

Programme Notes Act 1

Good Afternoon/Evening ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, welcome to the Lyric and Qdos' production of *Robin Hood the Pantomime Adventure!*

My name is Sylvia and I am your audio describer for Act 1, which lasts for forty five minutes, after the 20 minute interval my colleague Tony will be describing Act 2 for you.

I will now set the scene and introduce the cast and characters.

We are in the Land of Myths and Legends, in a forest when suddenly there is a bang and a flash of fairy dust Katrina Murphy, appears as *The Spirit of Sherwood*, Katrina has enjoyed a varied career including opera, operetta, musical theatre and live performances for BBC Radio 2. She is wearing a figure hugging ankle length skirt of turquoise blue with gold threads, a brocade fitted bodice with long sleeves, from the shoulders to wrist ribbons of fabric droop forming a winged effect. The bodice has a scooped neckline with a gold coloured collar sweeping up at the back, her blonde ringlets falling around her neck setting off her gilded headdress shaped like two horns; in her hand she carries a silver orb magic wand.

Our hero *Robin Hood*, played by Lee Mead known to BBC viewers for his appearance in 'Any Dream Will Do' winning the role as Joseph, has short wavy dark hair, clean shaven. Dressed in Lincoln green crushed velvet trousers, short sleeved belted tunic from which hangs a sword and on his feet light brown calf length boots.

We have arrived at the Market Place; in the distance are a number of turreted buildings and a stone archway. A flight of steep steps leads down into the square. To the left is a large water wheel and on the far right a door to a dwelling. The Market is bustling; the ladies in knee length cerise coloured dresses nipped in at the waist with ribbon laced bodices and long white puffed sleeves. Their hair cascades from headbands trimmed with pale pink net. The men in bright diamond patterned tunics over white wide collared long sleeved shirts, crimson soft velvet trousers and felt hats. The younger girls in turquoise skirts, white blouses with short puff sleeves under tunics in shades of pale yellow, pink and green with white aprons and close fitting white linen caps tied under the chin. The boys wear long sleeved white shirts under pale coloured short tunics and light tan and pale green trousers and pale yellow felt hats with brown castellated brims.

Here we first meet some of the Merry Men.....

Little John, played by Edward Court, is very tall with shoulder length dark brown hair and a chinstrap beard. His tunic, made of layers of tongue shaped leather off cuts in different shades of brown, reaches just above his knee high brown boots.

Christopher Norton as *Alan a Dale*, is shorter, thick set with brown hair, goatee beard and moustache. Dressed in brown and green fur trimmed tunic, green velvet trousers and tan coloured ankle boots. Both these Merry Men carry long wooden poles called quarterstaves.

Jeffrey Holland, star of radio, TV and Theatre, is *Nurse Tilley Tuck* in a turquoise and white striped full skirt, white shirt fronted turquoise blouse with capped puffed striped sleeves. A large turquoise spotted mop cap covers her beehive hair-do with blue Christmas tree baubles for earrings.

Maria Coyne's has appeared in a number of theatre, television, film and voice over roles. She plays *Maid Marion*, when we meet her she is in a hi- low hemline pink dress with long bell sleeves. The fitted bodice is trimmed with pale yellow and pink ribbons with a large pale yellow bow at the back. A silver coronet sets off her long, wavy, dark brown hair.

Bobby Davro has been in the business for over thirty years entertaining us on TV, in Summer Shows and of course Panto's. This year he is *Will Scarlet*, Robin's best friend. Wearing a red cape and tunic over a white shirt, red kerchief and trousers held up by a brown belt with black knee high boots. He first appears riding a grey coloured panto donkey with a long black tail, eye patch and goofy teeth.

The *Sheriff of Nottingham's* part is played by Nigel Havers, remembered for his many rolls on both stage and in television and films. Dressed in a long surcoat made of gored's of black leather each edged with gold, black sleeves and gauntlets. A large silver jewelled brooch on his shoulder cape, and a wide black belt and pouch. Cuffed calf black boots and a sword complete the outfit. Bearded, his grey shoulder length hair is swept back from his villainous looking face.

The action, in the first half, takes us into Sherwood Forest and the Market Square. Robin's hideaway is deep in the woods were the men sleep, having eaten the kill of the day cooked on a wooden spit over the camp fire. On the day of the archery contest the castle is decorated with colourful banners flying from tall poles. A large target, with its decreasing circles of white, blue, red and yellow, is hanging on the wall to the left with the sheriffs' high backed wooden seat and large blue cushion in the centre, the crowd is awaiting the arrival of the contestants.

As the audience settle themselves the anticipation mounts, small children have wands or swords, some of which have already been switched on, the bright lights dart up and down the handles.

I will warn you when a bang and to flash is about to happen during the pantomime.

The show gauze has a picture of a medieval knight, his shield embossed with a red cross, astride Pegasus the winged divine white stallion. The words The Legend of Robin Hood are printed large in gold letters on a scroll banner surrounded by cherubs, winged angels and trumpeters. Below, on grassy slopes are pictured maidens and young girls in blue, green, mauve and pink dresses. Above a wide arch, supported by three stone columns on both sides and trees reaching up to the sky... Hark... (Sound of horn)