

PREMISE: ROBIN HOOD
Live the Age of Chivalry

The time-period is during the High Middle Ages (circa 1190 AD). King Richard has gone on Crusade and has left his wicked younger brother, Prince John, to rule until his return. The Prince has taken advantage of the situation to enrich his own coffers, and rules with an iron fist.

The only thorn in Prince John's side is the outlaw, Robin Hood, who has rallied the people of Nottingham to rebel against John's tyranny. The Prince has enlisted the notoriously cruel Sheriff of Nottingham to rout out Robin and his men.

The Sheriff hatches a plan to hold a Faire in Nottingham, guaranteeing safe passage and "amnesty for all." Thus, Robin and his men are lured into town.

The Sheriff realizes he cannot take Robin and his men immediately, as Robin enjoys much love and support from the townsfolk. The Sheriff's plan is to catch/lure Robin or his men into trouble. Thus, both camps are constantly goading each other, creating dramatic tension throughout the Faire day.

Joust

Presiding over the joust is Prince John on one side; John's mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine; wife or fiancé, Isabelle; and/or Lady Marian for King Richard on the other side. Prince John proclaims that the contest is "Joust for Fun!" but he hopes to provoke Robin and his men into a fight, so they can be arrested and executed.

Chess Match

Robin, his men, and some townsfolk on the white side compete with the Sheriff of Nottingham, the Sherriff, guards, and some townsfolk pressed into service on the black side. The game gets more contentious; and when Robin defeats the Sheriff in the final fight, the Sheriff calls for the guards to take Robin and his men into custody. Suddenly, King Richard disguised as a monk reveals himself. He and his fellow knights arrest Prince John, the Sheriff, and Sir Guy (?) and bestows knighthood upon Robin. He also proclaims that Robin and Maid Marian can court, much to the Sheriff's chagrin! At the final match, King Richard also exiles Prince John. The King and/or Robin is available to knight willing patrons.

Historical references:

- Richard on crusades from 1189 to 1199 (died). In 1194, Richard officially pardoned John.
- Prince John married twice: Isabella, Countess of Gloucester (m. 1189; ann. 1199); Isabella, Countess of Angoulême (m. 1200; w 1216)

ROBIN HOOD
Cast of Characters (* Must-Have)

Royals

- King Richard; King of England
- Prince John; Richard's younger brother
- Sir Guy of Gisbourne; Knight aligned with Prince John
- Lady/Maid Marian Fitzwalter; Ward of King Richard*
- Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine
- Isabella (#1 first wife, #2 second wife)
- 2 knights accompanying King Richard disguised as monks

Sherwood Forest

- Robin Hood, a.k.a. Robin Fitzooth of Locksley*
- Little John, a.k.a. John Little*
- Friar Tuck*
- Alan O'Dale; Minstrel
- Will(ow) Scarlett
- Much the Miller
- Various Merry Men and Women*
- Supernaturals – fairy folk

Nottingham

- Sheriff of Nottingham*
- Governor/Magistrate
- 4 liveried Guards*
- Various townsfolk* with allegiance to Robin or the Sherriff: spies, gossips, cowardly heroes. They might say, "If I got me hands on that Sheriff I'd... OOOOP! Morning my Liege!!"

ROBIN HOOD
Character Story Lines & Costumes (* Must Have)

King Richard

Just returned from Crusades with trusted knights. All disguised as monks, in order to verify stories of Prince John's evil doings. Monk costumes should reveal enough "knightly" touches so that customers know something is up with this trio.

Prince John Lackland

Would be usurper to the throne. Jealous of Richard's popularity. Petulant, arrogant, and cowardly. Costume should be an ostentatious peacock.

Sir Guy of Gisbourne

He is the "bad" knight aligned with Prince John. Could be played as comedic.

Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine

Queen of England and France. Mother of Richard and John. She was one of the wealthiest and most powerful women in western Europe during the High Middle Ages.

Maid/Lady Marian*

King Richard's ward and devoted to him. Almost a hostage to Prince John and the Sheriff. The Sheriff has designs on Marian as it would elevate his social position to marry into royalty. However, Marian and Robin fall in love and she's trying to keep this a secret. Costume; simple princess gown of green.

Isabella #1 of Gloucester or #2 Angouleme (wife of Prince John)

1. **Isabella, Countess of Gloucester** English noblewoman and cousin (m 1189, ann 1199)
2. **Isabella of Angoulême** Young French noble woman (m 1200, widowed 1216)

Robin Hood*

He has returned from the Crusades to find his family lands and holdings confiscated by Prince John. Resolving to fight, Robin enlisted the help of others who had their homes and livelihoods taken from them. Robin is in love with Maid/Lady Marian. Costume; browns and greens, between Errol Flynn and Russell Crowe.

Little John*

Robin's right hand man, head of the Merry Men. Big and big-hearted, but still a brutal fighter. Has a jolly sense of humor. Costume; Lincoln green, quarter staff.

Alan O'Dale

Merry Man, minstrel of the Merry Men, makes up amusing songs and ditties. Costume; somewhat theatrical with instrument of choice.

Will(ow) Skarlett

Merry Man (or Woman). Possibly related to Robin. Skilled fighter, bit of a free agent. Costume; lots of red, somewhat fancy/upper class.

Friar Tuck*

Merry Man. Gruff but loveable. Known as the "Warrior Monk." Costume; monk's robes, quarter staff, possibly a "bullet" helmet and short sword.

Much the Miller

Merry man. Scrappy rustic townsfolk type. Fiercely loyal, always first to throw himself into danger. Costume; Lincoln green, rustic hat, short sword, rope coil.

Various Merry Men (and Women)*

Support the main Merry Men characters. Costume; Lincoln green, some uniformity in dress. Quarter staffs.

Sheriff of Nottingham*

Ruthless, ambitious, cruel, conceited, an endlessly charming b*st*rd, enlisted by Prince John to quell Robin Hood's rebellion. Has designs on Maid/Lady Marian, mainly as a path to nobility. Preys on Prince John's vanity to control him. Costume; stylish rake, mainly black and red.

Prince John's / Sheriff's Guards*

3-4 guards that accompany Prince John and his guests to events. Need to march in step (with occasional screw ups). Costume; matching helmets, tunics, quarter staffs, belts, similar pants and boots.

Townsfolds*

As Nottingham is an agrarian, rustic town, townspeople should dress as working peasants. They help support the storyline by gossiping about Prince John, Robin and Marian, the Sheriff, does Friar Tuck wear underwear, etc... Grumble or boo the Sheriff or cheer Robin Hood or his men as they pass. Potential for Fairy folk.