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# The Many Disguises of **ROBIN HOOD**

a play with music for a cast of 8-30  
adapted for the stage by **Brian Guehring**

In merry ol' England, the townspeople are overtaxed and overwhelmed. Luckily the mysterious outlaw Robin Hood is giving them hope by stealing from the rich and giving it to the poor. With disguises as a shoe peddler, puppeteer, minstrel, and old man, Robin Hood continually tricks the greedy Sherrif of Nottingham, his nasty daughter Luciana, and the evil Prince John. Robin Hood (whose best disguise is the legend surrounding the outlaw) eventually needs her merry band of outlaws and her childhood friend, the brave Maid Marian, to save her from the gallows.

The Many Disguises of Robin Hood was first produced at the Papillion (NE) Summer Arts Camp in the summer of 2002 with a cast of 63 students from Kindergarten through 9th grade with the following production team:

Director: Brian Guehring                      Producer/Tech Director: Debbie Kippley  
Music Director: Jackie Fowler              Choreographer: Donna Marceaux

The Many Disguises of Robin Hood was subsequently produced at the Omaha Theater Company for Young People in the summer of 2003 as a youth production with a cast of 8 students from 3rd grade 7th grade with the following production team and cast:

Director: Brian Guehring	Music Director: Emily Andres
Light Design: Andy Vance	Costume Design: Stephanie Anderson
Robin Hood	Kelly Walsh
Maid Marian/Friar Tuck	Kayla Callison
Sheriff of Nottingham/King Richard	Zachary Robinson
Luciana/Alana Dale	Hannah Kupka
Little John/Prince John	Nolan Healey
Jill Scarlet/Bishop of Hereford/Forester	Ally Patterson
Queen Elenor/Much/Widow	Miri Kennedy
Bold Beth/Lady Diggory	Karlee Qualheim

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# The Many Disguises of ROBIN HOOD

a play with music for a cast of 8-30

## Characters

ROBIN HOOD	an outlaw, an amazing archer, and heroine
MAID MARIAN	princess in the court
LITTLE JOHN	Robin's best friend
JILL SCARLET	a strong archer
FRIAR TUCK	a kind, good hearted friar
ALANA DALE	a minstrel
BOLD BETH	the widow's daughter
MUCH	the king's cook
QUEEN ELEANOR	good queen of England (but blind to her son's
shortcomings)	
SHERRIFF of NOTTINGHAM	unscrupulous power abusing villain
LUCIANA	his greedy, selfish, evil daughter
BISHOP of HEREFORD	unscrupulous, power abusing villain
PRINCE JOHN	unscrupulous, power abusing villain
KING RICHARD	brave king off fighting the Crusades

## Possible CHORUS:

Townspeople, Archery contestants, Merry Men, Royal Forresters, Court Dancers, etc

## Settings

Sherwood Forest  
The Sheriff of Nottingham's Castle  
The Town of Nottingham

## Time

800 years ago

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The Many Disguises of  
ROBIN HOOD

*act i, scene 1: Nottingham Town*  
*(SHERIFF of NOTTINGHAM and a ROYAL FORRESTER are strolling along the street. A SHOE COBBLER is setting up his cart in the town)*

SHERIFF

Ah, what a beautiful morning.

FORRESTER

The sun is out,

SHERIFF

The birds are singing,

*(A curious young girl, ELIZABETH approaches the shoe cart)*

SHERIFF

And you can just sense the good will in my little town of Nottingham.

SHOE COBBLER

Well, hello there, little girl. What's your name?

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth.

SHOE COBBLER

Would you like to buy some shoes? I've got a great selection

ELIZABETH

I don't think so. The shoes I have are fine.

SHOE COBBLER

They are worn down and have lots of holes. Why don't you get a new pair?

ELIZABETH

No, thank you.

SHOE COBBLER

Don't you like my shoes?

ELIZABETH

They look very nice, but I only have a pence.

SHOE COBBLER

Can't you ask your father for some money for shoes?

ELIZABETH

My father died last year, and we don't have any money.

SHOE COBBLER

In that case, just take this pair of shoes and keep your money.

ELIZABETH

I should pay....

SHOE COBBLER

I won't hear of it. We must help each other in times of need. You remember that, young Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Thank you.

*(ELIZABETH skips off with new shoes)*

SHERIFF

Ah, it warms the heart.

*(SHERIFF approaches the SALESMAN and clears his throat)*

SHOE COBBLER

I told you, I won't accept any money.....

*(SHOE COBBLER)*

Oh!

SHERIFF

Welcome to Nottingham, traveling salesman. I am the Sheriff of Nottingham.

SHOE COBBLER

Pleased to meet you. Would you like some new shoes?

SHERIFF

Certainly.

*(SHERRIFF and FORRESTER take some shoes)*

SHOE COBBLER

That will be 10 shillings.

SHERIFF

You didn't charge the young lady, and surely the law enforcement of Nottingham is as worthy of free shoes as she is.

FORESTER

Yes, oh yes.

SHERIFF

And we're here for your taxes.

SHOE COBBLER

I haven't sold anything.

SHERIFF

There is a tarriff just to try to sell things here.

*(A FORESTER takes the bag of coins in COBBLER's apron)*

SHOE COBBLER

Hey, I need that to buy leather.

FORESTER

Prince John needs a new ring!

SHERIFF

We'll see you in a week, cobbler.

SHOE COBBLER

How do you expect me to pay taxes if I can't afford ingredients?

SHERIFF

Maybe you shouldn't give away so many shoes, then.

SHOE COBBLER

You can't get away with this! You still have to go through Sherwood Forest to deliver the taxes to Prince John!

*( SHOE COBBLER pushes cart away)*

FORESTER

Sheriff, is it true what they say? I heard there was an outlaw living in Sherwood Forest who steals money from anyone who travels through the forest.

SHERIFF

Just because one man was robbed in the forest and starts telling stories is no reason to be scared.

FORESTER

I heard he is the best archer in the land. Rumor has it he can shoot an arrow into a sapling tree 300 yards away.

SHERIFF

Nobody could shoot an arrow that well. Ah, Friar Tuck. Good morning.

FRIAR TUCK

Sheriff. What are you doing?

SHERIFF

Collecting taxes.

FRIAR TUCK

You were here last week.

SHERIFF

Prince John has raised the tarriffs again, I'm afraid. You look tired.

FRIAR TUCK

The orphanage burned down last night. I've been up all night collecting food, toys and clothing for the poor children.

SHERIFF

Did you collect any money?

FRIAR TUCK

Oh, no, Sheriff. Prince John has raised the taxes so much, nobody has any money left to donate.

SHERIFF

Then if you didn't collect any money, then you won't need this.

*(SHERIFF takes out some money buried in the clothes and food)*

FRIAR TUCK

That belongs to the church!

SHERIFF

Bishop of Hereford wanted me to collect it for him. He'll see the proper people will receive the money.

FRIAR TUCK

The greedy Bishop of Hereford will keep the money for himself.

SHERIFF

You should take that up with the Bishop.

FRIAR TUCK

You will be punished for your evil deeds, Sheriff.

FORESTER

I heard he is has over 200 men living with him now. It's a huge army of angry, evil men who aren't afraid of anything.

SHERIFF

Outlaws trust nobody and work by themselves. There is no organized army of outlaws in Sherwood Forest. Tax Collector!

*(SHERIFF and FORESTER collect more taxes as Shoe Cobbler approaches  
FRIAR TUCK)*

SHOE COBBLER

Shoes for sale!

FRIAR TUCK

I obviously have no need for shoes, cobbler. I'm sorry.

SHOE COBBLER

I'm haven't sold any shoes. My shoes are few, but my fee is large.

*(FRIAR TUCK looks at the COBBLER)*

FRIAR TUCK

Robin?

SHOE COBBLER/ROBIN HOOD

Shhh!

FRIAR TUCK

Oh. Maybe I do need some shoes. Let's go in the church where we can discuss this further.

*(FRIAR TUCK and COBBLER exit)*

FORESTER

I heard that he is a master of disguise. I heard that once he dressed as a woman and tricked the Bishop out of four bags of gold.

SHERIFF

ENOUGH! These are silly rumors started by the poor people so they don't give up hope. There is no truth to them at all. Think about it. How could a man dress up as a woman convincingly enough to trick a man 1 foot away? It couldn't happen.

*(SHERIFF knocks on door of WIDOW's house. ELIZABETH opens)*

Tax collectors. SHERIFF

We have no money. ELIZABETH

Then your father should work harder. SHERIFF

My father is dead. ELIZABETH

What a shame. You still have to pay taxes. SHERIFF

We'll pay next time when we have money. ELIZABETH

Where is your mother, young girl? SHERIFF

Leave us alone! ELIZABETH

What's going on? WIDOW

You need to teach your daughter some manners and you need to pay your taxes. SHERIFF

She's been sick. She couldn't work. ELIZABETH

Fine then you are arrested for failure to pay taxes. SHERIFF

How can she pay her taxes if she is in jail? She still won't be able to work. ELIZABETH

Then you'd better find a way to earn some money, young girl, or you'll be joining her. SHERIFF

Take care of yourself, Elizabeth. Friar Tuck will help you. WIDOW

(FORESTERS grasp WIDOW and begin to take her away)

Well that was the last house. We have to take this through Sherwood Forest, then? FORESTER

No, we're not even going through Sherwood Forest. SHERIFF

How will we give this money to Prince John? FORESTER

Last week's tax was ordered by Prince John. This week's tax isn't for him. Its for me. So relax. No outlaw would have the audacity to attack inside this town. SHERIFF

Puppet Show! Puppet Show! Come watch the amazing Puppeteers of Devonshire! PUPPETEERS *(off-stage)*

A puppet show? ELIZABETH

Let's watch. Surely, there is an entertainment tax for them to pay. FORESTER

Come one, come all, and see the most amazing puppet show you've ever seen. It'll astound you! It'll entertain you! It will fill your heart with joy, and I promise you, you will leave this performance with a much lighter step. PUPPETEER

*(Crowd gathers to watch as 3 puppeteers act out the story)*

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful young lady who was engaged to marry a handsome young knight. PUPPETEER NARRATOR

I love you.  
*(PUPPETS kiss)*

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

Will you marry me?

YOUNG KNIGHT PUPPET

That sounds wonderful.

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

I'll go to the basement to get us some cider to celebrate.  
*(YOUNG SQUIRE puppet pops down)*

YOUNG KNIGHT PUPPET

Well the squire was gone a long time.

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

I'll go down and see what's going on.

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

When the young lady went down to the basement, she found the squire crying.  
*(PUPPETS cry loudly as NARRATOR steals money from the FORESTER)*

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

What's wrong?

YOUNG KNIGHT

Look at that horrid mallet!

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

There was a mallet hanging above the cider.

YOUNG KNIGHT PUPPET

Suppose you and me were married, and suppose we had a son., and suppose he was all grown up, and suppose he was to come down here to draw cider like I was, and suppose that there mallet was to fall down on his head, and suppose that mallet killed him.How dreadful that would be!  
*(The puppets cry and Narrator steals keys from the Forester)*

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

That young lady reached up and took down that mallet and placed it safely on the floor.

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

I've met many men and women, but I've never met such a big sillies as you. I can't marry one of the biggest sillies in the world.

YOUNG KNIGHT PUPPET

But I love you.

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

If I find 3 bigger sillies than you, then I will marry you.

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

Soon the young lady came across a prince.

ELIZABETH

That looks like Prince John!

WIDOW

Shhh!

PRINCE PUPPET

Whoa is me! I can't move my hands!

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

Why not?

PRINCE PUPPET

They weigh too much.  
*(Two puppet hands weighed down by lots of rings are seen)*

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

Why don't you take off some of your rings?

PRINCE PUPPET

What! Nobody will believe I'm the king unless I have lots and lots of rings.  
*(PRINCE PUPPET drags off)*

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

Well, now I have met one bigger silly than my love.

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

Luckily for her she next met the sheriff.

SHERIFF PUPPET

Whoa is me!

ELIZABETH

That looks like the Sheriff of Nottingham.  
*(SHERIFF stands up, angry. Narrator steals his money)*

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

Sorry child. That's just a coincidence. Its based on a Sheriff in Devonshire.  
*(SHERIFF sits)*

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

What's wrong?

SHERIFF PUPPET

Nobody can pay the taxes.

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

Aren't they earning any money?

SHERIFF PUPPET

No, they're in jail.  
*(FRIAR TUCK now unlocks the ball and chain attached to widow)*

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

Why don't you let them out so they can earn money and pay taxes?

SHERIFF PUPPET

I can't let them out of jail. They owe money for taxes.

YOUNG LADY PUPPET

Well that is a second man sillier than my love.

SHERIFF

Enough! Enough!

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

The show isn't over yet. The Young Lady next meets the Sheriff's daughter who is the silliest of them all.

SHERIFF

Puppet shows are outlawed in Nottingham.

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

Oh, sorry. We didn't know. We'll just pack up our things and move along, then.

SHERIFF

Not yet. You owe a performance tax, puppeteer.

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

Yes and if we performed in Nottingham we would happily pay it.

FORESTER

But you just performed...

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

Are you implying that your sheriff is so ignorant, that he would allow a traveling troupe of puppeteers to perform here? Are you saying your sheriff is incompetent?

FORESTER

No, I'm not saying that. Our sheriff does his job well!

PUPPETEER NARRATOR

Obviously with such a smart and observant sheriff here, you would never let a traveling troupe of puppeteers perform here. So obviously we don't owe any money.



SHERIFF

Exactly. Let's move along then.

*(SHERIFF and FORESTERS exit. PUPPETEERS take off disguises showing their forest green costumes of Robin Hood. They start giving money to the poor)*

ROBIN HOOD

Here you go, young lady. This should help your widowed mother get some food and medicine.

*(ROBIN HOOD hands a bag of gold coins to ELIZABETH)*

ELIZABETH

What are you going to do with the rest of the money you stole from the Sheriff?

FRIAR TUCK

Steal? They don't "steal."

LITTLE JOHN

We just return money to their rightful owners.

ROBIN HOOD

The extra money in these bags will go to the orphanage. They deserve this money. Don't you think? Little John, I'll meet you in Sherwood Forest.

*(ROBIN HOOD and OUTLAWS begin to exit)*

LITTLE JOHN

Let's go.

ELIZABETH

Let me go with you.

LITTLE JOHN

Why?

ELIZABETH

I hate the Sheriff of Nottingham and what he's doing to this town. I'll do anything to fight back against him.

LITTLE JOHN

Then enter our company. The rites are few, but the fee is large. We ask your whole mind and body and heart even unto death.

SHERIFF *(off-stage)*

Where are the taxes?

ELIZABETH

I give my bond.

LITTLE JOHN

OK. We'd better hurry, though.

ELIZABETH

Are you sure Robin Hood won't mind a girl joining his group?

ALANA DALE

Believe me, you don't have to worry about that. Now let's hurry.

*(STOUT WILL gives money to the youngest sibling and STOUT WILL, ELIZABETH, and JILL SCARLET run to safety just as SHERIFF and the FORESTERS return)*

SHERIFF

Where are those puppeteers?

*(townspeople all point in different directions)*

SHERIFF

ARRRRRRGGGGGHHHHH!!!!

Scene 2: Sherriff's Castle

(SHERIFF returns to his castle distraught and angry at Robin Hood)

LUCIANA

Daddy, you're back.

SHERIFF

Yes, my dear.

LUCIANA

Where is my ruby encrusted golden arm band?

SHERIFF

I don't have it.

LUCIANA

What do you mean you don't have it? That's what you were doing. You were collecting taxes and money so you could get me the ruby encrusted golden arm band that I want!

SHERIFF

I don't have it.

LUCIANA

Why not? Did you go tender hearted and leave the pathetic poor townspeople some money to eat?

SHERIFF

No.

LUCIANA

Are they out of money?

SHERIFF

No. We lost the money. We were watching a puppet show, and the money we collected disappeared.

(LUCIANA laughs)

LUCIANA

My father, the Sheriff, is so useless he can't keep himself from getting robbed. By some silly hood. A robbing hood.

SHERIFF

He won't get away with it.

LUCIANA

I told you, you should have dealt with him earlier. Now he's giving the people hope. He's probably gaining more recruits as we speak.

SHERIFF

Fine, we'll send out my best men and we'll capture him. Nobody embarrasses the Sheriff of Nottingham!

Scene 3: Sherwood Forest

*(The OUTLAWS are all enjoying life in Sherwood Forest, They are practicing archery, wrestling, eating good food. FRIAR TUCK greets his hunting dogs. ELIZABETH looks amazed. ALL OUTLAWS cheer when ROBIN HOOD enters)*

ROBIN HOOD

Ah, my band of merry outlaws. We have a new member of our troupe. *(outlaws cheer HUZZAHH!)* A youngster, brave enough to stand up to the Sheriff of Nottingham. May I present, Bold Beth. *(outlaws cheer)* Now let the feast begin.  
*(outlaws begin the feast as Robin Hood introduces BOLD BETH to members of the troupe)*

ROBIN HOOD

Bold Beth, this is Friar Tuck.

FRIAR TUCK

We always welcome a new member in our fold.

ROBIN HOOD

Friar Tuck is our storyteller and spiritual leader.

FRIAR TUCK

I make sure they give the money back to the right people and don't keep it for themselves.

BOLD BETH

But Robin Hood, I heard that you robbed churchmen.

FRIAR TUCK

We aid honest friars who are still serving their congregation. However, some churchmen are as greedy as the sheriff. They steal good farmer's lands to add to their own and do no service to their parishoners.

ROBIN HOOD

Friar Tuck is also our official banquet taster.

FRIAR TUCK

That is the hardest thing about moving to Sherwood Forest. Giving up great food.

*(FRIAR TUCK returns to the banquet. ROBIN approaches JILL SCARLET and LITTLE JOHN who are giving lessons to other merry men)*

ROBIN HOOD

This is Jill Scarlet, the best archer in England.

JILL SCARLET

After Robin Hood.

ROBIN HOOD

And Little John, the best quarterstaff fighter you have ever met.

LITTLE JOHN

I gave Robin a knock on the noggin. Anyone able to get a knock on Robin is invited to join his band.

ROBIN HOOD

If you can't beat them, join them.

JILL SCARLET

You have to be honorable also to be invited.

BOLD BETH

Why did you join the group, Little John?

LITTLE JOHN

I'm an outlaw for shooting the king's deer. I had to do something or my family would starve.

JILL SCARLET

We joined Robin Hood to help the townspeople.

LITTLE JOHN

And have some fun adventure.

Pleased to meet you.

BOLD BETH

They will be your archery and quarterstaff instructors. You'll have to learn to shoot an arrow if you want to stay with us.

ROBIN HOOD

Yes, sir!

BOLD BETH

Bold Beth, may I present Alana Dale, minstrel extraordinaire. She used to sing at the court of King Richard.

ROBIN HOOD

Long live King Richard!

OUTLAWS

Where is King Richard?

BOLD BETH

On the crusades. I left the court when the weasel Prince John took the throne.

ALANA DALE

Why did you come here?

BOLD BETH

So she could be around greatness.

ROBIN HOOD

Not really. Actually, I just needed material. I'm working on a new song right now about the puppet show.

ALANA DALE

We'll teach it to the townspeople tomorrow so everyone hears about the embarrassment of the Sheriff of Nottingham.

JILL SCARLET

And we'll spread more hope to the townspeople.

FRIAR TUCK

And strike more fear amongst the royal foresters!

JILL SCARLET

Robin, the Sheriff's men approach. They bring 4 and 40 men.

LITTLE JOHN

ROBIN HOOD

Good work. Well, Bold Beth, our life is full of fun, mischief, good deeds, and adventure. It is also full of danger. I suggest you hide yourselves in the tallest tree you can find.

BOLD BETH

I know how to shoot an arrow. My father taught me. I'll join your fight.

ROBIN HOOD

You will be a welcome addition to our group. Stay close to Jill Scarlet and Little John.  
*(ROBIN HOOD blows the horn all the OUTLAWS stop eating and gather around)*  
 Sheriff's men approach from the north. Split up to the ridges. And wait for my signal. Now let's teach them a lesson for daring to enter our forest!  
*(OUTLAWS spread out. The sound of horses approach. ROBIN HOOD blows the horn again. OUTLAWS mime shooting arrows towards off-stage. FORESTERS make sounds of losing battle. Black out.)*