

Under The Greenwood Tree



A Musical Comedy

John Heyworth

UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

SCHOOL PRODUCTION NOTES

John Heyworth

*25 speaking parts, cast size can be from 20 – 80 depending on extra acts, dancers and villagers.
Running time:- 45minutes, can be longer if extras used.*

'Under The Greenwood Tree' has many acting parts that suit the normal range of abilities across the classroom. The script is witty and will delight audiences of all ages.

'I saw a performance of this play at a local primary school last night and it was DELIGHTFUL!' (WA 2007)

'This play is ideal for our school to perform.'(NSW 2007)

'An extraordinary performance.' (WA 2003)

'We feel it is a great script and the students are excited about the possibility of performing it for their parents (Qld 2000)

The play can be as big or small a production as you need. An upper primary school class can perform the musical as it is. However, if you wish to include more classes, or the whole school, may I make the following suggestions:-

1. Use your upper primary school students as your actors.
2. Think of your middle and/or juniors as apprentices. Use them for villagers, jesters, dancing groups, backing singers, backstage help and circus acts. They will be your actors in the next production.
3. Hold your actors backstage, and use the first 3 rows in the auditorium to hold your dancing groups. They can then come on stage as needed.
4. Use solo singers. Soloists usually have more impact than mass singing. Use backing singers for the chorus unless you have a choir. Your choir could also be the villagers.
5. Your soloists can come from any age group and do not have to be actors. (You may have students who can act very well, but not want to sing).
6. Don't try and do everything yourself. Be a producer and enlist the help of staff and parents to be coordinators of costumes, make-up, sets and props, backstage managers, choreographers, acting directors, sound effects, programs, publicity, tickets and seating.
7. If you want live music for extra atmosphere and excitement I strongly recommend that you survey your parents. All you need is a drummer, keyboard player and bass player. If you are lucky you can add other musicians like a guitarist, a sax or a trumpet player. It is probably best not to go for more than a five piece as there is a danger that the music may become a bit loose or out of control.
8. After all this work, book a decent theatre with a professional lighting/sound technician. You may have to charge a bit more for tickets, but believe me it will be worth every cent you spend.

GOOD LUCK AND BREAK A LEG!

UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

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UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

SETTING: Forest scene in Sherwood Forest and The Court of King John. These scenes interchange. To the left of stage is a watchtower.

CHARACTERS: These form two rival football teams. Robin and his men should be the local favourite. King John and his men should be the rival team in the community. King John should be small and loud. For extra humour, talk one of your big beefy football boys into being Maid Marian.

The Tree the one who always gets to be the tree in every play

Robin Hood a brave but accident prone leader

MERRY MEN

Little John tall and brave and not too bright

Will Scarlet witty and brave

Allen-a Dale a moody 'muso'

Will Gamwell artistic type with a lisp.

Clement of Glen has a strong liking for sleep.

Friar Tuck a 'clever boots'

Much-The-Millers-Son loves his food.

AT THE COURT

King John small, loud-mouthed, but not too brave.

Lackey sniveling foot servant of the king

Sheriff Of Nottingham tries to be authoritarian without much success

Donald the look-out guard, very loud and not the brightest

Marian sweet, smart and witty

Tina and Marge long suffering ladies-in-waiting to Marian

GUARDS

Greedy
Kaos
Hungry
Stretch
Hornet
T-bone
Spider
Lofty

Parts can be doubled. (Names can be substituted for a local team's nicknames)
very serious 'try hards', but bumblers all
guards with local sport team's emblem on shirts

OPTIONAL PARTS

- CHORUS/EXTRAS:** Villagers, More Guards, Ladies in waiting, Trees.
- DANCING GROUPS:** The Dungeon Dwellers. (Dancers for the Castle Scenes:- good for boys)
The Funky Foresters
The Greenwood Groovers (Dancers for the Forest scenes)
- MINSTRELS:** Optional recorder players/percussionists, 'on stage' for overture and/or between scene performances.
- COURT JESTERS:** Optional between scene performances:-
tap dancing / magic tricks / jokes / juggling / slapstick / etc
- CIRCUS ACTS:** Pixies and Fairies.
- SOUND EFFECTS:** Someone to imitate the sound of a lark and other bird sounds. Other sound effects include rattling chains, eerie wind, tolling bells etc. Smoke machine for eerie night ghost scene.

SCENE 1

Curtain opens on to Sherwood Forest. The stage is bare except for a fallen log which can be used as a seat. On stage is a person dressed as a tree. There are a few fallen leaves around the stage. Birds twittering fade

TREE

(MOVES FORWARD, KICKING SOME LEAVES IN DISGUST)

Well, here I am, yet again.

And, as if you didn't know, I'm supposed to be a tree.

A tree! It just isn't fair. Ever since I first started school, whenever there was a play, I always ended up being a tree!

(IN MOCK VOICE)

Oh what can I be Miss!

(IN REPLY)

'Oh Why don't you go over there and be a nice little tree.

(STAMPS FOOT)

Tree! Tree! Tree! Tree! Every time! It just isn't fair. I'm even starting to think like a tree!

If I play cricket, I get stumped. When I write stories, my ideas don't branch out enough. At least my square roots are well embedded, even if I don't always twig onto maths all the time. And smarty little Cedric, dear sweet little Cedric, reckons I look more like a lavatree.

Huh. At least I don't have a face like a dried prune....

Anyway, all I know is,..... is that everything I eat, drink and breathe about is being yet another tree in yet another play and I've had enough, believe me.

(AFTER A PAUSE, RESIGNED)

Anyway. why harp on. I've been put here to keep an eye on Robin Hood and his Merry Men.

Who knows why? I don't.

And besides, being a Greenwood tree in this neck of the woods has it's disadvantages.

(TURNS TO MOVE BACKSTAGE, REVEALING AN ARROW PIERCING THE TREE ABOUT HALF WAY UP.)

(MOVES BACKSTAGE RIGHT AND WAITS.)

(SOUND OF A LARK)

TREE

Hark. Here comes some merry men.

(MERRY MEN ENTER L, SOBBING AND CRYING. FRIAR TUCK ENTERS R)

TUCK

(TO AUDIENCE)

Well, well, well. Here's a fine to-do! Robin Hood's men in tears.

(TO LITTLE JOHN)

Little John, Why are you in such a melancholy state?

JOHN Alas.
(WIPES TEARS AWAY)
Robin has been telling us a woeful tale.

TUCK He never was a good story teller.

JOHN He pines for the fair Maid Marian.

TUCK But surely he realises that she is betrothed to marry King John.

CLEMENT Marry King John! That's a fate worse than death.

MUCH You can say that again, Clement.

CLEMENT Marry King John! That's a fate worse than death.

WILL S Who would tarry to marry the king.

WILL G Not I, Will, and that'th for thure!

JOHN To fall in love with King John you'd have to have no wit at all!

WILL S Too wit to woo!

JOHN But alas, she has no choice.

TUCK 'Tis true. It is by the King's own decree, that Marian be betrothed to the throne.

WILL S Thrown to the throne.

CLEMENT That sounds deep.

ALAN Hark! The Lark!

(THEY ALL STOP, CUP EARS AND LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF A LARK)

WILL G It'th thutch a thame that thee hath to marry that king.

JOHN It sucks.

WILL G Yeth. It thucks.

TUCK A lass, poor Robin, I knew her well.

ALL Alas, poor Robin.

TUCK But come now good fellows! Let's not be so glum. The king's desires may yet be undone. All we need is a plan of attack.

JOHN How about a nail.

TUCK We need a tack.

JOHN Okay, so what shall we do?

TUCK Wait.

JOHN Wait?

TUCK Yes. I need to think about it, so for now, let's eat, drink and be merry!

JOHN For tomorrow we may diet.

MUCH Speak for yourself.

ALAN Hark! A lark!

(ALL STOP AND LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF A LARK)

JOHN Then come on lads, let us to the Greenwood.

ALL Aye!

SONG **COME FOLLOW**

1. *Come, follow, follow, follow,
follow, follow, follow me.*

2. *Whither shall I follow, follow, follow,
whither shall I follow, follow thee.*

3. *To the greenwood, to the greenwood,
To the greenwood, greenwood tree.*

WILL G Wait, someone cometh.

MUCH Tis Robin that comes.

WILL G Who cometh

WILL S Tis' Robin, our brave and wonderful Leader.

JOHN Aye. 'tis Robin. Robin Hood.

(ROBIN HOOD ENTERS WITH MUCH GUSTO)

ROBIN Hi men. 'Tis I, Robin Hood, come to join his loyal and brave merry men!
(FALLS OVER THE LOG)

ALL Hail Robin. Hail Robin Hood.

ROBIN (RISING)
Thanks men.

JOHN Now then, Robin, how goes it?

ROBIN Let me see.
(COUNTS FINGERS)
The poor are getting poorer.

JOHN Yes.

ROBIN and the rich are getting richer...

JOHN Yes...

ROBIN and King John is still terrible

JOHN Yes...

ROBIN And King Richard is still gone..

JOHN Yes...

ROBIN And my heart is still broken...

JOHN Yes...

ROBIN Well,.. all in all, things are pretty good really, considering....

ALLEN But what of King John, 'tis a terrible reign...

ROBIN But the farmers are happy....

ALLEN And the rich are getting richer

ROBIN The banks are happy.

ALLEN And you have a broken heart.

ROBIN and only love can mend a broken heart

ALLEN I feel sick.

ROBIN and I have half a mind to go and get her.

WILL S Half a mind or half a brain?

MUCH I'm hungry

CLEMENT I'm sleepy

JOHN And I'm John.

ROBIN Now men, listen to me Are we followers of King John?

ALL No!

ROBIN Are we followers of tyranny

ALL No!

ROBIN Are we followers of greed

ALL No!

ROBIN Are we followers of anyone!

ALL No!

ROBIN Then follow me to the Greenwood tree!
(FALLS OVER THE LOG)

ALL No!

ROBIN (GETTING UP)
Much! You go and catch the royal beast for our feast!

MUCH Aye Robin.
(EXITS)

ROBIN Will Gamwell, go and prepare the fire.

WILL G Aye Robin. (EXITS)

ROBIN Clement. go fetch the drinks.

CLEMENT (YAWNS) Aye Robin. (EXITS)

ROBIN Alan, go fetch your lute.

ALAN Ere! I ain't got no money.

ROBIN Your lute man, not your loot.

ALAN Yes Robin.
(EXITS)

ROBIN Come Will, Tuck and little John, for there is much to be done.
(FALLS OVER)

ALL (HELPING ROBIN UP)
Aye, Robin.
(THEY EXIT)

TREE (MOVES FORWARD)
Boy, am I bored. Everybody's being everybody, and here am I, stuck
in a stupid tree. Well, I can't hang around here all day looking shady.
I'm off to get some rest.
(EXITS)

END OF SCENE 1

SCENE 2

(COURT SCENE)

(DONALD ENTERS AND CLIMBS INTO THE WATCH TOWER)

DONALD Nine o'clock and all 's well.
(RAISES A FLAG WITH RIVAL CLUB'S COLOURS E.G. THE DOCKERS)

GREEDY (MAKES A TRUMPET SOUND)
Paa pa pa papa paa!
To the court of King John, The Sheriff of Nottingham arrives.

(GUARDS ENTER, MARCHING ROUGHLY IN TIME)

(KAOS RUSHES IN TO TAKE HIS PLACE AT THE END OF THE LINE.)

(SHERIFF ENTERS IN A BRISK SERGEANT- LIKE MANNER)

SHERIFF Men ! Halt!

(THE MEN HALT, EXCEPT FOR KAOS WHO BUMPS INTO THE LAST MAN AND THEN STEPS BACK).

SHERIFF Men, face the front!

(ALL MEN FACE THE FRONT, EXCEPT FOR KAOS WHO FACES THE BACK)

SHERIFF About turn.

(MEN TURN TO THE BACK AND KAOS TO THE FRONT)

SHERIFF (PLEADINGLY)
Please men! Listen to my instructions. About turn!

(ALL MEN FACE FRONT, KAOS FACES THE BACK)

SHERIFF Good heavens! Will that man at the end ABOUT TURN!

(KAOS TURNS TO THE FRONT, MEANWHILE THE MAN AT THE OTHER END FACES THE BACK)

SHERIFF I said: About turn!

(KAOS TURNS TO THE BACK AND THE OTHER GUARD FACES THE FRONT)

SHERIFF

(IN DESPAIR)

I don't believe it. Look, if you cannot see me at this moment, you are an idiot!.

(NOTHING HAPPENS. SHERIFF MOVES BEHIND LINE TO KAOS FACING THE WRONG WAY)

SHERIFF

Look, man, are you an idiot?

KAOS

No, Sir!

SHERIFF

Then why don't you turn around and face the front.

KAOS

Because I'm not an idiot Sir.

SHERIFF

(IN ANGER)

Turn around and that's an order!

(MAN TURNS AROUND)

(SHERIFF MOVES TO FRONT RIGHT)

SHERIFF

At last.

(CALMS DOWN)

Now we are here to meet the king.

(LOUDER)

What are we here for!

MEN

(LOUDLY)

To meet the king!

SHERIFF

Right! Now, who has the minutes of the last meeting?

HUNGRY

I do, sir.

SHERIFF

Well, come on, let's have it!

HUNGRY

Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock.....60!

Will one minute do?

SHERIFF

Thank you. Reports!

STRETCH Rain

HORNET Storms

T-BONE Thunder and lightning

SPIDER Raging torrents

LOFTY An ill wind

KAOS And rampant rapids

SHERIFF Enough!
Thanks for the weather report. Any motions?

KAOS Only the Loco motion, Sir!

(GUARDS MIMIC THE LOCOMOTION SONG)

SHERIFF Spare me the details, Now.....

GREEDY (SOUNDING LIKE A TRUMPET)
Paa Pa Pa Pa Pa Paa!

SHERIFF Now what is it?

HUNGRY The king approaches!

SHERIFF Oh, right! Erm....now Oh , yes!
Men at ease.

(GUARDS GO TO SLEEP)

(SHERIFF MARCHES IN A HIGHLY EXAGGERATED FASHION
TO THE END OF THE LINE, TURNS, STANDS AT ATTENTION.)

(KING ENTERS, TRYING TO LOOK BIG, BRAVE AND MEAN)

KING Ha ha ha ha ! Boy am I mean!

GUARDS (WAKING UP)
Boy is he mean!

KING I'm mean, I'm meaner than mean!

GUARDS He's meaner than mean.

KING I am so mean, I'm meaner than meaner than mean!

GUARDS He's meaner than meaner than mean!

KING And that means a lot to me.

GUARDS He's a deviant mean.

KING And that's my standard too!
(Pensively) Funny though because sometimes I don't really mean to be mean.

SONG: THE MEAN SONG

*King I am the King of England and King John is my name,
I like being greedy, counting all my money,
and I like making taxes 'cause meanness is my game,
Singing I'm so mean I'm really mean, I mean I'm really mean.*

*Guards He is the King of England and King John is his name,
He likes being greedy, counting all his money,
and he likes making taxes 'cause meanness is his game,
Singing He's so mean he's really mean, I mean he's really mean.*

*King And I will never tarry, a girl I am to wed.
She is very pretty and very kind it's said,
But she has lots of money and I am in the red,
Singing I'm so mean I'm really mean, I mean I'm really mean.*

*Guards And he will never tarry, a girl he is to wed.
She is very pretty and very kind it's said,
But she has lots of money and it's gone right to his head,
Singing he's so mean he's really mean, I mean he's really mean.*

KING (SNAPS fingers)
Lackey!
(FACES LEFT)

(LACKEY ENTERS RIGHT. HE IS A SCRUFFY WORN DOWN MESSENGER.)

LACKEY (KNEELS DOWN BEFORE THE KING)
You called sire!

KING (TURNS AROUND IN SURPRISE)
Er...m. Yes. I'm feeling particularly mean today!

LACKEY Sire?

KING Impose a new tax on the peasants!

GUARDS (IMPRESSED)
Oooh, that's mean.

KING And tax the tax that the peasants pay.

GUARDS That's really mean.

KING And whilst we're at it, put an extra tax on these guards wages.

GUARDS You can't mean it!

KING (Wipes brow)
Whew! That bit of work's quite worn me out.
I think I've been over-taxing myself lately.

GUARDS And us too.

LACKEY Will that be all sire?

KING Yes.

(LACKEY GOES TO EXIT AS KING SNAPS HIS FINGERS)

KING Oh.... and on your way back please call on the fair Maid Marian and tell her I'd like her to see me as soon as possible.

GUARDS How mean can you get?

KING I wish to have an audience with her.

LACKEY Right away , Sire.

(LACKEY EXITS)

KING Now then! Where's that Sheriff of mine?

(SHERIFF IN EXAGGERATED MANNER, STANDS TO ATTENTION, MARCHES FORWARD TURNS AND MARCHES TO THE KING)

SHERIFF (STANDING TO ATTENTION)
Here , Sire!.

KING Good. And are all your men present and correct?

SHERIFF Yes, Sire!
(TURNS TO MEN)
Roll call!

(KAOS grabs a present from the stage and gives it to the next guard)

KAOS Present!

GUARD Present!
(PASSES THE PRESENT DOWN THE LINE!)

(AND SO ON DOWN TO THE LAST GUARD, WHO MARCHES
BACK DOWN TO KAOS)

KAOS Present for me? You shouldn't have.
(THROWS PRESENT OFF THE STAGE)

(GUARD MARCHES BACK)

KING Very slick, Sheriff, very sick..er .. slick!

SHERIFF Thank you Sire!

KING And now you may return to your duties.
For I await the arrival of the lovely Maid Marian.

(SHERIFF MOVES BACK IN EXAGGERATED FASHION AS
BEFORE)

KING Ah.....
(Dreamily)
.....the fair Maid Marian. How delightful she is. Her delicate style....her
warming smile..... and her grace and enchanting manner.

GUARDS Her money!

KING (IN ECSTASY)
Her money.....Her money!
Especially her rich endowment.
That's the thing I love most! Money! Money! Money!
And that's Marian's most appealing asset.
(EYES WIDEN)
She's loaded with the stuff.
(DREAMILY)
Oh what made Maid Marian so rich!
(FACES RIGHT)

(MARIAN, TINA AND MARGE ENTER LEFT)

(BOTH CURTSY TO THE KING)

MARIAN You requested an audience, Sire?

KING (TURNS IN SURPRISE)
Ah Yes yes...Certainly: All the world is but a stage.

MARIAN Boy, what a geek.

KING What did you say?

TINA She said, did you wish to speak!

KING Yes! I wish to know if all is ready for the grand wedding?

MARIAN Sire, all is going to plan, isn't it Marge?

MARGE Yes Sire. There is no need to worry.

KING Good. Good.
(RUBBING HIS HANDS)
I can't wait to get my hands on that money.....
(PAUSES, REMEMBERS MARIAN'S PRESENCE)
Er... I mean , to marry you my honey.

MARIAN (TO AUDIENCE)
Oooh Yuck!

KING (TURNS)
What did you say my sweet?

TINA I think she said 'What luck', Sire.

KING Oh yes, yes,.....
(DREAMILY)
I just can't wait!

MARIAN (SADLY)
Alas poor Robin.

KING (DREAMILY)
Mmmmm.....what was that my little sugar plum?

TINA I think she said 'I must go in ', Sire.

KING I think I'm going deaf.

MARIAN And dumb!

KING What?

TINA Glum, Sire.

MARIAN Yes, be not so glum, my dear.
The wedding will not tarry, and we shall marry.

KING (EXCITED)
Yes! Yes! And i shall carry the money, er....
I mean.... carry you, my honey to the castle of our dreams.

MARIAN (SARCASTICALLY)
I can't wait!
(ROLLS HER EYES)

KING Neither can I ! Lackey !
(SNAPS FINGERS)
Lackey !
(FACES LEFT AND THEN RIGHT)

(LACKEY ENTERS LEFT, KNEELS BEHIND THE KING)

LACKEY Yes Sire !

KING (JUMPS)
I'm going to the Royal Vault to count my moneyer, that is ... to do my royal exercises.

LACKEY Exercises , Sire?

KING Yes, you know, sums and tables and things like that.

LACKEY I see Sire !

KING So when I return I wish to have a fire in my bedroom in readiness for my retirement.

LACKEY Yes Sire.

KING (SOFTLY)
Good night Marian.

MARIAN (SOFTLY)
Good night Sire!

KING (TO GUARDS)
Night Knights !

MARIAN Nighty nighty.

KING Not you. I mean them... my knights... Good Night Knights.

GUARDS (LOUDLY) Nighty nights sire!

KING Nighty Knights?! What sort of talk is that?! (TURNS TO GUARDS)
You're coming to the vault with me you fools.

GUARDS Sorry Sire. It's not our vault !

SHERIFF But is it safe!

KING Hmph ! Come with me !

GUARDS Yes Sire.

SHERIFF To the left turn. (THEY ALL TURN RIGHT)
About turn. Quick march!

(ALL EXIT EXCEPT MARIAN, MARGE, TINA AND LACKEY AND DONALD IN THE TOWER)

MARIAN Yuk! When he has a night out, I'm going to have a night in!

MARGE (SHOCKED) Marian !

TINA You must be more careful Marian.

MARIAN But Tina, he's such a dag!

LACKEY Careful what you say fair lady. That's treason.

MARIAN That's easy for you to say, but I have to marry the wretched man.

LACKEY That's still no reason for treason.
 Besides.. (LOOKS AROUND) he may hear you !

MARIAN I have no fear. He's easy to talk around I mean he's such a fool.
 Anyway, it can't be very good for you.

LACKEY What do you mean?

MARIAN What's it like working for the King?

LACKEY Oh it's nothing. It's a snap ! (SNAPS FINGERS)

(KING APPEARS ON STAGE, SNAPS HIS FINGERS)

KING Lackey ! (SNAPS FINGERS) Lackey ! (EXITS)

LACKEY (IN A PANIC) C.c..c..coming Sire
(RUSHES OFF STAGE)

MARIAN Seems more like a hurricane to me...

MARGE Shall we go , Marian? (BOTH MOVE OFF STAGE)

(MARIAN PAUSES AND SIGHS)

MARIAN Ah dear Robin. How I wish you were mine....
(SHAKES HEAD)

(TINA AND MARGE VOMIT IN DISGUST)

MARIAN But alas it will never be. (THEY EXIT)

DONALD (IN THE USUAL BOOMING VOICE)
 Ten o'clock and all's well.
(DONALD EXITS)

END OF SCENE 2

SCENE 3

(CURTAIN OPENS ON TREE IN SHERWOOD FOREST)
(THE TREE IS LOOKING ON AS ROBIN AND HIS MEN ARE LYING AROUND SLEEPING AND SNORING)

TREE (AFTER A PAUSE) I think this is more than I can bear !

(FRIAR TUCK ENTERS)

FRIAR TUCK (IN A LOUD VOICE)
What's this ! Robin and his men sleeping when there's work to be done!
(MOVES TO ROBIN AND SHAKES HIM)
Robin ! Robin ! Wake up ! There is much ado to do !

ROBIN (SLEEPILY) Oh dear, I don't feel like much adoing about nothing.

FRIAR TUCK Come Robin, Here is my plan of attack.

ROBIN: Looks like a nail.

FRIAR TUCK No it's a tack.

ROBIN A plan? What for?

FRIAR TUCK A plan to reunite you with Marian.

ROBIN What? Maid Marian?

FRIAR TUCK How should I know what made Marian?

ROBIN Really Tuck! But this is good tidings. What's the plan ?

FRIAR TUCK Wake your men, Robin, and then I will unfold the plan to you.

ROBIN Right Tuck! (TO ALAN) Alan, go play your lute.

(TUCK STARTS UNWRAPPING HUGE PLAN.....)

ALAN (YAWNS) Yes Robin.
(PICKS UP LUTE) But why?

ROBIN Forsooth man ! Hurry !

ALAN Yes Robin. (PLAYS LUTE BADLY)

(MERRY MEN SLOWLY AWAKEN)

(TUCK MOVES BACKSTAGE, WRESTLING WITH THE PLAN)

- LITTLE JOHN What's that noise?
- WILL G. Turn that muthic off !
- CLEMENT Who's disturbing my beauty sleep?
- MUCH (YAWNING) Gosh I'm hungry.
- WILL G. That'th a melancholy air to wake up to. What ith it?
- WILL S. It's not me!. I had a bath this morning!
- ROBIN Men ! Men! Listen to me.(FALLS OVER A MERRY MAN. GETS UP)
Friar Tuck has a plan for us.
- LITTLE JOHN (STANDS UP) A plan, Robin. That's great.... What's it for?
- ROBIN To unite me with Marian.
- MERRY MEN (RISING TO THEIR FEET) What? Maid Marian ?
- ROBIN How should I know what Maid Marian?

SONG: MAID MARION

1. *Who made the day so light?
Who made the sun so bright?
Who made sunshine and the rainfall?
Who made sunset and the nightfall?*
- CHORUS *Tell me now, tell me now, tell me now, tell me now.
Who made Maid Marion?
Who made Maid Marian?
Who made Maid Marion so...?*
2. *Who made the grass so green?
Who made the people dream?
Who made dew fall in the summer?
Who made snowflakes in the winter?*
- CHORUS *Tell me now, tell me now, tell me now, tell me now.
Who made Maid Marion?
Who made Maid Marian?
Who made Maid Marion so...?*

WILL S Is that right Friar Tuck, you have a plan?

FRIAR TUCK (GIVES UP TRYING TO UNFOLD THE PLAN) It is !

MUCH Well come on man ! What is it?

FRIAR TUCK I cannot unfold all the plan now, but I need your help to put the plan into action !

ROBIN What is it you wish us to do ?

FRIAR TUCK Rob the rich !

LITTLE JOHN We do that now!

FRIAR TUCK But don't give it to the poor!

LITTLE JOHN What? But the poor need that money.

 (SOUNDS OF INDIGNATION BETWEEN THE MERRY MEN)

ROBIN That's against our principles, Tuck.

FRIAR TUCK I know, I know, but it's only for a short time.

ROBIN But why?

FRIAR TUCK All will be seen.

TWO WILLS We hope not !

FRIAR TUCK All will unfold before your eyes if you do as I say.

ROBIN I still don't feel very good about keeping the money.

LITTLE JOHN Robin's right ! It will give King John just the excuse he needs to call us real robbers and turn our people against us!

FRIAR TUCK Tell them it's for a good cause.... sort of like a long term investment.

ROBIN Long term ?

FRIAR TUCK Well short term then, resulting in a long term return for all !

WILL S. You can bank on us !

FRIAR TUCK Robin please. If not only for your own happiness, but for everyones gain in the future.

ROBIN Well.....if you say so Tuck .

FRIAR TUCK Good man Robin. Come , we must gain as many riches as we can.

MUCH I'm too hungry !

ALAN Hark the lark ! (ALL STOP AND LISTEN TO THE LARK)

ROBIN Come on men ! Our country's at stake !

MUCH I wish I was having steak!

ROBIN It is our duty to our King. King Richard the lion heart !

ALL (FALL ON KNEES) King Richard !

SONG: HERE'S A HEALTH UNTO HIS MAJESTY

*Here's a health unto his majesty,
With a fal la la, lala la la.
Confusion to his enemies,
With a fal la la, lala la la.
And he that will not pledge his health.
I wish him neither wit nor wealth,
Nor yet a rope to hang himself,
With a fal la la, lala lala lala la,
With a fal la la, lala la la.*

ROBIN Men ! Away to loot the rich. (FALLS OVER LOG)

MEN Aye ! We're with you Robin. (ALL EXIT)
(TREE STARTS SNORING)

WILL S. (POUNCES) Halt ! In the name of Robin Hood !
(TREE STOPS SNORING)
No one here? I swore I heard something.
Oh well, there's no loot for me here.

TREE (TO AUDIENCE) That was close. I'm afraid I dropped off.
I wonder if anything important has happened?
I suppose not. It's just so boring being a tree,
and you can take a leaf out of my book.

END OF SCENE 3

SCENE 4

(NIGHT COURT SCENE) (DONALD ENTERS AND CLIMBS WATCH TOWER)

DONALD Eleven o'clock and all's well !
(RAISES FLAG)

(KING ENTERS IN NIGHT GOWN DOING LIFTING EXERCISES WITH TWO BAGS OF MONEY)

KING (AS HE ENTERS)
Up 2 - 3 - 4 Down 2 - 3 - 4 , Up 2 - 3 - 4 Down 2 - 3 - 4.....
You know there's nothing quite like building up your assets before bed.
Up 2 - 3 - 4 Down 2 - 3 - 4 Up.....
But hark !
(SOUND OF OWL)
Someone approaches I must hide my money under my bed.

(KING RUSHES OFF STAGE , AND THEN BACK ON)

(THERE ARE GHOSTLY SOUNDS OFF STAGE)

KING Enter, whoever you may be.....

(THERE IS A PAUSE BEFORE THERE ARE MORE GHOSTLY NOISES)

KING (PUZZLED)
That's strange.
(CALLS OUT)
Enter before I call the guards !

(THERE IS A RATTLE OF CHAINS AND FRIAR TUCK DISGUISED AS A GHOST ENTERS)

KING (FEARFULLY)
Ah.....a.....who , who who may you be ?

GHOST I am a ghost.

KING (ANNOYED)
Any fool can see that !

GHOST That is why I am a ghost and you are a fool.

KING What do you want with me ?

GHOST I am the ghost of Christmas past !

KING (ASIDE) I knew those credit cards would catch up with me sooner or later. (TURNS) But which Christmas do you mean?

GHOST All of them you miserable man.

KING But why me ?

GHOST You are mean.

KING (NODDING HIS HEAD IN AGREEMENT)
True , true.

GHOST And despicable.

KING True . True.

GHOST And treacherous.

KING True . True.

GHOST A murderer and a villain.

KING True , true.

GHOST And rich.

KING (IN DISGUST)
Now wait a minute ! Your flattery is too much , but I am not rich enough. I need more and more money.

GHOST And I am going to haunt you for my money.

KING Your money ?

GHOST Yes . My money. Unless you pay me one thousand guineas I will haunt you for the rest of your life.

KING Butbut.....I don't have a thousand guineas.

GHOST Then get it !

KING Wait a minute ! Who sent you ?

GHOST Mastercard!

KING Oh no !
(GENUINELY SHOCKED)
Not Mastercard!?

GHOST That's right.

KING But how can I get the money ?

GHOST I don't care just get it.

KING Listen ghost, if you can just wait I'm to marry Maid Marian.

GHOST So ?

KING She has a very rich endowment and I can make it worth your while.

GHOST I can't wait for that.

KING Why not ?

GHOST Your credit rating's no good.
(EXITS)
I'm going to haunt you for ever and ever.....

KING Oh woe is me ! What am I to do ?
I cannot give him that much money.
I'll be left with nothing.
Perhaps if I ignore him he'll cease to exist.

VOICE OVER 'Haunt you for ever and ever.....'

KING (JUMPS)
Oh !Oh dear, Oh.....!
Dear oh dear. There must be something I can do.
(STARTS TO EXIT)
Perhaps if I sleep on it something will come up.

VOICE OVER 'You will never sleep again'

KING (EXITS IN A FRANTIC MANNER)
Oh dear, Oh dear , What can I do ?

(EXITS)

SONG

GHOST OF JOHN

*Have you seen the Ghost of John
Long white bones with the skin all gone.
Ooo ooo ooo oo oo ooo ooo ooo
Wouldn't it be chilly with no flesh on.*

DONALD

12:00 o'clock and all's well.

END OF SCENE 4

SCENE 5

(CURTAIN OPENS ON GREENWOOD FOREST)

(ROBIN AND HIS MEN ARE COUNTING THEIR MONEY.)

(FRIAR TUCK IS OFF STAGE)

LITTLE JOHN I say Robin , there's plenty of riches here.

ROBIN There's enough for us to retire in luxury for ever.

WILL G Yeth. There's th juth enough here to be able to go to the Eatht and back !

WILL S We're rich !

ROBIN Aye , but it's not for us.

LITTLE JOHN Sooner or later we will have to give it to the poor.

ROBIN But I wonder what Friar Tuck has in mind ?

WILL S Who knows , but here he comes now .

FRIAR TUCK Hail Robin.

ROBIN How now good Friar ?

FRIAR TUCK How much do you have ?

ROBIN There's just over one thousand here.

FRIAR TUCK Perfect ! Now here's the plan.....
The King needs that money.

ROBIN The King !

FRIAR TUCK Aye . His credit cards will haunt him until he pays exactly one thousand guineas.

LITTLE JOHN So ?

FRIAR TUCK Don't you see we can offer an exchange -
one thousand guineas for Maid Marian's hand in marriage !

ROBIN Great idea Tuck !

FRIAR TUCK We'll arrange an exchange. Here , by that old green scraggy tree .

ROBIN But what about the poor ?

LITTLE JOHN Yes Friar, that money really does belong to the poor .

FRIAR TUCK Do not fret.
The peasants will get their money yet !
Are you with me Robin ?

ROBIN Aye! Are you with me men?

MEN Aye !

SONG : ROBIN HOOD

1. *We are the men of the Greenwood.
We fight the law of a tyrant.
Outlaws of Sherwood we fight for the poor
And we long for the day when the good folk shall follow.
Robin Hood. Robin Hood. Robin Hood. Robin Hood.*

2. *King John Made Robin an outlaw.
King John, he seeks out a fortune.
He robs the poor of their food and their ration
But one day a name will cause John his own ruin.
Robin Hood. Robin Hood. Robin Hood. Robin Hood.
We're for the great Robin Hood.*

ROBIN But first we must eat and be merry, and then we'll send a message to the King.

WILL Good idea ! Whose turn is it to cook ?

FRIAR TUCK Let me cook today. (ALL CHEER)

ROBIN You are most certainly a good Friar, Tuck. (ALL CHEER)

(ALL EXIT EXCEPT TREE) (TREE MOVES FORWARD)

TREE (TO AUDIENCE) Did you hear that !
A scraggy old tree indeed.
One of these days I'll quit being a tree for ever. (TREE EXITS)

END OF SCENE 5

SCENE 6

(COURT SCENE)

(DONALD ENTERS AND CLIMBS INTO TOWER)

DONALD It's fifteen all and all is swell! (Raises Flag)

(GUARDS ENTER IN USUAL MANNER)

(KING ENTERS)

KING Oh my weary eyes and my aching limbs.
(PAUSE)
I haven't slept for five nights in fear of being haunted by that wretched ghost .

(LACKEY ENTERS)

LACKEY Message for the King .

KING For me? Oh , I do love letters !

LACKEY It's not a love letter , Sire.

KING I know , never mind. Read it out to me.

LACKEY Right away Sire.
Hear ye , hear ye, hear ye !
Robin of Sherwood Forest
Has an offer for the King An offer to good to refuse !
On the next day at 2.00 p.m.
He will meet the King by the Greenwood Tree
And in exchange for the hand in marriage of Maid Marian he will give to
the King one thousand guineas.

KING What outrage is this? Never ! Never, will I bargain with that villain !
(PAUSES)
But wait , one thousand's exactly what I need to pay off that ghost .
(PAUSES AS HE SENSES SOMETHING WRONG)
I tell you what Lackey, I can smell something fishy here !

LACKEY (SMELLS UNDER HIS ARMS. MOVES TO KING)
(LIFTS AND SMELLS UNDER THE KINGS ARMS)
Can you Sire ?

KING Yes. I think I'm being tricked somehow.

LACKEY What are you going to do Sire ?

KING Mm.... I think I'll go along with his little scheme.
Lackey send a message to Robin :
Say that I will meet him at the aforesaid time and place and will promise him the hand of Marian in exchange for a thousand guineas !

LACKEY Yes Sire.

KING And I'll set up an ambush with my guards.
Ha ! so he thinks that he can fool me.
King John of England.
We'll see , soon I'll have my thousand AND Maid Marian AND Robin Hood !

LACKEY Isn't that a bit dangerous Sire , after all , you'll be on his home ground.

KING Dangerous ! No. Not if we plan carefully Lackey.
Come let us go and make the arrangements.

(KING AND LACKEY EXIT) (GUARDS EXIT)

(MARIAN AND TINA AND MARGE ENTER)

MARIAN Oh , woe is me .
In two days time I'll have to share my life with that fiend.

ROBIN (OFF STAGE) Psst.....
(PAUSE) Psst.....

MARIAN Hark ! (SOUND OF Psst Psst)
What was that ?

MARGE It sounded like a lark.

ROBIN (ENTERS) Psst. It's me , Robin.

MARIAN (SURPRISED) Oh ! it was the sound of the Robin.

ROBIN Oh Marian ! Tis a pleasure just to set eyes upon thee.

(TINA AND MARGE THROW UP)

MARIAN But Robin , it's so dangerous for you to be here.

ROBIN Yes (BRASHLY) I know...,
Tina and Marge , go and keep a look out.

(TINA AND MARGE MOVE BACKSTAGE)

ROBIN I won't stay long. I just had to see you before the wedding.

MARIAN Oh Robin , pray don't let's talk about that.

ROBIN Not to the King, Marian , but to me .

TINA & MARGE Yuk!

MARIAN To you ? But how ?

ROBIN Tomorrow the greedy King will promise your hand in marriage to me for
a miserable one thousand guineas.

MARIAN Oh , Robin , but can it be true ?

ROBIN As true as I am here.

MARIAN Robin this is indeed glad tidings.
You have spared me from a fate worse than death !

ROBIN Instead we may look forward to a life of marital bliss !

TINA AND MARGE Yuk!

(ROBIN PRODUCES A TISSUE BOX WITH A NEVER ENDING
HANDKERCHIEF. DURING SONG ROBIN KNEELS TO MARIAN
AS SHE WIPES HER TEARS AWAY. MARGE AND TINA DO A
COURT DANCE)

SONG: GOOD FRIENDS

*One day our paths did cross,
The rain was cold but we were warm.
In our hearts we knew our souls
Would always be as one.*

*What was real was when our hands touched
You warmed me so.
When it's time to say goodbye
Don't forget to tell me that you'll always be mine.*

*If we part
We will be good friends,
And I will be always so glad we met
And we were good friends.*

MARIAN Oh Robin.

(TINA AND MARGE THROW UP)

ROBIN But hark !
(SOUND OF A DOVE)
I must depart before I am found.

MARIAN Yes Robin.
Your life is in danger here.

ROBIN Then 'till tomorrow,
Fare thee well fair lady.

MARIAN (PULLS A LARGE SILK HANKERCHIEF OUT OF BLOUSE AND
WAVES TO ROBIN AS HE EXITS)
(LOUDLY) Farewell , brave Robin.

MARIAN (TO AUDIENCE)
Oh what news from heaven,
I fear I may not sleep for my excitement and blissful anticipation.

TINA & MARGE Oh Yu-uk!

(THEY EXIT)

DONALD It's thirty-love , and all is swell.

END OF SCENE 6

SCENE 7

(DONALD EXITS AS THE CURTAIN RISES ON THE GREENWOOD TREE.)

TREE: Guess what I'm still here! But what a day. Some animals have been eating away at my bark. If I get out of this stupid costume and get my hands on them they'll soon see that my bite's worse than my bark!

SONG: THE TREE SONG

TREE *There are always trees in plays,
And I am always in that tree.
All you see is me a tree
and that is all I'll ever be.*

*One fine day I'll walk away
And find myself another play,
Then you'll see that I am free
and that'll be a happy me.*

*(Stamps foot) Yes I know Offenbach.
(Stamps foot) But you know I seldom bite!
(Stamps foot) Yes I know Offenbach.
(Stamps foot) But you know I seldom bite!*

(TREE DANCE)

TREE *There are always trees in plays,
And I am always in that tree.
All you see is me a tree
and that is all I'll ever be.*

*One fine day I'll walk away
And find myself another play,
'nother play, 'nother play,
'nother play for me!*

(VILLAGERS CHEER AND RUN ON STAGE TO DO THE CAN CAN DANCE)

(VILLAGERS EXIT)

TREE: But hark!
(SOUND OF A DUCK)
Robin approaches.

(ROBIN AND HIS MEN ENTER.)

ROBIN: Come let us pass the time, here, under this old scraggy tree...

JOHN: Aye!

WILL S. I hope nothing goes wrong.

LITTLE JOHN: Of course it won't.

(GUARDS ENTER AND ONE MAKES SOUND OF A TRUMPET.)

GREEDY: Paa...Paa...Papapa Paaa-

HUNGRY: King John arrives. All kneel before the king.

LITTLE JOHN: Get away.

WILL S. Not likely.

WILL G. What doth he think he ith?

ROBIN: We meet as equals or not at all. We're in Sherwood Forest now, you know.

GREEDY: Suit yourselves.

WILL G. Of course we'll thuit outhelvt!

WILL S. Speak for yourselves. I'm not shooting anyone.

(KING JOHN ENTERS.)

ROBIN: Ah! King John.

KING: Robin Hood. I can't say it's a pleasure.

ROBIN: Have you kept your word... and brought Maid Marian?

(SHERIFF ENTERS WITH MAID MARIAN.)

KING: I have. Sheriff! Bring Marian forward. And now Robin what about you?

ROBIN: I have kept my side of the bargain.

WILL S. And the loot to boot!

KING: Good. My man will hand over Marian as soon as you hand me the 1000 promised.

LITTLE JOHN: But first you must promise Marian's hand in marriage to Robin.

KING: Yes, yes, of course I promise.

WILL S. Come on then say it.

KING: Oh alright. I promise Marian's hand in marriage to Robin.

ROBIN: Good, let the exchange begin. Little John you give the money to the King and Will, collect Marian from the guard.

 (THE MONEY IS HANDED OVER)

KING: (FINDING THE THE MONEY HEAVY)
Ah! 1000. And it feels so nice and heavy too. And now I'm richer than ever before.

 (THERE IS A LITTLE RATTLE OF CHAINS OFF STAGE)

 (SOUND OF THUNDER)

 (GHOST ENTERS)

GHOST: Not so fast. For your peace of mind I'll mind the piece of loot!

KING: And what pray does a ghost want with money?

GHOST: Nothing at all. That money will be returned to the poor.

KING: Just as I thought. Guards! Guards!

 (GUARDS DRAW SWORDS AND TAKE POSITIONS NEAR THE MERRY MEN)

KING: Now ghost. If you are indeed a ghost and not one of Robin's men....

ROBIN: (PUZZLED)
He's not one of ours!

KING: Then he won't mind the Sheriff pushing his sword through him and filling his spirited being with holes.

(SHERIFF MOVES TO GHOST WITH SWORD)

KING: Stab him a couple of times.

SHERIFF: Yes, Sire.

GHOST: No, wait! You'll kill me.

KING: (LAUGHING)
There's a good one. How can you kill a ghost? Take off his puny disguise.

SHERIFF: Yes, Sire. (SHERIFF TAKE OFF SHEET REVEALING FRIAR TUCK)

ROBIN: Friar Tuck!

FRIAR TUCK: I'm sorry Robin! It seems our plans have come unstuck.

KING: You are clever, Friar Tuck, to realise that. And now I'll have Maid Marian back and much more loot to boot!

LITTLE JOHN: But your promise!

ROBIN: That's right you made a Royal Pledge.

FRIAR TUCK: It is a curse for a King not to honour a Royal Pledge.

KING: True. But remember Robin you can have the promise revoked yourself.

ROBIN: Why would I do that?

KING: Guard, prepare to cut off Marian's lovely hand.

(2 GUARDS GRAB MARION AND TAKE HER FORWARD.
ANOTHER GUARD PREARES TO CUT OFF HER HAND)

ROBIN: (SHOCKED)
Stop! You can't do that.

KING: I'm afraid I have to Robin. I have foolishly promised her hand to you and so you shall have it and I hope that you two will be happy together.

WILL S. Villain!

LITTLE JOHN: You fiend!

MARIAN: Unhand me you villain!

KING: Exactly what I intend to do, Maid Marian!

MARIAN: Oh Robin, stop him please!

WILL S. What a vicious villain.

KING: I am mean aren't I?

ROBIN: King John have mercy on the poor girl.

KING: Ah! But Robin you have the power to stop me. All you have to do is revoke my promise.

ROBIN: Very well, I'll not hold you to your promise.

KING: That's better, 1000 and Marian. What a lovely mean day I've had!

CLEMENT: You - you - pig.

KING: (LAUGHING)
Yes! But a 1000 guineas richer and happier pig.

WILL S. That makes you more like a guinea pig!

(TINA AND MARGE ENTER WEEPING, THEY CONSOLE EACH OTHER)

(MARIAN MOVES FORWARD TO THEM, AND GENTLY SEPARATES THEM)

MARIAN (STANDING BETWEEN TINA AND MARGE AND SINGS)
Don't cry for me, Marge and Tina.

ROBIN: King John! You have Marian and the money! Now leave us at once, you evil king!

KING: Not so fast Robin. You are hardly in a position to tell me what to do! I think I may have the upper hand.

ROBIN: But you've got more than just her hand.

LITTLE JOHN: What would you have with us?

WILL G. Yeth, leave uth alone!

KING: I can't have a rival for the love of my future wife. Guards, prepare to hang Robin here in the woods.

SHERIFF: Which tree shall we hang him to, Sire?

KING: Oh I don't know.
 (LOOKS AROUND)
 What about that old scraggy looking tree over there.

 (TREE MOVES FORWARD THROWING OFF LEAVES AND BRANCHES IN DISGUST)

TREE Well. That's it !
 That's finally it !
 No more will I take these insults.
 I will never be a tree again.
 Bad enough as it is , but a scraggy tree at that !

 (THROWS OFF COSTUME REVEALING A KING WITH A KNIGHT'S CREST OF A LOCAL FOOTBALL OR SPORTING TEAM)

ROBIN (AGHAST)
 King Richard !

ALL King Richard?!

TREE King Richard?
 What do you mean?
 (LOOKS DOWN)
 Don't tell me I'm not supposed to be a tree after all.

ROBIN (FALLS ON KNEES)
 All Hail, King Richard,
 Richard the Lion Heart.
 (ALL FALL ON KNEES)

ALL Hail ! King Richard ! Richard the Lion Heart.

KING RICHARD Hey , this isn't such a bad play after all.
 I'm a king, not a tree !

ROBIN Please , oh king , spare us the tyranny of King John !

KING RICHARD Oh yes , he's the one who called me scraggy.
Mm , well it seems to me I can make this a happy ending after all.
Arise, Guards and take hold of this wretched ex- King.
(GUARDS TAKE HOLD OF KING JOHN)

KING RICHARD Arise , Robin. No longer need you hide in these....er....trees.

ROBIN Oh thankyou sire.

KING RICHARD I have a mansion and lands that I bequeath you. The fair lands of 'loom'
are yours , and you shall be titled as an 'Earl'.

WILL S Doesn't that make you a sort of an heirloom ?

KING RICHARD Arise also, fair Marian, for you shall marry Robin. Here, take his er
hand. May your happiness be everlasting.

(ALL CHEER, MARGE AND TINA VOMIT)

And finally, arise the merry folk of the forest , for you will join me as
knights of this fair kingdom and we shall all return to the palace for much
feasting and merriment.

ALL Hail, King Richard , Richard the Lion Heart !

KING RICHARD Not a bad speech for a tree, eh ?

ROBIN The Lions Roar in 2004! (or similar local football or sporting slogan)

(ALL CHEER)

KING : But what about me ?

KING RICHARD (TO AUDIENCE)
Ah yes. I could tie you to a scraggy tree for life, but I'm a merciful man,
I'll spare your life .
Instead you can now be my lackey.

(ALL CHEER)

WILL S (TO KING)
Aren't you lucky, Lackey?

SHERIFF Hey! What about me?

KING RICHARD Oh , you can join Robin's band of Merry Men and Women.

ROBIN Yes , you can join our band.

LITTLE JOHN And be OUR Lackey!

SHERIFF But doesn't that make me a lackey band?

LACKEY (AFTER A PAUSE)
3 Lackeys ! That's stretching things a bit, isn't it ?
(SOUND OF A TWANG)

FRIAR TUCK Hey Robin, how about a song ?

ROBIN Yes! Come on all you merry folk!

Let's have a merry folk song.

(ALL CHEER)

SONG: DANCE AND SING

1. *And we dance and we sing
'Till the Greenwoods ring,
And we laugh and we shout
That's what life's about.*

2. *In the spring, when the lark
Greater tidings bring,
That's the time when we call
For the bells to ring*

Middle *Life's so short and there's no time, no time,
To be sad or be unkind, unkind.*

3. *Dance to the sound
Of a merry band and
Dance 'til your feet
Can no longer land.*

4. *Join in and sing
Us a merry song and
Join in the cheer
Of our merry throng.*

(VILLAGERS DANCE THEN REPEAT THE SONG)

(AFTER SONG, DONALD WALKS TO FRONT OF STAGE)

(DONALD CLIMBS TOWER AND RAISES THE NEW RIVAL HOME CLUB'S FLAG E.G. THE LIONS)

DONALD 10 o'clock and all's well

(ALL CHEER)

(REPRISE SELDOM BITE)

(CURTAIN CALL)

(CURTAIN)

THE END
