

Bedford Players



~ 40 Years ~

proudly presents

The *Somewhat* True Tale of Robin Hood



By Mary Lynn Dobson

Directed by Kim Shaw

Produced by Michael Stack

Thursday to Sunday

November 3rd to 19th, 2022

Thu - Sat 8pm & Sun 2pm

bedfordplayers.ca

 **Ticketpro**
ticketpro.ca



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Bedford Players
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Bedford Players Community Theatre consists entirely of volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering with the theatre, either behind the scenes or on stage, please contact volunteer@bedfordplayers.ca
All are welcome!

To advertise in our program, contact:
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Please ensure cell phones and other devices that may disturb patrons or actors are turned off. All audio or video recording of this performance is a violation of copyright and is strictly prohibited.

President's Message— Michael Stack



We are excited to welcome you to the 2022-2023 **40th anniversary season** at Bedford Players with our first show of the season—the very funny *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*. It feels wonderful to have the challenges of the last couple of years behind us and we have such an exciting season in

store for you! A huge thank you to our cast, crew, and of course, our hardworking volunteers. This production simply would not happen without your hard work and dedication! And our sincere thanks to you, our valued patrons. We appreciate your ongoing support of Bedford Players so very much! Now, sit back as our talented cast whisks you away to Sherwood Forest with Robin and his band of Merry Men in this hilarious take on the classic story. Enjoy the show!

Keep up with all the latest Bedford Players news, including audition notices, future productions, and play reads, by subscribing to our monthly newsletter!

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We regret that our canteen is not available during this show and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.




You will be provided with a bottle of water, compliments of Bedford Players.

Director's Message—Kim Shaw



Welcome everyone to *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*. I am so pleased to be directing this 'merry' tale! After a few 'Covid' bumps, we are back at it! Thank you to the many volunteers who have contributed to this production. The help from our Producer Michael Stack, Stage Manager Katie Ferguson,

and the lead people in such areas as costumes, set construction, props, makeup, set dressing, along with Mr. Technical Director, Stephen Melanson, make our show a success! Our fabulous cast has brought to life hilarious characters such as Little John, big nasty Prince John (Boo, Hiss!), the lovely Lady Marian, and the incredibly LOUD Lady in Waiting. You're sure to have lots of smiles as the Town's Guy relates the somewhat true tale of Robin Hood and his tremendous ego, as our hero and his Merry Men experience their adventures in Sherwood Forest. So please sit back and keep your smiles and laughter handy as we travel back to Merry Olde England!

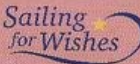


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What Is Your Imagine?

Synopsis of the Play

It sure is hard to be humble when you're a swashbuckling, egocentric superhero. But our gallant guy-in-green tries his best as he swaggers through *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, a frantically funny, Monty Pythonesque retelling of the classic. This time around, the legendary legend, in his never-ending quest to aid the needy, encounters a lovely damsel-in-distress (oddly obsessed with skin conditions), an ever-scheming sheriff who would rather bowl a strike than hit a bull's-eye, a gold-hoarding, bad-guy monarch wannabe, and a good-natured Town's Guy who manages to make his way into every scene, whether he belongs there or not. Combine them with a band of spoon-wielding Merry Men whose collective IQs equal six, and you've got an irreverent jaunt through Sherwood Forest you won't soon forget!

Play synopsis from Dramatic Publishing: <https://www.dramaticpublishing.com/the-somewhat-true-tale-of-robin-hood>



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The Setting

The Place: Sherwood Forest and the town of Nottingham,
England

The Time: 12th century, during the reign of King Richard
The Lionhearted

ACT I

Scene 1 : Sherwood Forest
Meeting the Merry Men

Scene 2: Sherwood Forest
Lady Marian and the Sheriff meet Robin Hood

Scene 3: The Castle —Throne Room
Prince John and the Sheriff make a plan

Scene 4: Sherwood Forest with donuts
The Merry Men think of a plan

Scene 5: Marian's chamber
A Robin on the windowsill

Scene 6: The Castle
Get back, he has a spoon!

Scene 7 : The Castle
The Dungeon of Demise

INTERMISSION (15 minutes)

ACT II

Scene 1: Outside the Dungeon of Demise
Fade and Segue
The Great Escape

Scene 2: The Throne Room
Bowling?!

Scene 3: Sherwood Forest
Town's Guy saves the day

Scene 4: The Tournament
S-H-E-R-M?-I-F

Scene 5: The Castle Grounds
A Happy Ending...Scatter!

The Cast (in order of appearance)

The Town's Guy Jim Petrie
Robin Hood Justin Mozel
Little John John O'Brien
Friar Tuck Amanda Willmore
Will Scarlet Lisa Sutherland
Allan Adale Elaine Melanson
Beulah/Guard Joy Resch
Sir Laugh-a-lot/Rich Man/Guard... Craig Madden
Sheriff of Nottingham Bryn Rowlands
Lady Marian Ashley Groves
Prince John Zak Zimmer
Fawning Lady #1 Theresa Jabbour
Fawning Lady #2 Natalie Fournier
Lady In Waiting/Poor Lady Erin Cameron

This is a fun, interactive, family-friendly show! Feel free to join in with a Boo Hiss, a Hooray, or some applause along the way!

The Cast (in order of appearance)



Jim Petrie (Town's Guy) loves the theatre and would like to thank director Kim Shaw for this most recent opportunity. His last visit to Bedford Players was as Mr. Boddy in *Clue*. He lives in Lower Sackville with wife Cheryl and their four-and-a-half year old golden retriever, Lily. Jim would also like to thank the cast and crew for making this such an enjoyable endeavour. He also thanks the large contingent of family who always comes out to support him while he's 'playing'.

Justin Mozel (Robin Hood) was previously seen as Mr. Green in *Clue*, Rabbit # 2 in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Sir Toby Belch in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Walter Prime in *Marjorie Prime*, and Jonathan Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and most recently as Robert Lane in *The Murder of Mary Lane* (Halifax Fringe). Now excited to bring you Robin Hood in *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, Justin is always pursuing a live audience, be it through theatre, stand-up comedy or pretending to like his day job.



John O'Brien (Little John) is an actor and independent filmmaker from Halifax. He made his stage debut in 2017 in *Mrs. Purcell's Girls*, a parody of the sitcom *Mrs. Brown's Boys*. As an actor and assistant director, John has worked on over two dozen films since 2016, in particular with writer-director Israel Ekanem. Recently, John portrayed the sinister Hansie Johannes in Ekanem's acclaimed film *Kill Your Masters*. He is also floor manager of Ekanem's interview show *The BlackOut Podcast*. John has his own podcast series, *Lexicon of Dread*, in which he narrates classic horror stories. He's currently working on the second season. John was producer of TAG's audio production *Behind The Beyond*, written and directed by J. Clayton Law. Most recently, John portrayed Alex MacKay in Chris Coculuzzi's *The Murder of Mary Lane* at the 2022 Halifax Fringe Festival.

The Cast (in order of appearance)



Lisa Sutherland (Will Scarlet) is excited to be making her debut with Bedford Players in *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*. Lisa has volunteered with Front of House for many years, but this is her first foray onto this stage, although she's not new to acting in local amateur theatre groups. While growing up in Montreal, she was involved in numerous productions with

Becket Players Musical Theatre and was also fortunate to be among the first adult students to study acting at the Pauline Rathbone Children's Theatre. Lisa plays Will Scarlet, one of Robin's trusty but somewhat mouthy Merry Men! She is delighted and grateful to be a part of this outstanding cast and crew who have welcomed her into the fold with open arms! Her hope is that you can sit back, relax, and laugh throughout the show!

Elaine Melanson (Alan Adale) is thrilled to be back on the Bedford Players stage! She was last seen as Sister Vivian Salter in *Habit of Murder* and had previous roles in *Calendar Girls* (Marie), *The Cemetery Club* (Ida) and *Sex Please, We're Sixty!* (Mrs. Stancliffe). Along with film and television gigs, Elaine keeps busy as a member of the BP Executive Council and an active volunteer behind the scenes. She's particularly grateful to director Kim for the chance to be in this amazing, hilarious show, and also to Steve for his constant love and support. Have fun, everyone!



Joy Resch (Beulah/Guard) is happy to be back in Nova Scotia and working with Bedford Players again, in two supporting roles for this show. After the past few crazy years of Covid, it's nice to see things getting back to somewhat normal. Joy has performed in BP's *Murder In the Wings*, *Calendar Girls*, *Don't Dress for Dinner* and *Steel Magnolias* as well as *A Christmas*

Story and *Arsenic & Old Lace* at theatres in Alberta. She thanks Kim for choosing her to be part of the team. Dear patrons, sit back, relax, and enjoy the next few hours of Make Believe.

The Cast (in order of appearance)



Craig Madden (Sir Laugh-A-Lot/Rich Man/Guard) previously appeared in Bedford Players' production of *The Girl With the Golden Ear*, as well as in *Best Little Whorehouse* (Dartmouth Players), *Rumplestilskin* (Child's Play Theatre), *The Sound of Music* (Nickelodeon Society Theatre), *Paul Bunion Goes to Sherbrooke* (DP) and *Love for Our Literacy Children*

(Theatre Arts Guild). Craig also performs stand-up comedy at a variety of venues such as Yuk Yuks. He also likes to listen to music in his spare time. Craig would like to dedicate this to family, peers, coaches & friends.

Bryn Rowlands (Sheriff of Nottingham)

has had a busy year on stage. You might have seen him as Professor Plum in *Clue*, Elvis/John in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, or as Chief Kinney in *The Murder of Mary Lane* at Halifax Fringe. He thanks Kim for casting him in this role...twice! Bryn hopes our loyal patrons have fun, like our merry band has, with this delightful little twist on a classic romp.



Ashley Groves (Lady Marian) is excited to be returning for her second show with Bedford Players. She joined the BP family last year with her role of Yvette in *Clue*. Ashley moved to Nova Scotia two years ago from Toronto, where she trained and was active in theatre both as a performer as well as production and stage manager.

Some of her favourite roles include Lady Larkin in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Anne Shirley in *Anne of Green Gables*, and Susie Ward in *Babes In Arms*. She wishes you all glowing skin and great hair.

The Cast (in order of appearance)



Zak Zimmer (Prince John) is originally from Winnipeg and, somewhat of a wanderer, Zak lived in about a dozen places in the world before happily arriving in Halifax several years ago. Here he has been an active local performer, treading the boards regularly with Dartmouth Players, and popping up on various stages and screens, including

recently playing Alfred Hitchcock in *The New Norman*. This is his first time with Bedford Players and he's having a blast! Zak likes three-down football and insanely difficult hikes.

Theressa Jabbour (Fawning Lady # 1) is pleased to be making her first appearance on the Bedford Players' stage. Having been in numerous school productions when she was younger, she is excited to be performing in her debut role with BP as Fawning Lady # 1. Theressa wishes to thank Kim and Katie for this opportunity. And a shout-out to Natalie for being such an awesome scene partner! Enjoy the show!



Natalie Fournier (Fawning Lady # 2)

This is Natalie's first play with Bedford Players! Most recently, Natalie has appeared in Halifax Fringe Festival's *The Murder of Mary Lane*, Dartmouth Players' productions of *Twelfth Night* and *Love, Loss and What I Wore*. When she's not on stage, Natalie hosts the My East Coast Experience Media podcast *Our Guest Is*,

highlighting the experience of immigrants to Atlantic Canada in their own words. She's had a 15+ year career in front of and behind the microphone/camera in both radio and television, and currently works in marketing and promotions for a regional news station.

The Cast (in order of appearance)



Erin Cameron (Lady In Waiting/Poor Lady with a baby) is excited to be back on stage in her fourth production with BP. She has made previous appearances in *The Girl with the Golden Ear*, *Isabella*, and *Jitters*. Off-stage, Erin is a professional Voice Actor and Entrepreneur, having started her own business, Silent Grove Voice-Over, just over a year ago. Erin is so jazzed to get outside the booth for a breath of fresh air and to bring a voice and personality to our Lady In Waiting!

Bedford Players helping local organizations

Due to Covid-19, Bedford Players has had to suspend our usual community support activities until we find ourselves in more stable times. Here is the kind of support we've been able to give to the community in the past, and hope to provide again in the near future:

Charity of Choice: For each production, Bedford Players has selected a Charity of Choice. We have donated \$1 for each ticket sold to the charity, added together with canteen tips and very generous patron donations during the 11-show run of the production.

Scholarship Each year, Bedford Players has provided a \$1000 scholarship to a grade 12 student from our surrounding community who intends to pursue theatre arts studies in a post-secondary institution.

More details on these two charitable initiatives can be found on our website **bedfordplayers.ca — Community**

With the assistance of **TicketPro**, we have been able to provide tickets for *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* to two community groups, **Bosum Buddies** and **Bide Awhile Animal Shelter**, to support their fundraising efforts this fall.

The Creative Team



Michael Stack (Production Manager) is originally from Gander, NL, and moved to Halifax in 2000. He currently works as Communications Manager with Bide Awhile Animal Shelter with a bunch of cool cats. Michael's acting experience includes *DIY Surgery* at Dartmouth Players and *Halifax Homicide* on Bell TV, along with a number of short films. He attended the Improv

Conservatory at Neptune Theatre and is active as a performer and writer in independent film and stand-up comedy. He has appeared in four BP productions: *Jitters*, *Bank Withdrawal Symptoms*, *Clue* and *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. Mike is currently President of Bedford Players' Executive Council. This is his first show as a Production Manager with BP.

Kim Shaw (Director) is very pleased to be directing *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*. After a tricky start (darn Covid!), she is glad to be back at BP working with this great group of people. Kim has been a part of community theatre for over 25 years ("Yikes!") and has directed several BP shows including *A Fine Monster You Are!*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Aspirin & Elephants*, and *Arsenic & Old Lace*. She has recently moved to Lower Sackville and has just become a grandma for the first time. Kim is sure you'll enjoy this tale as this fun group leads you on this hilarious journey through Sherwood Forest.



Katie Ferguson (Stage Manager) is pleased to be joining the team as stage manager for her first Bedford Players show! Katie is new to the theatre scene and this is her second ever production. She previously stage managed *The Murder of Mary Lane* at Halifax Fringe. Outside of theatre, Katie enjoys reading, hiking, and horseback riding. Huge thanks to producer Mike Stack

and director Kim for this opportunity and to the cast for being so welcoming! Enjoy the show, everyone!





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Creative Team Leads

Director Kim Shaw
Stage Manager.....Katie Ferguson
Hair & Make-Up..... Alexandra French
Lighting Design..... Jay Fisher
Pre-Show Announcements.....Stephen & Elaine Melanson
Props..... Michele Gaudet
Sound DesignStephen Melanson
Set Construction & Painting..... Bryn Rowlands/Beth Spratt
Set DressingAmanda Willmore/Trevena Trimmer
Wardrobe Ann Merritt/Violet Sparks

Administrative Team Leads

Artistic Director Michele Gaudet
Production Manager Michael Stack
Technical DirectorStephen Melanson
Ticketing LiaisonAlexander MacDougall
Sponsorship Coordinator..... Bonnie Matthews
Front of House Manager..... Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Theatre & Hall Transformation..Stephen Melanson/Pat Brinton
Headshot Photographer Jay Fisher
Rehearsal Photographers Stephen Melanson/Michael Stack
Program Editors.....Sandy Mitchell/Elaine Melanson
Program Proofreader Karen Waterfield
Poster Editor Elaine Melanson
Poster Distribution Pat Brinton
Telephone Notification LeadSandy van der Made
Volunteer CoordinatorSandy Mitchell
Volunteer Database Manager Rose Pearle
Newsletter Editor Elaine Melanson
Social Media Leads..... Sandy Mitchell, Karen Waterfield,
Stephen Melanson, Elaine Melanson
WebsiteAlexander MacDougall

Production Volunteers

Front of House

Sandi Corbin
 Kristina Creamer
 Michele Gaudet
 Linda Goldwater
 Helen Goyan
 Lillian Goyan
 Farrah Gulston
 Trudy Hahn
 Clair Henderson
 Lynne Isnor
 Joyce MacDonald
 Ann Merritt
 Peggy Parker
 Rose Pearle
 Leo Wenigar
 Wanda Sutherland
 Kandy Simpson-Ziedenisberg
 Michael Ziedenisberg

Set Background Design

Alicia Braganza

Set Construction & Painting

Slavko Begukic
 Elaine Melanson
 Stephen Melanson
 Bryn Rowlands
 Beth Spratt
 Lloyd Zinck

Hair & Make-up

Alexandra French

Wardrobe

Pat Brinton
 Ann Merritt
 Violet Sparkes
 Michael Stack
 Cast members

Music & Sound

Effects
 Stephen Melanson

Song Vocals

Elaine Melanson

Lobby

Transformation

Pat Brinton
 Elaine Melanson
 Beth Spratt
 Rhea Vardy-MacPhee

Hall Transformation

Cast & crew members
 Members of the
 Knights of Columbus
 Council 9404:
 Lawrence Baker
 Bryden MacKinnon
 John Roberts
 David Smith

Phone Notification

Diana Mabbett
 Dianne MacDonald
 Audrey Peake
 Rose Pearle
 Marilyn Sceles

Poster Distribution

Wendy Hutt
 Lynn Reicker
 Kandy Simpson-Ziedenisberg

Technical Operators

Kevin Gerrior
 Stephen Melanson
 Carl Wills

*And others whose
 names may have been
 omitted due to
 publishing deadlines.*

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Fun Facts about Robin Hood

1. Robin Hood is known for dressing in green in order to blend in with the trees while waiting to rob rich passers-by.
2. In some medieval dialects, the words Hood and Wood were pronounced the same. And Robert, pronounced in a French accent, could sound like Robber. So the name Robin Hood might simply be the Robber in the Woods.
3. Sherwood Forest was huge, about 100,000 acres. In medieval days, a “forest” was an administrative area owned by the King. It was his hunting preserve and not necessarily an area of woodland, as the term means today.
4. The current Sheriff of Nottingham is a very nice lady by the name of Nicola Heaton.
5. Robin Hood has been portrayed in over 100 films and numerous books. He has been played by Errol Flynn (1938), Sean Connery (1976) and Kevin Costner (1991), and by a fox in the 1973 Disney cartoon version.
6. Robin is said to have hidden from his enemies in the Major Oak tree in Sherwood Forest. The huge tree is almost 1000 years old, measures about 10 metres around, has a leaf canopy of 28 metres and weighs an estimated 23 tons. It still stands to this day.
7. There is a grave at Kirkstall Priory in Yorkshire, England, which is said to be where Robin Hood is buried. Legend has it that when he knew he was dying, Robin fired an arrow, asking to be buried where it landed.
8. Nottinghamshire is promoted as ‘Robin Hood County’, and has hundreds of places in the town that are named after the outlaw. The main tourist attractions include The Old County Gaol, where Robin was held captive by the Sheriff of Nottingham, the church where he wed his beloved Marian, and an impressive statue of him outside of Nottingham Castle.

Adapted from <https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/> and <https://primaryfacts.com/3572/robin-hood-facts-and-information/>

Bedford Players' Executive Council

President.....	Michael Stack
Vice-President	Alexandra French
Past President.....	Elaine Melanson
Treasurer	Alexander MacDougall
Secretary	Pat Brinton
Artistic Director	Michele Gaudet
Member at Large	Amanda Willmore
Member at Large	Ann Merritt
Member at Large	Mike Taylor
Member at Large	Randy Burt
Member at Large	Joy Resch
Member at Large/Church Liaison	Fred French



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Dartmouth Players Theatre and Theatre Arts Guild for the loan of several costume pieces.

Our many **Volunteers** who work diligently to make our productions a huge success. Their time, talents and efforts are greatly appreciated by all.

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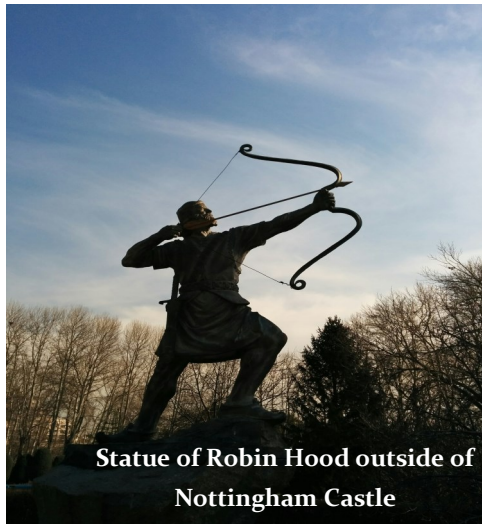
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