

EPISODE THREE
REVISED 13.6.84

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD

"LORD OF THE TREES"

BY

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"LORD OF THE TREES"

CHARACTERS

ROBIN
LITTLE JOHN
WILL SCARLET
MARION
MUCH
TUCK
NASIR
GISBURNE
ABBOT HUGO
FORESTER
BERTRAND DE NIVELLE
EDWARD
MEG
HERNE
FIRST BRABANCON - GUILLAUME
SECOND BRABANCON - WALTER
ALEHOUSE KEEPER
BOY

Non Speaking

MEGS FRIENDS
THE WIDOW
FIVE BRABANCONS
THREE FORESTERS
FOUR MUSICIANS
VILLAGERS
FOUR CHILDREN
ALE HOUSE KEEPER'S WIFE
GUARDS (TWO)
MONKS (FOUR)

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

ST. MARY'S ABBEY

ALE HOUSE

VILLAGE

SHERWOOD FOREST

FADE IN

C.1 INT. ALE HOUSE DAY C.1

OPEN on CLOSE UP of large earthenware jug being shattered as a wooden plate hits it. A roar of laughter.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

BERTRAND DE NIVELLE - a tall saturnine man - a contemporary of GISBURNE - stands laughing at the havoc being caused. His uniform is macho and flamboyant. He is an adventurer and poseur - convinced that no one is braver stronger or more good-looking than he is.

BERTRAND
Your aim is improving Guillaume!

GUILLAUME
Thank you, my lord!

GUILLAUME - a hugh Brabancon mercenary prepares to hurl another wooden plate at a second jug on the table. Two of his comrades are watching him - they are laughing and drinking. Others are raiding the kitchen. The WIFE of the ALE HOUSE KEEPER is trying in vain to stop the BRABANCONS from stealing food. BERTRAND - still laughing - strides over to her and taking her by the throat - rams her head with savage force against the wall, knocking her cold. As the ALE-HOUSE keeper goes to her aid BERTRAND still laughing backhands him knocking him to the floor.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

While the smashing of the flagons of ale continues, other BRABANCONS are smashing chairs and stools and systematically wrecking the place. A POT BOY crouches in a corner as bottles are hurled at him and tables are over-turned. TWO LOCALS are struggling with the BRABANCONS. The ALE HOUSE KEEPER staggers towards the POT BOY. Another BRABANCON - WALTER - comes from the kitchen carrying two rabbits which he holds up in triumph to show his comrades.

WALTER
My lord!

BERTRAND
Any chickens?

WALTER
Plenty! But I'm too drunk to catch
'em!

BERTRAND roars with laughter

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ALE HOUSE KEEPER
(To POT BOY)

Fetch Robin!

The POT BOY nods and starts to make for the door as the ALE HOUSE KEEPER is attacked by one of the BRABANCONS.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The POT BOY twists and turns through the scene of destruction. The BRABANCONS are too busy smashing the place up to notice him. He gets out of the door.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

TWO BRABANCONS hold the ALE HOUSE KEEPER and pour ale over him while a third uses an axe to smash open a barrel. Ale pours out onto the floor.

C.2 EXT. ALE HOUSE DAY C.2

The POT BOY runs out of the ale house. One or two LOCALS are watching timidly as the BRABANCONS continue their destruction of the ale house.

C.2A EXT. ALE HOUSE TRACK DAY C.2A

The POT BOY runs away from the alehouse towards the trees of the forest.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

C.3 EXT. VICINITY OF OUTLAWS CAMP DAY C.3

The POT BOY is running as fast as he can through the forest and towards the Outlaws camp.

C.4 EXT. OUTLAWS CAMP DAY C.4

LITTLE JOHN is wrestling NASIR - or trying to. The Saracen is using a few Karate holds and throws, which quite confuse LITTLE JOHN. ROBIN and the others watch with amazement. LITTLE JOHN is thrown.

LITTLE JOHN
This isn't wrestling!

MARION
It works.

LITTLE JOHN
Come on, then!

NASIR smiles. This infuriates LITTLE JOHN who charges at him only to be thrown again.

ROBIN
Nasir!

NASIR
Yes?

ROBIN
Teach us.

NASIR nods.

C.5 EXT. VICINITY OF OUTLAWS CAMP DAY C.5

The POT BOY sees the OUTLAWS ahead. NASIR is showing ROBIN a throw. The POT BOY pauses and just as he is about to run on, MUCH drops into FRAME behind him and grabs him.

MUCH
What d'you want eh? What d'you
want?

C.6 EXT. OUTLAWS CAMP DAY C.6

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS are listening grimly to the POT BOY'S story.

POT BOY
Gone made they 'ave. Smashin'
everythin'.

ROBIN
Gisburne's men?

The POT BOY shakes his head

POT BOY
Strangers

ROBIN looks at the others. Swiftly they grab their weapons and ROBIN leads the way quickly with the POT BOY beside him.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

L.S. The OUTLAWS and the POT BOY running through the trees.

C.7 EXT. ALEHOUSE DAY C.7

OPEN on the leader of the BRABANCONS. He is a tall saturnine man - BERTRAND DE NIVELLES - a contemporary of GISBURNE'S. His uniform is very macho and flamboyant. BERTRAND is an adventurer and poseur. He is convinced that no one is more brave, more strong, more good-looking or more clever than he. Somewhat unsteadily, he mounts his horse while one or two VILLAGERS watch him nervously. He is in great good humour and still laughing at the antics of his companions who leave the alehouse carrying their loot, sacks of food and grain, bottles and goatskins of mead.

BERTRAND
To Nottingham! I think we've
outstayed our welcome!

C.7A EXT. ALEHOUSE TRACK DAY C.7A

The BRABANCONS mount up and move off slowly with BERTRAND at their head.

CUT TO:

LONG SHOT

BERTRAND
(Singing)
Put a sword in my hand!

The BRABANCONS join in loudly and drunkenly.

BRABANCONS

Put a sword in my hand
and your money in my purse -

BERTRAND

"I'll be yours to command"

BRABANCONS

"While your enemies curse"

BERTRAND

"But if they have more silver"
"Than you can supply"

BRABANCONS

"Then they'll be my masters
And you my lord will die!"

The final lines are faint as the little column of mercenaries
disappears down the Nottingham road watched by the terrified VILLAGERS.

C.8 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST DAY C.8

ROBIN, POT BOY and OUTLAWS racing through Sherwood.

C.9 INT. ALEHOUSE DAY C.9

OPEN CLOSE on ALEHOUSE KEEPER with ROBIN and NASIR bending over him.

ALEHOUSE KEEPER

Brabancons

ROBIN

Why did they do it?

TUCK has joined them.

TUCK

It's their idea of a good time.

ALEHOUSE KEEPER

I welcomed them. Gave 'em everything
they wanted. They drank too much. Went
wild. I - I couldn't stop 'em - thought
they were going to kill us all.

ROBIN
You were lucky.

SCARLET and LITTLE JOHN come out of the ale house supporting the man they've been talking to.

LITTLE JOHN
It's a shambles, Robin. They
must've used axes.

ROBIN
Brabancons! Land pirates -
the worst kind of mercenary.

CUT TO:

B.C.U. SCARLET
SCARLET reacts.

CUT TO:

WIDER ANGLE

SCARLET turns away and walks some way apart from the others. LITTLE JOHN looks questioningly at ROBIN.

ROBIN
(quietly)
It was men like these who
killed Scarlet's wife.

As LITTLE JOHN looks back at SCARLET, SCARLET turns back to him. He looks very dangerous.

SCARLET
(with quiet menace)
Which way were they heading?

One of the VILLAGERS points.

LITTLE JOHN
Nottingham.

SCARLET looks at ROBIN. Waiting for him to give the word. He doesn't.

SCARLET
Well?

ROBIN shakes his head.

LITTLE JOHN
Why not, Robin?

ROBIN
Because they're mounted and we'll never catch 'em.

LITTLE JOHN
(To SCARLET)
He's right.

SCARLET is angry, but he knows it is useless.

ROBIN
(To SCARLET)
We'll get them. I promise you.
We'll get them...

C. 10 EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY C.10

Establishing shot.

C.12 INT. MAIN HALL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE. DAY C.12

ABBOT HUGO storms into the Main Hall. GISBURNE is sitting in the Sherrifs chair at the top of a small flight of steps. In front of him stand FOUR FORESTERS in the livery of the Royal Castle of Nottingham.

ABBOT HUGO
You are holding one of my servants.
I want him released.

GISBURNE rudely remains seated.

GISBURNE
He's been released.

ABBOT HUGO
When?

GISBURNE
After he was sentenced.

ABBOT HUGO stares at GISBURNE.

ABBOT HUGO
You sentenced him?

GISBURNE
(calmly)
Certainly. I caught him poaching.

ABBOT HUGO
You mean to say - you - you -

GISBURNE
(nodding)
His right hand, my lord.

ABBOT HUGO
(enraged)
By God, Gisburne -

GISBURNE
I would remind you that as Sherrif I

ABBOT HUGO
Sherrif! You're not Sherrif! My
brother appointed you his deputy!
And in my opinion, he was out of his
mind!

GISBURNE
As Sherrif, my lord Abbot, I have
the right to administer justice as I
see fit!

The two of them look angrily at each other. ABBOT HUGO controls himself with great difficulty.

ABBOT HUGO
All right, Gisburne - all right.
It's obvious the whole thing's gone
to your head. You've mutilated my
servant and I don't intend to let
the matter rest. And when my
brother returns from London -

GISBURNE
(interrupting loudly)
I shall tell him!

ABBOT HUGO
(To FORESTERS)
What are you doing here?

GISBURNE
I sent for them!

ABBOT HUGO

Alarmed by the sudden increase in poaching no doubt. No wonder they call you Guy the Gamekeeper! Have they given you an explanation?

GISBURNE

They were about to, - (to FORESTERS)

Well?

The FORESTER moves uncomfortably, cap in hand. He is a big man - a countryman - and in awe of his surroundings.

FORESTER

I don't rightly know what to say, my lord. There's - there's always more poachin' this time of year -

GISBURNE

Always?

FORESTER

Er - on account of The Blessing.

GISBURNE

The Blessing? What are you talking about?

ABBOT HUGO

Never heard of it, have you?

GISBURNE

(angrily)

My lord - if you -

ABBOT HUGO

(To FORESTER)

Go on. Go on!

FORESTER

It's - it's an old festival the people of Sherwood keep - sort of a celebration like - to the coming of summer. Goes back - oh must be hundreds of years. It - it - begins tonight.

GISBURNE

Does it.

FORESTER

Well, my lord - there's - there's feasting in Sherwood - and - you see - nothing can be killed during the time of - of The Blessing. No blood must be shed.

GISBURNE

So they shed it beforehand - is that what you're trying to say?

FORESTER

Yes, my lord.

GISBURNE leaps to his feet.

GISBURNE

And you let them!

ABBOT HUGO is enjoying the situation now.

FORESTER

No, my lord! But it's hard to prevent.

GISBURNE

So you turn a blind eye to it!

FORESTER

No, my lord!

GISBURNE

I think you do. You know when this orgy's about to take place and so you keep out of the way!

FORESTER

No, my lord, we don't!

There is a chorus from the other FORESTERS.

GISBURNE

Be silent! You say it begins tonight.

FORESTER

Yes, my lord.

ABBOT HUGO

I wouldn't do anything silly Gisburne. Sherwood's no place to be after dark.

GISBURNE

D'you think I'm afraid of shadows?

ABBOT HUGO

No, I don't. But what about your men?

GISBURNE

Soon, my lord Abbot I shall have men who fear nothing.

ABBOT HUGO looks questioningly at GISBURNE.

C.13. EXT. HERNE'S CLEARING EVENING C.13

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS are making their way toward the sounds of talking and laughter. A small drum can be heard and pipes are playing. The OUTLAWS quicken their pace.

C.14 EXT. HERNE'S CLEARING EVENING C.14

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS come into the clearing. It is a festive scene. Fires are burning and the carcasses of deer are being roasted over them. VILLAGERS from the countryside surrounding the forest have congregated and are talking and laughing among themselves. A group of girls turn and stare as the OUTLAWS approach. One of them is MEG of Wickham. When she sees LITTLE JOHN she comes running towards him.

MEG

John! Oh, my Little John!

MEG throws herself into his arms. The other GIRLS laugh and then come forward to lead away NASIR, and SCARLET. They disappear among the crowd. A tall, powerful man, a blacksmith called EDWARD comes towards MARION and ROBIN. He is head man of his village, down to earth and jocular.

EDWARD

Welcome to Herne's Son and his Lady.
Blessed be.

ROBIN and MARION

Blessed be.

TUCK

(genially)

Amen!

EDWARD

Ay - and amen too, Friar!

EDWARD leads them through the friendly crowd, many of whom know ROBIN and MARION and smile at them and clasp their hands.

EDWARD
We've invaded your kingdom, Robin!

ROBIN
Sherwood should belong to everyone.

EDWARD
Even Guy the Gamekeeper?

ROBIN
No. Not him!

EDWARD sits at the head of the table with ROBIN and MARION on his right. TUCK sits next to MARION and finds the person on the other side of him is an ample-bosomed WIDOW who gives him a winning smile. TUCK reacts rather apprehensively. He can tell the WIDOW is somewhat predatory! Everyone begins eating and drinking. There is much laughter.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

It is now night and a mediaeval round dance is in full swing round the main fire with two rings of dancers threading in and out clockwise and anti-clockwise.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

TWO VILLAGERS have small drums and TWO more have pipes. MUCH has joined the village band for the evening and is having a wonderful time. The tune is wild and folky. The drummers increase the tempo the piping becomes more shrill and the whirling dancers get faster and faster.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The dancers race past each other. They are all breathless yet caught up in the exhilarating movement. We see MARION - her long hair flying as she dances round. Among the two circles of dancers we also see ROBIN, NASIR, LITTLE JOHN and SCARLET. TUCK is there too, and they all race round faster and faster until we too become part of the dizzy movement round the fire. The music reaches a crescendo as does the clapping of the on-lookers and then suddenly stops. A roar of laughter goes up from everyone and then the dancers begin collapsing to the ground with exhaustion. We see ROBIN and MARION sprawling on the ground - LITTLE JOHN with MEG who kisses him passionately. There is much laughter and noise.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

It is sometime later. The fire has died down and everyone is sitting on the ground, waiting for HERNE to appear, all looking towards the brow of a hillock. They sit in little groups under the trees. It is silent except for the singing of a nightingale and even that comes to an end. The CAMERA PANS to find ROBIN sitting quietly with MARION, LITTLE JOHN with MEG, NASIR with a GIRL each side of him. SCARLET sits with GIRL and we see that the WIDOW has fastened on TUCK and is leaning amorously against him. TUCK pretends it isn't happening. Nobody speaks, and nobody moves.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF CLOSE UPS

EDWARD, MEG, MARION, TUCK, MEG, LITTLE JOHN, NASIR, SCARLET and finally ROBIN.

ROBIN
(softly)
He's coming.

CUT TO:

ROBIN'S P.O.V

ROBIN is tense. There is a pause - and then - slowly - HERNE's antlers appear over the brow of the hillock accompanied by a strange faraway high pitched sound. HERNE moves on up the hillock until he stands mysterious and awesome in the moonlight.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Without a word, all the VILLAGERS and OUTLAWS get to their knees. Four little girls with circlets of daisies round their heads walk slowly towards the hillock. Then they too kneel down and place their gifts of bread on the ground at HERNE's feet. Very slowly, HERNE raises his arms in the ancient blessing.

C.15 INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT C.15

OPEN CLOSE on BERTRAND DE NIVELLE as he swaggers down the Main Hall of NOTTINGHAM CASTLE. He is followed by his men. They carry swords and cross-bows.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE and ABBOT HUGO, still not on the best of terms, sit eating at a large table laden with food. GISBURNE, still heady with power and a little drunk is overjoyed to see BERTRAND. His greeting is wildly enthusiastic. ABBOT HUGO stares angrily at the Brabancons.

GISBURNE
Bertrand!

The two men embrace.

BERTRAND
My old friend! It's been a long time!

GISBURNE
Indeed it has. Welcome to Nottingham.

BERTRAND frowns at GISBURNES face.

BERTRAND
You've been in the wars I see.

GISBURNE sobers for a moment and fingers his scars.

GISBURNE
What this ...?

BERTRAND
So you've a score to settle?

GISBURNE
Later ... we'll talk later.

GISBURNE's spirits revive. BERTRAND raps GISBURNE's stomach.

BERTRAND
And you've put on weight!

GISBURNE
Not an ounce!

BERTRAND
You have you know! You were a damned sight thinner at Argentan!

GISBURNE
We starved at Argentan!

BERTRAND
Maybe! But we fought like tigers, didn't we? Back to back! Knee deep in blood!
Ah ha! (he draws)

GISBURNE laughs and draws. They fight playfully. BERTRAND is clearly sharper and faster. With a laugh he disarms GISBURNE and roars with laughter, turning to acknowledge the roar of approval from his men. GISBURNE picks up his sword, doing his best to cover his embarrassment.

GISBURNE

And the massacre at Montauban -
remember that? When you were
trapped under your horse and I

BERTRAND

(quickly)

Not me - that wasn't me -

GISBURNE

Yes - yes it was Bertrand - and I -

BERTRAND

No Guy - you've mixed me up with
someone else. But I've never
forgotten when we stormed Chauvigni
and you fell off the the seige
ladder and killed two of my men!
I've dined out on that story for
years!

He turns to his men who roar with laughter.

GISBURNE

It was you under that horse!

BERTRAND

(easily)

No, Guy, no - anyway, here we are -
at your command - ready to serve you
- that's if you can afford it!
(quoting) 'The daring shall
triumph' That's the old motto of
the Nivelles. (Looks at HUGO)
Who's that?

GISBURNE

Abbot Hugo de Rainault.

BERTRAND swaggers up to HUGO who is looking very grim. BERTRAND gives him a mocking bow.

BERTRAND

Your servant my lord. Bertrand de
Nivelles.

ABBOT HUGO

(sourly)

Yes - I've heard of you -

GISBURNE

One of the finest soldiers in Europe.

ABBOT HUGO

And one of the richest.

BERTRAND

True, my lord. Fighting's nearly as profitable as praying!

The BRABANCONS laugh.

ABBOT HUGO

What are you doing here?

BERTRAND puts his arms round GUY'S shoulder.

BERTRAND

Because my dear friend asked us here!

ABBOT HUGO

(to GISBURNE)

Brabancon cut-throats?

BERTRAND

Watch your tongue, priest!

ABBOT HUGO

Don't you talk to me like that!

BERTRAND

I'll talk to you how I please. As I talk to any man. Even one in skirts!

ABBOT HUGO

I'll have you excommunicated!

BERTRAND

You're too late! It's already been done!

ABBOT HUGO

(to GISBURNE)

How much are you paying 'em?

BERTRAND

That's his business!

GISBURNE

I'm Sherrif!

ABBOT HUGO
You'll never be Sherrif. I want
them out of Nottingham!

BERTRAND
We're here for a purpose - and we're
staying!

ABBOT HUGO
I know your purpose. Rape and
pillage!

GISBURNE
Who's to blame for most of the deer
killed in Sherwood?

SILENCE

ABBOT HUGO
So that's it!

GISBURNE
With their help I shall kill Robin
Hood and everyone who supports him.

ABBOT HUGO gets to his feet.

ABBOT HUGO
You're out of your depth, Gisburne!

ABBOT HUGO and his monks sweep out.

BERTRAND
(calling after him)
And you're out of order, priest!

Everyone laughs and BERTRAND embraces GISBURNE once more. GISBURNE is
just a bit worried.

C. 16 EXT. HERNE'S CLEARING DAY C.16

It is early morning in Sherwood and the VILLAGERS are leaving the
clearing and preparing to go back home. ROBIN and MARION stand
watching.

CUT TO:

MEG and LITTLE JOHN

LITTLE JOHN

Till tonight then

MEG

Till tonight

MEG kisses him. She turns to go and walks back to where her friends are saying goodbye to NASIR and SCARLET. Then the GIRLS move away down the forest path in the early morning sunlight. Then they turn and wave to the OUTLAWS. The feeling is lyrical, peaceful.

CUT TO:

RESUME on MARION and ROBIN

One of the VILLAGE CHILDREN runs up and hugs MARION who crouches down and kisses her. The CHILD gives MARION a flower and MARION puts it in her hair. The CHILD runs off laughing.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The WIDOW waves prettily to TUCK who is embarrassed when he sees that ROBIN and MARION are watching him. He grins self-consciously at the WIDOW who gives him a lecherous wink before joining the departing VILLAGERS.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

MUCH is still with the MUSICIANS, talking and laughing. He goes with them down the path and when they wave back at the OUTLAWS so does he. Then, he suddenly realises that he is with the OUTLAWS and runs back to join them.

C.17 EXT. VILLAGE DAY C.17

The village is decked out for the festival of The Blessing. There is an altar in the centre of the village on which a pair of antlers are lying. The altar is decorated with flowers. For the most part, the VILLAGERS are sitting sleepily in front of their huts.

C.18 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE DAY C.18

LONG SHOT

GISBURNÉ, BERTRAND and the rest of the BRABANCONS racing towards the distant village.

C.19

EXT.

VILLAGE

DAY

C.19

GISBURNE gallops into the village with BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS. They all wheel their horses, shouting and swearing at the VILLAGERS. WOMEN run and pick up their children. We see MEG and the GIRLS get to their feet. Soon the entire village is facing GISBURNE and the BRABANCONS.

GISBURNE

I'm looking for venison. And the means of acquiring it. Search the village, Bertrand.

BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS dismount. They tie up their horses.

EDWARD

You're wasting your time, my lord. There's nothing here. I swear it.

GISBURNE

You swear it, do you?

BERTRAND and his men hurry towards the huts. The VILLAGERS offer no resistance. GISBURNE - still mounted - looks at the altar.

GISBURNE

What's that?

EDWARD

An altar.

GISBURNE

An altar? With antlers on it? That's proof of poaching.

EDWARD

Those antlers are nigh on a hundred years old. If you want the man who killed that stag, you'll have to dig him up!

There is some laughter from the VILLAGERS. Meanwhile BERTRAND and his men are searching the huts, pulling people outside and hurling their belongings from the door.

EDWARD

You call this law?

GISBURNE

The only law

BRABANCON

(calling to BERTRAND)

Captain

C19A

EXT.

SACRED TREE

DAY

C.19A

GISBURNE looks towards a large chestnut tree. Flowers are piled against it. EDWARD follows GISBURNE's look and becomes apprehensive. GISBURNE notices EDWARDS nervousness and immediately assumes that the tree is a hiding place.

GISBURNE

So that's your hiding place!

EDWARD

No, my lord. The tree is sacred.

BERTRAND hears this and turns to his men.

BERTRAND

A holy tree!

The BRABANCONS laugh. GISBURNE moves towards the chestnut tree. EDWARD and the villagers run across until they all stand between GISBURNE and the tree.

EDWARD

No, my lord. The tree is sacred to Herne!

GISBURNE

Search it!

BERTRAND and his men move forward. The villagers retreat and gather round the tree linking their arms. BERTRAND and his men begin pulling the people away from the tree, punching and striking them. The VILLAGERS offer no real resistance and do not fight back. All remain at the tree until they are knocked out or hurled to the ground by the brutal tactics of the BRABANCONS. EDWARD is knocked to the ground. PEG is hit across the face. The WIDOW is dragged away. Some villagers get back to the tree only to be mauled again by the BRABANCONS who are obviously enjoying themselves. EDWARD struggles to his feet again but is kicked and punched until he collapses. GISBURNE watches it all impassively.

C.19B

EXT.

SACRED TREE

DAY

C.19B

LATER:

The VILLAGERS are now herded away from the tree. The BRABANCONS have completed their search of the tree. GUILLAUME and WALTER slide down ropes and report to GISBURNE.

GISBURNE

Nothing?

GUILLAUME

Nothing.

WALTER

No bows, no arrows and not even
a smell of venison.

GISBURNE is furious.

GISBURNE
(to VILLAGERS)

GISBURNE really loses his temper. He siezes a fighting axe from GUILLAUME and attacks the enormous sacred tree. The VILLAGERS cry out in anger. EDWARD tries to stop him.

EDWARD

I beg you, my lord.

But GISBURNE is determined.

GISBURNE

I'll teach you to worship trees,
you blasphemous villain!

GISBURNE swings the axe wildly bringing down the sacred offerings and decorations, trampling them underfoot.

EDWARD and VILLAGERS

EDWARD

He's cursed!

RESUME on GISBURNE

GISBURNE again swings the axe, it bites into the tree. EDWARD prays to HERNE. Slowly and deliberately.

EDWARD

Herne - Lord of the Trees - let him know your power. Let the terror of darkness hunt him down and hold him in the coldness of death.

ANOTHER ANGLE

BERTRAND and his men watch GISBURNE's futile and furious attack on the tree.
BERTRAND is amused.

CLOSE UP

GISBURNE sweating as he weilds his axe.

ANOTHER ANGLE

PAN along the faces of the beaten VILLAGERS. They stand defeated and hopeless. Some are sobbing. We see MEG, her face swollen and bruised. Tears running down her cheeks.

BERTRAND and ERABANCONS

He leans, arms folded, relaxed and amused by GISBURNE's antics.
He turns to his men.

BERTRAND

What a hero!

GISBURNE swings again

CUT TO;

CLOSE UP

Axe blade biting into tree bark.

C.20

EXT

SHERWOOD

DAY

C.20

B.C.U. ROBIN

His reaction as he 'feels' the axe biting.

The OUTLAWS sit in a circle, eating. Suddenly ROBIN gets up-
every nerve taut. He has 'seen' the desecration. MARION and
the others look at him.

MARION

What is it?

ROBIN

Gisburne!

ND OF PART ONE

PART TWO

FADE IN

C.21 EXT SACRED TREE DAY C.21

OPEN on ROBIN standing by the fallen chestnut tree. He is very angry at GISBURNES act of desecration. PAN to where MARION and the other outlaws are with the wounded and bruised villagers. LITTLE JOHN is comforting MEG.

LITTLE JOHN
There, lass, there. You'll be all right.

MEG nods, she sobs with pain and shock. Her face is bruised.

LITTLE JOHN
By God - I'll kill the man who did this.

SCARLET is bending over the GIRL he was with at the Blessing. She is even more badly hurt than MEG. SCARLET cradles her in his arms and looks up as ROBIN comes silently back from the ash tree.

SCARLET
(angrily)
Are you satisfied now?

ROBIN comes to the group.

ROBIN
(to MEG)
Which way?

MEG
Towards Elderford.

The OUTLAWS gather round. The pace quickens.

LITTLE JOHN
If we cross the stream at Denley we'll cut 'em off.

ROBIN
(nodding)
Then let's go!

The OUTLAWS prepare to leave. The VILLAGERS are looking fearful.

MARION
We can't!

SCARLET

Can't?

MARION

It's the time of the Blessing.

EDWARD

If you shed blood, then Herne's
Blessing will be denied and the harvest
will fail.

ROBIN

(angrily)

But that's -

He breaks off suddenly aware of the full significance of the VILLAGER'S
belief. MARION comes to him. She speaks quietly.

MARION

You're Herne's Son.

ROBIN turns away and walks a few paces. He is confused and at the
same time frustrated. MARION goes to him.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN

No bloodshed. Herne forbids it!

SCARLET

Tell that to the Brabancons!

LITTLE JOHN

Ay - go on! Go to 'em Robin! Tell
'em - it's the time of the Blessing.
Tell 'em we can't fight back, tell 'em
we're powerless for two whole days!

TUCK

They'll raid every village!

ROBIN

I know they will.

SCARLET

And you're going to let them?

LITTLE JOHN

What about tonight? What if they
come into the forest?

ROBIN is thinking. The others wait.

ROBIN

We'll capture them. Unharméd.

The OUTLAWS react.

C.22 INT. ST. MARYS ABBEY DAY C.22

GISBURNE is with ABBOT HUGO who is being shaved by a nervous MONK.

GISBURNE

I'm not talking about poaching. I'm
talking about blasphemy, paganism -
Herne the Hunter -

ABBOT HUGO pushes away the monk who is shaving him.

ABBOT HUGO

Are you? And what's brought on this
surge of missionary zeal?

GISBURNE

I'm surprised you're so complaisant,
my lord. I thought the Church
condemned witchcraft.

ABBOT HUGO

We're not talking about witchcraft
Gisburne! As long as they come to
Mass - have their children baptised
- are married and buried as Christians
- I'm not too bothered what they get up to.
Leave well alone, Gisburne, or you might find
the old gods aren't quite as dead as you
think.

GISBURNE

Dead? They've never existed.

GISBURNE storms out. As the MONK comes forward again, ABBOT HUGO
waves him away furiously.

ABBOT HUGO
(feeling his chin)

That'll do! Get a scribe. I'm
going to write to my brother! That
young man's gone much too far.

C.23 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE DAY C.23

GISBURNE and the BRABANCONS riding away from a village. TWO of the
huts are burning. Two men lie dead. An alter to Herne has been
wrecked. Women are weeping.

C.24 EXT. FOREST PATH DAY C.24

MARION and MUCH return.

MARION
Eight including Gisburne.

MUCH
By the stream.

ROBIN
John - !

LITTLE JOHN follows ROBIN in the direction of the stream. SCARLET,
MARION, NASIR, MUCH, and TUCK, take up their positions in and around
the trees.

C.25 EXT VICINITY OF STREAM DAY C.25

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN move forward through the undergrowth. On the far bank, they can see GISBURNE and the BRABANCONS. ROBIN very slowly takes an arrow from his quiver and puts it on his bow. On the other bank BERTRAND is talking to GISBURNE. ROBIN takes aim.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT GISBURNE and BERTRAND

BERTRAND
There's no point hanging around here, Guy - we may as well move on. I'm hungry.

One of the BRABANCONS hands him back the bottle.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON ROBIN

He shoots.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON BERTRAND

The bottle shatters and ROBIN's arrow thuds into a tree. GISBURNE, BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS dive for cover.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON ROBIN

ROBIN
Gisburne!

CUT TO:

RESUME ON GISBURNE and BERTRAND

BERTRAND is about to put his head up. GISBURNE pulls him down.

GISBURNE
Keep down! His aim's deadly.

CUT TO:

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN

After a moment ROBIN moves forward.

ROBIN
(to LITTLE JOHN)
Show yourself.

LITTLE JOHN
You'll get us killed.

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN move out of cover.

ROBIN
Can you hear me, Gisburne?

CUT TO:

GISBURNE and BERTRAND

GISBURNE
You!

BERTRAND can see ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN standing on the far bank.

ROBIN
I don't like the company you're
keeping.

BERTRAND signals to his men and prepares to charge across the stream.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON ROBIN

ROBIN
(to himself)
Come on - take the bait! (To
GISBURNE) Pay 'em off and you can
all leave Sherwood.

GISBURNE
Alive?

ROBIN
Alive.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON GISBURNE

He is puzzled.

GISBURNE
Why? Why let us go?

CUT TO:

RESUME ON ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN

ROBIN
(to himself)
Come on!

CUT TO:

RESUME ON GISBURNE

The light is beginning to dawn in Gisburne's brain. He holds up a warning hand to BERTRAND and his men.

GISBURNE
(to ROBIN)
We're sitting ducks. You could've
killed all of us. Why didn't you?

CUT TO:

RESUME ON ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN

ROBIN
(to LITTLE JOHN)
He's got it.

GISBURNE
Because it's the time of the
Blessing isn't it?

ROBIN
(to LITTLE JOHN)
Took him long enough!

CUT TO:

RESUME ON GISBURNE and BERTRAND

They get to their feet.

GISBURNE
(a roar)
Get them!!

TWO BRABANCONS rise and shoot crossbows. As the quarrels whine across the stream, ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN dive out of their path. At the same time GISBURNE, BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS mount up and charge across the stream.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN roll to their feet and head off in the direction of the ambush. Moments later, GISBURNE and BERTRAND followed by the BRABANCONS ride up the bank in pursuit of ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN racing through the trees.

ROBIN
Are they coming?

LITTLE JOHN
Yes!

They race on.

CUT TO:

GISBURNE and BERTRAND

As they ride they can just see ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN ahead.

INTERCUT:

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN

GISBURNE, BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS

C.26 EXT VICINITY OF AMBUSH DAY C.26

MARION looks up. She is perched with the others, above the track.

MARION
They're coming!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

SCARLET sits on a tree branch, a knife in his hand to cut the rope holding up one of the nets.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

NASIR is also ready.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

TUCK and MUCH wait tensely.

C.27 EXT FOREST PATH DAY C.27

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN racing down the forest path. In the distance behind them can be seen GISBURNE and the others.

C.28 EXT VICINITY OF AMBUSH DAY C.28

MARION'S P.O.V.

She sees ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN running towards them.

MARION
Ready!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The OUTLAWS prepare to release the nets. ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN run past beneath them.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE suddenly reins his horse and BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS do the same.

GISBURNE
No further!

BERTRAND
You're crazy!

GISBURNE
Am I? Why only two of them? Why show themselves?

BERTRAND
(comprehendingly)
An ambush.

GISBURNE nods.

GISBURNE
A bloodless one! It has to be!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN stop running.

ROBIN
They've stopped

LITTLE JOHN
Ay - they have. But why?

ROBIN
Maybe Gisburne's learning to think.

They look at each other.

ROBIN
That makes him dangerous.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT MARION

She watches as GISBURNE and the BRABANCONS turn their horses and ride away.

MARION
They're turning back.

CUT TO:

TUCK and MUCH

TUCK
Didn't fall for it.

CUT TO:

SCARLET and NASIR

SCARLET
(disgusted)
The Blessing! No blessing for us,
is it?

C. 29 EXT SHERWOOD DAY C.29

GUY is riding along with BERTRAND at his side.

BERTRAND
So that was your Robin Hood....

GISBURNE

And he's powerless until after the
Blessing.

BERTRAND

I'm hungry.

GISBURNE

We'll eat in Wickham. And then
we'll find out where they hold their
heathen rites.

BERTRAND

That could be interesting.

They ride on, followed by the BRABANCONS, talking and laughing.

C.30 EXT VILLAGE DAY C.30

The VILLAGERS, who are kneeling in front of the altar to HERNE, look
round as they see GISBURNE and the others, approaching the village.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

EDWARD and MEG see them coming and rise.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE rides into the village followed by the others as the VILLAGERS
rise and cower away. GISBURNE dismounts followed by the others.

CUT TO:

SINGLE ON GISBURNE

GISBURNE

You!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

EDWARD comes forward defiantly.

EDWARD

My lord.

EDWARD looks at them impassively.

GISBURNE

Bring us food!

EDWARD

All you want, my lords.
Apart from venison!

EDWARD signals to the VILLAGERS.

CUT TO;

ANOTHER ANGLE

It is later and the shadows are beginning to lengthen across the Village. A table has been brought and GISBURNE and BERTRAND, with the BRABANCONS are seated round it eating and drinking - served by the villagers. BERTRAND holds out his wooden goblet and MEG fills it from an earthenware jug. As she moves on to the next BRABANCON, BERTRAND grabs her and pulls her onto his lap and tries to kiss her. Somehow she manages to wriggle away.

BERTRAND

Don't you like handsome men?

MEG

Yes. D'you know any?

BERTRAND who is a bit drunk, roars with laughter.

EDWARD approaches the table

EDWARD

Er -- my lords - the mummers -
the maskers have come.

GISBURNE

Maskers?

EDWARD

A play, my lord.

GISBURNE

Part of your heathen festival is it?

EDWARD

No, my lord. There ain't no harm in it.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

From one of the huts come the maskers. They jig forward like Morris dancers accompanied by a tabor and pipe. The pipe is played by MUCH and the tabor by MARION. All the maskers have blackened faces to disguise them and their hair is covered by head-dresses of straw. Their costumes are made of strips of parchment and platted straw and effectively disguise their shape. TUCK has hitched up his robe to the knees so it is no longer visible. He wears a wig made of coarse string with two huge pig-tails. He also has enormous false bosoms. LITTLE JOHN is in a hobby horse, and he, ROBIN and NASIR carry huge wooden swords at the 'slope'. SCARLET carries a big straw bag. The maskers jig up to the table and stop in front of GISBURNE and the BRABANCONS. ROBIN swaggers forward in a way that reminds us of BERTRAND.

ROBIN

(country accent)

In comes I, St. George is my name
With my great sword I mean to win
this game
If I could meet the Saracen Knight,
here,
I'd beat him and bale him and stick
my sword in his ear.

The BRABANCONS cheer. GISBURNE looks disdainful. LITTLE JOHN 'gallops forward.

LITTLE JOHN

(country accent)

In comes I, the Saracen Knight
Just come from the foreign land to
fight
Come to fight St. George the Bold
And if his blood runs hot, I'll make
it cold.

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN circle each other, getting nearer to the table.

ROBIN

Battle to battle to you I call
To see who on this ground shall
fall.

LITTLE JOHN

Battle to battle with thee I pray
To see who on this ground shall lay.

ROBIN attacks wielding his wooden sword with both hands. LITTLE JOHN does the same. They fight clumsily with the BRABANCONS cheering them on, as do the VILLAGERS. LITTLE JOHN runs ROBIN through and he dies, over-acting to the end, and arranging to fall quite near GISBURNE. TUCK minces forward.

TUCK
(falsetto)

Oh, Doctor, Doctor!
Where can a doctor be?
Can cure my son who lies like a
fallen tree?

SCARLET hurries forward as the doctor carrying his bag.

SCARLET
In comes I - a doctor good
And with my hand I'll stop the
scarlet blood.

SCARLET crouches down and puts a hand on ROBIN's heart.

TUCK
What can you cure?

SCARLET
Anything. I can cure a magpie with
toothache.

TUCK
How?

SCARLET
Chop its head off.

The BRABANCONS roar with laughter. SCARLET rummages in his bag.

SCARLET
I got a bag to cure all ills
The itch, stitch, palsy and gout.
Pains within and pains without.

SCARLET takes an enormous pill about the size of a golf ball and pretends to put it in ROBIN's mouth.

SCARLET
Rise up!

ROBIN sits bolt upright.

ROBIN
Once I was dead and now I'm alive
Blessed be the Doctor who did me revive!

ROBIN jumps up, grabbing his wooden sword.

ROBIN
Now!

NASIR, ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN swing at the BRABANCONS with their wooden swords, knocking three of them cold. SCARLET takes a club from his bag and lays out BERTRAND. TUCK head-butts another. Taken completely by surprise the rest of them including GISBURNE are soon overpowered and disarmed by the OUTLAWS. SCARLET produces lengths of rope from his doctor's bag while LITTLE JOHN divests himself of the hobby horse. GISBURNE is still dazed as is BERTRAND. (N.B. This rough house is comic).

ROBIN
(country accent)
'I mean to win this game' Gisburne!

GISBURNE looks up at him in complete disbelief.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

It is sunset. GISBURNE and the BRABANCONS have been tied to the fallen ash tree. ROBIN is wiping the black from his face and has taken off his mummers costume. The rest of the OUTLAWS are being helped out of theirs by the VILLAGERS. They are laughing and joking among themselves.

ROBIN
It'll be dark soon, Guy. A pity you'll miss the Blessing. You're badly in need of one!

LITTLE JOHN
We'll be back in the morning to decide what to do with you!

SCARLET
Might cure all your toothaches eh?

GISBURNE watches at the OUTLAWS and VILLAGERS move away. BERTRAND struggles to free himself. TWO VILLAGERS have been left as guards.

GISBURNE
(a roar of rage)
I'll kill the lot of you!

BERTRAND
Singlehanded?

BERTRAND continues to struggle. GISBURNE glares at him.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT BERTRANDS WRISTS

They twist and turn against the rope

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS mingle with the VILLAGERS who take torches they have prepared and light them in one of the fires outside the huts. there is much talk and laughter. The OUTLAWS are surrounded by the VILLAGE GIRLS. TUCK is doing his best to avoid the WIDOW.

EDWARD
Come, friends!

A ragged procession leaves the village. EVERYONE is in a festive and happy mood - not at all solemn. MUCH joins the VILLAGE BAND.

CUT TO:

GISBURNE AND BERTRANDS P.O.V.

They watch the VILLAGERS leave. BERTRAND continues to struggle to free himself.

GISBURNE
You're wasting your time!

BERTRAND
My dear Guy - I don't intend having
my throat cut.

FADE OUT.

PART THREE

FADE IN

C.31 EXT HERNE'S CLEARING EVENING C.31

The VILLAGERS have reached the clearing in the forest sacred to Herne. While most of them watch and the VILLAGE BAND plays, with MUCH joining in, EDWARD and the VILLAGERS with torches light the large bonfire. As the flames leap upwards, EDWARD steps back.

EDWARD
Blessed be!

VILLAGERS
Blessed be!

VILLAGERS drag carcasses of venison from hiding places in the trees and begin preparing them for the fires. The OUTLAWS begin to mingle with the VILLAGERS. ROBIN is offered drink and as he takes it, SCARLET approaches him.

SCARLET
What about Gisburne and his mates.
You can't let 'em go.

ROBIN
I can't kill 'em, can I? They're
prisoners.

SCARLET
Then I'll do it.

ROBIN
Prisoners?

SCARLET
We killed everyone we captured when I was a soldier. You've spared Gisburne twice. Ain't exactly proved himself grateful has he? Of course, you could always smack his bum and send him back to Nottingham. Only if you do, he'll hang everyone in Wickham.

ROBIN
If we kill Gisburne in cold blood -
we'd be no better than he is.

SCARLET

What makes you think we are? What about the men at arms we've killed? How d'you feel about them? If you kill Gisburne you'll be doing the world a favour. And as for that bunch of mercenary scum the sooner we send them to hell the better.

ROBIN

We can't do it, Will.

SCARLET

Then you'd better come up with an answer - 'cos if you don't, all these people are going to die -

The dancing is beginning and TWO of the VILLAGE GIRLS drag SCARLET away. ROBIN is left staring after him.

C. 32 EXT VILLAGE DAY C.32

OPEN on BERTRAND he is still working at his bonds.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT

BERTRAND has succeeded in freeing himself. He looks towards the VILLAGERS who are acting as guards.

BERTRAND

Water!

The GUARDS look at him and decide it is all right. One of them brings him water. As he holds the water jug up to BERTRAND's mouth BERTRAND uppercuts him and the GUARD collapses. The second GUARD comes at him with a quarterstaff but is no match for BERTRAND who ducks under the wild blow and leaps on him. Then he picks up the quarterstaff and almost casually brains both the GUARDS. He turns breathing hard and looks at GISBURNE and his men.

BERTRAND

What on earth would you do without Bertrand?

BRABANCONS

De Nivelles! Bertrand de Nivelles!

BERTRAND acknowledges their cheers conceitedly. He unties his men.

BERTRAND
Guillaume. Get our weapons!

GUILLAUME
My lord!

GISBURNE
We must find the meeting place.
There'll be fires - dancing -
singing - the smell of food.
It'll be simple.

C.33 EXT HERNE'S CLEARING EVENING C.33

ROBIN holds a chalice which he raises in the air. He is standing beside EDWARD. Both of them wear a crown of leaves.

ROBIN
May Herne the Hunter - Lord of the
Trees - protect us!

EVERYONE
Herne protect us!

ROBIN drinks. Then he passes the chalice to EDWARD.

ROBIN
This seals the bond between us.
Between we of the forest and you of
the villages. Between the outlawed
and the oppressed.

Blessed be.

EDWARD drinks.

EVERYONE
Blessed be!

CUT TO:

C.34 EXT SHERWOOD EVENING C.34

GISBURNE, BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS are moving slowly through the forest. BERTRAND is following the path taken by the VILLAGERS.

C.35 EXT. HERNE'S CLEARING EVENING C.35

The dancing continues. Now ROBIN and MARION are part of the circle. MEG, LITTLE JOHN, TUCK and the WIDOW, clap in time with the watching VILLAGERS. We see LITTLE JOHN leaning against a tree. He slides down and collapses sitting against it and dropping a wooden goblet. The noise of the gathering is tremendous.

C.36 EXT. HERNE'S CLEARING EVENING C.36

GISBURNE, BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS are now on the very edge of the clearing. From their P.O.V. EDWARD can be seen calling for silence.

EDWARD

My friends!

C.37 EXT. HERNE'S CLEARING EVENING C.37

MID SHOT EDWARD

EDWARD

My friends - soon Herne will come before us as he's done since the beginning, to bless us and make us fruitful - us and our animals and crops. So, like we did last night, let us sit quietly under the trees and await his coming.

There is a quiet murmur of approval from the VILLAGERS. They begin to settle themselves down in quiet groups. ROBIN and MARION catch sight of SCARLET against the tree and cross to him.

CUT TO:

GISBURNE and BERTRAND

GISBURNE

Robin Hood!

BERTRAND nods. He signals his men who crawl nearer and load their cross-bows. GISBURNE whispers to him fiercely..

GISBURNE

NO! Not yet! I'm going to kill their god in front of them. He'll need more than a doctor to ressurect himself!

BERTRAND nods grimly and settles down to wait.

C.38 EXT. HERNE'S CLEARING EVENING C.38

GISBURNE and BERTRAND lapse into silence, caught up in the mystery of the Blessing. Suddenly GISBURNE grows tense.

GISBURNE

Look there!

GISBURNE points. BERTRAND and the others follow GISBURNES pointing finger.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

Slowly, HERNE appears over the hillock. A whispered 'Herne' comes from the VILLAGERS. It sounds like a sighing wind.

CUT TO:

GISBURNE

He stares at the mysterious and outlandish-looking figure standing on top of the hillock.

GISBURNE
 Herne!

BERTRAND raises his cross-bow and takes aim. GISBURNE is watching HERNE.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON HERNE

He raises his arms in the Blessing.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON BERTRAND

BERTRAND takes careful aim and shoots. GISBURNE swings round on him.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON HERNE

We hear the cross-bow bolt hum across the clearing. It hits HERNE in the thigh and he staggers back dropping his arms. EVERYONE rises. ROBIN looks round as GISBURNE and BERTRAND lead their men charging into the VILLAGERS. There is uproar as the VILLAGERS begin running from the clearing. Women grab their children. The BRABANCONS draw their swords and begin killing all who stand in their path. The OUTLAWS draw their swords and defend themselves but they are hampered by the VILLAGERS. ROBIN struggles towards HERNE.

CUT TO:

GISBURNE

He sees ROBIN reach HERNE and support him, but then his view is obscured by groups of VILLAGERS. He strikes out at them.

CUT TO:

SCARLET

Although unsteady, he tries to attack one of the BRABANCONS but again VILLAGERS come between him and the BRABANCON who cuts one of them down. SCARLET picks up a fallen child and staggers for the safety of the trees.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The VILLAGERS flee, pursued by BRABANCONS. There is total confusion.

C.38A

EXT.

HERNE'S CLEARING

EVENING C.38A

CUT TO:

GISBURNE

He reaches the spot where HERNE was wounded. There is no sign of him.

GISBURNE
Bertrand!

The cries of the VILLAGERS are heard receding all around in the forest. GISBURNE finds himself alone in the clearing. He runs down the other side of the hillock and stops. There is no sign of ROBIN or HERNE. He looks wildly round.

GISBURNE
Bertrand!

The cries of the VILLAGERS begin to die away. GISBURNE crashes on looking around as he runs. TWO VILLAGERS cower away from him but he ignores them. He runs on.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE runs on. Suddenly he stops. In the distance, between the trees, he sees HERNE moving away. HERNE disappears from view. GISBURNE runs on.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE stops. Again he sees HERNE for a moment before he passes out of sight. GISBURNE crashes after him, stumbling through bushes and briars which he cuts at with his sword.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

Again GISBURNE stops and again he sees HERNE standing some distance away. HERNE beckons him and then vanishes among the trees. GISBURNE stumbles on.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE runs up to where he saw HERNE and stops panting for breath. He looks all around. Then he sees HERNE watching him again at a distance. GISBURNE is sweating freely and fighting to get his breath. HERNE slowly moves away again and disappears from view. GISBURNE - weary now - forces himself to run after him.

C.39 EXT SHERWOOD (A SMALL HOLLOW) NIGHT C.39

The OUTLAWS are gathered in the hollow. They look up as HERNE comes towards them. TILT to where the real HERNE lies on the ground with MARION bending over him. ROBIN takes off HERNE'S head dress as he rejoins his friends and crouches down beside MARION. HERNE looks up at him.

HERNE
You played your part well!

ROBIN
I know the forest. Gisburne
doesn't. He's lost.

SCARLET
I'll finish him!

HERNE
Leave him to the forest! You see
your god become a man. An old
riddle my children. There is
nothing to fear. The Blessing has
been made.

C.40 EXT SHERWOOD (THE CLEARING) NIGHT C.40

BERTRAND - his sword covered with blood runs into the clearing with TWO of his BRABANCONS.

BERTRAND
Guy! Guy! Where the devil's he got to?

TWO BRABANCONS run towards him from the trees.

BERTRAND
Have you see Sir Guy?

BRABANCONS
No sir!

BERTRAND
Damn the man! He's impossible!

C.41 EXT SHERWOOD NIGHT C.41

GISBURNE is struggling on through the forest. Thunder rolls overhead and a wind begins to rise. GISBURNE looks round at the trees.

CUT TO:

GISBURNE'S P.O.V.

Everything seems distorted to his vision and the trees are menacing. GISBURNE's heart thumps against his ribs and he fights for breath.

CUT TO:

RESUME FORMER ANGLE

GISBURNE is beginning to stagger. He stops and leans against a tree trying to get his breath. Then he staggers on. He hardly cares where he is going. Suddenly he finds himself in a patch of quick-sand and he quickly sinks in it until it reaches his knees. Luckily for him it is no deeper and he succeeds in dragging himself out of it. There is another crash of thunder. GISBURNE cuts his way through the undergrowth which seems in his imagination to clutch at him and so entangle him in thorns. One of these whips across his face cutting him on the forehead. He stumbles on. In his imagination, he seems to hear a whispering around him. 'Gisburne, Gisburne, Gisburne'. He tries to run. But he loses his balance and falls. He lies panting and beginning to feel a sense of panic. He is lost and he knows it!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The trees loom over GISBURNE and the wind begins to howl. The whispering returns. This time it is louder. 'Gisburne - Gisburne - Gisburne -' He stops and looks around.

GISBURNE
Who's - who's there?

He spins round.

CUT TO;

GISBURNE'S P.O.V.

WHIP PAN to where EDWARD stands.

EDWARD
An ash, my lord! Sacred to Herne!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP GISBURNE

He stares.

CUT TO;

RESUME P.O.V.

EDWARD has vanished. All around from the trees comes a whispering 'Herne - Herne - Herne - Herne.'

CUT TO:

RESUME ON GISBURNE

GISBURNE whirls round in a circle. The wind howls louder.

GISBURNE
Stop! Stop it! Stop it!

Another crash of thunder. GISBURNE suddenly panics completely and runs blindly on, sobbing with fear. He clutches at his throat.

GISBURNE
I - I - can't - can't breathe!

GISBURNE seems to be struggling and fighting things we cannot see. He falls onto all fours moaning and panting.

GISBURNE
Leave me - leave me - Forgive -

Somehow he gets to his feet and runs on.

C.43 INT ABBOTS CHAMBER NIGHT C.43

GISBURNE is helped in by TWO MONKS. The ABBOT HUGO comes from his bedchamber. GISBURNE collapses sobbing.

ABBOT HUGO
what's happened to
you, man?

GISBURNE
Save me - save me!

ABBOT HUGO
Save you? What are you talking
about?

GISBURNE
The forest - the forest, my lord -
the trees - the trees -

ABBOT HUGO

Save you from the trees? Have you been drinking?

GISBURNE

Herne - Herne - Herne -

GISBURNE covers his ears as if to blot out the sound of the whispering. He is shaking with fear and sobbing uncontrollably. ABBOT HUGO begins to understand. He nods slowly.

ABBOT HUGO

I warned you - didn't I, Gisburne?

C.44 EXT ALEHOUSE DAY C.44

BERTRAND and his BRABANCON S ride up to the alehouse, talking and laughing. They dismount and make their way inside led by their leader.

BERTRAND

It's just as well we were paid in advance, my friends. The lord knows what's hapened to him...(he shrugs)

GUILLAUME

Maybe the outlaws got him.

WALTER

Maybe he fell in a bog!

This amuses the BRABANCONS

BERTRAND

Poor employment anyway. A hundred marks to kill a few serfs. If he hadn't been a friend of mine, I would never have taken it on! By St. Christopher I need a drink!

C.46 INT ALEHOUSE DAY C.46

BERTRAND swaggers into the alehouse followed by his men. The ALE HOUSE KEEPER greets them nervously.

BERTRAND
Remember us?

ALEHOUSE KEEPER
Oh yes, my lord -very well indeed.

BERTRAND
Then bring us ale!

The ALEHOUSE KEEPER nods and moves off. BERTRAND and his MEN sit down noisily.

GUILLAUME
New benches!

The others laugh. The ALEHOUSE KEEPER returns. This time MUCH is with him and carries an earthenware pot. The ALEHOUSE KEEPER dispenses beakers to the BRABANCONS and MUCH fills them from his jug. At this moment, ROBIN comes in. He wears a battered hat and he sits alone, some way from BERTRAND and the BRABANCONS. BERTRAND looks across at him and draws his men's attention to him. MUCH brings him a beaker of ale. ROBIN pays him in silence watched by the BRABANCONS. TWO of them wink at their friends and move over to ROBIN. GUILLAUME peers at ROBIN's ale. ROBIN picks it up.

GUILLAUME
What's that?

ROBIN doesn't answer.

WALTER
Ale is it? English ale?

ROBIN ignores them and after drinking he puts the beaker down in front of him. GUILLAUME picks it up and sniffs at it.

GUILLAUME
Smells bad.

Very deliberately he pours it all over the table. ROBIN remains impassive as the rest of the BRABANCONS begins to laugh.

WALTER
Here - try some of mine!

WALTER pours his ale all over ROBIN'S head. It drips from the brim of his hat.

WALTER
What did you think of it?
Taste any better?

ROBIN doesn't reply. He remains impassive.

GUILLAUME
I don't think he liked it!

WALTER
But he'll still have to pay for it
won't he?

There is an affirmative chorus from the rest of them. BERTRAND watches very amused.

BERTRAND
Go on - pay my friend.

ROBIN remains impassive.

GUILLAUME
Are you deaf?

ROBIN slowly shakes his head.

WALTER
Dumb then? Maybe he's dumb?

Again ROBIN shakes his head.

GUILLAUME
Then speak up.

ROBIN
No.

WALTER
It can talk. The ape can talk!

He holds out his hand for the money.

GUILLAUME
Pay my friend - eh? And while
you're about it -

He indicates the others.

GUILLAUME
- they'll have one too

WALTER
Your money.

ROBIN remains silent. WALTER grabs him.

WALTER
I said - your money!

Without warning, ROBIN explodes into action. He leaps to his feet and hits WALTER in the stomach. As he doubles up, ROBIN hits him again. Then as GUILLAUME comes to him, he hits him with the stool he has been sitting on. Then he tips up the table hitting WALTER with it. It is all done incredibly fast and the TWO BRABANCONS are out cold almost before the others have realised what has happened. As they leap to their feet SCARLET bursts through the door with NASIR, while LITTLE JOHN and TUCK come from the kitchen. MUCH also joins in. It is a full scale rough house and the BRABANCONS have finally met their match. BERTRAND draws his sword and so does ROBIN. BERTRAND is driven outside while LITTLE JOHN and the others begin laying about them.

C.47 EXT ALEHOUSE DAY C.47

BERTRAND and ROBIN travel some way from the alehouse as a small crowd of LOCALS appear. One of the BRABANCONS comes hurtling out of the alehouse to land in a heap. ROBIN and BERTRAND circle and attack again. BERTRAND is very quick and obviously a master with the sword.

BERTRAND
You've brightened up the day!

BERTRAND attacks hard and ROBIN defends himself well. TWO BRABANCONS come hurtling out of the ale-house. We see MARION and TUCK watching the duel between ROBIN and BERTRAND.

BERTRAND
Where's Guy?

ROBIN
Sherwoods' taken care of him!

ROBIN attacks. The two of them travel across the green in front of the alehouse. They are well matched. Another BRABANCON comes staggering out of the alehouse and TUCK hits him over the head with a cooking pot. SCARLET fights his way out of the alehouse preceded by a BRABANCON. He runs him through. LITTLE JOHN and MUCH follow him out. Everyone becomes rivetted by the duel between ROBIN and BERTRAND. The fight goes one way and then the other and becomes more and more savage as it proceeds. It is a well matched fight and no one seems to gain the upper hand. As the BRABANCONS are all either dead or unconscious, the OUTLAWS watch the fight with interest. BERTRAND backs off.

BERTRAND
You're dead - peasant.

ROBIN
I don't feel dead!

BERTRAND is driven back as ROBIN loses his temper. He wants to kill BERTRAND and we see SCARLET nodding approvingly. BERTRAND realises that even if he kills ROBIN one of the OUTLAWS will take him on and so he looks about for a means of escape. He manoeuvres himself into the right position and hurls his sword straight at ROBIN. ROBIN ducks and BERTRAND'S sword sails over his head. Meanwhile BERTRAND grabs MARION drawing a dagger which he holds at her throat as he drags her back towards his horse. The OUTLAWS are powerless. He forces MARION to mount his horse and leaps up behind her still with the dagger at her back.

BERTRAND
Try to stop me and she dies!
Something to remind me of Robin Hood!

C.47A EXT. ALEHOUSE TRACK DAY C.47A
He gallops off. ROBIN runs to LITTLE JOHN who throws him his bow and quiver. ROBIN catches them and swiftly puts an arrow to the bow-string. BERTRAND is some way down the road by now and a small target. ROBIN aims quickly and shoots.

CUT TO:

REVERSE ANGLE

BERTRAND has sheathed his dagger and is racing towards CAMERA when the arrow whistles through the air and takes him between the shoulders. He crashes off the horse taking MARION with him.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT MARION and BERTRAND

She sprawls on the ground some way from the dead body with the arrow in its back. She gets to her feet somewhat unsteadily as ROBIN followed by the OUTLAWS come racing down the road towards her. The outlaws gather round looking at BERTRAND and marvelling at ROBIN'S shot.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

LITTLE JOHN
Some shot!

ROBIN embraces MARION.

ROBIN
Are you alright?

MARION nods.

TUCK
He was a murderer.

SCARLET
They're all murderers!

CUT TO:

OTHER ANGLE

The BRABANCONS have been stripped on their finery and tied across their horses. ROBIN lifts GUILLAUME's head.

ROBIN
Listen to me and mark what I say.
If any Barbancons ever come to
Sherwood again - I swear by Herne
the Hunter they'll be buried here!

The OUTLAWS hit the horses and they trot off down the road while the LOCALS gather to cheer the OUTLAWS.

PULL BACK to LONG SHOT HIGH ANGLE.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

END TITLE

END OF EPISODE