

CAMELOT

I-1  
(A-1)

Hillside  
Herald is spotted on rock as part of  
dim-up  
Daytime, winter, grey sky, snow

Full procession down ramp, around tree  
and off downstage L. Arthur and  
Merlin enter.

Song

Arthur.

Climbs back into tree. Empty stage.  
Someone runs across on his applause.  
It's Gwen.

Song

She sings, moves down near the rock. She  
wants someone to fight for her, some  
romance, instead of this simple business of  
marrying the king. "The simple joys of  
maidenhood."

Arthur jumps from tree. She thinks she  
is talking to a commoner. Love at first  
sight. He promises to help her get out  
of Camelot.

He sings "Camelot."

People return. Reprise of procession  
number--a musical bridge.

Gwen finds she's been talking to the king.  
He tells her how he became king. Probably  
music under this long soliloquy. At the  
end he says that now he'd like to be the  
best king possible.

He has succeeded in selling her Camelot.

I-2  
(A-2)

Cross-fade

Merlin appears from behind tree.  
Soliloquy: Of course Arthur would be inspired by a woman, not by me. He knows, as he's moving backwards in time, that he'll be leaving Arthur. Have I warned him of everything he has to know? But Merlin forgets what it is.

He comes down stage and walks up stairs Stage L. to tower and stands there.

Night (Niemu) drop comes down and tree goes up.

Fade out

At end he walks from tower towards his captivity (by Niemu). There's a feeling he is going around a hill and off into the distance.

I-3  
(A-3)

Lights

King's Study Set

Study has a window on its back wall, somewhat towards Stage R., and another window on the Stage R. wall of the set proper. It is the back-wall window where action occurs.

In Toronto, the study will be moved forward onto the 8' apron.

Arthur and Gwen are on stage, Arthur thinking, Gwen doing something quiet. This is when Arthur dreams up the round table. Discusses with Gwen, who encourages him.

A page comes up, and he summons a herald. Herald mounts Stage R tower, prepared to blow trumpet to summon the people for Arthur's proclamation. Arthur goes to window, about to proclaim. Study recedes

as

I-4  
(A-4)

Camelot drop (translucent) comes down.

Lancelot is on stage, pointing to Camelot. A knight he has vanquished is on the ground.



6

Song Lancelot sings "C'est moi!" all about how wonderful he is, and that he's the best knight going. He vows he will become Arthur's right-hand man.

The fallen knight gets up, and it is Arthur. This is rather a comedy scene. It is daytime.

The scene ends on their dialogue, as they go off.

I-5  
(A-5) Green and white (Maying) scene  
Daytime, outdoor, translucent back drop

Begins with dance. Gwen enters during dancing.

Song Gwen sings, "Lusty Month of May."

There are real fountains in scene. Jets go up 6'. (A.F. Alzak reflectors for basins??)

King P., a buffoon, is introduced in this scene. Provides some hilarity.

Arthur comes on with Lancelot. Lancelot is quite a prig. Gwen takes exception to this. Lancelot is talking over Arthur's idea of round table, and Gwen does not like his attitude.

Arthur goes off with Lancelot and King P.

Song Gwen, left onstage, sings, "Take me to the Fair." Big production affair here. Point of song is whoever knocks ~~Arthur~~ Lancelot to the ground can take her to the fair.

I-5A  
(A-5A) Crossover Song reprise in front of #1 scrim which is backed by #1 velour drop.

I-6  
(A-6)

Scrim goes up  
Cloister drop  
Drop between parapet wall and tracery  
is translucent  
Late afternoon going to twilight

Arthur and King P. are playing chess.  
Pages are in attendance.  
A. and K.P. have an argument; King P.  
is a conservative and doesn't like new  
ideas.

Game is over and pages remove table.  
More arguing and King P. exits.

Gwen comes on. Tiff with Arthur, who's  
discovered she is ganging up on Lancelot.  
In some way she wins and exits.

Song

Arthur, alone, sings, "How to handle a  
woman."

Dim down.

I-7  
(A-7)

Tent scene  
Translucent drop  
Additional backdrop for sky--no stars  
Mid-afternoon

Song

Just before joust. Scene opens with a  
song, big production number.

Four knights are on stage, being readied  
for the tournament. Lancelot also onstage,  
standing apart.

A herald announces one name at a time  
to crowd offstage, which roars each time  
in acclamation. At each name, with proper  
interval between, a knight goes offstage to  
joust. Lancelot is last and finally he's  
called.

I-8  
(A-8)

The tournament  
Tent drop up and tournament area is  
revealed

A mock joust (semi-dance) going on to  
entertain the people. Herald announces  
real joust and rules thereof. The knights

kneel before Queen to get her bit of kerchief as a mark of wearing her colors. Lancelot does the same, but she ignores him.

Song

The people sing, and from the lyrics it appears that Lancelot has managed to knock down each of the knights in turn. The lastknight has a lance in him and is dying. Doctor comes, but gives him up. Lancelot prays him back to life. The people recognize that he can work the miracles he said he could.

This is really a magic moment. Everyone bowd to Lancelot. Gwen is the last to bow, and then Lancelot bows to her. They acknowledge each other for the first time. This is now a romantic moment.

Dim out.

I-9  
(A-9)

Scrim #1: plain wash in color  
Niemu drop backs it up

Merlin is behind Scrim #1. The effect is rippling water. The impression is that Merlin is in his captivity, in a cave under water. The audience does not see a cave.

(AF: Bring down a frame with lights behind to create cave effect, with light coming from inside cave.)

Merlin has about a one minute speech.

(AF: Hook-up of 4 lamps to create an island for glow.)

I-10  
(A-3)

King's Study  
Daytime

Arthur and King Pellinore are at the chess board. Guenever comes on at beginning. Lancelot comes in and announces he is leaving on the quest for the Holy Grail. King Pellinore says he will go with him.



Gwen goes to window to wave goodbye. She seems to be crying. Arthur now recognizes that she cares for Lancelot, and gently and delicately he tells her so by giving her his handkerchief.

Fade out.

Scene 11A  
(A-11A)

Nimue drop  
Beginning of quest

A knight is being dragged across the stage by a long rope. Lancelot and King Pellinore come across this situation. Find he's being taken prisoner by a monster knight. Lancelot overwhelms the monster-knight.

Song Lancelot sings, "Will you change?"

Monster says yes.

Song Lancelot, "Then go back and join the Table-O."

Black out at end of song.

Scene 11B  
(A-11B)

(Beginning of series of 3 comedy scenes)

Scene is in front of a thicket Four maidens wait to seduce whomever passes by

Lancelot comes by but is not seduced

Blackout Bolt of lightning, smoke, blackout, lights up . . . revealing

Four knights who had been imprisoned appear and maidens are gone. (Four Flash boxes, 2 in each trunk.)

Knights will seem to be coming through smoke. May have to use turn tables or a wall prop with trick doors. Lightning will be downstage to block view.

Song Knights: "We will now join the Table-O."

They go off.

2nd Scene      Trunk piece appears, and jail Stage R.  
 Wife is inside jail. Husband outside, eating.  
 (AF: small specials to clip on inside of ceiling of set to get light inside jail.)  
 Lancelot insists husband lets her out.

Song            Lancelot: "Will you change?" and then into Table-0 again.  
 Blackout #2

3Rd scene      A lighted campfire. Four Scottish Knights, the Orkneys surround 2 foot soldiers. Lancelot confronts them. They draw swords.  
 Blackout #3

Scene 12            Camelot drop  
 Orchestra playing "Camelot" theme.  
 Solo for Lancelot and King Pellinore.  
 Fade out.

Scene 13            Cloister drop.  
 (A-6)                Daylight.  
 Gwen is being dressed for final investiture of knights. Attended by Lady-in-Waiting. Gwen waiting for Lancelot to return.

Song            Gwen, "I hope he doesn't look the way he did when he went away."  
 Lancelot comes on. Arthur comes on and they drink a toast. Arthur exits.  
 Lancelot and Gwen have their moment alone and confess they love each other.

Scene 14  
(A-14)

Corridor of Great Hall

Ladies, wearing capes, are crossing over.

Scene 15  
(A-15)

Great Hall--all gold

Arthur and Guenever on thrones.  
Several men are knighted.

Two large banners, one on either side of set canopy. People are holding banners, on steps. Banners hang out of middle turret.

This is a pantomime scene. All exit.

Arthur alone for his soliloquy. He realizes that Gwen and Lancelot are in love, and that he has to live with it.

END OF ACT I



Scene 1  
(A-16)

Great Hall--close up  
Mid-afternoon  
Banners are hanging from border of set

A knight is on his knees with Lancelot hovering over him threateningly.

(AF: crosslight from L & R.)

Lancelot has this dramatic opening with the knight challenging him due to the former's affair with Gwen.

Arthur and King Pellinore are also onstage. The knight is banished. Pellinore goes off stage with him, then returns. He tells Arthur that things can't go on this way, with Lancelot's open alliance with Gwen. The other knights cannot accept it.

Arthur won't listen, but he does get another of his vastly civilizing ideas: trial by jury.

Arthur starts off with King P. when a young knight is announced. It is Mordred, who forces his way to Arthur's presence. He is made welcome by Arthur. The Orkneys are sent for. He is their younger brother, but they hate him.

Arthur exits and Mordred is left alone. He tries the throne on for size. The Orkneys come on. Mordred inquires about how things are going. The Orkneys reply is that they have hated these last eight years of goodness.

Song

They sing, "Fie on goodness." This is a strong, virile number.

Mordred is downstage during this.

Blackout.

Scene 2  
(A-14)

Song

Corridor drop  
A reprise of "Fie" song by Mordred.

Scene 3  
(A-3)

King's Study  
(Cloister scene had been recommended instead,  
but King's study seems more practical  
production-wise.)

Arthur, Gwen and Lancelot are present.  
Arthur tells them Mordred is his  
illegitimate son, and cautions them to  
be careful about their relations, since  
Mordred would use anything to get at  
Arthur.

Arthur makes Lancelot promise never to  
harm Mordred, who is possibly the heir  
to the kingdom.

Song

Arthur and Gwen: "What do people do to  
solve their problems."

Blackout.

Scene 4  
(A-9)

#1 scrim backed with Nimue drop  
(sky with stars)

A Mordred scene played behind scrim.

Mordred  
~~Morgan~~ is in nowhere calling to Morgan  
leFey, the woods witch. He has a  
30-second speech. She answers off-stage.  
He entreats her to make herself known to  
him. When she agrees, the Nimue drop  
goes up.

The lights come up in the background and  
vague clumps of things are made visible  
at first. These are vines which become  
trees as they are pulled up. The  
forest quite literally rises.

(AF: In boom positions, down low,  
3" off floor, lights to cross-light  
magic forest in low position.)

As trees are close to full height, the  
castle is revealed behind them. The  
castle lights up. The creatures of the  
forest are seen, fantastic forms. All  
this is a build-up for the appearance of  
Morgan leFey. She and Mordred exchange  
dialogue. They exit.



(AF: black lights set in columns?)

Castle dims. An arrow wooshes across the stage. Arthur and King Pellinore come on; they have been hunting. Some dialogue.

Song

Or a sollilogy by Arthur. They sit by a tree stump. Forest creatures come out and build an invisible wall around them, locking them in the forest.

After a short sleep, Arthur and King P. get up. They keep bumping into rocks when they move, and discover they are prisoners.

Mordred comes on and asks Arthur if he's serious about following through on trial by jury idea; this implies Lancelot and Gwen who would be condemned by this means.

Arthur says he will stand by his law.

Arthur and King P. are alone. Arthur's speech telling Lancelot and Gwen to watch their step.

Scene 5  
(AX-5A)

#1 scrim backed by #1 drop

Mordred and Morgan leFey.

Scene 6  
~~AX-5A~~ (A-21)

Queen's Bedroom, translucent window, moonlight  
Door to closet Stage L  
Door to hall Stage R

Downstage L, Gwen is coming her hair at table. Lancelot comes on. Love scene.

Song

Lancelot sings to Gwen

A pounding on hall door. Knights demand Lancelot comes out. He has no weapons, and he knows he's been betrayed. Goes to closet. Gets Queen's state robes, so that when she is taken she will appear in full dignity. He walks off into the light of the hallway to do battle. She's left Stage center to wait.

(Af: Stage R door--special lamps to cut



through door for feeling of light outside.)

Fade out

Scene 7  
(A-14)

Corridor drop (may not be used)

Song

There is one made in each tower. Man in Stage R tower sings to Man Stage L tower. This last man sings to someone onstage Stage R. This last man in turn sings to others.

Song

Corridor drop out. #2 Border drop comes in. Stage full of people carrying torches and singing a big production number as they go up stair cases: "Guenever." This builds in intensity.

Blackout.

Scene 8  
(King A-3)

King's Study

Dawn

(AF: On Stage R booms, specials for lights through windows.)

Arthur stands at window to see if Lancelot can rescue Gwen before she is burned at the stake. ~~She burns~~ Mordred, with broken arm, comes on and then goes off. There is much rushing on and off of knights. A busy scene.

Scene 9  
(A-24)

Cross-over to France

Horses crossing over behind scrim.

~~Arthur has just come from battlefield~~  
#

Scene 10  
(A-25)

France, Arthur's Tent

Pre-dawn

Arthur has just come from battlefield. Sends word he wants to see Lancelot and Gwen. He is in battle against them, since he has to follow logic of his own

new laws. But wants to see them ahead of time.

They come down ramp Upstage R

Reunion scene. Gwen and Lancelot exit.

Audience discovers round table has collapsed. Arthur is at the bottom of the barrel.

Page boy appears. Has run away from home to join Arthur. He believes in everything Arthur has tried to do.

Song

Arthur sings to him a reprise of "Camelot." Arthur knights him and sends him home, to keep him out of danger.

Arthur calls for sword for another day of fighting.

Finale

Border Drop #2 comes to floor.

Two heralds with huge banners go to sides. They pull banners aside with a sweep to reveal two principals. This is repeated until all the principals are on. Then Arthur and Gwen appear on the throne for their bow.

Maybe some reprise of a song.

END