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## Free eScript Download

We seriously could not get enough of the middle ages as we edited Richard Gremel's new comedy *Robin Hood and His Merry Men*. Stuck inside? Get your day off to a great start with a FREE copy of this fun new play and learn more about Richard Gremel below.

### **ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN** by Richard Gremel

Prince John has decreed that the citizens of Nottingham pay weekly taxes or face the penalty of death. His decrees are enforced by the evil Sheriff of Nottingham. The citizens think that all hope is lost until they hear word of a noble hero... [Read more](#)

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## Robin Hood and His Merry Men

Action, adventure and high taxes oh my! Without question, the legend of Robin Hood is even MORE fun now that Richard Gremel has written the ultimate farce of good vs. evil, hero vs. villain and damsels (galore) in distress. What makes this two act farce more fun than you can shake an arrow at...? Robin's dangerous foes? Oh yes! Sound effects and missed cues? Sure enough. How about the fact that Robin's group of stout Merry Men is actually a sturdy band of *Merry Women*. That's right, merry WOMEN!!! **Below is an interview with playwright Richard Gremel.**

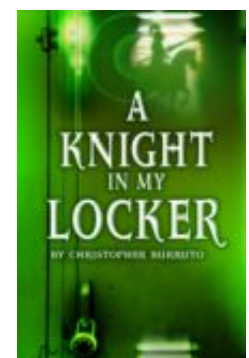
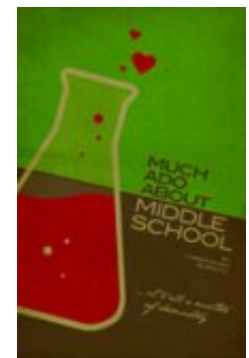
### What inspired you to write this play?

I wanted to write a play that would be fun to produce and even more fun to watch. As a high school theatre teacher, it's difficult to find plays with large, predominantly female casts. I wrote this play with that in mind. I tried to create big, colorful characters while providing plenty of female roles. In the end, I wrote a play that my students and I had a blast working on. I don't think we ever laughed so much in rehearsal as we did while working on this show. Our audience had the same reaction. People were talking about this show long after its final performance and many said it was the best play they had ever seen.

### What did you learn from writing this play?

I learned that everything is open to interpretation. As I wrote the play, I visualized the characters and the action as I would do it on the stage, but as my students read the script and started creating their characters, many of them took the play in a different direction than what I had intended. I thought it was very interesting the choices they made, but really loved the things that they were bringing to the show.

### What are the challenges in staging this play?



We wanted to create a large set for this show, so we had the challenge of creating a full castle and forest. Our solution was to build a large castle upstage, and then paint a large forest backdrop that we could bring downstage for the rest of the show. Another challenge was the sound cues. Since there is a sound cue every time that someone says "Prince John," we had to have a CD full of thunder sounds ready to go. Our sound guy was very busy.

#### What are the benefits of staging this show?

Numerous benefits! It allows for fun characters and provides roles for a large cast. The play is fun to produce and the cast all enjoyed the rehearsal process. Every day we discovered something new or a new joke. Also, the play is entertaining for the entire family. There are jokes and action that appeal to all ages from small children to adults. Everyone will find something special in this show!

#### What authors or books have influenced your writing?

Mel Brooks is one of my favorite writers. I love the way that he puts a spin on familiar stories and/or characters and I also love that he puts his own humor and personality into the scripts that he creates. I try to do the same thing with my writing. I like to add my own humor so that the work reflects my personality. After reading *Robin Hood and His Merry Men*, my students all said that they could tell that I wrote it. I write shows that I would like to see over and over again.

#### Any funny incidents happen during its world premiere?

At the end of the script, Robin Hood says his name and waits for the sound guy to play his trumpet cue. When it doesn't happen, he gives up and leaves the stage. Once he leaves, the sound cue is finally played. On opening night, the actor playing Robin Hood left the stage and a small child in the audience yelled out, "Robin Hood," and then the trumpet sound cue played. Our Robin Hood ran back onstage and said, "So you play the sound for that kid, but not for me? I quit." Everyone laughed and cheered - it was a great moment in live theatre!

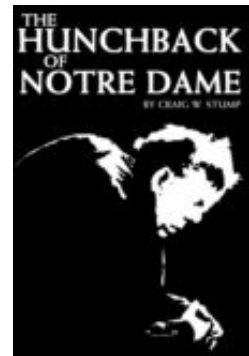
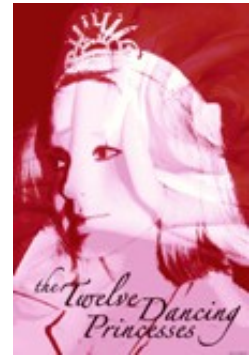
*Richard Gremel is a high school theatre teacher in Tucson, Arizona. He acts, directs and writes for Live Theatre Workshop: All Together Theatre.*

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