

Babes In The Wood

A pantomime by

Dave Buchanan

Spotlight Publications

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ISBN 1 904930 07 7

Robin Hood & The Babes In The Wood

CAST (in order of appearance)

Alan* A-Dale, a wandering minstrel

Sheriff of Nottingham

Gumpton, the Sheriff's chamberlain

Garth, an urchin

Tootsie, the Babes' dog

Tommy, boy Babe

Teenie, girl Babe

Dame Dannii, the Babes' nanny

Lady Marian Fitzherbert

Big John)

Little John) Merry Men

Robin Hood, an outlaw

Syd Sludge)

Cecil Potts) the robbers

Mutch The Miller, a Merry Man

*(**Alana or Ellen** if played by a woman)

Chorus of Villagers, Entertainers and Mannikins

Place - in and around Nottingham

Time - mediaeval England

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 - Front of tabs

Scene 2 - A street in Nottingham

Scene 3 - Front of tabs

Scene 4 - Baronial Hall of Nottingham Castle

Scene 5 - Sherwood Forest

Scene 6 - Schoolroom

ACT 2

Scene 1 - Sherwood Forest

Scene 2 - The Dame's bedroom

Scene 3 - Baronial Hall of Nottingham Castle

Scene 4 - Front of tabs

Scene 5 - A street in Nottingham

Scene 6 - Front of tabs

Scene 7 - A street in Nottingham

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. "Of All the Rogues in England" (D. Buchanan) (Alan & Chorus)
2. "Who Will Buy?" (Lionel Bart) (Dancers & Chorus)
3. "Robin Hood" (Robin & Chorus)
4. "I Just Can't Get You Out Of My Head" (K. Minogue) (Dame)
5. "A Whole New World" (Disney - Aladdin) (Marian)
6. "Rockin' Robin" (The Jackson Five) (Alan & Dancers)
7. "I'd Do Anything" (Lionel Bart) (Garth & Marian)
8. "Robin Hood": reprise (Merry Men)
9. "Be Back Soon" (Lionel Bart) (Robin, Garth, Big & Little John)
10. "You're the One That I Want" (Grease) (Syd, Cecil & Dancers)
11. "Money Money Money" (Abba) (Sheriff & Chorus)

ACT 2

12. Boxing Ballet (Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy) (Syd & Cecil)
13. Spook Dance (Ghostbusters Main Title Theme) (Dancers)
14. Dance of the Mannikins (Junior Dancers)
15. "Consider Yourself" (Bart) (Robin, Garth, Babes, Chorus)
16. "Hot Stuff" (The Full Monty) (Dame)
17. "You Sexy Thing" (Hot Chocolate) (Dame)
18. "Everything I Do, I Do It For You" (Adams) (Robin & Marian)
19. Maypole Dance (Dancers)
20. "In the Brownies" (Billy Connolly) (Syd, Cecil, Dame)
21. "Consider Yourself": reprise (Ensemble)

N.B. This list of songs is only the author's recommendation. All songs are at the discretion of the Musical Director.

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A NOTE ON THE PRINCIPALS

Alan A-Dale. A character part for a real character - the minstrel who doubles up as narrator.

Gumpton. A part for a mature man, Gumpton is the butt of the Sheriff's wit and pompous to an extreme degree but not without sympathy.

Garth The Urchin. A part for a small teenager, Garth is a mischievous imp and much involved in the action.

Dame Dannii. A most challenging role, Dame Dannii is no shrinking violet. She is extrovert, man-mad and one of the raunchiest Dames in panto.

Tommy & Teenie. Both the Babes are spirited, and show solidarity in a tight corner. Both have also good lines to deliver!

Robin Hood is a typical Principal Boy who is direct, sincere and of course fearless.

Lady Marian. This Principal Girl is very determined and direct, and not afraid to take on anyone, including the Sheriff!

Big John & Little John. The typical inept comic duo. Little John is extremely inept, while Big John imagines he is in charge.

Syd & Cecil. The main comic parts of the panto, Syd and Cecil have lots to do. Syd is the more bossy of the two. The roles require actors of considerable energy and talent.

The Sheriff is an absolute villain through and through and will receive no sympathy from anyone. A wonderful blustering rascally role which gives much scope for audience interaction.

Mutch the Miller. A small but colourful character part.

ACT 1

Scene 1

Front of tabs

Enter R Alan A-Dale, a minstrel, and a few Chorus members. He plays a few notes on his mandolin then sings the following:

Song 1

(Sung to the tune of "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen")

Alan Of all the rogues in England
And many do I know,
The Sheriff takes the biscuit
With a hey, hey, nonny, nonny, no!

The Sheriff gets up every day
At half past nine, or ten.
He robs and swindles you and me
Then goes back to bed again!

When good King Richard comes back home
The Sheriff he will cuss;
A right come-uppance he will get,
And so say all of us!

Alan *(to the audience)* My name is Alan A-Dale the minstrel, and I'm here to tell the story of the Babes in the Wood and the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham. Here he comes now, so I want you to give him a right good hissing and booing.

Enter Sheriff, to boos

Sheriff I'm the Sheriff of Nottingham, and I'm the villain. The baddy. And you can boo and hiss all you like. Go on, have a practice. I rather like it. In fact, I revel in it! *(He roars with laughter)* You know what my favourite time of year is? The twelfth of August - the Glorious Twelfth. It's the time I go out hunting and shoot me some peasants! Geddit? Peasants!

The audience hiss and boo him

I'm expecting some visitors. My nephew and niece. Little do they know they're worth more to me dead than alive. *(He laughs evilly, then produces a letter)* Look at this. Me brother Jasper died last week. His whole life he was happy and poor - how can that be? Money makes you happy. Oh yes it does! Then would you believe it, he won a cool 15 million quid in a quadruple rollover Lotto. And that's not easy to say! And he was going to give it all away to a doggie charity. I hate dogs! *(Boos)* Then fortunately he kicked the bucket, leaving it all to his two kids, my nephew and niece. But here's the rub. You see, when they're dead, I inherit all their money. I'm going to be rich! Oh yes I am! *(Confidentially to audience)* You're supposed to say "Oh no you're not!"

He ad-libs with the audience

I'll have more money than Bill Gates! Or even a Premiership footballer! *Hasta la vista, baby!*

He exits roaring

Alan Cor, what a proper nasty person! We'll have to keep an eye on him, won't we folks? And keep an eye out for the Babes. Will you help me? ("*Yes!*") Oh I forgot I'm supposed to speak in rhyme. Here goes. Blimey, what rhymes with "Sheriff"? Here goes.

He's a man to avoid and shun,
Public Enemy Number One!
I'll try and try, and bust a gut
To kick that nasty Sheriff's butt!

Oops! Am I allowed to say that word? (*He shrugs his shoulders*) Oh well, I've said it, so there! Better get on to the next scene, eh? It takes place in a street in Nottingham, and features most of the characters in this exciting story. See you later, folks!

Scene 2

A street in Nottingham

There are stalls of all sorts with produce laid out. There is an air of festivity with bunting etc.

A huge banner proclaims "Nottingham Fair"

Various sellers enter and gradually build up the opening number

Song 2

Enter R Gumption, the chamberlain, with bell and scroll

He rings the bell and the villagers gather quickly

Gumption Come on, you lot, gather round, lend an ear.

Villager 1 I wouldn't lend you a brass farthing, Gumption!

Gumption I will do you a favour and ignore that. I've got good news for all.

Villager 2 Have you been sacked?

Gumption No!

Villager 1 Maybe the Castle has been burned down.

Gumption No!

Enter UR Garth, an urchin

Garth Go on, mister, tell us what it is.

Gumption I'll put it on the notice board so that you can all read it. I take it none of you are illiterate?

Garth I always pick up my litter. (*He laughs*)

Gumption You know what I mean. This is a notice from His Lordship, the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Garth That old skinflint?

Gumption Watch your tongue, boy! You could get the stocks for that!

Villager 1 He'd swindle his own granny, that one!

Murmurs of agreement

Gumption No, listen, you're wrong about the Sheriff. He's offering a very generous reward. Look, on this notice. (*He shows the notice.*) Fifty pounds!

Crowd Cor! Fifty quid! Etc.

Gumption For information leading to the apprehension -

Garth The happy what?

Gumption The arrest of the outlaw, Robin of Locksley, *alias* Robin Hood.

Garth You're barking up the wrong gum tree, mate.

Villager 2 That's right. He's not a bad lad.

Gumption But he's a robber.

Villager 1 Yes, but he only robs those who can afford to be robbed.

Garth So you can tell that rotten Sheriff what to do with his fifty quid!

Crowd Yes!

They advance menacingly on Gumption. Then they gradually disperse offstage

Garth watches as Gumption posts the notice

Gumption Hey, you!

Garth Pardon?

Gumption Give us a hand.

Garth Pardon?

Gumption Please?

Garth Oh, all right. You want a hammer? I know where to get one.

Gumption Right.

Garth exits R, then quickly re-enters with a prop hammer

Garth Will this do?

Gumption Good.

He holds the notice with one hand and places a large nail with the other

Now, when I nod my head, you hit it!

Garth Pardon?

Gumption When I nod my head, you hit it. Got it?

Garth I've got it. If you insist -

He nods and Garth hits him on the head. He chases him off L

Enter R Alan A-Dale, in characteristic pose. He strikes a few notes

Alan Oddsbods! Gadzooks! A door's ajar!

(To audience)

What do you think of it so far?

But here, to raise a laugh and cheer

Behold, Up Left, the Babes appear!

To his embarrassment, the Babes appear UR

Ha-ha! Up Right, I meant to say

And now I'll bid you all good day!

Alan exits DL

Enter UR the Babes, Tommy and Teenie, and Dame Dannii

Tommy is dragged on by a huge dog on a very long lead. The dog bolts off DL with Tommy

Dame Tootsie! Sit!

Dame Dannii and Teenie stand C

Tootsie emerges from UL, still dragging Tommy, and bolts off DR, nearly sweeping the Dame off her feet

What's got into that mutt?

Tootsie re-emerges UR, crosses the stage, then runs round and round Dame Dannii, entangling her legs with her lead

She sways alarmingly, then falls

Oh, help, me bum's numb! Me posterity's paralysed!

Tootsie tries to lick her face, but she is angry

You daft dog! You pesky pooch! Just wait till I - ! See when I'm angry, I'm relentless!

Tootsie cowers DR, whimpering

Teenie You don't mean that, Nanny? Tootsie is a good dog.

Teenie comforts Tootsie. The Dame relents

Dame All right, I didn't mean it. Come on, Tootsie -

Tootsie is all over her

Dame Here's a bone. *(She produces a bone)* Now, you know what you have to do.

Tootsie leaps up to get the bone

No, no, you daft mutt, you have to beg.

She demonstrates begging. Tootsie finally begs

Oh, look at all these people. Hello, everyone! I'm Dame Dannii. That's Dannii with two Is. You know, like Dannii Monogamy! And I'm rather like Dannii, don't you think? And big sister Kylie. You know, Kylie and I have one thing in common. A cute bottom.

She turns round and flashes her bloomers, which have the legend "Kiss Me Quick"

And another thing Kylie and I have in common is, we both work out. At the gym. Lovely boy, Jim! He's my P.F.C. Personal Fitness Consultant. He tones my muscles and massages my epider- mis. You know I went for a sauna bath the other day. I went into this room all steam and white tiles, took all my clothes off, lay down in the middle of the floor and when the steam cleared I was in a fish and chip shop!

You know, I'm on a special diet. It's an oily diet. All I eat is salad oil, vegetable oil and sunflower oil. I haven't lost any weight, but I don't squeak anymore!

Teenie Nanny?

Dame What is it, Teenie?

Teenie Don't you think we should get back to the script?

Dame Oh yes. Whose line is it anyway?

Teenie It's yours.

Dame *(giggling)* So it is! Well, folks, these two are Tommy and Teenie. Tommy, what's the matter?

Tommy I'm hungry.

Teenie So am I, Nanny. We haven't eaten for ages.

Dame It's just a matter of finding the Castle. It's a wonder your uncle, the Sheriff, didn't send someone to meet us.

Garth passes from DR to DL

Dame Excuse me, young man?
Garth Who, me?
Dame Can you direct me to Nottingham Castle?
Garth There it is, up there on the hill. (*He points offstage L*) I wouldn't go there if I were you though.
Dame Whyever not?
Garth (*conspiratorially*) The bogeyman lives there.
Dame Who?
Garth The Sheriff. You know, he eats kiddies like you (*he looks at the Babes*) for breakfast.
Dame You're having us on, you little rascal. What's your name?
Garth I'm Garth the Urchin. But I'd really like to be called Clint or Rock.
Dame Why?
Garth I want to be like Robin Hood.
Teenie Robin Hood the outlaw?
Garth Yeh!
Tommy Cool!
Dame Well, Garth, I'm Dame Dannii. And this is Tommy and Teenie.
Teenie Hello, Garth.
Tommy (*producing a space gun*) I am Darth Vader, and I'm going to zap you one!
Garth Pleased to meet you, Mr Vader. I knew your father, Space In.
Tommy You're okay, what's-your-name.
Garth You're okay, too, thingamabob.
Teenie This is Tootsie. You can shake his paw.
Garth (*shaking paws with Tootsie*) Some mutt. Listen, I'll show you the way to the Castle, if you like.
Dame Thank you, Garth. You know, you're not such a horrible little monster after all.
Garth Oh yes I am! Come on, it's not far.

They exit L

Babes In The Wood

The plot combines the Babes-lost-in-the-forest story with the Robin Hood legend. The comedy comes thick and fast with the comedy hitmen and Robin's motley crew of Men in Tights. Plus, a really villainous Sheriff. And an unforgettable Dame!

Plot Summary

The Babes come to visit their uncle, the Sheriff of Nottingham, little suspecting that he is planning their demise. But never fear, help is at hand! - in the shape of Robin and his Merry Men, plus Lady Marian, and Nanny Dame Dannii (with two Is).

ISBN 1 904930 07 7