

The British production of *Robin Hood* (*Robin of Sherwood*, as it was originally marketed in the USA) is a fascinating blend of mysticism, history, myth and action. Although set in the 13th century when the Normans are still trying to cope with the recalcitrant Saxons, its main themes are contemporary—with a dash of the occult thrown in to keep matters interesting. The overall mood of mystery and the slightly fantastical is enhanced by the haunting music of Clannad, an Irish band. Excellent use of light and shadow as well as unusual sets—almost all outdoors—combine to make this series seem as legendary as its subject.

Richard (Kip) Carpenter (STARLOG #151), creator and major script writer of the series, wanted to create a Robin for the '80s. "I couldn't have a man who said, 'Follow me, men,' and they would just follow. He had to be brave yet vulnerable, tough enough to live off the land and strong enough to survive in Sherwood Forest, which was then nothing more than a deciduous, overgrown jungle of a place with no foot paths or clearings." Carpenter based his concept of Robin—whom, by the way, he doesn't really believe existed—on many men who were outlaws, anti-establishment and lived on their wits and petty thievery. Skillfully weaving myth and wizardry, Carpenter created a new version of Robin Hood, using the legendary figure of Herne, the Horned God of the Forest, who "chooses" Robin as his "son" to lead the common people against those who would oppress them.

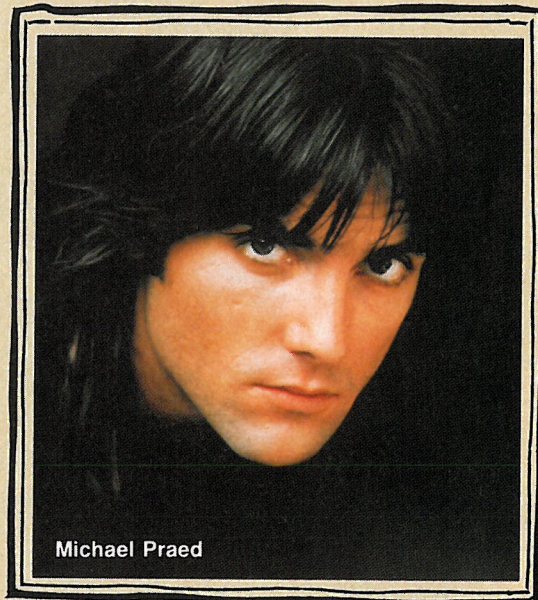
"People in those days believed in magic and superstition just as today's kids readily accept the modern equivalent, technology which produces robots, computers and lasers...any man who joined Robin's band had to be prepared to face the unseen forces of Light and Darkness. If a man could survive in Sherwood Forest, he could survive anything."

And survive he did—even through a change of actors! As the first two seasons were being successfully completed, the lead actor, Michael Praed (STARLOG #127), was offered a too-good-to-pass-up role in a Broadway musical version of *The Three Musketeers*.

When Praed accepted, the producers and Carpenter had to come up with a reason for the sudden switch. Since the show was based on an acceptance of the occult, it was decided that Herne would select another "son." Thus, the series keep faith with both legends that have grown up about Robin—one, that he was the yeoman's son of a village Thane and two, that he was an aristocrat, the Earl of Huntingdon's son. No matter which, he was Robin of Sherwood.

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Wanted:



Robin of Sherwood

Can a complete episode guide of his deeds clear his name?

By JEAN AIREY & LAURIE HALDEMAN

Continuing cast members: Robin Hood: Michael Praed (first & second seasons), Jason Connery (third season); Maid Marion: Judi Trott; Will Scarlet: Ray Winstone; Little John: Clive Mantle; Friar Tuck: Phil Rose; Much, the Miller's Son: Peter Llewellyn-Williams; Nasir: Mark Ryan; Sheriff of Nottingham: Nickolas Grace; Guy of Gisborne: Robert Addie; Herne the Hunter: John Abineri; Old Prisoner: Stuart Linden; Edward: Jeremy Bullock; Abbott Hugo: Philip Jackson; Sir Richard of Leaford: George Baker; Prince (King) John: Philip Davis; Earl of Huntington: Michael Craig; Gulnar: Richard O'Brien; Baron Simon de Belleme: Anthony Valentine; Meg of Wickham: Clair Toeman. Series created and the first two series written by Richard Carpenter. Series one directed by Ian Sharp. Series one and two produced by Paul Knight; series three produced by Esta Charkham. A Goldcrest Films and Television production in association with HTV.

FIRST SERIES

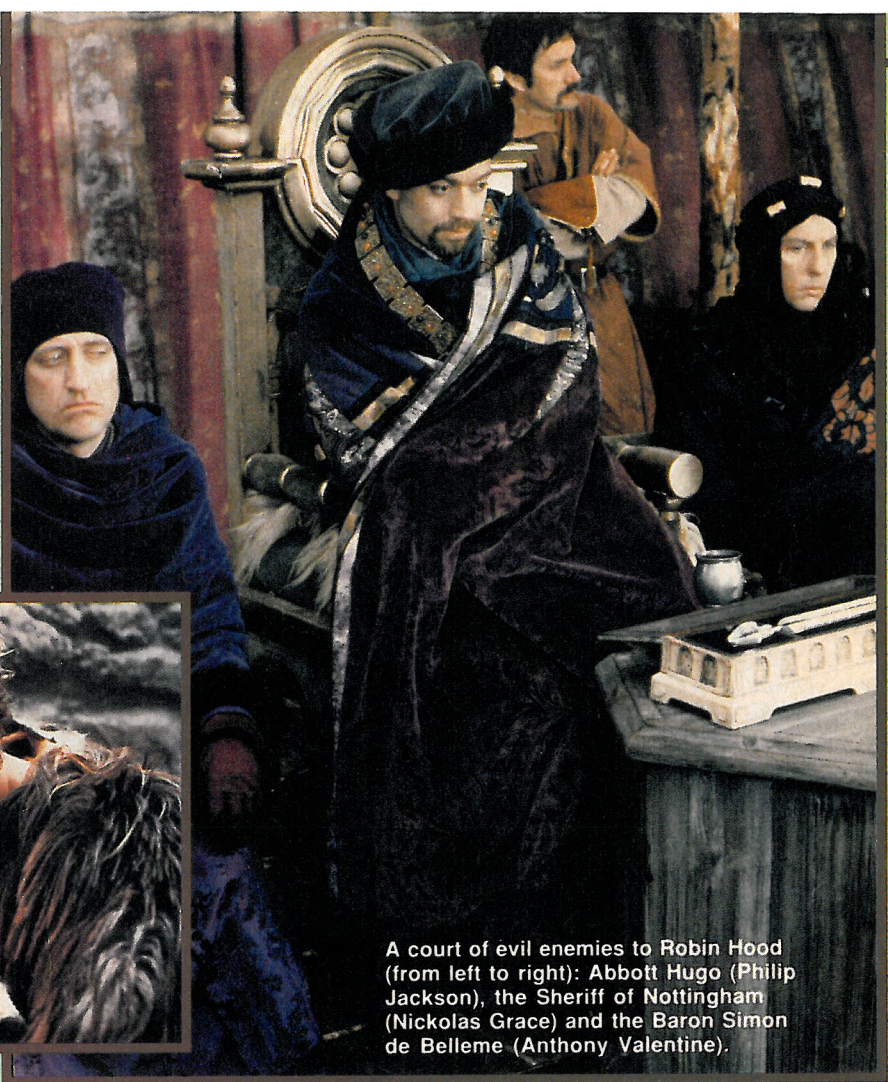
"Robin Hood and the Sorcerer" Parts I and II.

Airdate: 4/28/84.

Guest Cast: Tom the Fletcher: Paul Duggan; Dickon of Barnesley: Mark Audley; Flambart: Thomas Henty; The Miller: Geoffrey Greenhill; Ailric: Wayne Michaels; Clerk: Harry Herring.

Mysticism abounds as a young boy is spirited away from the destruction of the small Saxon vil-

Little John (Clive Mantle, the unseen Nuclear Man from *Superman IV*) finds comfort and danger with Meg of Wickham (Claire Toeman).



A court of evil enemies to Robin Hood (from left to right): Abbott Hugo (Philip Jackson), the Sheriff of Nottingham (Nickolas Grace) and the Baron Simon de Belleme (Anthony Valentine).

lage of Loxley in Medieval England by the Normans. Protesting, he's placed in the care of a miller while his father, Ailric, rides on to a circle of standing stones to bury the sacred "Silver Arrow" entrusted to him. Overtaken by soldiers, Ailric is killed and the "Silver Arrow" stolen. Some years later, the people of Nottingham are held in the grip of evil forces and the young boy, Robin of Loxley, now a young man, is chosen by Herne the Hunter, god of the forest, as the reluctant savior of the common people.

Robin, escaping from prison in Nottingham Castle, forms a band with other displaced men and former prisoners in Sherwood Forest. Together in the primeval depths of the forest, where things are not always what they seem, they decide to fight the evil Sheriff of Nottingham. At the same time, the Baron de Belleme targets Lady Marion of Leaford for his occult schemes. He already holds enthralled a giant of a man whom Robin meets, fights and successfully breaks free of de Belleme's spell. And so, "Little" John joins Robin. Magical forces, Robin's cunning and Herne's cryptic riddles all combine to help defeat de Belleme's sorcery, rescue the Lady Marion and arm Robin with the power of the sword Albion. Robin and Marion are "wed" by Herne. (The character of Nasir was changed during the filming from a one-time appearance to an ongoing role.)

"The Witch of Elsdon"

Airdate: 5/5/84.

Guest Cast: Jennet: Angharad Rees; Thomas: Cornelius Garrett; Gregory: David Goodland; Martin: Martin West; James: Stephen Osborne.

Sir Guy of Gisburne, the Sheriff's lieutenant, brings false charges of sorcery against a local white witch who refused his advances. The Sheriff strikes a deal with her. If she betrays Robin and

his outlaws, he'll pardon her and her man. If she refuses—death by slow torture. Jennet agrees, seeks refuge with Robin and puts a sleeping potion into the band's drink, overpowering them all. Only Marion refuses to partake; she's annoyed that Robin won't let her participate in the raids since she's a woman. Herne sends her a warning and when Guy enters the camp, he has a most unwelcome surprise. So does the Sheriff when Robin appears on his doorstep, demanding a pardon for Jennet and her man.

"Seven Poor Knights From Acre"

Airdate: 5/12/84.

Guest Cast: Siward: Simon Rouse; Reynald de Villaret: Yves Beneyton; Heinrich von Erlichshausen: Duncan Preston.

Seven Knights Templar return from the Holy Land and, while camping near Sherwood, find their golden emblem has been stolen. Not followers of many "Christian" virtues and believing Robin Hood is the thief, they take Robin's foster brother Much hostage. Unless Robin returns the emblem—which he doesn't have—Much will be killed.

"Alan-a-Dale"

Airdate: 5/19/84.

Guest Cast: Alan-a-Dale: Peter Hutchinson.

Robin, as befits a Bowman, is asked to play Cupid and rescue a minstrel's lady from a most unpleasant fate—becoming Mrs. "Sheriff of Nottingham." Robin already has trouble: Little John was seen in the village of Wickham and a heavy fine has been levied on the villagers for not turning him in. Robin attempts to rescue the girl, rob the Sheriff of her dowry for the villagers, and dispatch some very angry guests on the Sheriff.

"Richard the Lionhearted" (a.k.a. "The King's Fool")

Airdate: 5/26/84.

Guest Cast: King Richard: John Rhys-Davies.

"Good" King Richard returns to England after a stay in a German prison. The outlaws rescue him from a band of vagabonds. The King's gratitude seems boundless, as are his pardons. But perhaps the King is really a bolder and Robin's being a bit gullible. ("You were the Hooded Man...now you're the King's fool.") Soon, Robin and Marion flee from the King's treachery. Struck by one of their pursuers' arrows, Marion collapses at the place where Robin's father died. Is Herne's power great enough to rescue her from death?

SECOND SERIES

"The Prophecy"

Airdate: 3/9/85.

Director: Robert Young.

Guest Cast: de Leon: John Nettles; Mark: Simon Dutton.

While the Sheriff is away, an angry and demanding Prince John arrives at Nottingham Castle. Gisburne must try to handle him. Accompanying the not-easy-to-please Prince is a masked prisoner, whose identity cannot be revealed. In Sherwood, Herne predicts the death of King Richard to Robin as well as the importance to the outlaw band of a prisoner in Nottingham Castle. "One close to you," he tells Robin. Believing that Herne's reference is to Little John, the outlaws plot to free the captive.

"The Children Of Israel"

Airdate: 3/16/85.

Director: Alex Kirby.

Guest Cast: Joshua de Talmont: David de Keyser; Sarah de Talmont: Katherine Levy; Esther and Samuel de Talmont: Amy and Adam Rosenthal.

The Sheriff's deeply in debt to de Talmont, a Jewish merchant, and doesn't want to pay up. Using the recent Jewish massacres in London and York as an example, the Sheriff decides to start a riot. He calculates that if de Talmont is also killed during it, no one will think to blame him. But Gisburne, smitten by de Talmont's daughter, warns the merchant, allowing him and his family to escape with their most precious possessions. In the heart of Sherwood, an inevitable confrontation takes place between the powers of the Sheriff, Robin Hood and the merchant's sacred book.

With Robin Hood presumed dead, Robert of Huntingdon (Jason Connery) steps forth to lead the outlaws.



Lurking in the shadow of the Sheriff of Nottingham is his lieutenant, Sir Guy of Gisburne (Robert Addie) who's related to the second Robin Hood.

While Elaina (Claire Parker) and Will Scarlet (Ray Winstone) find a private moment, the outlaws are stalked by an old enemy in "Cromm Cruac."



"Lord of the Trees"

Airdate: 3/23/85.

Director: James Allen.

Guest Cast: Bertrand de Neville: Oliver Tobias.

With the Sheriff gone again, Gisburne decides to finish off the outlaws. He hires an old friend, Bertrand de Neville, and his band of Flemish mercenaries. However, Robin's efforts to fight back are hampered as this is the sacred time of "The Blessing." During this harvest festival, in honor of Herne the Hunter, no blood can be shed.

"The Enchantment"

Airdate: 3/30/85.

Director: James Allen.

Guest Cast: Lilith: Gemma Craven.

Although he is the chosen of Herne, Robin isn't immune to other witchcraft. The evil enchantress, Lilith, wants the sacred "Silver Arrow" secured in Herne's cave. She brings Robin under her spell and he seems willing to obey her every wish. Once she has the arrow, she plans to raise the Baron Simon de Belleme (seen in the first episode) from his grave. Unless she and the evil Baron can be stopped, more than Robin and his men will perish. But can even Herne's power free Robin from this spell?

"The Swords of Wayland"

Airdates: 4/6/85 and 4/13/85.

Director: Robert Young.



Guest Cast: Morgwyn: Rula Lenska; Peter Verdelet: Dallas Adams; Gareth: James Donnelly; Earl Godwin: Anthony Steel.

After some months of being terrorized by the spook-like horsemen of the Hounds of Lucifer, a distant village sends to Robin for help. Robin quickly proves that the "Hounds" are very human members of the Cauldron of Lucifer, a coven ruled by the beautiful but wicked Morgwyn of Ravenscar. The coven realizes that Robin's sword "Albion" is one of seven swords they need to raise Lucifer. When she obtains the sword, Morgwyn turns the outlaws against their leader, and Robin, helpless, is left alone to fight for the Light.

"The Greatest Enemy"

Airdate: 4/20/90.

Director: Robert Young.

Threatened by King John with loss of office should he fail to dispose of Robin Hood, the Sheriff sets up a successful ambush. Only Robin, Marion and Robin's foster brother Much escape. Hunted by men-at-arms and their vicious hounds, the three are forced out to the safety of Sherwood and cornered on a rocky outcrop. Fighting back ferociously, arrows wreaking havoc, there seems to be little hope. Charging Marion with keeping alive all they've believed in, Robin sends her and Much away, allowing himself to be surrounded by and shot down by the Sheriff's men. He dies as his father before him died—or does he? If he does, then who is the Hooded Man who rescued the Merry Men and who now shoots the flaming arrow of remembrance? (Praed says he isn't dead—"You didn't see any arrows sticking out of me, did you?")

THIRD SERIES

"Herne's Son" Parts I and II

Airdates: 4/5/86, 4/12/86.

Writer: Richard Carpenter.

Director: Robert Young.

With Robin of Loxley seemingly dead, Marion, pardoned, has returned to live with her father, Sir Richard of Leaford. The other outlaws have gone to ground in the Saxon villages. But Herne is not yet done with them, nor with young Robert of Huntingdon, whom he called to save the



Marion of Sherwood (Judi Trott) married Robin at the first episode's end only to lose him in the second series' finale.



Little John's wedding plans run afoul of the pig lady Mad Mab (Anabelle Lee) and "Rutterkin."

Marion (Trott) and Much (Peter Llewellyn-Williams) must uphold Robin Hood's good name to the villagers in "Betrayal."



"The Inheritance"

Airdate: 4/26/86.
 Writer: Anthony Horowitz.
 Director: Ben Bolt.
 Guest Cast: Agrivaine: Cyril Cusack; Isadora: Cathryn Harrison; Mortimer: Jeremy Sinden; Raven: Derrick O'Connor; Skulley: David Rappaport.

A young woman, Isadora and her father Agrivaine, the guardian of a priceless treasure, live in a castle nearly falling down around their ears. Although the old man foresees his death in the Tarot cards, he's more worried about an immediate threat. His ex-steward Mortimer and the one-eyed ruffian Raven covet Agrivaine's treasure. Isadora comes to Robin for help—but Herne warns, "It is a time of trials...the king that was and the king that is to be....I cannot help you."

"The Sheriff of Nottingham"

Airdate: 5/3/86.
 Writer: Anthony Horowitz.
 Director: Christopher King.
 Guest Cast: Philip Mark: Lewis Collins; Sarak: Valentine Pelka.

Outraged by the Sheriff's inability to collect his taxes, King John finally decides to replace him. Naturally, the outlaws are delighted—until they meet the new Sheriff, Philip Mark, known as the Butcher of Lincoln. His Saracen bodyguard, Sarak, isn't much better. Philip Mark banishes his predecessor from both the castle and the town of Nottingham and leaves him deep in Sherwood Forest. Will Robin and the former Sheriff combine forces to deal with this threat?

"The Cross of Saint Ciricus"

Airdate: 5/10/86.
 Writer: Richard Carpenter.
 Director: Dennis Abey.
 Guest Cast: Lady Margaret: Dorothy Tutin; Abbot Martin: Brendan Price.

On their way to enrich the coffers of Croxden Abbey where the Cross of Saint Ciricus is said to have healing powers, Robin and his outlaws come across a Lady—robbed while also on her way to the abbey. Thinking she's about to die, the Lady asks Tuck to hear her confession and reveals a strange connection between herself, Robin and Sir Guy of Gisburne! Meanwhile, Gisburne, disguised as a leper, is making his own "pilgrimage" to Croxden Abbey for not-so-noble reasons.

"Cromm Cruac"

Airdate: 5/17/86.
 Writer: Anthony Horowitz.
 Director: Gerry Mill.
 Guest Cast: Abbot of Thornton Abbey: John Horsley; Elena: Clair Parker.

When Much falls prey to a forester's trap, his wound becomes infected and he seems likely to die. Far from their normal territory, the outlaws happen to meet a "good Samaritan" who offers to lead them to his village of Cromm Cruac where they'll find medical assistance. Friar Tuck, though, refuses to go, sensing something in the village's name that doesn't "feel" right. There could very well be something to that feeling—an old enemy with a grudge is nearby.

"The Betrayal"

Airdate: 5/24/86.
 Writers: John Flanagan and Andrew McCulloch.
 Director: James Allen.
 Guest Cast: Roger de Carnac: Matt Frewer.

Frustrated by the Sheriff's continuing ineffectiveness, King John comes to Nottingham to do
(continued on page 73)

outlaws from death. The Earl of Huntingdon and his son, Robert, are hosting a meeting to discuss a treaty between the King and the Welsh Marcher Lord Owen of Clun. Also attending are Sir Richard and Lady Marion. Young Robert is immediately interested in Marion, but Owen, especially after being rejected, rapidly becomes obsessed. His obsession leads him to kidnap Marion. Robert decides to seek help. Although only Tuck remains in the Forest, there is help there that is not human. Working against time, Robert and the reunited outlaws find an ally within Clun Castle.

"The Power of Albion"

Airdate: 4/19/86.
 Writer: Richard Carpenter.
 Director: Gerry Mill.

Robert of Huntingdon has now assumed the identity of "The Hooded Man" and dwells in Sherwood with the other outlaws. His previous life as the son of an earl didn't prepare him for this. When he receives a nasty wound in a raid, the outlaws must send for Marion and her medical skills. With Robert cared for, Marion falls into the Sheriff's hands when she arrives home. Since she has the sword Albion and the Sheriff has heard that "Robin Hood" is back in the forest, he imprisons her and confiscates the sword. Believing that he is still protected as an earl's son, Robert goes to Nottingham Castle to rescue Marion and the sword.

Robin

(continued from page 68)

the job himself. His latest crony is Roger de Carnac, who decides that Robin Hood can be destroyed if the belief that the villagers have in him can be undermined. It doesn't take long for word to spread that Robin has started stealing from the poor. Is even Herne powerless against the effects of bad press?

"Adam Bell"

Airdate: 5/31/86.

Writer: Anthony Horowitz.

Director: Gerry Mill.

Guest Cast: Adam Bell: Bryan Marshall; Lady

Isabel: Amanda Hillwood; Martin: Patrick Travis.

Visiting his grandfather, Much is captured by the Sheriff, who threatens to hang him. The Sheriff changes his tune when Adam Bell, a famous outlaw and now a senior citizen, kidnaps the Sheriff's nephew Martin. The Sheriff seems desperate to get his nephew back and uses Much to bargain for Robin Hood's help.

"The Pretender"

Airdate: 6/7/86.

Writer: Anthony Horowitz.

Director: Robert Young.

Guest Cast: Queen Hadwisa: Patricia Hodge;

Young Noble: Teece Dinsdale; Duke of

Gloucester: Russell Enoch; Isabella of

Angouleme: Cory Pulman.

When King John took a new wife, 12-year-old Isabella of Angouleme, two years previously, ex-queen Hadwisa was beside herself. She and her father, the powerful Duke of Gloucester, are now plotting against the King. There is no natural heir



As Herne the Hunter (John Abinerl) heralded "The Time of the Wolf," series three ended with many unresolved plotlines.

to the throne, only a pretender, Prince Arthur of Brittany, son of the King's brother, and now believed dead.

Meanwhile, Robin Hood saves a noble young man from the Duke's soldiers. He wants to join the Merry Men. What the Sheriff would say about this is moot, as he is confined to bed, having been bitten by his own dog (!). And, unfortunately, Gisburne is in charge.

"Rutterkin"

Airdate: 6/14/86.

Writer: Richard Carpenter.

Director: Gerry Mill.

Guest Cast: Lord Edgar: Ian Ogilvy; Mad Mab: Annabel Lee.

Little John intends to marry Meg of Wickham and leave the band, but those plans are stymied by some pigs who have run away from their owner, the bizarre pig lady. While roaming through Sherwood helping to round up the lost pigs, Robin stumbles across his oily uncle, Lord Edgar. Lord Edgar claims the Earl of Huntingdon, Robin's father, is endangered by an unaccountably ill King John, now in residence in Nottingham. Robin, naturally, agrees to help.

"Time of the Wolf"

(Parts I and II)

Airdates: 6/21/86 and 6/28/86.

Writer: Richard Carpenter.

Director: Sid Roberson.

Guest Cast: Grendal: James Coombes; Matthew: Robbie Bullock.

The harvest was poor and the winter promises to be hard, but King John orders all the grain to be taken from the villages to feed the army he is raising to fight the Welsh. Robin Hood and his band can't stand by and watch their friends starve, so they prepare the Wickham villagers for action. But this mundane horror pales before the sorcery being practiced at nearby Grimston Abbey and its associated "Sons of Fenris." Gisburne defects, joins up with the Sons of Fenris and captures Robin and his band. Marion, despite her reluctance to be hurt again, has agreed to marry Robin and waits for him at Halstead Abbey. The sorcerer, believing his powers supreme, unleashes a true terror on the countryside. When Marion finds a lifeless body in the Ring of the Nine Maidens, her world is shattered, but, "Nothing is forgotten. Nothing is ever forgotten."

