

# Plays for Young Audiences

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2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404

(612) 872-5108 ■ Fax (612) 874-8119 ■ [www.playsforyoungaudiences.org](http://www.playsforyoungaudiences.org)

# *Robin Hood*

by

**Greg Banks**

Music by

**Tom Johnson**

*Robin Hood* was first presented by the Children's Theatre Company for the 2010-11 season.

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The piece is set in a forest, the action taking place on and around large fallen trees and stumps. Everything that is used belongs to the world of the homeless people who inhabit our world today. Whatever the actors are wearing should be transferable into costumes for Robin Hood. For example, the actor who becomes the Sheriff might be wearing a big old battered leather coat. It is performed with a minimum of props, and simple costume changes. Some weapons are imagined, eg bows and arrows. Others are real but still come from the homeless world ie: Little John and Robin fight with battered metal baseball bats, Robin and Marion use two short rattan style sticks each, the Sheriff has a knife from an Army surplus store. Despite the costumes being drawn from a contemporary homeless world we tried to keep the feel as timeless as possible allowing us to move seamlessly between the worlds of the past and that of the present.

*All narration should be delivered to the audience in character and be emotionally and physically engaged*

*The musicians are playing as the audience comes in. There may be a small fire burning in an old oil drum. Beggar 1 wanders in rattles a tin asks for money, gives up settles to sleep in a cardboard box under an old fallen tree on stage, Beggar 3 wrapped against the cold chats gently with the audience and asks for money to get a warm bed that night, settles around the fire. Beggar 2 enters (This person may have been drifting around outside the theatre in a very low key way) He has a rope tied around his foot as if his foot is a dog and the rope is a leash. He invites audience to scratch the dogs ears, stomach etc or tickle the sole of his shoe or pat the top of his shoe. Some even taking to his shoe as if it was a dog. He could ask for money for the dog. When last of the audience is in, 4 enters noisily pushing a a battered old tin bath fixed to pram wheels loaded up with his 'belongings' (props for the telling of the story) and the house lights begin to fade as the dialogue begin. Initially the actors are still begging from the audience but they gradually begin to argue and talk amongst themselves*

4 It's so cold.

1 Can't you be quiet? (*Pushing his box aside*).

3 Spare a little money. (*to the audience*)

2 Here boy. (*To his dog*)

3 Just a little.

2 (*dog barks gently at audience member, jumps up at them*) He likes you. Good boy. Money for the dog.

4 Lost everything. Just trying to start over.

2 Good boy. Beg. Up. Good boy.

3 Just a little would buy me some food...

4 Dirty broke and hungry. Anything helps.  
2 Money for the dog. Up. Come on. Up. Good boy.  
1 Please (*rattling a colander, later becomes a helmet*)  
2 Money for the dog.  
1 Please.  
4 I haven't slept in a bed.  
3 I haven't eaten.  
4 Not since...  
2 Not since the men came,  
1 Up on their high horses,  
2 And trampled on our fields,  
1 Stole our harvest  
4 Burnt our houses to the ground.  
1 Now we've got nothing. Nothing to eat, nowhere to live.  
2 And we ain't gonna get nothing here.  
3 Somebody will take pity.  
1 I don't want pity. I want my life back.  
4 I want my bed back.  
2 I want something to eat.  
4 There's plenty of supper walking around the forest.  
2 Take a shot at the King's deer?  
4 Why not?  
1 Why not? It's the death penalty if King John's men catch you.

4 When Richard was King, he never let us go hungry.

**Musician** But he's not king.

4 What do we want?

**M/2/1** King Richard

4 What have we got?

**M/2/1** Prince John

**Song** Prince John. Ah ah. Prince John. Ah ah.  
Prince John. Ah ah. Prince John. Ah ah.

Prince John. Prince John's a rotten ruler.  
Prince John. Ends up making us feel bad.  
Prince John. Cos he can't tell right from wrong.  
Everything he does is bad.

So bring back good King Richard and get rid of Baddy John.  
Let's make our country happy and get rid of all that's wrong.  
Let's start to sing a new song, put an end to rotten rule.  
Let's bring back good King Richard, Prince John is just a fool.

There'll be no going hungry (Wo-oh)  
With King Richard back in charge (Wo-oh).  
There'll be no long sad faces (Wo-oh)  
When Prince John is not at large (Wo-oh).  
There's plenty to go around, there's food enough for all.  
While Richard would share it Prince John would take it all. Hey!

What have we got? King John.  
What do we want? King Richard.  
What have we got? King John.  
What do we want? What do we want? What do we want?

1 What do we want (*2 puts a hand over 3's mouth*)

2 He's not coming back. King Richard is not coming back.. (*they struggle holding each others noses, a knife is pulled, a tense moment, the dog (foot) whimpers, the tension dispels. 2 goes back to begging*) Money for the dog.

1 Please.

**3/Much**      *(Singing to himself)* Robin Hood, Robin Hood, Riding through the glen.

**1**              What you got to sing about?

**Much**          Robin Hood, Robin Hood, with his band of men,

**4**              Who?

**2**              Hood, Robin Hood.

**Much**          Rob from the rich

**4**              Who was he?

**2**              Nobody. He wasn't real.

**Much**          Give to the poor.

**1**              Give to the poor. Who's going to do that? Rob from the rich, maybe. Give to the poor, fat chance *(Moves off)*.

**Much**          There are stories.

**4**              About Robin Hood

**Much**          Yes.

**2**              And they're just stories.

**Much**          They're not.

**2**              Make believe.

**Much**          I've seen him.

**2**              Make believe! About some clown dressed up in green who flies through the forest on ropes, bursts out of trees, and saves the poor.

**Much**          He did.

**2**              Money for the dog.

**Much**          It's true.

**1**              Let's go.

**4**              God bless and good luck.

*(1,2 and 4 leave 3 alone begging singing the Robin Hood tune then he hears a noise behind him, turns and sees 1,2 and 4 who have become deer.)*

**Much** Robin Hood, Robin Hood riding through the glen, *(Hears something, turns and sees deer.)* Sssh! There.

**4** *(1,2 & 4 becoming deer, no change of costume)* Grazing on the edge of the forest

**2** Just waiting to be caught

**1** A herd of deer

**3/Much** *(To the audience)* My dad and I had been looking for food in the forest. We'd be gone for days. We were going home empty handed. When he saw the deer. He knew he shouldn't, but I had a baby sister at home, desperate for something to eat, crying night and day. He made me stay hidden in the bushes as slowly *(becoming his Dad)*...slowly, my dad stalked the deer. But, as he moved towards them, they moved away. At last he was close enough...carefully taking his long bow...he placed the shaft of an arrow...drew back the bowstring... aimed. It was against the law, but we had to eat *(As he is about to release the bow the deer turn into the Sheriff of Nottingham and others.)*

**1/Sheriff** Caught you. Red handed. Trying to kill the King's deer.

**Much's dad** How many deer can the king eat?

**2/Soldier** Be quiet.

**Much's dad** The forest is full of them. There's enough for everyone.

**Soldier** Silence.

**Much's dad** I had no choice.

**Soldier** Kneel. Before the Sheriff of Nottingham.

**Sheriff** Who is he?

**Soldier** Much the Miller. We caught him before and cut off two of his fingers, Now, we've caught him again, we'll take out his eyes. A third time and he hangs.

**Sheriff** Poor Much. Not much to eat. Not much luck. Not much of anything. *(Gently)* What do you have to say for yourself?

**Much's dad** (*moves towards the Sheriff*) I had to hunt to get food.

**Soldier** Kneel!

**Much's dad** My children are starving. We can't live on grass.

**Sheriff** Course you can't. You're not a rabbit. (*Soldier laughs.*) Shut up. So you decided to try a richer diet. The King's deer!

**Much's dad** What would you do? (*Sheriff glares at Much.*) Your honour.

**Sheriff** Not my problem. I haven't got any children. I don't like children. I wouldn't waste my food on them if I had any. Look, I'll make a bargain with you. Have you heard of Robin Hood? Course you have. Don't look so innocent. All you miserable lawbreakers know him. He's a rotten do-gooder.

**Soldier** Do gooder.

**Sheriff** Helps out lazy wretches like you when they can't fend for themselves. Tell us where we can find him, and we will spare you.

**Soldier** Will we?

**Sheriff** We might. Speak up.

**Much's dad** I don't know where you can find him. People say he is the good spirit of Sherwood, and having brought help, he goes away as silently as he came. No one knows where to find him.

**Sheriff** I don't believe you. Burn down his cottage. See if that loosens the old man's tongue. (*soldier finds a small cottage made of newspaper which has been premade*)

**Much's dad** Don't. Please don't. I'm begging you.

**Sheriff** Of course you are. You're a beggar. (*The house is lit with a match. We watch it burn.*)

**Much's dad** It's my home. We'll have no where to live.

**Soldier** Silence.

**Much's dad** No! Please. That's my family! My wife and my baby girl!

**Sheriff** Let him shout. Let him wail. Maybe Robin Hood will come and rescue him? Is that what you want?

**Much's dad** No.

**Sheriff** Well if he does we are ready for him. Men scatter, hide in the trees. *(to the audience as there are not enough cast members)* They're in camouflage. That's why you can't see them. You stay with me. *(shouting into the woods)* Robin Hood!

**Soldier** *(Soldier rather stupidly echoes what Sheriff says.)*Robin Hood!

**Sheriff** There's a poor man waiting to be rescued.

**Soldier** Poor man!

**Sheriff** A beggar man.

**Soldier** Beggar man!

**Sheriff** A thief.

**Soldier** Thief!

**Sheriff** Come on you coward...come out and fight!

**Soldier** Yeah. Coward!

**Sheriff** Enough. I'm bored of this.

**Soldier** Me too.

**Sheriff** Take him away.

**Much's dad** Do what you want with me. Take my eyes, throw me in the deepest dungeon, hang me from the nearest tree.

**Sheriff** Still got nothing to say? Grab the boy. He's hiding in the bushes.

**Much's dad** No! *(shouting back to where we left Much)* Run! Run!

**Sheriff** You thought I hadn't seen him. Do it.

**Much's dad** Suddenly my dad jumped up, *(Much is acting the following out, as he says it)* snatched a sword and made a run at the Sheriff.

**Sheriff** But he never reached me.

**Much's dad** For with a sudden vicious whine

**Sheriff** A dagger sped from the trees.

**Much's dad** And laid him dead on the ground.

**Sheriff** *(Addressing the audience)* Which one of you men did that?

**Soldier** Who did it?

**Musician** Not me.

**Sheriff** Come on, own up.

**Soldier** Own up.

**Sheriff** I didn't want you to kill him. I wanted you to hurt him so that Robin Hood would hear his screams, come bounding through the forest and make a fabulous rescue. *(He acts this out badly as he speaks.)* Look out poor people, here I come.

**Soldier** *(grabbing the sheriff)* I got him! I got him! I got Robin Hood!

**Sheriff** *(To Soldier)* Idiot. Its me. And then I'd grab him tie him up and parade him through the streets of Nottingham. *(he demonstrates, the soldier cheers. The focus switches to Much dead on the ground, who gently rises taking off his jacket and lying it on the ground, leaving it to represent his dad)*

**Much** They just left my poor old dad, lying in the dirt, dying, while our house burnt to the ground.

**Sheriff** The boy. Where's the boy?

**Much** At that very moment...

**Robin** Stay where you are.

**Sheriff** An arrow thudded into the ground.

**Much** At the sheriff's feet

**Sheriff** Help!

**Much** And another

**Sheriff** Help

**Much** And another

**Sheriff** Help again

**Much** Whichever way he turned

**Sheriff** He's here. Robin Hood is here. Charge Men.

**Soldier** I don't want to.

**Sheriff** Chaaaaaarge! (*but he doesnt actually go anywhere*)

**Robin** Your men have fled.

**Soldier** Fled

**Robin** Gone.

**Soldier** Gone.

**Robin** Run away.

**Soldier** Help! (*v. quiet*)

**Robin** Now. Take that moneybag from your belt.

**Sheriff** No.

**Robin** And throw it to the ground.

**Sheriff** I can't. It's not mine. It belongs to Prince John.

**Robin** It belongs to the people you took it from. Throw it to the ground.

**Sheriff** No.

**Robin** Do it. The next arrow is aimed at your heart, or the place where his heart should be. (*The Sheriff throws bag to the ground. To Much.*) Pick up the bag. (*Sheriff goes for the boy. Robin is on him in a flash and takes him to the ground.*) Don't be afraid. (*Other soldier starts to run away.*) I said, stay where you are.

**Much** It's full of gold.

**Robin** (*To Sheriff*) Now, bring me the rest of the money.

**Sheriff** There is no more.

**Soldier** No more.

**Robin** The money in your saddlebags. *(Soldier gets the money)* The money you stole from the honest people of Nottingham to feather your own nest.

**Sheriff** You haven't heard the last of this. Prince John will have your head.

**Robin** *(To Soldier)* Bring the Sheriff's horse.

**Soldier** Do I have to?

**Robin** Do it! *(Soldier becomes the horse.)* If Prince John wants his money tell him to come and get it himself. Hup! *(Sheriff mounts the horse, piggy back style.)*

**Sheriff** *(to Robin)* Traitor.

**Robin** Back to Nottingham, Sheriff. *(Slaps Soldier's rump, who whinnies.)*

**Sheriff** I'll hunt you down. I'll have your head. *(they exit)*

**Robin** Long live King Richard.

**Much** *(to the audience)* I buried my dad, right there, out in the forest under a tall oak tree.

**Robin** I was too late to save him.

**Much** You didn't kill him.

**Robin** No. But I swore an oath to myself that I would help anybody in distress that I would protect those who suffer at the hands of the Sheriff. I let you down. I'm sorry. Are you hurt?

**Much** No. Just sad.

**Robin** Of course you are.

**Much** And angry. I swear that one day I shall have revenge on those men that killed my dad.

**Robin** Easy. Time enough for that.

**Much** The man took a horn from his belt, *(Musician chucks Robin a horn.)* blew a long blast, *(Robin does so)* and as darkness descended men

appeared silently out of the forest. *(the musician and actor 2 who is now Will Scarlett)*

**Robin** From now on, you will be one of Robin Hood's band.

**Much** Are you really Robin Hood?

**Robin** I am. And these are some of my merry men *(Musician and Will)* Nat the weaver, Will Scarlett, Alan a dale and others too many to name *(the audience)*. What shall we call you? How about Much in memory of your father?

**Much** Much. I like it. You're all outlaws?

**Robin** We live outside the law but we are not thieves or robbers. Are we lads? *(Cheer from merry men)*

**Will** No, sir.

## **Song 2. WE HEREBY DECLARE WAR**

Yeah we live, yeah we live, yeah we live outside the law.

We're not layabouts or thieves. Not vagabonds or robbers.

Yeah we live, yeah we live, yeah we live outside the law.

We're not layabouts or thieves. Not vagabonds or robbers.

We hereby declare war on behalf of all the poor. Yeah.

We declare this war on behalf of all the poor.

Are we tired, are we tired, are we tired of being poor?

Yeah we'd like a little more. Hell. We'd like a shed-load more.

Are we tired, are we tired, are we tired of being poor?

Yeah. We'd like a great deal more. That's why we've declared war.

A war on all the robbers, yes a war on all the thieves,

Among the city bankers and the corporation chiefs.

And those who take our taxes who don't give us nothing back.

And those who take our taxes who don't give us nothing back.

They're feasting in their castles when we can't afford to eat.  
They're emptying our houses and we're kicked out on the street.  
We want Christmas at the castle for all the hungry poor.  
Prince John will buy the presents, no-one left outside the door.

We hereby declare war on behalf of all the poor. Yeah.  
We declare this war on behalf of all the poor.  
They're feasting in their castles when we can't afford to eat.  
They're emptying our houses and we're kicked out on the street.  
They're feasting in their castles when we can't afford to eat.  
They're emptying our houses of the poor.  
Yeah we live, yeah we live, yeah we live outside the law.

<b>All</b>	Down with Prince John!
<b>Much</b>	That night
<b>Will</b>	Will
<b>Much</b>	And Much
<b>Will</b>	Crept
<b>Much</b>	Silently
<b>Will</b>	Along many winding paths
<b>Much</b>	Through the forest
<b>Will</b>	Until
<b>Much</b>	They reached
<b>Will</b>	The huddle of tiny houses
<b>Much</b>	That crouched in the shadow of Nottingham castle.
<b>Will</b>	No sign of the Sheriff's men. Everyone seemed to be asleep. ( <i>Indicating the front row of the audience</i> )

**Much** As they slipped from house to house

**Will** And laid a bag of gold coins on each doorstep. (*giving one or two chocolate gold coins from Christmas time to maybe half a dozen of the audience.*)

**Much** To each bag, they pinned a note.

**Both** (*As they hand out gold*) Greetings to the poor people of Nottingham from Robin Hood who has robbed the rich to pay the poor.

**Much** I had nearly given away the last of the gold, when a gaggle of armed men ran towards Will.

**Sheriff** Stop that man.

**Will** Hide yourself. They haven't seen you. (*Much exits and very quickly becomes a soldier*)

**Sheriff** Stop that man. Where's my gaggle of armed men!

**Soldier** Here sir. (*giggles*)

**Sheriff** I said gaggle, not giggle.

**Soldier** Sorry sir. Look what I got (*holds up gold coin*)

**Sheriff** Where'd you get that.

**Soldier** A boy gave it to me.

**Sheriff** What boy?

**Soldier** Don't know. He ran away before I could ask him his name.

**Sheriff** Idiot! Give it to me!

**Soldier** Its mine.

**Sheriff** Give it to me! You (*to Will*) Stop!

**Soldier** Yeah. Stop.

**Sheriff** Stand where you are.

**Soldier**                   Where you are.

**Sheriff**                    I know you.

**Soldier**                    So do I.

**Sheriff**                    Shut up. Will Scathlock. Better known as Will Scarlett. One of Robin Hood's men and a traitor.

**Soldier**                    Traitor.

**Will**                        I am no traitor. I am loyal to King Richard.

**Sheriff**                    You can forget about King flipping Richard. That money belongs to Prince John. Hand it over. Empty. What have you done with it? Robbing from the rich to give to the poor. Again! How kind. Well, the poor don't deserve kindness.

**Will**                        What did Prince John say when he found you'd lost his precious gold?

**Sheriff**                    He doesn't know.

**Will**                        You haven't told him. Have you? Why? Are you frightened of him?

**Sheriff**                    Right, that's it.

**Soldier**                    Shall I tell him off now?

**Sheriff**                    Tell him off! Tomorrow morning early, we shall hang him in the market square.

**Soldier**                    Like a picture.

**Sheriff**                    No. By the neck. As a warning to others.

**Soldier**                    Warning!

**Sheriff**                    That'll teach Robin Hood and his merry men to muck about with the Sheriff of Nottingham.

**Soldier**                    Yeah. Don't muck about.

**Sheriff**                    But before we hang him let's see if we can persuade him to tell us where we can find Robin Hood. Go on.

**Soldier**                    Yeah. Persuade him. Right. Go on tell us.

**Sheriff** Nasty.

**Much** I'll give you a sweet...

**Sheriff** Nastier. Meaner.

**Much** I'll give you two sweets.

**Sheriff** *(Pushing Much aside)* The dungeons in Nottingham castle are very deep.

**Will** I said I am no traitor.

**Sheriff** Very dark

**Will** I shall never betray Robin.

**Sheriff** And full of very nasty things.

**Will** As for your dungeons, go live in them yourself. I shall tell you nothing.

**Sheriff** You hang tomorrow. Robin Hood won't dare enter the castle to rescue you. And if he does, I will be ready for him.

**Much** Much leapt from his hiding place and ran, as fast as he could into the forest, *(halfway through this journey Robin appears and follows very close behind Much)* missing his way many times along the twisting paths, until he was completely lost...*(Robin is suddenly behind him)*

**Robin** Are you looking for me?

**Much** Robin. Thank goodness. **(to audience.)** Much poured out his story.

**Robin** They're going to hang Will? We have to rescue him.

**Much** Let's march to Nottingham, take the place by storm and hang the sheriff on his own gallows.

**Robin** Not so hasty. At the first sign of an attack, they would withdraw into the castle, hang Will Scarlett and laugh at our attempts to lay siege to them. We must use guile.

**Much** What?

**Robin** Cunning.

**Much** Don't get it.

**Robin** We have to trick them.

**Much** Got it.

**Robin** I've got a plan.

**Much** *(To the audience)* People of Nottingham, if we're going to rescue Will from hanging, we'll need your help. All of you. I know you don't support that evil Prince John and his scheming Sheriff, so will you help us? Are you with us? At the hanging, when I turn to you and say 'man after man in the crowd stood up,' stand up. Great. And when I say 'with one voice they shouted,' you shout 'Long live Robin Hood!' Let's try it. And as if by magic man after man in the crowd stood up...and with one voice they shouted out...Long Live Robin Hood! They're coming. Sit down! Punctually at noon the Castle gates opened.

**Sheriff** *(Will enters pushed forward by the Sheriff)* And out marched the sheriff with several dozen soldiers. Forward men. Make a ring around the prisoner.

**Robin** *(disguised as a woman)* At the front of the crowd, close to the gallows.

**Sheriff** Stood a pretty young woman in a long cloak and hood. Morning, miss. *(Robin waves back)* Lovely day for a hanging.

**Robin** That's a lot of soldiers to guard one man. Are you expecting trouble? A rescue maybe?

**Sheriff** Don't you worry your pretty head. My men and I can deal with any troublemakers.

**Robin** *(to audience)* I'm sure they can.

**Sheriff** Now, you must excuse me for a moment. I have a little business to attend to. Later perhaps?

**Robin** *(flirting)* Perhaps

**Sheriff** Tea?

**Robin** And toast.

**Sheriff** And Toast. Now. *(to Will Scarlet)* You. Tell us where to find Robin Hood and you need not die.

**Will** He is somewhere in Sherwood Forest. You'd better look for him there, if you dare.

**Sheriff** I shall and when I find him, I will burn out his eyes

**Robin** Oh!

**Sheriff** So that he must grope his way to Nottingham to hang beside your rotting bones.

**Robin** Oh Sheriff!

**Sheriff** William Scathlock, the law decrees that you shall here and now be hanged by the neck. Noose!

**Will** Grant me one last request.

**Sheriff** Can't we just get on with it? Noose!

**Will** Grant me an honourable death. Untie me, put a sword in my hand, and I will fight with you and all your men until they kill me.

**Sheriff** Shall we? Shan't we? Shall we? Shan't we? Shall we...

**Robin** *(still in disguise)* No!

**Sheriff** Thank you, ma'am. Noose!

**Will** At least untie my hands, and I shall fight even though I have no weapon.

**Sheriff** I have sworn to hang you, as I will hang your master and all who follow him.

**Will** That shall never be. He scorns you and your kind.

**Sheriff** Enough of this! Where's the hangman? Let him do his duty without delay.

**Much** *(Much has been getting a name from a member of the audience)* Julie here, has something to say. *(Feeds line to audience member)*

**Julie** The hangman can't be found.

**Much** *(repeats the line)* The hangman can't be found!

**Sheriff** Is anyone prepared to hang this man? I'll pay you double.

**Robin** I will. I have grudge against Will Scarlett. Let me have the task of sending him to the devil.

**Sheriff** A woman hangman that's a novelty. This way, miss.

**Robin** And later...?

**Sheriff** Tea

**Robin** And toast.

**Sheriff** Noose! *(Robin, the young woman daintily makes her way towards the gallows, climbs the steps, fumbles with the rope and seems to whisper into Will's ear, suddenly Robin cuts the ropes that bind Will, and reveals himself)*

**Sheriff** Treachery! Sieze that man!

**Will** Much obliged, ma'am. *(Robin confronts The Sheriff)*

**Sheriff** Seize that man!

**Much** And then, as if by magic man after man in the crowd, *(encouraging the audience to do this)* stood up, and with one voice shouted

**Audience** Long live Robin Hood!

**Robin** Louder!

**Audience** Long live Robin Hood!

**Sheriff** Robin Hood!

**Robin** *(shedding his disguise and coming close up to the Sheriff)* Boo! The very same.

**Sheriff** The sheriff turned and ran.

**Much** You'll never catch Robin by running in the wrong direction!

**Robin** Let him go. *(To audience)* Friends, please sit down. We mean no harm to anyone here except to those who would harm us. And if any of you ever suffers unjustly, come without fear into Sherwood Forest and ask for Robin Hood.

**Sheriff**                    There he is.

**Much**                      The Sheriff was back.

**Robin**                      Not again.

**Much**                      With reinforcements.

**Sheriff**                    Draw your bows, men. *(Musicians instruments up.)* Aim to kill. Fire! Again! And again! *(Musician play. Robin catches them all in the air, one by one very quickly, they are mimed, snaps them in two and discards them.)*

**Sheriff**                    That's hardly fair.

**Robin**                      Time to leave.

**Much**                      Robin knew the streets of Nottingham like the back of his hand.

**Robin**                      *(Reading his hand)* Really? Hey! It's this way.

**Sheriff**                    Come back here.

**Robin**                      *(As they are chased by the Sheriff, Robin reads the back of his hand like a map, helping them avoid the Sheriff as he lunges after them with a sword or staff)* Turn left. Right. Double back. Duck. Jump. Twist. *(To Sheriff)* Stop. Drop. Roll. *(The Sheriff follows these last instructions and is momentarily confused and facing the wrong direction.)*

**Sheriff**                    Where's my stick?

**Robin**                      You want your stick? Here boy. Good dog. Get the stick. *(Sheriff runs off to get his stick.)*

**Much**                      People of Nottingham. We need your help again. When the sheriff asks where we are just yell out and point in any direction you like.

**Robin**                      Not the way we've gone obviously.

**Much**                      Yell 'over there' or 'they went that way!' Whatever you like. Great! Thank you.

**Robin**                      Here he comes. Let's go.

**Sheriff**                    Which way did they go? I've lost them. *(Business with the audience)* I'm

completely confused.

**2/Prince John** Not so fast! (*He is in a tin bath full of money, wheeled on by a servant.* 3) Stop! Stop! Such a headache. Has anyone seen the Sheriff? I was having a bath in all my money, all my lovely lovely, money.....

**Song** **MY MONEY IS MY SWEETHEART**

**Prince John:** My money is my sweetheart and I like to hold it tight.  
My money's all I think of every morning, noon and night.  
My money is my darling, and my love for it is deep.  
I like to keep it close by me, especially when I sleep.

Give me cash, lots of cash, see it flash, yeah!  
All this cash makes me gnash, lovely stash. Yeah!  
Turn the tap, feel it lap to the top, yeah!  
Such a bath makes me laugh off the graph, yeah!

**The Merries:** He's in love, so in love, so in love with his lovely dosh.

**John:** I can never have enough, enough of all this stuff.

**Merries:** He always wants a little more.

**John:** Don't care where it comes from, I just need it for my bath.

**Merries:** He usually gets it from the poor.

**John:** I take it from the baker, I can take it from the poor.

**Merries:** You see, we told you.

**John:** I take it from my granny, or the bloke who lives next door.

Give me cash, lots of cash, see it flash, yeah!  
All this cash makes me gnash, lovely stash. Yeah!  
Turn the tap, feel it lap to the top, yeah!  
Such a bath makes me laugh off the graph, yeah!

**Merries:** He papers his walls with money,  
And fills his bath with gold.  
He stuffs his cupboards full of dosh,  
It's more than he can hold.  
But he's never gonna spend it,  
never gonna give it a-way.  
He's never gonna lend it,

just keep it for a rainy day.  
He always wants a little more.  
He always wants a little more.

**John:** This stash is mine, all mine.  
Mmm. Smells so divine. Oh.  
Sweetheart you're mine.

**Prince John** Ah, there you are. What was that dreadful noise?

**Sheriff** There's a...

**Prince John** Chest. *(He wants the servant to wash his chest)*

**Sheriff** There's a prob...

**Prince John** Speak up!

**Sheriff** There's a problem. *(Prince John clears throat.)* Sire.

**Prince John** I was having a bath in all my lovely, lovely money. Back!  
Suddenly the whole place is filled with shouting and  
running. Gives this idiot maid such a fright, she tips my bath up, spills  
some of my money, it rolls under the sink and she can't get it back. She  
lost it. Anyway, there's plenty more where that came from. Come. Come.  
pour it in. Arms!

**Sheriff** The money has been taken.

**Prince John** What do you mean, taken? Who took it?

**Sheriff** Robin Hood, sire. He was here and...

**Prince John** Hood! Here! But...you caught him. You clever clogs. Well, where is he?

**Sheriff** I didn't actually catch him.

**Prince John** Oh. Clever. What did you do to him? Did you...*(gestures something unpleasant)*

**Sheriff** I lost him.

**Prince John** *(Laughs)* Lost him...ah a joke. I do love jokes.

**Sheriff** Not really a joke, sire. I actually did lose him.

**Prince John**           What?

**Sheriff**               Well he escaped. There were lots of very fierce men with him. I fought like an animal. *(Demonstrates)*

**Prince John**        You are an animal! A very, very, very weedy little rabbit.

**Sheriff**               A rabbit, sire?

**Prince John**        A rabbit. *(He demonstrates rabbit.)*

**Sheriff**               Thank you, sire.

**Prince John**        But you did recover the money.

**Sheriff**               No, sire.

**Prince John**        This had better be good. I need that money. My bath's nearly empty.

**Sheriff**               I do have a plan, sire. *(Indicates that the maid/3 should leave)*

**Prince John**        A plan? Good. That's what I pay you for.

**Sheriff**               You don't actually pay me, sire.

**Prince John**        Never mind that. Oh very well. *(Throws a tiny coin onto the ground.)* The plan. The plan.

**Sheriff**               There is only one way to catch a thief like Robin Hood.

**Prince John**        Go on. Go on.

**Sheriff**               That is to lay a trap.

**Prince John**        Even I know that.

**Sheriff**               Robin Hood is so keen to rescue people in distress, I think I...we, we should provide him with someone in distress.

**Prince John**        I don't understand. Too complicated.

**Sheriff**               Your highness, may I call the Maid Marian?

**Prince John**        I thought he had a plan.

**Sheriff**               Yes, she is part of the plan, sire!

**Prince John** Don't get cross with me. I'm in charge. Carry on.

**Sheriff** *(Snaps fingers)* Marian!

**Prince John** I need to get dressed. *(Sheriff has to wheel Prince offstage.)*

**3/Marian** **(Marian enters)** Marian was one of the maids that served in Prince John's court.

**Sheriff** She was the youngest and very beautiful. Marian...

**Prince John** *(offstage)* Towel!

**Sheriff** *(sheriff re-enters)* Marian, we have some grave news regarding your father.

**Marian** Is he in danger? Is he ill?

**Sheriff** No. No. Your father is in good health. At the moment. But, if you do not answer our questions...if you don't help us he may suddenly fall very, very ill indeed.

**Marian** What do you mean?

**Sheriff** He might even die.

**Marian** You wouldn't.

**Sheriff** You can save your father, if you are prepared to help us with a certain matter.

**Marian** *(Sheriff whispers in her ear.)* I can't. I won't.

**Sheriff** It would be very sad if anything happened to Daddy...So you'll help us?

**Marian** What choice do I have?

**Sheriff** Good. Take these pebbles.

**Marian** Early one morning, a few days later,

**Sheriff** Move.

**Marian** Marian found herself travelling through Sherwood forest

**Sheriff** Hurry up.

**Marian** In a smart horse drawn carriage... *(She gets into a cardboard box that the Sheriff produces)*

**Sheriff** Sit down. Yah! *(Sheriff flicks the reins)*

**Robin** Close by, hidden in the trees, Robin's eyes lit up at the thought of a juicy piece of robbery. Here's a fat bird ready for plucking, some merchant with his moneybags stuffed with gold.

**Sheriff** Now!

**Marian** Could we...

**Sheriff** Louder!

**Marian** Could we rest for a moment?

**Robin** A woman's voice.

**Sheriff** Keep going.

**Marian** It's so hot in here.

**Sheriff** It's not safe. They say that Robin Hood lurks in these woods and preys on innocent maidens.

**Marian** Surely not.

**Robin** *(to audience)* That's not fair. I have never, ever, hurt even a hair of a lady's head.

**Marian** At that very moment out of the bushes burst

**2/Soldier** *(he is the only soldier)* Aaahhhh! An army of vicious, nasty, ugly, dirty looking rascals. Wah-shing-ah! *(drawing imaginary sword)*

**Sheriff** Wah-shing-ah!

**Soldier** Aaahhhh! *(charging)*

**Sheriff** Stop. Stop. Don't really hurt me.

**Soldier** Why not?

**Sheriff** It's a trick, remember? We're trying to bait Robin Hood.

**Soldier** Bait Robin Hood.

**Sheriff** Now, I'll attack you. Ready? *(There is a short/fake but very noisy fight between Sheriff and the attackers.)* Take that.

**Soldier** Ow.

**Sheriff** And that.

**Soldier** Ow. And you take that!

**Sheriff** Take it easy!

**Soldier** Sorry.

**Sheriff** Where's Robin? Why hasn't he come to the rescue? Marian, shout now.

**Marian** Help! Help! We're being attacked.

**Soldier** Ow.

**Marian** By vicious *(Fight)*, Nasty *(Spit at sheriff)*,

**Sheriff** Aaagh! My eye!

**Soldier** I didn't touch you.

**Sheriff** Just keep going. Help!

**Marian** Ugly *(soldier is fake fighting the sheriff)*,

**Sheriff** Help!

**Marian** Dirty *(Farts on the sheriff)*,

**Sheriff** Help! *(Robin blows his horn offstage.)*

**Sheriff** He's here! Robin Hood is here!

**Robin** To the rescue.

**Sheriff** Now, attack Marian. *(Sheriff falls "senseless." Soldier grabs Marian but starts to run away when Robin aims his bow.)*

**Robin** Fly lady! Fly! (*Robin shoots 'imaginary arrow.'*)

**Soldier** (*Arrow pins Soldier's foot to the ground.*) Ah! There's an arrow in my foot! I thought we were pretending!

**Sheriff** He's not. (*To Marian*) Shout, lady. Again. Louder. Now faint. (*Finally Robin goes to Marian who seems to have fainted.*)

**Robin** There is nothing to be afraid of. Your attackers have fled. You can go safely on your way now.

**Marian** No, please don't leave me. I daren't go any further in this forest. My guard lies senseless. (*The sheriff hears this he gives her the thumbs up and discreetly slumps down again.*) I feel so weak and frightened.

**Robin** There's no need. (*They are gazing into each other's eyes. Sheriff is mouthing 'Go on, go on.'*)

**2/Will Scarlett** (*Arrives from the woods*) I heard your horn, got here as soon as I could. Robin...?

**Robin** Will! Will Scarlett, one of my... (*Caught by Marian's gaze... again*) One of my merry men.

**Marian** Gentle sir,

**Will** Who's this?

**Marian** Will you allow me to rest in your dwelling, here in the forest for a short while?

**Will** Robin

**Marian** And then help me on my way. (*Still gazing into each others eyes*)

**Will** Now if Marian hadn't been so pretty, had not gazed so innocently and trustingly into his eyes, Robin might have wondered how she knew he lived in the forest. But (*Robin sighs*) he was so overcome by her beauty that he replied

**Robin** Of course you can stay with us.

**Will** There are no strangers allowed in the camp.

**Robin** This young lady has been badly scared.

**Will** All right. But I don't like it. She'll have to be blindfolded. No one must discover the way to our hideout.

**Robin** You can't be serious. Fine.

**Sheriff** It's working!

**Robin** Now bind the wounds on this man and take him to the edge of the forest. We'll see you back at the camp. *(As Will takes the Sheriff off over his shoulder.)*

**Sheriff** Ow. *(The sheriff gives a thumbs up to the audience. To Marian.)* Marian, the pebbles. The pebbles.

**Robin** This way my lady.

**Marian** How far do we have to go? *(While they walk Marian drops small white pebbles.)*

**Robin** Not far. But the valley where my merry men and I live is well hidden.

**Marian** Your merry men?

**Robin** Yes.

**Marian** So, who are you?

**Robin** I'm Robin Hood. You may have heard of me.

**Marian** No I don't think I have. All this time Marian's heart was heavy. Never in her life had she met anyone so brave, so kind, as this man.

**Robin** As they walked, Robin told her all about his life in the forest.

**Marian** Her heart was won by his gentle manners. But, this was the man she was sent to betray.

**Robin** They say I'm an outlaw. Prince John has offered a reward to anyone who captures me.

**Marian** Is that true?

**Robin** I'm afraid it is. *(Will is following behind them picking up the pebbles she is dropping.)* It's the largest reward that has ever been offered.

**Marian** That's awful.

**Robin** Not really.

**Marian** But everything she said to him, every gesture, every action, was part of the sheriff's plot.

**Robin** All this was hidden from Robin as they made their way down the winding track to the secret valley.

**Marian** Where are we going?

**Robin** *(He puts his fingers to her lips.)* He only knew that the sun seemed brighter.

**Marian** How can I betray him?

**Robin** The grass greener.

**Marian** I think I'm falling in love.

**Robin** The bird song sweeter.

**Marian** Everything is different now.

**Robin** Because Maid Marian.

**Marian** Because Robin.

**Robin/Marian** Was beside me. *(looking into each others eyes)*

#### ***4. FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU***

Page 24. Cue: 'I think I'm falling in love'.

**Robin & Marion:**

I think I'm falling, falling in love with you.

You, you.

Falling, falling in love with you.

You, you, you, you.

Falling. Falling in love with you.

You, you, you, you.

Falling. Falling in love with you.

**Marion:**

Feel my heart go huh huh huh huh!

**Robin:**

Feel my heart go bo bo bo bom bom.

**Both:**

Beating with a rhythm, with a rhythm that's new.

**Marion:**

Feel my heart go clang clang clang clang.

**Robin:**

Feel my heart go boom bam-a-lam, bam-a-lam, bam-a-lam.

**Both:**

Beating with a rhythm that is all about you.

**Merries (despairing):**

Falling, falling in love again.

Oh, falling, falling in love again.

He's gone a bit dopey, he's gone a bit mad.

It's making us unhappy and we're all a bit sad.

He's meant to share the loot, not his flipping heart.

She's definitely cute.

It's tearing us apart.

**Robin:**

But I've met a pretty girl, and my head's all in a whirl.

I'm drifting in a bubble.

**Merries:**

It's gonna lead to trouble.

**Marion:**

And I've met a gorgeous boy who's filled my heart with joy.

I'm drifting in a bubble.

**Merries:**

It's got to lead to trouble.

**Robin & Marion:**

I'm falling, falling in love with you.

You, you.

Falling, falling in love with you.

**Merries:**

But this love at first sight is a trick of the light,

He's a silly old clot.

Completely lost the plot.

**Tutti:**

Feel her (my) heart go

Huh Huh Huh Huh

Feel his (my) heart go

Bo bo bo bom bom.

**Robin & Marion:**

Beating with a rhythm, with a rhythm that's new.

**Tutti:**

Feel her (my) heart go clang clang clang clang!

Feel his (my) heart go

Boom bam-a-lam, bam-a-lam, bam-a-lam.

Robin & Marion:

Beating with a rhythm that is all about you!

**Robin** Here we are. Light a fire (*The actor who plays the sheriff joins musician as a merry man and plays some instrument*) Play us a tune. We have a guest.

**Marian** The fire leapt up. Soon a grand feast was in full swing. (*Robin dances with Marian, Will is watching, Robin and Marian dance round Will who is not pleased, then Robin joins musicians and plays v simple violin if possible, Marian dances briefly on her own , until*) With every moment, Marian felt that there had never been such a good life as this life in the forest. It was becoming more and more impossible to betray Robin and his merry band. She could keep quiet no longer. Men of Sherwood, listen to me. Forgive me for the great wrong I was about to do you.

**Robin** Great wrong? You were in great danger.

**Marian** There was no danger to me. Only to you. I was sent here to betray you. (*The next lines overlap as the merry men protest.*)

**Merry Man** Betray us!

**Musician** Who is she?

**Marian** It's true. The ambush was false.

**Merry Man** False!

**Marian** The robbers hired men.

**Will** And these? (*Will produces the white pebbles.*)

**Marian** Dropped by me to leave a trail to your camp.

**Will** I told you no strangers.

**Marian** I'm not asking you to understand, only to forgive me. I did it to save my father's life. The sheriff threatened to kill him if I didn't do what he asked. But since I have been with you in Sherwood, I have been filled

with such love for you all and your leader that I can no longer find it in my heart to betray you. Please forgive me. Please.

- Robin** Nothing to say, Will? I'll say it for you. *(Kneels before Marian)* Marian, we forgive you, and as long as I live I will serve you for I have seen many beautiful maids but none so beautiful as you. *(Turns to Will.)*
- Will** I've been thinking how best we can fool the Sheriff and protect Marian's dad. You'll have to be blindfolded again and returned to the castle. You just tell the sheriff the pebbles were discovered by one of the band.
- Marian** I'll do it. *(Robin starts to blindfold her.)*
- Robin** We must leave before it gets too dark. They walked the twisting turning paths until they appeared on the edge of the forest.
- Marian** Have you truly forgiven me?
- Robin** If I were not a penniless outlaw, I would ask you to share my life in the forest.
- Marian** I can imagine nothing sweeter. I will make sure my father is safe and come back to Sherwood as soon as I can.
- Robin** Take this horn. When you need me, blow on it three times. Now, I must leave you here. It's dangerous to go closer.
- Marian** I'm not afraid, not any more.
- Robin** *(Robin kisses her.)* Goodbye my heart. *(Exits)*
- Marian** Until next time. *(She feels her way forward. Suddenly, the Sheriff appears and grabs her.)* Is it you? Sheriff?
- Sheriff** It is. *(He takes off her blindfold.)*
- Marian** I have been so scared. Those outlaws treated me so roughly.
- Sheriff** You're safe now.
- Marian** But it didn't work.
- Sheriff** What!
- Prince John** *(Entering in his bath)* What didn't work?

**Sheriff** Bow before Prince John.

**Prince John** What didn't work?

**Marian** The sheriff's plan.

**Prince John** Oh, you surprise me. Why didn't it work?

**Marian** The roughest of the outlaws discovered the pebbles

**Prince John** Pebbles?

**Marian** And threw them into the woods.

**Prince John** Pebbles? What pebbles?

**Sheriff** You mean that in spite of all my plans you have no idea where Hood's camp is? Stupid, stupid, stupid girl.

**Prince John** No. You stupid, stupid man. Find him. Or you will find yourself hanging from the castle walls...*(Exits pushed Sheriff)*

**Sheriff** You stay here while I decide what to do with you.

**Marian** Is my father safe? Can I see him?

**Sheriff** Maybe. Maybe not.

**Marian** Don't you dare harm him. I did what you asked.

**Sheriff** Don't cry. I hate the sound of snivelling.

**Marian** I'm not crying.

**Sheriff** Well, you should be. You should be very, very sad. *(Exits.)*

**Marian** My poor father. Thank goodness I didn't betray Robin.

**Sheriff** *(overhearing Marian)* Robin! That rough outlaw has won her heart. She has betrayed me. But I'll get the better of him yet.

**Marian** Blow three times. *(She goes to blow Horn.)*

**Sheriff** *(Takes the horn)* You won't be needing that. Stay here. *(to the audience)* Blow three times.

**Song**

**5. WHEN ROBIN'S LEFT THE HOOD**

**Sheriff:**

I'm planning and I'm plotting,  
I'm scheming and I'm dreaming,  
I'm thinking of a future when Robin's left the hood.  
He's gonna be in trouble, I'll burst his blimmin bubble.  
I'll get myself a shovel and bury Mister Hood.

There'll be no more doing good, no more hiding in the wood,  
No more helping out the poor who come begging at my door.  
I'll lay a little trap, and I'll catch that rotten chap.  
Better watch out cos I'm on your case.

**Merries:**

Ah.

**Sheriff:**

There'll be no more Mister Nice Guy.  
You're headed for the deep fry.  
Your antics were a nice try, but you're finished, Mister Hood.  
I'll be Voldemort and Vector, Gru and Smaug and Spectre.  
You bet your life I'll get ya.  
You've had it Mister Hood.

I'll make him mad, I'll call his bluff,  
And then he'll find he's not so tough.

There'll be no more doing good, no more hiding in the wood,  
No more helping out the poor who come begging at my door.  
I'll lay a little trap, and I'll catch that rotten chap.  
Gonna wipe that smile off your face.

**Merries:**

Ah.

**Sheriff:**

*(laugh/singing)*

Ha! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah! Ha! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah!

**Marian**

While Marian shivered in the cold comfort of the castle.

**Robin**

Robin was wandering through the forest his heart full, his head giddy with love...*(singing)* Marian, Marian, marry marry, marry, marry, Marian  
*(Stops dead in his tracks about to cross a river.)*

**2/Little John** There, on the other side of a deep river.

**Robin** Stood a tall stranger. (*Robin hurries to cross first, but arrives at exactly the moment the stranger steps onto the bridge.*)

**Little John** I need to cross this bridge, little man. Out of the way. Unless you want a dunking in that stream.

**Robin** Not so fast, tall fellow! You stand aside until I have crossed this bridge or maybe I will do the dunking.

**Little John** I'll break his head first and tip him into the water afterwards.

**Robin** We'll see about that. Robin went to draw his bow.

**Little John** Draw that bow even a little, I'll tan your hide with this staff of mine, then soak you in the stream.

**Robin** You talk like a fool. Were I to bend my bow I could send an arrow through his proud heart before he could even touch me with that staff.

**Little John** If I talk like a fool, then he talks like a coward. He stands there well armed with a good long bow, while I have only a staff and am well out of his reach.

**Robin** I'm not a coward. I'll lay aside my weapons and test him with a staff just like his. Wait there and I will cut one down.

**Little John** Let's fight here on this bridge. First one to make it to the other side is the winner.

**Robin** With all my heart. (*They fight.*)

**Little John** We're just getting started. I ain't done with you yet, boy. (*More fighting. Little John wins.*) I am the greatest man alive! Where are you little fellow?

**Robin** Here, floating down stream, bathing my bruised body in this cool water. You beat me fair and square. Let there be no more fighting between us. (*Blows on his horn*) Tell me, what are you doing so deep in the forest?

**Little John** I'm looking for a man they call Robin Hood.

**2/Much** At that moment, there was a crashing through the trees and out bounded

**Robin** Much.

**Much** Followed by (*counts the audience*) many of Robin's men. (*Musician makes up numbers.*) Robin, what happened?

**Little John** Robin.

**Robin** Nothing.

**Much** You're bleeding and wet to the skin.

**Robin** This stout fellow tumbled me into the stream.

**Much** He'll pay for it.

**Robin** No, no he tumbled me in a fair fight. Let him be. Stranger, these men are all my friends, and they shall be yours if you'll put your hand in mine and swear loyalty to Robin Hood and his merry men. (*Indicates audience*)

**Little John** Robin Hood. Here is my hand, and my heart goes with it. My name is John Little. I am skilled in the arts of war (*feigns a move on Much*) and of the chase, and will follow you loyally wherever you may lead.

**Much** I still think he needs a dunking. It's our custom to give everyone who joins us a new name. Let's have ourselves a christening. Robin can be his godfather. (*Musician produces a tankard of beer and a barrel.*)

**Robin** Agreed. Do your work Parson Much.

**Much** This child, this babe brought here for christening was called John Little, but seeing that he is so small, so puny a babe, so undersize, shall we turn him back to front and call him Little John?

**Robin** Yes!

**Much/Robin** Shall we? (*To audience.*)

**Much** Little John! (*Much goes to pour the contents of the tankard over his head but Little John grabs the barrel and drinks a long swig.*)

**Little John** And Little John pledges loyalty to Robin Hood and all who follow him. (*Little John drinks again.*)

**Robin** Let's celebrate and shoot ourselves a plump deer for our dinner.

**Much** Long live Little John.

**Robin** Everyone!

**All** Long live Little John! (*all exit, except Sheriff*)

**Song**

**6. WHEN ROBIN'S LEFT THE HOOD REPRISE**

**Sheriff:**

Will Little Johnny help much?  
And Much is such a soft touch.  
Sweet Marion is carrion.  
Your plans have all gone wrong!  
Blow three times says Robin.  
But all he'll hear's your sobbing.  
Here's an end to all your robbing.  
You're finished, Mister Hood! For good! For good!

**Merries:**

Ah.