER: We’re ready, aren’t we Skunks?

SKUNKS: Yes!

(Marion enters with a letter and hands it to Nursie.)

MARION: Here’s the letter. Let’s hope we can find them in time.

WILL: Let’s hope they agree to help us!

NURSIE: Well, now, my little twiglets, it’s time to give a helping hand. Track down these heroes and give them Marion’s letter. And with a little luck, they’ll agree to give us a helping hand too! *(She hands the letter to Lopper and salutes)* Good luck, Skunks!

SKUNKS: *(Saluting)* Skunks of the forest, united we stand! Ready to give a helping hand!

TRACK 8: **HELPING HAND (SONG)**

(The Chorus enter and all march into song positions during the introduction.)

ALL: SOMETIMES THE WORLD CAN BE A WORRY,
SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND.
WHEN LIFE IS A MESS, WHO WILL COME TO THE RESCUE,
AND LEND YOU A HELPING HAND?

SO WHEN THE WORLD ALL AROUND
IS FALLING DEEP IN DESPAIR,
JUST SAY THE WORD AND A HELPING HAND
IS SURE TO BE THERE!
FOR WE WILL FLY TO YOUR SIDE
UPON A WING AND A PRAYER-
THAT'S WHEN YOU NEED A HELPING HAND!

WHEN YOU'RE DESERTED IN THE DESERT,
THINKING YOU'LL SINK IN SINKING SAND,
WHENEVER YOU'RE STUCK,
OR YOU'RE DOWN ON YOUR LUCK,
ALL YOU NEED IS A HELPING HAND!

SO WHEN THE WORLD ALL AROUND
IS FALLING DEEP IN DESPAIR,
JUST SAY THE WORD AND A HELPING HAND
IS SURE TO BE THERE!
FOR WE WILL FLY TO YOUR SIDE
UPON A WING AND A PRAYER-
THAT'S WHEN YOU NEED A HELPING HAND!

SO WHEN THE WORLD ALL AROUND
IS FALLING DEEP IN DESPAIR,
JUST SAY THE WORD AND A HELPING HAND
IS SURE TO BE THERE!
FOR WE WILL FLY TO YOUR SIDE
UPON A WING AND A PRAYER-
THAT'S WHEN YOU NEED A HELPING,
THAT'S WHEN YOU NEED A HELPING,
THAT'S WHEN YOU NEED... A HELPING HAND!
GING GANG GOOLY-GOOLY-GOOLY-GOOLY
WHAT YOU NEED'S A HELPING HAND!

(Blackout.)

TRACK 9:**THE M-TEAM****SCENE TWO**

(Robin's Camp. The music changes to a familiar drum beat and an American voice over introduces the Merry Men. Dim lights reveal the Merry Men frozen in silhouette. They are positioned in pairs with swords in the middle of a fight. Big John holds and works Little John - a puppet dressed identically to himself.)

VOICE: In 1172 a crack performance unit was outlawed by the Royal Court for a crime they didn't commit. These men promptly escaped from a maximum security stockade to the Nottingham underground. Today, they survive as men of fortune. If you have a problem, if no one else can help, and if you can find them, maybe you can hire... the Merry Men!

(We hear the twang of an arrow as the lights come up and the music continues. The Merry Men come to life with energetic fight moves. The music stops and Robin, as if a stage director, instantly calls a halt to the action. As Robin speaks, the Merry Men discard their weapons and collect their other props - Alan collects a lute and Friar Tuck collects a giant bottle of ketchup and a copy of "The Sherwood Arrow" newspaper.)

ROBIN: Cut! Hold it there, everyone. Great rehearsal! That was marvellous, darlings! Just a few notes. Well done, Little John, you were fabulous as always.

LITTLE JOHN: *(In a slightly higher, squeakier voice than Big John)* Thanks, Robin, I try my best!

BIG JOHN: Hey, what about me?

ROBIN: Yes, Big John, you were fabulous too!

TUCK: *(Holding up the ketchup bottle)* What about the fake blood, Robin? Too much ketchup?

ROBIN: Friar Tuck, you can never have too much ketchup. And Dave...

(Dave shimmies across to Robin in an exaggerated dancey way with very jazzy movements.)

DAVE: Shimmy, shimmy, shimmy, shimmy... jazz hands!

(Dave strikes a dancing pose next to Robin, grinning and shaking his hands jazzily.)

ROBIN: Yes, about those jazz hands, Dave.

DAVE: Not jazzy enough? *(He gives his jazz hands another jazzy shake.)*

ROBIN: Not really appropriate in a fight scene. Save it for your solo spot.

DAVE: Absolutely, Robin! Shimmy, shimmy, shimmy, shimmy... jazz hands!
(He dances away in a similarly eccentric manner)

ROBIN: Alan-a-Dale, loved the lute playing. But why did you run off half way through?

ALAN: *(Holding up his lute)* Sorry, Robin - my G-string snapped.

MUCH: *(In a deep, Neanderthal voice)* Much Muscles did good?

ROBIN: Yes, Much, my big strong hairy brute, you were super! Well, that's the finale sorted. So, let's go through the new running order. We open with our spectacular song and dance number.

DAVE: Then it's my solo spot, where I recreate the Battle of Hastings through the medium of... *(he dances some unusual moves)* contemporary dance!

ALAN: Followed by my classic folk song, "She was only a whiskey maker's daughter, but he loved her still!"

LITTLE JOHN: Then it's Little John!

BIG JOHN: And Big John!

LITTLE JOHN: With our comedy double act, before Much Muscles and his strongman routine.

MUCH: *(Displaying his muscles)* Much chop tree trunks in half with bare hands. Aghhh! *(He demonstrates with a fierce cry.)*

TUCK: *(Moving his hands mysteriously)* Then it's Friar Tuck, the mystical monk, with my mix of mind reading and magic!

ROBIN: What a show! No wonder The Merry Men are England's finest troupe of wandering entertainers! We sing, we dance, we act! *(Rubbing his leg proudly)* We wear smashing tights!

TUCK: But Robin, we haven't had a paying audience in months.

DAVE: Not since King John closed all the theatres.

ALAN: All our bookings have dried up.

BIG JOHN: You know what our audience was last night?

LITTLE JOHN: Six squirrels, two moles and a badger called Derek.

TUCK: We miss it, Robin.

BIG JOHN: The roar of the greasepaint!

LITTLE JOHN: The smell of the crowd!

DAVE: Adoring fans!

ALAN: Rapturous applause!

MUCH: Sausages!

ROBIN: Which is why I put an advert in the paper. *(Pointing at Tuck's newspaper)* Look!

TUCK: *(Reading the advert out loud)* "For sale - left sock – slightly smelly"?

ROBIN: No, underneath that. Our luck's going to change really soon, I can feel it in my tights! Why, our big break could be just around the corner!

(He points dramatically to the side of stage and the Merry Men all look intently.)

TRACK 10:

SKUNK PLAY ON #2

(The Skunks enter, marching, then form a line and stand to attention.)

STUMPY: Robin Hood?
ROBIN: The very same! Have you come for an autograph, my small, strange smelling admirers?
SPROUT: Not really.
LOPPER: *(Handing the letter to Robin)* We have to give you this letter.
CROPPER: It's from Maid Marion of Sherwood.
DAVE: Fan mail? How charming!
TUCK: What does it say, Robin?

(Robin opens the letter and reads it out loud as the Merry Men listen and react excitedly.)

ROBIN: "Saw your advert - just what we're looking for! We're in need of your talents! Important visitors coming at noon - give them a welcome they'll never forget!"
BIG JOHN: We're just what they're looking for!
LITTLE JOHN: They're in need of our talents!
ALAN: We have a booking, boys!

(Robin hands the letter back to the Skunks, addressing them in an overly Shakespearian fashion.)

ROBIN: Well, my fragrant friends, return forthwith to thy mistress Maid Marion and tell her that Robin Hood and his Merry Men will not forsake her. For at noon, it will be show time in Sherwood!

(In the quiet section of the music, the Chorus step stylishly in time with the music clicking their fingers, then whispering the lyrics in a loud, jazzy stage whisper.)

(Whispered) See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

SEE THE GREATEST SHOW TONIGHT,
WE WILL TRY TO SATISFY YOUR APPETITE!
CUE THE MUSIC, LIGHT THE LIGHTS,
TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN ON THE
MEN... IN... TIGHTS!

(Spoken) Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

(Blackout.)

TRACK 12:

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE #1

SCENE THREE

(Nottingham Castle. King John is sat frozen centre stage sat worried on his throne - a newspaper and eggcup placed next to him. Billy enters at one side and theatrically addresses the audience once again.)

BILLY: You've met our fair Maid Marion
You've met our Robin Hood
But now it's time to meet some folk
Who aren't so kind and good.

King John, he sits on England's throne
While Richard is away
And with the Sheriff, brings to life
The evil in our play!

Cue royal shouting...

(Billy exits as King John comes to life and begins shouting for the Sheriff.)

KING JOHN: Nottingham! Nottingham!

(The Sheriff enters, running, followed by the Guards.)

SHERIFF: Coming, your majesty!

KING JOHN: Hurry up! It's an emergency!

SHERIFF: I'm here your majesty. What is it?

KING JOHN: It's a disaster, Nottingham! A catastrophe!

SHERIFF: Is it war, Sire? An invasion? Are we under attack?

KING JOHN: Worse! *(Upset, holding up his eggcup up)* I can't get the top off my boiled egg!

SHERIFF: But your majesty...

KING JOHN: No buts! Now sort it out before I starve to death.

SHERIFF: *(Taking the egg despairingly)* Guards!

(The Sheriff passes the egg to the Guards who in turn pass it down to the line. The last Guard swings his spear to chop the top off.)

TRACK 13:

SFX EGG CHOP

(The Guards pass the egg back to the Sheriff, who hands it to King John.)

SHERIFF: Panic over, your majesty.
KING JOHN: Well just remember in future - I must have my boiled egg served with soldiers! Now, where have you been, Nottingham? I've been calling you for hours!
SHERIFF: We've been collecting taxes in Sherwood Forest.
KING JOHN: Sherwood, eh? Nasty bunch of peasants out there. Rough, tough villains, I hear.
NIGEL: Oh yes Sire!
NORBERT: Nasty!
NESBIT: Rough!
NORTON: Tough!
SHERIFF: All those bulging muscles, tattoos and hairy chests. Sherwood women are certainly unique!

TRACK 14:

SFX ARROW POST

(We hear an arrow fly and land and all look offstage. Newt quickly exits and returns immediately with a postcard stuck on the end of an arrow. He passes it to King John.)

NEWT: Post's arrived, your majesty
SHERIFF: A postcard! That'll cheer you up, Sire. Who's it from?
KING JOHN: *(Reading)* "Dear John, having a lovely crusade here in Jerusalem. Weather's nice, wish you were here, love Dickie."
GUARDS: *(Shocked)* King Richard?
SHERIFF: He's still alive?
KING JOHN: Unfortunately, the irritating goody-goody. *(Whining childishly)* Everybody loves him!
ALL: They don't!
KING JOHN: They do! They like him better than me!
ALL: They don't!
KING JOHN: They do! *(Holding up a newspaper)* Look, here in the paper.

(The Sheriff takes the newspaper to read it.)

SHERIFF: *(Reading the advert out loud)* "For sale - left sock – slightly smelly"?

KING JOHN: No, on the other side. *(He points to the words on the newspaper as he reads them out)* “Why is King John like a tape measure with no numbers?”

SHERIFF: *(Reading the answer)* “Because he’s a useless ruler!”

(The Sheriff and Guards all laugh hysterically. King John gets to his feet and loses his temper.)

KING JOHN: It’s not funny! I’m running out of money! People think I’m useless! And I’m homesick!

SHERIFF: But Sire, you are home.

KING JOHN: I know - and I’m sick of it! *(He sits back down and sulks.)*

SHERIFF: Well, I know what will cheer you up, Sire - a little bit of torture! *(With a grand flourish of arms towards the side)* Summon the dungeon master!

TRACK 15: **SFX GONG #1**

(We hear a gong. After a brief pause, Gavin pops his head round one side and greets everyone in an overly friendly and enthusiastic manner, waving his feather duster.)

GAVIN: Hiya, guys! *(He enters and walks towards the King)* My name’s Gavin and I’m your head dungeon master and torture consultant. And may I introduce my glamorous assistant, Genghis!

(Gavin puts his arm out to welcome Genghis, a strange creature reminiscent of something left over from a horror movie. Genghis shuffles on carrying a feather duster and gives a little wave.)

GENGHIS: Hello!

(Genghis shuffles over to King John and starts stroking his arm, gazing into his eyes with a glazed but happy expression. King John pulls an uncomfortable face.)

GAVIN: Together, we like to think of ourselves as “The team that make ‘em scream!” *(Noticing Genghis stroking King John)* Genghis, what did we say about personal space? Now stop stroking the King and come here.

GENGHIS: *(Shuffling back to Gavin)* Sorry, master!

KING JOHN: And where are the torture victims?

GAVIN: Not victims, Sire. We like to call them our “special guests” - gives the place a friendly, family feel, doesn’t it Genghis?

GENGHIS: Yes, master!

KING JOHN: A family feel?
GAVIN: Oh yes, Sire. Torture runs in the family. Genghis, your father loved working in the dungeon, didn't he?
GENGHIS: Yes, master! It gave him a warm, glowing feeling inside.
KING JOHN: Job satisfaction?
GENGHIS: No, he fell and sat on a red hot poker.
SHERIFF: Just get on with it!
GAVIN: Alright, grumpy knickers! Genghis, be a love and bring in our guests, please.
GENGHIS: Yes, master!

TRACK 16:**SFX GONG #2**

(A gong sounds as Genghis brings in Grabbit and Bolt who are in shackles.)

KING JOHN: I think I'll have a little chat with our guests before we begin.
SHERIFF: But your majesty...
KING JOHN: No buts! **(To Grabbit and Bolt)** Good morning, gentlemen.
GRABBIT: Morning, governor! I'm Grabbit!
BOLT: And I'm Bolt.
GRABBIT: We're robbers. We nick things.
KING JOHN: What, both of you?
BOLT: Yes - we're a pair of knickers! **(They both laugh.)**
KING JOHN: And what exactly were you arrested for?
GRABBIT: We stole a calendar.
KING JOHN: A calendar?
BOLT: Yes - we got six months each! **(They both laugh.)**
KING JOHN: **(Cross)** Do you know who I am?
GRABBIT: Why - have you forgotten?
BOLT: It's probably written on the label in your pants. Have a look.
SHERIFF: What a numbskull! He doesn't even recognise King John, the idiot.
GRABBIT: That's it! You're King John, the idiot!
KING JOHN: I beg your pardon?
BOLT: We've seen you on all the stamps.
GRABBIT: And, may I say, much better looking than that Lion Heart bloke.
KING JOHN: **(Instantly flattered)** Oh, really? Do you think so?
BOLT: Yes - you're more sort of ... regal as an eagle.
KING JOHN: You're right! I am regal as an eagle! **(Getting carried away)** Strong as an Ox! Sly as a fox!

SHERIFF: *(To himself)* Daft as a brush! *(To King John)* Don't worry, after they've been tortured I'll flog them in the market square.

GRABBIT: You can't flog us.

BOLT: No one would buy us.

SHERIFF: Begin the torture!

(Gavin and Genghis begin to tickle Grabbit and Bolt with their feather dusters, who scream in a mixture of laughter and agony.)

KING JOHN: Stop! *(They stop.)* Cancel the torture!

SHERIFF: What?

GUARDS: What?

GAVIN&GENGHIS: What?

KING JOHN: I like these two. They said I was "Regal as an Eagle". They obviously have taste and intelligence!

GRABBIT: *(Confused)* We do?

BOLT: *(Delighted)* We do!

SHERIFF: But, your majesty...

KING JOHN: No buts! Release them at once - I am issuing a royal pardon!

GRABBIT: A royal pardon?

BOLT: I didn't even hear him do a royal burp!

(Gavin and Genghis help Grabbit and Bolt out of their shackles and set them free. Genghis begins to stroke the King again.)

KING JOHN: Nottingham, these two can be your new henchmen.

SHERIFF: But your majesty...

KING JOHN: No buts! For once I've found subjects who actually like me!

GRABBIT: It's true! I like you!

BOLT: And me!

GENGHIS: *(Happily stroking King John)* And me!

GAVIN: Genghis!

GENGHIS: *(Moving away)* Sorry, Master.

SHERIFF: Very well, Sire. Come along, you two, it's nearly noon. We have a date with destiny. It's time to ride... *(dramatically pointing)* to Sherwood!

ALL: *(Also pointing dramatically)* To Sherwood!

(Blackout.)

TRACK 17:**TO SHERWOOD****SCENE FOUR**

(Sherwood Village. The Villagers, including the Skunk Scouts, are excitedly awaiting the arrival of The Merry Men.)

BILLY: The Villagers of Sherwood are now about to meet
The Merry Men, that fighting force - the cream of the elite!
But we all know the truth of course - there's bound to be a snag.
The truth will out! The cat must soon be let out of the bag!

Cue dramatic entrance music...

TRACK 18:**MERRY MEN PLAY ON**

(Billy exits as Robin and the Merry Men enter dramatically over music.)

ROBIN: Have no fear...

MERRY MEN: The Merry Men are here! *(They slap their thighs and pose.)*

VILLAGERS: Hooray!

ROBIN: *(To Marion)* Robin Hood and The Merry Men, at your service. Here's my card.

(Robin hands Marion a business card, which she takes but does not read.)

MARION: I am Maid Marion, and on behalf of the villagers of Sherwood, may I thank you for coming to our aid on this historic day!

(Robin falls to one knee, takes Marion's hand and delivers a highly over-acted Shakespearian speech.)

ROBIN: Fair Maid Marion, shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more temperate... with slightly less chance of a drizzle.

NURSIE: *(Impressed)* Ooh, isn't he lovely!

ROBIN: *(To Nursie)* Thank you, my dear. I've been nominated for an Oswald... twice! *(He clears his throat and addresses the crowd)* Villagers of Sherwood, we're here to give your visitors a welcome they'll never forget.

VILLAGERS: Hooray!

ROBIN: We'll slay them in the aisles!

MARION: Perfect!

ROBIN: We have just the thing. We'll open with the dramatic fight scene!

MUCH: Fight scene!

TUCK: I've got the ketchup ready, Robin!

MARION: **(Confused)** Ketchup?

ALAN: Then it's some comedy, magic and our song and dance routine!

MARION: **(More confused)** Song and dance routine?

ROBIN: Places, everyone, it's show time!

(Robin and The Merry Men exit with Will, leaving Marion alone and concerned. She reads the business card out loud.)

MARION: "The Merry Men - highly trained professional... **(shocked)** entertainers! England's finest performing troupe - available for weddings, birthdays and bar mitzvahs!" What have I done? **(Nursie joins Marion)** Nursie, I've made a terrible mistake!

NURSIE: Nonsense, Marion. These Merry Men are just too good to be true!

MARION: Yes, I'm afraid they are!

TRACK 20: **HUNTING HORNS #2**

NURSIE: It's time! That Sheriff's going to get the surprise of his life!

MARION: He's not the only one!

TRACK 21: **SHERIFF PLAY ON #2**

(The Sheriff, Guards, Grabbit and Bolt enter.)

SHERIFF: Yes, peasants, it's noon and I'm back. Allow me to introduce Grabbit and Bolt, my two new henchmen!

(Grabbit and Bolt wave. Nursie steps forward, curtseys and greets them in a French accent.)

NURSIE: Bonjour, monsieur!

SHERIFF: Not Frenchmen, henchmen! My deputies. Now, have you got my money, or is it time to... bring the house down? A-ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!
(He clicks his fingers.)

GUARDS: A-ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

(Robin enters and takes a dramatic pose.)

ROBIN: Excuse me, Sheriff, but it's our job to bring the house down!
SHERIFF: And who are you?
ROBIN: I am Robin Hood! My men and I are here to give you a welcome you'll never forget!
SHERIFF: Oh no you're not!
ROBIN: Oh yes we are!
SHERIFF, GUARDS, GRABBIT & BOLT: Oh no you're not!
MERRY MEN: *(Quickly entering)* Oh yes we are!
ROBIN: *(Excitedly, to the audience)* Isn't this fab? It's just like panto! *(To the Merry Men)* Ready, boys?

(The Merry Men make a dramatic pose and give a loud war cry.)

MERRY MEN: Aagghh!
GUARDS: *(Terrified)* Aagghh!

TRACK 22: SFX GUARDS PLAY OFF

(The Guards run round the stage and exit, screaming and waving their hands in the air in terror.)

ROBIN: *(Calling after them)* No, wait! Come back! We haven't got to the good bit yet.
ALAN: Too scary, perhaps, Robin. What about Much?
DAVE: Oh yes, you'll love Much. He breaks things with his bare hands!
MUCH: *(Clenching his fists menacingly at Grabbit and Bolt)* Bare hands!
GRABBIT: *(Scared)* Time to bolt, Bolt!
BOLT: *(More scared)* Women and cowards first!
BOTH: Aagghh!

TRACK 23: SFX GRABBIT & BOLT PLAY OFF

(Grabbit and Bolt run round the stage and exit, screaming and waving their hands in the air in terror.)

TUCK: Oh no - now we're down to an audience of one!

(The Sheriff begins to slowly and nervously back away from the Merry Men.)

VILLAGERS: Entertainers?
MERRY MEN: Soldiers?
NURSIE: I haven't been so shocked since I put the electric blanket on the water bed!
ROBIN: You mean - we've just attacked the Sheriff of Nottingham without knowing it?
BIG JOHN: King John will have us executed!
LITTLE JOHN: Or worse!
DAVE: We've become dirty, rotten outlaws!
MUCH: Outlaws!
TUCK: There's nothing worse than outlaws.
ALAN: You haven't met my in-laws!
BETSY: But we thought you were hunky heroes!
BERTHA: With big bulging biceps!
BABS: Fighting to defend us damsels in distress!
BODKIN: So did the Sheriff and his men.
INKHORN: Didn't you see their faces?
MARION: *(Suddenly having an idea)* That's right! They didn't know you were acting. They were terrified of you - and that's all it takes. How about it, boys?
MERRY MEN: What?
MARION: The biggest performance of your lives. You'll be... The Sherwood Hoodies!
ALL: The Sherwood Hoodies?
MARION: A gang of desperate outlaws, fighting for justice and freedom, robbing from the rich and giving to the poor...
ROBIN: *(Putting his hand out and turning away)* Absolutely not!
MARION: ...with you playing the lead role - Robin Hood, our dashing hero...
ROBIN: *(Turning back, instantly excited)* You're on!

SCENE FIVE

(Nottingham Castle. King John is sat upon his throne frozen in mid discussion with Gavin and Genghis. Billy enters and addresses the audience once more.)

BILLY: Back up in the castle, King John is unaware
Of trouble back in Sherwood that gave his men a scare!
Instead, he's in a meeting - there's torture to arrange
With Gavin of the dungeon, and Genghis... who's just... strange.

Cue the weirdos!

(Billy exits and King John, Gavin and Genghis come to life. Genghis is stroking the King once again.)

KING JOHN: So, Gavin, tell me more about your exciting new plans for the
dungeon.

GAVIN: Yes, Sire. We thought we could have 'theme nights'. It would be
lovely!

GENGHIS: Lovely!

KING JOHN: Theme nights?

GAVIN: 'Tickling Tuesdays' and 'Wedgie Wednesdays'. And we have a new
piece of torture equipment. We're very excited, aren't we Genghis?

GENGHIS: ***(Still stroking and grinning)*** I'm very excited!

GAVIN: It's called the Squisher! It rolls out our guests until they are completely
flat. Unfortunately, we have no one to test it on. But we've tried it on
your royal underpants and it's pressed them beautifully, hasn't it
Genghis?

(Genghis holds up a pair of stiff, golden, cardboard underpants whilst continuing to stroke.)

GENGHIS: Yes, master.

GAVIN: And Genghis.

GENGHIS: Yes, master?

GAVIN: Personal space.

GENGHIS: ***(Moving away from King John)*** Sorry, master.

(Grabbit and Bolt enter running and screaming, then stop abruptly next to King John.)

GRABBIT & BOLT: Aagghh!
KING JOHN: Ah, you're back.
GRABBIT: (*Looking round*) What about my back?
KING JOHN: Back from Sherwood.
BOLT: Yes, your tapestry. We took a shortcut.
KING JOHN: And where are the guards?

(The Guards enter, running and screaming, then stop abruptly next to Grabbit and Bolt.)

GUARDS: Aagghh!
KING JOHN: And where is Nottingham?

(The Sheriff enters, running and screaming.)

SHERIFF: Aagghh!
KING JOHN: Will someone please explain what's going on!
SHERIFF: (*Over-dramatically*) Sire, I have run all the way from Sherwood. It has been a perilous journey, but I did not falter. I encountered terrible wind, but I followed through. I was buried alive in steaming manure, but I was undeterred!
KING JOHN: Get on with it!
GRABBIT: We went to collect your taxes.
BOLT: But those villagers had a gang of hoodies to protect them!
GRABBIT: We had to run all the way back here by foot!
KING JOHN: What about the taxes?
BOLT: No - we couldn't afford a mini cab!
KING JOHN: I mean my money! Where is it?
NIGEL: There is no money, Sire!
NORBERT: They'll never pay another bean, Sire!
NESBIT: Not while they're protected by that gang!
NORTON: And their leader!
NEWT: What was his name again?
ALL: Robin Hood!
KING JOHN: (*Getting up, very cross*) Robin Hood? Then he must be stopped. Nottingham, get back to Sherwood and sort him out!
SHERIFF: But your majesty...
KING JOHN: No buts! Get me Robin Hood! Get me his gang! Get me my money! And get me a cup of tea, milk, two sugars.
SHERIFF: In what order?

KING JOHN: Honestly, Nottingham! Milk first, tea next, sugar last. **(To the Guards)** Guards, it's time you learnt who's boss, so we're going down to the dungeon. **(To Gavin)** Gavin, it looks like we can test your squisher after all!

GUARDS: But sire...

KING JOHN: No buts! Now march!

TRACK 28: **SFX MARCHING DRUMS**

(King John, Gavin, Genghis, and the Guards exit, marching. The Sheriff moves to the centre to talk to Grabbit and Bolt.)

SHERIFF: Right, you numbskulls. To beat those outlaws, we must gather more information. We can't operate without intelligence.

GRABBIT: We manage alright.

SHERIFF: You two will have to be spies and go into Sherwood first thing in the morning. You must get up before dawn.

GRABBIT: Right.

BOLT: What time does Dawn get up?

SHERIFF: Early! You must go deep into the forest and listen out for anything suspicious.

GRABBIT: I'm a good listener, Sheriff. **(Pointing to his ears)** I've got acute hearing.

BOLT: And I've got a cute smile **(Pointing to his mouth and giving a cheesy grin.)**

TRACK 29: **SFX TING**

SHERIFF: Good. You must capture Robin Hood or else.

GRABBIT: Who's else?

SHERIFF: I mean, if you don't capture Robin Hood, I'll cut your head off!

BOLT: **(Insulted)** If you cut my head off, I'll never talk to you again!

SHERIFF: And when you've captured him, I want you to... **(evilly)** take him out!

GRABBIT: What, you mean on a date?

BOLT: **(Shocked)** We hardly know him!

SHERIFF: No - I mean kill him!

BOTH: **(Understanding)** Ahh!

SHERIFF: We will meet at the crooked oak tree tomorrow at sunset. Don't let me down!

(The Sheriff exits.)

ROBIN: *(Whispering to Marion)* Sorry! *(Loudly to Guy and Gladys)* I am Robin Hood and fight for justice and freedom. We rob from the rich and give to the poor! Hand over your money and I shall spare your lives!

GUY: *(Cross)* Certainly not, you cad!

GLADYS: Out of our way, you vagabond!

ROBIN: Ah... yes... well... um... *(Out of character)* I'm sorry, everyone, I've dried. What's my line again? *(To Guy and Gladys)* Sorry about this. You know, I was fab in rehearsals!

(Marion pops out again and prompts Robin with a loud whisper.)

MARION: "Then I will call my gang of outlaws!" *(She disappears again)*

ROBIN: *(Back in dramatic character again)* Then I will call my gang of outlaws!

(The Merry Men jump on and pose and shout. Will Scarlet aims his bow in the wrong direction, into the audience.)

MERRY MEN: Aagghh!

ROBIN: *(To Guy and Gladys, out of character again)* They're very good, aren't they? And they do all their own stunts!

DAVE: *(Dancing over to Guy and Gladys)* Shimmy, shimmy, shimmy, shimmy - jazz hands!

MARION: *(Popping out again)* Dave, no jazz hands! And Will, turn round! *(Will turns on the spot and ends up facing the same way)* No, the other way! *(He turns again in the opposite direction and still ends up facing the same way.)*

ALAN: Little John, you're supposed to go and intimidate them.

LITTLE JOHN: Oh, right! *(To Guy and Gladys)* You two are ugly and smelly!

BIG JOHN: That's not nice, Little John. Say you're sorry.

LITTLE JOHN: OK, *(To Guy and Gladys)* I'm sorry you're ugly and smelly!

MUCH: Money! *(He grabs the purse.)*

TUCK: *(Bowling, hands together)* Bless you, my children!

GUY: Hey! I demand you give that back!

GLADYS: Yes, give it back at once or I'll scream!

WILL: *(Calling to Marion)* What should we do, Marion? They're being very difficult.

(Marion comes out from behind her tree and the Merry Men gather round her.)

MARION: Honestly, boys, you're armed warriors, right?

NURSIE: But first we must find Robin and Marion. Where are we?
LUMPY: Well, taking a compass bearing...
LOGGER: And the sun's position in the sky...
STUMPY: And the formation of these trees...
SPROUT: We know exactly where we are!
NURSIE: Where?
LOPPER: Lost!
CROPPER: We'll have to camp out here, Brown Owl.
NURSIE: Certainly not! The last time I went camping, I set fire to my sleeping bag.
LOPPER: Set fire to your sleeping bag?
NURSIE: Yes... the heat was in tents!
PULPY: Well, perhaps we could build you a tree house instead.
NURSIE: I don't like tree houses either. I used to share a tree house with my best friend.
PRUNE: What happened?
NURSIE: We fell out! We'll just have to keep on searching. It's time to make like a tree and bark!
SKUNKS: Leave!
NURSIE: And that. Follow me, Skunks!

TRACK 32:**SECRET SPIES #1**

(Nursie leads the Skunks off marching and they exit. The Sheriff enters creeping on from one side carrying a large blanket and a bonker (a large plastic cudgel painted gold). Grabbit and Bolt enter on the other and sidle up to him as comical spies. They speak secretively out of the corner of their mouths, facing straight forwards, as all good spies do when having a secret meeting.)

GRABBIT: The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain!
BOLT: The big cow has a fat bottom!
GRABBIT: Red sky at night...
BOLT: **(Loudly)** ...means Sherwood's on fire!
SHERIFF: Stop wasting time. I have a very tight schedule.
GRABBIT: I thought you were walking funny.
SHERIFF: Shhhhhhhhhhhhh! **(Grabbit and Bolt look behind the Sheriff, puzzled, as he shushes them with an over long shush)** Have you heard anything?
GRABBIT: Just some gas escaping.
SHERIFF: Well, you need to hurry up and capture Robin Hood. Are you tough enough?

GRABBIT: Tough? My dad was a boxer.
BOLT: And mine was an Alsatian!
SHERIFF: You two remind me of this forest.
GRABBIT: Mysterious?
SHERIFF: No, dense! I'm letting you borrow my kidnapping kit. It's a blanket and a gold plated bonker.

(The Sheriff hands the blanket to Grabbit, who passes it to Bolt, and then gives the bonker to Grabbit who holds it, obviously impressed.)

GRABBIT: A gold plated bonker! Very nice!
BOLT: But how will we catch him first?
SHERIFF: You could lay a net over a hole.
GRABBIT: But she might fall in.
SHERIFF: Who?
GRABBIT: Annette. And where are we going to find him?
SHERIFF: He's devious, so he could be hiding anywhere. He may even be... in disguise!

(Grabbit and Bolt both look at each other in shock, then slowly look up into the sky. After a pause, the Sheriff spots their misunderstanding.)

SHERIFF: No, not in the skies! In disguise! Whatever you do, make sure you do not fail. After all, you are the Sheriff's spies - and the Sheriff's spies are tough and hard!

(The Sheriff exits and Grabbit flexes his muscles.)

GRABBIT: Did you hear that? The Sheriff's spies are tough and hard!
BOLT: *(After a pause)* He must be leaving them in the oven too long!

TRACK 33: ROBBERY

(Grabbit cuffs Bolt around the head and drags him off. They exit as Guy and Gladys enter. We hear Robin's entrance music and Robin suddenly enters and poses.)

ROBIN: I am Robin Hood and fight for justice and freedom. We rob from the rich and give to the poor! Hand over your money and I shall spare your lives!
GUY: Oh, no! Not you again!
GLADYS: Can't you go and annoy someone else?

(The Merry Men jump on and pose and shout.)

MERRY MEN: Aagghh!
MUCH: *(To Guy and Gladys)* Money! *(He grabs the purse.)*
TUCK: *(Bowing with hands together again)* Bless you once again!
GLADYS: For goodness sake! Why do you need our money?
ROBIN: We rob from the rich to give to the poor. I thought I'd already explained that.
DAVE: We must find poor and penniless people to give this money to.
GUY: Well, we've just been robbed and had all our money stolen.

(The Merry Men all gasp in shock.)

BIG JOHN: Really?
LITTLE JOHN: That's awful!
GLADYS: So now we're poor and penniless.
ALAN: So you are! What a stroke of luck!
MUCH: *(Handing back the purse)* Here you are!

(Guy and Gladys take the purse and exit as the Merry Men wave happily.)

WILL: *(Calling after them)* Don't spend it all at once.
ROBIN: *(Calling after them)* Nice working with you. *(To the others)* What a lovely couple.

(Marion enters, passing Guy and Gladys, and looks confused.)

MARION: Did I just see that pair walking away with the money?
ROBIN: Yes! Robbed from the rich, gave to the poor. I think we've cracked it!
MARION: I think you've cracked! That's it, I've had enough! Just go and find Nursie and the Skunks. We'll set up camp here.

TRACK 34:

SECRET SPIES #2

(Robin and the Merry Men exit while Marion moves to the side of the stage, cross and muttering to herself. Grabbit and Bolt enter on the other side of the stage, unseen by Marion - Grabbit is carrying the bonker and Bolt is carrying the blanket. They secretly watch Marion.)

MARION: *(Talking to herself)* Honestly, he's completely useless! Prancing round Sherwood shouting "I'm Robin Hood! I'm Robin Hood!"

GRABBIT: What did she say?
BOLT: She said she's Robin Hood. But that's a girl, Grabbit.
GRABBIT: Or a devious disguise, Bolt!
MARION: "Look at me, I'm Robin Hood! Aren't I wonderful?"
BOLT: You're right! It's Robin Hood in a devious disguise!
GRABBIT: Let's kidnap him. I'll take the gold plated bonker, you watch my back.
BOLT: Right!

(Grabbit takes several comically deliberate steps toward Marion, with Bolt walking directly behind him, staring closely and intently at Grabbit's back. Bolt's nose is almost touching Grabbit's back. Grabbit stops abruptly and turns to see Bolt.)

GRABBIT: What are you doing?
BOLT: I'm watching your back.
GRABBIT: Idiot! I meant cover me!
BOLT: Right! *(He throws the blanket over Grabbit.)*

TRACK 35: **SFX BLANKET**

GRABBIT: *(From under the blanket)* What are you doing? Get me out of here!

(Bolt joins Grabbit under the blanket and they frantically struggle beneath it unseen by Marion who continues to talk to herself.)

MARION: I mean, robbing isn't difficult, is it? You just have to find some stupid travellers and... *(She notices Grabbit and Bolt)* A-ha! You two travellers!

(Grabbit and Bolt suddenly stand up straight and still under the blanket, and shout from beneath it.)

GRABBIT: We're not travellers, we're spies!
MARION: Spies?
BOLT: Yes - we're under cover!
MARION: *(Pulling the blanket off of them)* Have you got anything valuable?
GRABBIT: *(Holding up the bonker)* Only a gold plated bonker.
MARION: Well, I want you to let me have it!
BOLT: Pardon?
MARION: Let me have it!
GRABBIT: Are you sure?

MARION: *(Turning away and folding her arms)* You better let me have it by the time I count to three. One, two...

TRACK 36: **KIDNAP**

MARION: *(Grabbit hits her with the bonker)* ...three!

(Grabbit and Bolt catch Marion as she falls. They cover her with the blanket and drag her off. Robin, the Merry Men, Nursie, the Skunk Scouts and the Villagers all enter.)

BODKIN: Maid Marion? Maid Marion?

WILL: She was right here a moment ago.

INKHORN: Well she's not any more.

KETTLEHAT: That girl's always wandering off.

NAPSACK: *(Pointing at the ground)* Wait a minute. What's that?

JUGMUFFIN: It's your finger.

NAPSACK: No, at the end of my finger.

POKEWHISTLE: Your fingernail?

SCRAGBUCKET: No, it's strange tracks on the floor!

MANGLEBUTT: What do you make of them, Skunks?

(The Skunk Scouts bend over the tracks, then stand up one by one as they reveal their meaning.)

LUMPY: ...from the shape of them, it looks like....

LOGGER: ...Marion was knocked unconscious...

STUMPY: ...by a gold plated bonker...

SPROUT: ...and was dragged off...

LOPPER: ...by two stupid spies...

CROPPER: ...in the direction of...

PULPY: ...Nottingham Castle!

ALL: *(Shocked)* Nottingham Castle?

NURSIE: Oh, my poor little dumpling! Whatever shall we do?

ROBIN: We have to rescue her right now. Come on, you lot, there's no time to lose!

BIG JOHN: But Robin, have you forgotten? We're not real heroes. We're just entertainers!

SKUNKS: And we're just Skunks!

VILLAGERS: And we're just villagers!

- ROBIN:** That doesn't matter. We've learnt that we can be what ever we want to be. And tonight, we need to become... *(dramatically)* a crack commando unit!
- NURSIE:** Robin's right! I might be a batty old bird, but tonight... *(she stands in a strong pose with hands on hips)* I'm going commando!
- WILL:** If we all work together, we can do anything!
- TUCK:** We can be anyone!
- ALAN:** Together, we'll fight!
- MUCH:** Fight!
- DAVE:** Together we'll win!
- ROBIN:** So who's with me?
- ALL:** *(Punching the air)* We are!

TRACK 37: IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER (SONG)

(Robin rouses the crowd with his uplifting words, and they listen intently.)

- ROBIN:** IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
OUR FOES WILL BE FEW!
YES IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
OUR SKIES WILL BE BLUE!
IT'S TIME TO LAUNCH OUR ENDEAVOUR,
SO JOIN THE CREW!
FOR TOGETHER, FOREVER,
IN ANY KIND OF WEATHER,
TOGETHER WE'RE STRONG AND WE'RE TRUE!
- IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
WE'RE BOUND TO COME THROUGH!
YES IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
OUR DREAMS WILL COME TRUE!
AND JUST LIKE BIRDS OF A FEATHER,
WE'LL STICK LIKE GLUE!
FOR TOGETHER, FOREVER,
IN ANY KIND OF WEATHER,
TOGETHER WE'RE STRONG AND WE'RE TRUE!

(The Chorus begin to march into position as they join in the singing.)

- ALL:** AS WE MARCH INTO WAR
WE HEAR THE BEAT OF THE BAND!
WE ARE PART OF A STORY RUNNING
RIGHT THROUGH THE LAND!
FIGHTING FOR GLORY WITH A TORCH IN OUR HAND!
IT'S LIGHTED! UNITED WE STAND!

IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
OUR FOES WILL BE FEW!
YES IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
OUR SKIES WILL BE BLUE!
IT'S TIME TO LAUNCH OUR ENDEAVOUR,
SO JOIN THE CREW!
FOR TOGETHER, FOREVER,
IN ANY KIND OF WEATHER,
TOGETHER WE'RE STRONG AND WE'RE TRUE!

AS WE MARCH INTO WAR
WE HEAR THE BEAT OF THE BAND!
WE ARE PART OF A STORY RUNNING
RIGHT THROUGH THE LAND!
FIGHTING FOR GLORY WITH A TORCH IN OUR HAND!
IT'S LIGHTED! UNITED WE STAND!
WE STAND!

IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
WE'RE BOUND TO COME THROUGH!
YES IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
OUR DREAMS WILL COME TRUE!
AND JUST LIKE BIRDS OF A FEATHER,
WE'LL STICK LIKE GLUE!
FOR TOGETHER, FOREVER,
IN ANY KIND OF WEATHER,
TOGETHER WE'RE STRONG AND WE'RE TRUE!

IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
OUR FOES WILL BE FEW!
YES IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER,
OUR SKIES WILL BE BLUE!
IT'S TIME TO LAUNCH OUR ENDEAVOUR,
SO JOIN THE CREW!
FOR TOGETHER, FOREVER, IN ANY KIND OF WEATHER,
TOGETHER WE'RE STRONG AND WE'RE TRUE!

(Shouted) We're strong and true!

(Blackout.)

TRACK 38:

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE #3

SCENE SEVEN

(Nottingham Castle. King John and his Guards are frozen in position, as Billy addresses the audience once again.)

BILLY: And so our bold, courageous gang
Set off by night to Nottingham
For come what may they'll carry on
Until they've rescued... *(awkwardly rhyming)* Ma...ri...on!

So now we set our final scene -
Where John the King, so vile and mean,
Awaits, with bad and baited breath,
The news of Robin's certain death!

Cue maniacal laugh! *(He exits.)*

KING JOHN: Mwa-ha-ha-ha-ha!

(The Sheriff enters, followed by Grabbit and Bolt either side of Marion, who is still under the blanket.)

SHERIFF: Great news, Sire! My henchmen have a surprise for you.

GRABBIT: That's right, your travesty!

BOLT: May we present... Robin Hood!

(They ceremoniously remove the blanket to reveal a dazed Marion. King John inspects her.)

KING JOHN: So this is Robin Hood! He's a bit... well... girly.

SHERIFF: That's because this is a girl, Sire. You idiots have kidnapped the wrong person.

MARION: *(Cross)* You certainly have! I'm Maid Marion, and when Robin finds out he'll come straight here and then...

SHERIFF: *(Hatching a cunning plan)* ...and then we'll have him right where we want him!

MARION: You can't defeat him! My reliant Robin can do anything!

GRABBIT: Except go round corners at high speed.

KING JOHN: The Sheriff's right! With you as bait, that Robin Hood will fall right into our trap!

SHERIFF: And then he'll get his just desserts!

KING JOHN: This is no time for pudding, Nottingham! We must prepare to fight!
GRABBIT: Well we'd love to help fight, but we can't with our problem.
KING JOHN: What problem?
GRABBIT/BOLT: We're cowards!
KING JOHN: You'll do as you're told. You lot spread out and keep watch for Robin and his Hoodies. Gavin and Genghis... *(Gavin and Genghis enter)* take Marion to the dungeon.

(Gavin and Genghis take Marion by the arms.)

MARION: But...
KING JOHN: No buts! Now go!

TRACK 39: **INTRUDERS #1**

(They all exit. Robin and the Merry Men enter followed by Nursie, who is out of breath.)

TUCK: That was a long climb up over the castle wall!
ALAN: It's a good job I found that ladder in my tights.
NURSIE: You lot go on ahead - I've got a stitch.
ROBIN: This is no time for embroidery! We have to find Marion!
DAVE: But where could she be?
MUCH: Dungeon!
WILL: Good thinking, Much - she must be in the dungeon!
LITTLE JOHN: I don't like dungeons! I've got anoraknophobia!
BIG JOHN: You mean claustrophobia.
LITTLE JOHN: No, anoraknophobia. It's a fear of cagoules!
DAVE: This is no time for dreadful jokes.
LITTLE JOHN: I'm afraid it is - I've read the script!
ROBIN: We need to find the dungeon. Merry Men, go that way. Nursie and Will, stay here and watch out for guards.
WILL & NURSIE: Right!

TRACK 40: **INTRUDERS #2**

(Robin and the Merry Men exit, leaving Will and Nursie alone at one side of the stage.)

NURSIE: But Will, if the guards come, what should we do?

WILL: About 50 miles an hour! Now we need to be quiet, so walk like you're eating welsh cheese.

NURSIE: How's that?

WILL: Caerphilly! *(he walks carefully across to the other side of the stage, then turns to Nursie)* Come on!

(Nursie takes a large, deliberate step with her right foot. We hear a squeak.)

TRACK 41: **SFX SQUEAK #1**

(Will mimes for her to be quiet. She looks behind her to see where the noise came from, shrugs and turns back. She repeats the step.)

TRACK 42: **SFX SQUEAK #2**

(We hear another squeak. Nursie carefully lifts her foot, shakes it and then puts it down again.)

TRACK 43: **SFX SQUEAK #3**

(We hear another squeak. Nursie tries her left foot, which doesn't squeak. She has a bright idea, and takes off her right shoe. She then walks awkwardly across the stage with lots of squeaks.)

TRACK 44: **SFX WALK SQUEAKS**

(She reaches Will and clutches her stomach with a comically worried expression.)

WILL: Nursie! I can hear the guards coming! Do something, quick!

NURSIE: I think I just have! Run! *(They exit, running.)*

(Blackout.)

TRACK 45: **DUNGEON**

SCENE EIGHT

(The Dungeon. The squisher (see Production Notes) is carefully positioned to one side of the stage in clear view of the audience. Gavin and Genghis stand next to it, whilst on the other side of the stage the Villagers, Skunk Scouts, Merry Men, Marion and Nursie are all frozen in position, huddled together as prisoners. Billy enters and addresses the audience.)

BILLY: Down in the dungeon, Marion waits -
A damsel in deadly dire straits!
She put her trust in Robin Hood,
And the people of Sherwood.

The rescue party, brave and bold,
Went searching in the dark and cold.
Through the night their friend they sought,
'Til one by one... they all got caught!

Cue sad and depressed moaning...

(Billy exits and the prisoners all give a sad, depressed wail.)

ALL: Urrgghh!

(Grabbit and Bolt enter and walk past the prisoners to join Gavin and Genghis. Grabbit carries the bonker.)

GRABBIT: Blimey, Bolt - who are all these prisoners?
BOLT: Intruders.
GRABBIT: How did they get in?
BOLT: Intruder window!
GAVIN: How lovely! Lots of new guests to torture, Genghis! Prepare the squisher!
GENGHIS: Yes, master. *(He shuffles over and fiddles with the squisher.)*
NURSIE: You can't squish us! And my little Skunks are only children.
GAVIN: We're not monsters, madam. We don't squish children.
GENGHIS: We boil them in oil!
SKUNKS: We're too young to fry!
MARION: Well that's it, folks. We've lost.
TUCK: We can't give up!

BIG JOHN: You know what they say - if at first you don't succeed...
LITTLE JOHN: ...then skydiving's not for you!
MARION: But we have to give up. There's nothing we can do now.
ALAN: Yes there is - we can sing!
GAVIN: A community sing along! The perfect warm up for a night of torture, Genghis.
GENGHIS: Yes, master.
ALAN: It doesn't matter how trapped or alone you feel, music is the answer.
DAVE: He's right. That's why us Merry Men are always so...
MUCH: ...merry!
ALAN: A happy tune is all you need.
DAVE: And soon others will hear it and join in.
ROBIN: And before long they'll be singing your song... all over the world!

TRACK 46: SINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD (SONG)

ROBIN: SING ME A SONG, MAKE IT SHORT, MAKE IT LONG,
 YOU KNOW IT WON'T BE TOO LONG
 BEFORE I'M SINGING ALONG
 SING IT LOUD, SING IT CLEAR, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HEAR
 AND THEY'LL BE SINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD!

ROUND AND AROUND GOES THE MUSIC WE'VE FOUND
 IT'S SUCH A WONDERFUL SOUND,
 SO LET US SPREAD IT AROUND
 SING IT LOUD, SING IT CLEAR, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HEAR
 AND THEY'LL BE SINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD!

ALL: IF YOU'RE LOCKED AWAY ALONE,
 AND FEELING ON YOUR OWN
 THEN MUSIC IS THE THING TO SET YOU FREE
 IF YOU SING A HAPPY TUNE, THEN VERY SOON
 YOU'LL FIND THE KEY!

SING ME A SONG, MAKE IT SHORT, MAKE IT LONG,
 YOU KNOW IT WON'T BE TOO LONG
 BEFORE I'M SINGING ALONG
 SING IT LOUD, SING IT CLEAR, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HEAR
 AND THEY'LL BE SINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD!

ROUND AND AROUND GOES THE MUSIC WE'VE FOUND
 IT'S SUCH A WONDERFUL SOUND,
 SO LET US SPREAD IT AROUND
 SING IT LOUD, SING IT CLEAR, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HEAR
 AND THEY'LL BE SINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD!

IF YOU'RE LOCKED AWAY ALONE,
 AND FEELING ON YOUR OWN
 THEN MUSIC IS THE THING TO SET YOU FREE
 IF YOU SING A HAPPY TUNE, THEN VERY SOON
 YOU'LL FIND THE KEY!
 CHANGE THE KEY!

(The Chorus split into 3 groups for the final section of the song.)

GROUP 1: SING ME A SONG, MAKE IT SHORT, MAKE IT LONG,
 YOU KNOW IT WON'T BE TOO LONG
 BEFORE I'M SINGING ALONG
 SING IT LOUD, SING IT CLEAR, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HEAR
 AND THEY'LL BE SINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD!
 ROUND AND AROUND GOES THE MUSIC WE'VE FOUND
 IT'S SUCH A WONDERFUL SOUND,
 SO LET US SPREAD IT AROUND
 SING IT LOUD, SING IT CLEAR, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HEAR
 AND THEY'LL BE SINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD!

GROUP 2: SING, AND ALL THE WORLD SINGS WITH YOU!
 SING, AND ALL THE WORLD WILL HEAR!
 SING, AND ALL THE WORLD SINGS WITH YOU!
 SING, AND ALL THE WORLD WILL HEAR!

GROUP 3: LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA,
 LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA!
 LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA,
 LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA!

ALL: ROUND AND AROUND AND AROUND
 AND AROUND AND AROUND...
 ALL OVER THE WORLD!
 SINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD!

(At the end of the song, Gavin, Genghis, Grabbit and Bolt are crying with emotion.)

BOLT: *(In tears)* Why are you crying, Grabbit?
GRABBIT: *(In tears)* That song was really beautiful. Why are you crying, Bolt?
BOLT: *(In tears)* You're standing on my foot!
GAVIN: I can't torture you lovely people! Unlock the dungeon door, Genghis!
GENGHIS: Yes, master!

TRACK 47: **SHERIFF PLAY ON #3**

(Genghis walks to the side but is intercepted by the Sheriff, who enters dramatically.)

SHERIFF: Not so fast! No-one gets the better of me, the Sheriff of Nottingham!

(Grabbit passes Will the bonker, and Will hits the Sheriff over the head from behind.)

TRACK 48: **SFX BONK SQUISH**

(The Sheriff, dazed, staggers to the squisher, falls through it headfirst and disappears out of sight. Everyone gasps.)

GAVIN: Oops! Quick, Genghis, turn the handle the other way!

TRACK 49: **SFX SQUISH**

(Genghis turns the squisher's handle and a life-size cardboard cut-out of a flattened Sheriff emerges from the squisher. Gavin and Genghis take the cut-out and hold it up in full view of the audience.)

GRABBIT: Oh, the poor Sheriff! He looks bored stiff!

BOLT: *(To Will)* Nice work with the gold plated bonker!

WILL: *(Brandishing the bonker)* Thanks very much!

NURSIE: I'm so proud, Will! My nephew... *(grandly)* William the Bonkerer!

ROBIN: Will, take your bow and keep watch outside. I'll call you if I need you.

(Will exits with the bonker.)

MARION: We have to get out of here, Robin.

GRABBIT: She's right. The Sheriff may be squished, but he's not the only baddy around here.

BOLT: Don't forget King John!

TRACK 50: **KING JOHN PLAY ON**

(King John enters, flanked by his Guards, and stands to one side, carefully concealing his false bare bottom from the audience. He is transfixed with rage, pointing at Robin.)

MARION: King John!

KING JOHN: Agh!

ROBIN: King John?
 KING JOHN: Agh!
 MARION: King John!
 KING JOHN: Agh!
 ROBIN: Obviously a man of few words.
 KING JOHN: Agh...rest those outlaws!

(The Guards grab Marion and Robin.)

MARION: But...
 KING JOHN: No buts! I am the King! Kneel!
 ROBIN: *(Stepping forward, confused)* King Neil? Where's King John?
 KING JOHN: Kneel before me! *(Robin kneels down)* Robin Hood, it's time you had that unsightly growth on your neck removed.
 ROBIN: *(Feeling his neck)* What growth?
 KING JOHN: Your head. Guards, cut it off!
 NIGEL: But...
 KING JOHN: No buts!
 NORBERT: We can't cut his head off!
 NESBIT: We haven't got any scissors!
 KING JOHN: Absolutely useless. *(Taking a spear from a Guard)* Well I can't do it - I'm the King. *(Passing the spear to Grabbit)* You do it!
 GRABBIT: I can't do it - I'm a vegetarian. *(Passing the spear to Bolt)* You do it!
 BOLT: I can't do it - I've got a verruca!
 ROBIN: *(Rising and taking the spear from Bolt)* Oh, for goodness sake! Give it here, I'll do it!
 KING JOHN: Silly outlaw! You can't chop your own head off! *(Taking the spear from Robin)* If no one else will do it ... I will!

(Will enters excitedly, holding his bow.)

WILL: Will! That's my cue!

TRACK 51: **SFX WILL'S ARROW #3**

(Will aims his arrow and turns on the spot as before, as everyone ducks to avoid his aim. He finally aims upwards offstage and on the musical cue fires. The whole cast, with hand over brow, follow the unseen rebounding arrow from left to right to left to right in time with the sound effects. The invisible arrow lands in the rear of King John, who cries out in pain.)

KING JOHN: *(Dropping the spear and holding his rear)* Ouch!

ROBIN: *(Standing and looking behind King John)* Bullseye, Will! I think he got your point!

TRACK 52:

SFX RIP

(Robin pulls the imaginary arrow out of the King's rear and we hear the ripping of underpants. Everyone gasps.)

MARION: Oh dear, your majesty! You seem to have broken your own rule!

(King John turns round to reveal a false bare behind to the audience. He looks nervously over his shoulder.)

ALL: *(Pointing to King John's rear)* No butts!

KING JOHN: How dare you? Don't you know who I am? I am the King!

(King Richard enters suddenly, striking a strong and regal pose.)

KING RICHARD: *(Loudly and dramatically)* No! I... am the King!

TRACK 53:

KING RICHARD PLAY ON

ALL: *(Falling to one knee)* King Richard!

KING JOHN: Dickie!

KING RICHARD: I have returned, and just in time it appears.

KING JOHN: Dickie, I can explain everything. You see...

KING RICHARD: Silence! I knew you couldn't be trusted, but it seems that Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies have got to the... "bottom" of things! Gavin and Genghis, you have a new guest!

(Gavin and Genghis move forwards and approach King John. Genghis is carrying the cut-out.)

GENGHIS: Shall we put him through the squisher, master?

KING JOHN: The squisher?

GAVIN: Perfect! *(to King John)* You and the Sheriff can be flat mates!

(King John looks at the Sheriff cut-out and bursts into tears. Gavin and Genghis take him by the arms and move him back.)

KING RICHARD: *(To Grabbit and Bolt)* And as for you two...

DAVE: Oh, please spare them Sire, for they helped save the day.

ALAN: Perhaps they could work for us?

MUCH: Washing costumes!

BIG JOHN: Yes, they can scrub our tights!

LITTLE JOHN: And wash Friar Tuck's habits!

TUCK: And I have a lot of dirty habits!

KING RICHARD: And as for you, Maid Marion and the Sherwood Hoodies, for your bravery I award you the Victoria Cross, King's Cross, and all stations to Shepherd's Bush!

ALL: Hooray!

KING RICHARD: And finally, for best actor in the performance of a lifetime, the award goes to...

TRACK 54: **SFX DRUM ROLL**

KING RICHARD: *(He opens a gold envelope and reads the card inside)* ...Robin Hood!

(Robin steps forward and King Richard hands him an Oswald statuette which closely resembles an Oscar but is in no way related. Robin is overcome with theatrical emotion.)

ROBIN: An Oswald! I've won an Oswald! Oh, I don't know what to say. This means everything, and I accept it on behalf of my cast, my crew, my mother, my chiropractist, my Uncle Bernard...

MARION: *(Putting a hand over Robin's mouth)* He says "thanks".

NURSIE: Three cheers for Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies! Hip hip...

ALL: Hooray!

NURSIE: Hip hip...

ALL: Hooray!

NURSIE: Hip hip...

ALL: Hooray!

(The cast freeze and the lights change as Billy enters and recites his final verse, stood next to Robin.)

BILLY: So Sherwood is safe and our curtain must fall,
But that's not the end of our story at all.
All over the world will our tale be told,
Our story becoming a legend of old.

A story of heroes, a story of fights,
 A story of squishers and bonkers and tights,
 Of baddies defeated by show-stopping goodies...
 Of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies!

(Robin unfreezes and turns to Billy.)

ROBIN: Great name for a musical. I wonder who'll play me?

BILLY: ***(Shaking his head and smiling at Robin)*** Cue the finale!

TRACK 55: MEN IN TIGHTS (SONG REPRISE)

(The Company dance energetically into position over the introduction music, ready to sing.)

ALL: SEE THE GREATEST SHOW TONIGHT,
 WE WILL TRY TO SATISFY YOUR APPETITE!
 CUE THE MUSIC, LIGHT THE LIGHTS,
 TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN ON THE MEN IN TIGHTS!

SEE THE GREATEST SHOW TONIGHT,
 WE WILL TRY TO SATISFY YOUR APPETITE!
 CUE THE MUSIC, LIGHT THE LIGHTS,
 TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN ON THE MEN IN TIGHTS!

FOR THRILLS AND SPILLS AND SPECIAL SKILLS
 JUST CALL THE MERRY MEN!
 SO FEEL THE BEAT AND TAP YOUR FEET,
 WE'RE BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT AGAIN!

SEE THE GREATEST SHOW TONIGHT,
 WE WILL TRY TO SATISFY YOUR APPETITE!
 CUE THE MUSIC, LIGHT THE LIGHTS,
 TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN ON THE MEN IN TIGHTS!

(During the instrumental section, the Chorus perform strong dance actions in a rhythmic swing style.)

FOR THRILLS AND SPILLS AND SPECIAL SKILLS
 JUST CALL THE MERRY MEN!
 SO FEEL THE BEAT AND TAP YOUR FEET,
 WE'RE BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT AGAIN!

SEE THE GREATEST SHOW TONIGHT,
WE WILL TRY TO SATISFY YOUR APPETITE!
CUE THE MUSIC, LIGHT THE LIGHTS,
TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN ON THE MEN IN TIGHTS!

(In the quiet section of the music, the Chorus step stylishly in time with the music clicking their fingers, then whispering the lyrics in a loud stage whisper.)

(Whispered) See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

SEE THE GREATEST SHOW TONIGHT,
WE WILL TRY TO SATISFY YOUR APPETITE!
CUE THE MUSIC, LIGHT THE LIGHTS,
TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN ON THE
MEN... IN... TIGHTS!

(Spoken) Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

TRACK 56: **BOWS & COMPANY PLAY OUT**

(The company take their bows, then wave and exit.)

(Blackout.)

(Curtain.)

PHOTOCOPIABLE LYRICS

Track 2:**Sherwood Forest**

Billy: **(Spoken)** In fair old merry England, eleven ninety two,
We raise the curtain on a play I've written just for you
Our scene is set in Sherwood, beside the Major Oak
Where lives a maid called Marion, with kind and simple folk.
(Louder) Cue opening number!

Marion: Follow in my footsteps, cross the forest floor
 There's a wilderness of wonder to explore!
 Everybody lives hand in hand with nature,
 In a land of birds and bees,
 Underneath the shade of ancient trees!

All: When you're living in Sherwood Forest,
 Every day is new!
 When you're living in Sherwood Forest,
 Skies are always blue!
 There's no doubt we're carving out
 A life for me and you,
 Right here in Sherwood—where dreams come true!

In our land of plenty, living life for free,
 An adventure lies in wait for you and me!
 We are sowing the seeds of Mother Nature,
 Hear her laughter in the leaves,
 Come and feel the magic that she weaves!

When you're living in Sherwood Forest,
 Every day is new!
 When you're living in Sherwood Forest,
 Skies are always blue!
 There's no doubt we're carving out
 A life for me and you,
 Right here in Sherwood...

(The chorus split into two groups for the final part of the song.)

Group 1: Where dreams come true!

Group 2: Sherwood Forest,
Where your dreams will all come true!

Group 1: Where dreams come true!

Group 2: Sherwood Forest

All: Where your dreams will all come true!

Track 8:**Helping Hand****All:**

Sometimes the world can be a worry,
Sometimes it's hard to understand.
When life is a mess, who will come to the rescue,
And lend you a helping hand?

So when the world all around
Is falling deep in despair,
Just say the word and a helping hand
Is sure to be there!
For we will fly to your side
Upon a wing and a prayer-
That's when you need a helping hand!

When you're deserted in the desert,
Thinking you'll sink in sinking sand,
Whenever you're stuck,
Or you're down on your luck,
All you need is a helping hand!

So when the world all around
Is falling deep in despair,
Just say the word and a helping hand
Is sure to be there!
For we will fly to your side
Upon a wing and a prayer-
That's when you need a helping hand!

So when the world all around
Is falling deep in despair,
Just say the word and a helping hand
Is sure to be there!
For we will fly to your side
Upon a wing and a prayer-
That's when you need a helping,
That's when you need a helping,
That's when you need... A helping hand!
Ging gang gooly-gooly-gooly-gooly
What you need's a helping hand!

Track 11:**Men In Tights**

Robin: **(Spoken) It's time to play the music!**
 It's time to light the lights!
 It's time to meet the marvellous...

Merry Men: **Merry Men in tights!**

All: See the greatest show tonight,
 We will try to satisfy your appetite!
 Cue the music, light the lights,
 Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

 See the greatest show tonight,
 We will try to satisfy your appetite!
 Cue the music, light the lights,
 Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

 For thrills and spills and special skills
 Just call the Merry Men!
 So feel the beat and tap your feet,
 We're back in the spotlight again!

 See the greatest show tonight,
 We will try to satisfy your appetite!
 Cue the music, light the lights,
 Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

 For thrills and spills and special skills
 Just call the Merry Men!
 So feel the beat and tap your feet,
 We're back in the spotlight again!

 See the greatest show tonight,
 We will try to satisfy your appetite!
 Cue the music, light the lights,
 Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

(Whispered) See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the
Men... In... Tights!

(Spoken) Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

Track 26:**He Will Be A Hero**

Robin: *(Spoken)* The name's Hood... Robin Hood! Licence... to thrill!

Marion: He's just a man, with a bow in his hand
Fighting for our freedom, right across the land
He's just a man, who will do what he can
To find a way to a better day tomorrow!

All: Tomorrow!

He will be a hero, just wait and see!
He will be a hero for you and me!
He will be the wonder of the wood,
Fighting for the good,
He's Robin Hood!

He's just a man,
With a future that's planned.
Legend of the forest,
Leader of the band!
He's just a man,
Who is making a stand!
So sing as one for our time'll come tomorrow!
Tomorrow!

He will be a hero, just wait and see!
He will be a hero for you and me!
He will be the wonder of the wood,
Fighting for the good,
He's Robin Hood!
He's Robin Hood!
He will be the wonder of the wood,
Fighting for the good,
He's Robin Hood!
He's Robin Hood!

Track 37:**If We All Work Together****Robin:**

If we all work together,
Our foes will be few!
Yes if we all work together,
Our skies will be blue!
It's time to launch our endeavour,
So join the crew!
For together, forever,
In any kind of weather,
Together we're strong and we're true!

If we all work together,
We're bound to come through!
Yes if we all work together,
Our dreams will come true!
And just like birds of a feather,
We'll stick like glue!
For together, forever,
In any kind of weather,
Together we're strong and we're true!

All:

As we march into war
We hear the beat of the band!
We are part of a story running
Right through the land!
Fighting for glory with a torch in our hand!
It's lighted! United we stand!

If we all work together,
Our foes will be few!
Yes if we all work together,
Our skies will be blue!
It's time to launch our endeavour,
So join the crew!
For together, forever,
In any kind of weather,

Together we're strong and we're true!

As we march into war
We hear the beat of the band!
We are part of a story running
Right through the land!
Fighting for glory with a torch in our hand!
It's lighted! United we stand!
We stand!

If we all work together,
We're bound to come through!
Yes if we all work together,
Our dreams will come true!
And just like birds of a feather,
We'll stick like glue!
For together, forever,
In any kind of weather,
Together we're strong and we're true!

If we all work together,
Our foes will be few!
Yes if we all work together,
Our skies will be blue!
It's time to launch our endeavour,
So join the crew!
For together, forever, in any kind of weather,
Together we're strong and we're true!

(Shouted) We're strong and true!

Track 46:**Singing All Over The World****Robin:**

Sing me a song, make it short, make it long,
You know it won't be too long
Before I'm singing along
Sing it loud, sing it clear, so that people can hear
And they'll be singing all over the world!

Round and around goes the music we've found
It's such a wonderful sound,
So let us spread it around
Sing it loud, sing it clear, so that people can hear
And they'll be singing all over the world!

All:

If you're locked away alone,
And feeling on your own
Then music is the thing to set you free
If you sing a happy tune, then very soon
You'll find the key!

Sing me a song, make it short, make it long,
You know it won't be too long
Before I'm singing along
Sing it loud, sing it clear, so that people can hear
And they'll be singing all over the world!

Round and around goes the music we've found
It's such a wonderful sound,
So let us spread it around
Sing it loud, sing it clear, so that people can hear
And they'll be singing all over the world!

If you're locked away alone,
And feeling on your own
Then music is the thing to set you free
If you sing a happy tune, then very soon
You'll find the key!

Change the key!

(The chorus split into 3 groups for the final section of the song.)

Group 1: Sing me a song, make it short, make it long,
You know it won't be too long
Before I'm singing along
Sing it loud, sing it clear, so that people can hear
And they'll be singing all over the world!
Round and around goes the music we've found
It's such a wonderful sound,
So let us spread it around
Sing it loud, sing it clear, so that people can hear
And they'll be singing all over the world!

Group 2: Sing, and all the world sings with you!
Sing, and all the world will hear!
Sing, and all the world sings with you!
Sing, and all the world will hear!

Group 3: La la la la, la la la la,
La la la la, la la la!
La la la la, la la la la,
La la la la, la la la!

All: Round and around and around
And around and around...
All over the world!
Singing all over the world!

Track 55:**Men In Tights (Reprise)****All:**

See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

For thrills and spills and special skills
Just call the Merry Men!
So feel the beat and tap your feet,
We're back in the spotlight again!

See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

For thrills and spills and special skills
Just call the Merry Men!
So feel the beat and tap your feet,
We're back in the spotlight again!

See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!

***(Whispered)* See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!**

See the greatest show tonight,
We will try to satisfy your appetite!
Cue the music, light the lights,
Time to raise the curtain on the
Men... In... Tights!

***(Spoken)* Time to raise the curtain on the men in tights!**

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