

King Arthur

SCENE FIVE

[Mud Village]

(ARTHUR rides in with PATSY. DENNIS GALAHAD enters behind a small traveling mound of mud. He has a trowel and is mining for mud.)

ARTHUR

Over! Old woman!

DENNIS

Man!

ARTHUR

Man, sorry. What knight lives in that castle over there?

DENNIS

I'm twenty seven.

ARTHUR

What?

DENNIS

I'm not old!

ARTHUR

Well, I can't just call you 'Man.'

DENNIS

Well, you could say 'Dennis.'

ARTHUR

Well, I didn't know you were called 'Dennis.'

DENNIS

Well, you didn't bother to find out, did you?

ARTHUR

Look...I did say I was sorry about the 'old woman' thing, but really, from behind you do look like...

DENNIS

What I object to is that you automatically treat me like an inferior!

ARTHUR

Well, I *am* king...

DENNIS

Oh, king, eh, very nice. And how'd you get that, eh? By exploiting the workers. By hanging on to outdated imperialist dogma which perpetuates the economic and social differences in our society! If there's ever going to be any progress...

MOTHER

Dennis, there's a lot of good mud over there. Oh how d'you do?

ARTHUR

How do you do, good lady.

MOTHER

How d'you do. I'm Mrs. Galahad, widowed mother of Dennis, married to Nobby the Cretin, dropped dead last Tuesday, which does leave me sadly available.

ARTHUR

I am Arthur, King of the Britons.

MOTHER

King of the who?

ARTHUR

The Britons.

MOTHER

Who are the Britons?

ARTHUR

Well, we all are. We are all Britons and I am your king.

MOTHER

I didn't know we had a king. I thought we were an autonomous collective.

DENNIS

You're fooling yourself. We're living in a dictatorship. A self-perpetuating autocracy in which the working classes...

MOTHER

Oh, there you go, bringing class into it again.

DENNIS

That's what it's all about. If only people would...

ARTHUR

Please, please good people. I am in haste. Who is your lord?

MOTHER

We don't have a lord.

DENNIS

We're an anarcho-syndicalist commune. We take it in turns to act as a sort of an executive officer for the week..

ARTHUR

Yes.

DENNIS

...but each decision of that officer has to be ratified at a special biweekly meeting..

ARTHUR

Yes, I see.

DENNIS

...by a simple majority in the case of purely internal affairs..

ARTHUR

Be quiet!

DENNIS

...but by a two-thirds majority in the case of more..

ARTHUR

Be quiet! I order you to be quiet!

MOTHER

Oh! Order, eh? Who does he think he is?

ARTHUR

I am your king!

MOTHER

Well, I didn't vote for you.

ARTHUR

You don't vote for kings.

#6 THE LADY OF THE LAKE

MOTHER

Well, how did you become king then?

ARTHUR

Well, I'll tell you. One day, as I was riding forth from Camelot I saw a lady in the lake!

DENNIS

Dead?

ARTHUR

No. Not dead. She was...the Lady of the Lake! She lives in the lake.

DENNIS

What, underwater?

ARTHUR

Yes.

(DENNIS indicates to his mother that ARTHUR has been drinking.)

She appeared to me out of the bosom of the water...Her arm clad in the purest shimmering samite, holding aloft Excalibur signifying by Divine Providence that I, Arthur, was to carry Excalibur. ✖

(ARTHUR draws his sword. It shines mystically.)

PATSY

~~Excalibur!~~

CHORUS (OFFSTAGE)

~~EXCALIBUR!
AH - AH!~~

~~*(DENNIS and his MOTHER look around to see who sang.)*~~

ARTHUR

~~That is why I am your king.~~

DENNIS

~~Listen, strange women lying in ponds distributing swords is no basis for a system of government. Supreme executive power derives from a mandate from the masses, not from some farcical aquatic ceremony.~~

SCENE ELEVEN

[The French Castle]

(KING ARTHUR and his KNIGHTS arrive at the foot of the castle, and dismount.)

ARTHUR

Halt! Hello! Hello!

(The TAUNTER, a silly mustachioed Frenchman, appears in the battlements of the castle.)

TAUNTER

'Allo! Who is it?

ARTHUR

It is King Arthur, and these are my Knights of the Round Table. Whose castle is this?

TAUNTER

This is the castle of my master, Guy de Loimbard! The French bastard.

ARTHUR

Go and tell your master that we have been charged by God with a sacred quest. If he will give us food and shelter for the night he may join us on our quest for the Holy Grail.

TAUNTER

Well, I'll ask him, but I don't think he'll be very keen. He's already got one, you see?

ARTHUR

What?

GALAHAD

He says they've already got one!

ARTHUR

Are you sure he's got one?

TAUNTER

Oh, yes, it's very nice.

(Aside)

Hey! I told him we already got one!

(The FRENCH GUARDS titter in mirth. We see only their helmets nodding in glee.)

GUARDS

Tee hee.

ARTHUR

Well, can we come in and have a look?

TAUNTER

Of course not! You are English bed-wetting types!

ARTHUR

Well, what are you then?

TAUNTER

I'm French! Why do you think I have this outrageous accent, you silly king?

ARTHUR

If you will not show us the Grail, we shall take this castle by force!

TAUNTER

You don't frighten us, English pig-dogs! Go and boil your bottoms, sons of a silly person. I blow my nose at you, so-called Arthur-king, you and all your silly English knnnniggets.

ARTHUR

Now look here my good man!

TAUNTER

I don't want to talk to you no more you empty-headed, animal-food-trough wipers!... I fart in your general direction! Your mother was a hamster and your father smelt of elderberries! Now go away or I shall taunt you a second time.

GALAHAD

Is there someone else we could talk to?

TAUNTER

Hey, no chance, son of a window-dresser! I wave my private parts at your aunties, you tiny-brained wipers of other people's bottoms!

ARTHUR

I command you, in the name of the Knights of Camelot, to open the doors of this sacred castle, to which God himself has guided us!

*.

TAUNTER

Well, I burst my pimples at you and call your door-opening request a silly thing, you cheesy lot of second-hand electric donkey bottom biters. Thppt!

(Blows a raspberry)

FRENCHIES

Thppt.

(The hands of the FRENCH KNIGHTS make very rude gestures between the battlements.)

ROBIN

They're using rude gestures, sir.

GALAHAD

The fiends. They haven't an ounce of chivalry.

ARTHUR

What do we do, Bedevere?

BEDEVERE

Well, I believe it's time for Plan B, Sire. My secret weapon.

ARTHUR

If you do not cease to taunt us, we shall be forced to bring out our secret weapon.

TAUNTER

Oh, no. Oh, gee We are so scared. Oh, hey, did I mention before to you... Thppt.

(The TAUNTER runs his head across, up and down the battlements before disappearing.)

ARTHUR

Right that's it. They have a nasty shock coming to them. Bedevere. What the hell is that?

(BEDEVERE pulls a large wooden rabbit in from stage right.)

4. — King Arthur

March, in 4

ARTHUR: 2

I am Ar - thur King of the Bri - tons

4

Lord and Ru - ler of all Of Eng - land, and Scot - land And

8

GUARD A: "And I'm the Emperor of Norway. Bigger off.

Rall.

PATSY:

e - ven ti - ny lit - tle bits of Gaul He is

10

A tempo

Ar - thur King of the Bri - tons And we are out see - king

13

ARTHUR:

men Ve - ry strong men And ve - ry a - ble To

16

Rall.

sit a - round our ve - ry ve - ry round ta - ble

13 - bars 129-161.

78 **Freely** **Solo:** 79 **Giocoso** 80 →

I have to push the pram a lot.

83 **Meno mosso, Jazzy** 2 85 8 85-92

93 **Latiny-Vegas feel** (♩ = ♩) 9 93-101

102 **Stripper feel** 7 109 **Clunk! (onstage)** **Rit.** 110 110.1 → 111 102-108

112 **Lounge singer ballad** 2 112-113

114 **LADY OF THE LAKE:** 115

Once in ev' - ry show there comes a song like this.

116 117

It starts off soft and low and ends up with a kiss. Oh

118 119 120 121

where is the song that goes like this?

122 7 **Rit.** **LADY:** 129 129.1 129.2 (To 130)

For this is the song that goes like



130 **Fast swing**
The Lady of the Lake does a crazy scat

Musical staff 130 with measure numbers 131, 132, 133 and slanted lines for scat.

134 *Arthur does a crazier scat*

Musical staff 134 with measure numbers 135, 136, 137 and slanted lines for scat.

138 **ARTHUR:**
Knights of the Round Ta - ble They

142 **LADY:**
dance when e'er — they're a - ble They're

146 **ARTHUR:**
Knights. Not days but knights.

149 **LADY/ARTHUR:**
Not dawn not dusk not late af - ter - noon but

152
Knights of the Round ta - ble — round

155 **ALL:**
ta - ble — round ta - ble — round ta - ble — round

158
ta - ble — round ta - ble — round ta - ble — round ta - ble —

162 **Straight 8ths**
Try your luck in Cam - e - lot! 163-165

165.1
Run a - muck in Cam - e - lot! — 165.2-165.3 165.4 It