

Lords and Ladies, one and all. Join us in this banquet hall. The path ahead is rather winding. But at the end thou wilt be finding, Pleasures aplenty for eye and for ear! So let us begin, come, with good cheer!

Town Crier calls out names and the guests are escorted to their tables.

FANFARE: THE WELCOME

JESTER:

Wes hale, Good Lords and Ladies fair, we bid thee welcome we bid thee share. Come join us in our Madrigal Feast, all are welcome from richest to the least.

Two-thousand fifteen has been quite a year, constant flow of news creates much fear. But here on this fun and glorious night, find not a reason for feeling fright.

Each night the cry of politics is heard, so loudly each cries, my hearing is blurred. We don't need to know thou parties line, all such rhetoric shall be left behind.

Turn off thy distractions that cause a phubbing, What is that, you say? It is phone snubbing! Chose to engage with the one next to you, thou can turn thy phone on when the night is through.

For we gather together to share in the season, to gather in love whatever the reason. Look to your left and look to your right, enjoy each one these few hours tonight.

Thou finds thyself at at a magical feast. Thou whilst be entertained to say the least. Recline thy self and enjoy the show, without further ado ere we go.

Hark and listen dost thou not hear? The festive parade is drawing near.

FANFARE-THE PROCESSIONAL

Enter all Choirs from Back:

SING: _____

Royal court standing at table

ROYAL COURT:

All you that Merry Men, Come hearken to my song; I know ye do not hate good cheer, nor wassail that is strong.

ROYAL COURT:

All you who are ladies fair, lift a cup to toast; Drink down the strong Wassail with cheer, that ye may also boast.

ROYAL COURT:

And if ye have a wee babe on thy hip, lift up a cup for him to sip. For it is all in the spice that makes this Wassail very nice.

ROYAL COURT:

Come fill us of the strongest! Small drink is out of date! Methinks I shall fare like a prince and sit in gallant state.

ROYAL COURT:

I lift my glass of strongest Wassail to the founder of the feast. May the master nary a trouble and blessings to increase.

ROYAL COURT:

When thou hast given God the thanks, unto thy dainties fall! Heaven bless my master and my dame!

KING ROBIN:

And blessing one and all!

PAGES:

Wassail, Wassail, Wassail!

ALL CHOIRS: WASSAIL

ROYAL COURT:

Merry Men and fair ladies , our valiant and gracious host bids thee rise for the Wassail Toast!

KING ROBIN:

Lords and ladies we welcome you to Sherwood Forest. Yes you heard correct, we dine tonight in the beauty of my realm where all are welcome to enjoy and dine. Now hear my toast, Drink it well! Here then I bid thee Wassail! Down with him who will not say Drink Hail!

ROYAL COURT: ALL

(and audience)

Drink Hail!

KING ROBIN:

May the Peace and joy of Christmastide, within thy hearts this year abide.

SING: AVE MARIA

ALL:

To the King and Queen! (repeat)

CHOIRS EXIT/ ROYAL COURT IS SEATED

JESTER:

Here in the King's humble dwelling, you will find a subtle quelling. You have entered the Forest of Sherwood, Kingdom of his noble Highness, the Notorious Robin Hood.

Is this the Outlaw, you ask, of Sherwood Forest? The one who steals from the rich to give to the poorest? Thou hast heard of the villain who invites you to dine, then takes from your purse, robbing you blind?

Oh madam, thou lookest ever so frightened, sit back, relax for I shall enlighten. At Christmas time we have a truce, no stealing from the rich, so let loose.

No really, I'm serious, let loose of your purse, that's it let go no one is going to...

KING ROBIN:

Jester, what is going on down there?

JESTER:

Oh virtuous one, this fair lady she's frightened for her purse.

KING ROBIN:

Ahh, rest assure, dear gentlewoman, there is nothing to fear. No one will be taking here tonight, there will only be giving.

TOWN CRIER:

Hear ye, Hear ye by the orders of the King and Queen of Sherwood Forest let the festivities commence!

SOUP

Improv as needed

TOWN CRIER:

Hear ye, Hear ye The formal introductions of the Royal court.

JESTER:

Come, listen now, do be a sport, Let me introduce you to the Royal Court:

(MORE)

JESTER: (cont'd)

The King of this forest as you have heard, is the righteous and good, Robin Hood.

Robin stands

If Robin is King of this domain, then the fair Lady Marian must share in his reign.

Marian stands and princess waves

Sitting next to Robin, his famous right hand man, Little John the tallest and bravest in all the land..

Little John stands

JESTER:

What has happened, Little John--you were once tall and stout, looking at you now I see a puny lout.

LITTLE JOHN:

The years have taken it's toll..

JESTER:

Guess you could call this a self-fulfilling prophecy... have another wassail.

JESTER:

And next to our fair Queen Marian, with a voice as clear as a clarion, the wife of the infamous felon, Little John's comely wife Lady Ellen.

Lady Ellen rises and waves

JESTER:

Next come the offspring of this motley crew, second generation of hood's, it's true.

the court grumbles

JESTER:

The Hood's and the Little's have but one child, beautiful girls with a brilliant smiles. Please welcome each with a round of applause..

(Jester points to the rear of the room, they do not appear)

One more time, put together your paws.

(Midge runs out, clip board in hand)

Oh my this is a faux pas (foe paw)

The beautiful maids are running late, it looks as if we sill have to wait

.

QUEEN MARIAN:

(Throws her arms in the air)
Oh this is great, just great!

JESTER:

The others that sit on this humble court are Lords and ladies of a simple sort. They have dressed up tonight for this fine feast, these are the fine men and women to say the least. They have come to the forest to fight for the good, they are the Merry Men and Women of Robin Hood!

ROYAL COURT: ALL

Sirrah!

Royal court sits down

TOWN CRIER:

So many are here at the feast, it is Boar's Head that we eat!

Boar's Head Carol: verse one

TOWN CRIER:

Let us serve with a song, we'll be eating Boar's Head ere too long!

Boar's Head Carol: verse two

TOWN CRIER:

In the Queen's Hall we shall eat, the rarest of the rarest treat!

Boar's Head Carol: verse three

JESTER:

To the Queen and King

ALL:

To the King and Queen.

Choirs exit

MAIN COURSE

Jester is in charge:

Improv as needed

Jokes

improv with audience

<commercials>

Midge/Royal court/Town crier may participate

KING ROBIN:

Jester, you may continue.

JESTER:

You know Robin, I would like to but, I had this little song and dance routine all planned with your daughter's..

QUEEN MARIAN:

Oh that child will be the death of me.
(girls enter)

ROBYN:

Here we are mother

QUEEN MARIAN:

Lil' Robyn, come and join us at the table.

LADY ELLEN:

Bettris, be a good girl and come on up here.

BETTRIS:

Oh mother, no, please do not make us sit up there with Robin and father. The stories he tells, I could recite them in my sleep!

(Marian and Bettris begin to act out)

"I put my foot on the bridge just as Robin did and I dared him to cross."

ROBYN:

"He was a stouter man back then but I back down from no one, 'Give me your best,' shouted I"

BETTRIS:

"But Robin was no match for me, I cracked him with my quarter-staff and into the water he went."

ROBYN:

"I had met my match, that day, but could I had found a better right hand man, I think not!"

BETTRIS:

"And I pledged my allegiance Robin and His Merry Men:

ROBYN AND BETTRIS:

"Sirrah"

KING ROBIN:

Ahh, those were the days! A good knock on the head never hurt anyone. You have taught her well, Little John.

LITTLE JOHN:

Well like I always say, if you want to be a legend you better be the one telling the stories.

ROYAL COURT:

Sirrah

(The girls roll their eyes)

KING ROBIN:

Ahh, those were the days! A good knock on the head never hurt anyone. You have taught her well, Little John.

LITTLE JOHN:

Well like I always say, if you want to be a legend you better be the one telling the stories.

ROBYN:

And mother, really how many more times can I listen to how you stood up to your father and ran away to Sherwood Forest into the arms of your true love.

"Oh father Robin is a good man, and I will marry him."

BETTRIS:

"He is dirty rotten outlaw, stealing from honest noble men and giving it to the local rabble"

ROBYN:

"Father, he is a good an honorable man. help the poor and down trodden from the tyrant Prince John, and I will go to him whether you give me permission or not."

BETTRIS:

"But what will I say to Prince John when he asks why you are not at court?"

ROBYN:

"Do not give me permission to go to Robin and pay no attention to the sounds in the night. Then when I am gone you call honestly tell Prince John I left without your permission or knowledge."

QUEEN MARIAN:

Oh dear girl, you tell that story perfectly, I would let no one stop me from being with my Robin.

KING ROBIN:

Do you ever regret leaving your father's home and
living with an outlaw in his forest lair.

QUEEN MARIAN:

Oh dear Robin, you made me queen, I have no regrets.
(lean in as if you are going to kiss
Robin)

ROBYN:

And this, dear mother and father is why we are sitting
at the children's table.

FANFARE: DECK THE HALLS

DESERT

I SHER-WOOD

TOWN CRIER:

Hear ye, Hear ye, The time for entertainment has come!

MIDGE:

Jester oh Jester, Robin and Marian want to know why the
entertainment has not begun. We have nearly finished
the dessert and the guest are getting restless.

JESTER:

The entertainment has not shown up.

MIDGE:

Oh dear, oh dear ... Your a Jester, entertain.

JESTER:

I haven't rehearsed anything..

MIDGE:

Can't you sing or dance, or tell a
joke....something---anything?

KING ROBIN:

Jester, we are waiting.

JESTER:

Well, I have been working on a few clever jokes, well
puns actually, I haven't really tried them out on
anyone..

MIDGE:

(pushes the Jester forward)
Well, get up there and say something, anything!

JESTER:

King Robin (bows) Queen Marian (bows) here we are in Sherwood Forest, would you like to hear a joke?

KING ROBIN:

I Sher-wood!

everyone roars with laughter the Jester is bewildered

JESTER:

Surely, you would like to hear a joke?

KING ROBIN:

Yes I would, and don't call me Shirley.

everyone roars with laughter

JESTER:

Yew like my jokes?

the Jester laughs loudly

LITTLE JOHN:

You haven't told any jokes

JESTER:

That was my joke, we are in a forest and I said "Yew like my jokes?" as in the Yew tree --forest -- haha that one was fir you, haha. Get it? fir tree, fir you haha.

(Royal Court groans)

I have a-corny one for you. Did you hear the tale of the two trees who fell in love

LADY ELLEN:

No

JESTER:

It's one sappy story! haha

JESTER:

Knock knock

MIDGE:

Who's there?

JESTER:

Robin

MIDGE:

Robin who

JESTER:

(points to Robin)
He's Robbin' from the rich and giving to the poor.

JESTER:

Robin's crime is stealing but the trees are wanted for
Treason

KING ROBIN:

Come here you two.
(Midge pushes the Jester forward)

MIDGE:

Guess you were barking up the wrong tree with that one.

QUEEN MARIAN:

Please tell us you are not the only entertainment for
this evening.

MIDGE:

No, no, the headliners should be here any minute. We'll
go see what's holding them up.

*Friar Tuck and Allan-A-Dale enter from the guests
entrance to Roger Miller's Whistle Song (Robin
Hood)*

*Robyn and Bettris enter from back with cloaks and
swords and take Friar's mug and Allan's guitar
(add dialog)*

Friar and Allan continue to the front

JESTER:

There you are, where have you two been? I have been
forced to tell jokes, entertain, I may be dressed like
a fool, but I'm no clown! You do remember you are the
entertainment tonight!

FRIAR:

Yes we know, but we've been held-up.

JESTER:

What, traffic was bad, too many donkeys on the road!

FRIAR:

We were robbed, hi-jacked, hoodwinked,

ALLAN-A-DALE:

(excitedly--high pitched)
Bamboozled!

JESTER:
Bamboozled?

ALLAN-A-DALE:
(direct)
Bamboozled!

JESTER:
(solemnly)
Oh bamboozled.

ALLAN-A-DALE:
Out of no where hooded bandits came out of the wood and held us up with swords ...they took my guitar.

FRIAR:
They took my ale, my ale, and it was in my favorite mug, how could anyone be so cruel.

KING ROBIN:
Do my eyes deceive me? is that the portly Friar Tuck and the song-bird Allan-a-Dale?

LITTLE JOHN:
Sirrah! We may have entertainment forsoothith, forthcoming, forthwithith, --I could never speak old English good.

ALLAN-A-DALE:
Alas, Good Robin, there will be no singing from me.

LITTLE JOHN:
The songbird has flown the coop.

ALLAN-A-DALE:
Friar Tuck and I were robbed, we were held up by a sword-wielding group of bandits there must have been twenty maybe thirty. We fought the good fight but in the end they got away with my guitar!

FRIAR:
And stole my ale mug, and it was full to the brim. How can a man be expected to entertain without his Ale.

QUEEN MARIAN:
Keep the faith good friar, keep the faith.

FRIAR:
THEY TOOK MY ALE!
(Lady Sarah and Marian look blankly at him)
Women, they could never understand what ale means to a man.

KING ROBIN:

How can this be, all of the outlaws are here at my table, and we have declared a Christmas truce with the Sheriff of Nottingham. We will not be shaking down the rich,

QUEEN MARIAN:

and he will not be taxing the poor!

Someone in the audience screams

MIDGE:

(from the audience)

I've been robbed.

Robyn, Bettris run towards the stage turn stage right.

Royal Court gasps, points, chatters

MIDGE:

Stop them, stop them! Oh why didn't you stop them. They took my clip board! All my notes, the entertainment outline. This is a disaster, the show will be a flop, a complete flop.

Allan, Friar, Jester and Midge run after them

KING ROBIN:

These must be the Sheriff's scoundrels! The Merry Men have honored the truce! We live and die by our word!

LITTLE JOHN:

And we steal gold and jewels and accept all major credit cards.

LADY ELLEN:

The best these thieves could do is steal a guitar, a mug of ale and a clip board. These are strange times.

QUEEN MARIAN:

Oh Robin, the evening will be ruined! Is there anything that can be done?

KING ROBIN:

To arms men, we shall don our Lincoln greens and head to Nottingham to show the Sheriff we will not put up with such backhanded practices. We will retrieve the stolen items and a purse of gold to prove for we shall not be deceived in such a manor as this! Little John, Merry men, we're off!

LITTLE JOHN:

Robin, here's the thing, I have put my tight wearing days behind me. And look at me, I'm half the man I used to be. Let's just live and let live. Here, sit, I'll pour us more wassail.

A few people holler from various places in the room

I've been robbed!

TOWN CRIER:

Hear ye, Hear Ye all good people of Sherwood Forest hold onto your goods, a thief is loose in the forest, none other than Robin Hood.

Midge, Jester, Friar and Allan enter from stage right all looking dejected

KING ROBIN:

This is an outrage, this is not my doing, I know I have a reputation but..

QUEEN MARIAN:

Sit down darling.

LADY ELLEN:

Look who's back! Did you catch the thieves, did you recover your stolen items?

ALLAN-A-DALE:

Alas, no I may never get my guitar back.

FRIAR:

I will not rest until I have my mug of ale. My mother gave me that mug...mommy..

MIDGE:

No, sadly but we did bring this back, they are hanging all through the forest.

Jester unrolls a large wanted poster with Robyn and Bettris face

LADY ELLEN:

Oh, Marian.

QUEEN MARIAN:

This can't be, they are sitting here at the children's table! They are young ladies! They would not run through the forest, thieving and creating such mayhem!

KING ROBIN:

This must be a joke. Jester is this your doing? I must say this is not funny!

LITTLE JOHN:

I find it all rather entertaining.

JESTER:

Robin, I had nothing to do with this. Midge and I had a great line up for this evening. There was to be singing, dancing, comedy. Thieving and robbery were not part of the entertainment.

MIDGE:

We were as shocked as you are.

ALLAN-A-DALE:

I don't believe it is those two girls! The bandits who robbed me were big and burley...and..and there were twenty maybe thirty of them.

LITTLE JOHN:

Sheesh, if those girls are going to steal, you think they'd steal something better than a clip board! I know I taught my Bettris better than that!

LADY ELLEN:

John Little, you stop that foolish talk. One thief in the family is enough!

another screech in the dining hall

They stole my fork, they stole my fork.

Robyn and Bettris run up the center aisle with the knight behind "Stop thief"

Allan, Friar, Midge run after

QUEEN MARIAN:

Jester, aren't you going to go after them?

JESTER:

I don't get paid enough to run around like that. I say take the loss and relax.

In comes the girls with the Sheriff of Nottingham and the knights

followed by Midge, Allan and Friar all carrying their stolen items

SHERIFF:

I believe these two rascals belong to you.

(He pulls their hoods back)

Looky here, Lil' Robyn walking in her father's footsteps. And do my eyes deceive me, is this Little John's Bettris. They got caught on their first thieving spree, I'm very disappointed, I thought your offspring would give me a bit more of a challenge.

KING ROBIN:

Robyn what do you have to say for yourself?

ROBYN:

I have to say, the wanted poster turned out awesome. Look at us Bettris, those selfie shots turned out amazing.

BETTRIS:

Duck lips rule!

KING ROBIN:

I do have to say those are nice wanted posters, back in my day all we had was black and white.

QUEEN MARIAN:

Girls I have planned this feast for a year, the food, the entertainment. I raised funds the honest way! I invited the guest, I formed the truce and held the peace council between your father and the Sheriff. This was no easy task. I just wanted Christmas to be full of comfort and joy, love and family, peace and good will for goodness sake!

ROBYN:

Oh mother, we really meant no harm. We were just having fun. We have brought back all we have taken.

Bettris turns and gives silverware back to a table

BETTRIS:

Here's the forks I took, looks like you could use your napkins too. You got a little chicken right there in the corner. Would you me to get that for you.

FRIAR:

Where's my mug? You haven't given me my ale mug back!

BETTRIS:

I was hoping I could keep the mug.

LADY ELLEN:

Bettris, return the mug.

FRIAR:

My mug.

(cradles the mug)

BETTRIS:

How about a knight, can I keep a knight.

ROBYN:

I was just thinking it was time to update the family stories. All you and dad ever talk about is your times in Sherwood Forest robbing and fighting, running away from home, rebelling against authority. It always sounded like so much fun!

BETTRIS:

We thought you would be proud.

LADY ELLEN:

John Little, this is your doing.

LITTLE JOHN:

I take complete responsibility. Come here Betrris, I have a few more pointers for you.

LADY ELLEN:

John!

SHERIFF:

Since this is Christmas, and the girls stole only from your own people, I will let them go under your custody Robin and Marian, in the name of goodwill to men and all. But don't let me catch you two near Nottingham again--or to the dungeon.

Sheriff turns to leave.

the knights are focused on the girls
Come on.

KNIGHT:

I am staying here in the forest and putting in with the Merry Men.

BETTRIS:

Oh, I like that idea.

KING ROBIN:

Take him, sheriff, there will be a purse of gold in it for you.

sheriff leads the knights off stage right

ROBYN:

Ah, dad you are all talk and no fun.

KING ROBIN:

There is some truth to that. The stories I tell have grown to legends. but dear Robyn, there were plenty of dark times and bad decisions that hurt others as well as myself. Your mother is right, we shall work towards peace and goodwill to man this Christmas season.

QUEEN MARIAN:

But why a truce only at Christmas time. We can work on spreading comfort and joy all the year through!

LITTLE JOHN:

And saving a good crack on the skull for those who truly need it!

LADY ELLEN:

John Little!!

KING ROBIN:

Let us lift our cups once more; to love of family, peace and goodwill to all men!

ROBYN:

..and women.

BETTRIS:

..and knights.

ROYAL COURT: ALL

Sirrah!

Allan-a-dale leads the royal court with the Whistle song all singing along.

JESTER:

As you sit and ponder what's happened tonight, and wonder if Bettris gets to keep the knight. Will Lil'Robyn turn to a life of crime, stealing from others a penny a dime.

Is Friar now happy with his cup of ale, Is the minstrel singing, good Allan-a-Dale. What is the future for King Robin Hood, will he keep his promise of staying good?

Ponder no more, for now is the time, to look in our hearts and see what we find. Is there comfort and joy for all the year through? Is there peace and goodwill to share with a few?

Let us share now though the gift of song, a concert begins we will not prolong. The gift of music is what

(MORE)

JESTER: (cont'd)
you'll receive, your souls refreshed before you take
leave.

I have just one thing to say before I go, Merry
Christmas to all enjoy the show.