

ALADDIN

A Pantomime by

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aladdin

CAST

ABANAZAR
 SLAVE OF THE RING
 SERGEANT CHOP A Chinese Policewoman
 PC SUEY A Chinese Policeman
 ALADDIN
 WISHEE WASHEE
 WIDOW TWANKEY
 EMPEROR
 PRINCESS JASMINE
 NOTSOSHY Her Handmaiden
 GENIE OF THE LAMP

CHORUS OF TOWNSPEOPLE, SPIRITS OF THE CAVE, SLAVE GIRLS AND GUARDS

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 ABANAZAR'S LAIR IN EGYPT
 SCENE 2 OUTSIDE THE TWANKEY LAUNDRY IN PEKING
 SCENE 3 BEHIND THE LAUNDRY
 SCENE 4 THE PRINCESS' BOUDOIR
 SCENE 5 BEHIND THE LAUNDRY
 SCENE 6 INSIDE THE LAUNDRY
 SCENE 7 THE HILLS OUTSIDE PEKING
 SCENE 8 INSIDE THE ENCHANTED CAVE

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 OUTSIDE THE TWANKEY LAUNDRY
 SCENE 2 THE STREET OF A THOUSAND TAKEAWAYS
 SCENE 3 ALADDIN'S PALACE
 SCENE 4 THE STREET OF A THOUSAND TAKEAWAYS
 SCENE 4a IN THE AIR (Optional)
 SCENE 5 ABANAZAR'S PALACE IN EGYPT
 SCENE 6 BEHIND THE LAUNDRY
 SCENE 7 ALADDIN'S PALACE

[Please Note: If required Act Two Scenes 2 and 4 can be played as Behind the Laundry]

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PRODUCTION NOTES

This Pantomime can be staged as simply or as lavishly as your facilities allow. Suggestions for basic settings are as follows:

Act One

- Scene 1 Black front tabs with areas down left and right lit. The tea urn for the running gag should be permanently set down right.
- Scene 2 Full set with backcloth or cyc. The laundry with practical door is the only large piece of scenery required. All the rest can be flats or curtains.
- Scene 3&5 Front cloth or running tabs
- Scene 4 A small inset or another set of tabs with furniture set in front.
- Scene 6 A three-quarter set backed by a cloth. The washing machine can be a simple three-sided piece plus top with a hinged lid. If it is possible to create bubbles either from a bubble machine or foam, so much the better. The washing machine should be set by the wings to allow the operator access. The explosion can be a maroon or sound effect.
- Scene 7 A second front cloth or running tabs. The rock piece is set stage left and the cave opening is operated from the wings.
- Scene 8 Rock pieces at various heights can be set on an open stage and backed by a set of black tabs. If limited space does not allow for a full transformation, the black tabs could open part way to show the cyc. and sunlight outside. Props should ensure that the jewels paraded before Aladdin be as bright and colourful as possible.

Act Two

- Scene 1 Repeat Act 1 Scene 2 with the addition of some hanging Chinese lanterns.
- Scene 2, 4&6 A third front cloth or repeat Behind the Laundry or running tabs.
- Scene 3 This scene can be backed by a cloth or cyc. with balustrade and three arches downstage of it. The rest of the scenery can be richly coloured drapes if pillars are not practical.
- Scene 4A* This scene is only possible if realistic looking flying carpets can be used. These could be trucks or scissor lifts with carpets on top and smoke or dry ice for cloud effect.
- Scene 5 As Scene 3 but with distant palm trees and/or pyramids visible through the arches.
- Scene 7 If it is possible to do a 'finale walkdown' all the better. If not then repeat Act 2 Scene 3.

* A flying carpet device is available. If you would like more details on the device and the availability and hiring charge, contact: The Production Manager

Talisman Theatre Company
Barrow Road
Kenilworth
CV8 1EG
email: talisman.stage@btinternet.com

Effects

Effects can be expensive and are not essential to the success of your production. If it is possible to use flashes, so much the better, but a simple lighting effect followed by a blackout while the Slave or the Genie enters works just as well.

Notes on the washing machine are covered in the Laundry scene description. The tea urn should be just a prop. It is advisable to mime drinking the tea so liquid is not spilt and the scenes keep going.

Characters

- Aladdin: Loveable dreamer, but with ambition. Can be played male or female as a Principal Boy. Important to be a good singer.
- Widow Twankey: Big hearted and comic. Always larger than life in character and of course has an outrageous wardrobe. Should always be played by a man for full comic effect.
- Wishee Washee: Aladdin's younger brother. Knock-about comic with a good rapport with the audience. Needs to be a good all round entertainer.
- Abanazar: The villain of the piece. Interacts with the audience and must always retain the upper hand when the 'booing' starts.
- Princess Jasmine: Principal Girl. Lovely to look at but with a mind of her own and a determined nature. Strong singing voice required.
- Emperor: Fussy and authoritative father figure.
- Notsoshy: Handmaiden to the Princess. A forthright 'jolly hockey-sticks' type of girl, perhaps with a slight lisp. Comedy interaction with Wishee Washee.
- Sergeant Chop: A Policewoman. Knock-about comedy part with a sharp 'official' delivery.
- PC Suey: A Policeman. Other half of a comedy duo. Slow on the uptake. It is funnier if he is taller than Chop.
- Slave of the Ring: Rather than be the 'typical' type of magical character, she should be played as though things are a bit of a chore for her – especially with Abanazar.
- Genie of the Lamp: Physically he should be quite stunning. He is a 'cool' character and makes much of the rap dialogue.
A note about the rap. If, in rehearsal, more modern rap phrases or words are found to work, please feel free to alter them. But always keep in mind that 'less is more' and don't overdo the speeches.

Aladdin is first and foremost a pantomime adventure and the action should not let up for a moment. Every pantomime needs pace and this one in particular relies on speed of dialogue.

The comedy sequences, of course, must be timed, but the rest of the action must move swiftly along to ensure the maximum audience enjoyment.

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences – particularly the younger members – like to story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially the ballads. I recommend no number should be more than two minutes.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of 'Aladdin' and have a great success with your production.
Stephen Duckham

ACT ONE
SCENE 1 ABANAZAR'S LAIR IN EGYPT

[A dimly lit scene taking up the area Down Left. The imposing figure of ABANAZAR stands holding a large ancient looking book. On the middle finger of one hand HE wears an impressive ring. HE reads, quickly turning the pages until he finds what he is looking for.]

- ABANAZAR At last! At last! The ancient rhyme to complete the puzzle that I have been trying to solve for years. The whereabouts of a magic lamp. A lamp that holds the power to make me the greatest magician in the whole Universe! *[HE recites, reading from the bottom of the left-hand page.]*
 From ancient times a hidden cave
 Holds wonders to behold.
 Jewels and rings, exquisite things
 Of silver and of gold.
 But most of all a magic lamp
 That brings you everything,
 Is waiting to be found by you
 Just outside *[HE looks up at the right hand page.]*
 Bognor Regis! *[Or nearby town.]*
 That can't be right. *[HE looks again and then exclaims.]* Oh no! A page is missing! All these years of searching and I still don't know the answer. *[HE snaps the book shut.]* I know I'll get my servant – the Slave of the Ring – to tell me. *[HE rubs the ring on his finger. The SLAVE OF THE RING appears down right. She is older than one would expect and has a rather motherly approach to things.]*
- SLAVE *[Sounding rather bored.]* Here I am to do your bidding, master.
- ABANAZAR I need to know the last line of the rhyme.
- SLAVE What rhyme is that?
- ABANAZAR *[Impatiently.]* The rhyme in this book that tells me where the magic lamp is.
- SLAVE But I've told you a thousand times dear, I cannot divulge its whereabouts. You alone must solve the riddle.
- ABANAZAR Couldn't you give me a little hint?
- SLAVE No, sorry dear.
- ABANAZAR Oh you're no use to me at all.
- SLAVE Well if that's how you feel I'll be off.
- ABANAZAR No. Wait. *[Attempting to be nice.]* If I have a guess, could you tell me if I'm right or wrong?
- SLAVE Well
- ABANAZAR Oh go on. Just for me!
- SLAVE Oh anything for a quiet life.

- ABANAZAR *[Getting excited and quickly scanning the rhyme again.]* But most of all the magic lamp that brings you everything. Everything! It has to be a place that rhymes with everything?
- SLAVE Clever you!
- ABANAZAR Tring? *[SLAVE shakes her head.]* Worthing? *[SLAVE shakes her head again and rolls her eyes.]* Woking? No. No. A lamp wouldn't be found in places like that. It's a mystical piece. From the East. That's it. It has an oriental origin. *[The penny drops.]* I've got, I've got it! Peking! It's in Peking in China. *[Looking at the SLAVE.]* I'm right, aren't I?
- SLAVE Well it's ten out of ten for effort, anyway!
- ABANAZAR *[Delighted with himself.]* Oh I'm brilliant. And when I get the lamp I shall be even greater.
- SLAVE But you've got to get it first.
- ABANAZAR That'll be easy. I know the magic word to open hidden caves and then I'll just walk in and claim it for myself.
- SLAVE *[Slowly shaking HER head.]* Oh no no no no
- ABANAZAR No?
- SLAVE You can't.
- ABANAZAR What do you mean?
- SLAVE The cave has a protective power surrounding it. Only an innocent youth who has no prior knowledge of what the lamp can do may enter the cave. If a scheming old sorcerer like you should go in, all the treasures would vanish into the mists of time and the cave will reseal itself.
- ABANAZAR *[Angry at what she called him but restrains himself.]* Then Slave of the Ring I command you to locate such a youth who will assist me in my quest.
- SLAVE I do know of such a boy who resides in the city of Peking.
- ABANAZAR *[Frustrated.]* Well? His name? His name?
- SLAVE His name is Aladdin, son of a laundry woman.
- ABANAZAR Then take me to his home straight away.
- SLAVE What right now?
- ABANAZAR This very minute.
- SLAVE But it's lunchtime!
- ABANAZAR This instant. Do my bidding or suffer the consequences.
- SLAVE Alright. Alright. Don't get your beard in a twist. *[SHE chants.]*

Aladdin is the youth we seek,
So in old Peking we'll take a peek!

[SHE makes a pass and the lights blackout. The scene changes to

SCENE 2 OUTSIDE THE TWANKEY LAUNDRY

[Stage left is Widow Twankey's Laundry. Stage right has other buildings and all have an oriental design. The backcloth depicts a continuation of the street and in the distance we can see the Emperor's Palace. Other buildings' facades are seen up stage including the Imperial Baths up right. Other entrances are down stage right and left. A ledge is attached to the false proscenium on which is situated an oriental tea urn and cup. A sign above it reads. "China Tea. – Soothing and Calming." As the scene opens it is a hive of activity with the CHORUS singing the opening song.]

OPENING NUMBER

[After the number a police siren is heard off. Music from a TV Police Series is played. The lights black out and SERGEANT CHOP enters. SHE is wearing a Chinese police outfit in yellow with red trimming. A British police helmet with a flashing blue light on top. SHE is a typical sergeant, full of self-importance and always on duty. As SHE arrives centre stage the lights return.]

CHOP PC Suey? PC Suey, where are you?

SUEY *[Off.]* Coming Sergeant. *[HE runs on also wearing a Chinese police outfit, British helmet but only one glove. Quite the opposite of the Sergeant HE treats everything as a bit of a joke. HE bumps into CHOP and EVERYONE laughs.]*

CHOP What do you think you are doing?

SUEY Sorry Sergeant.

CHOP We are the pride of the Peking Police Force, not some pantomime knockabout team!

SUEY *[Having heard it all before.]* No Sergeant.

CHOP We must conduct ourselves with the utmost professionalism.

SUEY *[Rolling eyes.]* Yes Sergeant.

CHOP What's the motto of the Peking Police Force?

SUEY *[Not listening.]* Three bags full, Sergeant!

CHOP WHAT?

SUEY *[Realising.]* Er – I mean – always do your duty.

- CHOP Right. And don't you forget it. *[Notices his gloved hand.]* Why are you only wearing one glove?
- SUEY Well I heard the weather forecast this morning. *[Gestures with glove-less hand.]* It said it was going to be warm – *[Holds up gloved hand.]* – but on the other hand it might turn cold! *[ALL laugh.]*
- CHOP You idiot! *[SHE addresses the CHORUS.]* Now listen everyone. I have a special announcement. As protectors of the royal personages it has come to our attention that a stranger has been climbing the tree outside the Palace garden to get a quick butchers at her Highness, Princess Jasmine.
- SUEY *[Not hearing correctly.]* Princess Has Been?
- CHOP Jasmine, idiot.
- SUEY You can't call the Princess an idiot.
- CHOP Shut up! *[Continuing.]* As I was saying, a stranger has been seen trying to look at the Princess, which as you all know is a very serious crime with the most severe punishment. *[ALL react.]*
- SUEY Ohhh yes. It's horrible. *[HE starts to describe graphically.]* First they hang you upside down by the ankles and throw rotten vegetables at you. Then they put you in the stocks and throw rotten meat at you! You end up in a right stew! *[HE comes face to face with CHOP who is staring at him.]*
- CHOP When you've quite finished.
- SUEY Sorry Sergeant.
- CHOP There is a price on this ruffian's head, so if anyone sees a lad in –
[At this point ALADDIN enters up right and waves to the crowd.]
- 1st MAN Hello Aladdin.
- CHOP *[Not seeing ALADDIN.]* - yes, a lad in the vicinity of the Emperor's Palace, they must report it to one of us at once. *[ALADDIN moves to one side. CHOP and SUEY are not aware he is there.]*
- 1st WOMAN But who is he?
- 2nd WOMAN What does he look like?
- CHOP Ah ha! We have an eyewitness description of him.
- SUEY Yes. *[Consults his notebook.]* My mother's next door neighbour's second cousin's number one son told my mother's next door neighbour's second cousin, who told my mother's next door neighbour, who told my mother, who told me!

- CHOP *[Grabbing the notebook and hitting SUEY. ALL laugh.]* He is believed to be wearing – *[SHE now describes what ALADDIN is wearing.]* Has anyone seen him?
- ALL *[Ad lib.]* No sorry. Doesn't ring a bell. Not anyone from around here etc. etc.
- CHOP Well keep your eyes peeled. This villain must be apprehended. *[To SUEY.]* Come on Suey, we must be on our way. At the double. *[CHOP and SUEY run at double time around the stage, bump into each other and exit.]*
- ALADDIN What an idiotic pair. How did they ever get into the police force?
- 2nd MAN Aladdin, have you been climbing the walls of the Palace again?
- ALADDIN Well – maybe just for a quick peek into the garden.
- 3rd WOMAN One of these days the Peking Police will catch you.
- 1st MAN And then you'll be for the chop!
- ALADDIN *[Hand to his throat.]* Mm, I know. But it's worth it if I can see the Princess Jasmine.
- 1st WOMAN Oh you have got it bad.
- ALADDIN *[Sighing.]* I know. But she is the most beautiful girl in the whole of Peking.
- 2nd MAN And you're just the son of a lowly washerwoman, so you stand no chance with the Princess, even if you did get to meet her.
- ALADDIN Don't be too sure of that. I intend to make something of myself. Become someone important and then I can ask her to marry me!
- 2nd WOMAN How do you intend to do that?
- ALADDIN *[Hesitantly.]* Well – I don't know just yet. It may be a problem, but one I intend to overcome.

SONG – ALADDIN AND CHORUS

[At the end of the number a lot of noise and shouting is heard off and WISHEE WASHEE enters on an old broken down bicycle with a laundry basket piled high with washing attached to the front.]

- WISHEE *[As he enters.]* Watch out. Runaway laundry basket approaching. Help! Clear the road. *[The CHORUS runs off as HE circles the stage, narrowly missing ALADDIN and disappears into the wings. There is a sound effect of him crashing into all sorts of things.]* Owwww.
- ALADDIN Wishee what are you doing? *[WISHEE staggers back on with various articles of washing around his shoulders and carrying the rest in the basket.]*
- WISHEE Mum asked me to collect the laundry from our regulars, so I thought I'd use that old bike.

ALADDIN But the brakes on that haven't worked for years.

WISHEE So I've just found out!

ALADDIN Here, let me give you a hand. *[HE takes some of the washing and they put the basket by the laundry door.]*

WISHEE Thanks Aladdin. Although Mom asked you to do this job. Where have you been all morning?

ALADDIN Oh just out for a walk.

WISHEE A walk, eh? *[Suddenly in a panic.]* Oh no not to the Palace again. You've been looking at the Princess, haven't you?

ALADDIN Oh Wishee, she's so beautiful. I couldn't resist it.

WISHEE But can you resist being arrested? If you're caught you'll be strung up and.....

ALADDIN So everyone keeps telling me. But what else can I do? I've just got to meet her.

WISHEE You may as well put that idea right out of your head. Even at today's Royal Parade the Emperor has insisted that all eyes be averted when she passes by.

ALADDIN *[Surprised.]* Royal Parade? You mean she'll be walking through these very streets today?

WISHEE *[Wishing he hadn't said that.]* No! No I didn't mean that. I meant the other side of town. *[Pointing into the audience.]* Way, way over there.

ALADDIN You said these very streets.

WISHEE No – no I didn't. *[Pushing his hands to his mouth.]* Look – I'm eating my words! Rewind! I never said anything.

ALADDIN Oh this is just the chance I've been waiting for. I'll try to attract her attention and get her to talk to me.

WISHEE NO!!

ALADDIN Thank you Wishee. *[HE exits into the house left. WISHEE paces around the stage.]*

WISHEE Thank me? For what? Giving them a reason to arrest you? Then what will happen? I'll have to do all the work – that's what! *[Dithering all over the stage.]* Oh I'm all of a dither – *[To someone in the audience.]* – are you all of a dither, missus? No? Well you should be. This is a worrying situation. My lovesick brother could get himself into a lot of bother. Oh I must calm down. *[Sees the sign down right.]* Hello, what's this? *[Reads.]* "China Tea – Soothing and Calming". Just what I need. *[HE pours himself a cup, drinks and starts to relax.]* Ha! That's better. I feel much calmer now. I must remember this. Never

know when I might need another one. I know – do you think you could help me? *[Audience reaction.]* When you see me getting all of a dither about something and I say “I’m worried” – will you remind me to have a cup of tea? *[Audience reaction.]* Will you? Oh that’s wonderful. Just shout out “have a cup of tea” and that will remind me. Shall we have a trial run? When you hear me say, “I’m worried” shout out “have a cup of tea”. Here we go then. *[HE walks around the stage.]* Oh that brother of mine. He gets himself into all sorts of trouble. I do worry about him – I am – I’m worried. *[Audience shouts out, but WISHEE doesn’t hear them. HE crosses down stage.]* Did you shout? Well I didn’t hear you. You’ll have to shout really loud to remind me. Let’s have another go. *[HE resumes walking around the stage.]* I wish Aladdin wouldn’t go looking at the Princess. If he gets caught it’ll be the end of him. Oh I am worried. I’m really worried. *[Audience shouts out and WISHEE turns, smiles and pours a cup of tea.]* Oh that was much better. *[HE drinks.]* Now I’ve got nothing to worry about!

TWANKEY *[Off left.]* Wishee. Wishee, where are you?

WISHEE Oh that’s Mom. She’ll be wanting all this laundry. *[The door to the left house opens and WIDOW TWANKEY enters. SHE holds up an enormous pair of brightly coloured bloomers in front of her.]* Mother! Pull you skirt down when you bend over!

TWANKEY *[Lowering the bloomers.]* They’re not mine, you cheeky young thing. They’re from a new client. *[Reading the label.]* A Mrs S. Claus, care of the North Pole. *[SHE gives him the bloomers.]*

WISHEE But it’s miles away. Can’t we post them?

TWANKEY No, she’ll need them right away. It gets very draughty sitting on a sleigh in the middle of winter.

WISHEE Not only draughty! *[Holding his nose.]* Behind a load reindeers.

TWANKEY Now Wishee, no far.... *[SHE realises what SHE was about to say and changes her mind.]* farmyard jokes! I want you to help me hang out the last lot of washing.

WISHEE But Mum

TWANKEY Don’t “but Mum” me. It’s a beautiful day. Really good drying weather.

WISHEE *[Crossing to the house left and picking up the basket.]* All right Mum.

TWANKEY *[Calling after him as he exits.]* And get that brother of yours to give you a hand. *[To the audience.]* He’s a good lad really. *[SHE peers out into the auditorium.]* Well it’s nice to see you all. Are you all together or haven’t you been introduced? What? You don’t know each other? We can’t have that. Here in Peking we’re a friendly lot, so let me introduce myself. I’m Widow Twankey and I run this Garment Cleansing Establishment! That’s laundry to you lot! Now what are your names? Come on, don’t be shy. Everyone shout out their name after three. Ready? One – two – three. *[The audience shouts out.]* There we are. Now all of you know me and I know all of you! But do you know each other? *[Audience reaction.]* That’s easily solved. Turn to the person next to you. *[SHE encourages them to do so.]* Now repeat after me.

[SHE should wait until the audience responds to each phrase.] Hello. – How are you? – I’m very pleased to meet you. – Do you come here often? – Lend me a fiver! *[Audience reaction. WIDOW TWANKEY quietens them down and continues.]* There – now we’re all friends. I like to have friends – ‘cos I was very lonely as a child. *[“Ah’s from audience.]* I was! Nobody would talk to me ‘cos I was so ugly. When I was born the midwife slapped my parents! And they never bothered with me. They were in the iron and steel business. Mom used to iron and Dad used to steal! Then I met my husband. What a charmer he turned out to be. When we got married he told me my life would be like a fairy tale. He was right, it was *Grimm!* I had to tell the neighbours that he had royal connections. He was always away at Her Majesty’s pleasure! But I do have my two sons who give me a hand in the laundry – now and then. Talking of them, where have they got to with the washing? *[SHE crosses to the house left and calls.]* Wishee. Aladdin. Where’s that clothesline? *[SHE crosses back to down centre.]*

- ALADDIN *[Off.]* Coming Mum. *[HE enters and crosses down to TWANKEY. WISHEE follows him holding the end of a washing line that has to be long enough to stretch across the stage into the wings. On the line is a varied assortment of clothes.]*
- WISHEE We’ve pegged all the clothes on.
- TWANKEY *[Pointing off right.]* Tie it off over there.
- WISHEE Right O, Mum. *[HE exits pulling the washing line. During the next dialogue HE should run around the set to re-enter through the laundry door. Stagehands keep the line travelling across the stage.]*
- TWANKEY *[To ALADDIN.]* And where have you been since first thing this morning?
- ALADDIN Oh just around and about.
- TWANKEY Yes – around and about the vicinity of the Palace, I’ll bet.
- ALADDIN Well, I may have passed by.
- TWANKEY Oh Aladdin, what have I told you? You’ll get caught one day and then where will I be? No number one son to carry on the business.
- ALADDIN Oh Mum, I don’t want to spend the rest of my life working in a laundry. I’ve got ambitions. I’ve got dreams.
- TWANKEY Dreams are all well and good, but they don’t pay the off licence bill ... I mean the rent.
- ALADDIN One day I’ll have enough money to buy a hundred laundries.
- TWANKEY You’d better buy a farm as well to keep all those flying pigs in! *[SHE crosses right and calls off.]* Have you tied that line off Wishee?
- [WISHEE enters from the laundry holding the other end of the line.]*
- WISHEE Nearly there Mum. *[HE crosses right, trips and falls and the line goes whizzing off.]*

- TWANKEY Now look what you've done. All the washing's fallen onto the dirty street. I'll have to do it all again! *[SHE starts to push them both off right.]* Come on. There'll be no lunch for either of you until it's done. *[With ALADDIN and WISHEE protesting they ALL exit right. The lights dim slightly and ABANAZAR enters down left.]*
- ABANAZAR *[Looking around.]* Peking. My search for the lamp is nearing its end. Now all I have to do is find this boy Aladdin and persuade him to retrieve the lamp from the cave. I'll summon my slave of the ring to guide me to where he is. *[HE holds up his hand and rubs the ring. The SLAVE OF THE RING appears down right.]*
- SLAVE Here I am to do your bidding, master. But be quick about it will you, the East Enders omnibus *[Or another TV programme.]* is about to start!
- ABANAZAR This boy Aladdin that you spoke of. I wish you to find his home. Where is it?
- SLAVE Is that all? Have you dragged me out here just for that?
- ABANAZAR Don't speak to me like that! You are my slave, now answer my question.
- SLAVE All right, dearie. Keep your hair on! It's where you'd expect it to be in pantomime.
- ABANAZAR Eh?
- SLAVE *[Slightly sarcastically.]* It's behind you!
- ABANAZAR What? *[HE turns and sees the laundry.]* Widow Twankey's Laundry. Ah yes. The son of a washerwoman. This must be the place. *[To the SLAVE.]* That will be all. *[SHE rolls her eyes at the audience and exits down right.]* Now I can get to the boy, gain his confidence and have him retrieve the magic lamp from the hidden cave. And then the whole world will be mine. *[HE laughs evilly. Audience 'boo' and HE turns on them angrily.]* Oh be quiet you pathetic lot or I shall turn you all into Chinese dragons – *[Does a double take at someone in the audience.]* – which in your case would be an improvement. *[There is a commotion and WISHEE and ALADDIN enter right both carrying a large pile of washing. WIDOW TWANKEY follows.]*
- TWANKEY I want every bit of this washing done again before tonight or else there'll be no lunch, no dinner and no supper! Go on get in there and get started. *[WISHEE and ALADDIN exit into laundry - ad libbing.]*
- ABANAZAR *[Approaching TWANKEY.]* Madam, have I the honour of addressing the owner of this fine establishment?
- TWANKEY *[To the audience.]* Oh girls, it's - *[Name of film or pop star.]* Yes, that's right. I am Tomasina Twankey, widow of the parish.
- ABANAZAR Splendid. I've just come
- TWANKEY You've come to get your laundry done. *[SHE sniffs at him.]* And not a moment too soon! We've got a special offer on this week. Cut price deals on all underwear. Knickers are down!

- ABANAZAR No madam, I've not come about laundry, I've come about your son Aladdin.
- TWANKEY Aladdin? What do you want with him? *[Suddenly thinking he is with the police.]* Oh it's not about him trying to get a look at the Princess is it? I've told him about it and he's promised never to do it again. *[SHE falls to her knees.]* Oh please don't take him away from me! *[SHE starts pleading and wailing.]* I need him here to help me in the laundry. I'm an old woman and I need all the help I can get.
- ABANAZAR Madam I
- TWANKEY *[Suddenly normal voice.]* Hang on, I haven't finished yet! *[Back to pleading.]* It's hard enough trying to make ends meet. Ever since my husband passed on life's been getting more and more difficult. *[SHE clings to his robes. Big dramatics.]* Oh sir, please don't take him, I beg you. Please! Please! PLEASE!! *[Normal voice again as SHE gets up.]* All right - you can carry on now.
- ABANAZAR I merely wanted to tell him that I am his long lost Uncle. Uncle Abanazar.
- TWANKEY Uncle Howsyerfather? I've never heard of you.
- ABANAZAR That's because I've been away for many, many years, roaming the globe in search of gold and jewels.
- TWANKEY Gold and jewels? Does that mean you're rich?
- ABANAZAR Filthy rich!
- TWANKEY And you've come to us for a good wash!
- ABANAZAR I've realised all too late in life that no matter how much money you have, you're penniless without a family around you.
- TWANKEY I should be so poor!
- ABANAZAR So you see as Aladdin is your eldest son and I have no one else in the world – he will be heir to my fortune.
- TWANKEY Well that'll be nice for him *[Realising what he has said.]* Heir to your fortune? You mean he's going to be rich?
- ABANAZAR Eventually.
- TWANKEY *[Running to the laundry door.]* Aladdin! Aladdin come here – quickly.
- ALADDIN *[Off.]* I thought you wanted this washing doing.
- TWANKEY Never mind the washing. Come here. *[ALADDIN enters and crosses down to them. WISHEE follows.]* This is your long lost Uncle Aberystwyth!
- ABANAZAR Abanazar.

- TWANKEY He's come all the way from sunny Wales to meet you! *[Aside to ALADDIN.]* And he's got some very exciting news.
- ALADDIN Long lost Uncle? I didn't know father had a brother.
 TWANKEY *[To ABANAZAR.]* Come to think of it, he never mentioned you.
- ABANAZAR I was the black sheep of the family. I left home many years ago.
- WISHEE *[Aside to ALADDIN.]* I don't know whether you should trust him Aladdin. He looks a bit mysterious to me.
- ALADDIN What do you mean?
- WISHEE I don't know, but I'd be careful. He looks a bit scary. I'm worried he's not who he says he is. I am – I'm very worried. *[Audience calls out. WISHEE has a cup of tea.]*
- TWANKEY *[To ALADDIN.]* He's very rich and wants to share his lolly with us.
- ALADDIN Really?
- ABANAZAR Life has been good to me my boy. And as recompense for deserting the family all those years ago, I want you to benefit.
- TWANKEY Oh just think of it. No more washing and ironing.
- WISHEE No more *scrumping* and saving!
- ALADDIN So Uncle, this fortune you say you've amassed. When are we going to see it?
- ABANAZAR Soon. Very soon. There's something I want you to do for me first.
- ALADDIN I thought there'd be a catch.
- ABANAZAR No, there's no catch. I just want help with a little job and as a reward you'll have wealth beyond your imagination.
- TWANKEY 'ere, you don't want him to rob a bank, do you?
- ABANAZAR *[Laughing.]* Rob a bank – you'll be able to buy your own bank this time tomorrow.
- WISHEE I say! Do you need a hand?
- ABANAZAR *[Sharply.]* No! *[Softly.]* No thank you. Aladdin will be able to manage on his own. *[Taking ALADDIN to one side of the stage.]* I'll explain everything later. Meet me at sunset behind the laundry.
- ALADDIN Sunset behind the laundry.
- TWANKEY *[Hearing this and turning to WISHEE.]* Sunset behind the laundry.
- WISHEE *[Turning to no one.]* Sunset behind the *[HIS voice trails off.]*

- ABANAZAR Soon everything you've ever wished for will become a reality. Until later. *[To the others.]* Goodbye – family! It was a pleasure to finally meet you all. *[Laughing evilly towards the audience, HE exits down left.]*
- ALADDIN Oh Mum, I can hardly believe it. We're going to be rich!
- TWANKEY And I shall finally have enough money to get that *[Name of current pop idol.]* CD.
- WISHEE And I'll get the latest *[Name of a young children's TV programme.]* video!
[ALADDIN and TWANKEY give him a strange look.]
- TWANKEY Come on. Let's go and start making plans. *[ALL THREE exit into laundry. CHOP is heard calling off stage.]*
- CHOP *[Off.]* Make way for the Emperor and the Princess Jasmine. *[The CHORUS enters excitedly. CHOP and SUEY enter up stage and cross down centre.]* Stand aside all you rabble. His Celestial Highness comes.
- SUEY *[Pushing the crowd back.]* That's right – make way for his Cholesterol Highness!

ENTRANCE OF THE EMPEROR AND PRINCESS – CHORUS

[The EMPEROR enters and crosses down centre. He carries a large fan. PRINCESS JASMINE follows him. SHE has a veil covering her face. NOTSOSHY, her handmaiden accompanies her. As the number ends the EMPEROR bows to the ensemble left then right and in doing so bumps into SUEY.]

- EMPEROR Oh! My royal dignity has been damaged. *[He regains his composure.]* Good and loyal citizens of Peking. I come among you today for a very special reason. Sergeant Chop, read the proclamation.
- CHOP *[Bowing.]* At once, O mighty one. *[SHE unrolls a scroll.]* His Imperial Highness decrees that as the Princess Jasmine has reached her twenty first birthday, a suitor for her hand will be sought.
- SUEY Only her hand? What about the rest of her?
- CHOP *[Pushing him over.]* Be quiet – idiot. *[Continues reading.]* Candidates will only be considered if they are of a highborn family. *[Begins to roll the scroll.]*
- EMPEROR *[Aside to CHOP.]* And have pots of money!
- CHOP And have a personal fortune.
- EMPEROR That's right. No time wasters please! *[To CHOP.]* Continue Sergeant.
- CHOP As the ancient law of this land decrees that no one may look upon the face of the Princess until the marriage ceremony, all must avert their eyes and retire.
- SUEY But I'm only twenty-six. I'm too young to retire.

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