

Babes in the Wood

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Babes in the Wood

synopsis 06/10/00

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CAST:

M	Ragwort	Friar Tuck	Sheriff			
F	Toothwort	Robin Hood		Messenger	Villager3	
M	Stitchwort	Little John	Dermot		Villager2	Guard2
F	Rosewort	Will Scarlet		Maid Marion	Villager1	Guard1
M	Stinkwort		Bob	Nursey	Villager4	

Scene1 The Woods

[*Fairies, Goblins, Sprites etc. RAGWORT (the leader), TOOTHWORT, STITCHWORT, STINKWORT, ROSEWORT move around and pop out from parts of the set during opening music. They begin to chant together getting louder as they flit around the stage, hiding and emerging in different places, constantly moving.*]

ALL: Never come down to the Withering Wood,
The Goblins and Ghoulies are up to no good.
The Gnomes are all nasty, the Trolls are all hairy,
And even the pixies and fairies are scary.

Never come down to the Withering Wood,
You might end up working for that Robin Hood.
He gives to the poor what he takes from the rich
Until you have trouble to tell which is which.

Never come down to the Withering Wood,
Cos' this is our place. Is that understood ?
We don't want no grown-ups queering our patch,
And the scariest of teachers, for us, is no match.

RAGWORT: Wait! [*everyone stops & listens intently. He sniffs the air. With distaste*] I smell Humans.
Quick Hide.

[*They all exit quickly. Enter BOB (a builder) & DERMOT (a gardener) (Irish workmen-- who are out of work)*]

BOB: Now, tell me again, why it was that we came to this scary old wood, Dermot ?

DERMOT: We need to find work, Bob.

BOB: Well I think the only thing we've managed to find so far, is how to get lost in a scary old wood..... I thought you said that you knew them like the back of your hand.

DERMOT: And so I do....It's just that this part of the woods looks nothing like the back of my hand.

BOB: So we're lost ?

DERMOT: Indeed Bob, it would seem that we are.

BOB: Ah, well. Can't be helped. But you know I was just wondering Dermot....what kind of

work would we be finding in a scary old place like this?

- DERMOT: Well if you didn't already know, you should, 'cos if I've told you once I've told you a million times.
- BOB: Indeed you have, Dermot, but I'd like you to just tell me one more time.....for luck.
- DERMOT: For luck is it ?.... Well, we've come here to join that famous outlaw Robin Hood and his merry outlaw band.
- BOB: Now how will we do that, when neither of us can play a note. [*NOSE GRAB-- DERMOT pinches BOB's nose and slaps his own hand downwards, releasing BOB's nose. BOB fakes great pain, holding his nose. Eyes watering. Classic THREE STOOGES Routine*]. OUCH! I think you've broken it.
- DERMOT: Well, you of all people should be able to fix it. After all, are you not, Bob the builder. [*sings with the audience*] Bob the Builder. Can he fix it ? Bob the Builder. Yes he can.
- BOB: Alright! Alright! So we've come to join this band of outlaws, have we ? [*DERMOT nods*] And how are we going to do that then ?
- DERMOT: I have a plan.... a very cunning plan.... [*DERMOT is standing SR of BOB and looks to the SR wing. BOB then looks to the SL wing, they turn back together bumping noses and jump apart*]
- BOB: [*Does a martial arts stance*] You need to watch out, these hands is deadly weapons you know. [*NOSE GRAB*] OUCH!
- DERMOT: Now listen! I'm going to disguise myself as one of Robin Hood's relatives. That way they'll have to let us join. Wait here!
- [*DERMOT goes off and puts on Red Riding Hood outfit. BOB looks around and notices a handbill on one of the trees. It says "TREE FELLERS wanted. No experience necessary. Apply Sheriff of Nottingham"*].
- BOB: Here! What's this ? [*takes handbill and reads it*]. Now isn't that a pity. It says here "tree fellers wanted" and wouldn't you know, there's only the two of us.
- DERMOT: [*returns in Little Red Riding Hood outfit*]. What d'ya think ?
- BOB: [*doesn't recognise him*] I'm sorry, do I know you young lady ?
- DERMOT: It's me, your old mate Dermot.
- BOB: You can't be Dermot, Dermot would never wear a fetching little red cape, like that one.
- DERMOT: Of course it's me ya edgit.
- BOB: Well, if you're Dermot you'll have to prove it.
- DERMOT: Alright! Alright!.... ask me a question. Any question.
- BOB: Any question eh! [*thinks*] Right then. What colour is the green, green grass of home?
- DERMOT: Aw! You've got me there, Bob. I haven't a clue.

BOB: Oh, it is you Dermot. Well I tell ya you had me fooled, that's for sure.... and who exactly is it you're supposed to be ?

DERMOT: I'm disguised as Little Red Riding Hood, of course.... Robin Hood's sister.....

BOB: Oh, I see.

DERMOT: Right well! All we need now is for Robin Hood to turn up.

[*They look around as though he's going to turn up, but he doesn't*]

BOB: Mmm!.... Perhaps we could shout for him. [*shouts*] Robin Hood. Robin Hood.

DERMOT: That's no good! What we need to do is to blow on a Hunting Horn. That's how his Merry Men would call for him.

BOB: But we don't have a Hunting Horn, Dermot.

DERMOT: You're right, neither we do.... So we'll just have to pretend, won't we. [*imitates a hunting horn*] Tooteroo! Come on then, Bob, join in.

BOTH: Tooteroo!

DERMOT: It's nowhere near loud enough. What we need is some help.

BOB: What ?[*indicates audience*] You mean them ?

DERMOT: Indeed I do, Bob. [*to audience*] Will you help us to call for Robin Hood ? [**audience:Yes (but feeble)**]. Oh, come on now, you can do better than that. Will you help us call for Robin Hood ? [**audience:Yes.(repeat if necessary)**] Now, that's much better. So after 3. Ready. 1.2.3. [*with audience*] Tooteroo!

BOB: Well, that was jolly good, but I'm sure you could do it even louder if you tried. Don't you Dermot ?

DERMOT: I'm sure they can. So after 3, boys and girls. 1.2.3. [*with audience*] Tooteroo!

[*Enter ROBIN HOOD, FRIAR TUCK (wheezing) and WILL SCARLET. ROBIN takes a Principal Boy stance*]

BOB: [*to audience*] Well done, that worked a treat.

ROBIN: Did someone call ?

DERMOT: Why, if it isn't Robin Hood ?

ROBIN: The very same, and these are my good friends... Will Scarlet and Friar Tuck.

MEN: Aye!

BOB: We've come to join your band.

ROBIN: Oh really, and what instruments do you play ? Ha! Ha! Sorry. Just my little joke. [*Slaps*]

thigh].... So you want to join my band of outlaws, eh ? And what makes you think you're worthy of joining our selfless team of dedicated men, who spend their lives in the pursuit of freedom, liberty and the Nottingham Way. [*Slaps thigh*]

MEN: Aye!

ROBIN: Are you both good men and true ?

MEN: Aye!

ROBIN: Not you, them !

MEN: Sorry!

ROBIN: Well are you ?

BOB: Are we what ?

ROBIN: Oh, never mind. What are your names and what do you do ?

DERMOT: Well, I'm Dermot and I'm a Gardener.

ROBIN: I see.... So.... why are you dressed in a little red cape ?

DERMOT: Ah, well..... well... No reason really ...

BOB: He just loves the colour.

WILL: Mmm! So do I.

ROBIN: I see. And you are ?

DERMOT: He's Bob the builder.

ROBIN: Oh, [*sing with audience*] Bob the builder. Can he fix it ? Bob the builder. Yes he can. I think I've seen your adverts..... Well, if you're going to join our band, you will have to do some daringly selfless deed to prove yourselves.

BOB: Just name it and it's as good as done, sir.

ROBIN: Mmm! [*Merry Men go into a huddle*] Right! We want you to sneak into the castle of that old stinker the Sheriff of Nottingham....

TUCK: ... And take up a collection for the poor of the district.

WILL: A collection of the Sheriff's gold pieces that is.

DERMOT: Alright! We accept.

ROBIN: Good man! Tuck! Blindfold them, take them to our secret camp and tell them what they'll have to do. [*TUCK, BOB & DERMOT exit*].....[*sigh*] Oh me !

WILL: You seem rather down at heart, Robin. Anything I can help you with ?

ROBIN: No. I'm.... fine. Really.