

ROB & THE HOODIES

by

Sean Aita

 schooltoursgroup_red

www.schooltours.at

© Vienna's English Theatre Schooltours
(Vienna's English Theatre Gastspiel GmbH)
Neudeggasse 14/17
A-1080 Wien

The Characters

This play is performed by four actors.

Rob Loxby a teenage schoolboy

Will Parlett a schoolboy

John Little the class comedian

Marianne Maiden a teenage schoolgirl

Miss Sherreff a teacher

KJ leader of the Hoodies, a street gang

3 Hoodies members of a street gang

The story takes place in the modern city of Nottingham in the East Midlands region of England.

**Worksheet available online
www.schooltours.at**

ROB & THE HOODIES

by Sean Aita

Scene 1: Introductions

We are outside the Sherwood Forest comprehensive school in Nottingham. Three members of the “Hoodies” gang enter. They are called the Hoodies because of the hooded sweatshirts they wear.

HOODIES:

Hanging around at the end of the street.
Stealing from the people we meet.
You’d better not be on your own.
Not if you want to keep your phone.
Better keep an eye on your money.
We’ll take that too because we think it’s funny!
You’ve guessed by now, we’re not the goodies,
Tough luck¹ kid, you’ve met the Hoodies!

HOODIE 1: Quick! Someone’s coming.

The Hoodies hide. Rob Loxby enters. He is wearing a school uniform with a blazer and tie and carrying a school bag. He looks around to see if anybody is watching him but doesn’t see the Hoodies. He clears his throat² before speaking.

ROB: Hi everybody. My name is Rob Loxby, and I’d like to welcome you all to our performance of ...

HOODIE 1: *(stepping out)* Who are you talking to, Loxby?

The Hoodies laugh and come out of hiding.

ROB: Nobody.

HOODIE 2: That’s right, because there’s nobody here.

He points towards the audience.

HOODIE 3: Are you talking to yourself? Are you nutty³, Loxby?

ROB: No.

HOODIE 3: I think you are. I think you’re as nutty as a fruitcake.

ROB: I’m not.

HOODIE 2: You are. You’re talking to yourself.

ROB: I’m not talking to myself. I was practicing my opening speech. I was rehearsing.

HOODIE 1: Rehearsing? What for?

ROB: The school play.

¹ Pech gehabt

² sich räuspern

³ verrückt (as nutty as a fruitcake – total verrückt)

HOODIE 1: You? Acting in a play? Don't make me laugh. Wait until I tell KJ this.

HOODIE 2: Go on then. Do some acting.

ROB: I can't.

HOODIE 3: Of course you can. Do some Shakespeare.

ROB: I don't know any Shakespeare.

HOODIE 1: Pretend to be a tree then.

All the Hoodies pretend to be trees, then burst out laughing.

HOODIE 2: Do you remember when Miss Sherreff gave us a drama lesson, and she made us do that for an hour?

HOODIE 3: Acting is for losers, Loxby.

HOODIE 1: What play are you doing then?

ROB: (*muttering¹ so they can't hear him.*)

HOODIE 1: What ?

ROB: Robin Hood.

HOODIES: (*together*) Robin Hood!

HOODIE 3: Loxby's my hero!

HOODIE 1: He's going to fight the evil Sheriff of Nottingham.

Hoodies have a mock fight².

HOODIE 2: Then get together with Maid Marian.

HOODIE 3: (*She pulls him close and pretends to give him a kiss.*) Ooh! Robin, you're so handsome. (*She pushes him away.*) But I prefer Batman³!

HOODIE 1: And finally save the world.

HOODIE 3: Is that right? Is that how the story goes?

ROB: Something like that.

HOODIE 3: I can't wait to see you in a pair of green tights. It's almost worth coming to school for.

A school bell rings.

ROB: I've got to go. It's time for my tutor group⁴.

HOODIE 1: Not so fast, Robin of Sherwood. You have forgotten something.

Hoodie 1 holds his hand out.

HOODIE 2: Robbing the rich to feed the poor.

ROB: But I'm not rich.

HOODIE 1: That's all right. We're not poor.

ROB: I haven't got any money.

HOODIE 2: (*taking his school bag*) What is in this bag then?

He takes out a mobile phone.

ROB: Give that back.

He takes out a lunch box.

¹ murmeln

² einen gespielten Kampf

³ bevorzugen (... aber Batman ist mir lieber!)

⁴ Klasse, Tutorengruppe

HOODIE 2: Look, a packed lunch¹. Did mummy give you a packed lunch?

Crisps, chocolate bar, sandwich.

HOODIE 1: What sort?

HOODIE 2: Cheese and ham.

HOODIE 1: My favourite. Thanks, Loxby. Now get lost. And give our love to school.

The Hoodies turn to exit. Rob stops Hoodie 2.

ROB: That's my lunch.

HOODIE 2: You're an actor. You can pretend you've already eaten it.

Rob turns to go.

HOODIE 2: Hey, Loxby?

ROB: What?

HOODIE 2: Do you know what a ship does when it comes into a port?

ROB: No. What?

Hoodie 2 points at Rob's tie. Rob looks down. He flicks² the tie up into Rob's face.

HOODIE 2: Ties up!

He then treads on his toe.

HOODIE 2: And anchors down!

Hoodie 2 exits laughing. Rob watches them for a moment, and then turns and exits.

Scene 2: At School

A school bell rings. Will Parlett and John Little, two school boys, enter. Will is a little overweight and fond of sweet things. John is the class joker. Miss Sherreff, the teacher, enters.

MISS SHERREFF: Good morning, class.

CLASS: Good morning, Miss Sherreff.

Rob enters.

ROB: Sorry I'm late, Miss Sherreff.

MISS SHERREFF: Hurry up, please.

Rob sits.

MISS SHERREFF: I have been asked by the headmaster to tell you that this evening after school there will be the first rehearsal for the school play. This year's school play is by Robert Loxby and it tells the story of a famous English folk hero. Can anybody guess who it is?

John answers her with a silly name.

MISS SHERREFF: Very funny, John Little, any more jokes and you are in

¹ Lunchpaket, Jause

² mit einer schnellen Bewegung (die Krawatte ins Gesicht werfen)

detention¹. It's someone famous for stealing from the rich to give to the poor ... this person lives in the forest, wears green, and has a bow and arrow. Tell them who it is, Loxby.

ROB: It's Robin Hood.

WILL: But Robin Hood's American.

ROB: No, he isn't.

WILL: He is. I saw the film on Netflix. Russell Crowe played him.

JOHN: He's not American, he's Australian.

WILL: What? Robin Hood's Australian?

JOHN: No. Russell Crowe. He's English. He's from Nottingham, just like us.

WILL: Russell Crowe is?

JOHN: Robin Hood, durr brain²!

WILL: Is that true, Miss?

MISS SHERREFF: Well not exactly. He's a legend, a story, so nobody knows the truth. What is true is that the story is set in a very exciting part of history, the medieval period³. Can anybody tell me anything about the medieval period?

JOHN: Were there knights in armour⁴, Miss?

MISS SHERREFF: Yes, there were. Very good. What else?

ROB: The Crusades⁵, Miss?

MISS SHERREFF: Excellent. The story of Robin Hood is set during the Crusades against the emperor⁶ Saladin in the reign of King Richard⁷ the First, known as the Lionheart.

WILL: What were the Crusades, Miss?

MISS SHERREFF: They were wars fought by the Christian countries to win back Jerusalem and the Holy Land from the Muslims.

ROB: But aren't there Muslim holy shrines⁸ in Jerusalem as well?

MISS SHERREFF: Yes, and Jewish ones, too. There are still problems today over who has the right to worship⁹ in them.

JOHN: Where does Robin Hood fit in to all this?

MISS SHERREFF: King Richard the Lionheart spent most of his reign fighting abroad in the Crusades, and the people he gave power to ruled the country unfairly while he was away. Robin Hood was an outlaw¹⁰ who stood up for¹¹

¹ nachsitzen

² Spatzenhirn

³ das Mittelalter

⁴ Ritter in Rüstung

⁵ die Kreuzzüge

⁶ Herrscher

⁷ während der Herrschaft König Richards

⁸ Heiligtümer

⁹ an einem Gottesdienst teilnehmen

¹⁰ Geächteter, Bandit

¹¹ sich stark machen für ..., einsetzen

justice for the poor. Now if you want to know more, rehearsals are after school tonight.

Music.

Scene 3: The first rehearsal

Rob pulls a large trunk onto the stage. It holds the props and costumes for the play. Rob has a school bag. He puts it down on the stage. Miss Sherreff enters.

MISS SHERREFF: Now make sure you don't make a mess, and turn the lights off when you finish. I'll be back to lock up at seven.

ROB: Did you see anybody outside, Miss? There's nobody else here yet.

MISS SHERREFF: No. I'm sorry, not yet.

ROB: Thanks, Miss.

She exits.

Rob takes a green hat with a feather in it, a bow, a quiver of arrows¹ and a horn from the trunk. He puts on the hat, puts the quiver and the bow over his shoulder, and then holds up the horn.

ROB: Ha! The wicked Sheriff of Nottingham! I have you and your soldiers now.

I only have to call my merry men with my hunting horn.

He tries to blow it. A very silly sound comes out. He shrugs and puts it back in the trunk. He takes the bow off his shoulder and puts an arrow in it. He pulls back the string. John Little enters.

JOHN: Hello.

ROB: *(Rob lets go of the string which hits his thumb.)* Ow! Oh! Hi!

ROB: Have you come for an audition?

JOHN: Audition? I don't want to audition. I thought you were just giving out parts.

He turns to leave.

ROB: I am. I just want to see what part is best for you.

JOHN: OK.

ROB: What do *you* want to play?

JOHN: Robin Hood of course.

ROB: Oh. I'm sorry, you can't.

JOHN: What?

ROB: I'm playing Robin Hood.

JOHN: Why?

ROB: I've learned all the lines.

JOHN: Forget it then.

He turns to leave.

ROB: Just a minute. You can play the bad guy if you like.

¹ Köcher mit Pfeilen

JOHN: The bad guy?

ROB: The evil Sheriff of Nottingham.

JOHN: Evil, huh?

ROB: It's a good part. A very good part.

JOHN: Ok. Why not? I can do evil¹.

Will Parlett enters. He is wearing a very short green tunic² over a pair of bright green tights which only reach up to his knees. He has a tiny Robin Hood hat on his head. He is drinking a large soda drink through a straw. He is also carrying a huge box of "pick and mix" sweets.

WILL: Is this where the play is?

JOHN: What have you got on, man?

WILL: It's a Robin Hood costume. It's my cousin's.

JOHN: How old is your cousin?

WILL: Seven.

JOHN: You look like Shrek! (*Points at Rob.*) Anyway, he's playing Robin Hood.

WILL: Why?

JOHN: Because if you fought the evil Sheriff of Nottingham you'd have to sit on him to win.

WILL: Ha, ha, ha. Very funny.

Will holds out the box of sweets to John. John crosses to him and reaches for a sweet. Will moves the packet so that he misses it and then kicks him from behind. John laughs. They then slap hands³ in greeting. They are obviously good friends.

JOHN: You have got to get out of that costume before someone sees you. (*To Rob*) Haven't you got anything else for him to wear?

ROB: There's the costume for Friar Tuck.

JOHN: Who is he?

ROB: A monk.

He pulls a monk's robe from the trunk.

JOHN: Perfect. Go and put this on.

WILL: Do I have to?

JOHN: Yes, you do!

Will goes behind the scenery to change into the costume. John looks in the trunk.

JOHN: What else have you got? Hey, there's loads of great stuff in here.

He pulls out a toy light saber⁴.

JOHN: (*as Darth Vader*) Can you feel the force, Luke⁵?

ROB: Those are costumes and props from old school plays. We probably shouldn't mess about with them.

JOHN: No, sure. No problem.

¹ ... gemein sein kann ich gut

² hier: uniformähnliche Jacke, Kasak

³ abklatschen

⁴ Spielzeuglaser Schwert

⁵ Zitat aus 'Star Wars': Spürst Du die Macht, Luke? (Darth Vader und Luke Skywalker)

ROB: (*passing him a script*) Here. Take one of these, and don't touch anything else.

JOHN: I won't.

Will returns in the monk's robe.

WILL: How do I look?

ROB: Good. Just like the real Friar Tuck.

WILL: Really?

JOHN: Yeah – if the real Friar Tuck wore a sack.

WILL: You're just jealous because I've got a costume already. What are you wearing in this play then?

John pulls a long blonde wig out of the trunk and puts it on.

JOHN: How about this?

A teenage girl, Marianne Maiden, enters.

MARIANNE: Very nice.

John takes off the wig as quickly as possible.

ROB: Are you here for the audition?

MARIANNE: Yeah.

ROB: Let me get you a script. Maid Marian comes in on page five.

MARIANNE: Who says I want to play Maid Marian?

ROB: It's the only part in the play for a girl. Unless you want to play a nun?

MARIANNE: Why can't I play Robin Hood?

ROB: He's a *man*.

MARIANNE: He's a *legend*. Legends can be changed. It happens all the time.

This is the twenty-first century. Anyway, you've already got a Maid Marian.

ROB: I have?

She points at John.

JOHN: I'm not playing a girl.

ROB: Somebody has to.

WILL: My sister Hilda might do it.

ROB: Really? That's great.

JOHN: You haven't seen his sister!

He pulls a face.

MARIANNE: (*to John*) What are you playing?

JOHN: I'm playing the bad guy.

ROB: The Sheriff of Nottingham.

JOHN: (*pointing at Rob*) And he's Robin Hood.

MARIANNE: Who else is there then?

ROB: Will's playing Friar Tuck. How about Little John?

MARIANNE: Who's Little John?

ROB: Er, he's a really big, tall man.

MARIANNE: Why is he called little if he's big?

ROB: Good question.

MARIANNE: No thanks. Who else?

ROB: Um. Er ...

MARIANNE: All right. All right! I'll play Maid Marian if you make sure she isn't soppy and wet¹, like most parts for girls in plays.

ROB: No problem.

MARIANNE: I want her to be in a fight with the Sheriff.

ROB: OK.

MARIANNE: And no kissing.

ROB: (*disappointed*) No kissing? Are you sure?

Marianne gives him a look. Rob gives a script to Will.

ROB: Right. The play begins in Sherwood Forest when Robin, the Earl of Huntingdon, returns to England from the Crusades. (*He moves Marianne.*) Now, you're over here, and ...

JOHN: Wait a minute. Before we start, aren't you going to tell us the story? So we know about our characters, and stuff?

ROB: Do you want me to?

JOHN: Yeah.

The others nod their heads.

ROB: OK. Well ... Robin, the Earl of Huntingdon, comes back from the Crusades to find he has lost his home and family because of the evil Sheriff of Nottingham.

WILL: Did they win?

ROB: Did who win?

WILL: The Crusaders? Against what's his name?

ROB: Saladin?

WILL: Yeah.

ROB: No, they didn't.

WILL: You mean the bad guy won?

ROB: Saladin wasn't the bad guy.

WILL: Then who was?

ROB: It's complicated. For many people he was a hero. He was famous for his chivalry². When King Richard was ill with a fever he sent his own doctor with medicine for him. In the end he allowed the Christians to make pilgrimages³ to worship in Jerusalem, he even let the Jews worship in peace.

WILL: Oh.

MARIANNE: So what happened to Robin?

ROB: The evil Sheriff of Nottingham made him an outlaw. So he lived in Sherwood Forest while he waited for King Richard to return.

WILL: Was he on his own?

ROB: No, he was with some other outlaws called the merry men.

¹ sentimental und unreif

² Ritterlichkeit

³ Pilgerreisen

MARIANNE: The merry *men*? No merry women?
 ROB: Sorry, no.
 MARIANNE: Typical!
 WILL: How many of these merry men were there?
 ROB: Lots.
 WILL: How are we going to do them? There are only four of us.
 ROB: I don't know. I thought a lot more people would be here tonight.
 JOHN: What about using these?
He takes some very childish wooden puppets on sticks¹ out of the trunk. He moves them about very badly and talks for them at the same time.
 JOHN: Hello everybody. We're the merry men. We live in the forest and we are very merry. Ho, ho, ho.
 WILL: That's not going to work.
 MARIANNE: (*looking in the trunk*) I've got an idea. Look!
She takes a false beard out of the trunk and puts it on.
 JOHN: It suits you.
 MARIANNE: If we put these on, we can be the merry men ourselves. Here!
They all put beards on.
 JOHN: There are still only four of us. It won't work.
 MARIANNE: But there are lots of beards.
 JOHN: So what?
 MARIANNE: So, we can use the audience. Get people to join in² with us.
 ROB: Marianne, you're a genius.
 MARIANNE: I know.
 JOHN: What do these merry men do?
 ROB: They hide out in Sherwood Forest and steal from rich people as they pass by, then Robin gives the money to the poor.
 MARIANNE: And what about Maid Marian? What does she do?
 ROB: Robin falls in love with her.
 MARIANNE: Is that it? Slushy garbage³. That has to change. What else?
 ROB: Um, he wins an archery⁴ contest.
 WILL: A what?
 MARIANNE: A competition with a bow and arrow.
 WILL: Oh.
 ROB: And finally all his problems are solved when King Richard escapes from Dürnstein castle in Austria, returns to England and knights⁵ him.
 MARIANNE: Just a minute. Why was King Richard in Dürnstein castle?
 ROB: Duke Leopold the Fifth of Austria caught him on his way home near Vienna,

¹ kindlich aussehende Marionetten

² (mit uns) mitmachen

³ kitschiger Schmarren

⁴ Bogenschießen

⁵ zum Ritter schlagen

and locked him up.

WILL: What for?

ROB: I have no idea! But I do know that King Richard's minstrel Blondel went all around Europe in order to find him, and when the English finally paid the ransom¹ to free him, Leopold built a whole town in Austria with the money.

JOHN: Is that a fact? What town is that then?

ROB: Am I an encyclopedia? Look it up on Wikipedia. So, what do you think of the story?

JOHN: Sounds crap to me².

ROB: Can we just try the first scene?

WILL: OK.

MARIANNE: Alright.

ROB: John?

JOHN: Why not?

ROB: Right. OK. Pick up your scripts then. The Sheriff of Nottingham is onstage, walking up and down.

JOHN: Like this? (*He walks up and down.*)

ROB: Perfect. And Robin Hood comes in from over here. Maid Marian, you are sitting here, embroidering³. (*He takes some needlework from the trunk.*)

MARIANNE: Embroidering?

ROB: It's what women did in medieval times.

MARIANNE: Great! Having babies and embroidering. It must have been a great life.

ROB: Will, you can play a guard in this first scene.

WILL: Great!

Rob takes a plastic helmet, sword and shield from the trunk for Will.

ROB: OK, lets start.

JOHN: (*walking up and down and reading from the script quite badly,*) Ha, Ha, Ha! I have a fool-proof plan. When Robin, Earl of Huntingdon, returns from the Crusades I can arrest him and throw him into my dungeons⁴. Then there will be nothing to stop me from marrying you, Maid Marian. Ha! Ha! Ha! Put down your embroidery and give me your hand to kiss.

MARIAN: No! no! You beast! If only someone could save me! (*The Sheriff kisses her hand*) Oh, help! Help! Someone please help!

Rob enters.

ROB: Don't worry, Marian. I won't let this brute harm you⁵.

He takes the sword from Will and points it at John.

¹ Lösegeld

² ... ich finde, das ist Mist

³ sticken, handarbeiten

⁴ Verließ

⁵ ... ich werde es nicht zulassen, dass dir dieses Ungeheuer etwas antut

JOHN: Curses¹!

Marianne runs to Rob.

MARIANNE: Oh, Robin! How can I ever thank you?

ROB: Quickly, Marian. We must go to my secret hiding place in Sherwood Forest.

WILL: I'm not playing a tree.

ROB: You don't have to. Right, now in this next scene we need the merry men.

MARIANNE: Look. (*She points to the audience.*) What about those kids over by the sports hall? We can ask some of them to help us.

ROB: Oh yeah.

They go into the audience.

ROB and MARIANNE: Excuse me. Will you come and help us?

AUDIENCE INTERACTION

At the end of the audience interaction the actors give the students a round of applause and send them back to their seats.

MARIANNE: Thanks for your help, you were brilliant.

ROB: (*to Will and John*) So, what do you think of the play?

JOHN: Alright, I suppose.

ROB: What do you think, Marianne?

MARIANNE: It needs a lot of changes.

ROB: Really?

MARIANNE: Why don't we all think about it over the weekend, and come up with some ideas to make it better on Monday night?

JOHN: Good idea.

WILL: Yeah.

MARIANNE: Rob?

ROB: (*sighs*) Alright.

WILL: Wicked²!

They all high five³ and exit.

Music.

Scene 4: Trouble with the Hoodies

The scene changes to the King John housing estate in Nottingham. There is graffiti everywhere.

Rob enters, he is wearing a jacket with the logo of a supermarket on it.

¹ Verdamm! (eig.: Flüche)

² spitzenmäßig, geil

³ Handschlag mit erhobenen Händen (,Give me five')

ROB: (*to audience*) I think the main reason I wanted to play Robin Hood was because he wasn't afraid of anyone, and in real life I was a complete coward. This is where I live: the King John estate. I know it looks rough¹ but it's OK really, except for one thing ... the Hoodies.

Two of the Hoodies enter. They move around Rob as they speak.

HOODIE 1 & 2:

Yeah, this is the King John estate,
Don't you think it's really great?
Tower blocks², like concrete³ trees,
Graffiti, and dogs with fleas.
Nothing much for us to do,
So you better watch out or we'll mess with you.

HOODIE 1: So, where are you going, Loxby?

ROB: Home.

HOODIE 1: From work? Got a Saturday job now, have you?

ROB: Yeah, in the supermarket.

HOODIE 1: So, you must have some money on you now then?

ROB: I don't get paid until the end of the month.

HOODIE 2: What, nothing?

ROB: No. You have to work for a month before you get paid.

HOODIE 1: That's alright. You can pay us at the end of the month, too.

ROB: Pay you? What for?

HOODIE 1: Leaving you alone. Fifty quid⁴ will do it.

ROB: Fifty quid? I can't give you that much. I won't have anything left.

HOODIE 2: So?

ROB: I have to give my mum some money. Help with the rent.

HOODIE 1: OK. No problem. Forty-five quid will be fine.

ROB: No.

HOODIE 1: (*threateningly*) Do you want KJ to come and find you?

ROB: (*scared*) No.

HOODIE 2: Then make sure you have the money.

Marianne Maiden enters. She is carrying a bag of shopping.

MARIANNE: Hey, Rob. Is everything alright?

HOODIE 2: What do you want?

MARIANNE: Leave him alone.

HOODIE 2: (*moving towards her*) Make me.

Hoodie 1 grabs Hoodie 2 and pulls him away from Marianne.

¹ eine Gegend, wo raue Sitten vorherrschen; heruntergekommen

² Hochhäuser

³ Beton

⁴ (Britische) Pfund (umgangsspr. Ausdruck)

HOODIE 1: Come on.

HOODIE 2: What?

Hoodie 1 whispers in Hoodie 2's ear.

HOODIE 2: Oh.

Hoodie 2 backs away.

HOODIE 1: (*calls back to Rob*) Don't forget.

ROB: What was that all about? Why did they leave?

MARIANNE: I don't know. They're just a couple of idiots. How are you, anyway?

ROB: Alright, I guess.

MARIANNE: Have you thought of any ideas for rehearsals?

ROB: Not really. I've been working.

MARIANNE: I know, I saw you in the supermarket.

ROB: Oh. Have you thought of anything?

MARIANNE: Why is it that in every story there is a boy hero? Why can't the girl ever do anything interesting instead of just being rescued¹, and looking pretty? I think Maid Marian should rescue Robin Hood.

ROB: I think she just did. How did you ...?

MARIANNE: I'm serious. It's really boring when in every story all anybody cares about is what your hair looks like or what kind dress you wear.

ROB: I suppose so. You'd look nice in a dress, though.

Marianne looks at him.

ROB: Um, sorry, I mean, I never thought about it before.

MARIANNE: Well, it's time you did. There's more to life for girls than babies and embroidery, you know.

ROB: OK, yeah. Fair enough².

MARIANNE: Why do you want to play Robin Hood, anyway?

ROB: I don't know.

MARIANNE: Come on. Why?

ROB: Promise you won't laugh? I want to be a hero. Someone brave, tough³. I know it's ridiculous.

MARIANNE: Not everybody can be tough, Rob. Anyway, I think you *are* brave.

ROB: What do you mean?

MARIANNE: Writing a play and standing up on a stage in front of the whole school. That's a pretty brave thing to do.

ROB: Not really. I like acting.

MARIANNE: Yeah. So do I.

ROB: It's the only time you can get away from who you really are.

MARIANNE: Yeah. (*Pause*) Hey, do you like sponge cake⁴?

¹ gerettet werden (retten)

² deine Sache, na schön

³ tapfer und knallhart

⁴ Biskuitkuchen

ROB: Sponge cake?

Marianne takes a cake from her shopping bag.

MARIANNE: It was on special offer. Why don't you come back and have tea?

I only live over there.

She points to her block of flats.

ROB: Yeah, brilliant. Thanks, Marianne.

MARIANNE: Then we can talk about changing your play!

Rob groans. They exit.

Music.

Scene 5: The second rehearsal

The trunk of props is on the stage. Will is in his Friar Tuck costume. He is holding a long wooden stick called a "quarterstaff"¹. He is practicing a few moves. Rob enters.

ROB: Hi, Will.

WILL: Hi, Rob.

ROB: Where's John?

WILL: Oh, he's putting his costume on.

ROB: What, the proper² Sheriff of Nottingham costume?

WILL: Yeah.

ROB: Great.

John's voice comes from behind the set.

JOHN: Hey! Will! Is Marianne here yet?

WILL: No.

JOHN: *(offstage)* Good.

ROB: What's the matter?

JOHN: *(offstage)* It's this costume.

ROB: What about it?

John appears around the edge of the set. He is wearing a very funny-looking medieval costume. Will collapses laughing.

JOHN: Right, that's it! I'm not wearing this.

ROB: Wait! What's wrong with it? It's perfect for the medieval period.

JOHN: People will laugh at me.

ROB: They won't.

He points at Will who is still laughing.

JOHN: He is!

ROB: Nobody else will laugh. You look cool. Mean.

JOHN: Really?

¹ 12,7 kg schwerer Stock/Stab, wurde als Waffe verwendet

² das echte, typische

ROB: I promise you.

Marianne enters.

MARIANNE: Hi, Rob. Will. John! What are you *wearing*?! (*She laughs.*)

JOHN: (*to Rob*) If you make me wear this costume, I quit the show!¹

ROB: No! Please! OK, you don't have to wear it. We will find something else.

Just keep it on for rehearsals tonight. Please! We don't have time to mess about changing² all evening.

JOHN: Alright. (*To Will*) Just stop laughing at me. (*To Marianne*) And you!

MARIANNE: Sorry. (*She tries to stop laughing.*)

WILL: Yeah, I'm sorry, too. I'll stop now. (*He laughs again.*) Sorry. Are we going to show them, then?

JOHN: When you stop laughing.

WILL: OK. OK. I've stopped. (*He laughs again.*)

ROB: Show us what?

JOHN: We had some ideas over the weekend.

ROB: Great. What are they?

JOHN: First of all, we think that plays are boring.

ROB: Oh!

JOHN: What young people want to see is something more exciting.

ROB: Like what?

WILL: Like films. If this play had some special effects³ or something ...

ROB: Special effects?

WILL: Real blood.

JOHN: Explosions.

WILL: Aliens.

JOHN: Dinosaurs.

WILL: Slowmotion fights⁴.

JOHN: Yeah.

He clicks his fingers, music starts. John and Will perform a rather silly slowmotion fight.

WILL: So? Do you like it?

ROB: I'm not sure. I'll have to think about it.

JOHN: We're just trying to help.

ROB: I know. Thanks.

MARIANNE: Right. Here we are.

She takes some scripts out of her bag and hands them out to Rob, Will and John.

ROB: What are these?

MARIANNE: The new scripts.

ROB: New scripts?

¹ ... dann kannst du mich vergessen (dann höre ich auf!)

² mit Umziehen beschäftigen, herumtun

³ Spezialeffekte (wie in Filmen)

⁴ Kampfszenen in Zeitlupe

MARIANNE: Yes.

ROB: What do you mean?

MARIANNE: I wrote some new scenes for the play last night.

WILL: So did I.

ROB: *You did?*

WILL: Yeah, and so did John.

JOHN: Yeah.

MARIANNE: Can we do mine first?

Will and John nod.

ROB: But...

MARIANNE: This is the new first scene. Shall we rehearse it?

JOHN: Cool.

MARIANNE: Right. Rob, you are offstage, and John, you are walking up and down. Will, you are still the guard.

She sits down and takes her embroidery out.

JOHN: (*looking at the script*) This bit looks the same as before... (*He walks up and down, acting it slightly better this time.*) Ha! Ha! Ha! I have a foolproof plan. When Robin, Earl of Huntingdon, returns from the Crusades I can arrest him and throw him into my dungeons. Then there will be nothing to stop me from marrying you, Maid Marian. Ha! Ha! Ha! Put down your embroidery and give me your hand to kiss.

He reaches out for Marianne's hand, and she sticks her needle into it.

JOHN: Aghhhhhh! Flipping heck¹!!

ROB and WILL: What? What is it? What's the matter?

JOHN: She stabbed me in the flipping hand²!

MARIANNE: Don't be such a baby.

JOHN: It really hurts ... It's bleeding, look!

MARIANNE: It's not.

JOHN: It is.

MARIANNE: Just press your finger on it then. It'll stop in a minute.

JOHN: No, it won't. It needs a plaster.

MARIANNE: Here, let me.

She presses her finger on it.

JOHN: Ow!!

He exits. Will follows him.

ROB: Now look what you've done.

MARIANNE: I hardly³ touched him.

ROB: That's not the point.

MARIANNE: Anyway, that's what happens in the scene.

¹ verdammt noch mal (sehr umgangsspr.)

² sie hat mich in meine verdammte Hand gestochen

³ kaum

ROB: What?

MARIANNE: The Sheriff runs out to put a bandage on his hand. Then Maid Marian tears the curtains up and makes a rope ladder¹.

ROB: But ...

MARIANNE: She climbs out of the window, swims across the moat², and meets Robin in the forest.

ROB: What does Robin do?

MARIANNE: He waits for her.

ROB: Is that all?

MARIANNE: He can be embroidering, if you like.

She hands him the embroidery. Will returns with John. John's hand is in a huge bandage.

WILL: Can we do it my way now? The scene?

ROB: Why not? It can't be worse than the last one.

MARIANNE: (*angry*) What do you mean?

ROB: Never mind.

WILL: Alright. It starts the same as the other one did. The Sheriff is walking up and down.

JOHN: I'm not kissing her hand this time.

MARIANNE: No, you're right. You aren't.

WILL: Don't worry about that. Right. Off we go.

JOHN: It's the same again! (*Very quickly*) Ha! Ha! Ha! I have a foolproof plan. When Robin, Earl of Huntingdon, returns from the Crusades I can arrest him and throw him into my dungeons. Then there will be nothing to stop me from marrying you, Maid Marian. Ha! Ha! Ha! Put down your embroidery and give me your hand to kiss.

Will crosses to John and points his plastic sword at him.

WILL: Ah ha! Stop right there you evil Sheriff of Nottingham! Leave her alone.

JOHN: You can't do that. You're supposed to be my guard.

WILL: Yes, but secretly I'm one of the merry men. You are under arrest!

(To Marianne) Now you run over to me and say "Oh Will, how can I ever thank you", and then you give me a big kiss.

MARIANNE: You must be joking.

ROB: You must all be joking.

JOHN: It's my turn now.

ROB: Don't tell me. The Sheriff turns out to be the hero³?

JOHN: How did you know?

ROB: Never mind. I've had enough. If you want to change everything around then go ahead. But you can do it without me. I quit!

¹ Strickleiter

² Burggraben

³ der Sheriff stellt sich als der Held heraus

He exits angrily.

WILL: I think he's a bit upset.

JOHN: Really? Do you think so?

MARIANNE: Perhaps we were a bit mean to change everything. It is his play, after all.

JOHN: Send him a text.

MARIANNE: He's had his mobile stolen. I'll go round to see him. We can ask him to meet us later at the Bow and Arrow Youth Club. I'm helping out there tonight.

JOHN: OK.

MARIANNE: See you later then?

JOHN & WILL: Yeah. Later.

Music.

Scene 6: The Bow and Arrow Youth Club

Two of the Hoodies enter.

HOODIES:

The Bow and Arrow Youth Club is here on our estate.

It's somewhere for the kids to go. And it stays open 'till late.

There's table tennis, football, too.

There's really quite a lot to do.

It's the only place where everyone goes.

It's a pity someone broke all the windows.

They pretend to throw stones – the sound of breaking glass. They both run off. The scene changes to inside the Bow and Arrow Youth Club. Marianne enters with Rob. She has a broom.

MARIANNE: You'll have to stay in here while I clean the glass up.

ROB: Idiots.

MARIANNE: It's the second time this month.

ROB: Do you want some help?

MARIANNE: No. It's fine. I'll be back in a minute.

Marianne exits. John and Will enter. They bring a soft drink for Rob. Will has a giant-size cup for himself.

ROB: Thanks.

JOHN: *(to Will)* Didn't they have any bigger cups?

WILL: I need to keep my strength up.

He takes a huge slurp¹ of his drink through a straw.

JOHN: So I see. *(To Rob)* Look, Rob. We want to apologize. We'll do the play your

¹ einen Riesenschluck

way, OK?

ROB: Thanks, John. That's really nice of you. But it doesn't make any difference. I've changed my mind about Robin Hood.

WILL: Why?

ROB: I've been thinking about the story. I don't think that someone who steals from other people is a hero.

JOHN: But if those people are bad?

ROB: Stealing is stealing. Nothing changes that.

JOHN: But Robin Hood steals from rich people.

ROB: So what? Just because someone is rich, it doesn't mean it's OK to steal from them. Does it?

JOHN: No. But Robin Hood gives the money away to the poor.

ROB: So what? And how do we know he does? The real Robin Hood might have paid someone to write a story about him. How do we ever know who or what a hero is really like? We choose someone to be a hero but we don't really know anything about the true story. For some people King Richard was a hero, for others Saladin was. Perhaps the evil Sheriff of Nottingham wasn't evil at all. It just depends who is telling the story. Robin Hood and his merry men? For all we know¹ they were just a gang of thieves. Just like the Hoodies.

Marianne returns.

MARIANNE: What about the Hoodies?

ROB: I bet they don't think what they're doing is really bad. They probably think people like me deserve² to have things taken from them.

MARIANNE: Have they been threatening you again?

ROB: Just forget it.

MARIANNE: What's going on?

JOHN: (*to Marianne*) He doesn't want to do Robin Hood anymore, because he thinks the story is about stealing.

WILL: The story *isn't* about stealing.

JOHN: What?

WILL: I said the story *isn't* about stealing. Not really.

ROB: It *isn't*?

WILL: No.

JOHN: What *is* it about then, Einstein?

WILL: It's about the weak standing up to the strong³.

Rob, John and Marianne look at Will.

JOHN: Give me some of that drink, big man. It must be good for the brain.
He takes the cup of drink from Will.

¹ vielleicht (wir wissen nichts Genaues)

² verdienen

³ die Stirn bieten, sich gegen jemand behaupten

ROB: In real life, if the weak try to stand up to the strong, they just lose.
 MARIANNE: The best way for the weak to stand up to the strong is for the weak people to work together.
 WILL: Like the merry men.
 MARIANNE: It's nearly seven-thirty. Come on!
 JOHN: Come on where?
 MARIANNE: There's a darts contest in the main hall.
 JOHN: Darts? Darts is a game for old men. We're not interested in playing darts.
 MARIANNE: First prize is fifty pounds!
 JOHN: Fifty pounds? Why didn't you say so before? Follow me!
The scene transfers to the main hall at the youth club.
 MARIANNE: I can't believe none of you have ever played darts before.
 WILL: How do you do it?
 MARIANNE: It's easy. You take the darts and you throw them at the board.
Will mimes throwing a dart. He does it really badly.
 MARIANNE: Careful!
 WILL: Sorry.
 JOHN: You're hopeless, Will. Give them to me. Now sit back and watch this!
He mimes throwing a dart. It sticks into the floor¹. Will laughs.
 JOHN: My hand slipped. Let me try again.
John mimes pulling it out of the ground. It is stuck.
 MARIANNE: Give the darts to Rob.
 JOHN: I will if I can!
He mimes passing the darts to Rob.
 ROB: *(to Marianne)* Don't you want a go?
 MARIANNE: I'm too short-sighted.
 ROB: How do you do it?
 MARIANNE: Aim for the middle of the dart board.
 ROB: There?
He mimes throwing a dart.
 MARIANNE: Bullseye²!
 WILL: Right in the centre.
 JOHN: It was just a lucky shot. He can't do it again.
Rob mimes throwing a dart.
 WILL: Wow!
 MARIANNE: It's split the other one in half! Rob, you have to enter the competition³.
 ROB: OK. I will.

¹ er bleibt im Fußboden stecken

² Ins Schwarze getroffen!

³ am Wettbewerb teilnehmen

The actors do a slowmotion mime of the darts competition, which Rob finally wins. They celebrate.

ROB: Fifty quid. Fantastic!

JOHN and WILL: Yeah. Nice one, Rob.

MARIANNE: Well done.

ROB: Yeah. It's great. This means I can pay them, after all.

MARIANNE: Pay who?

ROB: Nobody.

MARIANNE: You don't mean the Hoodies, do you?

ROB: No.

MARIANNE: Rob?

JOHN: Leave him alone. It's his money. It's up to him what he does with it.

MARIANNE: I know, but ...

Rob thinks for a moment, and then holds the money out.

ROB: Here.

He offers ten pounds to each of them.

JOHN: What are you doing?

ROB: Sharing out the money.

JOHN: Why?

ROB: Because you helped me to win it.

WILL: No, we didn't.

ROB: Yes, you did. You cheered me on¹. Anyway, you're my friends. Aren't you?

WILL: Of course we are. We're the merry men.

Marianne looks at him.

WILL: And the merry girl!

ROB: (*offering the money*) Here.

JOHN: It's your money, Rob.

ROB: Yes, it is, and I want to give some to you.

MARIANNE: What about the Hoodies?

ROB: What about them? Now do you want it or not?

WILL: You bet.

He reaches for the money.

MARIANNE: Just a minute. I'll take that.

WILL: Eh?

MARIANNE: It's brave of you to want to stand up to the Hoodies for once Rob, but as we said before, the weak need to stick together², and I've got a plan.

Now hand over the cash. All of it. (*She puts her hand out. Rob thinks for a*

¹ anfeuern

² zusammenhalten

moment, then gives her the money.) It's about time somebody showed those Hoodies where to get off¹.

JOHN: You must be kidding. I used to know their leader KJ at primary school. He was mean even then.

MARIANNE: Did you say they stole your mobile phone the other day?

ROB: Yes.

MARIANNE: And do you still have that bag of costumes for the show at your house?

ROB: Yes, why?

MARIANNE: What's your phone number?

ROB: 07989 92018. What are you going to do?

MARIANNE: I'm going to send them a little message.

Marianne calls Rob's phone using her own mobile. She puts on a different voice.

MARIANNE: Hello, Rob. It's Hilda Parlett.

WILL: That's my sister's name. What's going on?

MARIANNE: *(to Will)* Shhh! *(Into phone)* Just a quick message to say I'll meet you at nine o'clock tonight to pay you that fifty pounds I owe you.

WILL: *(whispers to Rob)* My sister doesn't owe you any money, does she? *Rob shakes his head.*

MARIANNE: At the central bus station. See you later. Bye! *(She puts the phone in her bag.)* There, that should do it.

WILL: Do what? I don't get it!

Rob and John look at each other. They don't understand, either.

MARIANNE: Follow me.

She exits. The boys look at each other. They all shrug and then follow her. Music.

Scene 7: The Bus Station

Marianne enters with Rob, Will and John. Marianne is holding a bag.

WILL: I still don't get it.

JOHN: But Marianne just explained everything on the way here, Will.

WILL: I know, but I still don't get it.

ROB: It's simple. Marianne is going to pretend to be your sister Hilda. *Marianne takes a wig from the bag and puts it on.*

WILL: She doesn't look anything like my sister!

MARIANNE: I know, but it's dark. I'll hide my face. There! *She turns away from Will slightly and pulls a funny face.*

WILL: Oh! You do look a bit like my sister.

ROB: She will put the money in her purse and hold it, so it can be seen.

¹ ... dass es genug ist/reicht; dass es Zeit ist, aufzuhören

Marianne shows Will the money. She puts it in her purse.

WILL: But ...

JOHN: KJ, the leader of the Hoodies, will think she has come to give Rob fifty pounds. He will try to take it away from her.

MARIANNE: And we will surprise him.

She pretends to surprise John. John reacts.

MARIANNE: Boo!

JOHN: Agh! I'm surprised!

WILL: Yeah, yeah, OK. I get all that.

JOHN: Good.

WILL: What I don't get is why the Hoodies won't just beat us all up?

JOHN: (*thinking about it*) He's got a point, you know. I don't get that, either.

MARIANNE: Just wait and see. I've got a foolproof plan.

JOHN: That's good, because Will's with us.

WILL: Watch it!

MARIANNE: OK. Let's get ready. John, Will, off you go.

She gives them the bag.

WILL and JOHN: OK.

They exit.

ROB: What do you want me to do?

MARIANNE: Just wait out of sight. The Hoodies won't recognize Will, or John.

They'll be wearing costumes. But we don't want them to see you.

ROB: OK. But I feel a bit silly just hiding. What if something goes wrong?

MARIANNE: Then you can go to get help. But trust me. It's going to be fine. Go on! KJ will be here soon.

ROB: OK. But I didn't bring my embroidery!

Rob exits.

MARIANNE: (*to herself*) Now all I have to do is make myself look weak and ready to be robbed.

She puts the money into her purse and walks up and down nervously.

MARIANNE: (*in a nervous voice*) Oh, dear. I wonder where Rob is?

KJ, the leader of the Hoodies, appears. He has a scarf masking his face¹ and is wearing a hooded sweatshirt with the hood lifted up.

KJ: Looking for someone?

Marianne hides her face.

MARIANNE: Oh!

She tries to get past him, but he stops her. She keeps her face hidden through all of this conversation.

KJ: Bit late to be out alone, isn't it?

MARIANNE: What do you want?

KJ: The fifty pounds you've got in your purse.

¹ ... sein Gesicht ist durch einen Schal verdeckt

MARIANNE: (*hiding the purse behind her*) What fifty pounds?

KJ: The fifty pounds you owe to Rob. He owes it to me. Now hand it over if you know what's good for you.

MARIANNE: But how did you know about it?

KJ: (*holds up Rob's mobile phone*) A little birdie told me¹. Now hand it over! *He grabs her arm and twists it.*

MARIANNE: Ow!

John jumps into view. He is wearing the Sheriff of Nottingham costume. He has a plastic sword and shield.

JOHN: Aha! Take thy hands off this young damsel thou twerp²!

KJ: What?

JOHN: Prepare to defend thyself³! (*He waves the sword in the air.*)

KJ: Get lost!

Will appears dressed as Friar Tuck. He holds a quarterstaff. He makes the sign of the cross.

WILL: Dominus vobiscum, brother.

KJ: Are you two mental⁴ or something? Do you think a couple of idiots dressed in Halloween costumes is going to scare me?

JOHN: Um ... yes.

KJ: Well, you're wrong. (*To Marianne*) Now give me the money. (*To John and Will*) I'll deal with you two in a minute.

WILL: (*to John*) Looks like the foolproof plan isn't foolproof after all.

JOHN: No.

MARIANNE: I think it is.

Marianne twists out of his grip and pulls KJ's arm behind his back. She takes Rob's mobile from his hand.

KJ: Ouch! That hurts.

Marianne takes off her wig.

KJ: Marianne Maiden!

MARIANNE: That's my name. Don't wear it out⁵. Now are you going to be good?

KJ: (*scared*) Yeah!

MARIANNE: Promise?

KJ: Yes. I promise!

MARIANNE: Then make sure you leave my friends alone. In fact, if I hear you've been stealing from anybody I will be very upset. Do I make myself clear? Well?

¹ ein Spatz hat es vom Dach gepiffen

² Nehmt Eure Hände von dieser hilflosen jungen Dame, Ihr Blödmann! (alte Sprachform: thy = your, thou = you)

³ Verteidigt Euch!

⁴ ... geht's noch/spinnt ihr ...

⁵ ... mach kein Aufhebens deswegen

KJ: Yes!

MARIANNE: Good. Will! Sit on him.

WILL: My pleasure.

He sits on KJ.

MARIANNE: John.

JOHN: Yes, my lady?

MARIANNE: You come with me to get Rob. We've got the rest of this bunch¹ to

deal with.

JOHN: (*to Will*) I'm starting to like this costume. (*He points at KJ.*) Marianne, how did you do that? Why is he scared of you?

MARIANNE: Ask him. KJ?

KJ: She's Marianne Maiden.

JOHN: I know that.

KJ: National junior karate champion for Nottingham 2022.

JOHN: Wow!

Marianne and John exit.

KJ: I know who she is, but who the hell are you lot²?

WILL: We're Marianne Maiden's merry men!

He opens a bar of chocolate and begins to eat.

Music.

Scene 8: The School Hall

Miss Sherreff enters. She speaks to the audience.

MISS SHERREFF: Alright, everybody. Quiet please! Thank you! Now you won't have to wait much longer. Rob Loxby, John Little, Will Parlett and Marianne Maiden are almost ready to begin this evening's performance of the story of Robin Hood.

Rob enters dressed in his school uniform, not in a costume.

MISS SHERREFF: Where's your costume?

ROB: I don't need one.

Miss Sherreff exits.

ROB: Good evening, everybody. I'd like to welcome you to this evening's performance of Robin Hood ... But I can't, because we couldn't agree on how to tell the story. So, we wrote our own story and this is how it starts.

John, Will and Marianne enter.

Together:

We were going to tell the story of Robin Hood,

¹ Menge, Gruppe, Partie

² ... wer zum Teufel seid ihr alle

How he stole from the rich, and how that was good.
But stealing is still stealing and it's just not cool,
At least that's what they tell us when we go to school.
Pushing round the weak¹ that's just plain wrong,
Be careful if you try it, they could turn out to be strong.
So instead of being mean and acting like the Hoodies,
Just put your hands together, and let's celebrate the goodies!

They bow.

The End

¹ ... die Schwachen herumkommandieren

Quick Comprehension Check

Scene 1

- Who or what are the Hoodies? Why are they called ‘Hoodies’? What do they do?
- What is the full name of the first character? What does he do?
- The Hoodies are making fun of Rob. What else do they do to him?

Scene 2

- What are the names of the other two boys? Can you describe them?
- Who was Robin Hood? In the story, where and when did he live?
- What happened during the Crusades? Why were they fought?

Scene 3

- What happens at the first rehearsal? Who comes for a part in the play?
- Who plays which role? Match the roles with the names of the actors:

Rob	Friar Tuck
John	Maid Marian
Marianne	Robin Hood
Will	the Sheriff of Nottingham

- Which costumes and stage props are in the trunk?
- What do you know about the legendary Robin Hood? Retell the story in your own words.

Scene 4

- What does Rob do to earn some money?
- How much money do the Hoodies want from Rob, and what for?
- Why does Rob want to play Robin Hood?
- How does Marianne feel about the role of Maid Marian?

Scene 5

- Marianne, John and Will want to make changes to the play. Which changes do they suggest?
- Does Rob like their suggestions? What does he do?

Scene 6

- What is the Youth Club on the King John housing estate called? What can young people do there?

- What does Marianne need a broom for?
- Marianne, John and Will apologize to Rob. Why?
- How does Rob feel about Robin Hood now?
- What is the story of Robin Hood all about?
- Describe the scene of the darts competition.
- What does Rob do with the money he wins? Why?
- What does Marianne want to teach the Hoodies?
- Why does she make a call to Rob's mobile phone?

Scene 7

- Who does Marianne pretend to be, and why?
- What does she do with the fifty pounds from Rob?
- How is John dressed and what does he do?
- Which clothes is Will wearing, and why?
- Why is KJ so afraid of Marianne?

Scene 8

- What happens on the evening of the school play?

Did you like the play? Say why/why not!

Which of the characters did/didn't you like? Why?

Which part(s) of the play did you find really funny? Interesting? Silly?
Romantic? Boring?