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CHARACTER & PLOT SYNOPSIS

The fair kingdom of Camelot is under threat from the evil Black Knight, and King Arthur, his knights and the magician Merlin seem unable to avert disaster!

But brave Justin, a humble stable boy with dreams to become a Knight of the Round Table is quick to step into the breach. With the help (or should that be hindrance!) of Lester the court Jester and Dame Doris, he sets off on a quest to free a Princess and save the kingdom from disaster.

A very silly family pantomime set in Arthurian times, with knights, wizards, magic swords, mythical creatures and lots and lots of daft jokes, fun songs and audience participation!

CHARACTER NOTES

The Princess*Female*

Our heroine. The daughter of a local king and a visitor to Camelot.

Justin*Female*

The hero. Principal by. A stable boy who wants to join the round table and prove his mettle.

Dame Doris Dumpling*Male*

Chaperone and translator for the Princess.

Lester, the Jester*Male*

The daft court jester at Camelot. The comedy linkman.

Merlin the Magician*Male*

The mystical sorcerer.

King Arthur*Male*

The ruler of Camelot.

Queen Guinevere*Female*

Wife to King Arthur.

The Black Knight*Male*

The villain. A wicked knight intent on destabilising the kingdom.

Chardonnay la Fay*Female*

A sorceress / witch – a minion of the Black Knight.

The Lady of the Lake*Female*

A damsel who lives in a pond. A small cameo role that can be played by a chorus member.

Chorus (Adults and Children)

Castle folk, members of the court, knights and mythical creatures. The script includes a number of small speaking parts and chorus lines that can be shared out.

THE PLOT

ACT ONE

Scene one - The Court of King Arthur

Main stage

Featuring: *Chorus (as knights, royal court and castle dwellers), Lester, Justin, the Dame the Princess, Merlin, King Arthur and Queen Guinevere*

After a rousing opening **song**, we meet Lester the Jester, court idiot to Camelot who is unhappy with his lot, mainly because he jokes are so terrible. He introduces his pal, Justin who is a mere stable boy but has a burning ambition to become a Knight of the Round table. Lester too has always wanted to be a Knight... but there is little hope of that. It is also an exciting day, for they are expecting the arrival of the beautiful daughter of the neighbouring Kingdom (a local town / area to the venue where the show is being performed), who is coming on a royal visit to Arthur's Court. We then meet the Dame who used to live at Camelot but departed 10 years ago after being abandoned by her young love and has since been living in foreign climes educating young princesses. She has returned as interpreter and chaperone for the princess who's use of English is very limited. The princess speaks with a foreign accent when speaking her native tongue. King Arthur and Queen Guinevere and Merlin arrive with the Princess. The King announces that they have a vacancy on the Round Table following the untimely amusing demise of one of the knights and will be running a tourney, held in the Princess's honour to select a new brave knight.

Scene Two - A corridor in the castle

Front of cloth

Featuring: *The Black Knight, Chardonnay la Fay, Justin and the Princess*

We meet the mysterious witch / sorceress Chardonnay La Fay (younger sister to Morganna la Fay). She, like Lester, is unhappy in her role and would actually prefer to be an entertainer but she is currently serving the bitter and twisted Black Knight. He wants to destroy Camelot and King Arthur but as Chardonnay is quick and tactless to mention he hasn't a chance if he tries a frontal attack on Arthur. She reminds him of his many humiliating defeats so far. Hearing the approach of Justin they depart. Justin soliloquies about his plans to become the next knight and also his love for the Princess whom he has just met. He is interrupted in his musings by the Princess herself who has clearly escaped the Dame attentions for a moment's peace. They have a rather stilted and difficult conversation with many misunderstandings and sing a love **song**.

Scene Three – The Castle courtyard

Main Stage

Featuring: *Chorus as training knights etc, King Arthur, the Dame, Lester and Justin*

Later that day the courtyard is the scene for much hustle and bustle as the court and the knights prepare for the tourney. Justin is keen to get involved and it is clear that he is pretty good. Lester appears in pyjama's – his 'night attire' to try out too and makes an utter fool of himself. A scene with a set piece of military drill / training featuring the Dame, Lester, King Arthur, Justin and assorted chorus as knights ending with a rousing battle **song**.

Scene Four - A corridor in the castle

Front of Cloth

Featuring: *The Black Knight, Chardonnay la Fay and Lester*

The Black Knight is getting frustrated with all the skulking about. The Black Knight and has decided that their best plan is to kidnap the Princess and leave Camelot in turmoil as her father clashes with Arthur over her disappearance. Chardonnay has realised that unless they manage to separate Merlin from his staff of power, any attempt to cause trouble will be defeated by his magic. Chardonnay has created a substitute staff but they need a trusted member of the household to swap it over – where can they find someone so stupid that they can fool him into doing this for them? Enter Lester! They convince Lester that the Black Knight is a contestant for the tourney who has somehow got his lucky quarterstaff mixed up with someone else and if he doesn't get his back, can't enter the tourney. Lester works out that clearly the staff has got muddled up with Merlin's staff and aggress to swap it over with minimal fuss to save anyone any embarrassment and inconvenience. The Black Knight promises him that as a reward he would take on Justin as his squire and train him to be a knight. They sing a **song** about Lester's dreams of knighthood and Lester departs to do the switch.

Scene Five - The Castle courtyard

Main Stage

Featuring: *Everyone!*

It is time for the official tourney, and Merlin opens the ceremony with a lavish fireworks display – or he would, if it didn't turn out his staff is now a stick thanks to Lester's interference. This is a disaster! Without the magical powers and protection of Merlin, the kingdom is at risk. As everyone runs about like headless chickens, the eyes are off the Princess and the Black Knight sneaks on and seizes her. Before anyone can react, Chardonnay reveals she holds the staff, and, after a couple of false starts due to incompetence conjures a spell and the trio disappears. Multiple woes! What is to be done? King Arthur lays down a challenge to all to go questing to save her and of course Justin volunteers to go and save his love. Lester admits his role in the sad affair and offers to go too. The act ends with another big **song** number.

Act Two

Scene One – The Court of King Arthur

Main stage

Featuring: *Merlin, King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, chorus as the royal court and castle dwellers and knights, Lester, Justin and the Dame.*

It is the next morning and the brave expedition is about to set off. A rousing setting off on an adventure **song!** The path to the Black Knight's castle is described by Merlin – a path that leads through a bewildering set of exciting and challenging spots. Arthur and his knights depart. Justin, Lester and the Dame (who also want to be in on the rescue of her royal charge) head off on foot after them.

Scene Two – The Dungeon in the Black Knight’s castle

Front of cloth

Featuring: *The Black Knight, the Princess and Chardonnay la Fay*

The Black Knight meanwhile is in his castle being unpleasant and sharing his plans of domination and destruction with the Princess, as all evil villains do! He gives reasons why he is so bitter with the world. The Princess is sure she will be rescued by Arthur or one of his Knights. The Black Knight reckons they will all be too busy questing for other daft things. Then perhaps the brave Justin will be able to do it. There is no chance of this, reckons the Black Knight, as the path to the castle is a long and hard one. The scene ends with an opportunity for slop and gunge and the Black Knight and Princess witness Chardonnay’s feeble attempts at magic potion creation.

Scene Three – Deep in the Woods

Main stage

Featuring: *King Arthur, Chorus as questing knights etc, Lester, the Dame and Justin*

The questing heroes, bump into the King and the other knights. The knights describe their various quests (cue some awful pun sequences about quests for the holy snail etc!). It’s clear from all this that the Princess will remain thoroughly un-rescued if Lester, Justin and the Dame don’t get to the castle! They all sing a questing **song** and Arthur and his knights depart once more. It all hangs on Justin and the others now!

Scene Four – Near the Black Knight’s Castle

Front of cloth

Featuring: *A chorus knight, Chardonnay la Fay, Lester, Justin, the Dame, a ‘behind you’ creature and the mystical Lady of the Lake*

One of the brave knights is on his quest and is ambushed by Chardonnay and zapped! Lester, Justin and the Dame enter. They are now close to the Castle of the Black Knight and find themselves in a creepy place beside a lake! We have the traditional “behind you” scene. They are then met by the Lady of the Lake, who gifts them a magical weapon to aid in the quest – but she has run out of swords so they get something which seems completely naff and pointless - but it will be very important in the next scene! They head off for the final confrontation with the Black Knight!

Scene Five – The Black Knight’s Castle

Main stage

Featuring: *Everyone*

The goodies get to the castle to challenge the Black Knight. Justin battles the Black Knight and almost defeats him, but the Black Knight cheats. All seems lost but then the goodies use the gift of the Lady of the Lake to win the fight. It is revealed that the Black Knight is actually the squire whom Dame Doris loved all those years ago. He went on a quest with his master and sent a note to say he couldn’t make the party but gave it to Lester to deliver. Lester still has it in his pocket - he forgot to deliver it! The Dame and the Black Knight are reunited once more. King Arthur, Merlin and the Queen and the court arrive at that moment. Merlin gets his staff back, Justin gets his girl and is made a knight. Lester

forms an entertainment double act with Chardonnay. A happy ending for all! A final **song** is sung!

Scene Six - Song Sheet

Front of cloth

Featuring: *Lester and Dame Doris*

Song sheet and final business

Scene Seven – Finale

Main stage

Featuring: *Everyone*

Finale / walk down and final couplets