

Sinbad the Sailor

A Pantomime by

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Sinbad the Sailor

CAST (in order of appearance)

Genie	
Tinbad the Tailor	
Mrs Sinbad	
Macho	A monkey
Sinbad the Sailor	
Black-Eyed Pete	A good Pirate
Mephisto	An evil magician
The Caliph of Chandra	
Princess Parissa	His daughter
Shanti	Handmaiden to the Princess
Slave Seller	
Zahrat Musafa	Daughter of the Khedive of Egypt
Kassim	Her Bodyguard

Chorus and Dancers: People of Chandra, Sailors, Citizens of Cairo, Mummies etc.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1	THE PORT OF CHANDRA
SCENE 2	THE CALIPH'S PALACE GARDEN
SCENE 3	BEFORE THE BANQUET
SCENE 4	THE CALIPH'S PALACE
SCENE 5	THE GARDEN
SCENE 6	ON BOARD THE GOLDEN VOYAGER

ACT TWO

SCENE 1	THE OLD BAZAAR IN CAIRO
SCENE 2	THE OUTSKIRTS OF CAIRO
SCENE 3	IN THE AIR
SCENE 4	A DESERT CAMP
SCENE 5	UNDER THE SHIFTING SANDS
SCENE 6	THE TOMB OF THE KHALI
SCENE 7	BACK HOME
SCENE 8	THE HALL OF THE COBRA JEWEL

c 2004

PRODUCTION NOTES

This script of Sinbad the Sailor can be staged as lavishly or as simply as your facilities allow. The appendix at the end of the script details how some of the more complicated sequences may be overcome. Suggestions for basic settings are as follows.

Two front cloths and a set of black runners are required down stage. If front cloths are a problem, two sets of running tabs . one black, one a brightly coloured . will suffice.

Two cloths half way up stage are also useful, although these can be replaced by sets of flats or more curtains. A cyc can be used for all full exterior scenes, but a set of flats is required for Act Two Scene 6.

Act One

- Scene 1 Full set with backcloth or cyc backing. Tinbad's shop is stage right and Mrs Sinbad's house stage left. A simple rostrum across the back serves as the quayside.
- Scene 2/5 First front cloth. (or set of bright tabs.)
- Scene 3 Black tabs.
- Scene 4 A cloth half way up stage or a decorative curtain. Palace pillars right and left.
- Scene 6 The cyc backs this full scene with the rostrum used as the bridge of the ship. A ship's wheel is centre of the rostrum with steps down either side. If rigging and a sail are possible, this will add greatly to the scene.

Act Two

- Scene 1 Full set with backcloth or cyc backing. A beaded opening is stage right and a wall with a cage for the slaves stands stage left.
- Scene 2 Second front cloth. (or set of bright tabs.)
- Scene 3 A completely black stage with flying carpet device. Or black tabs with a trucked carpet in front.
- Scene 4 Cloth halfway up stage or a decorative curtain.
- Scene 5 Black tabs.
- Scene 6 A set of flats with a sliding opening in the centre. Flats designed as stone pillars are right and left.
- Scene 7 First front clothes . or tabs.
- Scene 8 Cloth or cyc backing. Rostrum across the back with steps down. Palace pillars right and left. Up centre is a large cut out of a Cobra with a stand contain the Cobra Jewel in front of it.

CHARACTERS

- Sinbad** He should have great charm and charisma . a typical swashbuckling hero with tremendous energy. Also a fine singing voice.
Can be played by a man or as a principal boy . (although, at the risk of offending the panto purists, I suggest a man as it is a adventure.)
- Mrs Sinbad** The typical panto Dame. Larger than life with a twinkle in her eye. Must have a good rapport with the audience as well as the rest of the cast. Her appearance is important to the character and at almost every entrance she should have a new costume on.
- Tinbad** A bustling, business-like character. Good comedy timing required and also ability to play the tongue-tied romantic. Small amount of singing.
- Parissa** Principal girl. Strong-willed but also vulnerable. Good singing voice required.
- Caliph** Middle-aged. Strong, kindly character. Interacts with Mrs Sinbad, so comedy timing is important.
- Shanti** Second female lead. Warm hearted and kind. Good singing voice required.
- Mephisto** The evil magician. Typical villain of the piece. Strong dramatic voice is essential. Must also have a sense of comedy when interacting with the audience and other characters.
- Genie** Young female character. Fun loving and appealing.
- Black-Eyed Pete** Character with a little mystery about him. Joins in with big concerted numbers.
- Macho** A monkey. Could be played by a young male or female. Needs to interact throughout with the audience and other characters. Acrobatic and agile.
- Zahrat Musafa** Character actress. Strong and determined. Non-singing.
- Kassim** Bodyguard. Strong in character and physique.
- Slave Seller** Small part. Can be part of the male chorus.

MUSIC

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 the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially ballads.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of Sinbad the Sailor and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONE

OVERTURESCENE 1 THE PORT OF CHANDRA

[Across the back is a rostrum creating the effect of a quayside. A cut out ship should be able to dock behind it. Stage right is a shop front with a practical door and a sign above it that reads "Tinbad the Tailor". There is a window with a display stand in front of it. On this stand is a large hourglass. Various Eastern garments also adorn the wall. Stage left is the house of MRS SINBAD. This also has a practical door. The scene opens with a short prologue. Down right, sitting on a stool, is the GENIE. She is reading a large book entitled "The Arabian Nights". After a moment she looks up and notices the audience.]

GENIE Ah, there you are. I've been expecting you. I'm just finishing a chapter in this book. The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad. It's a fascinating read, but I'm not sure it is absolutely accurate. Oh there are plenty of adventures and fights between good and evil . good always wins, by the way . but some of the facts have been distorted over the centuries. *[SHE puts the book down and looks at the audience again.]* Why do I say that, you ask? Well you see I was there! Yes I was. I was part of the original story. You could say I was instrumental in the outcome. Now that you're here would you like me to tell you what really happened? *[Audience reaction.]* Would you? *[SHE stands.]* Oh splendid. It's been a good few years since I last told it, but I can remember it as though it was yesterday. Here we go then. It all takes place many years ago in the mystical eastern province of Chandra. Chandra was ruled by the Caliph . *[The CALIPH appears in a light on the rostrum.]* . a kindly man who had the interests of his people at heart. He also had a beautiful daughter whom he loved very much. The Princess Parissa. *[PARISSA joins him in the light.]* She was adored by not only her father, but the whole population. A graceful, charming young girl . but with a mind of her own. Chandra had been blessed with peace and prosperity because it was protected by the magical powers of the Cobra Jewel. *[The CALIPH holds up a large, impressive jewel on a gold chain. It is shaped like the head of a cobra.]* It was a gift from the Khedive of Egypt and so long as the Jewel stayed within the boundary of Chandra, the country and all its people would be safe. *[The light fades on the CALIPH and PARISSA. They exit.]* Of course there were those who wanted the Jewel for themselves and over the years many attempts had been made to steal it, but none had succeeded. One person who wanted it more than anything else in the world was Mephisto, *[The light comes up down left on MEPHISTO.]* an evil magician and one who would stop at nothing to achieve his goal. But he hadn't reckoned on the gallantry and resolve of the hero of our story . Sinbad the Sailor. *[SINBAD appears in a light centre stage.]* His voyages have been well documented; sailing the oceans of the world and encountering adventures with monstrous beasts. He was about to return from his sixth voyage, but his seventh one lay ahead that would prove to be his most perilous. *[The lights fade on SINBAD and MEPHISTO and they exit.]* Every year, in homage to the good fortune the Cobra Jewel had brought to the province of Chandra, a great festival was held. People

of Chandra put on their best clothes and gathered in the main square near the port. *[The CHORUS enters and moves into position for the opening number. They freeze until the end of the prologue.]* The Jewel in all its splendour was paraded for all to see. And it is there that my story begins . the story of Sinbad the Sailor.
[The GENIE exits taking her book and stool as the music starts for the opening number.]

OPENING NUMBER . CHORUS (See appendix)

[This is a celebratory number in honour of the festivities and the fabulous Cobra Jewel. At the end of the number TINBAD bustles on from his shop.]

- TINBAD Good morning all. *[HE bows to them.]* Salaam, salaam.
- CHORUS Salaam, Mr Tinbad.
- TINBAD Any sign of Sinbad's ship?
- 1st MAN No, not yet.
- 1st GIRL Are you sure he's due home today?
- TINBAD Yes. *[Picking up a large hourglass and pointing to it.]* July 15th! He definitely said he would be back today so as to be in time for the Festival of the Cobra Jewel. *[HE returns the hourglass.]*
- 2nd GIRL I do hope he's all right. He takes such terrible risks on his adventures.
- TINBAD Oh don't worry about Sinbad. He's an excellent sailor.
- 2nd MAN What kind of treasures do you think he'll bring back this time?
- TINBAD Who knows?
- 3rd GIRL *[Excitedly.]* Silks and satins for new clothes.
- 3rd MAN No, fine wines for us all to taste. *[The other MEN agree.]*
- 1st GIRL Aromatic oils to bathe in!
- TINBAD I don't care what he brings back . as long as he brings himself back safely. Why don't you all go to the end of the quay and look for him?
- CHORUS Good idea. Let's go. etc. *[THEY all exit excitedly. TINBAD turns to the audience.]*
- TINBAD I suppose you're all come to join in the festivities and await Sinbad's return? *[Audience reaction.]* Well welcome to Chandra, our lovely province in the East. I'm Tinbad the Tailor, local businessman and good friend to Sinbad. I know all you people from *[Local reference.]*

have been blessed with considerable wealth, so it is my hope that you will patronise my humble establishment while you are here. For the ladies I have satins to satisfy and for the gentlemen suits to suit. *[HE peers out at someone in the audience.]* Ah madam, I see that you shop at - *[Local store.]* One look at my merchandise and I am sure I can change your wardrobe. May you be blessed with impeccable taste and me with a large profit. I have lived here all my life and know everyone. Over the road is Ali - he is a barber. And next door is the corner shop and tobacconist Mustafa Fag! *[HE crosses to MRS. SINBAD'S house.]* This is where my friend Sinbad lives - with his mother. *[HE rolls his eyes.]* More about her later! Our illustrious Caliph is one of my honoured customers. Only yesterday I delivered a new ceremonial outfit to the palace for his beautiful daughter, Princess Parissa. She is carrying the fabulous Cobra Jewel in today's festival parade. And next to her will be Shanti, her handmaiden. *[HE starts to get flustered.]* Oh dear, I only have to think of Shanti and my legs turn to jelly. Every time I see her she makes my head spin. I have been in love with her for years but I have no way of knowing if she feels the same way. We have smiled at each other - we have waved. We have even managed a few words, but it is always the same. I just get tongue-tied and lose my bottle. If only I had the courage to tell her how I feel. But I could never expect a lady like her to look favourably on a poor tailor. The only other person who knows about this is Sinbad, and that is how it must stay until I am wealthy enough to ask for her hand. *[Voices are heard off.]*

MAN *[Off.]* Mind your backs.

2nd MAN *[Off.]* Clear a way there.

TINBAD Now what is going on?

[TWO MEN enter up left carrying a rolled up carpet. THEY run around the stage ending down right where they put the carpet down.]

MAN Special delivery for the house of Sinbad.

2nd MAN Lovely carpet. Only one slight flaw - a lump right in the middle of it!

[THEY unroll it. It ends in front of the stage left house and MRS SINBAD is lying there. SHE is clutching a large handbag containing sweets.]

MRS SINBAD At last! *[Looking at the two men.]* You pair of idiots! *[SHE gets up as the two men start laughing.]* It is not funny. Look at that. *[SHE puts her bosom back into shape.]* You have squashed my Turkish Delight!

TINBAD Mrs Sinbad. What on earth happened to you?

MRS SINBAD I was at the market taking delivery of my new carpet when I was suddenly rolled up and whisked away here. I have heard of flying carpets, but this is ridiculous. *[The MEN are still laughing.]* Oi, Bill and Ben - *[Or two names of a current popular duo.]* - take this into my house - *[SHE points to her house.]* - or the only tip you will be getting will be the tip of my boot! *[The MEN roll up the carpet and exit with it into the left house. SHE glances down at her bosom.]* Now what am I

going to do with this? I don't fancy it now. *[To TINBAD – hands to her bosom.]* Would you like a bite?

TINBAD I beg your pardon?

MRS SINBAD *[Pulls out a bar of Turkish Delight from her bust.]* Of my Turkish Delight?

TINBAD Oh! No thank you. *[Indicates the audience.]* But one of our visitors out there might. *[HE exits into his shop.]*

MRS SINBAD Oh yes, hello. *[Audience reaction.]* Oh you seem a friendly crowd. And a very good looking bunch. A bit pale perhaps. Don't you get much sun where you come from? Well as you've probably guessed I'm Mrs Sinbad. My son is Sinbad and my late husband was Mr Sinbad. They say a lot of sin is bad for you, but we seem to have done all right on it! My boy is away at sea at the moment, but he's coming home today. Oh it will be good to see him again. He's a right hunk girls! Takes after his father. Oh what a gorgeous man he was. Big and strong with those rugged looks just like . *[TV or film personality.]* But it does upset me when he's at sea. I mean I can't relax. I'm always wondering if he's all right. All these voyages he goes on really frighten me, and when I get frightened I eat. I do girls. Oh I know it's naughty and I shouldn't, but I can't stop myself. *[SHE shows her bag.]* I keep a supply of sweets in here and in frightening situations my hand just slips in and the next thing you know I've got a mouthful of sweets. And if I'm not careful it's going to ruin my figure. *[To a person on the audience.]* What do you mean 'he has already'? What a cheek! I say you wouldn't help me would you? When I get frightened and you see my hand slip into the bag would you shout out 'naughty, naughty'? Would you? *[Audience reaction.]* Then instead of me eating them I'd throw them to you. Would you like that? Don't forget then, when you see my hand reaching into the bag for a sweet shout 'naughty, naughty' and you'd get a reward. Just like this. *[SHE throws some sweets out. TINBAD enters from the shop.]* Here, Tinbad help me with these. *[The two of them throw out sweets to the audience.]* Oh dear, that's the lot. Now I'd have to get some more.

TINBAD What did you want to buy a carpet for?

MRS SINBAD Well, it was a bargain. It was one of those buy now, pay later deals. The one in my house is nearly threadbare and I wanted a new one as a surprise for Sinbad when he gets home.

TINBAD He'd get an even bigger surprise when the bill arrives!

MRS SINBAD *[Waving a dismissive hand.]* I don't want to hear any more. I'm too excited about Sinbad coming home today.

TINBAD His ship should be here any minute. Our friends and neighbours have gone to look for it. *[A MONKEY called MACHO comes bounding on from up right and runs down to TINBAD, bumping into him and knocking him over.]* What the ò ò ?

MRS SINBAD Oh Tinbad, are you all right?

- TINBAD Oh it's you! *[HE gets up. MACHO rubs his stomach.]* Yes, yes I know it's time for your lunch. Have you seen all our visitors? *[MACHO shakes his head and TINBAD points to the audience.]* This is my pet monkey, Macho! *[To MACHO.]* Wave to the boys and girls. *[MACHO comes to the edge of the stage and waves to the audience. HE then sees someone in the audience with something to eat and mimes that he wants some.]* No you can't have that nice lady's chocolates. They're not good for you.
- MRS SINBAD *[Looking down at the audience.]* I'm not sure they're good for that lady, either!
- TINBAD Come here, I've got a banana for you. *[HE pulls a banana out of his pocket and gives it to MACHO.]*
- MRS SINBAD Oh that reminds me. While I was out shopping yesterday I picked up a treat for Macho. *[SHE crosses into her house and comes out with a banana palm tree in a pot.]* There. *[MACHO claps his hands with glee.]*
- TINBAD A banana tree. Oh Mrs Sinbad, you shouldn't. You spoil him far too much.
- MRS SINBAD Nonsense. But I'm afraid they're not quite ripe enough to eat. Perhaps they should be out in the sun for a while.
- TINBAD *[Pointing to a spot down right by the pros.]* This is a good spot. It gets the sun all day. *[HE takes the tree and puts it down right.]*
- MRS SINBAD There you are Macho, they'll soon be ripe. Now I must go and sort out this new carpet. See you later. *[Waving, SHE exits into her house.]*
- TINBAD The only problem is . . . what happens if someone tries to take one? We don't want anyone nicking Macho's bananas! We shall have to think about this. *[BOTH put a hand to the side of the face and think. MACHO looks at the audience and gets an idea. HE pulls at TINBAD'S clothes.]* Not now, Macho. I'm thinking. *[MACHO moves away frustrated and then goes back to get his attention.]* Don't Macho. I'm trying to plot a perfect plan. *[MACHO starts to get impatient and jumps about. TINBAD looks at him. He points wildly at the audience.]* Yes, I'm sure our friends are thinking of something too. *[MACHO now starts a lot of gesturing, pointing to the audience then at the tree.]* What are you doing? I think you must have been out in the sun too long. *[MACHO gestures again, but much bigger this time. Slowly TINBAD realise what MACHO is getting at.]* I know. Why don't we ask our friends to keep watch for us? *[MACHO slaps his hand to his forehead and collapses. TINBAD speaks to the audience.]* Now is that a good idea or is that a good idea? Would you do that for us? Would you make sure no one takes the bananas? *[Audience reaction. MACHO stands.]* Oh, aren't they kind? But what should they shout out? *[HE thinks.]* I know. How about 'Machos the bananas?' *[Audience reacts.]* I suppose we ought to do the usual now! You know . . . have a practice. I'm going to pretend to nick a banana. You just shout out 'Machos the bananas' and he'll come running. Will you do that?

[Audience reaction. MACHO runs off.] Right, here we go. *[HE creeps towards the tree. Audience shouts but MACHO doesn't appear.]* That's not loud enough. He'd never hear that. *[HE calls off]* . will you, Macho? *[MACHO puts his head around the scenery and shakes it.]* Now let's try again . and much louder this time. *[Again HE creeps towards the tree. Audience shouts and MACHO runs on and adopts a boxing pose in front of the tree.]* Oh that's much better. Now your bananas will be safe until they're ripe for picking. *[MACHO nods happily and exits. The CHORUS is heard shouting and cheering off stage at the arrival of SINBAD'S ship. THEY run on excitedly.]*

SINBAD'S ENTRANCE

MRS SINBAD *[Running on from her shop.]* He's here. He's here. My big brave boy has come home to his mother! Oh I do hope he's all right. Oh I'm frightened to even look. I am, I'm really frightened. *[HER hand goes into her bag. The audience shouts out and MRS SINBAD throws sweets. The ship – The Golden Voyager – draws up against the quay. ALL cheer as SINBAD climbs off the ship and comes down stage greeting the CHORUS. HE is followed by BLACK-EYED PETE, who wears an eye patch.]*

SINBAD Hello mother. Salaam Tinbad.

TINBAD Salaam Sinbad. Good to have you home.

MRS SINBAD *[Giving him a hug.]* Oh Sinbad, you don't know how much I've missed you. All these weeks of wondering if you were all right. I worried myself sick. I got so frightened. I got really frightened. *[HER hand in the bag. Audience reacts and SHE throws sweets.]*

SINBAD Mother, you really shouldn't worry.

MRS SINBAD Oh it's easy for you to say. Wait until you've got kids of your own! You know I've never left the house. Every night I sat there all alone crying myself to sleep offering up prayers for your safe return.

1st GIRL Mrs Sinbad, here's your winnings from Bingo the other night! *[SHE gives MRS SINBAD some money.]*

MRS SINBAD *[Quietly.]* Oh, ta!

1st MAN Hoping for another good night at the dogs, Mrs Sinbad?

2nd MAN You backed plenty of winners last week!

MRS SINBAD *[Trying to make light of it as she catches SINBAD'S eye.]* Oh we'd have to see.

2nd GIRL Are you going to be at the Karaoke evening again this Friday?

MRS SINBAD *[Laughing.]* Me? Karaoke? What are you talking about?

SINBAD *[With a smile.]* So, you stayed in every night did you?

MRS SINBAD Well, I may have been dragged out under protest a couple of times. But I was always thinking of you.

SINBAD *[Genuinely.]* I'm sure you were and I appreciate your concern, but you shouldn't worry. After six voyages I know every part of that ocean.

MRS SINBAD But I do worry. You won't be going off again, will you? You know how frightened I get. I get really frightened! *[HER hand slips into her bag. Audience calls out. SHE throws sweets.]*

SINBAD Mother, you know I could never stop at home. I've always longed for adventure. Out there there's a whole world to be explored.

SONG – SINBAD AND CHORUS

[SINBAD starts the song and is joined by the rest of the company. At the end of the song SINBAD is standing by PETE.]

MRS SINBAD *[Eyeing up PETE.]* And who is this fine figure of a man?

SINBAD Everyone - I want you to meet my good friend Black Eyed Pete.

PETE Good day to you all. *[ALL acknowledge him.]*

MRS SINBAD And where did you come from?

PETE My ship was wrecked in a storm and all the crew lost. Just when I thought my time had come, Sinbad sailed onto the horizon and came to my aid.

MRS SINBAD That's my brave boy. Always there to give a helping hand.

PETE If it wasn't for your son making me, I'd have been sharing a cabin with Davy Jones by now.

MRS SINBAD Oh how awful.

PETE And I would have been deprived of meeting such a charming young lady - like yourself. *[Kisses MRS SINBAD'S hand.]*

MRS SINBAD *[Preening.]* Oh I say I've gone all of a doo dah!

TINBAD What sort of ship did you have?

PETE I was captain of 'The Bountiful Buccaneer'

TINBAD Oh 'The Bountiful Buccaneer'? *[Suddenly realising.]* 'The Bountiful Buccaneer' But that's a pirate ship. *[To EVERYONE.]* He's a pirate!

MRS SINBAD *[In a panic.]* Oh my goodness, we'll all be robbed and made to walk the plank!

SINBAD There's nothing to fear. Pete is a reformed character. *[ALL calm down.]*

PETE *Aye. [HE removes his eye patch.] Aye, aye! I am that. I thought my life was at an end, and then at the last minute when Sinbad saved me I realised I had been given a second chance. From that moment I renounced my former profession! [To the audience.] For all you young people out there that means I stopped misbehaving. I wanted to make amends for my misguided ways and I have done that by joining Sinbad as his Bosun and right hand man on all his future voyages. [ALL cheer.]*

MRS SINBAD *Are you sure you've given up everything? [SHE moves close to him.] I've heard tell that pirates not only pillage and plunder ships and quayside taverns, but they mistreat and abuse us poor defenceless women something dreadfully.*

PETE Not any more, I assure you. I've given all that up. You're quite safe.

MRS SINBAD *[With a big sigh – somewhat disappointed.] Oh!*

SINBAD My friends if you give Pete a hand to unload you will see what wonderful things I've brought back for you all. *[ALL chatter excitedly and move towards the ship. MRS SINBAD gets pushed out of the way.]*

MRS SINBAD Just a minute - the honourable mother gets first pick!

SINBAD *[To TINBAD.]* Tinbad, how are things with the lovely Shanti?

TINBAD Still the same. Oh Sinbad I've still not told her how I feel. I never seem to find the right time or place.

SINBAD Don't give up hope. I'm sure things will work out right in the end. *[The MEN and PETE return pushing a chest of draws like a 'whatnot'. They put it down stage of MRS SINBAD'S house. PETE then exits again up left.]* Now ladies. Have you got all you want? Fine silks and satins. Oils and perfumes from distant continents.

CHORUS Thank you Sinbad. You're so kind. Etc. etc. *[The CHORUS exits with all the gifts.]*

MRS SINBAD *[Looking dishevelled.]* I don't know! The manners of some people. It's worse than being in a rigger scrum! *[The others look at her.]* Not that I have been . well not for a few years . not on the pitch anyway!

SINBAD *[Crossing down to the chest.]* This is something for you, mother.

MRS SINBAD For me? Oh Sinbad, thank you. It's what I've always wanted. *[Looks back at SINBAD.]* What is it?

TINBAD It's a whatnot.

MRS SINBAD A what what?

TINBAD Not a what what. A whatnot.

MRS SINBAD Well what's a whatnot when it's at home?

SINBAD I don't know. It was with all the other things unloaded from the ship. I didn't recognise it, but the harbour master said it was definitely for me so I thought you might like it.

MRS SINBAD Well thank you very much son. *[Aside to TINBAD as SINBAD goes back up to the ship.]* A whatnot it's not what I wanted, but a whatnot is what I got! A couple of bottles of duty free would have been better, but beggars can't be choosers!

PETE *[Returning with some rolls of material.]* Where are these bound for, skipper?

SINBAD I'm sure you can make good use of these, Tinbad.

TINBAD Sinbad! They are beautiful. You're too kind. How can I repay you?

[Having picked up an unusually designed bottle from the ship, SINBAD eases back towards TINBAD.]

SINBAD No need. But there is a nasty gash in one of my sails . if you could do a patching up job.

TINBAD Consider it done. I've got some rearranging to do.

PETE I'll give you a hand, matey.

TINBAD *[Slightly wary.]* Oh. Thank you very much. *[HE and PETE exit into his shop.]*

SINBAD I did find one other strange thing on my voyage. *[HE shows her the bottle.]*

MRS SINBAD What an odd looking bottle. I've never seen anything like it in these parts.

SINBAD I found it on a beach in Turkey. I wasn't going to bother with it, but when I walked past I felt sure I saw it move. I also thought I heard a voice calling out.

MRS SINBAD I think you've been at sea too long. Hearing voices and seeing bottles move. Whatever next?

SINBAD It's got some strange writing on it as well.

MRS SINBAD It's not Johnny Walker is it? *[Taking the bottle and reading.]* Raeppa! *[Pronounced "Rah – Heepa"]*

SINBAD What's that mean?

MRS SINBAD It sounds like a doctor's prescription! I wonder if it's any good for varicose veins? *[SHE holds it up with the writing facing the audience.]* Can't see if there is anything in it. *[SHE should hold the bottle up in such a way that the sunlight projects the writing onto the down stage*

wall of her house. The inscription reads 'Appear'. They ad lib and hopefully the audience should call out. SINBAD sees the message.]

SINBAD Mom . look! *[MRS SINBAD lowers her arm and the message disappears.]*

MRS SINBAD What?

SINBAD Hold it up again. *[SHE does so and sees the message.]* See. It's written backwards.

MRS SINBAD *%Appear+ [SHE lowers her arm and the message disappears again.]*

SINBAD Mom, you don't think it's magic, do you?

MRS SINBAD Magic?

SINBAD I've heard of certain types of lamps and bottles having magical powers. *[HE takes the bottle.]* Let's open it and see.

MRS SINBAD Oh, be careful Sinbad. I don't want you releasing any weird creature . it would bring back too many memories of your father!

SINBAD *[Slowly taking the stopper off the bottle.]* Appear.

BOTTLE MUSIC

[A strange sounding music starts and then there is a flash and the GENIE appears down right.]

GENIE At last!

MRS SINBAD *[Pulling her skirt over her head.]* Ooooh, it's a terrible monster. Oh I'm really frightened. *[HER hand goes to her bag. Audience calls out. SHE throws sweets.]*

SINBAD *[To the GENIE.]* Who are you?

GENIE I am the Genie from the bottle and slave to whosoever owns it.

SINBAD A Genie?

GENIE Yes. And you are my master. I am here to do your bidding.

SINBAD I say Mom, did you hear that?

MRS SINBAD *[Hiding behind SINBAD.]* Are you sure it won't turn us into a stone statue or gobble us up?

GENIE *[Laughing.]* I am here only to obey. Besides a Genie cannot be used to work harm. But in the protection of my master my powers are invincible.

SINBAD I can't believe it. And to think I nearly left you on that beach.

- GENIE I am pleased you didn't. I have been confined in that bottle for over a hundred years. I was beginning to think no one would find me.
- MRS SINBAD Over a hundred years? Oh you poor thing. You'd be wanting a wash and something to eat . and I bet you're busting for a *ō ō ō*
- SINBAD Mother!
- GENIE No need to worry about me. I live on life itself. I am here to carry out whatever task you ask of me. But be advised I have no ability other than to protect you and all those with you.
- MRS SINBAD But you can create a few treats for us?
- GENIE With pleasure.
- MRS SINBAD Well I do need a new frock and the kitchen could do with a bit of modernising and .
- SINBAD Mother, I think we ought to think about this. Don't let our good fortune go to our heads.
- MRS SINBAD You're right son. We must think . *[Quickly.]* And I've thought . I also want a sapphire necklace to go with my eyes *ō ō ō*
- SINBAD MOTHER!
- MRS SINBAD *[In a whisper.]* Sorry.
- SINBAD *[To the GENIE.]* So if ever I need you all I have to do is open the bottle and say "appear+-" and you appear?
- GENIE That is so master.
- SINBAD Well thank you very much. *[An attempt at being the master.]* That will be all for the moment.
- GENIE I hear and obey, master. *[Lighting effect and the GENIE disappears.]*
- SINBAD Well, what a homecoming this has turned out to be.
- MRS SINBAD Wait till the girls at bingo hear about this. *[They both exit into MRS SINBAD'S house.]*

MEPHISTO'S THEME

[The lights dim and suddenly the front of the whatnot opens. MEPHISTO the magician appears.]

- MEPHISTO So, finally my journeying has brought me here to Chandra. Not a very interesting place - except for one thing. The fabulous Cobra Jewel. The most sought after prize in the entire world. Oh I know it brings peace and tranquillity to the country that owns it, but it can also bring wealth and power to an individual who knows how to harness its mystical properties. An individual such as myself. *[HE starts to get*

more and more excited.] I intend to have that Jewel. I must have it! *[Calmer.]* But first I must gain the confidence of the Caliph who owns the Jewel and I will do that by means of an elaborate magic show that I have devised in honour of today's Festival. This will grant me access to the palace and once there I will procure the Jewel by means of a mesmerising trick. It will only be a matter of time before the whole universe will kneel before me. *[Voices are heard off.]* Ah the Festival is about to begin. I will wait for an opportune moment before introducing myself. *[HE exits down left.]*

ENTRANCE OF THE CALIPH AND PRINCESS

[The music comes up as the CHORUS starts to enter. SINBAD and MRS SINBAD enter as do TINBAD and MACHO. The CALIPH enters with the PRINCESS PARISSA. They are accompanied by SHANTI, handmaiden to the PRINCESS.]

- CALIPH My good people thank you for your welcome. As you know today is the Festival of the Cobra Jewel . a symbol of peace and prosperity for our land. *[ALL cheer.]* And to compliment the day I am inviting you all to a grand feast at the palace this evening. *[More cheers.]* There will be dancing, entertainment and a dazzling display of fireworks. So my friends, enjoy the day and let us all give thanks for the gift of the Cobra Jewel. *[ALL chatter excitedly and begin to exit leaving the PRINCIPALS. The CALIPH turns to TINBAD.]* Tinbad, have you something suitable for me to wear this evening. After seeing the beautiful gown you made for my daughter I feel quite the poor relation.
- PARISSA Father, that's not true. You have a wardrobe full of things to wear.
- CALIPH But on such a special day, surely I can be forgiven a little indulgence.
- TINBAD I'm sure I can find something to suit your Highnesses taste. If you would do me the honour of entering my humble abode, I have just laid out some of the finest materials Sinbad brought back from his latest voyage.
- CALIPH *[Turning to SINBAD.]* Ah yes, Sinbad. News reached me at the palace that your ship had arrived. I give praise for your safe return.
- SINBAD *[Bowing.]* Your Highness is too kind.
- CALIPH And I know my daughter also shares my pleasure in seeing you again.
- SINBAD *[Bowing to PARISSA.]* Princess.
- PARISSA It is good to have you home safe, Sinbad. *[THEY are staring at each other.]*
- CALIPH And Mrs Sinbad. How is life treating you?
- MRS SINBAD Oh you know . pains in my legs, pains in my back. Too many bills and not enough wins at bingo. I'm fine! *[SHE gives him a nudge.]*

- CALIPH I'm pleased to hear it. *[Slightly aside to her.]* We must have a cup of chrysanthemum tea together and talk over old times.
- MRS SINBAD You mean when you were calamitous Cali the kid from the castle?
[SHE gives him another nudge.]
- CALIPH Shh. Those days are behind me now.
- MRS SINBAD Don't worry Cali, your secret is safe with me. *[SHE gives him another nudge – misses, and nearly falls over.]*
- TINBAD Your Highness. If you would kindly come this way.
- MRS SINBAD Shall I come too? Give you benefit of my expert taste in clothes?
- CALIPH *[Glancing at her outrageous costume.]* That would be most useful.
[TINBAD MACHO, MRS SINBAD and the CALIPH exit into the shop stage right.]
- PARISSA *[Wanting to be alone with SINBAD.]* Shanti, I'm sure you would like to visit Tinbad's shop? *[Pointedly.]* See if there is something in there that takes your eye.
- SHANTI *[Bowing.]* A thousand thanks your Highness.
- PARISSA Go and pick out whatever you want.
- SHANTI Your Highness is too kind. *[SHE bows and exits onto TINBAD'S shop.]*
- PARISSA So Sinbad, yet another successful voyage.
- SINBAD Successful yes, your Highness, but at times quite perilous.
- PARISSA Oh I don't doubt it. The tales you tell are always peppered with enough adventure to set the heart of any girl racing.
- SINBAD Including that of a Princess?
- PARISSA *[Slightly aloof.]* Do you think I sit around waiting for your return just to get a thrill listening to your exploits?
- SINBAD Don't you?
- PARISSA You presume too much. Besides, I'm sure there are any number of girls in the various ports you visit hanging on your every word.
- SINBAD Oh come on Parissa, stop playing games and tell me how glad you are that I'm home!
- PARISSA *[With a toss of her head.]* Ha! I wouldn't have cared if you had been tossed into the ocean by a great wave or kidnapped by pirates.
- SINBAD *[Grabbing her hand and pulling her towards him.]* That's not true and you know it. You must realise how much I've missed you.

- PARISSA *[Relenting.]* Then why do you keep going off for months on end and leaving me here?
- SINBAD I'm just trying to make my fortune and show your father that I'm worthy of you.
- PARISSA But it's always so dangerous. Every time your ship leaves port I wonder if I'll ever see you again.
- SINBAD Nothing on this earth could ever keep me away from you.
- DUET – SINBAD AND PARISSA
- CALIPH *[At the end of the song they embrace. The CALIPH is heard off.]* That cloth is splendid Tinbad. *[SINBAD and PARISSA part as the CALIPH, MRS SINBAD and TINBAD enter.]* It will make the perfect outfit for tonight's festivities. Have it delivered to the palace when it is finished.
- TINBAD *[Bowing.]* I grovel to be of service, your Highness.
- MRS SINBAD And I've got a fabulous little number that will compliment it perfectly. So we won't clash when we dance the Turkish tango together! *[Aside to the CALIPH.]* You know, like we used to! Remember?
- CALIPH Vaguely! *[Seeing the banana tree.]* Oh look bananas. I just feel like one of those. *[HE goes to pick one and the audience shout. MACHO jumps on and confronts the CALIPH with a boxing stance.]* My goodness!
- TINBAD Oh I'm sorry your Highness, but my pet monkey is very possessive of his new banana tree.
- CALIPH So I see. *[Quickly.]* Come along then, Parissa. There is still much to do before tonight.
- PARISSA Yes father. *[THEY start to exit as MEPHISTO enters and blocks their way.]*
- MEPHISTO Mighty Caliph may I beg an audience?
- MRS SINBAD Oh look everyone, it's - *[Name of personality.]*
- CALIPH Who are you?
- MEPHISTO I am Mephisto the Magnificent, newly arrived on these shores and ever your humble servant.
- CALIPH Welcome Mephisto. And what can I do for you?
- MEPHISTO I think, your illustrious Highness, it is what I can do for you.
- CALIPH Oh?
- MEPHISTO You have a special festival today, do you not?

- CALIPH Yes. The Festival of the Cobra Jewel.
- MEPHISTO And tonight a grand occasion at the palace?
- CALIPH To which everyone is invited.
- MEPHISTO Then may I offer my services . free of charge of course . as part of the entertainment?
- CALIPH Oh I say that's very decent of you, isn't it Parissa?
- PARISSA *[Slightly wary.]* What is it you do, sir?
- MEPHISTO *[Getting carried away with alliteration.]* A plethora of prestidigitation. A concoction of conjuring. A whirlwind of wizardry.
- CALIPH *[Bemused.]* Come again?
- PARISSA *[Not impressed.]* He's a magician father. He does party tricks.
- MEPHISTO If your Highness will forgive me, I think my talents are rather greater than that, as I hope I shall have the chance to prove to you. *[HE performs a simple trick before her eyes - turning a handkerchief into flowers for example.]*
- MRS SINBAD *[Clapping her hands together.]* Oh very good. Do you saw people in half?
- MEPHISTO *[Under his breath.]* Don't tempt me.
- CALIPH I'm sure your skills will be much appreciated as part of tonight's entertainment.
- MEPHISTO Your Highness won't be disappointed I can promise you. I have been perfecting a new illusion and you will be the first to see it.
- CALIPH Present yourself at the palace tonight. Come Parissa, it's time for the parade.
- [ALL move up stage except MEPHISTO. He crosses down left and speaks to the audience.]*
- MEPHISTO You will indeed witness my new illusion for the first and last time when I make the Cobra Jewel disappear before your very eyes. *[With a laugh HE exits down left.]*

THE PARADE OF THE COBRA JEWEL

[The music starts and the CHORUS enters. SHANTI enters carrying a purple cushion bearing the Cobra Jewel. It is put around PARISSA'S neck. There now follows a parade with singing and dancing as the Cobra Jewel is shown off to the populace. At the end the lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 2 THE CALIPH'S PALACE GARDEN

[A front cloth depicting an oriental garden with the palace in the background. SINBAD enters down right followed by TINBAD who is carrying the CALIPH'S new outfit.]

- SINBAD I must say you've done some splendid work on the Caliph's new robe and in record time.
- TINBAD *[Looking around to see if he can see SHANTI.]* Yes, well, I don't want to disappoint such a valued customer.
- SINBAD And to deliver it personally. One would think you had an ulterior motive.
- TINBAD I can't think what you mean.
- SINBAD *[Pointing to stage left.]* Why don't you look over there; you never know who might be coming this way.
- TINBAD Well - I might just wander along this path. *[HE crosses and exits left.]*
- SINBAD This must surely be a job for my newfound friend the Genie. *[HE takes the bottle off his belt and removes the stopper.]* Appear. *[The GENIE appears down right.]*
- GENIE You called and I shall obey, O master.
- SINBAD Genie, I want you to arrange a quiet meeting here in the palace garden for my friend Tinbad and the girl of his dreams. Just create a little chemistry between them.
- GENIE Nothing could be simpler O master.
- SINBAD Good. Work your magic and join me over there behind that wall. *[He points off right.]* I want to stick around and make sure things start to work out for my friend.
- GENIE I can make them fall in love and arrange for them to fly off to an island paradise if my master so wishes.
- SINBAD One step at a time. Besides, I think nature should take some part in this.
- GENIE I hear and obey, O master. *[SINBAD exits right. The GENIE makes a pass and follows him off. MRS SINBAD, dressed to kill, enters left in a trance. TINBAD enters backward down left looking off. HE bumps into MRS SINBAD and she comes out of her trance.]*
- MRS SINBAD *[In a deep, sexy voice.]* Oh hello lover boy!

TINBAD *[Aghast.]* Mrs Sinbad! What are you doing here?

MRS SINBAD Looking for that certain someone.

TINBAD Who?

MRS SINBAD Don't you know?

TINBAD I haven't got a clue.

MRS SINBAD Haven't you got that burning feeling deep down inside that is ready to explode like Vesuvius?

TINBAD Well I did have a little indigestion after breakfast.

MRS SINBAD Oh Tinbad, I know how you feel and I've suddenly realised I feel it too.

TINBAD *[Getting into a state.]* Feel what?

MRS SINBAD That something between us that mere mortals can't explain.

TINBAD What?

MRS SINBAD Our hearts are calling out to each other.

TINBAD What are they saying?

MRS SINBAD Listen! *[SHE grabs his head and plunges it into her bosom. SINBAD and GENIE enter down right.]*

SINBAD *[Horried.]* Hold everything. *[The GENIE freezes the action.]* What have you done?

GENIE It is who he was with this morning. Is she not the girl?

SINBAD Definitely not! That's my mother! The girl is Shanti, handmaiden to the Princess.

GENIE A thousand pardons, master. I will rectify the mistake immediately. They will remember nothing of this.

SINBAD I should hope not. *[GENIE makes a pass and MRS SINBAD exits. SHANTI enters in a trance and goes to the position MRS SINBAD was in with TINBAD'S head on her shoulder.]*

GENIE Is that the girl master?

SINBAD Yes. Now I think we had better leave them to it. *[GENIE and SINBAD exit right. SHANTI and TINBAD come out of their freeze.]*

SHANTI Tinbad, what are you doing here?

TINBAD *[In a fluster. Moving away quickly.]* I . . . er . . . I've just finished the Caliph's new outfit and so I thought I would deliver it straight away.

SHANTI It's very beautiful.

TINBAD *[Gazing at her.]* Yes, you are!

SHANTI Pardon?

TINBAD Er . you are certain he will like it?

SHANTI Oh I'm sure he will. Look at the intricate stitching and the delicate pattern. You are a very clever man.

TINBAD Oh, not really.

SHANTI Oh but you are. And those hands. *[SHE takes his hand and he nearly passes out.]* So soft and dextrous. Capable of doing such fine work.

TINBAD My lady is too kind. *[THEY are still holding hands. SHANTI breaks the moment by noticing the banana tree.]*

SHANTI Oh what lovely bananas. I would love to taste one. *[SHE crosses to the tree. Audiences shout out and MACHO bounds on down right and takes up a boxing stance.]* Oh my!

TINBAD Oh I'm sorry. That's Macho, my pet monkey. I'm afraid he's very protective of his tree.

SHANTI Well hello there. I didn't mean to take your bananas.

TINBAD I'm sure he wouldn't mind you having just one. *[MACHO stands with his hands on his hips tapping his foot.]*

SHANTI Perhaps another time when they are a little riper. *[THEY are gazing at each other again when PARISSA enters.]*

PARISSA Ah Shanti, there you are. *[SHANTI and TINBAD jump apart.]*

SHANTI Your Highness?

PARISSA And Tinbad. How nice to see you again.

TINBAD *[Bowing.]* Salaam, your Highness. A thousand greetings.

PARISSA Is that my father's new outfit?

TINBAD It is indeed, your Highness. I've just finished it.

PARISSA You are a great craftsman, is he not Shanti?

SHANTI I have just been telling him how much I admire . *[Catches herself.]* his work.

PARISSA *[To TINBAD]* Why don't you take it to him straight away? I know he is anticipating its arrival.

- TINBAD *[Bowing.]* With your Highnesses permission. Come along Macho. *[HE and MACHO exit.]*
- PARISSA *[Noticing how SHANTI watches after TINBAD.]* You admire Tinbad, I think?
- SHANTI He is a very accomplished tailor, your Highness.
- PARISSA That's not what I meant.
- SHANTI *[Looking away. Embarrassed.]* Your Highness, I can't think what you
ō ō
- PARISSA Oh come on Shanti, I have seen that look in your eyes whenever he is around. *[SHANTI is even more embarrassed.]* There's no need to be embarrassed. I think it is wonderful.
- SHANTI But your Highness, I do not know if he feels the same way.
- PARISSA Then you must find out. Men need a nudge in the right direction.
- SHANTI Is that what happened with you and Sinbad. *[SHE realises what she has said and is mortified.]* Oh your Highness, please forgive me. I did not mean ō ō
- PARISSA It's all right Shanti. We women must stick together where our men are concerned!

DUET – PARISSA AND SHANTI

[At the end of the song the lights fade out and the scene changes to

SCENE 3 BEFORE THE BANQUET

[A black curtain. A light slowly fades up to reveal MEPHISTO sitting crossed legged in the centre of the stage.]

MEPHISTO'S THEME

- MEPHISTO The first part of my plan is complete. I have won over the confidence of the Caliph and tonight I shall dazzle him and his guests with my display of tricks and illusions. *[HE begins to levitate.]* I'd have them all so mesmerised with phantasmagorical wonderment that my final bewitching trick will be to make the fabulous Cobra Jewel disappear before their very eyes. It will be my crowning hour. *[HE is now at the highest point and begins to descend.]* All the years of waiting for an opportunity to take possession of the one great treasure will soon be at an end. The power it will give me will enable me to become the most feared magician in the whole world. I will be the supreme ruler and anyone who dares to challenge me will be crushed beneath my feet. *[By now he has returned to the stage. He stands up and moves down left laughing evilly.]* But I hear the festivities beginning in the

palace. Time for me to prepare for the first part of my act. I intend to stupefy them with a display of captivating conjury so that the finale will leave them speechless and me with the Cobra Jewel. *[HE roars with laughter as the lights fade and the scene changes to*

SCENE 4 THE CALIPH'S PALACE

[A very lavish scene, beautifully decorated with drapes. On stage right is an ornate cage big enough to get one person inside. It has an escape hatch and should be on casters so it can be turned around. At its base is a material covering that can be pulled up and hooked on the top of the cage. On stage left against a wing piece is a large ornate jar, big enough for a person to stand up in. A large pile of cushions is situated next to it on which is sat the CALIPH and PARISSA. PARISSA wears the Cobra Jewel around her neck. SHANTI is nearby with SINBAD, MRS SINBAD, TINBAD and PETE together with the CHORUS positioned around the rest of the stage. As the scene opens the dancers are performing.]

DANCE

[At the end of the dance everyone applauds and more food and drink is served.]

- CALIPH What a splendid day this has turned out to be, Parissa.
- PARISSA Yes father.
- CALIPH I must say that magician has been very entertaining. Don't you think so Mrs Sinbad?
- MRS SINBAD I'd say. I can't wait to see his final trick. He's got a real flair for showbiz . keeping us all waiting in anticipation.
- CALIPH Perhaps I should ask him to be the official court magician. Then he could delight us daily.
- PARISSA I don't know that you should readily trust him, father. We don't know anything about him. Where he comes from. What he is doing here.
- SINBAD The Princess is right your Highness. Did anyone see him arrive?
[There is a general 'no'.]
- CALIPH Perhaps I should find out a little more about him. But not tonight. Tonight I want to forget all about protocol and enjoy myself.
- TINBAD Well said your Highness.
- CALIPH More food and wine for everyone.
- MRS SINBAD Oh yes. I could just take a bite of one of these bananas. *[SHE moves to the tree. Audience shouts and MACHO bounds on again.]* Oh well, perhaps not.

- PETE *[Pointing to the cage.]* What's this ere contraption for?
- MRS SINBAD Did you have a big budgie as a pet, Cali?
- CALIPH Certainly not.
- SINBAD It's for one of the magician's tricks.
- TINBAD Yes, he said it would astound and delight us.
- CALIPH Well I wish he would get on with it. I'm getting a little tired of waiting.
[There is a flash. EVERYONE jumps as MEPHISTO suddenly appears down left.]
- MEPHISTO You are eager to see the finale of my mystifying act? Am I right?
- CALIPH You are indeed, Master Magician.
- PARISSA *[Quickly.]* But first why don't you tell us where you come from and what brings you to our fair land?
- CALIPH *[Under his breath.]* Parissa!
- MEPHISTO Where I come from? *[HE chants – mesmerizingly.]*
From a land beyond beyond;
From a world past hope and fear.
Through the times that never end
Out of there and into here.
- MRS SINBAD *[Totally confused.]* Oh. You're not from *[Local reference.]* then?
- MEPHISTO My home is a private place that I have created purely as a fortress for myself. You will not find it on any map.
- MRS SINBAD No point in us dropping in for a cuppa then?
- MEPHISTO To perfect my illusions I need complete solitude. *[Pointedly.]* That is why guests are kept to a minimum.
- TINBAD *[Aside.]* Sociable sort of chap, isn't he?
- CALIPH Well I must say we have been very impressed with your performance so far tonight.
- MEPHISTO And the best is yet to come. If I may have your permission to proceed, your Highness.
- CALIPH Indeed, indeed. *[MEPHISTO performs a couple of tricks and then speaks to the CALIPH.]*
- MEPHISTO O Light of the world. For my final illusion may I ask your beautiful daughter to assist me in the act?
- CALIPH Parissa? What do you require her to do?

- MEPHISTO Merely to stand perfectly still inside this cage while I perform a stunning display of transconfiguration.
- [TWO CHORUS BOYS bring the cage centre stage.]*
- MRS SINBAD What's that when it's at home?
- MEPHISTO I will . before your very eyes . make her Highness disappear only to reappear on the other side of the room. *[ALL chatter excitedly.]*
- CALIPH There's is no danger involved?
- MEPHISTO None whatever, your Highness. I have performed this trick many times before the crowned heads of the world. It has become my trademark.
- CALIPH *[Turning to PARISSA.]* You wouldn't mind taking part, would you Parissa?
- PARISSA If you wish me to father.
- SINBAD *[To MEPHISTO.]* There is no danger in this?
- MEPHISTO None whatever.
- CALIPH I'm sure our illustrious magician knows the penalty if anything should happen to a royal personage.
- MRS SINBAD Oh yes. A slow lingering death in boiling oil, isn't it?
- MEPHISTO *[Holding his hand out to PARISSA.]* If your Highness would allow me. *[PARISSA crosses and takes his hand. HE leads her to the cage and opens the door.]* If your Highness would step inside. There is nothing to fear. *[PARISSA steps into the cage and HE closes the door. The CHORUS BOYS revolve the cage and then pull the material covering up to hide PARISSA. The cage is then wheeled around towards the wings. NOTE: At this point PARISSA escapes through the back of the cage and off stage. The cage is then returned to the centre of the stage.]* You see there is no way out of the cage. And now watch very carefully. *[HE makes a magic pass. There is a flash and the covering falls from the cage showing that it is empty. ALL gasp.]*
- SINBAD *[Drawing his scimitar.]* Parissa! What have you done with the Princess?
- CALIPH If you have harmed my daughter .
- MEPHISTO Fear not. She has been invisibly transported . *[With a big flourish HE indicates the jar on stage left.]* . here! *[PARISSA stands up inside the jar. SHE is no longer wearing the Cobra Jewel.]*
- SINBAD *[Crossing and lifting her out of the jar.]* Parissa.
- [EVERYONE applauds as MEPHISTO takes his bow.]*

- CALIPH Amazing! Absolutely amazing. You are indeed the master of magicians.
- MEPHISTO O Planet of the East, you are too kind.
- CALIPH After such a brilliant display of your talents, you must allow me to make some remuneration?
- MEPHISTO I have got what *I* came for your Highness. Your hospitality and kind words are payment enough.
- CALIPH *[Delighted.]* Well in that case, thank you again. *[HE turns to PARISSA who is now surrounded by the others. During the following MEPHISTO backs towards stage left and exits.]* Parissa, What was it like being transported through the air?
- PARISSA I didn't feel anything. It was as though I had never moved.
- SHANTI I was really scared for your Highness.
- MRS SINBAD So was I. I got frightened. I got really frightened. *[HER hand goes to her bag. Audience calls out. SHE throws sweets.]* Mind you it was a good trick. Being whisked from one place to another. It beats public transport!
- TINBAD And congestion charges!
- CALIPH *[Turning to speak to MEPHISTO.]* What is the secret? How does it work . oh he's gone!
- SINBAD *[Seeing PARISSA is not wearing the Jewel.]* That's not the only thing that's gone. Look!
- TINBAD The Cobra Jewel has vanished.
- CALIPH What?
- PARISSA But it was around my neck when I went into the cage.
- SHANTI *[looking inside the cage.]* It's not in here, Highness.
- MRS SINBAD What about that jar?
- TINBAD *[Looking in.]* Not . it's not here either.
- [From out of nowhere comes an eerie laugh that echoes around the palace. MEPHISTO voice is heard.]*
- MEPHISTO *[V.O.]* Farewell, oh gullible citizens of Chandra. And thank you for making my acquisition of the Cobra Jewel so easy. When next we meet it will be for you to bow before Mephisto . the most powerful man in the universe. *[HE laughs again. It echoes around the palace as it fades into the distance.]*
- PARISSA What are we going to do?

CALIPH Without the protection of the Cobra Jewel our land is vulnerable. Anything could happen.

TINBAD He must have gone back to his secret hiding place, but who knows where that is?

PARISSA We'll never be able to find him.

CALIPH Then all is lost. There's no one who can help us.

SINBAD Wait! I think I know of someone who might. *[HE takes the bottle and removes the stopper.]* Appear. *[The GENIE appears down right.]*

GENIE You called and I obey, O master.

CALIPH More tricks? What is all this?

MRS SINBAD Oh it's a long story. I'll tell you later. *[Seductively.]* Over cocoa!

SINBAD Genie, we need your help. Do you know what the magician Mephisto has done with the Cobra Jewel?

GENIE Yes master. He will transport it and himself back to his private fortress.

MRS SINBAD We guessed as much, but where is that?

GENIE In a far off land hidden by the moving sands of the desert.

SINBAD Can you take us there?

GENIE It is across the ocean. I can guide you in your ship.

SINBAD Then I shall prepare to sail immediately.

MRS SINBAD But Sinbad, you've only just got back!

SINBAD The Jewel must be retrieved from the clutches of that evil magician.

PETE I'm with you, captain.

TINBAD And I'm coming too.

MRS SINBAD Well you can count me in. I could do with a sea cruise.

PARISSA Father, I'm going with Sinbad.

CALIPH Parissa I won't hear of such a thing. It's far too dangerous.

PARISSA Father, I love you very much but I'm old enough to make my own decisions and I want to go.

CALIPH In that case there's nothing for it. I'm going too!

[ALL cheer.]

SINBAD Then what are we waiting for? Come on everyone, prepare for the voyage.

[ALL start to exit as lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 5 THE PALACE GARDEN

[The front cloth again. MEPHISTO is standing centre stage holding the Cobra Jewel.]

MEPHISTO Ha ha. My plan worked perfectly. Those fools suspected nothing. To think that one of the simplest tricks enabled me to steal it away from the Princess. After years of waiting the Cobra Jewel is finally mine. *[HIS voice gets louder.]* The powers it holds will make me the greatest magician in the entire universe and beyond. Nothing can stop me. I shall be invincible. *[Suddenly quieter.]* Now to prepare for my return home. Mmm, I think some food for the journey. Some bananas perhaps. *[HE moves towards the tree. The audience shouts and MACHO jumps out in boxing stance.]* Ha, you don't think I'm scared of some pathetic primate. I could turn you into an organ grinder's monkey or better still the organ! *[MACHO puts his head down and starts to advance menacingly on MEPHISTO.]* All right, all right. I haven't time to be bothered with the likes of you. I must away. *[HE exits left. MACHO watches him go then hears a voice off right.]*

TINBAD Macho? Macho, where are you? *[TINBAD enters right.]* Oh there you are. Come along, we have to get everything ready to sail tomorrow. So much to do and so little time to do it in. And just when I thought there might be a chance of getting to know the lovely Shanti better, I'm off on an adventure to goodness knows where! *[MACHO cuddles up to him.]* Yes I know you'll be there with me, but strolling around the deck of a ship in the moonlight with a chimp is not exactly what I had in mind! Oh Shanti. *[SHANTI enters right.]*

SHANTI Did you call me?

TINBAD *[Flustered.]* Oh! Er . call you? No . no I . I just remembered I never said goodbye to you. *[HE stares at her for a second then quickly says:]* Goodbye. *[HE turns to go.]*

SHANTI Until tomorrow.

TINBAD *[Turning.]* Tomorrow?

SHANTI Yes. I'm going with you on the voyage.

TINBAD *[Ecstatic.]* You are?

SHANTI Of course. I couldn't let the Princess go by herself. As her handmaiden it's my duty to be with her at all times.

- TINBAD But this is wonderful. *[To MACHO.]* Did you hear that, Macho? She's going with us. *[MACHO rolls his eyes and yawns.]*
- SHANTI I am a little scared though. I've never been on a ship before.
- TINBAD Really? Oh there's nothing like it. *[HE starts to describe the joys of sailing and MACHO begins to feel seasick.]* The roll of the ocean, the gentle rocking of the ship as it ploughs through the waves. The sea breeze blowing in your hair as you climb the mast to the crow's nest. The excitement of a storm buffeting you about from stem to stern. Oh it's wonderful, isn't it Macho? *[This is too much for MACHO who quickly staggers off stage.]* He's yet to find his sea legs!
- SHANTI You make it sound so different from life at the palace. I hope I shall not be too frightened.
- TINBAD Don't worry. I shall be there and I'm a seasoned sailor. *[SINBAD enters and crosses the stage.]*
- SINBAD Oh there you are Tinbad. Mother says she's got a whole extra batch of seasick pills for you and one of those calming tonics in case a storm blows up.
- TINBAD *[With mock bravado.]* Seasick pills? What would I want with them?
- SINBAD Oh come on . . . the one and only time you sailed with me you took to your cabin and never came out until we docked.
- TINBAD Sinbad, I think you are exaggerating!
- SINBAD *[To SHANTI.]* It was so funny. We only went for a trip around the bay!
- TINBAD *[Through clenched teeth.]* I'm sure Shanti is not interested in your fanciful stories. *[HE nods his head as though telling SINBAD to leave.]*
- SINBAD *[Laughing.]* Perhaps some other time. I'll see you both bright and early tomorrow morning. *[HE exits.]*
- SHANTI Don't worry Tinbad. If you do feel ill at any time, I am trained in medication. I will tend to you.
- TINBAD *[Weakly.]* You will?
- SHANTI If you would like me to.
- TINBAD Like you to. Oh Shanti, you don't know how fond I am of you.
- SHANTI That's good because I'm fond of you, too.

DUET - SHANTI AND TINBAD

*[At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to
.....*

SCENE 6 ON BOARD THE GOLDEN VOYAGER

[The scene is as though we are looking from the middle to stern of the ship. Up centre is a bridge with a ship's wheel and a mast. We can see the bottom of the sail and various pieces of rigging. The sides of the ship disappear into the wings giving entrances and exits down right and down left. Also, if the bridge height allows, there can be an exit to below decks up centre. The CHORUS of SAILORS and GIRLS is on stage doing various chores aboard ship. The CALIPH, PARISSA and PETE are with them. SINBAD is at the Wheel as MRS SINBAD leads everyone in a number.]

SONG - SINBAD, MRS SINBAD AND CHORUS (See appendix)

[At the end of the song SINBAD addresses the ENSEMBLE.]

- SINBAD *[Crossing down stage.]* Back on the high seas again. There's nothing like it.
- MRS SINBAD This is a wonderful ship, Sinbad. I bet she does a few miles to the galleon!
- SINBAD A week into our voyage and everything is ship shape and progressing smoothly. You're all done well in getting the ship ready in record time, so now for some relaxation. *[Big cheer.]*
- MRS SINBAD Oh splendid. I can pop a deckchair on the poop deck and improve my suntan
- SINBAD All stand down. Pete, splice the mainbrace.
- PETE Aye, aye captain. *[PETE leads the CHORUS off.]*
- SINBAD *[To the CALIPH.]* With a fair wind and a calm sea, we should make good progress, your Highness.
- CALIPH I can't thank you enough, Sinbad, for what you are doing for Chandra.
- SINBAD My seventh voyage and possibly the most adventurous.
- PARISSA And the most dangerous.
- CALIPH The Cobra Jewel must be found. The protection of Chandra depends upon it.
- SINBAD Mephisto thinks his fortress is undetectable, but following the course the Genie has provided us with we should be there within a day or two.
- PARISSA But how will we get the Jewel back? Surely a magician as powerful as Mephisto will have all sorts of tricks on hand to protect his fortress.

- SINBAD That's something we will have to face when we get there. Meanwhile, how would her Highness like a personal tour of this fine vessel?
- PARISSA Her Highness would like that very much. *[SINBAD and PARISSA exit.]*
- MRS SINBAD Well that's those two sorted out!
- CALIPH What do you mean?
- MRS SINBAD Surely you've seen how they are together?
- CALIPH No!
- MRS SINBAD Oh come on Cali, don't tell me you've forgotten what it's like to be young and in love?
- CALIPH In love? My daughter and your . your õ õ õ
- MRS SINBAD Yes, your daughter and my . my õ õ *[SHE looks in the direction SINBAD and PARISSA went.]* My they make a lovely couple.
- CALIPH Oh I don't know if I can allow this. I mean she is high born and he's just a common sailor.
- MRS SINBAD *[Raising her voice.]* Common sailor? Just remember that common sailor has got a common mother! *[SHE realises what she has said.]* But that didn't stop you wanting to steal a kiss behind the school camel shed!
- CALIPH That was different. We were just kids.
- MRS SINBAD It was fun though, wasn't it?
- CALIPH Please, Mrs Sinbad.
- MRS SINBAD Oh call me Serena!
- CALIPH Why?
- MRS SINBAD 'Cos that's my name!
- CALIPH Very well - Serena. *[PETE enters with a tray containing some tots of rum.]*
- PETE Would anyone care to partake of a slicing of the mainbrace, courtesy of Captain Sinbad?
- MRS SINBAD *[Going to take a glass.]* I'd say!
- CALIPH It's a little early in the day for me.
- MRS SINBAD *[Stopping herself.]* Oh perhaps you're right.
- CALIPH I was just going to take my morning constitutional.
- MRS SINBAD Is it the rhubarb we had last night?

- CALIPH May I escort you on a trip around this old tub?
- MRS SINBAD Oh I should be diluted! *[As THEY exit, MRS SINBAD grabs a glass and downs it in one.]*
- PETE Ah that's a fine figure of a woman and no mistake. *[Picking up the other glass.]* Waste not, want not. *[HE drinks.]* Ah this is good stuff of the captains. I think it would go well with one of those bananas. *[HE goes towards the tree. The Audience calls out and MACHO runs on to confront PETE.]* Oh, sorry matey. Didn't mean no harm.
- TINBAD *[Off stage.]* Macho. Macho, where are you? *[HE enters.]* Oh there you are. What are you up to? *[MACHO now goes into an elaborate mime of how he was defending his bananas from PETE.]* Oh, Pete was after a banana was he?
- PETE I just thought one would be rather nice with me tot of rum.
- TINBAD I'm afraid Macho is very protective of his tree.
- PETE So I see.
- TINBAD Have you seen the captain? I have important news.
- PETE Not since he gave us permission to splice the mainbrace.
- TINBAD The helmsman tells me he has spotted land on the horizon. We must be nearing our destination.
- PETE That's good news indeed.
- TINBAD *[Wanting to find out more about PETE.]* Tell me, how long were you a pirate before you met up with Sinbad?
- PETE Oh not long. I just sort of drifted into it so to speak.
- TINBAD And where is home for you?
- PETE *[Wary of the questions.]* No place in particular. I'm a bit of a nomad.
- TINBAD *[Suspicious.]* Really?
- PETE Yes, that's right. *[Changing the subject.]* Come on matey, I'll help you find the captain. *[HE exits.]*
- TINBAD You know Macho, I don't trust him. He turns up, then that magician turns up and the Cobra Jewel disappears. There's more to all this than meets the eye. *[TINBAD and MACHO exit. Eerie music is heard and the lights dim. Projected onto the sail we see the face of MEPHISTO.]*
- MEPHISTO'S THEME
- MEPHISTO What is this? Sinbad in pursuit of the Cobra Jewel? Well let him come. My fortress is protected by the dreaded Khali, a creature more ferocious than he's ever encountered before. But first I think I'll play

with these puny mortals. Perhaps I'd awaken the creatures of the deep to frighten them out of their wits. Or maybe a freak storm. Watching them get tossed from side to side and hearing the ship's timbers being torn apart will be highly amusing. Oh yes Sinbad; prepare yourself for the adventure of your life! *[HIS face disappears. PETE enters and looks around as the sound of wind is heard. HE crosses up to the wheel and begins to turn it. The sound of wind grows louder. The sail begins to billow out. SINBAD enters followed by TINBAD.]*

- SINBAD *[Calling to PETE.]* Pete, what's happening?
- PETE A sudden storm has blown up captain. *[Pointing out to the audience.]* It's coming in from the West.
- TINBAD Why are you steering us into it?
- PETE I was just going to adjust course, captain.
- TINBAD *[Suspiciously.]* Really?
- SINBAD Carry on Pete.
- PETE Aye, aye captain.
- TINBAD *[Aside to SINBAD.]* Sinbad, are you sure you can trust him?
- SINBAD Yes of course. Why do you ask?
- TINBAD I don't know. There's something about him. *[Lightning flashes and thunder roll.]*
- PETE Storms getting worse, captain. *[MRS SINBAD has entered and hears this.]*
- MRS SINBAD A storm? Oh dear we'd all be drowned. I'm frightened, I'm really frightened. *[HER hand goes to her bag. Audience calls. SHE throws sweets. The rest of the COMPANY run on stage, worried at what is happening.]*
- CALIPH *[Looking quite ill.]* Oh dear, I'm not a good sailor. I'd get seasick.
- PARISSA Don't worry father. It doesn't look too bad. *[The wind blows louder. Lightning flashes and the ship pitches. ALL are thrown to one side.]*
- CALIPH Oh I think you are mistaken. *[HE puts his head over the side of the ship.]*
- PARISSA Sinbad, is there anything you can do?
- SINBAD We'd better make the ship safe. Pete, call all hands to their stations.
- PETE All hands to their stations. *[The CREW start to perform various jobs.]* Let go the main stays.
- MRS SINBAD I'd do no such thing! *[Another gust of wind and clap of thunder. EVERYONE is blown about the ship.]*

CALIPH Ohhhhh! *[HE now has his head over the other side of the ship.]*

PETE *[Pointing in the direction of MRS SINBAD.]* Avast behind there.

MRS SINBAD Storm or no storm, I'd give you a belt if you talk to me like that again!

SINBAD Mother, he's giving orders to the crew. Take the Caliph and Parissa below.

PARISSA No, I'd stay here with you.

MRS SINBAD Come on Cali, let's go down to my cabin. I'd do a nice fry up for lunch! *[The CALIPH nearly throws up as MRS SINBAD takes him below.]*

SINBAD This storm is getting worse. Why is it suddenly growing dark?

TINBAD *[Pointing off.]* Sinbad, look. *[The wind blows even louder and thunder and lightning rage all around the scene. Suddenly weird SEA CREATURES start climbing over one side of the ship and attack the crew. THEY grab hold of PARISSA and start dragging her towards the side.]*

PARISSA Sinbad. Help!

TINBAD Sinbad, it may be a good time to call the Genie.

SINBAD *[One by one members of the CREW are knocked out or disarmed.]* The Genie. Of course. *[SINBAD removes the stopper.]* Appear. *[The GENIE appears.]*

GENIE What is your wish, O master?

SINBAD Genie, quick. Dispose of these creatures and save the Princess.

GENIE Alas master, a Genie cannot be used to work harm on other creatures. But you have the ability to protect yourself.

SINBAD What do you mean?

GENIE Your scimitar master. It is all powerful and will help you.

SINBAD Against these creatures?

GENIE Trust in yourself master and your crew.

SINBAD You heard the Genie men. Don't be afraid. *[ALL draw scimitars and fight the CREATURES until they release PARISSA. The CREATURES eventually withdraw and disappear over the side of the ship.]*

PETE *[On the upper deck, trying to hold the wheel.]* Captain, this storm is blowing us onto those rocks.

SINBAD *[Crossing up to him and grabbing the wheel.]* Trim the topsail. I'd try and hold her.

- PETE Aye, aye captain. *[The MEN work at lowering the sail on the main mast.]*
- SINBAD I'm bringing her around. All hold on to something. *[The storm is at its height and suddenly we hear the sound of splintering wood as the ship hits rocks.]* We're running aground. *[The storm rages even harder and pieces of the ship begin to collapse. The sail rips in two.]* Genie, help us.
- GENIE Mephisto's power over the elements is too strong, but have no fear master, I will protect all on this vessel whatever happens.
- SINBAD We're breaking up. What shall I do?
- GENIE Turn into the wind.
- SINBAD But that would be suicide.
- GENIE No. I will hold the ship in a vortex until the storm subsides.
- SINBAD I'm trusting you Genie. *[HE turns the wheel. The storm is now crashing about them when suddenly all goes quiet and the lights turn to a pink/blue effect.]*
- PETE She done it. The Genie has saved us. *[ALL cheer.]*
- SINBAD It's amazing. Thank you Genie.
- GENIE It is only my wish to serve, master. *[MRS SINBAD, the CALIPH, PARISSA and SHANTI enter.]*
- MRS SINBAD Is it over?
- CALIPH *[Still reeling with seasickness.]* It can't be. My stomach is in the hold, my head is on that mast, my legs and arms are flung all over the ship!
- MRS SINBAD Oh do pull yourself together.
- PARISSA What has happened?
- SINBAD The Genie has created a vortex around us to protect us until the storm subsides.
- SHANTI Are we safe.
- TINBAD Don't worry. I'm here. You should have seen the way I fought those sea creatures. *[HE demonstrates his prowess with a scimitar.]* Cutting and thrusting. Chopping them up into a hundred pieces. *[This is too much for the CALIPH who rushes to the side of the ship.]*
- MRS SINBAD Thank you for that graphic description.
- SINBAD Everyone played their part. You were all magnificent. *[Cheers from EVERYONE.]*

- PARISSA So what happens now?
- SINBAD There's only one person who can tell us. *[ALL look at the GENIE.]*
- GENIE We will put in at the nearest port.
- MRS SINBAD But are we any nearer finding that awful Mephisto?
- GENIE Fear not. Egypt is where we will land and his secret fortress is located in the shifting sands of the desert. *[SHE exits.]*
- SINBAD So our adventure continues. *[To the CALIPH who has returned from the side of the ship.]* Never fear Highness we'll soon catch up with that evil creature and restore the Cobra Jewel to its rightful place. *[ALL cheer.]*

ENSEMBLE NUMBER – (OR REPRISE OF SINBAD'S FIRST SONG)

[Towards the end of the number PETE, who is on the upper level, calls out.]

- PETE Land Ho!

[The skies clear and on the cyc we see the outline of Egypt in the distance. Everyone turns to look and then sings the last lines of the song. The curtain falls.]

ACT TWO

ENTR'ACTE

SCENE 1 THE OLD BAZAAR IN CAIRO

[A busy square in Cairo with various buildings. Stage right is an open doorway with hanging beads. Stage left is an archway and below that a caged area with a practical door for the holding of the slaves. A sign to one side reads: "Cairo Slave Auction Today". Various stalls are positioned up stage with an array of goods on sale. The scene opens with the GENIE continuing her narrative in a spot down right. The CHORUS is on in a frozen position ready to begin the scene.]

- GENIE *[Giving a salaam.]* Salaam good and worthy citizens of *[Local town.]* It is time for the second half of my story. When you last saw them, Sinbad and his friends and crew were saved from the storm . by yours truly! . and heading for the nearest dry land. That turned out to be Egypt. The ancient land of the Pharaohs. Exotic and mystical. They have made their way to Cairo, which is not too far from Mephisto's secret fortress. But their search still has a long way to go with more adventures in store. As our intrepid band arrives they find the bazaar in Cairo a hive of activity - as it is the weekly buying and selling of slaves. *[SHE exits.]*

SONG AND DANCE – CHORUS

[The CHORUS sing and dance an opening number. At the end they all move around looking at the various stalls. MEPHISTO enters down left.]

MEPHISTO'S THEME

- MEPHISTO Finally back in my own land and with my prize possession, the Cobra Jewel. I have stopped here to purchase a few slaves to look after my every need when I create a grand palace to reside in. They will feed me with exotic fruits and delicacies from the four corners of the earth. They will dress me in the grandest clothes made from the finest silks and satins. Everything I desire is now within my grasp. *[HE laughs.]* But I must be on my guard. My magical senses tell me that Sinbad did not perish at sea and is still searching for the Cobra Jewel. It seems his resolve, together with the help given by that meddling Genie, is going to prove more difficult to defeat than I first thought. Maybe the only place to deal with him once and for all is at my secret fortress . should he ever find it. *[A STRANGER in full Eastern costume, boots and with a headpiece that covers most of the face, appears in the crowd. The STRANGER looks long and hard at MEPHISTO. HE reacts angrily at this.]* What are you looking at? Stare at me for much longer and I'll make your blood boil until you scream for mercy. *[The STRANGER gives a 'salaam' and moves away. MEPHISTO exits down left. The SLAVE SELLER enters through the beaded curtain and addresses them.]*
- S/SELLER Most illustrious citizens of Cairo. Please to remember that there will be a slave auction today. I am expecting a new delivery of hard working peasants, all going at a very reasonable price. *[The CHORUS starts to drift off stage chatting excitedly.]* Mmm, just time for a snack before I start work. I think I'll have one of these bananas. *[HE goes towards the tree and the audience shouts. MACHO dashes on and assumes a boxing stance.]* Oh is it your tree? *[MACHO nods.]* I don't suppose you'd like to share it with me? *[MACHO throws a few punches in the air.]* No I don't suppose you would. *[HE backs off through the beaded doorway. Voices are heard off left.]*
- TINBAD *[Off.]* Woah! Let us off here. Oh, steady on you stupid camel. *[There is the sound of a camel complaining and spitting.]* Ooooh! *[HE is thrown onto the stage through the arch on stage left as though he had just fallen off a camel.]* Now you've really given me the hump! *[SHANTI enters through the arch, smiling and attempting to stifle a laugh.]* Ship of the desert. You're nothing but an old tugboat! *[HE gets up and rubs himself in a delicate place.]*
- SHANTI Are you all right, Tinbad?
- TINBAD Nothing that a long soak in a hot bath won't cure.
- SHANTI It has been a long ride. I thought we would never reach Cairo.
- TINBAD Where are the others?
- SHANTI I don't know. We got separated when that desert sandstorm hit. I hope they are all right.

TINBAD *[Looking off left.]* Look. Isn't that Sinbad with the Princess?

SHANTI Yes, and the Caliph is with them. *[SINBAD enters followed by PARISSA, the CALIPH and PETE.]*

SINBAD There you are. We thought we'd lost you.

TINBAD All that waiting around for camels. It's just like the number fourteen bus. Nothing for an hour then three come along at once!

CALIPH Isn't Mrs Sinbad with you?

TINBAD No, we've not seen her. Wasn't she travelling with you?

PETE Yes, but we got separated.

PARISSA I hope she's all right.

SINBAD I'm sure she'd be along in a minute. *[HE looks around.]* So this is Cairo.

CALIPH But where do we go from here?

PARISSA Can't your Genie tell us where Mephisto is?

SINBAD She led us here, so this is where we should find him.

TINBAD But if we do find him, how are we going to get the Jewel back?

PETE We can't just go up to him and ask for it.

SINBAD One thing at a time. We ought to split up and search the town.

CALIPH Don't you think we look a bit conspicuous dressed like this?

SINBAD You're right, Highness. Maybe the Genie can help us. *[HE removes the stopper.]* Appear. *[The GENIE appears down right.]*

GENIE Your will is my command, O master.

SINBAD Genie, could you provide us with more appropriate clothes so that we might blend in with the people of Cairo?

GENIE At once master. *[SHE makes a pass and while a lighting effect happens SHE receives a pile of eastern cloaks from off stage.]* I hope these are to your liking, master.

SINBAD *[Taking the cloaks and passing them to the others.]* Splendid. Now you are sure Mephisto is here in Cairo?

GENIE He is very near master, but beware . he could disappear at any time. And remember I have no power to stop him.

SINBAD I understand Genie, and thank you for your help.

- GENIE *[Giving a salaam.]* I am here but to obey, O master. *[SHE exits. THEY all put on their disguises.]*
- SINBAD All split up and search around the bazaar. *[Pointing.]* Tinbad and Shanti go that way. Parissa and I will look over there and Pete you must take care of his Highness.
- PETE Right you are, captain.
- CALIPH Don't worry about me. I was in ~~in~~ a Celebrity Caliph, get me out of here! *[Or a similar title to correspond with the latest reality TV programme.]*
- PARISSA But father, you were the first to be eliminated. *[The CALIPH 'shushes' HER.]*
- SINBAD We'll meet back here in fifteen minutes. *[ALL exit various ways. MRS SINBAD is heard off stage shouting.]*
- MRS SINBAD *[Off.]* Let go of me! Let go! *[SHE enters with a large crocodile attached to one of her legs.]* Stop licking my leg, you ugly beast. *[SHE falls over and is dragged off stage by the crocodile. SHE then reappears holding the jaws of the crocodile as though it were trying to bite her bust.]* Oh I say! Bigger brutes than you have tried . and failed . to get hold of me there! *[There is now a lot of fighting as SHE disappears again. A sound effect of punches, groans and smashing of glass is heard.]* Take that. And that! *[MRS SINBAD – none the worse for her ordeal – re-enters holding a large crocodile handbag.]* That'll teach him to mess with the likes of me! Mind you I was frightened when I first saw that crocodile. I was really frightened! *[HER hand goes to her bag. Audience calls. SHE throws sweets.]* Glad to see you've not lost your appetite during the interval! *[SHE looks around.]* So this is Southend, is it? Where's the pier? I could just do with a game of bingo. *[SHE sees the sign by the platform.]* Oh no . this must be Cairo. Now I've got to find the others. We were separated back at the port while waiting for a camel train. Then this man offered to take me on a cruise up the Nile! He said he'd show me the great pyramid! *[Reaction.]* And the sandy desert and the swaying palms. The only palms I saw were his . all over me! I jumped ship and against all odds made my way here. Now I must try and find the others. I'd look over here. *[SHE turns to the door with the beaded curtain and puts her head through leaving her backside sticking out. TINBAD, SHANTI and MACHO enter and cross down centre.]*
- TINBAD No sign of him down that street.
- SHANTI I wonder how the others are getting on. *[SHE crosses left looking off.]*
- TINBAD Everything is so different from back home. Nothing seems familiar. *[Looking around, HE has backed towards MRS SINBAD and now leans his hand on her backside.]* Wait a minute . that does!
- MRS SINBAD *[Turning her head front.]* It's those wandering palms again! I'd give you two hours to stop that.

TINBAD *[Quickly moving.] Oh! [HE looks around and then says quietly to MRS SINBAD.] Pst!*

MRS SINBAD Certainly not. I've taken the pledge!

TINBAD It's me!

MRS SINBAD I don't know anyone called *me*. *[SHE crosses him to centre.]*

TINBAD Look. *[HE quickly uncovers his face. MRS SINBAD screams.]* Shhhh!

MRS SINBAD Tinbad? *[SHE looks at SHANTI who also uncovers her face.]* Shanti?

TINBAD Yes. It's us.

SHANTI Mrs Sinbad! Thank goodness we've found you.

MRS SINBAD What are you wearing?

SHANTI We put on these disguises so if we saw Mephisto he wouldn't recognise us.

TINBAD We're incognito.

MRS SINBAD I thought we were in Cairo! Where are the others?

TINBAD We split up to see if we could find that Mephisto. They should be back any minute.

SHANTI Here they are now. *[The CALIPH and PETE enter.]*

MRS SINBAD Hello you two.

CALIPH Mrs Sinbad. I'm so glad that you're safe.

MRS SINBAD Are you Cali? How sweet.

PETE *[Down stage left.]* No sign of that evil sorcerer anywhere. *[MEPHISTO enters down left behind him.]*

MEPHISTO That's where you're wrong. *[ALL react and back away.]*

SHANTI It's him!

CALIPH What have you done with my Jewel?

MEPHISTO Don't worry your Highness, I have it safe.

TINBAD Give it back, you fiend.

MEPHISTO Mind how you speak to me tailor, or I might turn you into one of your dummies.

MRS SINBAD Now listen here you big bully .

MEPHISTO Silence, you waffling *old* woman.

MRS SINBAD *[To the others.]* Did you hear what he called me? What do you say to that?

TINBAD *[To MEPHISTO.]* She doesn't waffle that much! *[MRS SINBAD beats him with her handbag.]*

MEPHISTO Silence all of you. I have no time for this. The slave seller wants slaves and I think you'd all fit the bill. Get into that cage.

PETE You can't make us. We outnumber you.

MEPHISTO You forget about the powers I possess. *[HE makes a pass and, under his power, they start to move towards the cage.]*

SHANTI I can't resist. Help.

CALIPH Stop it, I command you.

MEPHISTO Your commands mean nothing to me.

TINBAD Macho, go and find Sinbad. *[MACHO runs off. The OTHERS are now in the cage and MEPHISTO shuts the door.]*

MEPHISTO Sinbad can't help you now. You'd be sold in a few minutes and taken far from here. No more will you interfere in my plans. *[The CHORUS starts to enter.]* Just in time. The sale is about to begin.

MRS SINBAD Does he mean the January sales? Oh I do like a good bargain.

TINBAD Be quiet.

MEPHISTO Enjoy your stay in Cairo. *[HE laughs evilly and exits down left. The SLAVE SELLER enters from the beaded doorway.]*

S/SELLER Ah finally. I've been waiting for the new arrivals! You all look fairly healthy and should each fetch a good price. *[Calling.]* Good citizens of Cairo, the slave auction is about to begin. *[Amongst the CHORUS is the STRANGER, this time with a bodyguard - KASSIM. People look over the prospective slaves.]* See what a fine bunch I have for you this week. All newly arrived and ready to start work.

CALIPH There's been a mistake. We're not slaves.

S/SELLER Funny. That's what they all say.

CALIPH But I am the Caliph of Chandra.

S/SELLER Dressed like that? Don't make me laugh.

TINBAD It's true. And I'm a respected tailor.

S/SELLER *[To MRS SINBAD.]* And who are you? The tailor's dummy?

MRS SINBAD Why you ò ò

- PETE When I get out of here I'll skewer your innards and hang you from the yardarm.
- S/SELLER See how I'm shaking! Now keep quiet or I'll have your tongues cut out. *[HE moves away from the cage.]*
- CALIPH This is an outrage. I'll write to the - *[Name of local newspaper.]*
- S/SELLER *[Crossing to the cage.]* I said quiet, you snivelling son of a sea serpent! *[To the crowd.]* Perhaps someone would like them as a job lot! Who will start the bidding? Say fifty shekels each? *[There is a bit of chatting but no takers.]* Come come my friends, - *[HE pokes MRS SINBAD with his whip.]* - there are some fine specimens here.
- MRS SINBAD Don't be personal!
- S/SELLER All good strong workers. Who'll start the bidding? *[The STRANGER whispers to KASSIM.]*
- KASSIM I am ordered to bid a thousand shekels for them all. *[There is a buzz amongst the CROWD.]*
- S/SELLER *[Taken aback.]* A thousand shekels good people. *[More matter of fact.]* Any advance? Eleven hundred? Do I hear more? *[No one bids any higher.]* No? Sold then to . *[HE looks questioningly at the STRANGER who gives him a bag of money and says nothing. The cage is opened and the prisoners come out.]*
- CALIPH This is outrageous. How can a royal personage such as myself be sold as a slave?
- MRS SINBAD Do you think he's got a harem?
- SHANTI More than likely.
- MRS SINBAD Oh dear, I shall be used and abused and cast aside like an unwanted plaything!
- PETE He can't be that desperate! *[MRS SINBAD belts him.]*
- S/SELLER *[Cracking his whip.]* Behave yourselves and attend your new master. *[The STRANGER motions that they follow. THEY all turn to try and escape but KASSIM stands with his arms folded. THEY exit down left in the following order. CALIPH, SHANTI, MRS SINBAD, PETE and TINBAD. They pass the STRANGER who stands by the exit. As PETE passes the STRANGER there is a look between them. TINBAD notices this and goes to say something but KASSIM moves him on. The CROWD starts to disperse as MACHO comes running on followed by SINBAD and PARISSA.]*
- SINBAD Macho, where are they? What happened? *[MACHO mimes the capture and imprisonment of the others.]* You mean they were mistaken for slaves. *[MACHO nods and points to the SLAVE SELLER.]* You there. What happened to the people who were here?

- S/SELLER You're too late my friend. They have all been sold as a job lot. *[HE holds up the bag of money.]*
- PARISSA Sold? Was my father with them?
- S/SELLER An older man who complained a lot? Kept saying he was a Caliph or something.
- PARISSA My father is the Caliph of Chandra.
- SINBAD *[Drawing his scimitar.]* If anything has happened to him, or the people with him, your life won't be worth the price of that bag, let alone the money inside it.
- S/SELLER *[Now worried.]* But I thought they were the new slaves. They were already locked in the cage. *[MACHO mimes how they were tricked by MEPHISTO.]*
- PARISSA That evil magician must have been at work again.
- SINBAD *[Grabbing the SLAVE SELLER by the throat.]* Where have they been taken?
- S/SELLER I . I don't know. It was a mystery buyer.
- SINBAD Which way did they go?
- S/SELLER *[Pointing off left.]* That way.
- SINBAD Come on Parissa, there's not a moment to lose. *[SINBAD, PARISSA and MACHO exit left as the lights fade and the scene changes to]*

SCENE 2 ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CAIRO

[A front cloth scene. The lighting shows that it is evening. The STRANGER enters left followed by TINBAD, CALIPH, SHANTI and PETE.]

- TINBAD Where are we going?
- SHANTI Please, you've got to listen to us. There's been a terrible mistake.
- CALIPH We're not slaves. We come from Chandra. *[At this the STRANGER stops and turns slowly to look at them.]*
- PETE We were on a voyage with Sinbad the Sailor. Perhaps you've heard of him. *[The STRANGER slowly shakes head.]*
- TINBAD Wait a minute. Where's Mrs Sinbad got to? *[MRS SINBAD enters with KASSIM.]*
- MRS SINBAD *[In a casual conversation.]* And if you leave it in the oven for about twenty minutes, it'll rise to perfection.

- CALIPH What are you talking about?
- MRS SINBAD I've been chatting to Kassim here about the best way to make toad-in-the-hole!
- TINBAD Toad-in-the-hole? Here we are being sold into slavery and you're doing your Delia Smith *[Or another TV chef.]* impressions.
- MRS SINBAD *[Quietly to TINBAD.]* I was trying to get him on side so we could try to escape.
- TINBAD Oh, good idea. *[To KASSIM.]* Toad-in-the-hole is very nice, but I'm more of a black pudding person myself! *[The STRANGER holds up a hand and indicates they should move on.]*
- KASSIM *[Suddenly sharp.]* Move on.
- CALIPH Now where are we going?
- KASSIM To the camel train.
- MRS SINBAD Oh not more camels. The last one didn't half give me the hump!
- TINBAD I've already done that line!
- MRS SINBAD All that rocking about. I get frightened. I get really frightened. *[HER hand goes to her bag. Audience calls out. SHE throws sweets.]*
- SHANTI How far do we have to travel?
- KASSIM Not too far. We should be there by nightfall.
- CALIPH *[Pointing to the STRANGER.]* Doesn't say a lot, does he?
- KASSIM My master speaks only when necessary. Move on. *[ALL exit down right. The lights dim slightly and suddenly MEPHISTO appears down left. HE laughs.]*
- MEPHISTO That's got those irritating mortals out of my hair. Although their leader Sinbad wasn't with them. No doubt he will try and rescue them, so I'd better keep a watchful eye out for any further disruption to my plans. *[HE pulls out the Cobra Jewel and holds it up.]* Not long now my beauty until I harness all your powers to my mine and finally possess the wonders of the universe. *[The lighting starts to create various effects and the Jewel seems to pull MEPHISTO across the stage.]* What is this? What is happening? The Jewel seems to be developing a will of its own. *[Suddenly a thought occurs to him.]* Could it be? I've heard tell there once was a second jewel. An identical one to this but it was lost many years ago. When near at hand the two Jewels have a magnetic attraction. Perhaps merged together they give even greater powers. Is the other one still in existence? If so it must be close by and is attracting this one. I must find out. To possess one is a triumph indeed, but to have two would be beyond anyone's wildest dreams. Oh lead on mighty Jewel. Search until the other is found. *[HE exits right. The light returns as SINBAD, PARISSA and MACHO enter left.]*

- SINBAD It's no use. They seem to have disappeared.
- PARISSA But Sinbad we must keep looking. I can't let my father be treated in this way.
- SINBAD What about my mother?
- PARISSA I'm sorry. We need to rescue them all. *[MACHO runs right and starts pointing.]*
- SINBAD Do you think they went that way Macho? *[MACHO nods.]* But how can you be sure. Everywhere looks the same around here. Nothing but sand! *[MACHO runs to him and starts pulling at his costume.]* All right. We'll try this way. *[MACHO dashes off right.]* Wait Macho. Not so fast. We can't keep up.
- PARISSA Sinbad. The bottle. Do you think the Genie knows where they are?
- SINBAD The Genie. Of course. I keep forgetting I've got her to call on in times of need. *[HE removes the stopper.]* Appear. *[The GENIE appears down right. From now until the end of the scene the lights start to fade leaving the principals in follow spots.]*
- GENIE *[Salaaming.]* You called and I obey, O master.
- SINBAD Genie, do you know where our friends are?
- GENIE They have been taken on a camel train to an encampment in the desert, master.
- PARISSA Oh dear. Night is falling. We'll never find them.
- SINBAD Genie, can you take us there? Quickly.
- GENIE I do not have the power of flight, master. But there is a way that will get you there by daybreak.
- SINBAD How?
- GENIE On this master.
- [SHE makes a pass and the front cloth rises to reveal]*

SCENE 3 UP IN THE AIR

[A night sky with the flying carpet device in front.]

- SINBAD A carpet?
- GENIE Not an ordinary carpet, master, but one that I will equip with the power of flight.

[SINBAD and PARISSA cross to the carpet and sit on it.]

From North and South, from East and West,
I call on powers to help your quest.
This simple carpet will take flight
And carry you throughout the night
Across the desert onward bound,
To where your trusted friends are found.
Your journey starts without delay
Just say the words . it will obey.

SINBAD Thank you Genie.

[The GENIE bows and exits.]

PARISSA Are you sure it's safe?

SINBAD Of course. *[HE commands the carpet.]* Carpet, I command that you take us to join the rest of our family and friends. *[The carpet starts to rise up.]*

PARISSA *[Slightly worried.]* Sinbad!

SINBAD Don't worry. I won't let anything happen to you.

DUET . SINBAD AND PARISSA

[During the song the carpet moves up and down and side to side giving the impression of flying against a night sky. At the end of the song the lights fade to blackout and the scene changes to]

SCENE 4 A DESERT CAMP

[A tent like scene with a pedestal centre on which stands a gold casket. When the scene opens the CHORUS is enjoying a feast and entertainment.]

DANCE

[The dancing girls perform an eastern style dance. At the end there is much applause during which KASSIM enters.]

MAN Kassim, you are back. How was the trip to Cairo?

KASSIM Very productive. You will be meeting our acquisitions shortly.

GIRL And what of our illustrious leader?

KASSIM All in good time. Have all the preparations been made?

MAN Yes Kassim.

- 2nd MAN Everything has been done in readiness for your return.
- KASSIM Very well. Bring in the others. *[HE claps his hands and MRS SINBAD, TINBAD, CALIPH, SHANTI and PETE are pushed on stage.]*
- MRS SINBAD Here, mind where you're pushing. You'll bruise the goods!
- CALIPH Now what's going to happen to us?
- TINBAD I expect we'll be given our duties. Me, a respected tailor reduced to being a slave in the middle of a desert.
- SHANTI Don't worry Tinbad. I'm here with you.
[TINBAD melts and takes SHANTI'S hand.]
- KASSIM Silence all of you and prepare to meet our exalted leader.
[ALL salaam as the STRANGER enters and stands centre with back to audience. Removing the robes she then turns to reveal herself as ZAHRAT MUSAFA, daughter of the late Khedive of Egypt.]
- ZAHRAT Greetings.
- CALIPH *[Amazed at seeing ZAHRAT.]* It's a woman!
- TINBAD Well I'd be o o o
- ZAHRAT I'm sorry for the deception, but it was necessary to maintain a disguise when in Cairo. I am Zahrat Musafa, daughter of the late Khedive of Egypt.
- PETE Zahrat, good to see you again.
- ZAHRAT How are you Pete?
- MRS SINBAD *[Amazed.]* You know her?
- TINBAD I knew you were up to no good. In league with the enemy.
- CALIPH If that is right, you'll suffer for this.
- ZAHRAT O mighty Caliph, if it wasn't for Pete you would have all perished by now.
- TINBAD What do you mean? What is going on here?
- ZAHRAT Explanations in a moment. *[To the CHORUS.]* My friends please go and prepare quarters and food for our guests.
[The CHORUS salaams and exit.]
- MRS SINBAD Guests? Then we're not slaves?

- ZAHRAT No, but you would have been if Mephisto had got his way.
- SHANTI Mephisto? You know that evil creature?
- ZAHRAT I do indeed. Years ago, when my dear father died, he imposed his powers on Egypt and tried to steal one of its most treasured possessions. A magnificent jewel that kept peace and stability in my country. I, together with my loyal followers fled to this desert camp in order to escape him. Since then he has tried to find me and take the jewel.
- CALIPH This jewel. You say it has protective powers?
- ZAHRAT Yes Caliph, just like the one you have in your country. It is the sister to the Cobra Jewel! *[SHE opens the gold casket to reveal an identical Cobra Jewel.]*
- CALIPH But I never knew there was another.
- ZAHRAT Our fathers were great allies and as a token of their friendship my father made a gift of one of the Jewels so that peace and prosperity would reign.
- CALIPH I know the story well. And I have heard the many tales about the Khedive's daughter who disappeared years ago.
- ZAHRAT It is my sworn oath to defeat this evil magician and take my rightful place as leader of my people.
- MRS SINBAD But how do we fit in to all this?
- ZAHRAT I knew that Mephisto was looking for your Cobra Jewel. No one knew of the existence of this one, so when I heard he was on his way to Chandra I sent my trusted agent to keep watch.
- TINBAD Who's your secret agent?
- PETE Me!
- MRS SINBAD Oooh, our own double O seven!
- CALIPH This is too much to take in.
- ZAHRAT We have discovered that Mephisto's secret fortress is very near here. The only problem is that he has it heavily guarded and his magical properties will warn him if we get anywhere near.
- MRS SINBAD Then there is no way we'd get to him. Oh if only Sinbad were here.
- [A MAN runs on.]*
- MAN *[To ZAHRAT.]* Oh great one, a strange sight. Up in the sky.
- ZAHRAT Mephisto? It can't be.

MRS SINBAD Oh I'm frightened, I'm really frightened. *[HER hand goes to the bag. Audience calls. SHE throws sweets.]*

MAN It is a flying carpet with two people riding it.

[The sound of rushing wind is heard and voices off stage. SINBAD and PARISSA enter followed by the CHORUS.]

MRS SINBAD Sinbad!

CALIPH Parissa. Are you all right?

PARISSA Yes father, thanks to Sinbad.

MRS SINBAD *[Grabbing SINBAD.]* Oh my brave boy. He's saved the day again.

SINBAD All right mother. It's really thanks to the Genie for providing the transport.

ZHRAT So this is the famous Sinbad the Sailor.

MRS SINBAD Sinbad, this is Zhrat Musafa, the Khedive of Egypt's daughter.

SINBAD *[Salaaming.]* I am honoured to be in your presence, your Highness.

PARISSA Father, what are we all doing here?

CALIPH It's a long story.

TINBAD Zhrat and her people are on our side.

PETE And we all want to see an end to that awful Mephisto.

PARISSA *[Seeing the Jewel.]* Father you've found it. You've found the Cobra Jewel.

CALIPH Not quite Parissa. This is an identical one to ours. I've only just heard of its existence. *[The Jewel now starts to glow.]*

SINBAD What's happening?

ZHRAT Oh no! That means the other Jewel is close by. Mephisto must know where we are. *[Panic breaks out.]* Kassim, we must prepare to move the camp.

KASSIM At once, Highness. *[HE turns to go but is stopped as MEPHISTO appears down left. HE has the Cobra Jewel around his neck.]*

MEPHISTO Going somewhere? I don't think so.

ZHRAT Hold him.

[The CHORUS MEN advance on MEPHISTO but HE makes a pass and they all fall back.]

- MEPHISTO You have no power against me. I already have the one Cobra Jewel and now I shall have the other one.
- SINBAD *[Drawing his scimitar and standing in front of the pedestal.]* If the Jewel means that much to you, why don't you fight for it like a man?
- MEPHISTO I have no need to fight you or anyone. I could turn you into a sand beetle and crush you underfoot. I am already stronger than any one of you here and when I harness the powers of these two Jewels I shall be the mightiest person in the universe. Now out of my way. *[HE makes a pass and SINBAD is thrown back against the CHORUS. MEPHISTO takes the Jewel from the casket and crosses back down left.]*
- ZAHRAT *[Defiantly.]* Give me the Cobra Jewel.
- MEPHISTO Sorry to disappoint you, your Highness, but the Cobra Jewel now belongs to me.
- PARISSA *[Rounding on MEPHISTO.]* You'll never get away with this Mephisto. We'll hunt you down.
- MEPHISTO *[Roaring with laughter.]* What a feisty little thing you are. And how pathetic you sound. No one can get anywhere near my fortress.
- PARISSA Don't be too sure. This battle isn't over yet.
- MEPHISTO No? Then I shall have to take some precautions. I'll take you with me. *[HE grabs PARISSA.]*
- PARISSA No! Sinbad, help.
- SHANTI *[Terrified.]* Princess!
- SINBAD Let go of her. *[MEPHISTO makes a pass and SINBAD is thrown backwards.]*
- MEPHISTO If I ever see any of you again . she dies! *[HE exits down left dragging PARISSA with him.]*
- CALIPH My daughter! Oh now what are we going to do?
- ZAHRAT We'll never be able to get into Mephisto's fortress. He'll be watching our every move.
- SINBAD There is one chance. The Genie may be able to help.
- MRS SINBAD Oh yes. Call her . quick.
- ZAHRAT Genie?
- MRS SINBAD Yes. She's been a big help to us in the past.
- CALIPH Let's hope she can get Parissa away from that mans evil clutches.
- SINBAD *[Removes the stopper.]* Appear. *[The GENIE appears down right.]*

GENIE *[Salaaming.]* What is your wish, O master?

SINBAD Genie, that magician Mephisto has kidnapped the Princess Parissa and stolen the other Cobra Jewel. Is there any way you can take us to where he is hiding?

GENIE His fortress is well guarded and you will be detected long before you get to the entrance.

TINBAD Then all is lost?

[ALL turn away dejected.]

GENIE Not quite! *[ALL turn back.]*

ALL What?

GENIE He will keep the Jewels and imprison the Princess deep in the catacombs below his fortress. I could create a tunnel under the sands that will lead you there.

SINBAD Then do it . as quickly as you can.

GENIE I must warn you that once there you will face the greatest of dangers.

ALL Ohh!

GENIE It is also the tomb of the mighty Khali.

ALL Ohhh!

GENIE A fierce creature who is activated by any intruder.

ALL Ohhhh!

GENIE It will fight you to the death.

ALL *[Big wail.]* Ohhhhh!!

MRS SINBAD Oh Sinbad, I'm all of a dither. I'm too young to die! And I'm frightened, I'm really REALLY frightened. *[HER hand goes to the bag. Audience calls out. SHE throws sweets.]*

SINBAD There's no need to put all our lives in danger. I will go alone.

ZHRAT No, I will go with you. I have to avenge my people for what he has done.

SINBAD Very well. Genie, prepare the tunnel.

GENIE I hear and obey, O master. *[SHE salaams and exits.]*

MRS SINBAD But you've had nothing to eat. You can't go fighting monsters on an empty stomach.

ZAHRAT What about taking some of these bananas? *[SHE goes towards the tree. The audience calls. MACHO staggers on and puts his arms into the boxing position then collapses.]*

TINBAD *[Going to MACHO.]* Macho! We've forgotten all about him.

SHANTI He must have walked across the desert!

MRS SINBAD Oh the poor thing. He must be parched. Get him a Baccardi Breezer someone. *[A cup of water is brought to MACHO. He drinks and revives.]*

SINBAD There's no time to waste. We must find Parissa and the Jewels.

CALIPH This is a brave thing you do my boy. I shall not forget it.

ENSEMBLE NUMBER

[At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to

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SCENE 5 UNDER THE SHIFTING SANDS

[The scene is played on the black tabs lit by a dim corridor of light to give the impression of a tunnel. The GENIE enters down right and moves across to the centre of the stage. SINBAD enters holding a lantern – ZAHRAT follows also with a lantern.]

GENIE I have to work slowly master. Too much movement will disturb the sand above and Mephisto might detect us.

SINBAD I understand. We are indebted to you for your help.

GENIE I am here but to serve, O master.
ZAHRAT A better servant you could not wish for.

SINBAD If you had a wish Genie, what would it be?

GENIE Genies don't wish master, they just obey.

SINBAD Yes, but if you were granted one wish what would you ask for?

GENIE Every Genie has one wish and that is to be free and mortal.

SINBAD And who has the power to grant that wish?

GENIE Only the master of the bottle.

SINBAD I promise you, if we succeed in defeating Mephisto I will grant you your freedom.

GENIE Master, I don't know what to say.

SINBAD Say nothing. Just keep helping us.

GENIE I will, O master.

ZAHRAT Listen. *[THEY stop.]* I thought I heard something.

SINBAD Nothing.

GENIE I must warn you master that when we get to the fortress my powers will cease to work. Mephisto is too great a force for me to combat and as I said before, a Genie cannot do harm to another being.

SINBAD I understand Genie. Just get me inside that fortress and I'll deal with the magician. Let's keep going.

GENIE This way master. *[THEY exit left. After a moment a voice is heard.]*

CALIPH *[Off.]* Keep moving.

SAND DANCE MUSIC

[TINBAD, CALIPH and PETE enter left. They do a few bars of sand dance. As they stop SHANTI and MACHO enter.]

TINBAD Are you sure this is a good idea.

PETE Look, I don't care what Sinbad said, I'm not going to leave him to face that Mephisto on his own.

SHANTI He does have Zahrat with him.

CALIPH But we should all stick together.

[MRS SINBAD enters followed by KASSIM.]

MRS SINBAD *[Still talking to KASSIM about cooking.]* And if you really beat the mixture well you'll get plenty of air in. That makes your dumpling rise beautifully. And I've always had beautiful dumplings, haven't I Tinbad?

TINBAD I beg your pardon?

MRS SINBAD I was telling Kassim about my dumplings.

TINBAD Really! This isn't the time.

PETE All this talk of food is making me feel hungry.

CALIPH I can't remember the last time I had a good meal.

MRS SINBAD Well the only thing I can offer you around here is a sandwich. *[SHE laughs. They ALL look at her.]* A sand-wich! Get it? Oh please yourselves.

TINBAD This is no time for flippancy. We must keep up.

- CALIPH Tinbad is right. Who knows what dangers Sinbad and Zahrat are facing?
- [There is suddenly a low rumbling sound.]*
- SHANTI What was that?
- KASSIM It is what I thought would happen. There must be a sandstorm on the surface and sands are beginning to shift. That means this tunnel could cave in.
- CALIPH You mean we could all be buried alive?
- KASSIM Indeed.
- MRS SINBAD Oh dear. It's all very frightening. I'm really frightened. *[HER hand goes to her bag. Audience calls out. SHE throws sweets. More low rumbling sounds.]*
- PETE We must hurry.
- [ALL exit as the sound of the sand falling in gets louder. The lights fade and the scene changes to]*

SCENE 6 THE TOMB OF THE KHALI

[Part of the catacombs under MEPHISTO'S fortress. Stone columns are on either side of the stage and up centre is a wall with a concealed entrance covered by a sliding stone partition. Chained to the pillar on stage left is PARISSA.]

DANCE OF THE MUMMIES

[A UV sequence with MUMMIES and SKELETONS. At the end they exit and the lights come up.]

- PARISSA *[Shouting.]* Let me out of here, you evil fiend. Do you hear me wherever you are? Let me out of here. *[SHE pulls against the chains. MEPHISTO appears down left and laughs.]*
- MEPHISTO Your cries will never be heard down here. And even if they were no one will be able to penetrate my fortress. These stone walls are two feet thick and the catacombs run for miles under the desert sands.
- PARISSA Sinbad will come. I know he will.
- MEPHISTO *[Roaring with laughter.]* Sinbad? That headstrong youth. He'll never find you. And even if he were to be foolish enough to try my dark forces will destroy him before he gets within a hundred feet of this chamber.

- PARISSA Why have you done this? You have the Jewels. What good am I to you?
- MEPHISTO Oh I can sure I can find something for you to do. In such a large place like this there will be plenty of work to keep you busy.
- PARISSA Work?
- MEPHISTO Yes, my highborn lady. You have enjoyed the pampered life for far too long. Maybe days spent doing more menial tasks will curb your headstrong ways.
- PARISSA I am warning you, you will live to regret what you have done.
- MEPHISTO *[Indicating the chains.]* I don't think you are in any position to be making threats of that nature . do you, my lady? *[HE laughs again and exits.]*
- PARISSA Oh Sinbad, where are you? How could this have happened? *[SHE pulls again at the chains.]* I will never get away from here.
- SONG . PARISSA
- [At the end of the song SHE cries quietly to herself.]* Oh Sinbad.
- [There is a sound of splintering rocks. PARISSA cries out in terror and, fearing the worst, hides her face in her hands. Suddenly from stage right SINBAD appears.]*
- SINBAD What's this? Not pleased to see me?
- PARISSA Oh Sinbad. I knew you would come. *[ZHRAT enters.]* And Zahrat. But how did you get here?
- SINBAD Our friend the Genie created a tunnel under the sands so that Mephisto's forces wouldn't detect us.
- ZHRAT He has to be stopped at all cost. But first we must get you out of these chains.
- PARISSA They are very strong and embedded in this pillar.
- [SINBAD and ZHRAT cross over and inspect the chains. MRS SINBAD is heard off right.]*
- MRS SINBAD I don't know, this sand gets in everywhere! *[SHE enters followed by the OTHERS.]* You could strike a match on my knickers!
- SINBAD Mother! What are you doing here?
- MRS SINBAD Reinforcements dear.
- PARISSA Father.
- CALIPH Oh Parissa, thank goodness we've found you.

SINBAD You shouldn't have followed us. It's far too dangerous.

TINBAD We couldn't let you do all this alone.

PETE We've come through everything else together, captain. No reason to change now.

ZAHRAT Kassim, why are you not following orders?

KASSIM Forgive me Mistress, but this is one order I felt compelled to disobey.

ZAHRAT *[Smiling.]* I thank you, O true and loyal friend.

SINBAD You're all good and loyal friends.

SHANTI *[At the side of PARISSA.]* Did he hurt your Highness?

PARISSA No, but I wish I could get out of these chains.

SINBAD Come on Pete, give me a hand here and then we must find the Jewels.

[With their scimitars THEY start to hack away at the chains. Suddenly from out of nowhere comes the voice of MEPHISTO. The image of his head appears up stage centre above the concealed entrance.]

MEPHISTO *[V.O.]* What have we here? So these intrepid adventurers have more resilience than I gave them credit for. I warned you not to meddle in things that are beyond your comprehension. Now you will feel the full force of my resistance. *[HE chants a spell and the lights start to dim.]*

1st FIGHT MUSIC

[Music starts which underscores the following passage and fight.]

From ancient times I summon you
My powerful will to do.
Come mighty Khali from your tomb
And bring about their doom.

[There is a scraping noise of stone on stone and the concealed entrance up stage centre slowly opens. It reveals the mighty KHALI, an eastern god-like creature with one eye in the centre of its forehead and six arms, each holding a scimitar. It moves forward as ALL except SINBAD and ZAHRAT move to the sides of the stage. THEY draw scimitars and start to fight the KHALI.]

MRS SINBAD Oh dear, I'm frightened. I'm really frightened. *[HER hand goes to her bag. Audience calls out. SHE throws sweets. The OTHERS encourage the audience to shout for SINBAD. ZAHRAT has her scimitar knocked from her hand. The KHALI advances on SINBAD and looks as though it is winning. KASSIM picks up ZAHRAT'S scimitar and joins SINBAD in the fight. The KHALI advances on them and KASSIM is knocked away. SINBAD is forced to his knees but at*

the last moment HE ducks under the blades and strikes out the eye of the KHALI. There is a piercing screech and the six arms thrust out in all directions. SINBAD knocks each scimitar out of the hands. The KHALI is dead.]

TINBAD You've done it. You've stopped the creature.

[EVERYONE cheers.]

ZHRAT *[Going to KASSIM.]* Kassim, are you hurt?

KASSIM No Mistress, just a few scratches.

[MEPHISTO enters down left. HE has the two Cobra Jewels around his neck.]

MEPHISTO So Sinbad! You think you've won, do you? Well now it is just you and I. Prepare to die for your pathetic cause. *[To the OTHERS.]* And when I have finished with him, you shall have the pleasure of suffering the same fate.

2nd FIGHT MUSIC

[SINBAD and MEPHISTO fight. During the fight MACHO enters and picks a banana. HE throws the skin on the floor and MEPHISTO slips on it. While he is on the floor MACHO, helped by TINBAD and PETE, removes the two Jewels as SINBAD holds his scimitar to MEPHISTO'S throat.]

SINBAD So the mighty Mephisto isn't so mighty after all.

MEPHISTO I still have powers greater than you'd ever know.

SINBAD I think not. We have the Jewels back, so try and work your magic now.

TINBAD Run him through, Sinbad, before he does any more tricks.

MEPHISTO *[Starting to chant.]* Dark forces hear me and come to my aid ò ò ò

CALIPH Stop him Sinbad, he's starting his magic again.

[Quick as a flash, MACHO jams the banana into MEPHISTO' mouth. SINBAD removes the stopper in the bottle.]

SINBAD Appear. *[The GENIE enters down right.]*

GENIE What is your wish, O master?

SINBAD What can we do with this creature, Genie?

GENIE As I have said master I am unable to harm another living soul, but perhaps to be entombed in this fortress to suffer the fate of the living death might be a suitable punishment.

SINBAD I couldn't agree more. *[SINBAD, helped by KASSIM and ZHRAT force MEPHISTO into the concealed area up centre.]*

- MEPHISTO *[Having eaten the banana.]* No you can't. That tomb can only be opened from the outside.
- MRS SINBAD That's good cos there'd be no one around here left to do that! Have a nice rest.
- MEPHISTO You can't do this.
- GENIE Where there is no land, where there is no sea,
Away from the world we banish thee.
- MEPHISTO No!!! *[The stone panel slowly closes. ALL cheer.]*
- SINBAD A thousand thanks Genie. Now if I could ask you to perform one more act.
- GENIE Name it master.
- SINBAD Release the chains that bind the Princess Parissa.
- GENIE *[Making a pass.]* Let it be so. *[The chains fall from PARISSA'S wrists and SHE runs to SINBAD.]*
- CALIPH My daughter, safe at last.
- SHANTI *[Clinging to TINBAD.]* Oh is it finally all over?
- TINBAD *[At first surprised, then pleased he has his arms around SHANTI.]* Yes it is. it's finally over.
- SINBAD *[Taking the Cobra Jewels from MACHO.]* And these can be returned to their rightful owners. *[HE gives one to ZAHRAT and the other to the CALIPH.]*
- CALIPH Let the heavens be praised. Our country can once more rest in the knowledge that it is safe and secure.
- KASSIM And my mistress can once more take her rightful place as ruler of Egypt. Just as her father intended.
- ZAHRAT Indeed Kassim, and our land will prosper once more.
- MRS SINBAD Now we can all go home.
- SINBAD There is one more thing I must do. *[To the GENIE.]* For all your help in bringing about the safe return of the Cobra Jewels I grant you your freedom. *[HE hands the bottle to the GENIE.]*
- GENIE *[Overwhelmed.]* I have no words to express my gratitude, O master.
- SINBAD No longer master - but friend. *[ALL cheer.]*

REPRISE (SINBAD'S ACT ONE SONG)

.....] *[At the end of the song the lights fade and the scene changes to*
 SCENE 7 BACK HOME

[The Palace Garden front Cloth. As the lights come up the GENIE is discovered down right. SHE has the book of the Arabian Nights under her arm.]

GENIE And that is my story. Like all good stories it has ended happily. As a reward for his bravery during his Seventh Voyage, Sinbad was elevated to the position of Emir by the Caliph and granted permission to marry the Princess Parissa. Tinbad finally plucked up the courage to ask Shanti for her hand and as for Mrs Sinbad . well, all good stories must have an epilogue, so this is mine. *[SHE exits right as MRS SINBAD enters left without her bag.]*

MRS SINBAD Home sweet home! Oh I tell you, after all that has happened I won't be leaving again so soon. And now that my son Sinbad has been made an Emir and is to marry the Princess I think his voyaging days are over. Everything in Chandra has returned to normal and I don't think I shall ever be frightened again. So you see . no more sweets. *[Audience should react.]* Oh well maybe I might have a few more left over, but you've got to work for them! *[Audience reaction.]* Yes you have! And you know what you've got to do, don't you? That's right, it's sing-along-a-Sinbad! *[SHE calls off stage.]* Is there anyone there who can give me a hand?

[At this point TINBAD comes on and helps MRS SINBAD with the song sheet. They ad lib into the sequence.]

SONG SHEET – (See appendix.)

[Various things can happen during the song. A competition can be held and children invited onto the stage. At the end of the sequence the principals exit, the lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 8 THE HALL OF THE COBRA JEWEL

[A resplendent scene dominated by a huge cobra head up stage centre. In front of it is a pedestal on which will be placed the Cobra Jewel. Ornate Eastern columns are to the right and left. If the stage allows there can be a rostrum get on and steps for the finale walk down. As the lights come up there is a reprise of the part of the Parade from Act One Scene 1. The Cobra Jewel is brought on by some of the Female Chorus and placed on the pedestal. The Finale starts with the CHORUS and DANCERS taking their bows.]

FINALE

CHORUS
 DANCERS
 KASSIM
 ZHRAT

BLACK-EYED PETE
 MACHO
 GENIE
 SHANTI
 MEPHISTO
 CALIPH
 TINBAD
 MRS SINBAD

TINBAD Three cheers for Sinbad and Parissa.

[ALL cheer as SINBAD and PARISSA enter.]

SINBAD & PARISSA

PETE Our days of adventure are over

ZHRAT With everyone home safe and sound.

CALIPH After ship wrecks and camels and carpets,
 I'm keeping my feet on the ground!

GENIE I've finally told you my story
 I promise you all it was true.

TINBAD Now I'm back in my shop busy working

SHANTI On not one wedding outfit, *[With a glance at TINBAD.]* but two!

KASSIM Evil is finally thwarted

MEPHISTO And my fortress has become my jailer.

MRS SINBAD So all they've left for me to say is – *[SHE opens her mouth but PARISSA continues.]*

PARISSA Goodbye -

SINBAD -from Sinbad the Sailor.

ALL Goodbye.

FINAL CHORUS

[ALL wave to the audience as the curtain falls.]

End of Act Two

APPENDIX

Sinbad the Sailor Suggested simplification of Technical Sequences

This pantomime was written at the request of a very ambitious and talented small theatre company whose technical staff wanted to be pushed to the limits! Therefore, I set out to create a plot with a number of visual effects and theatrical tricks. Everything I asked for in the script the staff found a way of doing and the final result was a thrilling and rewarding pantomime experience. After the production I began to prepare the script for publication and decided to leave it as it was so that other companies may like to take up the challenge. That doesn't mean the pantomime has to be performed exactly as written, and so for those who would like to do this version of Sinbad the Sailor but can't manage everything that is required, I have prepared an alternative set of instructions.

- Page 5 The arrival of Sinbad's ship
If it is not possible to show The Golden Voyager appearing at the dock, a cut-out of the ship's prow and figurehead could appear behind the rostrum and the unloading can take place by passing goods from off stage.
- Page 8 The Whatnot
This should be painted to look like a small chest of drawers, but in fact open like a cupboard. It should be large enough for Mephisto to sit inside and, at the moment of his appearance, push the doors open, emerge and stand up.
- Page 9 The message sign.
The message on the bottle that should be projected onto the scenery can be cut and the dialogue altered so that when Mrs Sinbad holds up the bottle, Sinbad reads the message the correct way round from the other side.
- Page 18 Mephisto's levitation
The whole sequence can be cut and the actor delivers his speech in a spot down stage left.
- Page 20/21 Magic Acts
Any tricks can be performed. Ask if anyone knows some simple tricks or even the local joke shop may be able to help.
- Page 21 The Magic Cage

The disappearing '*girl in the cage*' act can be easily done by constructing a cage framework with black bars running vertically. The base should be fitted with casters and the whole thing made big enough to hold the actress playing Parissa. One side should contain a practical door and on the opposite side, instead of bars, thick black elastic (the same thickness as the bars) should be used to enable the actress to escape. The material covering has a break in the back panel.

Page 28

Mephisto's face

Instead of projecting Mephisto's face, the actor can appear down stage left in a spot.

Page 30

Shipwreck

This sequence can be as big as you can make it. Lighting and sound effects obviously play a large part and if you can get the rigging or part of the sail to fall, or even part of the upper deck of the ship to break away, so much the better.

Page 31

Egypt

If it is impossible to project the outline of Egypt on the cyc. The cast can look out into the audience as though it was at the back of the theatre and add a line of dialogue saying they are nearing Egypt.

Page 41

Flying Carpet

It is very difficult to do *Sinbad* without a flying carpet scene. The simplest way to do it, if actual flying is out of the question, is to build a small, black rectangular truck (big enough to take two people) and operate it from the wings by means of a black rod. Back the scene with black tabs or a star cloth and light the actors with a dim or blue follow spot. If dry ice or smoke is available this will add to the effect.

Alternatively there is available a flying device on the same principle as a counterweight camera boom which can double as a levitation unit for Mephisto. This can turn 360 degrees and rise and fall. The dimensions are as follows:

The body of the unit (including the carpet platform) is 124+x 48+

There are 4 wheels moving 360 degrees.

Carpet platform max. height from the ground is 63+

Max. load on platform 400lbs. (Only two people required on carpet.)

3 operators required for moving and raising the carpet.

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

Page 50

Mephisto's face

This time it can be just a voice over.

Page 51

The Khali

If it is not possible to build a creature as described in the script, you can use any Eastern looking monster costume or even the Mummies. Change any dialogue and instructions to suit.

Of course designers and stage managers may have their own ideas of how to achieve some or all of the effects.

MUSIC

The placing of songs and musical pieces is suggested in the script, but three numbers have been specially written for this version of *Sinbad the Sailor*.
The opening number "*Welcome to Chandra*".
The "*Work Song*" on board ship.
The "*Song Sheet*".

The lyrics are printed here and the music is available separately from NODA. Please note that these songs may only be performed when using this script and may not be interpolated into any other version.

WELCOME TO CHANDRA (copyright 2004)

ALL: If you're wondering where you are,
You have travelled very far
To a distant land across the sea,
Full of mystery and magic and fantasy.

Stay around and you will find
Dazzling wonders of every kind.
Exotic foods and wines on which to feast,
Welcome to Chandra the Jewel of the East.

1st GIRL: Fine satins and silk.

1st MAN: Fresh coconut milk.

2nd GIRL: Aromatic spices.

2nd MAN: Everything that's nice is

ALL: All on sale here at competitive prices!

See the desert with its charms
And the lazy waving palms.
Those Eastern promises will all come true,

Welcome to Chandra .
Salaam and effendi.
Chandra welcomes you.

WORK SONG (copyright 2004)

CHORUS When out at sea for days on end
 Our clothes get torn, they need a mend.

MRS SINBAD Give æm to me, give æm to me
 I will mend æm.

[ALL throw ripped clothes at HER.]

CHORUS With decks to scrub and knots to tie,
 There is no time to wash and dry.

MRS SINBAD Give æm to me, give æm to me
 I will wash æm.

[ALL throw washing at HER.]

While out at sea I thought I'd get
The time to sit and snooze.
But with the work there is to do
It's anything but a pleasure cruise!

[Short Hornpipe Dance.]

CHORUS To keep well fed at ev'ry meal
 There's pies to bake and spuds to peel.

MRS SINBAD Give æm to me, give æm to me
 I will peel æm.

[ALL throw potatoes at HER.]

CHORUS Give æm to her, give æm to her
 She will peel æm

[More washing is thrown at HER.]

And wash æm
And mend æm.

[At the end MRS SINBAD is laden with things to do.]

SONG SHEET (copyright 2004)

Sinbad sails the seven seas
The sights he sees are splendid.
But now he's home

No more to roam
~~C~~os his adventures ~~e~~ ended.