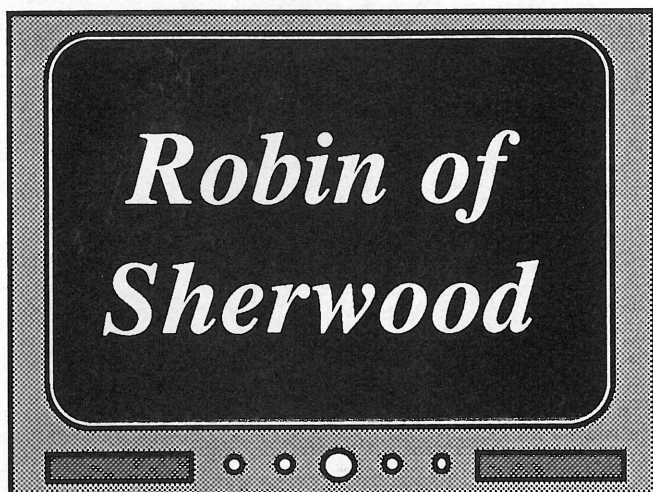




The first couple of Sherwood Forest: Judi Trott as Marion of Leaford, Michael Praed as Robin Hood.



review by David W. Dietz, III

Production credits:

Executive Producer	Patrick Dromgoole
Creator	Richard Carpenter
Producers	Paul Knight
	Esta Clarkham
Music by	Paul Knight

Regular cast:

Robin of Loxley	Michael Praed (years 1-2)
Robert of Huntindon	Jason Connery (year 3)
Sheriff of Nottingham	Nickolas Grace
Little John	Clive Mantle
Much	Peter Llewellyn-Williams
Sir Guy of Gisburne	Robert Addie
Will Scarlet	Ray Winstone
Friar Tuck	Phil Rose
Marion of Leaford	Judi Trott
Herne the Hunter	John Abineri
Nasir	Mark Ryan
Abbott Hugo	Philip Jackson
Sir Richard of Leaford	George Baker
Prince (King) John	Philip Davis
Edward of Wickham	Jeremy Bulloch
Meg of Wickham	Clair Toeman

Number of episodes: 26 one hour segments

Premise: Herne the Hunter, the stag-headed god of the forest calls on Robin of Loxley to become the "Hooded Man" and lead a gang of outlaws against tyranny and help the oppressed. Later, when Robin is presumed dead, Herne calls on Robert of Huntindon to continue the fight for justice in this magical retelling of the legend of Robin Hood.

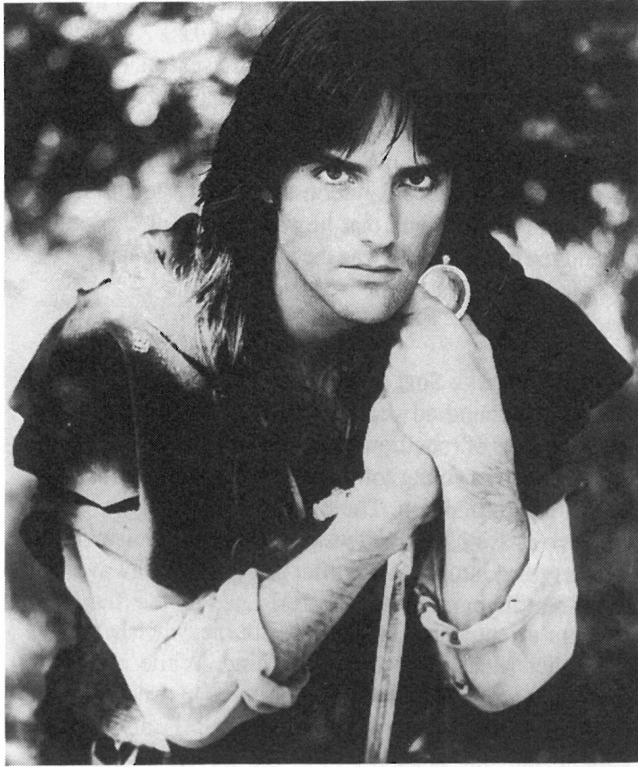
Writer's comments: *Robin of Sherwood* ("Robin Hood" as it was originally titled) is a series of the highest caliber of writing, direction, and acting. Written almost exclusively by its creator Richard Carpenter, and shown in the United States on the Showtime cable network, the series bears many similarities to

another great British show: *Blake's 7* (which could in turn be described as "Robin Hood in space"). Like *Blake's 7*, the series lost its lead actor at the beginning of its third season, (Michael Praed was offered a role on Broadway that was too good to pass up). Hence the producers chose Jason Connery, who was previously seen in *Doctor Who*, to fill the space left by Praed. This also contrived an explanation for the two legends that surround Robin Hood: one that he was a peasant chosen by Herne, and the other that he was the son of a nobleman.

SEASON ONE

Robin Hood and the Sorcerer (airdate: April 28, 1984, two-hour pilot). One hundred years after the Normans conquered England, the fires of rebellion still burn. Rebel leader Ailric of Loxley is killed by a young soldier who will eventually become the Sheriff of Nottingham. The Sheriff then takes the sacred "Silver Arrow" for his own. Twenty years later, Ailric's son, Robin, has grown into manhood after being spirited away to the village of Nottingham. Robin is imprisoned by the Sheriff of Nottingham's lieutenant, Sir Guy of Gisburne, when he and his foster brother Much are caught poaching. While in prison, Robin meets a group of prisoners whom he helps liberate to the safety of Sherwood Forest. In Sherwood, Robin is met by Herne the Hunter, the stag-headed god of the forest, who informs Robin that his destiny is to liberate the English from oppression. Robin's first task comes from the Baron Simon de Belleme, a practitioner of black magic. The Baron plans to use the Silver Arrow for his own evil purposes, which include taking the beautiful Marion of Leaford as his bride. [Mark Ryan's character, Nasir, is first seen in this episode as an agent in de Belleme's service. He was originally to be killed off, but the producers like Ryan and his performance so much, that Nasir was spared the blade.] **Guest cast:** Anthony Valentine as Simon de Belleme, Toby Lee as young Robin, Wayne Michaels as Ailric, Betty Francis as Miller's wife, Geoffrey Greenhill as Miller, Paul Duggan as Tom Fletcher, Mark Audley as Dickon, Stuart Linden as the old man in the cell, Harry Herring as the clerk, Thomas Henty as Flambar, Kim Hicks and Gillie Roper as Simon's women. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Ian Sharp.

The Witch of Elsdon (airdate: May 5, 1984). Jennet, the white witch of the town of Elsdon, is brought up on false charges of sorcery by Sir Guy of Gisburne after she refuses his lustful advances on her. Taken before the Sheriff, Jennet is offered a pardon for her husband and herself if she uses her powers to deliver Robin Hood and his band of outlaws into the Sheriff's hands. Jennet is liberated from the clutches of the Sheriff's men and taken into Sherwood Forest where she puts a potion into the outlaws' drinks during a celebration. Only Marion does not take part in the festivities, and when the others are taken away, she is bidden by Herne to do what she has been fighting with Robin about: rescue the outlaws and prove herself an integral part of Robin's quest. **Guest cast:** Angharad Rees as Jennet, David Goodland as Gregory, Cornelius Garrett as Thomas, Martin West as Martin, Steven Osborne as James. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Ian Sharp.



Michael Praed as Robin Hood.

Seven Poor Knights from Acre (airdate: May 12, 1984). The Seven Knights of Templar return home to England, war-weary from their battles for the church in the Crusades. While camping near Sherwood Forest, the group's golden emblem mysteriously disappears. Upon hearing of the exploits of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws, the knights begin to believe that Robin has stolen their emblem. Taking very unchristian-like measures, the knights take Robin's adopted brother Much prisoner and announce plans to kill him unless Robin returns their emblem, which he doesn't have. **Guest cast:** Yves Beneyton as Reynald De Villaret, Simon Rouse as Siward, Steve Osborne as James, Martin West as Martin, Duncan Preston as Heinric Von Erlichshausen, Colin Rix as Potter, Peewee Hunt as the fat merchant. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Ian Sharp.

Alan-A-Dale (airdate: May 19, 1984). Robin is asked by Alan-a-Dale, a travelling minstrel, to play Cupid for him as he is too shy to tell the woman he loves how he feels. Although Robin finds this a somewhat amusing prospect (an archer playing Cupid), problems arise and seem to compound on each other. Firstly, Little John is seen in the village of Wickham visiting his love, Meg and the residents are heavily fined when they refuse to turn him in to the Sheriff's men. Not only that, but Alan-a-Dale's bride-to-be is captured and is slated to become the wife of another: the Sheriff of Nottingham. **Guest cast:** Peter Hutchinson as Alan A Dale, Stephanie Tague as Mildred. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Ian Sharp.

Richard the Lionhearted [also titled **The King's Fool**] (airdate: May 26, 1984). King Richard apparently returns home to England after a lengthy imprisonment in Germany. Robin and his band of outlaws rescue the king from another outlaw group

and discover that he is willing to pardon them for their crimes in the eyes of the English people. However, Will Scarlet and a few of the others are suspicious that perhaps the man is not really the king, but a con man, and that Robin is being just a bit too trusting. Soon the "king's" true colors come to light, and Robin and Marion flee to the woods. However, Marion is struck by one of their pursuers' arrows and Robin takes her to the only one who can possibly save her, Herne the Hunter. But is he too late to save his bride? **Guest cast:** John Rhys as King Richard, Ray Mantle, Martin West as Martin, Doc O'Brien as Mercadier, Gary Waldron as Hubert Walter. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Ian Sharp.

SEASON TWO

The Prophecy (airdate: Mar. 9, 1985). Herne the Hunter reveals to Robin a vision of the death of King Richard and of the importance to the outlaws of a prisoner being held at Nottingham Castle. This coincides with the arrival of Prince John at Nottingham Castle carrying with him a very important prisoner whose identity is concealed by a mask. While Sir Guy of Gisburne tries to assist the Prince any way he can, the outlaws plan to attack the castle believing that the masked prisoner is the missing Little John. **Guest cast:** John Nettles as De Leon, Stuart Linden as the old prisoner, Simon Dutton as Mark, Philip York as Captain, Michael Loney as the guard, David Bartlett as the little boy, David Silver as Brother Cedric, Jamie Ripman as the messenger. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Robert Young.

The Children of Israel (airdate: Mar. 16, 1985). The Sheriff finds himself deeply in debt to Joshua de Talmont, a Jewish



The cast of *Robin of Sherwood*: (top) Ray Winstone (Will Scarlet), Clive Huntle (Little John), Judi Trott (Marion), Michael Praed (Robin of Luxley), Phil Rose (Friar Tuck), Mark Ryan (Nasir), (bottom) Peter Llewellyn-Williams (Much). merchant who demands payment from the Sheriff immediately. The Sheriff, naturally enough, doesn't want to pay the debt and plots to kill the merchant. When Gisburne, smitten with de Talmont's daughter Sarah, learns of the Sheriff's plan to start a riot and kill the merchant (a fate which has recently befallen other Jews in London and York), he spirits away de Talmont and his family to Sherwood Forest knowing full well that the pair will find Robin Hood. And when they do, Gisburne hopes that finding the outlaws' camp will put the thought of executing the outlaws into the Sheriff's mind and de Talmont's death out. **Guest cast:** David de Keyser as Joshua de Talmont, Katherine Levy as Sarah de Talmont, Amy Rosenthal as Esther de Talmont, Adam Rosenthal as Samuel de Talmont, Pavel Douglas as the captain, Paul Wilce as the poacher, Daniel Gregory as the head man, Odette Bennett as the servant. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Alex Kirby.

Lord of the Trees (airdate: Mar. 23, 1985). The Sheriff of Nottingham is away once again on business, so Sir Guy of Gisburne decides to take this opportunity to finally finish off the outlaws and make himself look good in the eyes of the king. He hires an old friend, Bertrand de Neville, to assist him. Gisburne and de Neville's band of French mercenaries embark on their quest to destroy the outlaws, unaware that Robin and the outlaws cannot fight back since it is the time of "the Blessing", when, in the name of Herne the Hunter, no blood may be shed in the forest. **Guest cast:** Oliver Tobias as Bertrand de Neville, Leigh Samuels, Deborah Cranston as Meg's friend, Ian Brimble as Forester, Mark Lewis as Walter, Patrick Gordon as Guil-

laume, Nicholas Brent as the alehouse keeper, Jacob Powers as the pot boy, Jill James as the widow. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** James Allen.

The Enchantment (airdate: Mar. 30, 1985). Robin is put under a spell by an enchantress named Lillith who bids Robin to bring her the Silver Arrow from Herne's cave. Once she has the arrow in her possession, she plans to use its mystical powers to raise Baron Simon de Belleme from his grave, so that together they can wreak havoc upon the world. With Robin gone, the outlaws turn to the only one who can help, Herne. But is even Herne powerful enough to stop the combined might of de Belleme and Lillith now that Robin is under their spell? **Guest cast:** Anthony Valentine as Simon De Belleme, Gemma Craven as Lillith, Trevor Clarke as Ralph of Huntingdon, Maria MacDonald as the young witch. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** James Allen.

The Swords of Wayland (airdate: April 6, 1985). The mysterious dark riders, the Hounds of Lucifer have been terrorizing villages across the countryside in their search for the Seven Swords of Wayland. One of Marion's oldest friends comes to Sherwood Forest hoping to recruit Robin Hood and the outlaws to fight off the Hounds of Lucifer at a distant village. The residents of the village refuse to fight the riders believing them to be demons from Hell. Robin and the outlaws prove that the riders are as human as everyone else and also discover their plot is being led by Morgwyn, the Abbess of Ravenscar, who is secretly the leader of the Cauldron of Lucifer, a powerful



Jason Connery as Robert of Huntingdon, the second Robin Hood (season 3).

witches coven. Morgwyn learns that Robin's sword, Albion, is one of the swords that she and her coven need to raise Lucifer from the depths of Hell. Morgwyn then casts a spell over the outlaws, turning them against their leader who now must not only convince a disbelieving nobleman of Morgwyn's plot, but face his best friends in a deadly duel. **Guest cast:** Rula Lenska as Morgwyn of Ravenscar, Anthony Steel as Earl Godwin, Dallas Adams as Peter Verdelet, James Donnelly as Gareth, David Travena as the Sheriff, Norman Bowler as Adam, David Cain as Cedric, Conrad Phillips as Philip, Ingrid Hafner as Mary, Vic McGuire as James, Nick Brimble as Captain, Roger McKern and Ned Kelly as the guards, Morlais Thomas as the ragged man, Marcus Bimbert as Lucifer. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Robert Young.

The Greatest Enemy (airdate: April 13, 1985). The Sheriff of Nottingham is threatened by King John with loss of office and station if he does not once and for all destroy Robin Hood and his outlaws. The Sheriff and Sir Guy of Gisburne set up an ambush which proves to be more than successful. They capture nearly all of the outlaws with the exception of Robin, Marion and Much, whom Gisburne promises to the Sheriff and the prisoners, who are only prolonging the inevitable. Robin, Marion and Much are pursued to a rocky crag where Robin orders Marion and Much away while he stands alone, surrounded by the Sheriff's men who open fire. The outlaws believe that their leader is dead, until the "Hooded Man" mysteriously returns to rescue them. **Guest cast:** Steve Dent and Mark Lewis as the Arabs, Robert Daws as Hubert de Giscard, Robbie Bulloch as Matthew, Jason Connery as the hooded man. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Robert Young.

SEASON THREE

Herne's Son, part one and two (airdates: April 5, and 12 1986). Robin of Loxley is believed to be dead and so the outlaws have disbanded, scattering themselves to the villages around the English countryside. Marion returns home to Leaford to live with her father. One day they journey to Huntingdon where the Earl is holding a feast in honor of the king. Also in attendance are the Sheriff of Nottingham, Sir Guy of Bisburne, and the powerful Lord Owen of Clun. Lord Owen takes a liking to Marion, and plots to take her as his bride. Another man, Robert, the Earl's son, is also fascinated by Marion and does not wish to see her fall into the unsavory clutches of Owen. However, with the help of his sorcerer Gulnar, Owen takes Marion captive and plans to marry her, forcing Robert to return to Sherwood Forest where he asks Herne to once again assume the mantle of the Hooded Man, (it had been Robert who rescued the outlaws from death in the previous episode). Robert must now reassemble the outlaws and rescue Marion, the former of which may prove to be more difficult than the latter. **Guest cast:** Oliver Cotton as Lord Owen of Clun, Richard O'Brien as Gulnar, Michael Craig as the Earl of Huntingdon, James Coombes as Grendal, Keith Bartlett as Rival Marcher Lord, Bradley Lavelle, Nicholas Pritchard as Marcher Lords, Timothy Roland as Herald at Huntingdon, Serena Harrigan as the first Lady, Terry Shephard as the young Lord, Derek Graham as the poacher, Daniel Peacock as Sergeant Sparrow, Graham Chinn as Amos Scathlock, Ivan Steward as Ambrose. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter.

Director: Robert Young.

The Power of Albion (airdate: April 19, 1986). Robert of Huntingdon has now become the Hooded Man and leader of the outlaws of Sherwood Forest. However, he is not prepared for the hardships of such a life and when he is severely injured in a raid, the outlaws must send to Leaford for Marion and her medical skills. She arrives and helps Robert but is captured by the Sheriff on her way home. Since she holds Robin's sword, Albion, in her possession, the Sheriff decides to use her to lure Robin Hood, whom he has heard is once again operating in Sherwood, into a trap. Naturally, Robert and the outlaws go to Marion's aid, with Robert resuming his forsaken role as the Earl of Huntingdon's son. **Guest cast:** David Walker as the torturer, Max Faulkner as Oliver, Stuart Linden as the old prisoner. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Gerry Mill.

The Inheritance (airdate: April 26, 1986). Robert and the outlaws find themselves being drawn into a struggle for property when a woman named Isadora comes to Sherwood seeking their help. It seems that she and her father, Agrivaine, are sitting on top of a vast treasure which is also being coveted by Agrivaine's ex-steward, Mortimer, and his one-eyed servant, Raven. However, helping Isadora and her father will be difficult as their castle is crumbling and falling apart, and Herne has warned Robert that he cannot help the outlaws this time. **Guest cast:** Cyril Cusack as Agrivaine, David Rappaport as Skully, Derrick O'Connor as Raven, Cathryn Harrison as Isadora, Jeremy Sinden as Mortimer, Harry Jones as the Irish villein, David Wodard as King Arthur, Hywel Bennett as the voice of King Arthur, Olive Lucius as the old lady. **Writer:** Anthony Horowitz. **Director:** Ben Bolt.

The Sheriff of Nottingham (airdate: May 3, 1986). Because of his inability to collect taxes and effectively deal with the Robin Hood problem, King John has the Sheriff of Nottingham replaced. The outlaws are naturally thrilled by the news until they find out that the new Sheriff is one Philip Mark, known by many as the "Butcher of Lincoln". Philip and his Saracen bodyguard, Sarak, banish the former Sheriff into the dark seclusion of Sherwood Forest where he comes across the outlaws camp. The former Sheriff and the outlaws form an uneasy alliance until they can defeat Philip Mark. **Guest cast:** Lewis Collins as Philip Mark, Valentine Pelka as Sarak, Neville Watchurst as Carter, Robbie Bulloch as Matthew, Maureen Bennett as Alison, Lorian Grey as Jennifer, Robert Daws as Hubert De Giscard, Nicole Dominic as the slave girl, Gregory Cox as Steward, David Lumsden as Jeffrey, Graham Pritchard as the soldier, Stuart Linden as the old prisoner. **Writer:** Anthony Horowitz. **Director:** Christopher King.

The Cross of St. Ciricus (airdate: May 10, 1986). Robert and the outlaws embark in a journey to Croxden Abbey, the home of legendary Cross of Saint Ciricus. Their trip to the legendary place of healing is interrupted when the group comes upon Lady Margaret, a noblewoman who has been attacked and robbed while on her way to the Abbey herself. She asks Friar Tuck to hear her dying confession in which she reveals a strange relationship somewhere along the bloodlines between Robert and Sir Guy of Gisburne! The outlaws resume their journey



Jason Connery as Robert of Huntingdon, the second Robin Hood (season 3).

unaware that Sir Guy himself, disguised as a leper, is also on his way to the abbey for some decidedly sinister purpose. **Guest cast:** Dorothy Tutin as Lady Margaret, Brendan Price as Abbot Martin, Mark Lewis as Brabancon Chief, David Silver as Monk, Michelle Gibbons-Price as the maid, Jemina Fyne as the little girl. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Dennis Abey.

Cromm Cruac (airdate: May 17, 1986). Much falls into a forester's animal trap and is severely wounded. His wound becomes infected and it seems likely that he will die unless the outlaws can find medical assistance. The outlaws are far from Sherwood and all hope seems dim until a man happens to come along and tells them that they can find the needed medical attention for Much in Cromm Cruac, his home village. The outlaws then head for Cromm Cruac, with the exception of Tuck, who feels there is something sinister about the name of the village. When the outlaws arrive they find that their old enemy, Gulnar, is waiting for them, with revenge on his mind. **Guest cast:** Richard O'Brien as Gulnar, John Horsley as Abbot of Thornton Abbey, Claire Parker as Elena, Richard Bonehill as the driver, Ian Redford as Tom the Miller, Jon Hastings as the villager, Larry Dann as the bailiff, David Plimmer as Reeve, Graham Weston as the villein of Blacksmith, Caroline Holdaway as Mary the Miller's wife. **Writer:** Anthony Horowitz. **Director:** Gerry Mill.

The Betrayal (airdate: May 24, 1986). King John once again comes to Nottingham Castle upon hearing reports of the Sheriff's ineffectiveness in dealing with Robin Hood. The king plans to do the job himself, and his new agent, Roger de Carnac has the perfect idea: de Carnac believes that if the peasant's faith in Robin Hood and the outlaws can be destroyed, then they will do the king's job for him. The rumors begin to circulate that Robin has taken to robbing the poor, and the peasants begin to turn on the outlaws. Can even Herne the Hunter save the outlaws from the ill effects of bad press? **Guest cast:** Matt Frewer [*Max Headroom*] as De Carnac, Deborah Cranston as the woman villager, Ian Redford as the Tom the villager, Paul Nicholas as the monk. **Writers:** Andrew McCulloch and John Flanagan. **Director:** James Allen.

Adam Bell (airdate: May 31, 1986). Much visits his grandfather but while leaving is captured by the Sheriff's men. The Sheriff threatens to hang Much, until Adam Bell, once an outlaw himself, captures the Sheriff's nephew from the elder nobleman and bargains with Robert and the outlaws for Martin's rescue in exchange for Much's life. **Guest cast:** Bryan Marshall as Adam Bell, Leo Dolan as Moth, Amanda Hillwood as Lady Isabel, Charlie Condou as Martin, Patrick Travis as Matthew, Rodney Wood as stall holder, Campbell Shaw, Chris Chivers and Alan Roberts as outlaws, Hugh Evans as the innkeeper, William Vaughn as the gaoler, Stuart Linden as the old prisoner. **Writer:** Anthony Horowitz. **Director:** Gerry Mill.

The Pretender (airdate: June 7, 1986). King John takes a new wife, 12-year old Isabella of Angouleme, which throws his former bride, Queen Hadwisa, into a fit of jealousy. Hadwisa and her father, the powerful Duke of Gloucester, now plot against the king. Since he as yet has not produced a natural heir

to the throne, the father and daughter plot to put someone posing as Prince Arthur of Brittany (who is actually believed to be dead), the son of the king's brother, on the throne. They find their "prince" in a young nobleman who was saved by the outlaws and wishes to join them. Since the Sheriff is bed-ridden and the incompetent Gisburne is in charge of Nottingham Castle, it's up to Robert and the outlaws to stop the evil plans of Hadwisa. **Guest cast:** Patricia Hodge as Queen Hadwisa, Reece Dinsdale as Arthur, Russell Enoch as Duke of Gloucester, Cory Pulman as Queen Isabella, Paul Geoffrey as Tourneur, Gregory Cox as the steward, Bill Wallis as the barber/surgeon, Alan Moore as the Earl of Warwick. **Writer:** Anthony Horowitz. **Director:** Robert Young.

Rutterkin (airdate: June 14, 1986). A rare joyous event is about to take place in Sherwood Forest: Little John's marriage to Meg of Wickham. However, before the wedding can take place, Robert and the outlaws must recover a group of pigs who escaped from the pen of their eccentric caretaker, Mad Mab. While searching for the pigs in Sherwood Forest, Robert happens upon his less-than-savory uncle, Lord Edgar. Edgar tells Robert that his father, the Earl of Huntingdon, is in danger from King John, who is ill at Nottingham Castle. Although the father and son have had their differences, Robert agrees to go to Nottingham Castle and save him. **Guest cast:** Ian Ogilvy [*Return of the Saint*] as Lord Edgar, Michael Craig as the Earl of Huntingdon, Annabelle Lee as Mad Mab, Stephen MacKenna as Walter Clout. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Gerry Mill.

The Time of the Wolf, parts one and two (airdates: June 21 and 28, 1986). King John decrees that all the grain grown this year must be given over to him so that he can feed the army he is raising to fight the Welsh. The harvest is poor enough as it is, and the Sheriff's rounding up of all the grain makes it look like a bleak winter ahead for the poor villagers. That is, until Robert and the outlaws organize the villagers of Wickham and other towns into a fighting force so that they may get back their grain. The raid is successful; however, the lack of grain turns out to be the least of the outlaws' worries. At the monastery at Grimston Abbey, the sons of Fenris are plotting to destroy the power of Herne the Hunter. Leading them is the outlaws' old enemy, Gulnar [who was thought to have been killed in *Cromm Cruac*]. Meanwhile, Sir Guy of Gisburne is pushed too far by the Sheriff, and flees to Nottingham Castle only to be captured and indoctrinated into the Sons of Fenris. With Gisburne's help, the Sons of Fenris capture the outlaws and bring them to Grimston Abbey, where Gulnar creates a monstrous duplicate of Robert, which he dispatches to terrorize the countryside, destroy Robin Hood's name, and kill Herne the Hunter. **Guest cast:** Richard O'Brien as Gulnar, James Coombes as Grendal, Maureen Bennett as Alison, Robbie Bulloch as Matthew, David Charkham as Tom, Roger McKern as the dying villager, Tom Fry, Graham Pritchard and Iain Armstrong as the villagers, Shelley Pielou and Gabrielle Dellal as the Gulnar's maidens, John Harding as William Brewer, Pavel Douglas as the captain, Ben Davis and Robin Holder as the village children, Olive Lucius as Frioress, Brian Coburn as the Alehouse keeper, Stoney Garnett as Carter. **Writer:** Richard Carpenter. **Director:** Sid Roberson.