

ACT ONE

Scene 1

The Village Square.

MUSIC #1 : OPENING NUMBER (FULL CHORUS)

At the end of the song, Bullseye enters.

Bullseye Hear ye, hear ye!! Make way for his most high and mightiness. The Sheriff of Nottingham. *(The villagers all boo).* Anyone booing will have their taxes doubled!!

The villagers stop booing at once. The Sheriff enters flanked by two guards.

Sheriff Hello everyone, so... lovely to see you all. You know how much I enjoy coming down here to visit all you peasants. *(He looks out to the audience).* Oh, and I see there are even more of you here now; Bullseye, do something about these new ones, they smell funny. Oh, and see if we can't ask the person down in C4 to put a bag on his/her head, their face frightens me. *(Back to the company).* But how I love to see you all grovelling... Well, start grovelling, or I'll raise your taxes!! *(The villagers grovel).* That's right, grovel! More, more, lower. Perfect. *(Beat).* I come today bringing good news for you all. *(The Villagers react).* You see, I've decided to let you all have a week off from paying your taxes.

Villagers Wonderful! / Really! / That's great! etc etc.

Sheriff Yes, when I decide which week that will be, I'll let you know! *(He laughs and the villagers groan).*

Villager 1 That's not fair, you horrible man!

Sheriff Right! Who was that? Who dared say that to me! Own up now and your punishment will only be half as painful. Come on now, who was it? *(The villagers remain silent).* Very well, seeing as none of you will own up, I'll pick the culprit myself! *(He goes to a villager wearing a distinctive hat, that we later see on the skeleton in the dungeon).* You'll do. Guards! Take this poor excuse for a human to the dungeons and lock him/her up immediately!

The guards exit with the prisoner.

Villagers Stop, you can't do that / He/she's innocent / Let him/her go etc.

Sheriff Be quiet or I'll send the lot of you to the dungeons! Now clear off... haven't you lot got homes to go to?

Villager 1 No, you burnt them all!

Sheriff Ah yes, I forgot! What fun. Well, just clear off anyway... Go on, get out of here! *(The villagers exit).* Look around you, Bullseye, what do you see?

Bullseye Not a lot your higher-ship, you burnt it all!

Sheriff No you fool, look around you, look down, what do you see?

Bullseye Mud sir!

Sheriff Not mud! Land! Lots of lovely land, and once we've either taxed these villagers to death or sent them all to the dungeons it will all be mine! *(He laughs).* We'll cut down the forest and build the biggest market the world has ever seen, people will flock from miles around to spend their money... it'll be a super market! And it'll make me rich! *(He laughs. Then, to the audience).* Oh, be quiet! Bullseye... we're leaving!

The Sheriff exits the same direction as the guards, with Bullseye following behind. Maid Marian enters opposite, followed by Sarah.

Sarah Marian, will you slow down! I can't keep up.

Maid Marian If we don't walk faster we'll get caught by Nurse Nora, or worse, the Sheriff. *(Spotting the audience).* Oh, hello everyone, I'm Maid Marian. You haven't seen the Sheriff have you? *(Audience reaction).* You have? Oh no!

Sarah Come on then, your highness, we'd better get out of here before he finds us.

Maid Marian Oh! That Sheriff is so horrible and mean to everyone.

Sarah Except you, that is!

Maid Marian Oh, don't remind me.

Sarah He does have rather a soft spot for you, doesn't he? I've a feeling he intends to marry you!

Maid Marian Please don't remind me, Sarah, I could think of nothing worse.

Sarah It'd be different if it were Robin though, eh?

Maid Marian Oh, Sarah, Robin and I were so in love before my father had to leave. I've never told anyone this, Sarah, but you are my best friend and I know I can trust you. Robin and I made a promise that we would be married; we were just waiting for the right time to ask my father before he had to leave and that wicked Sheriff was put in charge. If only my father would return, everything would be better.

Sarah Wow, marriage! But I never had you down as the Marian kind! Oh well, until then you've always got me!

MUSIC #2 : MARIAN & SARAH

Nora (*Offstage*). Marian, Marian!

Maid Marian Quick, let's hide!

Nora (*Entering*). Marian, where are you? Come back or I'll be in trouble! Ooooh hello, look at you all! Allow me to introduce myself, I am Nurse Nora, (*she curtsseys to the audience and lets out a small fart*), and I am Maid Marian's nursemaid. Oh, I'm exhausted, I tell you! I've just finished a twenty-four hour hairdressing marathon... I'm completely lacquered! Oh, but let me tell you, I've had a tough life... (*She encourages an audience reaction*). It's tougher than that! I've been married four times and every time it's ended up in disaster. First, there was the magician, well, he disappeared. Then there was the athlete, he ran off with another woman. Then I had my heart set on a tennis player, but love meant nothing to him. The last one was eight feet tall; he left me too... well, we never could see eye to eye. (*She picks on a man in the audience*). Play your cards right, precious, and you could be number five! Anyway, while I was out I got some lovely sweets! Does anyone want any? (*She throws sweets to everyone*). Now I'm supposed to be looking after Maid Marian, you haven't seen her have you? (*Audience reaction*). What? She went this way? Oh, thank you, boys and girls. I'm sure I'll catch up with her, bye!! (*She exits*).

Will Scarlett enters and greets the audience.

MUSIC 3 : WILL'S ENTRANCE

Will Scarlett Hello everyone! (*Audience reaction*). Oh come on, my Nan could do better than that! Hello everyone!! (*Audience reaction*). My name's Will... Will Scarlett, and I'm one of Robin Hood's Merry Men. Have you all heard of Robin Hood? (*Audience reaction*). You have? Good, that saves a lot of extra dialogue. Well then, you all know that he's a good honest man who takes from the rich and gives to the poor. His gang is called the Merry Men and we live in the forest together. Ooh, I've got an idea... do you all want to be in my gang? (*Audience reaction*). You do? Excellent, well here's what we'll do. Every time I come on, I'm gonna shout: "Watcha Gang", and I want you all to shout back: "Watcha Will". Do you think you can do that? OK, well let's give it a go. "Watcha Gang!" (*Audience reaction*). Have you done it? You're as quiet as a bunch of [*local football team*] supporters at a home game! Let's try again... "Watcha Gang" (*He encourage the audience reply*). That's much better. Now, I've been sent down to check that the coast is clear for Robin, we've got some gifts for the villagers from our latest raid on the Sheriff. (*He whistles the all clear to offstage for Robin, as he does the villagers enter*).

Villager 1 Hello Will, is Robin coming again?

Will Scarlett Yes, he'll be on his way now.

Villager 2 Oh, he's so brave!

Villager 3 And strong!

Villager 4 And handsome!!

Scene 4

Marian's Bedroom.

Nora Hello, boys and girls... (*Seeing the man from before*). Hello, gorgeous. Here we are in Marian's bedroom, and, oh, it's such a mess. Why she can't clean up after herself I'll never know. I've been out shopping again this morning, I went to the village pet shop and said: "Can I have a gold fish?" The man said: "Do you want an aquarium?" and I said: "I don't care what star sign it is!". And there was a busker outside the shop playing ABBA songs on a didgeridoo, I thought: "That's aboriginal". Oh, but I can't stand around here all day gassing with you, I've got all this tidying up to do! I can't do it all on my own though; so boys and girls will you help me call for Maid Marian? (*She encourages a response*). OK, after three, can you all shout: "Maid Marian"?... Ready? One, two, three: "Maid Marian!!".

Maid Marian (*Entering with Sarah*). Yes, Nurse Nora? Oh, Hello everyone.

Nora Now, now, you two! There's no time for talking, you're going to help me tidy up this mess of yours.

Sarah Do we have to? It's so boring!

Nora Yes you do! Now get a move on! (*The girls start tidying*). Now then, Marian, a little birdie tells me the Sheriff has been trying to get you to marry him?

Maid Marian Yes he has, but I wouldn't touch him with a bargepole.

Sarah Yeah, he's gross!

Maid Marian Unlike Robin.

Both girls sigh dreamily.

Nora (*To Sarah*). You stay out of it. Marian, you could do a lot worse than marrying the Sheriff you know.

Sarah What like marrying [*current ugly celebrity or Shrek*].

Nora Right, that's enough from you, off you go. Marian and I will do this... leave us alone. (*Sarah exits*). Marian, you really need to think about his offer you know.

Maid Marian But Nora, I don't love him, I could never be with someone I didn't love.

Nora Well, we can't all be that fussy. (*To the man in the audience*). You just remember that my dear!

Maid Marian But all my love is for Robin. Oh, I wish my Father was still here.

Nora Me too, your highness. But he's going to be away for long time, and you'll have to learn to get along without him. Come on, let's get on with clearing up all this mess of yours. (*As they start clearing up, an arrow fired offstage from Robin lands in Nora's backside with a suitable sound effect, Nora reacts accordingly*). Yoowie!!! Marian! I think this might be for you.

Maid Marian (*Pulling the arrow out of Nora's behind*). Oh, Nora, it's a letter from Robin!

Nora Thank goodness it wasn't a parcel! Well, next time you see him, tell him I don't appreciate him delivering them to my behind! I'll need some ointment on this! (*Looking at the man in the audience*). Or you could kiss it better? (*She bends over for him to do it and lets out a fart*). Ooh! Well, Marian, when I get back, this room better be tidy, madam! (*She exits, rubbing her bottom*).

Marian starts reading the letter and as she does Sarah enters.

Sarah I heard Nora screaming... is that who I think it's from?

Maid Marian Yes it is. Oh, Sarah, it's the most wonderful letter I've ever received. Robin always says the most beautiful things and he has promised that once my father is back in the kingdom everything will return to normal and then we will be married.

They both sigh.

Sarah I'm very happy for you, Marian, but I think you should be worried about the Sheriff. If he gets his hands on Robin there's no telling what he'll do to him. Come on, I'll give you a hand tidying up this place or Nora will go potty!

They start tidying.

Maid Marian Sarah, do you never long for anyone the way I long for Robin?

Sarah Well, there was someone... Oh, but I don't want to talk about it. I'm sure he's not interested in me.

Maid Marian Really? Who is it? You have to tell me, we're best friends!

Sarah Oh, alright, but you have to promise not to tell a soul!

Maid Marian Cross my heart and hope to die.

Sarah Stick a needle in your eye? (*Marian nods*). It's Will. He's just as brave and handsome as Robin, you know. But I don't think he'd be interested in me.

Maid Marian Why not? Oh, Sarah, I'm sure he has no idea, you just need to tell him, that's all.

Sarah Well maybe I will someday. Anyway I'd better be off before Nora gets back.

Sarah exits as Marian finishes her tidying. Shortly after, Nora enters.

Nora Right! This room better be shipshape!

Maid Marian Oh, Nora, look at what I've just found.

Nora Ooooh, yes. It's that television you used to have as a young girl, err even though they've not been invented yet!

Maid Marian Yes; oh, do you remember all the lovely programmes I used to watch?

Nora Yes I do... oh, how you used to enjoy them all! But look at the time. I've got to head back to the kitchens, one of the staff left the fridge open and all the food has gone off. Still, I managed to stay calm. Well, I'm not going to make a meal out of it, am I? Anyway the Sheriff will be waiting for his dinner so I'd better be off. Bye, Marian.

Maid Marian Goodbye Nora. (*To the audience*). You know, all this tidying up has made me ever so tired. Perhaps I'll have a little nap.

Marian lays down on the bed. As she falls asleep, her dreams come to life as the TV characters appear. An offstage or recorded voice may sing the song.

MUSIC #6 : MARIAN & CHORUS

At the end of the song, blackout.

Scene 5

The Sheriffs Castle.

Sheriff Oh, Bullseye, what am I to do? Marian has spurned me once again and to make matters worse I hear she's after that Robin Hood! He's stolen her heart, that prince of thieves!

Bullseye I have a plan, Sire!

Sheriff A plan?

Bullseye Yes, Sire!

Sheriff Well, go on then!

Bullseye What we need to do is build a giant death star, sir, and once on board the space ship...

Sheriff Bullseye! That's the plot of Star Wars!

Bullseye Oh, sorry, Sire, how about we find fiur superheroes, the Hulk, Iron man, Captain...

Sheriff That's the Avengers! Bullseye, do you have any ideas that aren't films?

Bullseye We could find a boy wizard?

Sheriff Oh, be quiet, Bullseye! What we need is someone with brains. Sadly you were at the back of the queue when they were handing them out. (*Beat*). Bullseye, summon Morgana to me, we have need of her.

Bullseye Yes, Sire. (*He pick up a large bell and rings it behind the Sheriff, startling him*). Morgana!!

Sheriff Bullseye! Go and fetch her!!