

Excerpt from Splendid Productions'
'The Epic Adventures of Robin Hood'
By Kerry Frampton & Ben Hales

1. THE HAPPIEST TOWN ON EARTH

The market square in Stanton on the Berry. There is a sign that says 'WELCOME TO STANTON-ON-THE- BERRY – 50th GREAT YEAR'... 'Wouldn't it be nice if all villages were like Stanton?', 'perfectly placed between London and Birmingham, Oxford and Cambridge'.

As the audience arrive several TOWNSPEOPLE are in the auditorium playing their instruments. They greet the audience as if they too are TOWNSPEOPLE and they are old friends. MARIAN appears and falls into various conversations. She has a bow slung over her shoulder. Gradually the stage fills with the rest of the cast and the maypole dance begins. One TOWNSPERSON is wearing an 'I love Robin Hood' T-shirt with a picture of Robin's face on it.

TOWNSPERSON 1 Marian! Marian!

MARIAN What's up Bob?

TOWNSPERSON 1 I think we need a new bucket for the well, the old one is leaking.

MARIAN Hmm. Well what about if we fitted a pump instead of a bucket?
(She produces plans) I've actually just come up with a new design
that I think will make life easier for everybody.

PERSON (Taking the plans) That's a good idea.

TOWNSPEOPLE What would we do without her?

TOWNSPERSON 2 Marian! My medieval Frisbee has got caught in a tree. Can you help?

MARIAN Where?

TOWNSPERSON 2 (pointing into the audience) That big tree there.

MARIAN unslings her bow. Everyone does the sound effect as she draws back the bow, and everyone watches the arrow fly. It hits the target. A Frisbee flies down the stairs.

TOWNSPEOPLE Good shot!

MARIAN (to TOWNSPERSON 2) There you go.

TOWNSPERSON 2 Thank goodness! (to audience) She's the best shot in the village.

TOWNSPEOPLE What would we do without her?

DANCER (worried) Marian, I'm nervous, I don't think I can to do the brilliant
dance section. What if I forget the steps?

MARIAN Come on now, Nanette, breathe. Don't worry, you won't be on your own. We're all in this together, isn't that right?

TOWNSPEOPLE Yes! We're all in this together!

MARIAN Places then everybody... It's another glorious day in the well-organised town of Stanton on the Berry!

SONG: THE HAPPIEST TOWN ON EARTH

ALL Stanton on the Berry
Golly gosh what a beautiful town!
All the people sing
And the church bells ring
And the sun shines all year round

Stanton on the Berry
What a wonderful place to live!
We've got self-belief
Seven types of cheese
And Persephone our prize-winning pig

Every Saturday we gather in the market square of course
And we take a happy moment to look at all of our awards:
Bonniest baby!
Britain in bloom!

APPLE-CHEEKED CHILD And I got a prize
For tidying my room!

ALL Mightiest marrow!
Most exquisite ambience!

MARIAN We might get a rosette
For this brilliant maypole dance

MARIAN leads the maypole dance

ALL Stanton on the Berry
It's the happiest place on earth!
No it's not very exciting
And we're not that good at fighting
But who needs swords
When you've won awards?

TOWNSPERSON (interrupting the song, seeming worried) Stop everything!

TOWNSPEOPLE (alarmed) What's wrong?

TOWNSPERSON (still seeming worried) I've just heard... (delighted, revealing award)
We've won the award for the best opening song!