

Applause! Cary Youth Theatre 20th ANNIVERSARY SEASON:

THE SOMEWHAT TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD

A "legendary legend" by Mary Lynn Dobson



May 17-19, 2019

**"...Who has never read, heard or seen a tale of Robin Hood?
Answer: No one." J.C. Holt, author, *Robin Hood***

PLAY SUMMARY:

Our not-so-humble hero Robin Hood swaggers his way through Sherwood Forest accompanied by his spoon-armed and trustworthy band of mindless Merry Men. This time around, the emerald archer, in his ever-present quest to rob from the rich and give to the poor, encounters the lovely Marian who is anything but a damsel-in-distress. Robin, of course, has a run-in with the scheming sheriff, the greedy and clueless Prince, and even a good-natured 'Town's Guy' who pops up in almost every scene.

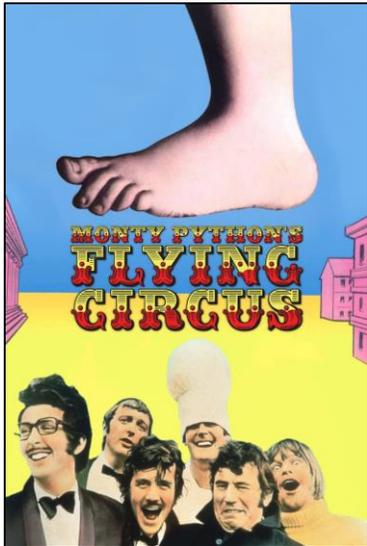
This **Pythonesque** version is no ordinary retelling of the classic Robin Hood story. You just might cry – with laughter!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood draws from surreal (or absurdist) humor. This genre ignores conventional cause and effect to produce situations that are completely illogical. In other words, it's funny because it's unpredictable and ridiculous. Surreal humor incorporates absurd situations, **non sequiturs**, and expressions of nonsense (like "Bazinga!").



A **non sequitur** is a conclusion or reply that doesn't follow logically from the previous statement. You've probably heard an example of a non sequitur before, therefore bunny rabbits are way cuter than chipmunks.



Monty Python are a British surreal comedy group that created the sketch comedy series *Monty Python's Flying Circus* (1969-1974), which used a stream-of-consciousness approach to push the boundaries of acceptable form and content. Their humor is often intellectual, with references to philosophers and literary figures and works. Monty Python has also produced touring stage shows, films, albums, books, and musicals. Monty Python intended their humor to be impossible to categorize, and succeeded so completely that the term "**Pythonesque**" was invented to define it (and later material like *Saturday Night Live* and *The Office*).

Monty Python are John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin, and Graham Chapman (d. 1989).

Activity: Modern Mad Lib

"Exquisite Corpse" was a Surrealist game in which strange and often humorous sentences were created by multiple people.

- Grab paper and pencil and decide on a **sentence structure**.
- Player 1 writes "The" + the first word on the paper, folds it to hide the word, and passes to next player.
- Continue until sentence is complete and read aloud.

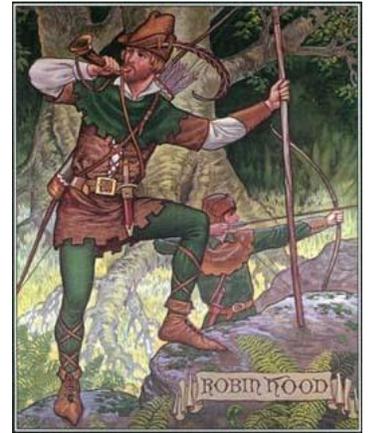


An easy **sentence structure** is "Adjective/Noun/Plural Verb/Adjective/Plural Nouns" (example: "The slimy candle tickles flashy shoeboxes."), but any structure can be used.

LITERARY LINK:

Legendary English bandit Robin Hood has existed in folklore for over 600 years! According to legend, Robin was a skilled archer and swordsman who robbed the rich to help the poor, and lived hidden in Sherwood Forest with his fellow outlaws.

Many familiar characters associated with Robin Hood have also emerged: his love Maid Marian, his band of outlaws the Merry Men, and his chief opponent, the Sheriff of Nottingham, who is often depicted trying to help Prince John become king. Stories about Robin appealed to common folk because he stood up against—and frequently outwitted—people in power.



Robin Hood's real-life existence has never been proven, but the story continues to be widely represented in literature, film and television. Robin Hood is considered one of the best known tales of English folklore.



Mary Lynn Dobson is an award-winning director, actor and playwright. *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* has been staged in every state in the United States and throughout the world, making her one of Dramatic Publishing's most produced playwrights!

Activity: Somewhat Small Bow & Arrow

Archery is one of the oldest arts still practiced today. The earliest known use of bows and arrows dates back to ~3000 BC. Robin Hood is probably the most famous archer from folklore.

SUPPLIES:

- ❖ Popsicle sticks
- ❖ Dental floss, fishing line, or heavy-duty twine
- ❖ Q-tips
- ❖ Sharp knife or scissors (ask for help – safety first!)



- Cut 4 small notches in each stick, then soak in water for at least an hour.
- Tie the floss around one end of the stick.
- Gently bend the stick and tie floss around the other end until taut.
- Make arrows by cutting one end off each Q-tip.
- Pull the flat end of the Q-tip back against the floss, and let it fly!



Robin Hood's iconic bow is called a **recurve bow**. Arrows from recurve bows can fly up to 150 mph!

HUZZAH!

2018-2019 is Applause!'s 20th anniversary season! To celebrate, we're bringing back three previous productions that represent major milestones for Applause!. *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* was Applause!'s last production "offsite", presented in 2011 at Sertoma Amphitheatre. Check out some photos from eight years ago. Recognize anyone?



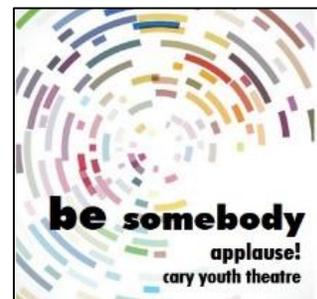
Mini Activity: Ha Ha HUH?

Surrealist humor: **WHY DID THE ELEPHANT SIT ON THE MARSHMALLOW?**

Because he didn't want to fall in the cup of hot chocolate.

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More about the show at www.townofcary.org/Applause.

The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood is produced by special arrangement with
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