The Original Script

Robin Hood

as presented at

The Pavilion, Worthing

Thursday 26th January, Friday 27th January & Saturday 28th January, 1978

©1978 Pearl Hood & Stanley Wood School of Dancing

This document: ©2014 Keith Wood

Permission is hereby granted to use this script as presented, or re-worked (derived from this script), in any stage production, free of royalty subject to the following two conditions:

1. Any programme (or similar publication) in support of such a production should include the following notice: "This production is based upon the original script of the Pearl Hood & Stanley Wood School of Dancing production of Robin Hood as originally presented at The Pavilion, Worthing in January 1978. Further details can be found at: http://pearlhoodstanleywood.org.uk"
2. Advertising material for the production should include a reference to the website: http://pearlhoodstanleywood.org.uk

The Cast

 Robin Hood Valerie Bowles	 Maid Marion Rita Jay	 Little John Don Boiling
 Will Scarlett Carol Dart	 Alan-a-Dale Jacqui Arnold	 Friar Tuck Theo Van Nim Wegan
 Queen Jean Boiling	Sir Guy Colin Clark	 Soldier Glyn Hammond
 Dazz Tony Richardson	 Dizz Cliff Venn	 Sarah Derek Bell

The Script

ROBIN HOOD

SCENE 1 - IN CLEARING IN THE FOREST

OPENING CHORUS:- WITH GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF VILLAGERS ON WAY TO MARKET AND OUTLAWS REPAIRING BOWS ETC., FOLLOWED BY DANCE OF OUTLAWS AND VILLAGERS

BETSY: Where is Robin this morning?

L.JOHN: He has gone to Nottingham to discover just what Prince John has done with his land.

MUCH: Poor Robin, he has lost everything because of a cunning Prince and a rascally Sheriff.

WILL: He counts himself lucky compared with you villagers - you work hard to grow enough food for your needs then have it taken from you by force by the soldiers.

BETSY: Yes and get beaten for having no more.

L.JOHN: We at least feed well from what we catch.

ALAN: And when the rich travellers pass through the forest they have to pay for the privilege.

WILL: Here comes Robin.

(ROBIN ENTERS O.P. BACK AND MOVES FORWARD GREETED BY OTHERS)

ROBIN: It is good to be back after walking in Nottingham.

L.JOHN: How was it there?

ROBIN: The Sheriff's men are everywhere browbeating the old and weak, getting the last penny from everyone they can.

WILL: What news of your affairs Robin?

ROBIN: Prince John has given the Sheriff the power to re-distribute lands and goods taken from outlaws as he thinks fit.

MUCH: Who gets your estate?

ROBIN: My great enemy, Sir Guy.

CROWD: Oooh.

ROBIN: But let us not get despondent. We will do all we can to help the poor and when King Richard returns from the Crusades he will right all the wrongs that are now being done. Come, let us sing.

SONG:- ROBIN HOOD

Villagers Exit.

ENTER WITH 2 COMICS

: See what we found using our road through the forest (COMICS KNEES ARE KNOCKING)

ROBIN: Why what have we here? Two bold characters to be sure (LAUGHTER)

L.JOHN: Don't you think it is dangerous to bring them here? They might overpower us. (LAUGHTER)

WILL: Maybe we should deal with them so they cannot harm us (SINISTER VOICE) (PRISONERS SHAKE AND MOAN)

ROBIN: It's a good idea Will. Remove their blindfolds. It is only fitting that such brave fellows should be able to see what is in store for them.
(MORE HOWLS FROM PRISONERS, THEN BLINDFOLDS ARE REMOVED AND THEY ARE EACH OFFERED A DRINK)

MUCH: Go on drink.

IZZ: No-no thank you.

ALAN: Why not?

DAZZ: It might be poisoned.

ROBIN: We are not going to harm you.

DIZZ: But you are Robin Hood's men aren't you?

ROBIN: I am Robin Hood.
(RENEWED COVERING FROM PRISONERS)

L.JOHN: Why are you so afraid?

DIZZ: The Sheriff and his men say you are criminals who ill-treat your captives.

ROBIN: We rob the rich travellers and give to the poor. Sometimes when we are protecting the weak and helpless from the bullying of the Sheriff some of his men get a few cracked heads and bruises.

ILL: Why are you travelling through the forest?

DAZZ: We are on our way to John Smith's farm - we met him in Nottingham last month and he said he would employ us.

L.JOHN: You are too late. His farm was taken over by Sir Guy last week and John and his family driven away.

ROBIN: How about joining my band of outlaws?

DAZZ: A life in the forest sounds good to me.

DIZZ: And no work sounds even better.

WILL: Don't think because we live in the forest there is nothing to do - we each have our duties.
(ENTER P.S.)

MUCH : Robin a rich looking caravan of travellers is nearing the old oak.

ROBIN: Come men, they may be carrying supplies and our larder is a trifle low. (TO DIZZ AND DAZZ) You stay here for now - the next time you will come with us.

(ALL EXIT EXCEPT DIZZ AND DAZZ)

COMEDY SCENE FOR CLIFF AND TONY - EXIT

DANCE: BIRDS OF THE FOREST - EXIT

ENTER ROBIN AND OUTLAWS CARRYING LOOT

ALAN: A good haul Robin.

ROBIN: Yes ~~Will~~ ALAN. Stores enough to provide for us and the villagers for much of next winter.

SONG: ROBIN HOOD

L.JOHN: Shall we stow the food in the usual hideaways?

ROBIN: Yes we will keep it all for the time being. Those rascally soldiers have noses which sniff it out if the villagers have it too soon.

MUCH: And the gold and jewels?

ROBIN: In the cave Much. Take care you are not seen.

(EXIT ~~WILL~~ ALAN, L.JOHN, MUCH AND SOME CHORUS)

WILL: Is it wise to let the two foolish fellows join our band?

ROBIN: Laughter is always good and I am sure they will give us that.

WILL: Yes but will they betray you?

(ENTER MARION/P.S. BACK UNSEEN BY ROBIN) /AND SARAH

ROBIN: Workshy and cowards they may be, but I will stake my life they are loyal.

WILL: Yes Robin, that is just what you are doing - staking your life.

ROBIN: (LAUGHING) Be off with you Will - you worry too much.

(WILL AND REST OF CHORUS EXIT O.P.)

MARION: He is right you know Robin.

ROBIN: Why Marion how long have you been here?

SARAH: Long enough for Milady to be worrying herself silly over you.

MARION: Sarah!

SARAH: Well you do.

ROBIN: Sarah I would never do anything to upset the Lady Marion in any way.

SARAH: (SNORTS) Oh I'll leave you two to make sheep's eyes at each other.

ROBIN: Little John or Will will give you a glass of mead.

(EXIT SARAH O.P.)

MARION: Will seems to think you are risking too much. Who are these two new men?

ROBIN: Simple souls who will not plot against me. When you meet them I am sure you will agree. But enough of serious talk. When you visit us in the forest it is always a happy day.

SONG: SWEETHEART TREE

(ON LAST ½ CHORUS MAIN OUTLAWS ENTER ALSO SARAH)

L.JOHN: Anything new happening in Nottingham Sarah?

SARAH: Just before we left there was great excitement about a proclamation from the Sheriff.

(ROBIN TURNS TO LISTEN, MARION TRIES TO DISTRACT HIM)

WILL: What is the villain up to now?

SARAH: There is to be a big archery contest at the Goose Fair next week.

MARION: They always have one.

SARAH: Yes Milady but don't you remember this is very special, the prize is a silver arrow presented by the Sheriff and the man who can hit a special target three times will be champion archer of England.

ROBIN: It sounds very interesting Sarah.

SARAH: They expect all the leading archers from miles around to try to win it.

ROBIN: I will enter. It will be a pleasure to try to win a competition run by a blackguard for a prize presented by him.

MARION: Robin - don't you see? It is a trap. The Sheriff knows you can never resist a challenge such as this.

ROBIN: I will go in disguise.

WILL: Listen to Marion.

MARION: Please don't go.

ROBIN: I am not going to disappoint that rogue if he is ready to go to so much trouble. We will work out a way for me to get away safely. Find out all you can about arrangements for the contest Marion.

MARION: If you are determined so be it. I will do all I can to help. If I cannot get away to let you know what is happening I will send Sarah.

ROBIN: Good girl. Now come and have some refreshment before we see you safely to the edge of the forest.

(ALL EXIT EXCEPT BETSY AND L.JOHN WHO MOVE FORWARD)

MERRY MEN SING REPRISE OF "ROBIN HOOD"
FOLLOWED BY A DANCE

SCENE 2 A ROOM IN NOTTINGHAM CASTLE TABLE CENTRE, CHAIRS OR BENCHES. SHERIFF SEATED, WRITING ENTER SERVANT O.P.

SHERIFF: I told you I was not to be disturbed.

SERVANT: But Sir Guy wishes to see you - he says it is urgent.

SHERIFF: Ah Sir Guy - show him in at once. Go along don't dawdle. (EXIT SERVANT) I wonder what brings him here in such haste.

(ENTER SERVANT WITH SIR GUY. SERVANT EXITS)

SIR GUY: You must put a stop to the attacks made by Robin Hood's band - it isn't safe to go through the forest.

SHERIFF: But my men are patrolling all the main tracks of Sherwood regularly.

SIR GUY: Not well enough it seems. Only this morning some of my servants were pounced on by outlaws and robbed.

SHERIFF: Did they get much?

SIR GUY: Foodstuffs and gold.

SHERIFF: Did your men recognise any of the outlaws?

SIR GUY: They were dressed in Lincoln green - so it was Robin Hood's band.

SHERIFF: I don't think you will have to worry about that fellow much longer.

SIR GUY: Why do you say that?

SHERIFF: I have set a trap for him. We are holding an archery contest with a silver arrow as the prize.

SIR GUY: What good will that do?

SHERIFF: He is an excellent marksman who cannot resist such a challenge.

SIR GUY: But if he comes in disguise how will you know him?

SHERIFF: We will make the target so difficult that only he can hit it. When he claims his prize we will arrest him.

SIR GUY: And then?

SHERIFF: The end of Robin Hood - and with him out of the way the rest of the band will be easy to deal with.

(ENTER SERVANT)

SERVANT: The Lady Marion.

SHERIFF: Show her in (TO SIR GUY) You wish to leave now?

SIR GUY: Certainly not. I admire a pretty face as much as you. In fact I am thinking she would make an excellent wife. She is of a noble family and would have a good dowry.

(ENTER MARION)

SHERIFF: Welcome to Nottingham Castle. Your charm makes this sombre place so much brighter.

MARION: Thank you my Lord Sheriff. My father asked me to bring these flowers for your mother. We heard she is ailing.

SHERIFF: How thoughtful of you both, she is suffering from a slight chill. These blooms will brighten her room. You have met Sir Guy of Gisborne I believe?

MARION: (COLDLY) Yes one day when he was beating a poor heavily laden ass for stumbling under it's load.

SIR GUY: The beast was lazy and there was work to be done.

MARION: On my father's estate much work is done but he never allows man nor beast to be overworked. (TO SHERIFF) We hear there is to be an exciting contest at the Fair.

SHERIFF: Yes it will attract the finest archers in the country. The target will be so difficult that only a champion will be able to win.

MARION: (THOUGHTFULLY) I see.

SHERIFF: Afterwards my men will guard the winner with his valuable prize.

SIR GUY: Yes they will take good care of him (BOTH MEN LAUGH).

MARION: Really. I look forward to watching. Now I must return to my home.

SIR GUY: I will escort you there. I can protect you from the rough working people.

MARION: I find the working people kind and honest.

SIR GUY: I promise you I am kind and honest too.

MARION: A reformed character? (MOVES O.P.) Farewell sir (TO SHERIFF).

SHERIFF: Farewell Lady Marion, farewell Sir Guy. (MARION AND SIR GUY EXIT). I had thought to make her my bride but an alliance between her family and his would be very useful. (MOVES FORWARD TABS CLOSE)

SONG:

SHERIFF: I will consult the soothsayer to see whether the signs are favourable for me if I arrange a marriage between Maid Marion and Sir Guy. EXIT O.P.

DANCE OF WIZARDS

SCENE 3 UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE
POSSIBLE SONG
PLENTY OF MOVEMENT DEPICTING WORK IN CAMP ALSO FRIAR TUCK SEATED EATING

ROBIN: If you eat any more Friar Tuck you will surely burst.

F. TUCK: Indeed no Robin. All these years I have eaten plenty whenever I have had the chance, so now my skin is so stretched I am in no danger of bursting.

WILL: Do you know anything of the rumour that the Prior of the new monastery is moving treasure from Glanston Abbey?

F. TUCK: Yes and just as soon as I finish my supper I will tell you all about it.

ROBIN: Now Tuck you have fed exceedingly well - tell us what you have heard.

F. TUCK: I still feel weak from want of food -

(LITTLE JOHN STANDS OVER TUCK)

L. JOHN: You heard what Robin said.

F. TUCK: Oh very well. The Abbott is a greedy man and wants the treasure for himself so he is going to have some men attack the convoy moving the riches from the Abbey to the monastery.

ALAN: How about the Prior?

F. TUCK: He is a good man.

ROBIN: It seems for once we will not be taking treasure but defending it, what say you?

ALL: Aye Aye

F. TUCK: What you haven't heard yet is that the men who are to attack are to be dressed in green, so that you and your band will be blamed.

ROBIN: That Abbott is doubly a rogue. When is the treasure being moved?

F. TUCK: The day after the Fair at sun up.

ROBIN: Good. That gives us some time to work out a plan. Will, John, Alan, Tuck come to the secret cave and let us decide the best way to deal with this. Dizz and Dazz you will join with us in the ~~morning~~ adventure. (ROBIN AND THE OTHERS EXIT)

DIZZ: Did you hear that? We are going to stop a robbery. I always thought Robin Hood and his men did the stealing.

MUCH: Most of the time we help the oppressed and punish the wicked.

JASON: We only rob to live because our homes and goods have been taken from us. (ALL EXIT EXCEPT COMICS)

DAZZ: It doesn't sound such a dangerous life after all.

DIZZ: I'm glad about that.

(ENTER SARAH P.S.)

SARAH: Just what are you two strangers doing here.

DAZZ: We belong to Robin Hood's band.

SARAH: H'm, he must be getting hard up if he takes on drop-outs like you.

DIZZ: I'll have you know we are his right hand men.

DAZZ: Anyway just what are you doing here?

SARAH: I've come with a message from Milady Marion for Robin.

DIZZ: He is very busy at the moment - having a meeting like the unions.

SARAH: Lets hope they don't vote all out. But I must tell you; do you know as I was coming along a man kept following me. I was so non plussed - in fact my non has never been so plussed.

DAZZ: What did you do?

SARAH: Well it was a bit awkward - no matter how slowly I walked he never caught me!

(COMEDY GAG OR SONG HERE - BOYS EXIT)

SARAH: While I'm waiting for Robin I will go to the glen and pick some bluebells for Maid Marion. (EXIT P.S.)

BLUEBELL BALLET

ENTER ROBIN, L. JOHN ETC. O.P.

ROBIN: Now you understand exactly what you have to do?

WILL: Yes, it will be amusing when the Abbott's men find the monks they attack are outlaws in disguise.

L. JOHN: I warrant the rascally fellows will go home with sore heads after the fight (LAUGH).

ENTER SARAH P.S.

ROBIN: Ah there you are Sarah. I heard you had been looking for me. What news from Marion?

SARAH: Here is a letter from her about the competition (HANDS NOTE TO ROBIN)

ROBIN: Ah now I will study this carefully that I may take the silver arrow and still live to fight another day.

SARAH: There is something else I think you should know.

L. JOHN: Well speak up then Sarah.

SARAH: Sir Guy is pestering Maid Marion to marry him.

ROBIN: That blackguard! What does Marion say?

SARAH: She told him not to be silly, but he keeps worrying her.

ROBIN: Fortunately he has no hold over her or her family so he cannot make her marry him.

WILL: Anything else to tell us?

SARAH: Yes. Maid Marion is worried because the local children have no school so I am going to start a class.

MUCH: That's a good idea.

ROBIN: (THOUGHTFULLY) What ages do you take?

SARAH: Any age.

ROBIN: Then some of my band will be joining the class. When do the classes start?

SARAH: Tomorrow morning, near the Nottingham road.

ROBIN: Good - Now MUCH and Jason see Sarah safely on her way (THEY MOVE TO P.S. OTHERS FORWARD)

SARAH: Ta-ta Robin (THEY EXIT P.S.)

SONG F.O.T.

SCENE 4 - THE ROAD THROUGH THE WOODS
(ENTER WOMAN O.P. FOLLOWED BY CHILDREN)

CHILD A: May I pick some flowers?

WOMAN: Yes dear if you wish.

CHILD B: May I?

WOMAN: Of course. I will wait for you for a little while.

CHILD A: Look Mummy I have found this pretty flower.

CHILD B: See mine.

WOMAN: Yes they are lovely.

CHILD C: Oh I can see a butterfly (RUNS O.P.)

WOMAN: Come back, it isn't safe to venture too far from the road.

CHILD D: See what I have found. (MOTHER GOES TO LOOK)

WOMAN: Why it is a baby hedgehog.

CHILD C: Isn't it sweet.

CHILD D: May I take it home?

WOMAN: No dear it wouldn't be happy. Leave it here in the country.

CHILD C: Ooh it is all prickles (SUCKS FINGERS)

WOMAN: Did it prick you?

CHILD C: Just a bit.

WOMAN: I think we had better get on our way now.

CHILD A: Flowers and hedgehogs. (THEY EXIT P.S.)

THE HEDGE-HOG SONG

(ENTER SARAH P.S.)

SARAH: Oh dear oh dear it's all go isn't it? School starts in a few minutes and I'm having difficulty remembering my twice times table! (ENTER DIZZ AND DAZZ WITH L. JOHN O.P.)

L. JOHN: Here you are Sarah. Your first two pupils (EXIT)

SARAH: I wanted pupils but this is ridiculous! Well as you are here you can make yourselves useful.

DIZZ: We didn't know we had to work.

DAZZ: Don't we just sit and listen to you?

SARAH: Not all the time. Anyway if you want to sit you will have to carry a seat here. Come with me. (SHE EXITS P.S. WITH BOYS FOLLOWING GRUMBLING)

(ENTER SOME CHILDREN DOWN STAGE P.S.)

CHILD 1: What I think is awful I've lived for years and haven't done anything.

CHILD 2: Oh yes you have. You've broken all the glass in my father's greenhouse, put a snake in my mother's shopping basket and got tar all over the floor of the Town Hall.

CHILD 1: Well it wasn't my fault they tarred the road. If I didn't have to waste time coming here today I'd probably soon be famous.

CHILD 3: My father says you are famous already - He says everyone for miles around knows you.

CHILD 2: And they know trouble is coming when they see you.

CHILD 1: If I could do a brave deed I bet they would put up a statue to me - dozens of statues.

(BY THIS TIME BOYS HAVE PLACED FORMS ON STAGE)

SARAH: Now come along children take your places and then we will start work.

DIZZ: Ooh she keeps using that awful word.

DAZZ: It seems we will have to think.

SARAH: What with?

DIZZ: Now don't show off because you once finished a children's crossword.

DAZZ: She only managed that with the help of a dictionary.

SARAH: Now pay attention. What is an ig?

DIZZ: (STANDS UP TIPPING HOP ON TO GROUND) An eskimo's house without a loo.

SCENE 5 - NOTTINGHAM FAIR
BOOTHS EITHER SIDE, DANCING BEAR, STRONG MAN, SALESMEN AND WOMEN ETC.

SONG - COME TO THE FAIR

FANFARE

STEWARD: Her Majesty the Queen.

(ENTER QUEEN FROM P.S. BACK, FOLLOWED BY SIR GUY, SISTERS OF SIR GUY ISOBEL AND RUTH, THE SHERIFF, M.MARION ETC. SHERIFF ENTERS O.P. FRONT AND GREETS QUEEN)

SHERIFF: We are overjoyed to welcome your Majesty.

QUEEN: I am delighted to join with my son's subjects on such a happy day. (A WOMAN P.S. PUSHES FORWARD A SMALL CHILD WITH A POSY. CHILD RELUCTANTLY GOES TO QUEEN, HANDS HER THE POSY, CURTSIES AND RUSHES BACK TO MOTHER) Thank you my dear they are very pretty.

SHERIFF: Would you care to shelter from the heat and rest for a while?

QUEEN: My good Sheriff. I have only just arrived, I am not in my dotage and certainly do not need to rest after walking fifty yards. No I intend walking round and meeting some of the people.

SIR GUY: But ma'am they are only rough folk.

QUEEN: They look nice enough to me. Stop fussing. (SHE TURNS AND GOES TO PEDLARS FOLLOWED BY LADIES)

SHERIFF: Why on earth is she here? Couldn't you stop her?

SIR GUY: Have you ever tried to stop our Queen doing what she wants? She is a determined woman. (MARION MANAGES TO GET CLOSE) Will you still keep to your plan to capture Robin Hood?

SHERIFF: Of course. He is not going to slip through my hands this time.

SIR GUY: Look at that fellow over there. Could he be - ?

SHERIFF: If you go on like that you will warn off every outlaw for miles. You are interested in making Maid Marion your bride are you not?

SIR GUY: Certainly.

SHERIFF: If I help to make that possible will you assist me in deposing King Richard and putting Prince John on the throne?

SIR GUY: That is treason!

SHERIFF: I know, but with the King everlastingly out of the country on the Crusades we can do it easily. Are you willing?

SIR GUY: Very well. If we can do it without risk to ourselves.

SHERIFF: I am having a banquet and ball at the castle. We will discuss it then. (THEY MOVE TO O.P.)

SONG AND/OR DANCE (POSSIBLY WILL,MUCH AND ALAN WITH GIRLS) DURING THIS ROBIN ENTERS DISGUISED

MARION: Robin you are taking a terrible risk.

ROBIN: Do not worry dear Marion.

MARION: I heard Sir Guy and the Sheriff talking about capturing you just now - and Robin they are plotting to depose King Richard and crown Prince John in his place.

ROBIN: Now that is serious. We must stop them at all costs. Do not stay talking with me now they may get suspicious. (MARION RE-JOINS OTHER LADIES)

STEWARD: Will all competitors for the Silver Arrow please go to the field where the target is being set up, so that they may see the difficulty of their task. (GRADUAL EXIT OF CAST EXCEPTING THE SISTERS)

WOMAN: It sounds as though it is going to be a difficult competition.

BETSY: They don't give a silver arrow for nothing! (THEY EXIT)

ISOBEL: What a bore this sort of thing is.

RUTH: I suppose it is better than sitting in the castle all day doing embroidery.

SONG Busy doing Nothing. EXIT

COMEDY BY DIZZ, DAZZ, SARAH, FRIAR TUCK, BETSY (ALL OR SOME OF THESE)

CROWD ENTERS AND FAIR CONTINUES ALL PRINCIPALS MIX WITH CHORUS

CHILD A: My dad was going to enter the archery competition, but he says it is much too difficult.

CHILD B: Mine too - he says only a Robin Hood could win that.

CHILD C: Do you think he will enter.

CHILD A: He wouldn't dare.

CHILD B: Oh yes he would. He is very brave.

CHILD C: But he isn't stupid enough to come amongst all the Sheriff's men.

STEWARD: We only have three entries for the contest. Won't some more of you try for the wonderful prize.

WOMAN: What is the use? A lot of the men are good archers but to hit that target they need to be super-men.
(CRIES OF AGREEMENT FROM CROWD)

SHERIFF: Very well. Let the contest begin.

STEWARD: First Alaric a woodsman. (HE STEPS FORWARD, AIMS INTO O.P. WINGS)

CROWD: Oh (A LITTLE CLAPPING) An outer.

STEWARD: Jonathan one of the Sheriff's men. (HE STEPS FORWARD, AIMS INTO O.P. WINGS)

CROWD: Good (MORE CLAPPING)

STEWARD: A good shot - just inside the centre. Next, Robert of Locksley
(ROBIN STEPS FORWARD AND SHOOTS)

CROWD: Good shot.

STEWARD: Jonathan and Robert shoot again.

ROBIN: Can we not have a more difficult target? Something like this is more worthy of the Champion of England. (HE PRODUCES THREE WILLOW WANDS FROM QUIVER)

PEDLAR: Why, that is too much to ask of any archer.

BYSTANDER: I agree. Not even such as Robin Hood could hit those.

ROBIN: If Jonathan is agreeable let us try. What say you (TO JONATHAN)

JONATHAN: I think it is nearly impossible but I am willing to try.

ROBIN: Good man.

STEWARD: Very well. Here, young fellow set up these alongside the target. (GIVES WANDS TO BOY WHO RUNS INTO O.P. WINGS) Now 3 arrows each and Jonathan will shoot first. Are you ready?

JONATHAN: As ready as I will ever be. (HE SHOOTS)

STEWARD: Very close but no hit. Shoot a second time. (HE SHOOTS)

CROWD: (CHEER)
(HE SHOOTS AGAIN)

STEWARD: One hit, two near misses. Now Robert. (ROBIN GOES TO SHOOT, HE AIMS AND SHOOTS THrEE TIMES)

CROWD: Well done. What shooting.

STEWARD: Robert of Locksley is the winner by three hits to one. (CHEER LITTLE JOHN, WILL ETC. MOVE CLOSE TO SHERIFF) Will you come forward to receive your prize.

(ROBIN MOVES TO P.S. WHERE QUEEN AND LADIES ARE WATCHING. BOY ENTERS P.S. BACK AND STANDS BY QUEEN'S RIGHT CARRYING ARROW ON CUSHION.

QUEEN: Robert of Locksley you are a wonderful marksman, well worthy of the title Champion of all England.

ROBIN: Thank you your Majesty.

(QUEEN TAKES ARROW FROM BOY AND PRESENTS IT TO ROBIN)

QUEEN: There you are - a worthy prize for a worthy contestant.

ROBIN: I will always treasure it your Majesty. (HE BOWS AND EXITS P.S. DOWNSTAGE AS CROWD CHEERS. THERE IS A SLIGHT SKIRMISH IN GROUP BY SHERIFF. SEVERAL VILLAGERS TAKE PLACES IN FRONT DOWNSTAGE P.S. EXIT)

SHERIFF: (EMERGING FROM GROUP) Stop that man! (SHERIFF'S MEN TRY TO EXIT BUT VILLAGERS ARE IN THE WAY)

SIR GUY: Why did you not give the word earlier.

SHERIFF: I could not. A knife was being held to my throat by that ruffian. (HE POINTS TO C.B. ONLY TO FIND MAID MARION IS THERE WITH SOME OTHER GIRLS. THE OUTLAWS HAVE VANISHED)

MARION: Really Sir! Tis the first time I have been addressed as a ruffian!

SHERIFF: But, but -

QUEEN: I suggest my Lord Sheriff you close your mouth. You resemble a fish with it so wide open. (SHE TURNS TO CHAT TO LADIES)

SIR GUY: (TO SHERIFF) I thought you had everything organised! I ought to have attended to it myself. SHERIFF LOOKS WILDLY ABOUT HIM AND MOVES O.P. SIR GUY FOLLOWING)

QUEEN: Let us repair to the marquee for refreshment. (GENERAL EXIT EXCEPT SHERIFF, HIS SISTER AND SIR GUY)

ISABEL OR RUTH: Who was going to be a clever boy then and make a sensation by arresting Robin Hood? Huh. (TURNS ON HEEL AND EXITS P.S.)

SIR GUY: Fortunately I have an informer in close contact with the outlaws and he has told me of a plan they have to stop the Glanston Abbey treasure being stolen. We will catch Robin Hood then.

SHERIFF: Splendid. I will arrange -

SIR GUY: You will arrange nothing. After todays pathetic display I am not relying on you. (THEY EXIT QUARRELING O.P.)

(ENTER WILL, ALAN, MUCH AND GIRL FRIENDS)

MATTIE: Do you think you ought to stay around here?

WILL: Why not? A fair is for everyone's enjoyment.

SOPHIE: But suppose any of your enemies come along.

MUCH: They are all busy eating now.

PENNY: Oh dear I am so worried.

ALAN: This is the last place they will expect to find us, so you needn't be.

WILL: LINE TO SONG

(END WITH CROWD ENTERING FOLLOWED BY ENTRY OF QUEEN'S PARTY)

QUEEN: An excellent repast. Now what merriment is in store for us?

RUTH: Some dancers to entertain us I believe Ma'am.

QUEEN: How pleasant. Let the dancing begin.

DANCE: (APPLAUSE)

SONG: INTERVAL.

SCENE 6 - THE BLUE BOAR

OPENING CHORUS:-
(BETSY AND OTHER GIRLS SERVING CUSTOMERS, ON SECOND CHORUS VILLAGE GIRLS OR SERVING GIRLS DANCE)

WILL: I wonder whether the Sheriff has got over his disappointment yet.

L. JOHN: He will be plotting all the harder now to catch Robin, depend on it.

WILL: Yes he doesn't like being made a fool of.

(ENTER O.P. DIZZ AND DAZZ)

L. JOHN: Talking of fools - (LAUGHTER - OUTLAWS EXIT)

DIZZ: (TO DAZZ) How much money have you Dazz?

DAZZ: Well if someone gives me 4½ groats, I will have 5.

DIZZ: You are even poorer than I. How are we going to buy some ale?

DAZZ: We will have to think of something.

DIZZ: I've got it (ONE OF PANTO 'CONS')

DAZZ: Now Betsy, two mugs of ale please.

BETSY: Let me see the money first.

DIZZ: There you are.

BETSY: My word! That is quite a lot of money for you two.
(ENTER O.P. FRIAR TUCK)

DIZZ: Make that three mugs. Friar Tuck has always got a thirst;
(BETSY EXITS P.S.)

F. TUCK: How right you are, and how kind of you to help me quench it.

DAZZ: This seems to be a good inn. (BETSY BRINGS MUGS)

F. TUCK: It is. What brings you two here? I don't remember seeing you here before.

DIZZ: No it is our first visit.

DAZZ: We are meeting someone here.

F. TUCK: In that case I will leave you.

DIZZ: There is no hurry.

F. TUCK: Oh but there is. I am going to the kitchen, there is bound to be something there which will save a poor hungry friar from starving. (FRIAR TUCK EXITS P.S.)

ENTER ROBIN, SEVERAL OF HIS BAND AND SARAH

SARAH: Welcome to the Blue Boar Robin.

ROBIN: Thank you Sarah. We have come to sample some of your famous meat pies.

L. JOHN: We hear they are the best in this part of England.

WILL: Is it true that some of the King's venison finds its way into your kitchen?

SARAH: Of course not.

ROBIN: Well whatever is in them ~~lets go~~ and sample some and we will have some ale too. Lead the way Betsy. (EXIT ALL BUT ROBIN)

ENTER MARION O.P.

ROBIN: Whatever are you doing here Marion.

MARION: I believe you are in great danger.

ROBIN: An outlaw is always in danger.

MARION: This is something more. I visited the Wise ~~Woman~~ Maid of the woods and she has warned me.

ROBIN: You don't really believe in all that foolishness do you?

MARION: She has foretold so many things correctly, some good some bad. She is ~~outside~~ now in, will you please speak with her?

ROBIN: If it will please you Marion. (MARION GOES TO O.P.)

MARION: Please come in Wise ~~Woman~~ Maid (ENTER WISE WOMAN)

ROBIN: Good morning.

W. WOMAN: Good morning Robin Hood. Enjoy this one, by noon tomorrow you will not be free to enjoy anything.

ROBIN: But how can that be?

W. WOMAN: You will be lost because of weakness.

MARION: How dare you. Robin is headstrong and stubborn, but never weak.

W. WOMAN: I did not say he was weak - no, the weakness is somewhere in a ring.

ROBIN: A ring? What does that mean?

W. WOMAN: A ring or a circle, that is what I see - maybe a band.

ROBIN: A band - a member of my band!

MARION: Surely not.

ROBIN: Can you tell me more Wise ~~Woman~~ Maid?

W. WOMAN: Only that because of this weakness you will be a prisoner by tomorrow noon (SHE EXITS)

MARION: It must be to do with the Glanston treasure. Please don't go.

ROBIN: I must. I cannot let the greedy Abbott steal from the church. No, I am forewarned so I will be safe, but who can be the disloyal member of my outlaws?

(ENTER FRIAR TUCK)

F. TUCK: Robin, I think you ought to know that Dizz and Dazz are here to meet someone unknown.

(ROBIN AND MARION LOOK AT EACH OTHER)

MARION: Surely they are not the ones.

ROBIN: I would not have thought it of them, but it does seem suspicious. Friar Tuck, stay with the two of them until after tomorrow morning.

F. TUCK: I will Robin. I will stick closer than glue. (F.TUCK EXITS O.P.)

MARION: I must go now Robin. I have to go to the Banquet and Ball at Nottingham Castle tomorrow and I have much to do before then.

(ENTER ISABELLA P.S. UN-NOTICED)

ROBIN: Take care Marion. They must not discover that you meet me.

MARION: They do not suspect Robin.

ROBIN: Good. Let me see you on your way. (THEY EXIT O.P.)

ISABELLA: So that is the way the wind blows. Guy will be interested (EXIT)

ENTER BETSY P.S.

BETSY: Oh what a busy morning. My feet are killing me (SITS DOWN) Ooh thats better, but I mustn't rest long. I have to go along to the Castle and help prepare for tomorrow nights banquet. (YAWNS) What we really want is a whole lot of extra cooks to help. (YAWNS AGAIN) I'll just close my eyes for five minutes.

COOKS DANCE (EXIT)

ENTER WILL

WILL: (SHAKING BETSY) Betsy wake up!

BETSY: Oh dear did I drop off.

WILL: You certainly did. You will get into hot water if you do things like that.

BETSY: I've been in hot water so much I feel like a tea bag. (EXITS)

ENTER SIR GUY AND MAN WEARING A HOOD

SIR GUY: Come along man, I do not wish to be seen here.

MAN: Jason I have all the information you need master, times, places, exactly how they are going to fool the Abbott. Here it is, all written down. (PRODUCES PAPER SIR GUY TRIES TO TAKE IT) Oh no sir, not until I see the colour of your money.

SIR GUY: (THROWS BAG OF MONEY AT HIM) There you are, do you think I would cheat you?

MAN: Jason Maybe, maybe not. (GIVES OVER THE PAPER)

SIR GUY: Are you to be in the group tomorrow morning?

MAN: Jason Oh no. I am going to sprain my ankle as I go home now. In fact it is already troubling me. (EXITS LIMPING)

SIR GUY: If the outlaws find out who betrayed them, he will regret it (ENTER ISABELLA)

ISABELLA: I have some news for you Guy.

SIR GUY: Isabella, what are you doing here?

ISABELLA: I was out riding when my horse cast a shoe.

SIR GUY: What is this news?

ISABELLA: The Lady Marion and Robin Hood met here just now and were very friendly.

SIR GUY: Were they now. That is very interesting - thank you my dear Sister. Come let us return to Nottingham, Marion will have a shock when she is at the Ball.

(ENTER DIZZ AND DAZZ AND FRIAR TUCK)

DIZZ: What's the matter Friar Tuck, you keep on following us.

F. TUCK: Well I enjoy your company. Who was the fellow you were talking to just now?

DAZZ: We knew him before we joined Robin.

(ENTER ROBIN AND PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF BAND)

ROBIN: All our plans are ready for tomorrow morning so let us celebrate now.

SONG:

SCENE 7 - A ROAD THROUGH THE WOODS
(ENTER DIZZ, DAZZ O.P. SARAH P.S. PROBABLY BACKING)

DIZZ: Hello Sarah you are out early this morning.

SARAH: Yes, I felt I had had enough beauty sleep.

DAZZ: Sarah you will never have enough beauty sleep.

SARAH: My face is my fortune.

DIZZ: You must have been on the dole all your life!

SARAH: Indeed - Well I'm not saying you are a worm, but you will do till one comes along.

DAZZ: I never thought I'd see anything like you without turning over a stone.

SARAH: Huh! With a proper amount of training you could be a nobody. (CARRY ON TO GAG - EXIT)

(ENTER SIR GUY, JASON AND JONATHAN)

SIR GUY: Now remember I want only Robin Hood captured.

JONATHAN: But what of the other outlaws?

SIR GUY: Once their leader is arrested it will not be difficult to deal with the rest, but we have to make sure of him.

JASON: I have an idea. Suppose I draw Robin away from the rest.

SIR GUY: Very well but don't let there be any slip-up.

JONATHAN: Someone is coming.

SIR GUY: We will take up positions in that thicket. (EXIT P.S.)

Robin — What a lovely time this is just before dawn

(ENTER ROBIN AND HIS OFFICERS)

Jump Daybreak.

ROBIN: Now it is time to don the monks robes and then protect the treasure.

WILL: The Abbott is in for a surprise.

L. JOHN: The robes are hidden in the hollow oak.

ROBIN: Then see all the men put them on and let us be off. (ENTER JASON AS OTHERS MOVE O.P.)

JASON: Robin wait, I have bad news.

ROBIN: What is wrong Jason.

JASON: Maid Marion has been taken prisoner - she is being held at Nottingham Castle.

ROBIN: The Sheriff must have discovered she knows us and gives us information. Will, Little John, Alan you know our plan for this morning, go and see that right is done.

W. L.J. & A: We will.

ALAN: What of you Robin.

ROBIN: I will go straight to Nottingham to the rescue. Go you have no time to spare. (THEY EXIT O.P. EXCEPT JASON AS ROBIN GETS TO P.S. SIR GUY, JONATHAN AND JASON SURROUND HIM)

SIR GUY: I have waited for this day for a long time Robin Hood.

ROBIN: Betrayed by one of my own men!

JASON: I was in Sir Guy's employ before ever I joined your band.

ROBIN: The story about Maid Marion is that true or false.

SIR GUY: False. She will be at the Ball tonight,while you languish in the dungeons I will be dancing with her.

JONATHAN: It would be well to move from here. We don't want to meet up with the rest of them.

JASON: You are safe for a while, the others are busy.

SIR GUY: Have you tied his hands securely? Then we will get back to the Castle. (THEY EXIT P.S.) *(W.W. ENTERS O.P.)

WISE WOMAN: As I foretold Robin is no longer free, but with somany good friends help will soon be on the way. *
(FROM * TO * CAN BE OMITTED IF ACTRESS IS IN SCENE 8)

F.O.T. (ENTER RUTH AND ISOBEL O.P.)

RUTH: I think we ought to do something about it although I suppose it is rather late now, but really she will expect it.

ISOBEL: Stop dithering about and tell me what you mean.

RUTH: The Queen - coming here tonight - the first ball she has attended since King Richard went away.

ISOBEL: Ah the dear Queen. It is so nice to have someone in Nottingham intelligent to talk to.

RUTH: But should we?

ISOBEL: (TESTILY) Should we what?

RUTH: I keep saying, should we make a presentation to her.

ISOBEL: Presentation? Oh er yes, I have thought of it. The question is, what sort of presentation?

RUTH: A nice bouquet?

ISOBEL: I will organise it. Something on the lines of flowers with possibly a necklace if I can get a suitable one in time.

RUTH: Oh dear - it is late - what a pity I didn't think about it earlier.

ISOBEL: You thought about it? Don't be silly, it was my idea. I have to do all the thinking round here (SHE MOVES TO P.S.)

RUTH: We are so lucky to have such a wonderful worker as you (FOLLOWING)

ISOBEL: Oh really Ruth stop fawning. (EXIT)

DANCE: ~~CAN-CAN~~

SCENE 8 - NOTTINGHAM CASTLE
(SOME GUESTS ALREADY ON STAGE. SHERIFF D.S. P.S. TALKING WITH SIR GUY. OTHER GUESTS ENTER AND MIX)

SHERIFF: A very successful morning Guy.

SIR GUY: Yes I am well pleased. Have you got the villain safely guard

SHERIFF: Yes in the deepest dungeon and with some of my ablest men on watch.

(ENTER MAID MARION. SIR GUY GOES TO HER)

SIR GUY: Good evening Lady Marion. Even more beautiful I see.

MARION: ~~Acidly~~ (COLDLY) I only enjoy compliments from my friends.

SIR GUY: I hope before long that you will look upon me as more than a friend.

(ENTER QUEEN P.S. B.S. GUESTS CURTSEY AND BOW)

SHERIFF: Welcome to Nottingham Castle your Majesty.

QUEEN: Thank you my Lord Sheriff. (ISOBEL PRESENTS QUEEN WITH FLOWERS) Thank you Lady Isobel. Oh jewels as well I see. Very beautiful but the money is needed for more important things. I cannot accept the bracelet. See that it is used to help some of the poor. Now let the dancing commence. (MUSIC FOR DANCE) Let us join in the gaiety.

(COURT DANCE)

QUEEN: And my Lord Sheriff I understand you have a very fine voice. I would like to hear you sing.

SONG: ~~Roses & Sugar~~ APPLAUSE
(GUESTS EXIT LEAVING MARION AND GUY)

SIR GUY: Later this evening I have some news for you.

MARION: There is nothing you can tell me that could possibly interest me.

SIR GUY: I can guarantee you will find my news of the greatest interest.

MARION: Sir you are annoying me (SHE EXITS P.S. BK HE FOLLOWS)

(ENTER SARAH O.P. BK)

SARAH: I don't like the way his nibs is looking at my Lady. I've got a nasty feeling something has gone wrong somewhere, but I'm blessed if I know what it is - like having an itch and you don't know where to scratch - still enough of worrying (GAG)

(AFTER GAG SARAH HEARS SOMEONE COMING AND HIDES, ENTER SHERIFF AND SIR GUY)

SHERIFF: Now that Robin Hood is safely under lock and key our next move is to depose King Richard and put Prince John on the throne.

SIR GUY: Yes, he is weak, we can easily make him do our bidding.

SHERIFF: The King will be away for some time to come, but we ought to make our move soon.

SIR GUY: Yes, we want John firmly established as King by the time he returns. We ought to be able to line our pockets nicely, you and I.

(SARAY TIP-TOES OFF. QUEEN AND OTHERS RETURN TO STAGE. ARRANGE CUE FOR:-

JESTERS DANCE

SHERIFF: Sir Guy has a very important announcement for all of you.

SIR GUY: This morning I captured the outlaw Robin Hood.

MARION: Oh!

SHERIFF: The rascal is now safely imprisoned in our dungeons.

QUEEN: I suppose it is a triumph for you Sir Guy.

SIR GUY: Indeed it is your Majesty.

QUEEN: Yet I understand that he is very kind-hearted and generous to the poor.

SHERIFF: Generous with money taken from travellers.

MARION: His own lands have been taken from him unjustly.

SIR GUY: You shouldn't worry your pretty little head about such things my dear (CROWD CONVERSE) Marion you realise this is the end of Robin.

MARION: Oh no.

SIR GUY: Marry me and I will put in a good word for him.

MARION: Knowing you as I do my Lord I have no faith in your promises (SHE GOES TO QUEEN) Your Majesty will you please excuse me for the remainder of the evening?

QUEEN: Of course my dear child. Tell me was the Champion Archer of England by any chance Robin Hood?

MARION: Yes ma'am.

QUEEN: Ah that explains a lot. I saw how tenderly you looked at him then. Go Lady Marion, you are excused your duties for this evening. I hope everything goes well with you. (MARION CURTSIES AND EXITS O.P. BK, GUY GOES TO FOLLOW HER) Oh Sir Guy come here I wish to speak with you for a moment. (GUY IS ANNOYED BUT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY THE QUEEN)

DANCE AND/OR SONG

SHERIFF: And now to the Great Hall for the banquet. (HE AND QUEEN LEAD OFF P.S. BK)

ISOBEL: (TO GUY) Didn't Marion fall for your fatal charm.

SIR GUY: Oh be quiet Isobel.

ISOBEL: I always thought the girls found you irresistible.

SIR GUY: She will come to her senses before long.

ISOBEL: It sounds so romantic.

RUTH: (WHO HAS ONLY JUST JOINED THEM) Romantic? I suppose so, but isn't it dangerous?

ISOBEL: What are you on about now?

RUTH: Outlaws here in the Castle - awfully worrying.

ISOBEL: One outlaw, and what is so worrying?

RUTH: Suppose he escapes - we might be killed in our beds.

ISOBEL: If he does escape, I'm quite sure he won't waste time like that. Now for goodness sake get into the Great Hall (EXIT)

(ENTER DIZZ AND DAZZ O.P. STEALTHILY. BUSINESS OF BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER)

DIZZ: I wonder where they have put Robin?

DAZZ: In the dungeons I expect.

DIZZ: Ooh I'm frightened.

DAZZ: Don't be a coward. (NOISE OFF STAGE THEY CLING TO EACH OTHER)

DIZZ: What was that ?

DAZZ: I don't know. I'd like to go home.

DIZZ: Me too. (THEY TURN TO GO) No we came to rescue Robin. We can't go back without him. (THEY MOVE CAUTIOUSLY TO P.S. ENTER SERVANT)

SERVANT: Who are you and where do you think you are going?

DIZZ: We've come to read the meters.

SERVANT: Oh I see. (DIZZ AND DAZZ EXIT P.S., SERVANT WALKS ACROSS TO O.P. THEN STOPS) But we haven't got any meters (or But meters haven't been invented yet) EXIT O.P.

(ENTER SARAH O.P.)

SARAH: I wonder why he/she is talking to him/herself?

(ENTER WILL O.P.)

WILL: Sarah!

SARAH: Oh dear, you did give me a fright.

WILL: We have come to get Robin.

SARAH: It won't be easy.

WILL: With your help we will do it. Little John and Alan are outside the Castle bringing the carcase of a dear for the kitchens.

SARAH: What is the point of that?

WILL: The soldiers will let them in because they seem harmless. If you will show us the quickest way to the dungeons the rest will be easy.

SARAH: Getting Little John and Alan in seems easy enough, but how are you going to get out?

WILL: The carcase is just a deerskin stuffed with hay and weapons. Robin will hide inside the skin. Now Sarah get moving!

SARAH: Come with me to the entrance to the kitchens we will meet the others and I will show you the dungeons (THEY EXIT)

(ENTER GUESTS ETC.)
SONG AND DANCE FINISHING F.O.T.

SCENE 9 - KICKING THE DUNGEONS

OPEN WITH COMEDY SPOT DIZZ AND DAZZ (ENTER WILL & ALAN O.P.)

WILL: What are you two doing here?

DIZZ: Trying to rescue Robin.

ALAN: We thought you betrayed him.

DAZZ: Us? Not likely (ENTER LITTLE JOHN)

L. JOHN: I have left the carcase there so that I am free to fight if necessary.

ALAN: It is so gloomy down here. How are we going to find which cell Robin is in?

WILL: We will go to every one if we must. Hush, someone is coming. Quick (THEY MOVE OUT OF SIGHT)

(ENTER SOLDIER(S) BEARING FOOD)

SOLDIER: (GOING TO P.S.) Here is your dinner, bold outlaw. The Sheriff wants you to eat today, for tomorrow - (OUTLAWS KNOCK OUT SOLDIER(S) PREFERABLY INTO WINGS)

L. JOHN: I will soon deal with that padlock Robin (HE GETS CROWBAR & TAKES IT TO CELL P.S. - ENTER ROBIN WITH OTHERS)

ROBIN: Thank you men, but how to get out of here? We are outnumbered so much that to fight would be madness.

ALAN: We have a deerskin. If you get in it we can say the cook rejected the carcase as not being good enough.

L. JOHN: We will tell the soldiers we are not carrying it all the way back, and then tip it into the moat.

WILL: As soon as it goes in the water, you rip it open with your knife, and swim under water to the bank.

ROBIN: A first-class scheme. Let us make the Sheriff look foolish yet again.

: How are Dizz and Dazz going to escape?

DIZZ: Don't worry about us. We look so simple they take no notice of us (EXIT)

(ENTER SARAH)

SARAH: Before you leave I forgot to tell you what Dirty Dick and Gruesome Guy are up to.

ROBIN: Who? (LAUGHS) Oh you mean the Sheriff and Sir Guy.

SARAH: Got it in one. Well they are going to put Prince John on the throne while King Richard is away fighting.

ROBIN: Some how we must get word to the King. Let us go straight to the Wise Woman. She will help us (B/O & TABS)

F.O.T. POSSIBLY DANCE

SPOT ON CENTRE. TABS OPEN SLIGHTLY. WISE WOMAN & ROBIN

ROBIN: So you see we have to let the King know so that he returns to England at once.

W. WOMAN: My sister, the Wise Woman of the desert will help.

ROBIN: But how can you get in touch with her quickly enough?

W. WOMAN: We have ways of communicating of which you know nothing. I promise you the King will be here very soon.

SCENE 10 - A TENT IN THE DESERT
KING RICHARD AND KNIGHTS ALSO ONE EASTERN MAN SEATED

EASTERN DANCE (DANCERS EXIT)

K. RICHARD: I intended staying away from England for at least another year, but because I have such a feeling of restlessness here we are already on our way.

KNIGHT: It is probably because you have been away so long that you yearn to see your homeland.

King R. No, it is something more than that.

AZARI: My Lord, amongst our people it is said there is a Sorceress who is very clever. Maybe she could help you.

KING: I am a down-to-earth man. Why should I consult a Sorceress?

AZARI: It will do no harm and at least it will provide a diversion for a while.

KING: Oh very well. Send this woman to me. What is her name?

AZARI: She is known as the Wise Woman of the Desert (HE EXITS)
POS. LINE TO SONG.

KING: I wonder what is happening in England now?

KNIGHT: It is probably pouring.

KING: After the blazing skies that have been our lot for so long, it will be good to feel rain beating down on my face.

(ENTER AZARI)

AZARI: The Sorceress is outside my Lord.

KING: It didn't take you long to find her.

AZARI: It is very strange. I met her on the way. She was coming to see you.

KING: Bring her to me (AZARI EXITS)

KNIGHT: Quite a coincidence.

KING: Maybe something more. (ENTER SORCERESS)

SORCERESS: (BOWING) Greetings noble master.

KING: Greetings. I wish to ask you -

SORCERESS: I know. I have come here to tell you news of great importance. you must return to your native land at once.

KING: I knew it! But why?

SORCERESS: There are those who seek to take advantage of your absence and give your throne to another.

KING: Surely not.

SORCERESS: It is written in the sand. Two evil men are plotting to put a weak Prince in your place.

KNIGHT: She cannot know that this is so.

KING: I believe it. How can I prevent it? We are still a long way from England.

EASTERN MAN: I may be able to help. Right across Europe I have friends, each of whom holds at least one of my fast horses. By using these you could reach England much quicker than your enemies could possibly expect.

KING: You are a true friend. (TO SORCERESS) Thank you. How can I repay you?

SORCERESS: I want no payment for myself, but please make sure my sister does not get punished as a witch.

KING: That I promise.

(SORCERESS BOWS AND EXITS)

AZARI: I will make preparation for my Lord's departure (EXIT)

SONG: KING AND MEN F.O.T.

SCENE 11 - A PATH IN THE FOREST
DIZZ AND DAZZ AND SARAH COMEDY SPOT
(ENTER LITTLE JOHN LOOKING WORRIED)

DIZZ: Hello Little John whatever is the matter.

L. JOHN: Things are getting very serious. Prince John is said to be on his way to Nottingham. Robin thinks the Barons may proclaim him King. (ENTER ROBIN, WILL, ALAN, ETC.)

ROBIN: Yes, it only needs a bit of a push from the Sheriff and Sir Guy.

WILL: Is there no word of the King yet?

ROBIN: None. (ENTER F. TUCK)

F. TUCK: Robin a lone traveller is coming this way. Do we take him?

ROBIN: Let him go on his way - no, bring him here. There is just a chance he has news. (EXITS)

ALAN: (TO WILL) Robin is losing heart.

(ENTER AND KING RICHARD)

ROBIN: All who travel through the forest pay us a toll, which enables us to live and to help the poor.

KING: Ah, so you are Robin Hood are you? Are you helping to set John on the throne while Richard is out of the way?

ROBIN: Indeed no sir. We despise John for the weakling he is. Our allegiance always has been and always will be to King Richard.

KING: Well spoken Robin Hood. Would that I had more subjects like you!

ROBIN: My Lord, King Richard (ROBIN & OUTLAWS KNEEL).

KING: Rise men. On my journey home I have heard many stories about you. How you took my venison, robbed my subjects and many other deeds. Are they true?

ROBIN: Er quite a lot of them.

KING: I see. I want you all at Nottingham Castle this afternoon.

ROBIN: Very well my Lord. You do know there is a scheme affot to -

KING: To put John on the throne? Yes. I have already taken steps to deal with that. Now with your permission I will be on my way. (EXIT)

WILL: What do you think will happen to us Robin?

ROBIN: I don't know Will but England is safe now.

(POS SONG)

Scene 12 - NOTTINGHAM CASTLE
(RUTH DISCOVERED WITH MAID - ISABEL ENTERS)

RUTH: Oh Isabel - don't - my heart (ALL OF A FLUTTER)

ISABEL: Really Ruth you get worse. What is the matter now?

RUTH: The King - coming here - what can we do?

ISABEL: Welcome him of course.

RUTH: But Prince John -

ISABEL: My dear now that King Richard has returned I am having no truck with any schemes to boost the Prince.

RUTH: But your brother - wants him on the throne.

ISABEL: Don't you believe it. We don't stay on the losing side. Where is your brother?

RUTH: (WAILING) Don't know - can't find him.

ISABEL: If he is in as much as a panic as you he has probably run away. Now pull yourself together. People have started arriving to greet the King.

(ENTER SIR GUY O.P.)

SIR GUY: Ah there you are Isabel. Have you got your story right?

ISABEL: Yes Guy. Never were there two more loyal subjects of King Richard than Sir Guy and his sister Isabel.

SIR GUY: Good girl.

FANFARE - ENTRY OF COURTIERS THEN QUEEN AND KING

SIR GUY: We are honoured by your presence my Lord.

KING R: Hmm - You are Sir Guy I believe.

SIR GUY: That is so and this is my sister the Lady Isabel, who like me is a great admirer of yours.

KING R: Really. I have heard a lot about both of you.

ISABEL: Thank you your Majesty (CURTSIES)

KING R: Humph. (LOOKS ROUND SEES MARION) Ah Lady Marion (SHE CURTSIES) How nice to see a charming girl whose family is famous for its loyalty to me. I trust your father is well?

MARION: Yes my Lord. He is visiting his brother in the South.

KING R: Now I believe I have some rogues waiting to see me.

SIR GUY: Rogues my Lord?

KING R: Yes. Robin Hood and his officers (RE-ACTION FROM ALL)

SIR GUY: He has come to the Castle willingly?

(ENTER ROBIN, WILL, ETC.)

QUEEN: Yes, because he is sure of justice from my son.

KING R: You heard what the Queen said. Are you willing to abide by my decision about you and your band?

ROBIN: Yes my Lord for we believe you to be a truly just man.

KING R: Very well. Rise Robin Earl of Huntington. Your estate is to be returned to you by Sir Guy plus half of his estate. The other half will be divided between your men.

(CHEER FROM CROWD, ANGER FROM ISABEL AND GUY)

ROBIN: My Liege I am content to get back my own land. Let Sir Guy have the half of his estate you wish to give to me.

KING R: So be it.

ISABEL: See what your scheming has done for us. We have to take charity from an outlaw.

SIR GUY: Hush Isabel we are lucky to come out of this with our lives.

ROBIN: (TO MARION) And now Marion at last I can ask you to be my bride.

MARION: Gladly Robin.

ISABEL: (TO WILL) You are so handsome and will make such a good land-owner. I hope you will invite me to your very first 'at home' - who knows we might become more than just friends (TAKES HIS ARM)

WILL: (LOOSENING HER HOLD) I very much doubt it. I have my own dear girl who stood by me when I was penniless.

(ISABEL TURNS TO ALAN & MUCH WITH GIRLS)

ALAN: We, too, are betrothed.

(ISABEL STAMPS AND TURNS AWAY)

(ENTER DIZZ AND DAZZ)

ROBIN: I want to tell you how sorry I am that we ever suspected you two.

DIZZ: You suspected us?

L. JOHN: We thought you gave the information which caused Robin to be caught.

DAZZ: We tried to rescue him.

ROBIN: Yes, we know now. Will you come and help me look after my estate?

MARION: Please do.

DIZZ: Oh gosh.

SARAH: I think they need someone to look after them.

BETSY: So do I.

DIZZ & DAZZ: Please lock us in the dungeons (LAUGHTER)

SONG