

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

ALADDIN

by

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CAST

IMMORTALS

The Slave of the Ring (Shapely young woman)

The Genie of the Lamp (Man)

MORTALS

Abanazar (A bit of a magician, but not much of one)

Widow Twankee

Aladdin (Her son)

Wishee Washee (Her other son)

The Emperor of China

Princess So-Shi (The Emperor's daughter) ó pronounced ðSO SHYö

Grand Vizier

Chief of the Emperor's Police

The Emperor's Police (Men)

Chorus of Dancing Girls

Singing Girls

Kiddies Chorus

SCENES

ACT I

Prologue	The Rock of the Magic Ring	Tabs
<u>Scene 1</u>	Market day in old Peking	Full set
<u>Scene 2</u>	A street in Peking ó late that evening	Tabs or front cloth
<u>Scene 3</u>	The Royal Palace gardens	Full set
<u>Scene 4</u>	On the way to Widow Twankee's	Tabs or front cloth
<u>Scene 5</u>	Widow Twankee's Chinese laundry	Full set
<u>Scene 6</u>	The Mountain Pass	Tabs or front cloth
<u>Scene 7</u>	Inside the cave	Full set

INTERVAL

ACT II

<u>Scene 8</u>	Widow Twankee's laundry	Full set
<u>Scene 9</u>	The Emperor's Pavilion	Tabs or front cloth
<u>Scene 10</u>	Aladdin's Palace	Full set
<u>Scene 11</u>	Outside Peking	Tabs or front cloth
<u>Scene 12</u>	Abanazar's African Fortress	Full set
<u>Scene 13</u>	Back in Peking	Tabs or front cloth
<u>Scene 14</u>	The Feast of a Thousand Lanterns	Full set

MUSIC NOTE

Play on and play off music is always brief, say 12 bars maximum

Music Cue

OVERTURE (1)

Prologue – The Rock of the Magic Ring Tabs

(After Overture lights dim to blackout. Deafening discord. Lights up to reveal Abanazar on stage in a state of extreme exultation. He is holding aloft a ring. A rock and a steaming cauldron may also be seen. Violin tremelo or similar through his first speech. (2)

(3)
 Abanazar At last the magic ring is mine. For centuries embedded in its hiding place in the rock, the ring now encircles my finger (*he puts it on*) the finger of Abanazar ó Wizard and weaver of magic spells. And now to test its mystic powers. Legend has it that I should turn the ring thrice on my finger. So be it ó Once! ó Twice! ó Thrice!

(Flash. Enter Slave of the Ring. Cut music)

Slave I am the slave of the ring. Master I await your command.

Abanazar Then hear this my command. Give me riches beyond the wildest dream of mortal man.

Slave Alas, master, such a command is not within my power. There are many things I can do and yet I cannot create wealth.

Abanazar Curses. What kind of slave is this that cannot heed my command?

Slave Be not so hasty master. Wealth I cannot provide ó yet I will tell you where it can be found.

Abanazar Speak slave. Tell me where!

Slave In far off China, lies the city of Pekin. High in the hills nearby, buried in an underground cave you will find untold treasure. Treasure which has lain undisturbed for over 2,000 years.

Abanazar Gold, silver, rubies, diamonds, emeralds, pearls ó all these things, Slave?

Slave Yes Master. Yet none of these compare with the greatest treasure of all. A plain brass lamp.

Abanazar A common lamp? Don't trifle with me, slave.

Slave Hear me, master. Whoever owns the lamp ó commands the Genie of the lamp. And the Genie of the lamp will grant any wish. Wealth, titles, kingdoms, compared to which the contents of the cave are nothing.

Abanazar I like the sound of this. Book me a single ticket to Pekin.

Slave Thence I will transport you, but you will need courage and daring before the lamp is yours.

Abanazar Courage and daring are strangers to me, yet with my native cunning I have never failed to find a friend to take the risks for me. Therefore my beautiful slave, transport me to Peking in far-away China.

Slave Master, I heed your command.

(Flash. Black-out)

Scene 1

Full set

A Market Day in Old Peking

(Opening number as tabs open. Singing girls, dancing girls and kiddies chorus "Supermarket in old Peking" or similar. Sampans and junks are visible on the river cloth and there are fishermen among the market traders and customers. The Square is crowded in a typical oriental way. A water carrier is in evidence. (4)

Stalls in the market place have signs over them – "Tes Co", "Mori Son", "Co Hop", As Da"

Fanfare. Enter Vizier) (5)

Vizier As Grand Vizier to the Emperor of China, all highest of the high, I hereby decree that the streets of Peking must be cleared.

All *(Protesting)* But it's market day etc. *(ad lib)*

Vizier Silence! In fifteen minutes, Chinese Summer Time, the Emperor and the Princess will pass this way.

All Ohhh! *(Half in excitement, half in awe)*

Vizier Doors must be bolted. Shutters must be shut. No one may cast eyes on the Princess or under penalty of torture and death or Chinese style. Waste no time, your fifteen minutes are passing rapidly *(Looks off)* The water clock on yonder wall has sprung a leak. *(Crowd pack close together)* Where is the Emperor's Chief of Police?

1st Girl Nearby *(Vizier says "good" after each line until it dawns on him what is happening)*

2nd Girl Close at hand)

3rd Girl Ever alert)

4th Girl Busy as usual) *(Crowd open out to show up particular stall up centre)*

5th Girl Lying low)

6th Girl Ear to the ground)

Vizier In other words or asleep. *(Pulls aside curtains round stall to reveal Chief of Police asleep underneath)*

All Wakey! Wakey! *(Chief suddenly awakens and rolls himself out. Looks at Vizier's feet through magnifying glass. Police Chief wears pebble glasses. Follows up Vizier looking through magnifying glass. When he gets to the face he screams)*

- Chief Where were you on the night of the 24th?
- Vizier Breathing, which is more than you'd be in a minute.
- Chief How so? ó Illustrious Vizier.
- Vizier The Emperor and Princess pass this way in ten minutes dead. Clear the streets or that's what you'd be. Understood?
- Chief Understood!
- Vizier I'd be away to the Teahouse of the Chinese Ty-Phoo. *(Exit Vizier)*
- Chief The police force of Peking. *(Salutes.)* The keenest and most efficient police force in the world ó *(Derisory laugh from crowd)* And I'm their chief. Now to summon my men. *(Blows whistle – nothing happens)* Now to summon my men. *(Blows whistle again and nothing happens.)*
- Chief *(Shouting out)* The Chief of Police is giving away free bottles of whiskey. *(Enter police from all directions to play on music "Chinatown" quick tempo)* (6)
- (They dash on bump into each other and fall down. They are an ill-assorted bunch, all shapes and sizes. They are all dressed in full police uniform as near like Keystone Cops as possible but none of them fit. General impression is that everyone has the wrong uniform on. When they enter, they rush on and pile up in a different position or heap each time and "freeze" into a comic heap for a second.)*
- 1st Policeman Where's the free whiskey?
- Chief You're too late for the whiskey. Here's the soda. *(He squirts police with siphon, they rise)*
- (Laughs)* I always said every time you come on parade you make a splash. Line up. *(They charge around and finish up in another heap.)*
- Chief Now I've some very important instructions for you. The only trouble is I can't remember what they are. So I'd tell you what I always tell you ó look out for pickpockets.

- Police *(Turning and looking at crowd)* Always look out for pickpockets. *(As police say this and look at crowd and Chief looks at police, one of crowd picks Chief's wallet out of his pocket)*
- Chief Always look out for pickpockets and keep your hand on your wallet. *(Discovers it's gone)*. Where's my wallet?
- Police *(To each other)* Where's his wallet?
- Chief Search everybody. *(Police all search each other)*. Come on, come on, who's got it?
- 1st Girl The thief went that way.
- Chief Which way?
- Crowd That way *(All point in different directions)*
- Chief After him. *(Police all move in different directions, bump into each other, flattening Police Chief. "Chinatown" play off quick tempo.)* (7)
(They exit running all over him on the ground and doing Keystone jumps, holding helmets on and waving truncheons.)
- Chief *(Picking himself up from the floor)*. The Pekin police are on the trail and the Pekin police always get their man. *(Uproar off-stage. Police re-enter to "Chinatown" music bringing on Aladdin)* (8)
- All Aladdin.
- Aladdin *(Freeing himself effortlessly from police)* Hello, everyone. And a Chinese welcome to my friends in blue.
- Chief Hello, hello, hello, hello ! *(Singsong)*
- Aladdin Hello
- Chief Where were you on the night of the 24th?
- Aladdin In my pyjamas.
- Chief Make a note of that ó ösleeps in pyjamasö. *(All police write on each others backs)*. What's your name?
- Aladdin Aladdin.
- Chief Make a note of that and watch the spelling A-L double L double D and a DIDIN! Now what can we do for you sir?
- 1st Policeman The stolen wallet, sir.
- Chief *(To Aladdin)* Ah yes, I understand that someone's stolen your wallet.

- Aladdin No they haven't.
- Chief Alright then, stolen your pyjamas.
- Aladdin No they haven't.
- Chief Then why are you wasting valuable police time? Remember time is money. Money! Wallet! Now I remember, it was my wallet. You've been deceiving me. I shall remember you. I never forget a name.
- What was it again?
- Aladdin Bart Simpson (*Or other topical name*)
- Chief Make a note of that. Bart Simpson. (*Police write on each others backs*). And where were you on the night of the 24th?
- (*Gong sounds offstage before Aladdin can reply*) The Emperor! The Princess! Now I remember my instructions. Clear the streets.
- Aladdin Certainly. (*He helps police to clear all off stage. Ad lib dialogue and Aladdin tip-toes off unseen by police. All crowd have now made exit except for police*).
- Chief Where's the prisoner?
- 1st Policeman Gone. You told us to clear the streets.
- Chief Fools, idiots, after him. (*Police and chief do comic exit to "Chinatown" (9) play off music*)
- (*Gong sounds three times. Play on music. Enter Wishee and Dame who (10) carries large shopping bag*)
- Wishee Who keeps banging that gong?
- Dame I've no idea. It sounds like a customer announcement at Sainsbury's. I'd tell you what, I've never known it so quiet on market day. There's nobody out spending.
- Wishee They've nothing to spend. They're saving up to pay next year's Council Tax.
- Dame Pekin should never have gone in with (*local large*) Met. It's quiet though. It's like Aberdeen on a flag day.
- Wishee It's not quite deserted Mam. Look at all these people out here. (*Indicates audience*) I'm Wishee-Washee.
- Dame And I'm Widow Twankee. They do look a nice lot, don't they?
- Wishee Yes, and they've all come to enjoy themselves, so we'd make sure they do. (*To audience*) We want you all to join in and have a good time. Will you do that? (*Yes from audience*) I don't think they understand me. I'd talk to them

in Chinese. (*Deliberate and loud*) Me can't hear you. Will you join in with us? (*Pointing*).

(*Yes from audience again*) Right, I'll tell you what we'll do. Every time I come on, I'll ask you a daft question ó and whatever I ask, you answer ðChopsticksö. We'll have a practice ó I'll go off (*He does so*) (*He re-enters*)

Wishee Are you ready? (*If audience says YES*)I You should have said ðChopsticksö,
OR (*If audience says CHOPSTICKS*) You've played this game before.

Dame (*To audience*) Now remember the answer is ðChopsticksö.

Wishee (*Enters. To audience*) What are we all going to have for supper tonight?

Audience Chopsticks.

Wishee That wasn't very loud ó let's try it again. (*They do so. Work this routine every time Wishee enters with lines like*

- *What did we all get for Christmas?*
- *What does the Musical Director pick his nose with?*
- *What's the best thing to eat when you're hungry?*
- *What does Tiger Woods play golf with?*
- *What do Wayne Rooney's legs look like?*
- *Or any other topical reference. On some audiences have two or three in quick succession.*
- *E.g. What's Widow Twankee wearing on her feet? Chopsticks*
- *What does she file her toe nails with? Chopsticks*
- *What does she brush her false teeth with? Chopsticks*
- *Widow Twankee who is on at the time re-acts to this with "Cheeky lotö*

Dame Now stop messing about ó have a look at the stalls and I'll see what money we've got left. (*She tips a huge quantity of bank notes out of her bag onto the stall. During the following she is counting.*)

Wishee That's a lot of money, Man.

Dame Don't you believe it. These days it'll buy nothing. I bought two kilos of sugar last week and had to use my Visa card. Everything's on hire purchase.

Wishee They're even selling canaries on higher perches.

- Dame What are they selling? (*Carrying a wad of notes*).
- Wishee Special offers. Star bargains and two for ones.
- Dame Two for one what?
- Wishee One economy size.
- Dame And what do you get?
- Wishee A giant mini pack.
- Dame Mini pack of what?
- Wishee Coupons off your next purchase.
- Dame I haven't made my first purchase yet. Anyway I shall have to have some toothpaste.
- Wishee What sort?
- Dame I don't care. Just some toothpaste ó (*Interrupted in her counting each time by Wishee*)
- Wishee Blue, green, red or white?
- Dame Immaterial.
- Wishee I don't know that brand. You can have stripes.
- Dame My teeth have stripes ó any toothpaste.
- Wishee What flavour?
- Dame (*Explodes*). I don't care what flavour, I don't care what size, I don't care what colour, I don't care what consistency. Flavour, size, colour, consistency does not matter. Not one jot nor tittle, just get me some toothpaste,
- Wishee Ordinary or sensitive?
- Dame Oh, never mind. What vegetables have they got?
- Wishee Spanish onions, welsh leeks, Brussel sprouts, Guernsey tomatoes, French beans and Jerusalem artichokes.
- Dame I thought we were in China. It's just like the United Nations. Look, get me some potatoes.
- Wishee Old or new? Bagged or loose?
- Dame Don't start that again. Buy half a sackful and make them small ones, then they don't weigh so much carrying them home. Oh, and while we're here, we're going to get you a new suit. Look there's some jackets here. Take your

- Kaftan off. (*Wishee does so. He is wearing a white vest with a large red sun on it*)
- Dame You must have that operation. And to think it was only a pimple yesterday. (*Brings all necessary clothes for routine*).
- Wishee It's the sun sinking in the vest.
- Dame Try this one. (*Wishee tries on a small coat*). It might be a suit, but it doesn't suit you.
- Wishee I'd jack-it in. Jacket in ó Oh never mind. (*Tries on coat which is too large*). It's too big.
- Dame You'd grow into it.
- Wishee I'd disappear into it.
- Dame Don't argue, try the trousers. (*Wishee goes behind stall and discards pair of over trousers, reappearing in matching trousers to coat*). Come here ó let's see you. It could do with letting out.
- Wishee It could do with chucking out.
- Dame How do you feel?
- Wishee Alright, but the trousers are a bit tight under the arm pits.
- Dame Come here. I want to look at the hem on those sleeves. (*Gets hold of sleeve*).
- Wishee Get off. (*Pulls away. Sleeve comes off*) (*Items of clothing are fastened with Velcro for this business*)
- Dame Now look what you've done.
- Wishee I'm armless.
- Dame You're gormless. Stand still. (*She pulls other sleeve off in making him stand still. Getting hold of lapels*) Stop pulling things to pieces. (*The lapels come away in her hand*) Will that jacket pull down?
- Wishee I should think so. Everything else has done. (*Wishee pulls rest of jacket off which pulls away from the neck and drops off*.)
- Dame You've ruined that coat. Now be careful with those trousers. Whatever you do, don't stretch the waistband.
- Wishee It's alright ó look.

- Dame Oh yes, quite a bit of play in them. (*Pretends to pull them from behind, at back as if elastic and finishes still holding them.*) I like them. We'll have these trousers. Where's my purse?
- Wishee In your basket. I'll get it. (*Wishee walks away. Trousers pull apart and drop off. He is wearing gaudy underpants.*)
(*Enter Aladdin running. He bumps into Wishee.*)
- Aladdin Wishee
- Wishee Aladdin.
- Aladdin Who do you play for? (*Makes as if to dash off.*)
- Dame Hey. Our Aladdin come here. If you're running, there's somebody chasing you. What's up?
- Aladdin The police are after me.
- Wishee If they see me like this, they'll be after me.
- Dame You're right. Let's all hide. (*Police whistle offstage.*)
- Aladdin Too late, they're coming.
- Dame Stand still. Pretend you're a dummy. (*To Wishee*) No effort for you.
(*They all stand like tailors dummies*)
- Wishee (*Breaks and looks at other two*) It looks like a meeting of (*local*) Council.
- Dame Get back (*He does so. Police whistle. Enter police to "Chinatown"* (11) *music – pile up in ridiculous pose*)
- Chief Lost him again. I wonder which way he went. If only that dummy could talk.
- Wishee (*Coming to life*) He went that way.
- Chief Thank you. (*Moves to go. Realises*) Arrest that man. (*Wishee runs off*)
After him.
(*All police exit chasing Wishee*)
- Dame Of if it isn't one, it's another. Anyway perhaps you can tell me why there's nobody about?
- Aladdin The Emperor and the Princess are coming this way. For anyone who casts an eye on the Princess, the penalty is death.
- Dame I'm off. I'm too young to die. Come on! (*Exits.*)

- Aladdin I'm staying. I want to see the Princess ó they say she's the most beautiful girl in the whole of China.
- (Gong sounds offstage.)* Here comes the procession. I must hide. *(He crouches behind a stall)* (13)
- (Gong sounds again. Enter Emperor, Vizier, Princess, hand-maiden and guards in procession)* (14)
- Vizier Poorest of the poor, lowest of the low, bow to the might of the highest of the high, the Emperor of all China.
- Emperor Alright, that's enough, or else it'll be time to go home. In any case there's no one about.
- Vizier Thus no one can cast eyes on the Princess.
- Princess How pointless it all is. If no one sees me ó I see no one.
- Emperor Soon the time will come for your betrothal. All the noblemen in the land shall meet you. From them I shall pick your husband to be. Till then no commoner may gaze upon you.
- Princess How lonely you make my life. Alright then. If I'm to be lonely I'll be alone.
- Emperor But your shopping expedition, my dear?
- Princess Leave me to it. You may all go.
- Vizier That will never do. Oh dear me, no, no, no, no, no, - *(Ad lib in musical fashion)*
- Emperor *(To Vizier)* Have you finished? I give the orders round here.
- Princess Please, Daddy!
- Emperor The streets are quiet, you may explore the market alone ó with your handmaiden.
- Princess *(She curtseys)* Your majesty. *(She turns away to the stalls).*
- Emperor Come, Vizier. We will seek refreshment. A bowl of coffee I fancy.
- Vizier I know the very place. The Coffee Bar of Ken Co.
- Emperor Will it take long?
- Vizier No, it's instant. *(All exit except Princess and handmaiden).*
- Princess *(Looking at stalls)* What beautiful silks ó and see, lace as delicate as the tracery of the summer flowers.

- Handmaiden See my lady, these glittering trinkets.
(Aladdin emerges from hiding place during this dialogue)
- Princess And this necklace. Never have I seen such beauty.
- Aladdin *(Half to himself)* Never have I seen such beauty.
- Princess *(Spins around)* What are you doing here?
- Handmaiden By gazing at the Princess, you put your life in peril.
- Aladdin *(Thinking fast)* Er ó I have no choice beautiful Princess. But a moment ago, I fell and sprained my ankle.
- Princess *(Understanding)* How unfortunate. Which one?
- Aladdin Er ó this one. *(He starts limping)*.
- Princess You poor boy. You must rest. Come and sit over here.
- Aladdin *(Walking eagerly and normally across)* Princess, you've smiled at me.
- Princess My smile has apparently cured you.
- Aladdin *(Suddenly limping round again as if in pain, but this time limping with the other leg)* Ah! Oh! The pain.
(He sits beside her)
- Princess Which ankle was it you sprained?
- Aladdin *(Uncertainly)* Er ó this one ó no ó *(He realises that she knows that he is not injured. They both laugh together)*
- Princess Now tell me, what were you doing in the market place?
- Aladdin Waiting to see you of course. They told me you were the most beautiful girl in all China
- Princess Really!
- Aladdin But they were wrong.
- Princess Oh!
- Aladdin You're the most beautiful girl in the world.
(Cue for duet Aladdin and Princess. Following two lines spoken over (15) intro to number)
- Princess No one has spoken to me like this before.

- Aladdin No one like me has ever seen you before. (*End of number*)
- Princess (*To Handmaiden*) You must say nothing of this. (*To Aladdin*) Tell me, quickly, and then you must go. What is your name?
- Aladdin Aladdin. Princess when may I see you again? I care nothing for the risk involved.
- Princess I shall not give away our secret. But I cannot arrange any such meeting. (*Moves quickly and whispers to Handmaiden. Aladdin slightly downcast, strains to hear. Princess moves away, Handmaiden moves to Aladdin*)
- Handmaiden The Princess takes her afternoon stroll in the palace gardens. There is a seat alongside the pool by the weeping willow ó but the Princess has told you none of this.
- Princess Come. (*To Handmaiden. They both exit*)
- Aladdin What a beautiful girl! What a beautiful day! My luckø in. The seat ó by the pool ó in the palace gardens ó I shall see my Princess again tomorrow afternoon. Uh-uh- but how can I get into the gardens? Iøll find a way over the nine feet wall. Today I feel ten feet tall. (*Reprise last part of (16) previous duet. Exit Aladdin*)
- (*Enter guards who form double line. Re-enter Emperor and Vizier*)
- Emperor I might have known it. No sign of my daughter. Vizier call the police. (*Vizier blows whistle. Police enter to "Chinatown" play on. Comic entrance business and pose*)
- Chief You rang, your majesty?
- Emperor I should have knocked ó knocked your head. You should have been here five minutes since.
- Chief Why, what happened?
- Emperor Nothing I hopeí You should have been here to guard the Princess, and now she has wandered off. We must locate her at once.
- Chief And to do that we must find her first.
- Vizier Find her first what?
- Emperor Now donøt you start.
- Chief Fear not, Sire. The might of the Pekin police is at your disposal. We shall search high and low, hither and thither, up and down, sideways and backwards. (*All police do appropriate movements during this and finish with a bump*). We shall commence our enquiries at the palace.
- Emperor Why at the palace?

- Chief. You say she vanished. And I saw her vanishing ó through the palace gates and into the palace. I saw her with my own eyes. Here have a look. (*Hands glasses to Emperor*).
- Emperor (*Grimly*) If I had my Chinese ceremonial sword with me, I'd wrap it round your neck.
(*Exit Emperor and Vizier and guard*)
- Chief (*To police*) Here that boys? Knighted at last.
- Police Congratulations (*They surround him – he disappears from view. Enter Abanazar to melodramatic music play on. He sees them*) (18)
- Abanazar Excuse me. I'm looking for the chief of police. (*Police part to reveal Chief on floor in a dishevelled state. He picks himself up and dusts himself down*).
- Chief Who are you?
- Abanazar Abanazar. A poor pedlar.
- Chief Then you'dl just have to free wheel. Where's your bicycle?
- Abanazar I haven't got a bicycle. Pardon me, but I'm at a loss.
- Chief Hear that men. He's lost his bicycle. A job for the police. We must find it. Search the town. Follow me. (*Exit Chief and police in comic untidy fashion*) (19)
- Abanazar The streets are uncommonly quiet. No matter, in my guise as a pedlar, I'dl go from door to door until I find a brave young boy to trick into helping me on my journey. He shall be the means by which I shall get my hands on the magic lamp. For him the risks ó for me the rewards! Ee I'm a bad'un ó And I hate children. (*If kids "Boo"*) Oh, eat your sweets. (*Enter Wishee – he is worried*)
- Wishee Excuse me, I don't know what you're selling but can I ask you a question? I'm looking for my brother. Have you seen him?
- Abanazar Does he look like you?
- Wishee Just from the feet down. He's as handsome, strong and good looking as me.
- Abanazar Is that so?
- Wishee (*Imitating him*) Yes, that's so-o-o. But I'm a bit worried about him you see. We're not supposed to be walking in the streets, but Aladdin is so brave and foolhardy ó I'dl bet he's never gone inside. He just doesn't care about danger. If we had a father he wouldn't carry on like this, but my mother lets him get away with owt.
- Abanazar (*Thinking*) No father, eh?

- Wishee Not now. Dad ran off to sea. Did did a bunk in a Chinese junk but the sail of the junk hit his head with a clunk and the junk sunk. So did Dad. (*Audibly sighs*)
- Abanazar (*Suddenly has an idea*) Wait a moment ó what did you say your brother's name was?
- Wishee Aladdin.
- Abanazar Can it be?
- Wishee I've just said so.
- Abanazar Just a minute, what do you call you mother?
- Wishee Mam!
- Abanazar No, no. no. Her surname, can it be -?
- Wishee Twankee. Widow Twankee.
- Abanazar (*Aside*) The boy's a fool. (*Hugging him and pushing him down*) At last ó I have found the family of my dear departed brother. My name is Abanazar. I am your uncle. You are my nephew ó Aladdin is my nephew and your mother is my sister-in-law.
- Wishee (*From floor*) Do you mean we're related? (*Rises*) You'd better come round to our house.
- Abanazar I wouldn't presume on your hospitality. It might come as rather a shock to your mother's nervous system. You break the news to her. Meanwhile, I will establish myself in suitable accommodation and pay my respects at her convenience.
- Wishee Well, she usually uses the one in the bus station.
- Abanazar Till we meet again. (*Abanazar exits*)
- Wishee Oh, wait -till I tell my mother about this. Whether she'll believe me or not I don't know.
- (*Enter Aladdin, he calls everybody on*)
- Aladdin Alright ó come on ó everybody out ó the market can begin again now ó etc (*Enter chorus*)
- 1st Girl Has the Princess gone?
- Aladdin Yes, she's safely back in the palace.
- 2nd Girl How do you know?
- Aladdin Never mind how I know. I know!

Wishee *(Taking his aside)* How do you know?

Aladdin Because, Iøve actually seen the Princess. Not only that, she smiled at me and I talked to her.

Wishee Well Iøve just been talking to our uncle.

Aladdin Oh! ó Eh, we havenøt got an uncle.

Wishee We have. He was long lost ðtill I found him.

Aladdin Iøm going to tell mother my news.

Wishee My news is better than your news.

Aladdin ðTis not. My news etc. *(They exit arguing ad lib)*

(Market cries are heard again) ðWhoødl buyö - ðSatins, silks, etc (Chorus finish singing reprise of opening number) (20)

FADE TO BLACKOUT AT END

CLOSE TABS OR DROP FRONT CLOTH

Scene 2

Tab or
Frontcloth

A Street in Peking ó Late that Evening

Comic's play on music

(21)

(Enter Wishee, he is dressed to kill) Hello kids. (Work "chopsticks" routine. Enter Dame in magnificent evening dress)

Dame Wishee, where are you? Don't try avoiding me ó I'm furious. I spend all year ó slaving away ó in my laundry ó giving special attention to the Emperor's smalls ó and on the one night of the year I get a chance to enjoy myself, you spoil it. We get invited to the Grand Vizier's annual banquet for palace staff, and what happens? You disgrace yourself and humiliated me ó my -Hueø has never been so -miliatedø

Wishee Well, I didn't know he was talking about the chicken when he said øwho wants stuffing?ö

Dame It started before that. What did you say to begin with?

Wishee Pass me some of those -Horses Doovresø

Dame It's pronounced HorsDøuvres.

Wishee It looks like -Horses Doovresø

Dame And when will you learn that soup is a beverage and not a gargle.

Wishee It wasn't a proper meal.

Dame There were two kinds of fish.

Wishee Yes, going off and gone off.

Dame You didn't have to say so.

Wishee You didn't need to say so.

Dame And when they announce that the waitresses will serve the salad without dressing, you don't stand up and say øGet -em offö. And what did you say when they served the French fries?

Wishee Chuck us a chip.

Dame And when they served the chicken?

Wishee Bung us a leg over, Delia.

Dame What you should have said was ó pass me a portion of dark meat.

- Wishee Dark meat?
- Dame Yes. You always refer to the legs as dark meat and the breast as white meat.
- Wishee You don't.
- Dame You do.
- Wishee Well I'm going out with one of those waitresses, so I know what to say now.
- Dame What will you say?
- Wishee I shall sit down and say "Come and sit on my dark meat and let me snuggle up to your white meat."
- Dame And when they serve the main course, Beef Strogonoff, Bourguignon, Specialite du Chef a la maison. You don't say "haven't you got any H.P. sauce?"
- Wishee I like H.P. sauce.
- Dame You should have behaved better with the Grand Vizier's wife sitting on your right hand.
- Wishee I don't see why. I needed it to eat with.
- Dame Well it was very nice of them to remember it was my birthday. They gave me a lovely cake and didn't it look nice with all those candles lit.
- Wishee I don't know. I couldn't get near it for the heat.
- Dame I managed to blow them all out.
- Wishee And the chandeliers went out in sympathy.
- Dame And another thing "What's that sticking out of your top pocket?"
- Wishee Er "a propelling pencil."
- Dame *(Takes spoon from pocket)* With jam on it? G. V. "Grand Vizier" *(Turns spoon over)* E.P.N.S. Emperor's Palace new spoon. *(Breaks into tears)* All these years, I've taught you to be honest. Tried to bring you up on the straight and narrow. Guarded you against wicked ways. And how do you repay me "steal spoons."
- Wishee It's silver not steel.
- Dame I don't care. " "

Scene 3

Full Set

The Royal Palace Gardens

(Suggested décor for scenery Willow pattern style – pink and blue – little bridges – pagodas etc. There are two ornate garden seats. There is a practical wall across half the stage.

Opening number Ensemble as guests with fans, kimonos etc. doing traditional Chinese formation routine. With little steps and bowing. Gong sounds off stage. Everyone Prostrates themselves as royal party enters – comprising Emperor, Vizier, Princess and Guards.) (23)

Emperor *(To Princess)* Come my dear! Take the air. The palace gardens are almost at their best.

Princess Daddy we can hardly stroll about with everyone lying on the ground.

Emperor Indeed, indeed. Grand Vizier. *(Vizier claps hands and everyone gets up. They group and bow as he passes each particular group.)* Oh, how I love my flowers. Take a deep breath my dear and smell the magic of the misembryanthemum, the richness of the rose, the excitement of the azelias.

Princess And which to you is the fairest flower of them all?

Emperor *(stopping)* You my dear. And when the gardens are in full bloom, then shall you life blossom.

Vizier Your majesty is referring to the possible betrothal in the near future of her highness the Princess.

Emperor I know what I am referring to.

Princess And I know too. I will have none of it, daddy. I will marry a man I love and no one else.

Emperor But my dear. The coffers of the treasury need replenishing and what better way than to arrange your marriage to a rich Prince of the Orient.

Princess I shall never agree unless he is the man I love.

Emperor Don't let us argue about it on a beautiful day like this. The Grand Vizier has arranged some entertainment for us. What is it Grand Vizier?

Vizier Your Majesty it is a tale of love. *(He claps his hands. The guests settle. The royal party sits.)*

(Enter kiddies. They mime the Willow pattern story in Chinese Theatre style with suitable announcements identifying the characters. At the end, guests and royal party applaud. Kiddies exit after taking bows to short reprise of (23). Gong sounds off stage – See Addendum for story) (24)

- Emperor *(Aside to Vizier)* Is it tea time already?
- Vizier No sire. The afternoon audience within the precincts of the palace await your presence.
- Emperor Then we must go. *(To Princess)* Come my dear.
- Princess May I be excused just for once? Permit me to enjoy the peace of the garden. I shall sit near the pool of the weeping willow.
- Emperor Won't you be lonely?
- Princess Oh no. *(Meaningly)* I shan't be lonely.
- Emperor Very well my dear. *(To all)* Come! *(Exit to ceremonial music, all but (25) Princess who looks offstage right and left)*
- Princess This is madness to think that a boy such as Aladdin would risk his life by entering the palace grounds. No sign of him beside the weeping willow or elsewhere. Perhaps my handmaiden was mistaken in thinking he would come. *(Princess moves as if to exit)*
- Aladdin *(Calling from offstage in loud whisper)* Princess *(Aladdin's head appears over wall)* Are you there? *(Climbs astride wall)*
- Princess No! Er or yes. I mean or *(She is flustered)*
- Aladdin *(Sees Princess)* There you are. *(Makes sweeping gesture and falls off wall into garden)*
- Princess Aladdin. *(She crosses to help Aladdin)* You've fallen. *(She helps him up. Slow rise – they hold their gaze)*
- Aladdin So I have. For you. Oh, Princess, forgive me. I realise I can never be worthy of you. *(Duet Aladdin and Princess)* (26)
- Princess You risk your life in coming to see me. A man can offer no more.
- Aladdin One day I shall. It may not be a fortune I offer, but never again will I be content to remain or Aladdin the Ne'er or do - well, without a penny to his name. I'll make something of my life for now I have something to strive for. Someone to love. When shall I see you again?
- Princess Here a week hence.
- Aladdin Promise.

- Princess Promise. (*Whistle heard offstage*) It's the police. They must have heard us talking. You'd better go quickly. Till next week. (*She blows him a kiss and exits*)
- Aladdin So fortune has smiled on me at last, but not for long if I don't make myself scarce. (*He runs to wall and jumps but fails to scale it at first attempt. In so doing he drops his hat. Shouting and whistling is heard.*) Too late, I'd better hide. (*He does so without exiting. Enter police and Chief. Comic entrance business to 'Chinatown' play on music*) (27)
- Chief I knew I heard a stranger's voice. There he is.
- 1st Policeman Where?
- Chief Gone. Disappeared. We must trace his whereabouts.
- 1st Policeman Whereabouts?
- Chief Hereabouts
- 2nd Policeman At 4 o'clock or thereabouts.
- Chief In this vicinity or round about.
- 1st Policeman We are police officers.
- Chief Or layabouts. You're useless. There's not one proper bloodhound in the Peking police force.
- 3rd Policeman Why not?
- Chief We're all Pekinese. (*All except Chief quickly drop on hands and knees – bark and yell as if dogs on the scent. One picks up Aladdin's hat and brings it back*)
- Chief Whoever we're looking for, he's ahead.
- 4th Policeman How do you know?
- Chief Here's his hat. Search for clues. (*Chief and police search for clues. In so doing they form a ramp of backs by the wall which Aladdin quickly runs up and over wall to drum effect leaving police sprawling on the floor.*)
- Emperor (*Enter Emperor, Vizier and Ensemble*) Chief of police. Explain yourself.
- Chief I saw voices, heard shadows and proceeded at regulation speed to the scene of the crime.
- Vizier And what did you find ó a heap of policemen sprawled on the ground.

