

ROBIN HOOD



The last scene in "Robin Hood"

TOY THEATRE
Characters and Scenes
in
ROBIN HOOD

A DRAMA
IN TWO ACTS
Adapted for
Toy Theatre Performance

4 Plates of Characters 301-304,
4 Scenes 401-404
2 Wings Nos. 1 & 2

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CHARACTERS REPRESENTED

MEN

KING RICHARD THE LIONHEART
THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
SIR GUY DE GISBOURNE
ROBIN HOOD
LITTLE JOHN
MUCH THE MILLER'S SON
WILL SCARLET
ALAN-A-DALE
FRIAR TUCK

WOMEN

MAID MARIAN

Seneshal. Outlaws, Soldiers.

DIRECTIONS

Pl. = Character plate.

Sc. = Scene

Stage directions are in bold type

First edition 1976

Second edition 1990

Third edition 2020 (internet)

ROBIN HOOD

ACT ONE

Sc.1 Robin Hood's lair deep in Sherwood Forest, No.1, cut scene backed by No.2. Fire and log setpieces in foreground. Tree wings No.1. Outlaws pl.2, Little John, Much, Will Scarlet pl.1 on stage.

Will: Fortune shines on us this happy day. Once persecuted as outlaws, then Robin Hood came to lead us, now we are the champions of the poor.

John: Champions of the poor indeed, aye and curse of the wealthy tyrants. **(Laughter)**

Much: Why Prince John quakes at the very name Robin Hood!

Enter Robin Hood pl.1

Robin: What my merry men praising yourselves again, there is still much work for us to do to rescue Old England from her misery. Lo ! What is this?

Enter outlaws with Maid Marian and King Richard disguised pl.2.

Robin: Unhand that lady men!

Outlaw: But Robin she is a wealthy prize, Marian of Arlingford, we have seized her upon the road, she will fetch a good ransom.

Robin: Unhand her I say. Let everyone know that Robin Hood will cause no harm to any lady, she is free to go.

Exit outlaws and Marian, enter Marian pl.1

Robin: My apologies madam for the actions of my men, permit me to arrange your safe escort home.

Marian: I thank you but permit me to tarry a while for it is you Robin Hood that we have come to meet. Why else would wealthy people frequent the roads of Sherwood!

Robin: I am at your service but pray tell me the identity of your gentleman companion.

Marian: That I cannot reveal, I am afraid, for reasons of great importance which you will later understand.

Robin: So be it! Release the prisoner, our guests will join us at our table. Break out the finest mead and spread the table with venison! Come my lady.

Sc.2. A room in Nottingham Castle, No.3. Hall wings No.2. Guards pl.2 on either side. Enter Sheriff pl.2, Sir Guy pl.2.

Sheriff: Ah Sir Guy I hope that you enjoy your stay in Nottingham and that the chill of this castle does not upset you.

Sir Guy: My Lord Sheriff, the chill of the castle aye indeed the hardest frost does not give me as much discomfort as the thought of Robin Hood riding free in Sherwood Forest.

Sheriff: That is so, I hardly need reminding, and of course in your case there is the affair of Marian of Arlingford.

Sir Guy: What on earth got into the woman! I was there, her suitor offering her wealth and riches, the next I hear she is running off daily into the forest to see that accursed outlaw. Would that I could run that Robin Hood through and bring her to a senses! Sheriff give me man and I will bring you the head of Robin Hood!

Sheriff: What makes you so certain that you will succeed when I with one thousand men have yet to catch the fox?

Sir Guy: Each day Marian gets a little more careless, originally she wove a complex path to prevent pursuit to the outlaw's lair, but I have now succeeded in tracking her to within a short distance of the viper's nest!

Sheriff: Then go Sir Guy de Gisbourne and take with you as many men as you require. Soon we will be free of the scourge of the forest and will be able to prosper and wax fat in the service of Prince John. With King Richard safely out of the way in the Holy Land we can dispel the foolish notions of the people about freedom and take hold of the riches of this land which is rightly ours.

Sc.3 Robin Hood's lair as Sc1. Robin Hood pl.1 and Friar Tuck pl.1 on stage.

Robin: Brave Friar Tuck, who can wield a quarter-stave as well as he preaches the holy book, how think you to hold a service here in the green wood?

Tuck: This glade be sanctified as any in England in these wicked times, but pray you what manner of service had you in mind?

Robin: A marriage ceremony.

Tuck: And would the lady in question be the enchanting Marian who daily comes to see you and grows in your affection?

Robin: It would..... but see now she comes, your absence at this time would be appreciated.

Tuck: Wanted later maybe but at the moment not at all, well I can take it, I will go.

Exit Friar Tuck enter Maid Marian pl.1.

Robin: Marian my love! The day is made fairer by your presence!

Marian: Oh Robin, and what business had you with the Friar?

Robin: I shall tell you in full very soon but I first have a question for you.

Marian: A question, what can that be?

Exit Robin re-enter kneeling pl.2

Robin: My beloveds Marian, my love for you has increased so much that I must ask you if thou wilt marry me.

Marian: Oh! Indeed! I will!

Enter Sir Guy with sword drawn and guards pl.2.

Sir Guy: A pretty scene indeed! I will put an end to that. Robin Hood you have an appointment with the hangman in Nottingham!

Exit Robin re-enter with sword drawn pl.2

Robin: Never! Robin Hood will not be taken alive!

Robin and Sir Guy fight, Marian screams, Robin kills Sir Guy. Exit Robin hood, enter Robin Hood held by guards pl.3 and Sir Guy dead pl.2.

Marian: Robin! Robin!

Robin: Fear not my love no prison can hold me, I will be back.

Exit Robin and guards.

Marian: All is lost, all is lost!

ACT TWO

Sc.4 A room in Nottingham Castle, as Sc.2 Sheriff pl.2, guards pl.2 on stage.

Sheriff: This is my greatest hour! Robin Hood captured alive! Sad it cost the life of Sir Guy, that is another crime to add to the list of foul deeds perpetuated by the scourge. Glad would I be to string him up from the castle wall, but I fear rebellion from the foolish people who have taken him to heart. Thus I have made a present of him to Prince John who will have the pleasure of executing him in London. I sent the news to him some three days past and would expect word by now.

Enter Much and Little John in disguise pl.3.

John: My Lord Sheriff, his Royal Highness Prince John sends greeting and congratulates you on the capture of Robin Hood.

Sheriff: At last the emissaries I await, you have warrants?

John: Yes, and his Royal Highness by them demands the immediate transfer of Robin Hood by us to the capital.

Sheriff: So be it, guards fetch out Robin Hood!

Exit guard, re-enter Robin Hood held by guard pl.3

Sheriff: Well gentleman here he is, the man most feared in England, now my prize. Robin Hood! Look at me! This is the summit of my ambition. Reluctant as I am to see you go, your absence from Nottingham will be most welcome. Death awaits you in London, expect no favour from the London mob, they will tear you apart.

Robin: I am not afraid to die but I will not until you are well and truly buried my Lord Sheriff!

Sheriff: Bah! Take him away, and call out the guard, they will escort you from the shire.

Exit Robin Hood, Little John, Much and guards.

Sheriff: What daring the villain has, defiant to the last, he makes me shudder. Lo what is this?

Enter Seneschal pl.2.

Seneschal: My Lord, emissaries of Prince John have arrived.

Sheriff: Knave, I know that, have they not left with Robin Hood?

Seneschal: No sir, these are different men and they have signed warrants!

Sheriff: Tricked! Devastation, I am lost, Robin Hood freed by trickery, the guard, call out the guard!

Seneschal: But sir, they are dispatched with Robin Hood.

Sheriff: Fool that I am, idiot, they will no doubt be ambushed, raise the alarm, I am undone.

Bell tolling.

**Sc5. The London road, view of Nottingham Castle No.4.
The milestone setpiece in pl.4 in the foreground. Tree wings No.1**

Enter Will Scarlet pl.1., Outlaws pl.4

Will: The guard with Robin Hood is only a minute or two away, is everyone in place?

Outlaw: Yes Will Scarlet, the road is lined for a hundred paces with men waiting to welcome him back and dispatch the guard.

Will: Good my first arrow will be the signal for the attack. Quick, to your places here they come!

Exit all. Enter guard on horseback hit by arrow pl.4, cross and exit followed by Robin Hood, Little John and Much in disguise on horseback. Enter guard with sword drawn pl. 3 and outlaws pl.4 who chase him away (all exit, enter Will Scarlet pl.1

Will: Welcome back to Sherwood Robin!

Robin: How good to be back, and such friendship as shown by your action welcomes me. Will, I leave you to clear up what is left of the sheriff's guard, meanwhile Little John, Much, I must get you out of these ridiculous disguises. How is Marian?

Sc.6 Robin Hood's liar, as Sc.1. Maid Marian, Friar Tuck, Will Scarlet, Alan-a-Dale pl.1. Outlaws pl.2, Robin Hood pl.3, Little John and Much pl.4, on stage. Friar Tuck between Robin and Marian at centre of stage.

Tuck... And now I pronounce you man and wife.

John: Three cheers for Robin Hood and Maid Marian!
(Cheering)

Robin: Thank you my merry men. Wait, our mysterious guest comes this way.

Enter King Richard pl.3

Richard: Robin Hood, men of Sherwood, the time has come to reveal my true identity. I am Richard, Richard your king.

Exit Robin Hood re-enter Robin Hood kneeling pl.2

Robin: Your Majesty, I crave forgiveness for the detention I have imposed.

Richard: Rise for you have done me service. I escaped from the Holy Land and returned to my kingdom to find my life here in peril. Where safer to escape Prince John's evil henchmen than in Sherwood Forest where they fear to go! There is of course the small matter of eating my deer but I am prepared to overlook that. In fact I will do more and grant you your freedom and restore you to the Earldom of Huntingdon which is rightly yours, provided you promise to serve me.

Robin: Sire, I shall do that until death.

Richard: Then rise Robin Hood, Earl of Huntingdon and King of Sherwood Forest!

CURTAIN