

## Western Hills Drama Presents:



By Mary Lynn Dobson

### AUDITION TIMES

Save these dates! Sign up for an audition time **ONLINE** starting Aug. 6.

Link on <http://westernhillsdrama.com>

#### **Friday, Aug. 17**

**4-6 p.m.:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade auditions

#### **Friday, Aug. 24**

**4:30 p.m. –** Make-up auditions, any grade

#### **Saturday, Aug. 18**

**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.:** 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade auditions

#### **Saturday, Aug. 25**

**10 a.m. – noon** 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders  
(Call Backs - by invitation only)

**8:00 p.m. –** Cast List posted  
<http://westernhillsdrama.com>

*Auditions are open to Western Hills students in 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade.*

*Finish time for each audition session depends on how many auditioners we have signed up!*

- PLEASE NOTE! - If you have a conflict with the audition times, contact Producer Kera Costello or Arvetta Browning prior to August 17 via email at [westernhillsdrama@gmail.com](mailto:westernhillsdrama@gmail.com) to arrange for a make-up time.

### MANDATORY TECH WEEK TIMES

- Tech Week times are subject to change. View rehearsal updates closer to Tech Week dates.

Saturday, November 3: 1 pm to 8 pm Sunday, November 4: 1 pm to 8 pm Monday, November 5: 6 pm to 8 pm Tuesday, November 6: 6 pm to 8pm	Wednesday, November 7: 6 pm to 8 pm Thursday, November 8: 6 pm to 8 pm
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### PERFORMANCE TIMES

Friday, **November 9**, School Performance - TBD and Opening Night! - 7 p.m.

Saturday, **November 10**, 3 and 6 p.m.

Sunday, **November 11**, 3 p.m.

## REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES: What to Expect (Please keep this sheet)

- **Saturday, August 25:** Cast List posted on line. <http://westernhillsdrama.com>

*Phone calls will likely be made to the lead principal parts.*

- **Sunday, August 26:** Important Meeting for **ALL PARENTS and STUDENTS:** first read-through, distribute scripts, cast meet and greet.
- Rehearsals: Beginning the weekend after Labor Day, rehearsals will be **every Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m., Wednesdays after school (Done by 5:00 p.m.)**, other days as needed. PLEASE NOTE that because the show is being performed a week earlier than normal, we are adding **2 Saturday rehearsals this year on October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**
- Not everyone will need to be at *all* rehearsals. **The production team will try to release the schedule a month at a time, and the schedule will be posted on the WH Drama website. The call schedule will be posted as well on the WH Drama website.** Our goal is to be respectful of student's time. However, some changes are inevitable and we will communicate changes as quickly as possible. *Please bookmark the website and check it regularly!*

**<http://westernhillsdrama.com>**

- **Attendance** at rehearsals and performances is crucial and expected. Absences and / or inappropriate behavior during rehearsals hold the whole group back. Students with leadership positions within the play in particular, are expected to demonstrate their commitment with regular, timely attendance and respectful behavior at all rehearsals.
  - ***No role in the play is irreplaceable. If 2 unknown absences or inappropriate behavior becoming a persistent problem, the production team will call parents to discuss recasting options. When an absence is unavoidable, WH Drama requests a week's notice. Email preferred: westernhillsdrama@gmail.com.***
- **Parent Volunteering:** *Western Hills Drama is an all-volunteer organization. Families of all students cast are encouraged to participate. Opportunities for involvement (rehearsal wranglers, help with ensemble, costumes, props, fundraising/sponsorships/events, publicity/promotions, and more) will be presented at the parent meeting on **Sunday, August 26**, and throughout production. Everyone's help is needed and appreciated.*

### **Brief Story Summary** (select character/parts in **bold**):

**ROBIN HOOD** is in despair with his **MERRY MEN** because the evil **PRINCE JOHN** is set to crowned king and the fair **LADY MARIAN** is to marry the **SHERRIF OF NOTTINGHAM**. The **TOWN'S GUY/GAL** narrates the story as Robin finds a way to thwart everything! What do spoons swords, fawning ladies, the dungeon of despair, and a bowling tournament have to do with this Monty Python type tale? We will find out as we bring this hilarious story to the stage.

## NON-PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES

Students who want to be involved but ***do not want to perform on-stage*** have several options. For these roles, there is **NO NEED TO COMPLETE THIS AUDITION FORM AND GO TO AUDITIONS.**

- Instead, go to the **westernhillsdrama.com** website and sign up for the email list about non-performing opportunities, or let Kera Costello or Arvetta Browning know you are interested in helping in one of these ways:
- **Stage Ninjas.** This group is limited to grades 4 – 6. This group will work with the backstage managers during dress rehearsals and performances. Students are selected through an application process. Attendance at Tech Week rehearsals is required. Attendance at group kick-off meeting is required for students in this group. Their role includes:
  - Helping with scene changes
  - Curtains, props, lights, and sound
  - End of performance clean-up
- **Promotions and Hospitality Team.** This group works to promote the show (making posters and hanging cast photos), welcome audiences (handing out programs thanking sponsors (designing and writing thank-you cards), and helping clean up the school after performances.
- **Other Behind-the-Scenes Work.** There will be opportunities for students help with sets, painting, props, costumes, and more. Details will emerge closer to performance dates.
- **Stage Manager.** True to our mission of providing an authentic theatre experience for students, we are looking for responsible 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who want a more involved non performing role. This student would be expected to attend as many rehearsals as possible, take notes for the directing team, help set up the set prior to rehearsals and performances, and help students learn lines during rehearsals. They would also likely play a key role as a Stage Ninja during performances. This role would need to be at all rehearsals during tech week as well as all performances. *Please indicate on the website your desire to have this role. Interviews will be during the first few weeks of school TBD.*

## PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES

### Principal Parts — **Open ONLY to Grades 4 – 6 (See notes below)**

Robin Hood	Lady Marian	Prince John
Sheriff of Nottingham	Town's guy/gal	Lady in Waiting
Friar Tuck	Will Scarlet	Little John
Allan Adale	Fawning Ladies (# TBD)	Guards (# TBD)
Rich Man	Poor Lady with a baby	Beulah / Byron
Lady / Lord Laughalot	Mary / Marty	Lionel / Lenore
Donald / Donna	Debbie / Dennis	

- ***All roles are critical to the production and telling this story! However, some of the principal roles above include fewer lines and less stage time.***
- ***We will consider 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for principal parts if the roles cannot be cast from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders***
- ***Many roles are not gender specific and can be cast as either boy or girl (including the merry men). Notable exceptions are Robin (boy), Lady Marian (girl), Lady in Waiting (girl), Sheriff of Nottingham (boy), and Prince John (boy).***

## **ENSEMBLE – Open to Grades 2 – 6**

The Ensemble roles will be non-speaking, may appear on stage in select scenes, and / or in an opening number, skit, song or dance (TBD). These roles provide an introduction to the drama program and allow for additional student casting in the school play.

## **AUDITIONS: What to Expect**

**Everyone:** Enter at the west/cafeteria doors.

Turn in completed audition form and have individual photo taken.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders** (estimated total time: Up to 30 minutes)

You and your small audition group will do the following things:

- **Introduce yourself:** Your name, grade, and something unique or memorable about you, tell us a joke
  - (*Tip: make sure we can hear you; be brief, be animated, and be memorable!*)
- **Acting Games:** You will learn and play a theatre game in small groups
  - (*Tip: Show emotion, interact with others, follow instructions and direction, HAVE FUN!*)

### **4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders** (estimated total time: 45 - 60 minutes)

The audition process will consist of the following:

- **Introduce yourself:** Your name, grade, and something unique or memorable about you
  - (*Tip: make sure we can hear you; be brief, be animated, and be memorable!*)
- **Acting Games:** You will learn and play a theatre game in small groups
  - (*Tip: Show emotion, interact with others, follow instructions and direction, HAVE FUN!*)
- **Read/perform** small sections of the script included in this packet. This may be alone or in groups. **Practice all characters...** Become the characters as best as possible. No need to memorize the lines, but practice enough to become comfortable with the script.
  - (*Tip: The directors are looking for you to be loud and MAKE A CHARACTER CHOICE rather than just reciting the lines*)

## **CALL BACKS**

**About call-backs:** Some roles require a second round of auditions, known as call-backs. If you are chosen for a called back, your audition may be similar as the first audition. There may also be some additional script readings from different parts of the script. Parts are given without a call back.

Western Hills Drama introduces elementary students to the discipline and magic of live theater in a safe and comfortable environment, expanding their understanding of literary and performing arts and enriching their education through active participation in an annual dramatic production. Western Hills Drama brings the community together, values all contributions, nurtures children's talent in the arts, and helps all students succeed in producing an authentic theatrical performance.

## ***The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood - Script Cuttings*** — for 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> graders only

Perfect reading skills nor memorizing these sections is not required. **Strongly encouraged:** Practice reading script lines out loud and think about how you would portray these characters. We are looking for the students to make a choice regarding what these characters would sound like during your audition.

### **1) PRINCE JOHN, SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM, FAWNING LADIES:**

PRINCE: *(to SHERIFF)*. ...and you mean to tell me that Robin Hood intends to lavish the undeserving poor with my royal riches!!

SHERIFF: Yes sir, that's exactly what I mean to say.

PRINCE: Doesn't he know that the poor will just waste the money on something stupid, like – food!

SHERIFF: Feeding the poor, Your Highness, is exactly Robin's intention.

PRINCE: What a fool he is! Two things happen when you feed the poor. Number one: you waste good money. Number two: you end up with porky poor people. Money has greater purposes in life than feeding the poor!

SHERIFF: He also plans on buying them clothes as well.

PRINCE: Clothes! He wants to buy them clothes! Is the man mad? Have you ever seen a poor person's taste in clothing? They mix rags with burlap and the result is simply a fashion disaster. Do you know that the money Robin Hood stole from me was to go to something really important? *(Points to the window)* A diamond-studded weather vane for the castle.

F. LADIES: *(turn to the window and in unison)*. PRETTY!

SHERIFF: How shall you ever get along without it?

PRINCE: I don't know. Thanks to Robin Hood, I shall be weather vane-less and the country will be riddled with poorly appareled, porky poor people! How disheartening. Sheriff, is there nothing to be done to stop this ruffian?

SHERIFF: He's quite hard to keep track of, your Highness. The forest is so vast that it's impossible to try to find him.

PRINCE: Well then, maybe we could find some way to bring him out in the open to us.

SHERIFF: Impossible! Everything the man wants or needs is in that forest.

PRINCE: Oh, come now, certainly there must be something Robin Hood wants that doesn't grow on a tree?

**2) ROBIN, FRIAR TUCK, WILL SCARLET, MERRY MEN, LITTLE JOHN, ALLAN ADALE:**

ROBIN: Oh, Friar what to do, what to do?

TUCK: My son, why don't I go to town to see if there is news. Perhaps an answer to our problem lies there.

ROBIN: Yes, Friar! Be swift on your journey and bring me word of my dear Marian!

TUCK: Yes, my Son! *(Exits)*

ROBIN: Merry Men, we must devise a plan to save Lady Marian before she is forced to wed the Sheriff! Any suggestions, oh quick and clever colleagues?

WILL: Why don't we take our trusty spoons *(all draw their spoons from their sheaths)*, and tunnel into the castle!

MEN: *(agreeing to ROBIN)*. YEAH!

ROBIN: How do you propose we do this without the Prince and his guards seeing us?

MEN: *(disagreeing voice to WILL)*. Yeah!

WILL: We tunnel from here?

MEN: *(agreeing to ROBIN)*. YEAH!

ROBIN: The castle is seventy miles away. By the time we get there, bulldozers will be invented!

MEN: *(Disagreeing to WILL)*. Yeah! *(MEN put spoons back into sheaths)*

WILL: *(to MEN)*. It was just a thought!

ROBIN: Are there any other stupid suggestions?

LITTLE: Yes, I have one.

ROBIN: Then speak, oh clod.

LITTLE: Why don't we stage a fake fire drill, and when they all run out, we run in!

ALLAN: No! Better yet, let's knock on the door and say we're selling Amway.

WILL: Oh right, who's gonna let in an Amway salesman.

ALLAN: Well, it's better than you're stupid tunnel idea!

WILL: Is not!

ALLAN: Is too!

LITTLE: IS NOT!

ALLAN: IS TOO!

ROBIN: *(walks upstage to AUDIENCE, gestures to the MERRY MEN; to AUDIENCE)*

Behold what happens when you drop out of school. ENOUGH!

*(He hopelessly sits down and puts his head into his hands)*

**3) TOWN'S GUY/GAL:**

**TOWN'S GUY/GAL"**

You see, good folk, Robin Hood robbed from the rich and gave to the poor. (*During this we see ROBIN robbing a MAN of his bag of money. The Man runs off L*) Now, we all know it's wrong to steal. But it was Prince John who had stolen the good people of England's money first! The money Robin Hood and his men would take from the rich countrymen would buy food and clothes for starving families. (*ROBIN gives the money to a WOMAN carrying a BABY. He hands her the pouch, gives the BABY a "cookie-coo" under the chin.*) That was the only way the poor people could survive. (*The WOMAN thanks him with a curtsy and exits R. ROBIN exits L.*) And even though I think Robin is one outlaw with an attitude problem, he is the champion of those less fortunate. On this day I take you to now, Robin came upon one of the richest and most powerful men in the country.

**4) LADY MARIAN, SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM, PRINCE JOHN:**

MARIAN: You sent for me, oh pimple on the face of humanity?

PRINCE: Yes, Marian, I sent for you. Robin Hood has escaped.

MARIAN: Oh rapture and extreme satisfaction! Robin Hood, holder of my heart, free! Now, he will surely rescue me and save me from the evil clutches of (*to PRINCE and SHERIFF*) Scab-King and his faithful side-kick, Blotch.

PRINCE: Don't count on it, dear girl. Until the tournament tomorrow, you will stay here, in the tower, heavily guarded at all times. We must see to it that you marry the Sheriff so I can become king!

SHERIFF: (*with evil glee in his voice*). Yes, darling, it will be a grand party. All the most important people in the world will be our guests. See, I have the seating arrangements for the reception right here. (*Hands her the clipboard.*)

MARIAN: (*glances at the clipboard*). Oh, for goodness sakes, can't you do anything right? Look at the people at table three.

SHERIFF: (*looks over her shoulder at clipboard*). What's wrong with table three?

**5) ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN, TOWN'S GUY/GAL:**

ROBIN: Well then, glad to be of help! (*Waves to him*) Huzzah, Huzzah!

LITTLE: Ohhh. I'll get the Band-aids. (*MERRY MEN exit, running to WILL's aid.*)

TOWN'S GUY/GAL:

Yes, Robin was indeed the best archer in the land...during the day. But as the days passed, he could not help but think how worried his dear Marian must be with the recent turn of events.

ROBIN: You know, as the days pass, I cannot help but think how worried my dear Marian must be with the recent turn of events.

TOWN'S GUY/GAL:

He thought he should go to her and reassure her that he will win the tournament and everyone will live happily ever after.

ROBIN: I think I should go to her and reassure her that I will win the tournament and everyone will live happily ever after.

TOWN'S GUY/GAL:

Robin, I don't think you're getting the whole concept of the narrator, are you? You see, the point of me telling the audience these things is so you don't have to.

ROBIN: Yes, but that would give you more lines than me. And as we know, this play is called "The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood." Not (*gives a little laugh*) "The Somewhat True Tale of the Town's Guy/Gal." This isn't rocket science here. (*Gives him a little punch in the arm.*) Now, if you will, have your technical friend take us to the Lady Marian.

**6) LADY IN WAITING, TOWN'S GUY/GAL, FRIAR TUCK:**

TOWN'S GUY/GAL:

I do, Friar. Robin Hood has been captured and imprisoned in...the Dungeon of Demise!  
(*LADY enters, running*)

LADY: (*sceams in terror*). AHHHHHH! (*Exits running*)

TUCK: Lord have mercy on Robin! What a horrible place the Dungeon of Demise is!



7) **LADY IN WAITING & LADY MARIAN:**

LADY:       *(holds veil)*. But try this on. You'll look lovely, my lady.

MARIAN:    Oh, who cares. Soon I shall be forced to marry a festering wart. That will make me Mrs. Festering Wart. Then he and I shall have a passel of festering little warts. On our mailbox it will say "The Warts" and our Christmas cards will be signed, "Brightest Holiday Greetings, the Wart Family." So who cares how I look, I have nothing to live for. *(Plops herself down in the chair.)*

LADY:       *(puts veil on dummy)*. Somebody's cranky. *(There is a "boink" sound that indicates an arrow has just been shot into the outside of the window. The LADY goes to the window, pulls out the arrow that has a letter attached to it. She shows it to MARIAN.)* Oh, Lady Marian, a letter has just arrived for you...air-row mail. *(Laughs hysterically at her own joke, looks at MARIAN, gets no response.)* Boy, when you're having a bad hair day, the whole world suffers.

MARIAN:    Please, do read it, Lady.

LADY:       As you wish. "Let it be known that His Royal Highness, hereby decrees an archery tournament shall take place one week from this Saturday. All eligible archers are commanded to take part. The winner shall receive one thousand gold pieces and the hand of Lady Marian in marriage."

MARIAN:    What! Let me see that. *(LADY hands her the letter.)*

LADY:       This is wonderful! You may not have to marry the Sheriff of Nottingham after all!

**8) ROBIN HOOD, LADY IN WAITING, LADY MARIAN:**

LADY: Whoa. Wait just a fortnight. Nobody said anything to me about death when I took this job.

MARIAN: Lady, please, there is no time. Watch for the Sheriff. Quick, Robin, to the window!

LADY: *(throws her arms in the air)*. I knew this was going to happen! Did I listen to my parents and go to law school? NOOOOO! I had to be a big shot working at the castle!

ROBIN: *(begins to climb out the window)*. Oh no! The guards are below!

LADY: *(to ROBIN)*. "You can trust in me, good lady." And what good did it do me? Thanks to you, I'm gonna be floatin' in a moat somewhere!

ROBIN: Are you quite finished?

LADY: Oh, I'm just getting started!

ROBIN: Marian, I must find a place to hide! *(Looks around searching for a place to hide. Notices there is no place. He picks up the small chair and holds it in front of his face.)*

LADY: *(at the doorway)*. Lady Marian, the Sherriff's one chamber over! Oh my heart. My heart is giving out!

ROBIN: *(realizing this will not be inconspicuous, puts the chair down)*. Something tells me when playing hide and seek, this is not the first room one chooses.

LADY: *(panics, looks out the doorway)*. LADY MARIAN, THE SHERIFF APPROACHES!

MARIAN: Quick, Robin, stand behind here! *(points to the dummy. ROBIN stands behind the dummy and puts his head on the dummy's neck. MARIAN puts the veil on ROBIN's head)*.

LADY: OHHHHH! I'M DYING! I'M DYING! *(Looks up and talks to heaven.)* What's that Grandma? Come toward the light?



Student audition # _____
Student height _____ in.

## Audition Form

Fill-in all information and bring form to your audition.

*Do not write in this area*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade / Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you? Email 1 Email 2  
Phone 1 Phone 2 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have easy access to the Internet, to check weekly rehearsal schedules and other announcements? YES NO

**STUDENTS, please answer these questions ...**

Are you **ONLY** interested in working behind the scenes (props, painting, costumes, Backstage Ninjas, other)? YES NO  
*If **yes**, you do not need to come to auditions. Please go to [westernhillsdrama.com](http://westernhillsdrama.com) to sign up*

Will you accept any role you are offered? *Please be honest!* YES NO

Is there anything else you would like the directors to know?

## Important Information for Families

Parents/guardians, please carefully read the following items and share them with your student.

**Initial** next to each one to indicate your understanding and acceptance. Add any comments or concerns at the bottom of the sheet; producers and/or directors will be happy to get back to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mandatory Rehearsals: November 3-8. Mandatory** Play performances are **Friday-Sunday, November 9-11** at Western Hills. There are no excused absences during this time period for all cast and crew.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mandatory Parent and Student Meeting Sunday, August 26:** Important information will be presented for both the parents and students. Knowledge of the information will lead for a successful play.

\_\_\_\_\_ **All Parents will be asked to Volunteer.** Western Hills Drama is an all-volunteer organization, and families of all students cast are encouraged to participate. Opportunities for involvement will be presented at the full cast and parent meeting **Sunday, August 26.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsals are every **Sunday 1- 5 p.m., some Wednesdays after school,** and other days as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Not everyone will need to be at *all* rehearsals—the call schedule will be posted on the website: **<http://westernhillsdrama.com>**. (*Bookmark it and check it regularly!*)

\_\_\_\_\_ ***If 2 unknown absences or inappropriate behavior becoming a persistent problem, the production team will call parents to discuss re-casting options.*** Absences from—and inappropriate behavior during—rehearsals create inefficiencies that hold the whole group back. Students with leadership positions within the play in particular, are expected to demonstrate their commitment with regular, timely attendance and respectful behavior at all rehearsals.

\_\_\_\_\_ When an absence is unavoidable, email: **[westernhillsdrama@gmail.com](mailto:westernhillsdrama@gmail.com)**.

\_\_\_\_\_ **List all known (at this time) schedule conflicts with the key dates/times listed below or an attached sheet:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Please note conflicting activities the student is involved with (*i.e. football, soccer, swimming, volleyball, church functions, other theatre commitments*).**

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we give permission for my student to be photographed and/or videotaped in the context of recording and promoting the play and Western Hills Drama.

Other comments or concerns: