



Performance Notes for King Arthur and the Half Man

- 1.** *Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom.* Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
- 2.** *Students can perform the play in the classroom.* Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
- 3.** *Students can perform the play on stage.* Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.

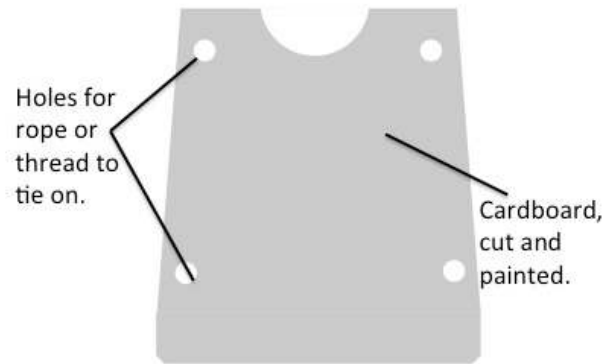


COSTUMES

- KING ARTHUR — A robe and a crown.
- WRESTLERS — Simple dull-colored peasant clothing.
- CONOR — A long brown robe with a hood, along with a big white beard.
- QUINLAN — A shifty character, wearing simple clothes and a black hood.
- GAWAIN and MALVIN — Black clothes with cardboard chest plate. Cut the shape of a chest plate from cardboard and paint or spray paint it gray or silver. Punch holes in the sides so that plate can be tied around actor's waist and neck.



See image on next page:



They also carry plastic or cardboard swords by their sides. See Prop notes for swords.

- SLAVES — Plain-colored rags. Each of them holds a hoe made from cardboard to till the soil. See Prop notes.
- HANNER DYN — Played by three actors. Each wears colorful clothing and the same flamboyant hat to mark each actor as the same character.



PROPS

Scene 1

- Cardboard swords for GAWAIN and MALVIN. Cut swords from thick cardboard. Paint the handle one color, perhaps black, and paint the blade gray or silver.

Scene 2

- Tools for servants- Rakes and hoes made from cardboard. Cut the shape of a rake or hoe out of a long piece of thick cardboard. Paint the handle one color, perhaps red or brown, and paint the bottom gray or silver.



Scene 3

- Optional: Boat items, such as oars made from cardboard, ropes, etc.



SETS

To make transitions easier, divide the stage into two sections. If you want to make a backdrop, you can paint it to show the two locations, or you can just rely on set pieces. The three locations are:

- 1) The Castle in Cornwall/Prydwen, King Arthur's Boat on one half of the stage. See more details for transitions below.
- 2) Hanner Dyn's Island, on the other half of the stage.

Scene 1 — The Castle in Cornwall. This takes place in the grounds of a castle. If you make a backdrop, you can paint it to look like a castle wall. Since this is where the wrestling matches take place, you can create a wrestling ring by drawing a circle on the ground with chalk or placing stones, made from Styrofoam, in a circle on the ground.

Transition Note: At the end of Scene 1, when KING ARTHUR says, "Have my men prepare my ship, Prydwen", WRESTLERS can remove stones if there are any, while stage hands, who can dress as royal guards, can bring on the boat.

If you are using backdrops, you can have them switch those out here as well.

See Scene 3 notes for specifics on set.

Scene 2 — Hanner Dyn's island. If you have a backdrop, it can show fields, plants, and crops. You can also place a few plants onstage near where the SLAVES will be working. These can be real or made from cardboard.

Scene 3 — On board Prydwen, King Arthur's ship. If you have a backdrop, it can show the sea, and the sun in the sky. The boat is made from cardboard, though you only have to make the back of the boat. This way, actors can stand/lay in front of the cardboard piece and it will give the appearance of being on the boat.

Paint the cardboard various shades of brown, to resemble planks and sides of the boat. Add some lines and shading, if possible, to give the illusion of depth. Prop boat up against a chair or milk crate or something else that is sturdy.

Optional: You can make a flag for the boat. On the boat itself, paint a gray



line, starting in the center of the deck and going up. At the top of the cardboard flat, extend the flagpole by attaching a piece of cardboard the width of the line

and painting it gray as well.

Google image search picture of King Arthur's flag (there are a few different options, depending on the source) and print out a copy of the one you want to use, or use it as a guide in making your own. Glue or tape the picture to thicker paper or a piece of cardboard, and duct tape the flag to the top of the pole.

See image below:

