

The Legend of Robin Hood

*Adapted by
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The Legend of Robin Hood

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Dedicated to all who courageously seek justice for themselves and others.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Life in medieval times is hard, especially with greedy King John sitting on England's throne. Nottingham's townspeople are constantly terrorized and taxed by the Sheriff and his cronies. To make matters worse, families who can't afford to pay are separated from their loved ones, forced to work off debts, and even driven from their homes. Robert of Locksley finds himself in this very predicament. After losing his home, a bounty is placed on his head, forcing him to flee and leave his beloved Maid Marion behind. But Robert joins a band of merry men (and women!) taking refuge in the Sherwood Forest, and he becomes known as Robin Hood. With his perfect marksmanship and quick thinking, the chivalrous Robin Hood quickly becomes the leader of an underground rebellion against the cruel tyrant. Their plan is simple: steal from the rich and give to the poor. But the Sheriff and his men are closing in on the outlaws, cleverly using a May Day contest to capture Robin Hood and his friends! To ensure that Robin will be in attendance to fall into the trap, the Sheriff arranges for Maid Marion's hand in marriage to be awarded to the best marksman. In the adventure of a lifetime, our heroes band together to prove that bravery, resourcefulness, and stunning swordplay will win in the end. This classic and family-friendly retelling of The Legend of Robin Hood brings to life another era, but the themes are timeless, and audiences will connect with the drama and humor onstage.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

First performed in the Fall of 2010 by The Academy of Community Theatre, Colorado Springs, CO. The show was directed by Lynn M. Hamilton and had the following cast: ALAN (Alaina) A'DAYLE: Katie Moore; ROBERT OF LOCKSLEY (ROBIN HOOD): Paul Brueggemann; JOHN LITTLE: Cameron Kozlarek; WILL SCATHLOCKE: Eric Silva II; JANE DOWNEY: Allie Abbott; CECILY SCATHLOCKE: Elizabeth Magas; LOGAN (Leuit), MAN AT ARMS: Keri Myers; ALBERT (Albree): Rebecca Martinez; DUNSTAN, DUMBSHOW ROBIN, MAN AT ARMS: Teddy Brueggemann; MUCH: Joshua His; MARION FITZWARIN: Julie L. Haffley; FRIAR TUCK: Matthew S. Tillinghast; CLORINDA: Hannah Lane; MATHILDA: Hannah Myers; AGNES STUTELY: Anna Brueggemann; HENRY STUTELY, FRANCOIS DE GLANVILLE: Jonathan Hoeffel; HILDA STOKES: Shelby Evanoika; SYBIL GARRETT, JEANETTE DE GLANVILLE: Sheree Personius; COGGINS: John Magas; HOBBS, BERNARD DE GLANVILLE: Noah Forbus; KING JOHN: Kendall Burnett; SENESCHAL (MILES DE PERYS), DUMBSHOW SHERIFF: Tori Hamilton; SIR GUY OF GISBOURNE, DUMBSHOW KING RICHARD: Addison Pond; SHERIFF (EUSTACE DE LUDEHAM): David McCormick; BAILIFF (BALDRIC OIL DE LARRUN), DUMBSHOW KING JOHN: Jameson Fuller; GERARD: Carolyn Given; FERGAL: Claire Burkholder; LLYWELLYN OF WALES: Peter Jordahl; GERTRUDE BEAUMARCHAIS, NICOLA DE LA HAYE: Charlotte Meert.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

28 - 34 (Flexible; some doubling possible; optional extras)

Minimum cast: 17 m, 9 w, 1 flexible

ALAN A'DAYLE: Minstrel, scene change vocalist.

Forest Outlaws

ROBIN HOOD: Our hero, leader of the forest outlaws.

Formerly Robert of Locksley.

JOHN LITTLE: (Little John) Forest outlaw.

WILL SCATHLOCKE: Forest outlaw.

JANE DOWNEY: Forest outlaw.

CECILY SCATHLOCKE: Forest outlaw, sister of Will.

LOGAN: Forest outlaw.

ALBERT: Forest outlaw.

DUNSTAN: Forest outlaw.

MUCH: A young orphan.

Nottingham Townspeople

MARION FITZWARIN: Daughter of a noble, cousin to King John.

FRIAR TUCK: Augustinian Friar, friend of Marion.

CLORINDA: Young girl, best friend of Mathilda.

MATHILDA: Young girl, best friend of Clorinda.

AGNES STUTELY: Mother of Henry.

HENRY STUTELY: Young boy, son of Agnes.

HILDA STOKES: Older woman.

SYBIL GARRETT: Middle aged woman.

COGGINS: Baker.

HOBBS: Male townspeople.

Royalty, Law & Nobles:

KING JOHN: King of England.

SENESCHAL: (Miles De Perys) Assistant to King John.

SIR GUY OF GISBOURNE: Hired killer of some prestige.

SHERIFF: (Eustace De Ludeham) Local law enforcement, corrupt and dim.

BAILIFF: (Baldric Oil De Larrun) Sheriff's assistant.

GERARD: Thuggish deputy.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(Continued)

FERGAL: Thuggish deputy.

LLYWELLYN OF WALES: Welsh Lord, a high-ranking Baron.

NICOLA DE LA HAYE: Baroness of Lincolnshire and friend to King John.

MAN AT ARMS: Court servant.

BERNARD DE GLANVILLE: Norman Noble, husband.

JEANETTE DE GLANVILLE: Wife.

GERTRUDE BEAUMARCHAIS: Sister of Jeanette.

FRANCOIS DE GLANVILLE: Son.

TROUBADOURS: Optional Opening (*No lines.*) *These can be played by any actor. This is a great way to involve less experienced actors.* DUMBSHOW ROBIN, DUMBSHOW MARION, DUMBSHOW SHERIFF, DUMBSHOW PRINCE JOHN, DUMBSHOW KING RICHARD

Suggested doubling of roles:

HOBBS / BERNARD

SYBIL / JEANETTE

GERTRUDE / NICOLA

HENRY / FRANCOIS

LOGAN / MAN AT ARMS / LLYWELLYN

DUNSTAN / DUMBSHOW ROBIN / MAN AT ARMS

JANE / DUMBSHOW MARION

SIR GUY / DUMBSHOW KING RICHARD

SENESCHAL / DUMBSHOW SHERIFF

BAILIFF / DUMBSHOW PRINCE JOHN

SETTING

1213-1214 AD. Nottinghamshire, England. Sherwood Forest and the village of Nottingham.

MUSIC

There are various opportunities to add music to enhance your production. Music can play during the scene changes to further immerse the audience in the medieval world.

Opening: Dumbshow

(TOWNSPEOPLE are milling about - onstage, side risers, on floor - going about their business chatting, working and playing. TROUBADOURS enter from the side and exuberantly set up the backdrop for their play as ALAN A'DAYLE calls for an audience. Townspeople gather at different rates and become engaged in the show. The backdrop is loudly released and crashes to the floor as instruments are noisily played to get the townspeople's attention. The people slowly emerge from their buildings to watch the spectacle and begin raucous laughing, cheering, and booing as they become more engaged in the action.)

ALAN A'DAYLE: Hear ye, hear ye! The telling of the story of the noble son of Locksley, Robert, later to be known as... Robin Hood! *(DUMBSHOW ROBIN enters. Cheers from TOWNSPEOPLE.)* ...And the one who loved him, the fair Maid Marion. *(DUMBSHOW MARION enters. Cheers from TOWNSPEOPLE. ROBIN gives her a fresh lily.)* Alas! Their love was to be torn apart by the cruel hand of the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham... *(DUMBSHOW SHERIFF enters. Boos from TOWNSPEOPLE.)* ...and the evil, wretched, Prince John 'Lackland'... *(DUMBSHOW PRINCE JOHN enters. Boos from TOWNSPEOPLE.)* ...who, upon the death of his brother Richard Lionheart, *(DUMBSHOW KING RICHARD enters wearing a crown and waving. Cheers from TOWNSPEOPLE.)* ...is crowned King of all England! *(RICHARD drops, either from a stab or an arrow, and PRINCE JOHN reaches down, takes the crown and places it on his head. Boos from TOWNSPEOPLE.)* Poor Robin lost his lands, *(Pitchfork is taken from ROBIN.)* ...his money, *(Purse is taken from ROBIN.)* ...and his home. He was forced into a life of outlawry due to the burdensome taxes King John placed on his and all of England's shoulders. *(ROBIN is finally pushed away from MARION as she reaches towards him.)* Oh, what a tragic, sorrowful tale is the legend of Robin Hood... *(LIGHTS fade to a blackout.)*

ACT I

Optional INTRO SONG

ALAN A'DAYLE:

I WILL NOW TELL A TALE OF AN OUTLAW WE HAIL
(HE) GOES BY THE NAME ROBIN HOOD
ROBBING WEALTH FROM THE WEALTHY TO FEED THE
UNHEALTHY
A CRIMINAL WE KNOW LACKS NO GOOD

FLEETING FROM HIS ABODE DOWN AN UNSTABLE NEW
ROAD
FINDING HIS HOME IN SHERWOOD FOREST
WITH NO END IN SIGHT, HE DREW HIS SWORD TO FIGHT
FOR FAIR JUSTICE THE CRY OF HIS CHORUS

THE FAIR MAID CAUGHT HIS EYE WITH EYES LIKE THE SKY
ENCHANTING THE WORLD IN HER FREEDOM
ALAS, THIS LOVE COULD NOT BE UNTIL ROBIN WAS FREE
AND WELCOME AGAIN INTO THE KINGDOM

LET THIS STORY BEGIN LET IT SINK DEEP WITHIN
THE INTEREST OF THOSE THAT ARE PIQUED
SO GATHER AND LISTEN LET YOUR THOUGHTS START TO
GLISTEN
WITH THE TALES OF THE HEROIC THIEF
THE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD....
THE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD....
THE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD....

Scene 1: Forest Glade

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on a forest glade, trees, bridge over stream. SFX: Low brook. ROBIN enters the wood. Tired but wary, he kneels at the stream to take a drink. As he's leaning over, cupping the water to his mouth, he notices a very large man in the reflection of the water. He looks up slowly as LITTLE JOHN grins down at him. WILL is hidden in the trees behind. Both men carry quarter staves.)

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ROBIN: I, er... uh... greetings, sir.

LITTLE JOHN: And to you... "sir." What be ye doin' in my woods, now?

ROBIN: Your woods? I was under the impression these were the king's forest.

LITTLE JOHN: The king of these woods happens to be what man stands in opposition to ye, and that would be me. (*Calls over his shoulder.*) Ain't that right, Scathlocke?

(*WILL appears behind LITTLE JOHN.*)

WILL: That's the sad truth of it... at least for every poor sap who happens to cross your path!

ROBIN: (*Cautiously rises to explain himself.*) Look, kind gentlemen.

(*WILL and LITTLE JOHN laugh at this.*)

ROBIN: (*Cont'd.*) You might as well know I am a fugitive from the law. I'm heading to London and the shortest path is through Sherwood so if it's all the same to you, I'll be on my way and not bother you any further.

LITTLE JOHN: Well, since you ask, and me bein' a "gentleman" and all, it isn't the same to me. In fact, I will go so far as to deny you access. I'm sorry, little fellow, but you're gonna have to go around these woods to get to where you're going.

ROBIN: Around? Why, that's at least a seven-day journey. I won't do it!

WILL: Would that be a refusal then?

ROBIN: It would.

WILL: That there bloke's goin' against ye, John!

LITTLE JOHN: Oh, we can't be havin' that, now, can we?

WILL: You have to challenge him.

LITTLE JOHN: So it would seem.

ROBIN: Challenge?

LITTLE JOHN: Aye. What'll it be? Bare knuckles?

ROBIN: Sir, I'm afraid your reach far exceeds my own! That wouldn't be a fair fight in anyone's book.

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WILL: Quarter staves then! Here!

(WILL tosses his stave to ROBIN.)

LITTLE JOHN: Perfect!

ROBIN: Agreed. *(Weighs the wooden weapon hesitantly.)*
What are the terms, my good men?

LITTLE JOHN: You make it across the bridge with your head un-cracked and you shall pass through Sherwood, on to wherever your heart leads ya.

ROBIN: That sounds like a formidable task and I fear the odds are against me. *(Warms up with the staff.)*

WILL: They do favor John, I have to say. No one for counties around has beaten him at the staves.

ROBIN: Perhaps we could have an archery contest instead?

LITTLE JOHN: Too late! Prepare yourself, my little man!

(LITTLE JOHN and ROBIN parry back and forth on the bridge, until finally Robin teeters and falls into the water. WILL helps him out.)

WILL: You were lucky the gully runs shallow this time of year. You barely got a wettin'!

ROBIN: Aye. Small consolation as five days from now I'll be wanting a good dousing such as this! London's a far sight off and the sun is high and bold this time of year.

WILL: Take a rest before you set out. Have some cheese and bread.

(WILL and LITTLE JOHN remove packets from their pouches; they settle to the ground or lean against a tree as they talk.)

ROBIN: Thank you kindly.

LITTLE JOHN: You fight better than most, small man.

WILL: Hey!

LITTLE JOHN: Fair few can beat you with the sword, Scathlocke, but this one's a good sight better than you at the staves and that's a fact.

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ROBIN: I have to confess, I have been trained to it and more.
Robert of Locksley at your service.

WILL: *(In a slightly sneering manner, he holds landowners in low regard.)* Oooo... a landowner, are ye?! Walking through Sherwood on foot? Not something we see everyday, now.

ROBIN: Aye, well you're likely to be see'n more of the same around here and Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Nottingham; wherever the good Sheriff has his say. It's him what's taken my lands and is making fair division of them in lieu of taxes. Taxes twice paid, mind you!

LITTLE JOHN: Taxes! Bleeding the heart out of this country, they is! And for what? So they can conquer the whole of Europe? What is that to us?

ROBIN: And meanwhile the lands deteriorate from lack of management. Half the population's been jailed for not paying taxes while the fields sit fallow and unproductive! All for the support of the campaigns of our good King John. Why conquer more lands if they're just gonna drive them into poverty?

LITTLE JOHN: You speak well and true. Will, here, was a forester who's wanted for ducking his taxes.

WILL: How is one supposed to pay if you're in jail, tell me that!

ROBIN: And yourself?

LITTLE JOHN: Was a champion for Baron Neufmarche up until he forfeited his lands to Prince John. I will not serve that tyrant. The Baron may pledge fealty to the Crown, but not John Little!

ROBIN: Your name is "Little"? *(Laughs.)*

LITTLE JOHN: I know, I know. Tis many a joke at my expense over the years, I don't need one more.

WILL: "He may be little, but his heart is big!"

(LITTLE JOHN throws a piece of bread at WILL.)

ROBIN: Well, "Little John," I thank you for the bread and the cheese and the beating. But I must be on my way. Good day to you, my merry men! *(Turns to head back the way he's come.)*

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LITTLE JOHN: Wait! I think Sherwood may have room for one more. It does my heart good to sit and converse with one such as you. Besides, you won't be taking up much room, now will ye, small as you are!

WILL: He's not that small, John! But come now, it's late in the day. Join us back at our camp and meet the others, you'll find us to be quite companionable.

ROBIN: If they are half the men you two are, I'd be pleased to call them friends. What number souls do these woods protect?

WILL: Far too many. Prince John has taken livelihoods from scores of farmers and tradesmen.

(ALL rise and start to exit.)

LITTLE JOHN: Men, women and children have sought refuge here in the safety of these ancient trees and rocks. It's not much of a life, but it's better than waitin' for the knock o' the door from the Sheriff!

WILL: Door? What door? They all belong to King John now!

(LIGHTS down.)

(Optional: ALAN sings in a SPOTLIGHT while the scene changes to the forest camp.)

SONG: "People's Plight"

ALAN A'DAYLE:

NOWHERE TO TURN AND NO ONE TO TURN TO
TAXES HAVE TAKEN A TOLL ON THIS TOWN
WE'RE STUCK IN THIS HOLE THAT WE CAN'T ESCAPE FROM
TRYING TO CLIMB UP BUT WE KEEP DIGGING DOWN
WE KEEP TRYING TO CLIMB UP BUT WE KEEP DIGGING DOWN

End of Freeview

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