

SAMPLE SCRIPT PAGES - An Opening Scene

Jester mixes with the audience in the hall amidst the tables. This will allow interaction with the audience and require a smaller introduction at the time of the sketch. The Jester should have some funny jokes or silly bits to do as he is the clown.

Brass: Fanfare I: The Welcome

Following Fanfare I, the Jester enters the rear of the hall and proceeds to the stage greeting the guests with:

Jester: Wes hale, good lords and ladies fair!
We bid thee welcome, we bid thee share
Our feasting and our revelry,
Our music and our company.

But ere our feast we now begin,
We must prepare ourselves within:
For a proper feast in a proper year
Demands a proper atmosphere.

Columbus has not yet discovered this place,
So all that is modern we must erase.
The year is fourteen seventy-eight!
So dream with me, tomorrow can wait.

Let's dream of names we might have been:
A Duke, Duchess, King, or Queen...
Perhaps a Baron, here or there;
The titles are free, so what do we care?

Let's dream of the castle and of the King,
And dream of the music that they do sing.
Let's dream of our carriage out by the gate,
Let's dream of the servants that on us do wait.

So . . . close your eyes . . . and with all your zeal
Dream that your dreams are coming real.
 Tonight let not reality
 Intrude upon our company.

(Motions toward the brass, and in a loud voice:)
Trumpets blow thy clarion call!
And Singers, hie thee to the hall!

Brass: Fanfare I: (Repeated) The Processional

*The Royal Court enters from the rear of the hall and sings: Nova, Nova! They then lead a Royal Procession to the head table singing, **Masters in the Hall**. They are followed in the procession by the pages, minstrels troubadours, trouveres, recorders, servants, and finally the beggars. The servants are carrying pitchers of wassail. The Royal Court proceeds to the stage. The rest of the cast come to the front, then split and form a line on each side of the hall surrounding the audience. The cast stand with heads bowed as the Royal Court sings: **Adoramus te, Christe**. They sing with their hands folded in the classical manner. Immediately following this song, the brass begin the next fanfare.*

Brass: Fanfare II: The Wassail

The pages enter at the sound of the fanfare. They are carrying the bowl of wassail. The servants and the cast surround the pages as the bowl is brought forward. They congregate beneath the stage on either side. Some actually go on stage to receive coins from the King. In loud and clear voices, various member of the cast speak the following:

Courtier: Come bravely on , my masters,
For here we shall be tasters
Of curious dishes that are brave and fine.

Courtier: Where they, that do such cheer afford,
I'll lay my knife upon the board.
My master and my dame they do not pine.

Courtier: Who is it will not be merry
And sing down, down-a-derry?
For now it is a time of joy and mirth!

Courtier 'tis said, "'tis merry in the hall
Whence beards they do wag all;"
God's plenty's here, it doth not show a dearth.

Courtier: Let him take all lives longest!
Come fill us of the strongest
And I will drink a health to honest John!

Courtier: Come, pray thee, butler, fill the bowl
And let it round the table roll!
When it is up, I'll tell you more anon!