



In association with
The Balcombe Club

present:

Robin Hood

The Pantomime



The Victory Hall, Balcombe

22 - 24 November 2012

Director's Introduction

Robin Hood, the Pantomime, is obviously a very much tongue-in-cheek version of the traditional Robin Hood story, and was written by David J. Villette. David is unfortunately no longer with us, but he was very involved with Amateur Dramatics throughout his whole life, particularly in the Redhill area, and his humour and vision is still well received in the form of his many pantomimes that continue to be performed today. I had the good fortune to work with David a number of times and I played Rattle in the Copthorne Players' version of this work, in 2006.

There are many versions of this well loved story. Generally, though, Robin and his band of "merry men" are portrayed as living in Sherwood Forest, in Nottinghamshire, where much of the action in some of the early ballads and stories takes place. However, the overall picture from some of the surviving ballads and other early references seems to vary; some even suggest that Robin may have been based in the Barnsdale area of what is now South Yorkshire.

Other sources point to a variety of locations as Robin's "true" home, inside Yorkshire, due to the abundance of places named after Robin in that area. A tradition dating back at least to the end of the 16th century gives his birthplace as Loxley, Sheffield, in South Yorkshire, but the site of Robin Hood's Well, in Skellow, South Yorkshire, has been associated with Robin Hood since at least the 1420's. There was even a man named Robin Hood who lived in Wakefield, Yorkshire, in the 13th and 14th centuries, and his grave has been claimed to be at Kirklees Priory near Mirfield in West Yorkshire.

The first "rhymes of Robin Hood" are said to date from a late-14th-century poem, but the earliest surviving copies of ballads that tell his story, date from the 15th century. Even in these early accounts, Robin's bias towards the lower classes, his outstanding skills as a swordsman and archer, and in particular, a growing animosity towards the Sheriff of Nottingham, are already clear. Little John, Much the Miller's Son and Will Scarlet all feature, although not yet Maid Marian or Friar Tuck. It is not clear why these two are absent, as it is known that Friar Tuck, for one, has been part of the legend since at least the late 15th century.

Robin Hood is typically seen as a contemporary and supporter of the late-12th-century king Richard the Lionheart, being driven to outlaw during the misrule of Richard's brother, John, (while Richard was away at the Third Crusade). Strangely though, this view is not supported by the earliest ballads, as some name the king as "Edward", and while it does show Robin Hood as accepting the King's pardon, he later renounces it and returns to live in his beloved forest!

Well...instead of me "rattling" on, I should move on to the 21st century! Being involved with pantomime is always an enjoyable experience, and this has been no different. The cast have all been brilliant, and rehearsals have been tense and focused but most importantly, fun.

As always, there are always people I must thank. Jacqueline Wiginton has been a godsend, and without her musical input, and the time she has spent on it, we would all have been floundering! Rachel Davies, who put herself on the line, being new to the Victory Players, has worked with Jacqueline, to make sure we not only sing the right notes, but indeed, they are all in the right order! Plus Michael Mergler, Justine Gillen, and Sue Etheridge, who have all taken the plunge to produce and direct for the first time, and have all excelled. Indeed everyone involved, whether it be in performance, or otherwise, has completed their role well, and continue to prove the calibre of the Victory Players.

Thank you for coming and I hope you enjoy the show. We are always looking for new members, and I hope Robin Hood can show you how much fun can be had by being involved.

Many Thanks

Ronnie Whitehead

Director



Cast, in order of appearance

Prologues	-	Shirley Michell & Isabel Gordon
Rattle , Knight to Prince John	-	Joyce Baldwin
Chink, The Sheriff's Gaoler	-	Izzy Rix
Nurse Annie Body	-	Rodney Saunders
Maid Marion of Lea	-	Chloe Holland
Abbot Grouser of St Mary's	-	Charles Metcalfe
The Sheriff of Nottingham	-	Michael Mergler
Sir Richard of Lea	-	Chris Walker
King Richard the Lionheart	-	Mitch Collingbourne
Prince John, the King's brother	-	Max Preston Bell
Sir Guy of Gisbourne	-	Jon Hunt
Robin of Loxley aka Robin Hood	-	Charlie Marshall
Luke Doubt	-	Shirley Michell
Sebald the Serf	-	Isabel Gordon
John Little of Sherwood Forest	-	Jack Holland
Will Scarlett	-	Nicola Preston Bell
Much the Miller	-	Amanda Holland
Friar Tuck	-	Philippe Davies
Murgatroyd	-	Jo & Lauren Armstrong
Molly , the Maid at Nottingham Castle	-	Emily Holland

Villagers, Jousters & Guards

Jo Armstrong	Philippe Davies
Lauren Armstrong	Rachel Davies
Carline Carpenter	Emily Holland
Mitch Collingbourne	Gen Hunt
Katie Cornell	Pip Hunt
Helen Sweetman	



Production team

- Director - Ronnie Whitehead
- Assistant Director - Sue Etheridge
- Vocal Director - Rachel Davies
- Musical Co-Coordinator - Jacqueline Wiginton
- Performance Pianist - David Moore
- Choreography - Jo & Lauren Armstrong
- Stage Manager - Ronnie Whitehead
- Stage Crew - Antony Philips & Kim Evans
- Wardrobe supplied by - Bryan Phillip Davies Costumes
- Props team - Isabel Gordon Shirley Michell & Manuela Warburton
- Set Design & build - John & Colette Randall
- Lighting Designer - Keith Major
- Lighting Team - Brian Couchy & Helen Savage
- Front of House - Julie Walker & Sue Hunt
- Prompt - Justine Gillen
- Make-up - Penny Jennings & Christine Needham
- Publicity - Justine Gillen
- Photography - Gerry James
- Box Office - Isabel Gordon
- Script Donation - Anne Villette
- Script Adaptation - Kim Evans & Ronnie Whitehead
- Producers - Justine Gillen & Michael Mergler

Scenes

Act I

Scene 1— prologue—on the prowl

Scene 2— off to the Blacksmiths

Scene 3— check your pockets!

Scene 4— Sebald .. explain yourself ...

Scene 5— and now... the news from Plymouth

Scene 6— the horse has a plan!

Scene 7— meeting the gang

Scene 8— the Sheriff has a plan...

Scene 9— jousting is for girls :-)



20 minute interval

Act II

Scene 1— archery is also for girls :-)

Scene 2— seems like a nice boy!

Scene 3— who ate all the pies?

Scene 4— the horse has another plan!

Scene 5— it's a trap (obviously)

Scene 6— Thir Guy hatha plan

Scene 7— Marion has a sensible plan

Scene 8— the Abbot has a cunning plan

Scene 9—oh, that's what the key is for ...

Scene 10— a pleasant (drunken) midnight stroll

Scene 11—Sir Richard's story...eventually

Scene 12—you are cordially invited 

Scene 13—the strange monk ...

Scene 14— There is only 1 person in the world who could do that!

Forthcoming events at Balcombe Club

Tickets on sale now for a chance
to win great prizes in the
Christmas Grand Draw
Saturday 22nd December
7pm in the Club—PLUS
80s band (free entry)



An evening with
Steve Crane
Saturday 12th January

Barnstormers comedy
will be back on Saturday,
2nd February

