

Robin Hood
&
The Babes In The Wood

A pantomime written by
Ron Nicol

Spotlight Publications

COPYRIGHT © 2008 RON NICOL
Published by Spotlight Publications

All rights are reserved including performances on stage, radio and television. **No part of this publication may be reproduced by photocopying or any other means without the prior permission of the copyright owner.** It is an infringement of the copyright to give any performance or public reading of the play before a licence has been issued.

Spotlight pantomimes must be played as per the script, and without alterations, additions or cuts, except by written permission of the publisher. However minor changes such as the addition of local references and topical references or gags are permitted. Likewise, all musical numbers may be changed at the discretion of the producer.

The name of the author shall be stated on all publicity including posters and programmes. Programme credits shall state "script provided by Spotlight Publications".

All enquiries to Spotlight Publications, 259 The Moorings, Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9GX. Tel. 01383 825737.

Email: enquiries@spotlightpublications.com

Website: www.spotlightpublications.com

ISBN 1 904930 98 0

**Robin Hood
& The Babes In The Wood**
Written by Ron Nicol

CAST (in order of appearance)

Jack, heir to a fortune
Jill, Jack's sister
Much, the miller's daughter
Maid Marian, engaged to Robert of Locksley
Mistress Bunting, Jack and Jill's nurse
Robert of Locksley, known as Robin
Serjeant-at-Arms
Baroness Stonybroke, Jack and Jill's Aunt, Marian's guardian
Grovel, Baroness Stonybroke's housekeeper
Mugwump
Midge
Maggot
Butcher
Baker
Candlestick Maker
Carrier
Small Girl
The Sheriff of Nottingham
Sir Guy of Gisborne
Attendant to the Sheriff
Little Joan
Sister Tuck
Jill Scarlett
Elaine-a-dale
The Beast of Sherwood Forest
Villagers, Men-at-arms, Outlaws etc.

Villagers and Outlaws may be doubled, and there are many other opportunities for doubling, trebling, and even quadrupling roles!

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act 1

Scene 1 Locksley Village Green

Scene 2 The Parlour at Hardup Hall

Scene 3 The Road to Nottingham

Scene 4 Nottingham Castle

Scene 5 Locksley Village Green

Scene 6 The Parlour at Hardup Hall

Scene 7 Sherwood Forest

Scene 8 Nottingham Castle

Scene 9 The Garden of Hardup Hall - midnight

Act 2

Scene 1 Sherwood Forest

Scene 2 Hardup Hall

Scene 3 Sherwood Forest

Scene 4 Nottingham Castle

Scene 5 Sherwood Forest

Scene 6 The Parlour at Hardup Hall

Scene 7 Nottingham Castle

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Several opportunities for inserting musical numbers have been indicated, and some suggestions for songs follow, although other music might be preferred and additional songs may be inserted at appropriate times.

1. "Everything's Coming Up Roses" (Sondheim) **or**
"That's Entertainment" (Dietz & Schwartz) (Chorus)
"People Will Say We're In Love" (Rodgers & Hammer-stein) (Robin & Marian)
3. "Together" (Bette Midler) (Mugwump, Midge & Maggot)
"As Long As He Needs Me" (Bart) **or**
"People Who Need People" (Styne & Merrill) (Marian)
5. "Money, Money, Money" (Abba) **or**
"With A Little Bit Of Luck" (Lerner & Loewe) (Sheriff & Grovel)
6. "If Ever I Would Leave You" (Lerner & Loewe) **or**
"Anything I Do, I Do It For You" (Michael Kamen) (Robin)
"Where Is Love" (Bart) (Jack & Jill)
Reprise of Song 6 **or**
"On My Own" (Boublil & Schönberg) (Marian)
"Robin Hood, Robin Hood, Riding Through the Glen"
(Sigman) (Sorry, but it had to be!) (Everybody)

For permission to perform these or any other songs, application should be made to:

The Performing Rights Society
29 – 33 Berners Street
London W1P 4AA.

Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood was first performed by Glenrothes Theatre Company at Newcastle Community School, Glenrothes and the Mitchell Hall, Kinglassie in December 1998:

Jack	Ashley Spittal
Jill	Ashley Wyse
Much	Amanda Wardrop
Maid Marian	Jennifer Massie
Mistress Bunting	Norma Nicol
Robin Hood	Alison Massie
Serjeant-at-Arms	Andrew Swain
Baroness Stonybroke	Audrey Stevenson
Grovel	Lee Bernard
Mugwump	Alan Massie
Midge	Olivia Stewart
Maggot	Clare Sinclair
Butcher	Jade Marie Massie
Baker	Cara Swain
Candlestick Maker	Collette Massie
Carrier	Natasha Wishart
Small Girl	Jaclyn Ramsay
The Sheriff	Scott Fraser
Sir Guy of Gisborne	Alan McCreadie
Attendant	Natasha Wishart
Little Joan	Christine Stewart
Sister Tuck	Susan Collins
Jill Scarlett	Beth McDonald
Elaine-a-Dale	Cara Swain
The Beast	Stuart Donaldson
Villagers, Men-at-arms, Outlaws etc.	Lisa Alexander, Heather Donaldson, Donna Reid, Craig Spence, Katy Vance
Dancers	Lauren Baillie, Sara Bristow, Michelle Innes, Natalie Kuzyszyn, Emma Lumsden, Jennifer Proudfoot

Directed by Ron Nicol

ACT 1

Scene 1

Locksley Village Green

Song 1 - Chorus

After the number, the villagers gather in groups. The girls skip and sing a rhyme, the boys chase each other. Jack pushes past the girls. Jill grabs Jack and they confront each other while others gather round

Jack Watch out!

Jill Mind who you're shoving! Do you know who I am?

Jack Of course I do. You're my sister. So watch out!

Jill *You* watch out!

They start to push each other. Much enters

Much Now then, that's enough! You're not supposed to fight.

Jill Leave us alone, Much!

Much tries to get between them, but Jill pushes her away. She tries to get between them again, but Jack pushes her away

Jack Keep out of it, Much!

Marian enters, pushing through the crowd of children

Marian You two! I might've guessed! I told you not to fight!

Jill We weren't fighting, Marian.

Jack We were trying to, but Much kept getting in the way.

Jill If you hadn't come along I'd have flattened him!

Jack I'd've demolished *you!*

Marian That's enough! If I hear one more word there'll be trouble! Now - home! Mistress Bunting's looking for you, so it's just as well I found you first. You'll be in *terrible* trouble if you don't get moving!

Jack We *never* have any fun...

Jill Whenever we're enjoying ourselves, somebody spoils it!

Marian You call this fun? Arguing and shouting on the village green.

Mistress Bunting enters

Bunting Where *are* those children? Ah, you've been fighting again, haven't you? Hawling like brooligans. I mean, brawling like hooligans! Get off home before I box your ears.

Jack/Jill Awww...

Marian Off you go - shoo!

Jack Last one home's a brooligan!

Jack and Jill exit with the other children. The Villagers drift away

Bunting I don't know how you put up with them, Marian, really I don't.

Marian Oh, they're just a little wild at times.

Much They don't mean any harm, Mistress Bunting.

Bunting That's enough from you, Much! Get about your business!

Much exits

Cheeky child! Like all these village children. Nasty little inchins - linchpins - onions - jerkins...

Marian Urchins?

Bunting That's what I said. They're so *common*! Jack and Jill get all their bad manners from the village children.

Marian They need other children to play with.

Bunting Yes, but *nice* children, not these! I don't know why you mix with the village people, Marian, really I don't.

Marian You were one of the village people yourself, once.

Bunting That was *long* ago - I've left that behind me.

Robin enters

Robin Marian!

Bunting You're another one! Mixing with commoners. An earl! A nobblyman. People calling you Robin when you're Earl of Huntingdon. They should be calling you 'My Lord'! So disrespectful. I don't know why you do it, really I don't, I don't really.

Robin I've no time for grand manners, Mistress Bunting. I'm a Saxon, like most of the good people of Nottingham, and spend my time with noble and commoner, rich and poor. You used to be poor yourself.

Bunting Don't remind me, please! I'm *somebody* now. I shouldn't be standing here talking to *you*! I'd getter bo - I mean, I'd better go.

Mistress Bunting exits

Marian She's been chasing after the children again. They lead her such a dance.

Robin It's high spirits, Marian. They'll settle down when they get older.

Marian I suppose so.

Robin Now, Marian, what about me?

Marian You'll settle down when you get older too.

Robin I mean, when are we going to settle down together?

Marian The Baroness is my guardian. I have to get her consent.

Robin Then we'll just have to run away together. She doesn't like me, I know, but why do we have to keep our love such a secret?

Song 2 – Robin and Marian

The Serjeant enters with Men-at-Arms, followed by the Villagers

Villager 1 What's going on?

Villager 2 What's happening?

Villager 3 It's a proclamation.

Villager 2 Not another one!

Serjeant Hear me! Hear me! Pin back your lugholes and listen! Get back, you scum! Listen to a proclamation from the Lord High Sheriff of Nottingham!

Villager 1 Lord High Tyrant, you mean!

Serjeant Lord High Sheriff!

Villagers Boo!

Serjeant I warn you - listen or it'll be the dungeons for you! The Lord High Sheriff's decided your life's too easy, so he's going to do something about it! (*Unrolls the proclamation*) "It is hereby decreed that a new tax is to be introduced..."

Villager 5 Not more taxes - it's too much!

Villager 4 He can't!

Villager 2 We pay too much already!

Villagers Too much! Too much!

Serjeant Silence! "A tax is to be put on all goods which enter or leave the City of Nottingham during the summer fair. Toll booths will be set up at the city gates. All who enter or leave will pay the new tax."

Villager 4 People will stop trading in Nottingham!

Villager 2 We'll be ruined!
Villager 5 We won't pay!
Villager 1 No more taxes!
Villagers (*variously*) We won't pay! We can't afford it! No more taxes!
Robin Please, people of Locksley! Let me speak.
Villager 2 It's Robin. Quiet!
Villager 3 Listen to Robin!
Villager 5 You tell him, Robin!
Robin Serjeant, tell me, by what right does the Sheriff raise this tax?
Serjeant By his right as Lord Sheriff.
Robin But we also pay taxes to the Crown...
Serjeant Those also are to be raised.
Villager 5 Never!
Villager 2 We can't pay *both*! It's too much!
Robin Yes, my friend, you're right. Serjeant, how does the Sheriff expect us to pay double?
Serjeant That's not my business.
Robin What if we can't pay?
Serjeant You know the penalty!
Villager 1 We *won't* pay!
Serjeant You'll pay - or else!
Villager 5 Never! Down with the Sheriff!
Serjeant Arrest that peasant!

The Men-at-Arms seize Villager 5 and drag him off, followed by the Serjeant. The other Villagers exit after them, shouting as they go

Villagers We won't pay! We can't pay!
Marian They're right, Robin. How can they pay higher taxes? Most are too poor already!
Robin I'll go to Nottingham and talk to the Sheriff. Maybe I can persuade him to change his mind.

Robin and Marian exit

Scene 2

Baroness Stonybroke's Parlour at Hardup Hall. The Baroness enters, sneakily followed at a distance by Grovel. Mistress Bunting enters

Baroness Ah, Bunting, you're back.
Bunting My back? What's wrong with it? Oh! I see what you mean.
Baroness I wish to speak with you, Bunting. Come into my parlour...
Bunting Said the flider to the spy...
Baroness I beg your pardon?
Bunting Nothing, Baroness, nothing at all. Just thinking aloud.
Baroness Could you keep your thoughts a little quieter, Bunting? Where's Grovel?
Grovel (*behind her*) Here, Baroness.
Baroness Goodness, woman, how often must I tell you not to do that?
Grovel (*innocently*) Do what, madam?
Baroness Creep up behind me ! Don't do it again.
Grovel Certainly, madam.
Baroness Fetch chairs and a little drink for Mistress Bunting and me.
Grovel Yes, madam. At once, madam. Right away, madam.

Grovel exits

Baroness I don't trust that person. Creeping about. Jumping out at people. Nasty, creepy, individual.

Bunting Why not get rid of her, if she's so craspy and neepy?

Baroness Oh, I can't do that...

She breaks off, and she and Bunting freeze as Grovel enters with a chair. They watch silently until Grovel places the chair and exits

...I don't know how much she knows.

Bunting Why not ask her?

Baroness I can't, because ...

She breaks off as Grovel enters with a second chair, places it and exits

...if she knows I don't know how much she knows, she'll know she knows more than me, and I'll be in trouble.

Bunting Why?

Baroness Because if she knows she knows more than I know she knows she'll have the upper hand because everything depends on my knowing as much of what's going on as possible...

Grovel enters with wine, gives them each a goblet and exits

...and I can't afford not to know what everyone else knows, you know. It's a sign of weakness. Now, to business. It's rather delicate.

Bunting Oh, you're having difficulty with... *(She mouths silently)*

Baroness No! Certainly not! Nothing like that. I want to ask you one or two personal questions.

Bunting Ah!

Baroness Exactly.

Bunting Ah!!

Baroness Precisely. I'm glad we understand each other.

Bunting Eh?

Baroness You are with me?

Bunting I'm right in front of you, Baroness.

Baroness Now, you've been nurse to the children for many years...

Bunting Since they were tiny tots. I remember when they were only tiddlers - oddlers - toddlers...

Baroness Yes! Yes! You've looked after them for many years...

Bunting Years and years...

Baroness And you've given me years of faithful service...

Bunting Years and years and years and years...

Baroness Quiet, Bunting! You're someone I can trust, someone I can talk to, so I've decided to take you into my confidence. Share my thoughts with you - about the children...

Bunting Jack and Jill?

Baroness Of course. What other children would I mean?

Bunting I don't know, I just thought...

Baroness I don't want you to think, I want you to *listen!*

Bunting Oh thank you, that'll be a lot easier.

Baroness As you know, when Jack and Jill's father died, he left all his money in trust. I was to look after the children and the money...

Bunting And you want to share it with me.

Baroness No I *don't* want to share it with you! He left it on condition that it be used for the children's upbringing and education. Hardup Hall is expensive to run, and now the taxes have been raised I'm rather short of cash. There's all that money for those two little brats - I mean, delightful children. If something should happen to them I'd be able to use the money as I wished. I want to know if I can count on you.

Bunting I'm not very good at sums...

Baroness *I'll* do the sums, Bunting. Can I count on your support?

Bunting Yes - well - could I think about it?

Baroness By all means. *(Brief pause.)* Well, have you thought?

Bunting Oh! I think I might need a little more time, Baroness.

Baroness Don't take too long over it. Time is money, you know.

Bunting Is it? I always thought it was something to do with minutes and seconds. Well, I'll know you let - let you know.

Baroness Very well. Grovel!

Bunting falls to her knees

Bunting, what *are* you doing?

Bunting You told me to grovel, Baroness.

Baroness Get up, Bunting, and leave me.

Bunting Certainly, Baroness.

Bunting exits

Baroness Such a pity I've to involve that dim-witted creature, Bunting. But if anything should go wrong, I'll be able to put the blame on her...

Grovel enters silently and speaks from behind the Baroness

Grovel Was there something, Baroness?

Baroness Don't creep up behind me, Grovel! Give a discreet cough to let me know you're there.

Grovel Of course, Baroness.

Baroness Clear everything away.

Grovel Certainly, Baroness. As you say, Baroness. At once, Baroness.

She takes the goblets and one of the chairs and exits

Baroness I must keep an eye on that person. Maybe I'll keep both eyes on her, she has a shifty look.

Grovel enters behind her and coughs explosively

That isn't quite what I had in mind, Grovel!

The Baroness exits

Grovel There's something strange going on. The Baroness and Mistress Bunting are acting strangely - but that's to be expected with so little rehearsal. I'll find out what's happening and see if I can make a little money for myself.

She exits with the second chair

Robin Hood & The Babes In The Wood

Plot Summary

When Robin is outlawed by the Sheriff of Nottingham, he has to leave his beloved Marian and flee to Sherwood Forest. Meanwhile, Marian's guardian Baroness Stonybroke wants to get her hands on Jack and Jill's inheritance for herself and devious Grovel arranges for the children to be kidnapped. In Sherwood Forest they escape from their captors, but fall into the hands of the Sheriff, who has also arrested Marian. Robin has to rescue all three or give himself up, but with the help of the Merry Women he succeeds. A fast-moving plot, memorable villains, and numerous roles for women.