

Character Notes

- Robin:** Hood - Principle Boy (Female). Romantic lead and head of the outlaw band. Over the top, heroic and full of dashing and daring do! Every quality you would expect from a legendary hero.
- Maid Marion:** Heroine (Female). The Sheriff's niece and Principal Girl. In love with Robin. Resourceful & not a wet lead!
- Nurse:** Molly Coddle – Male. Nurse to the babes. Traditional Dame Character. Central to the slapstick routines.
- Sheriff:** of Nottingham – Male. The villain of the piece. Money grabbing and greedy. Truly mean, despicable and evil.
- The Fairy:** Female. The supernatural element. Speaks in rhyme. Very busy modern fairy with mobile and email. Forever getting confused as to which show she is in and needs to be reminded.
- Dave Knave:** “Dangerous Dave”, Male. Silly Billy character / link man. Lives in the town and desperate to join the band but has yet to pass the outlaw tests. A bit dippy but has a heart of gold.
- Friar Tuck:** – Male. A member of Robin Hood's Merry Men.
- Little John:** – Male. A member of Robin Hood's Merry Men.
- Will Scarlet:** – Male or female. A member of Robin Hood's Merry Men.
- Alana:** Dale – Male or female. A member of Robin Hood's Merry Men.
- Pip:** – Male (boy). Ward to the Sheriff. One of the Babes.
- Penny:** - Female (Girl). Ward to the Sheriff. The other Babe!
- Block:** – Male. One half of the Comedy henchmen double act. A small time crook and hoodlum way out of his depth with the ruthless Sheriff. The brains of the outfit, which is not saying much!
- Tackle:** - Male or Female. The other half of the Comedy henchmen double act. The dense one!
- Chorus** (Adults and Children) - Male & Female. Villagers, Outlaws, Guards, Attendants, Dancers, Forest Animals etc. The script includes a number of small speaking parts and chorus lines that can be shared out.

Audition Pages.

Robin	= 46-47
Marion	= 12-13
Nurse Molly	=10-11
Sheriff	= 10-11-21-22-23
Fairy	= 4
Dave	=5
Merry men	= 46-47
Pip and Penny	=34
Block & Tackle	= 21-22-23

Babes Pip and Penny Max. Height 115cms (40ins)

Babes in the Wood

Act One

Prologue - Front of Tabs

(Special FX: Flash bang DSR)

(Enter Fairy DSR)

Fairy: Good evening folks, and welcome all
On the evening of Prince Charming's ball!
Cinderella is sat inside her carriage
Her mind aglow with thoughts of marriage...

(Sound FX - Mobile phone rings; its tones are that of 'Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo'. The Fairy pats her pockets and answers it)

Fairy: Hello? I see, is that the truth?

It seems that I have made a goof!
I'm getting mixed up all the time,
This is a different pantomime!
Just shout out if I've lost the plot,
For it'll mean I've plain forgot!
When I talk rubbish as I could,
Please yell out 'Babes in the Wood'!
Go on let's try it, come on, quick!

(Audience reaction)

Fairy: Oh super, that should do the trick!
Some time ago it's sad to say,
Good King Richard went away.
He went abroad for fame and glory,
And that's where we begin our story!
King Richard's friend, Sir Dairycrest
Went off to help him with his quest,
But misfortune struck in this, our fable,
He left his lunchbox on the table!
His wife saw this and, without thought,
She followed him to where he fought,
And as she left to find her man
She sent her children to a Nan,

Fairy: Nurse Molly Coddle to be precise
Firm, but fair, sharp-tongued but nice!
So with parents away in a foreign land
The Babes are coming to Nottingham
The Sheriff will be their father figure
But you won't find a villain bigger!
With King Richard gone, he'll make a packet
New taxes, fines and a protection racket!
The Babes are due in Town today,
So let's get there without delay!

(Blackout into...)

Scene One - Nottingham Market Square

(The tabs open to reveal Nottingham Market Square, alive with Villagers (Adult and Children's Chorus). They are taking part in various activities)

Song 1

(Dave Knave enters and notices the Audience. He turns around to the Villagers and admonishes them)

Dave: Hey, you lot! You might have told me we'd got guests! I would have polished the gravel! (To the Audience.) Hello everyone, boys and girls, mums and dads, welcome to Nottingham! I'm Dave Knave. I want to be one of Robin Hood's Merry men, and live out in the woods where I can help to thwart the evil Sheriff of Nottingham!

(Sound FX - Crack of thunder. Dave and the Villagers all cower in fear.)

Dave: He's not a nice person, you know. He's down here all the time, raising some new tax or other. Window tax, Arrow tax...

(A Villager walks past carrying a roll of carpet)

Dave: ... Carpet Tacks! Still, we like to keep smiling! We wouldn't want the Sheriff to know that he's winning! Anyway, I can't stand here all day chatting, the auditions are happening soon for people to join the Merry Men and I need to practice my archery. I just know I'm going to get in this time. I've even thought up a special name for myself which the other Merry Men will call me; "Dangerous Dave!" Good isn't it?

(Audience reaction.)

Sheriff: I didn't get where I am today by being nice to people you know. I got here by following the three 'C's. By being crafty, by being cunning, by being c... c... **(He tries to desperately to think of another "c" word...)** nasty! I'm the Sheriff and everyone has to do what I say, and I love it. My only problem is Robin Hood. I hate him, yet everyone talks about him as if he's such a hero...

(Enter Pip and Penny with Nurse Molly)

Nurse: Yoo-hoo, your Sheriffness, are you decent?

Sheriff: Of course, Madam.

Nurse: Pity!

Sheriff: Is there something I can do for you?

Nurse: Well, I never say no to a rub down with some lemon tea and a cup of hot horse liniment... or was it the other way around?

Sheriff: I meant, what do you want?

Nurse: I've brought the wee ones to meet you.

Sheriff: The S-Club Eight?

Nurse: No, silly, Pip and Penny.

Sheriff: Whosit and whosit?

(Nurse Molly turns to the Babes with a fake smile and motions for them to stay still, then motions the Sheriff across to the other side of the room)

Nurse: Pip and Penny, the two little dears who are to be left in your care! Remember?

Sheriff: And why are they here?

Nurse: They are the sole inheritors of their father's vast fortune. His will specified that they be left in the care of a noble and upright gentleman who would see to it that they got a good education and some moral fibre to prepare them for the rigours of life.

Sheriff: His will?

Nurse: **(In a low voice.)** It would seem that he won't be returning from the war... **(Mimes a cut throat with a 'hrecch' noise)**

Sheriff: Oh! **(Nodding thoughtfully.)** They've inherited a vast fortune, you say?

Nurse: Well, yes, a vast fortune, but the important thing is a good education so they...

Sheriff: How big is vast, exactly?

Nurse: Eh? Well, imagine the biggest pile of money you can.

Sheriff: **(With a big goofy expression of happiness on his face.)** Ooh, lovely. All that money! That's vast!

Nurse: No, it's about twice as much as that.

(The Sheriff faints backwards into her arms.)

Nurse: Pip, Penny! He's fainted, fetch water! **(The Nurse gives an arch look direct to the Audience.)** I shall give him the kiss of life!

(The Sheriff practically vaults to his feet)

Sheriff: That won't be necessary! **(To Pip and Penny.)** My dear children, you are most welcome to my humble abode! Pip! Penny! **(He says this while ruffling the hair of the wrong child each time.)** My house is your house, please sit down, take the weight off your wallets... I mean feet.

Pip: I'm Pip, she's Penny.

Sheriff: Of course she is. Oh what little treasures... as good as gold. Gold... **(He's drifting off into reverie again, rubbing his hands in anticipation of all that cash.)** Gold, great clinking piles of lovely gold!

Penny: Are you quite alright, mister Sheriff?

(The Sheriff sidles over to the Nurse and takes her by the elbow)

Sheriff: Tell me, dear lady, what would happen to this vast fortune should anything, heaven forbid, happen to these two little cherubs?

Nurse: Ooh, I'm not sure. I expect it would pass to their legal guardian.

Sheriff: And that is?

Nurse: You!

Sheriff: Yes, yes, YES! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Nurse: But I expect they'll be perfectly safe, won't they, Omar'?

Sheriff: Of course they will, I... Omar?

Nurse: Well, Sheriff's not your first name, is it? **(To Audience.)** Omar Sherif was a famous film star, kids, ask your Mums and Dads about him... Well, your Mums, anyway.

Penny: Is this where we are going to live until Mummy and Daddy come home?

(The Sheriff and the Nurse look knowingly at each other)

Sheriff: Yes, yes, here in the castle.

Pip: Wow! Is it haunted? Are there ghosts in the castle?

Nurse: Oh come now, I don't think you need to be worrying yourselves about things like that! You two have had a long journey; we need to get you off to bed!

(They are interrupted by the arrival of Marion)

Marion: My Lord Sheriff, I really must protest... Oh, hello Nursie. Babes, are you settling in alright?

Sheriff: **(With frightening false jollity.)** Ah my dear Maid Marion, yes we're all getting along splendidly. Darling Pip and dear Penny **(he pats the wrong child on the head.)** are coming to live with me, isn't that lovely? Ha ha, I bet you two tykes can't wait to unpack your lootcases... I mean suitcases.

Nurse: You look a bit hot under the collar, my dear, who's rattled your birdcage?

Marion: **(Advancing on the Sheriff.)** It's seeing all the poor people outside the castle. You should be ashamed! All this opulence, this luxury, when there are families out there living in one room mud huts!

Sheriff: My dear Marion, it's hardly my fault if they're too lazy to build bigger huts!

Marion: They're not lazy, they're spending all their time working to earn enough money to pay all your stupid taxes.

Sheriff: A stupid tax? Now there's an idea. I'd be a millionaire overnight!

Marion: Oh, there's just no talking to you, is there? At least someone is doing something for the poor of Nottingham.

Nurse: Who's that?

Marion: Robin Hood. At least he gives them some hope for a better tomorrow.

Sheriff: Then the poor of Nottingham and Robin Hood shall learn that tomorrow never comes! I shall see to it personally.

(Exit Sheriff)

Nurse: I may be wrong, love, but I think you've upset the dear Sheriff.

Marion: Oh he's dear alright, he's costing the people of Nottingham a fortune. Thank goodness Robin Hood is giving some of it back to them.

Nurse: **(To Pip and Penny.)** Right my dears, it really is bedtime, so you need to brush your teeth and find your jim-jams. I'll come up and read you a story in a minute.

Marion: Goodnight Children.

Pip: } **(Together)**

Penny: } G'night Marion. **(The Babes exit.)**

Nurse: Now, Marion, why do I get the impression there's something else on your mind?

Marion: What do you mean?

Nurse: Well it's not just those poor people outside bothering you.

Marion: I don't understand!

Nurse: I'm sure you feel sorry for them, but I think there is something else that has put the colour in your cheeks...

Marion: **(Suddenly coy.)** Well, I have been a little distracted recently.

Nurse: Is it a man?

Marion: How did you guess?

Nurse: Isn't it always? Ooh, let's have a lovely girlie chat! C'mon, park your posterior here.

(She pushes Marion into the chair and perches on the corner of the desk.)

Nurse: Now, tell your dear old Nursie all about him.

Marion: He's the bold and fearless defender of the downtrodden and hopeless.

Nurse: Jerry Springer?

Marion: No, Robin Hood.

Nurse: Him! Why, that thieving young rascalion, he tried to take my money and my dignity... You mark my words, he won't hesitate to take a liberty with you.

Marion: Oh, I know! He's an outlaw and a robber, but he's got principles and he stands up for the poor. He and his men tried to rob me a few times in the forest but as soon as he found out who I was he didn't take anything.

Nurse: Other than liberties I'll bet!

Marion: No! He was very nice. He said he knew how I looked after the poor townsfolk and that I should never worry about travelling in the forest alone again. I've been to visit the Merry Men a few times since. Robin is the perfect gentleman.

PIP - PENNY

Robin: There... it is again!

Block: That means there's more than one of whatever it is...

Tackle: Or one really big one.

Block: I wish you hadn't said that!

Penny: Is it just me, or can I smell carrots?

Block: } (Together)

Tackle: } VICIOUS BUNNIES! AAAARGH!

(Block and Tackle run off their respective sides of the stage, screaming. Pip comes out from the bush with the two branches, grinning)

Pip: Well done, Penny! That was a great trick.

Penny: I didn't think I'd keep a straight face, Pip. Come on, let's see what Block and Tackle will say when they see how we tricked them...

Pip: (Calling offstage to them.) Hey! You can come back now! It was only a trick! We really got you, didn't we?

Penny: Block! Tackle!

(There is a pause. Block and Tackle fail to reappear. Pip and Penny look at one another)

Penny: We're in trouble, aren't we?

Pip: Yes. We don't know the way back to the castle, and it's starting to get dark.

Penny: What are we going to do?

Pip: I think maybe we should huddle down by the bush, and get some sleep. When the sun starts to come up, we might see the way to the Castle.

Penny: Alright, Pip. I'm tired. I'm cold and I'm hungry, but as long as we stay together I'm sure we'll be alright.

(The pair lay down in front of the shrub. They rearrange themselves a bit and settle for a sleep)

Penny: I don't know if I will be able to sleep.

Pip: Maybe this will help.

Song 7

(Pip starts with a lullaby, which Penny joins in with. They sing half of it, and fall asleep. The Fairy enters DSR, and sees them lying there. The next set-piece is done over an instrumental of the song that Pip and Penny were singing)

Robin: No I mean Maid Marion! She's returned to Nottingham today and I just know she feels the same way about me. We were made for each other! If only I wasn't an outlaw, we could be married!

Little John: Well, I wouldn't hold your breath; you're not going to be pardoned that quickly!

Robin: Well I must and I will!

Song 4

(Blackout)

Scene Four - The Sheriff's Private Rooms

(Lights up on a private room. Block and Tackle are lounging around when the Sheriff enters. They both leap to their feet and try to look alert and efficient)

Sheriff: Aha! You must be Black and Decker!

Tackle: Must we? I thought we were Block and Tackle?

Block: We are! (To Sheriff.) Block and Tackle at your service, your Lordship, Pest control experts extraordinaire. (He produces a business card from his sleeve)

Sheriff: (Examining the card.) Wait a moment, this is the Ace of Spades"

(Tackle gives Block a clip round the back of the head)

Tackle: You flippin' cheat, give me back that fifteen quid you won off me last week in that poker game.

Block: I can't, I spent it.

Tackle: On what?

Block: Well, if you must know, on your birthday present.

Tackle: Cor! You never? What did you get me?

Block: A five pound book token.

Tackle: Ahh, thanks mate. (After a moment's thought.) 'Ere, I can't read!

Sheriff: Fortunately for both of you, it's not your reading skills that I'm interested in. Your advert said you get rid of unwanted pests? Well I have a little vermin problem you should be able to help with. Can we first discuss rates?

Block: (Affecting a posh accent.) Oh rates will be no problem, your honour, we can sort out rates or mayce with ease, don't yer know.

Sheriff: Rates and Mayce? Oh, I see, no, this is a larger...er... problem. Are you equipped to dispose of pests of a less... rodenty nature?

(He waggles his eyebrows significantly and nods and winks at Block and Tackle)

Block: We can cater for all sizes, milord.

Sheriff: Perfect. Well, I have two small children I need you to dispose of.

Tackle: (After an awkward pause.) You never said nuffin' about hurting no kiddies!

Sheriff: Well what kind of exterminators are you? Afraid of removing a couple of children?

Block: Well, it's not that we're afraid, so much as, well, it's a bit out of our league, isn't it? I mean, rats and mice are one thing, but this... (To Audience.) what do you lot think?

(Audience reaction.)

Block: Well you heard 'em. We're not doing it, I'm sorry but there are limits and...

Sheriff: I'll pay you two hundred pounds.

Block: ... This is exactly the kind of job we've been looking for. Name the nasty nippers and we'll accidentally misplace them, Chief.

Tackle: Well I don't like it. I've got nothing against any kiddies.

Sheriff: But with the Babes gone, I will inherit all their money, and you will have a powerful and rich friend.

Tackle: (To Block.) You can tell him from me I'm not interested. It's all wrong.

Block: (To the Sheriff.) Let me explain it to him, Boss. (To Tackle.) Here, mate, look at it this way. (He hits Tackle over the head with a truncheon / club from his belt.) Are you going to do it?

Tackle: No.

Block: Think of the money.

Tackle: Right.

Block: So are you going to do it?

Tackle: No.
(Block hits him again with the truncheon / club)

Block: Are you going to do it?

Tackle: (Concussed.) Do what, mother?

Block: (To Sheriff.) There you go, we're your men!

Sheriff: Excellent! Tomorrow I want you to take the Babes out into the woods and feed them to the wolves... (He draws his finger across his throat)

Tackle: I still don't think...

(The Sheriff produces a clinking purse of coins and jingles it in front of Tackle)

Tackle: ... Don't think there'll be any problem at all.

Sheriff: And if you do this little job for me, there could be some more work for you. There's a certain outlaw whose head has been on his shoulders too long.

Block: I feel the same about some of my In-Laws!

Sheriff: Bring me the head of Robin Hood and I will make you...

Block: Head boy?

Sheriff: Rich men!

Block: We'd need something to carry it in. Where can I get a head case?

Sheriff: (Eyeing Tackle.) I think that you've already got one.

Tackle: You only want his head then? What about the rest of him?

Sheriff: Hmm, yes. Perhaps you could bring me his hands too.

Block: Oh yeah, my Mum always said she wished she had another pair of hands.

Tackle: What about his feet? They'd make nice bookends on that mantelpiece there.

Sheriff: No, then I'd see them every day.

Block: What's the problem with that?

Sheriff: I'm a soldier and I could never face de-feet!

Song 5

(During which Marion enters unseen and stays to listen)

Sheriff: So, are you sure you've got the plan straight?

~~Tackle: Ha! Ha! You missed
(There is a final puff which gets him.)
Tackle: Oh, I'm fed up with this!
Nurse: Well never mind that now, before you go why don't
you help me with these cream cakes? They need decorating.
(Final climatic routine with cream cakes / custard pies which ends in
Block and Tackle getting well and truly splurged)
(Blackout)~~

Scene Four - The Outlaw Den in Sherwood

(Sign with "Quiet please, meeting in Progress" and a couple of benches and a table are set. Robin Hood is chairing a meeting attended by Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Alana Dale and a number of Outlaws (Adult Chorus.) and Pip and Penny)

Robin: Come on everyone settle down and make yourselves comfortable. I would like to bring this meeting of the Outlaws of Sherwood Forest to order. First of all, a warm welcome to Pip and Penny, honorary members of our band.

All: (General murmurs and ad-libs of welcome.)
(The following couple of lines, in italics, can be used if you like to mention groups and parties in the audience)

Robin: *And we have some other special Guests at our meeting today, have we not Little J?*

Little John: *Yes we have...* (Little John runs through the lists of parties, birthdays and groups in the audience)

Robin: Right any apologies...

Outlaw 1: Yes, Much the Miller apologies that he can't make this meeting on account of being locked up in the Sheriff's Dungeons...

Will Scarlet: And apologies from all the villager's representative sub-committee. Thatcher the Baker, Baker the Weaver, Weaver the Smith, Smith the Farmer and Farmor the Thatcher are all indisposed.

Robin: Okay... any more? Little John, do you have any apologies to give?

Little John: Well I would like to apologise for falling asleep while on watch yesterday!

Alana: And I would like to apologise for cheating in the archery contest last week...

Friar Tuck: And I am sorry that it rained on Monday, especially as left my coat at home and...

Robin: Okay, okay, let's move on. The main item on the agenda for today is ideas for additional fund raising... Ambush takings are down and there are even more poor to feed! Any ideas?

Outlaw 2: We could hold a Lootery... A Lootery, get it?

Robin: (Not impressed.) Next?

Will Scarlet: How about a treasure hunt - looking for the Sheriff's money up at the castle.

Robin: Too risky...

(The following couple of lines, in italics, can be used if you are running a show raffle and want to draw the tickets on stage)

Robin: *Well, there is always our raffle. Remember today one of you could win (whatever is your star prize) and a host of other prizes and we are donating the proceeds to... (whoever). Have you all got your tickets ready?*

(The Outlaws get out their tickets. The Audience will catch on too and get theirs ready. We proceed with the drawing of the raffle ticket(s). Robin can remind the Audience to look FOH for the other winning numbers after the show if necessary / applicable)

Robin: Now then any other business...!

(Dave enters on a mini scooter or similar)

Dave: Yes we have! Here they are, Nursie!

(Enter Nurse Molly at the run and out of breath)

Nurse: Thank goodness I've found you... I've been looking everywhere... Oh my little darlings come here...

(Pip and Penny move across to Nurse Molly)

Nurse: (Clips them round the ear.) I've been worried sick about you two. (Gives them a hug.) I'm glad you're safe. (Clips the ears again.) Now don't ever do that to me again! (Turning to Robin.) Now where was I? Oh yes, I've just come from the castle. The Sheriff has announced that he is going to marry Marion tomorrow. You have to stop him!

Robin: Marry Marion... Over my dead body!

Little John: We will have to storm the castle this very afternoon and rescue her...

Outlaw 1: Storm the castle? You must be crazy, the walls are twenty feet high, we'd need a ladder to scale them!