

**Sheriff of Nottingham**      **Audition Piece**

**Sheriff**      Percy, Percy where are you? Where is he? *(To audience.)* Oh and who let you peasants in here? Honestly, just look at you, when they said the peasants were revolting, they weren't kidding. And you there, yes you! What's your name, speak up! I bet you haven't paid your taxes have you? I'll send Percy round to collect it later. I have never seen so many village idiots in the same room.

Now, I am the Sherriff of Nottingham and I live here at Nottingham Castle, it's all mine. Well, it belongs to King Richard but he left me in charge of it when he went on his last crusade. And hopefully it will be his last crusade and he'll never be seen again, ha ha ha! Percy!

**Percy**      *(Enters SL.)* Here I am sire!

**Sheriff**      Have you collected all the tax money?

**Percy**      Well I collected it...

**Sheriff**      And you took all their savings?

**Percy**      They've barely enough to live on Sire...

**Sheriff**      So you left them with something? Then go back and take that as well.

**Percy**      All of it?

**Sheriff**      All of it, what use is it if they have it?

**Percy**      Well, they could spend it.

**Sheriff**      What good does that do me?

**Percy**      Well, there'd be an indirect benefit in that they would buy things that would boost the local economy.

**Sheriff**      But I don't want to boost the local economy, I want it all! Anyway, where is the money, have you put it in the Castle Safe already?

**Percy**      Err...

**Sheriff**      You did say you collected it?

**Percy**      I did collect it yes. But...

**Sheriff**      But?

**Percy**      Well you see, there was this bacon tree...

**Sheriff**      A bacon tree?

**Percy** Sorry, I meant a hambush.

**Sheriff** An ambush! By whom? Speak you fool!

**Percy** Robin Hood and his band again. They took it!

**Sheriff** Robin Hood! Argh, I'm sick of hearing his name. Everywhere I go it's Robin Hood, Robin Hood...

**Percy** *(Sings,)* "...riding through the glen"

**Sheriff** Shut up!

**Percy** Well that's what they sing about him; they say he's a true marksman with a bow and arrow.

**Sheriff** Do they really...

**Percy** The best in all Nottingham, they say!

**Sheriff** I see. And just what's this Robin Hood like?

**Percy** Well I think he's an annoying, attention seeking show off.

**Sheriff** Perfect! In that case, I know what to do. We shall hold... an Archery Competition at Nottingham Fair.

**Percy** That sounds jolly good fun sire, but didn't we ought to catch Robin Hood first?

**Sheriff** Percy, you are an idiot and completely useless. Well not completely useless, you could always serve as a bad example.

**Percy** Oh thank you sire!

**Sheriff** Now listen; we will hold an archery competition! Everyone is invited to attend. The prize will be... 100 crowns and I'll have a special trophy made - The Golden Arrow – at great expense. Well at your great expense, I'll take it off your wages. And if that Robin Hood is all you say he is, that jumped-up upstart won't be able to resist showing off. He'll win the trophy and when he does, we'll arrest him and throw him in the castle dungeons. And get all my money back! Now go and get some posters made, and make sure they go up everywhere. And you lot, you better not breathe a word of this to anyone. Especially that Robin Hood, ha ha ha!