

# Circa Theatre

## Relaxed Performance Pack

### *Robin Hood: The Pantomime*

- 9<sup>th</sup> December for schools performance
- 12<sup>th</sup> December for public performance

#### Time:

- 1pm for schools performance
- 2pm for public performance

For further information please contact: [marketing@circa.co.nz](mailto:marketing@circa.co.nz)

## What is this pack for?

To prepare you for your visit to Circa Theatre we have put together this information pack. This is to help you understand the story you are about to see and the theatre, so you know what to expect during the performance.

## How will it be different from a regular performance?

### Lights

Firstly we will leave the house lights on through the entire show. This means you will not be in complete darkness at any time. We have done this so that you as an audience can see what is happening and if you want to move around or leave at any point throughout the show.

### Sound

The sound and lighting effect will be lessened. We understand loud noises and sudden or sharp changes in lighting can make you uncomfortable. Therefore we will make them gentler and less likely to frighten or upset you.

### Seating:

Normally in theatre you are given an assigned seat; however, for the relaxed performances you will be able to choose where you sit, you can even change seats half way through if you would like.

### The Characters:

In this pack are photos of the cast as characters and as themselves. We want you to understand that they are real people underneath their big costumes and make up.

### Chill Out Space:

Circa Theatre  
1 Taranaki Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011  
04 801 7992  
<http://www.circa.co.nz/>

Lastly there is also a chill out area in the foyer, designed as a safe space or you need somewhere to go to calm down. This space is available at any time, even in the middle of the performance.

### **What to expect at Circa Theatre**

- When you arrive at Circa Theatre you can go inside straight away.
- You will go to the Box Office to collect your ticket then there will be some waiting around in the foyer.
- You can sit down, or go to the bathroom or go to the chill out space in the Alcove.
- When the theatre doors open you can go into the performance space and there you can pick a seat.
- The show will start.
- Then there will be an interval.
- The second part of the show will start.
- The show will finish
- at the end of the show the cast will bow and you will go home.

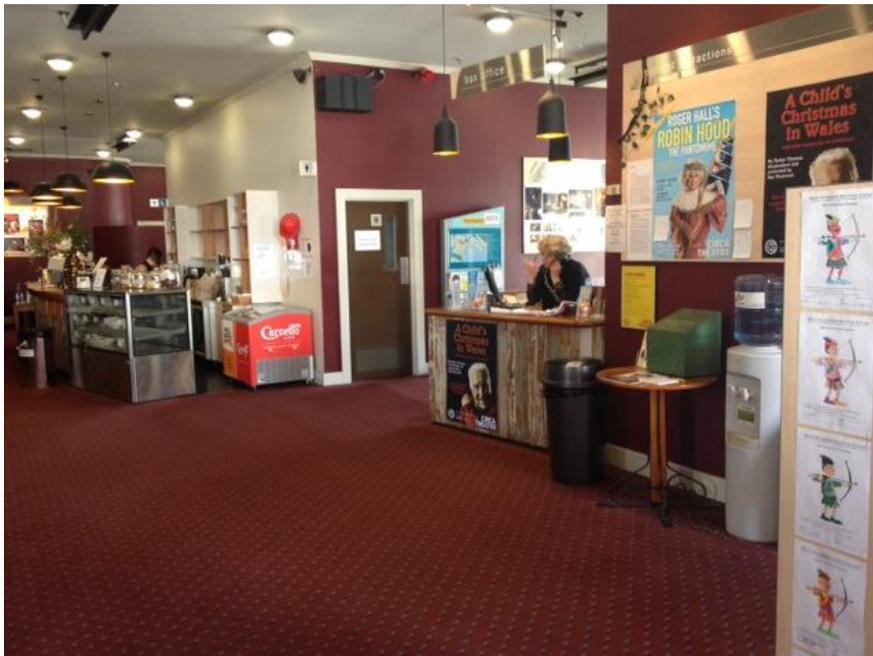
**This is a photograph of Circa Theatre and the main entrance.**

This is how you will first enter Circa theatre.



**This is the foyer and box office area**

This is where you wait before you go into the theatre



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**Here is the bathroom**



Mens



Womens

**This is the chill out room/space.**

You can come to this room anytime during the performance



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**Here is the entrance to the Theatre.**

You will watch the show inside



**This is a photo of what inside the theatre looks like.**

You can choose a seat wherever you like.



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## Meeting the characters

In a theatre performance people pretend to be other characters. It is important to remember even if a person acts like a bad character or a scary character they are just pretending. They are not like that in real life.

Since there are so many different characters some actors will play more than 1 character. If this happens they will have different costumes to show you which character they are.

Character	Image
<p><i>Robin Hood</i> – Simon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- He is the hero of the show</li><li>- We want Robin Hood to win</li></ul>	 A photograph of actor Simon as Robin Hood. He is wearing a brown leather tunic and a hood, looking upwards with a surprised expression, his hand on his head.
<p><i>Trelise Hood/Mother Hood</i> – Gavin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Robins Mother</li><li>- She means well and talks to the audience the most</li></ul>	 A photograph of actor Gavin as Trelise Hood/Mother Hood. He is wearing a white and purple costume with a large, ornate headpiece, looking towards the camera with a slight smile.
<p><i>Maid Marion</i> – Acushla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- She is very pretty but has a secret</li></ul>	 A photograph of actor Acushla as Maid Marion. She has long, braided red hair and is wearing a white dress with a blue sash, looking off to the side with a gentle smile.
<p><i>Sheriff</i> – Nick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The sheriff is the villain</li><li>- But even though he seems evil and scary the actor Nick is a very nice man</li></ul>	 A photograph of actor Nick as the Sheriff. He is wearing a dark, textured tunic and has a serious, somewhat menacing expression, looking slightly to the side.

*Little Andrew* – Andrew

- Robin Hood's friend
- Owns the Toll bridge in the woods



*Rumble* – Jonathan

- A poor backpacker



*Hattie* – Jane

- A friend of Mother Hood's
- Waiting for her husband to come back from Australia



*Tony Abbot* – Andrew

- A friend of the sheriffs
- We do not like him
- Andrew plays both Tony and little Andrew



<p><i>Friar Tuck</i> – Jonathan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Friar Tuck is well meaning</li> <li>- Played by Jonathan who also plays Rumble</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Lady Muck</i> – Jane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very rich woman</li> <li>- Played by Jay who also plays Hattie</li> </ul>	
<p><i>King Richard</i> – Andrew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The true King</li> <li>- He is away so his brother is in charge</li> <li>- Also played by Andrew</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Eric</i> – stage manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eric comes on stage at the start to begin the show</li> </ul>	<p>(no image available)</p>
<p><i>Precious</i> – dog</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Precious comes on with Eric at the start of the show</li> </ul>	<p>(no image available)</p>

## The performance

The performance is told in 2 parts. There will be an interval between each part.

We understand loud noises can be frightening and can upset people. So during the plot summary if there is a symbol to cover your ears and you are hearing sensitive please do so.

# ACT 1

## Scene 1: Market Place

Eric the stage manager and Precious the dog walk across the stage at the beginning of the play.

The characters walk around the stage at the market yelling and being loud.

Meet Mother Hood Trelise who works at the market. She explains the market and how everyone is poor.

**ACCESS NOTE:** whenever a character enters there is a short music jingle/theme song for them.

Meet a poor backpacker Rumble who complains that he has no money.

The characters sing a **SONG** about being poor plus dance

Hattie comes onto the stage and talks to Mother Hood about how excited she is that her husband is coming home.

Mother Hood explains that she brought new material to make clothes but no one can afford to get clothes made.

Lady Muck enters

Mother Hood tries to sell her clothes but Lady Muck is not interested.

Mother Hood talks to the audience asking their names and how old they are.

**ACCESS NOTE:** lots of audience interactions. Do not be scared if characters talk to you.

Robin Hood enters and Mother Hood receives a letter saying their house is going to be sold unless they get money for it.

Robin hears about an archery contest and thinks he can win the money for his mother's house.

He shows the audience his bow and asks someone to shoot an (imaginary) arrow.

There is a music sound effect and everyone claps for the audience member.

Hattie enters again and tells everyone that her husband is not coming back yet. She is not sure how she will feed her children.

Mother Hood explains that ever Since King Richard left King John has been running everything and he is nasty.

Everyone hears that the Sheriff is coming. They Chant "The Sheriff is coming" and music plays.

The Sheriff comes onstage and Rumble is his new body guard.

**ACCESS NOTE:** the sheriff punches Rumble when he grumbles. This is not a real punch.

Everyone argues about paying taxes and Rumble chases Hattie around.

**ACCESS NOTE:** when Hattie is chased she screams and yells

Mother Hood has a **SONG** about being a domestic goddess. Everyone dances and Mother Hood flirts with the sheriff.

Robin decides to enter the archery contest to save his mother's house.

## **Scene 2: Archery contest**

Robin runs on and learns that Rumble is also entering the contest. Robin asks the audience to wish him luck then runs off stage.

Mother Hood asks the audience to cheer and boo for different people. We practice. Mother Hood Gives Robin arrows with green feathers.

**ACCESS NOTE:** if you do not want to cheer or boo you do not have to.

Before the contest the competitors are searched by security, Robin and an unknown person trick the security guard to sneak in their bows and arrows.

There are three people competing in the contest: Robin Hood, Rumble and the unknown person.

The audience cheer for the prizes but boo Rumble when he shoots his arrow. Rumble does not hit the centre of the target.

**ACCESS NOTE:** there will be a sound effect for arrows flying

The unknown person hits a bullseye.

Robin hits his arrow into the unknown person's arrow and wins the contest. The arrow he gets back is not his green one.

The unknown person is revealed to be Maid Marion.

**ACCESS NOTE:** music when she takes off her hood and shakes out her hair.

Robin and Marion give their prizes to Hattie so she can feed her children until her husband gets back.

Rumble then chases Hattie around the stage and takes her money for taxes.

The Sheriff then orders a new rule where people cannot hunt in the forest, this is bad because the forest is where people get most of their food. The Sheriff says anyone caught hunting will be punished with pain of death.

**ACCESS NOTE:** music for pain of death

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The Sheriff exits

Robin and Marion have a romantic **SONG**. They agree to meet under the old oak tree. Marion exits

Robin makes a few jokes to the audience and exists as well.

### **Scene 3: Robin Accused**

Friar Tuck comes onto the stage and talks to the audience about how he has friends in high places. This means he has more food than everyone else. He exits.

Mother Hood comes on and has a **SONG** about material and clothes.

**ACCESS NOTE:** during the song and dance the characters wave long pieces of coloured fabric very quickly.

Robin comes back from the forest. He tells his mother he has a date with Marion on Friday but has nothing to wear. Mother Hood tries to get him to wear green but he doesn't want to. He goes into the forest to find food for them.

Mother Hood's **SONG** about clothes continues.

Later Mother Hood is sleeping but wakes up when everyone comes onstage.

Music for the Sheriff. He tells them that someone broke the no hunting in the forest rule.

Rumble brings on a deer's leg which has Robins Green arrow stuck into it.

Robin is declared an outlaw and Rumble and Robin fight, there is a **SONG** and dance, before

Robin runs away.

Robin asks mother Hood to tell Marion what happened. Mother Hood gives him a sword. **SONG** continues.

**ACCESS NOTE:** the sword is large and Robin swings it around. BUT it is not real

#### **Scene 4: Friar Tuck**

Friar Tuck and Tony Abbot are talking. We do not like Tony Abbot.

The Sheriff enters and him and tony greet each other, loudly.

**ACCESS NOTE:** Tony has a bell which he rings onstage sometimes as the sheriff speaks.

The Sheriff tells Friar Tuck to cook for him and collect taxes.

They exit.

#### **Scene 5: In the forest**

Robin enters swinging his sword around. He tries to cross a bridge but Little Andrew appears and tells him he must pay a toll to cross.

Robin and Little Andrew fight

**ACCESS NOTE:** there is lots of tumbling and rolling around, Robin tries to hit Andrew with his sword.

Robin falls off the bridge.

There is a **SONG** about robbing the rich to feed the poor and Robin and Little Andrew decide to become friends and work together.

They ask the audience to keep a lookout by yelling "POOR" if they see someone.

**ACCESS NOTE:** you do not need to yell if you do not want but it will be helpful.

Robin practices yelling poor with the audience.

## **Scene 6: Marion**

Marion is waiting by the tree for Robin. He does not show up. She sings a **SONG** and then leaves, very sad.

Mother Hood is in her house, she tells the audience she does not like Mondays.

Mother Hoods doorbell goes off several times and scares her,

**ACCESS NOTE:** the bell is very loud, please do not be scared.

Friar Tuck enters to collect taxes and Mother Hood chases him around the house, hitting him with her broomstick. He exits

Marion enters looking for Robin. Mother Hood forgot to tell her that he is hiding and could not meet her at the tree.

Marion tells Mother Hood that she is Lady Marion, that King Richard is her guardian. She makes Mother Hood promise not to tell anyone.

Mother Hood sings a **SONG** about telling the sheriff about Lady Marion's secret to get money.

## **Scene 7: In the forest**

Robin enters and reminds the audience they need to shout "POOR" if they see anyone.

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Robin and Little Andrew look for food. Robin tries to eat a weta but little Andrew tells him he cannot because they are endangered.

Lady Muck enters

**ACCESS NOTE:** shout "POOR, POOR" to warn Robin Hood

Robin and Little Andrew rob lady Muck.

They sing a **SONG** rob the rich to feed the poor. Lady Muck tricks them and steals her purse back.

### **Scene 8: Mother Hood and the Sheriff.**

The Sheriff gets Rumble to write a letter to King John. When Rumble grumbles the sheriff punches him.

Mother Hood enters and offers to tell the Sheriff Marion's secret, in return he must buy a new outfit.

They sing a **SONG** while mother Hood takes his measurements for his new clothes.

Mother Hood tells the sheriff Marion's Secret and the Sheriff sings a **SONG** about revenge.

During the song the characters wave long pieces of fabric around.

## **END OF ACT 1**

### **Interval**

There will now be a fifteen minute interval before you watch the second half of the show. During this time you can...

- ❖ Go to the bathroom
- ❖ Get something to eat/drink

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❖ Go to the chill out room

The second half of the show will begin after fifteen minutes.

## **ACT 2**

### **Scene 1: Welcome back**

**ACCESS NOTE:** Music plays at the beginning of act 2 so the audience know when the show will start again.

Mother Hood welcomes everyone back. She reminds the audience what happened in the first half of the play.

She practices with the audience yelling “POOR, POOR”

### **Scene 2: Outlaws**

Friar Tuck goes into the woods looking to Robin Hood because he does not like collecting taxes and wants to become an outlaw.

Robin and little Andrew jump off the bridge with sticks. They steal Friar Tuck’s basket and sing a **SONG** about being outlaws.

**ACCESS NOTE:** there is a lot of stamping and excited yelling. Robin and Andrew gesture and point their sticks around.

Friar says he can cook for them but he has no equipment. Robin and Andrew tell him about the mortar and pestle. They make food and drink it but it tastes very bad.

Someone appears

**ACCESS NOTE:** if you want yell “POOR” to warn Robin.

The person is revealed to be Marion.

Little Andrew doesn't think a girl can be an outlaw. Marion and Andrew fight and Marion wins.

**ACCESS NOTE:** during the fight there is lots of jumping around and excitement.

There is a **SONG** with Friar Tuck, Andrew, Robin and Marion about being outlaws.

### **Scene 3: The Sheriff's Plan**

The sheriff makes Rumble write a fake letter to Mother Hood asking her to bring Robin some food etc. He wants Rumble to follow Mother Hood to Robin's hiding place.

**ACCESS NOTE:** boo the sheriff if you want because he is bad.

### **Scene 4: Mother Hood**

Mother Hood is waiting for the mail to arrive.

Rumble sneaks in and puts the fake letter in Mother Hood's house.

**ACCESS NOTE:** try to yell at Mother Hood and tell her Rumble is behind her but Rumble is clever and she will not see him.

Mother Hood gathers a basket of things for Robin and uses a GPS to find him in the forest.

In the forest Robin meets Mother Hood. Then he, Friar Tuck, Marion and Little Andrew chase a Possum around the stage because they are hungry.

**ACCESS NOTE:** there is lots of yelling and running around.

Rumble sneaks on and kidnaps Marion.

When Robin finds out she has been taken he puts a sack over his head and is sad.

Robin, Friar Tuck and Andrew form a plan to save Marion. Robin tries to use the GPS but it is broken and he hurts himself.

### **Scene 5: Marion captured**

The Sheriff tells Marion that he knows who she is. He also tells her that King John is her new guardian and King John wants her to marry the Sheriff.

The Sheriff also has a plan to catch Robin on their wedding day.

**ACCESS NOTE:** you can boo the Sheriff if you want.

At Mother Hood's house she learns that Marion is marrying the Sheriff. Mother Hood is asked to make the wedding dress.

Marion talks to the audience about how she is sure Robin will rescue her.

Mother Hood, Marion and Rumble sing a **SONG**.

In the Forest with Robin and Andrew. Robin is injured with a bandage wrapped around his head.

A wedding invitation arrives for Marion and the Sheriff's wedding. The wedding is during a tournament. Andrew and Friar Tuck think if Robin can win the tournament he could save Marion.

They sing a **SONG**.

## **Scene 6: The Tournament**

Lady Muck is very excited about the tournament but sad because her dog ran away.

Robin and Friar Tuck enter in disguise. Lady Muck recognizes him but he convinces her not to tell anyone.

Tony Abbot and the Sheriff arrive with Lady Marion and Mother Hood.

Tony Abbot tells everyone that the person who wins the tournament, if he is an outlaw, will be pardoned and he can choose any lady to marry. But if he loses he will be killed.

Mother Hood is so excited about this that she gives away Robin's disguise.

Mother Hood asks the audience if anyone would like to come onstage to watch.

**ACCESS NOTE:** If you do not want to that is okay.

The jousting tournament starts; the sheriff has never lost before.

**ACCESS NOTE:** you can boo for the Sheriff and cheer for Robin if you would like.

The jousting starts and halfway through the Sheriff and Robin drop their jousting poles. Robin is given the sheriff and on the next round he wins.

**ACCESS NOTE:** Robin will ask for high fives from the audience, if you would like you can give him one.

Marion finds out that the reason the Sheriff never lost is because he was cheating; his jousting pole is longer than everyone else's.

**ACCESS NOTE:** if you came up onstage to watch you can go back to your seat

Robin gives his winning necklace to Marion.

The sheriff arrests Robin and tells him it was all a trick to catch him.

**ACCESS NOTE:** you can boo the Sheriff for doing this if you want to.

Suddenly King Richard appears and saves the day. He beats up the Sheriff and knights Robin Hood.

The Sheriff is exiled and dragged offstage by Rumble.

King Richard makes sure everyone has their house back and there are no more taxes.

Everyone sings a **SONG** and does a dance because Robin Hood and Marion are going to get married.

### **Scene 7: The pantomime World**

There is one last big **SONG** and dance number.

The characters have pieces of fabric for their dance. They bow and clap and sing to the audience.

## **END OF ACT 2**

### **End of the Show**

At the end of the play the cast will come out onto the stage and bow. If you want to you can clap to show you enjoyed the show. Or you can cheer.

After the show if you want to meet the cast they will come out into the foyer in their costumes and makeup. You can ask questions or get photos taken with them.