

Aladdin

**A pantomime by
Gill Morrell**

Spotlight Publications

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Aladdin

Cast (in order of appearance)

Aladdin, the hero and Principal Boy

Widow Twankey, Aladdin's mother

Abanazar, the villain

Princess

Nursie

Emperor

Empress

DC Ping)

DC Pong) comic policemen

Genie Of The Ring

Genie Of The Lamp

Mee Strung Wun

Yoo Week Wun

Puff, a small dragon

Chorus of Villagers & Courtiers

Place - the market place in Peking, a cave, the royal palace, and an Egyptian pyramid

Time - long ago

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

- Scene 1 - Front of tabs
- Scene 2 - The market place in Peking
- Scene 3 - Front of tabs
- Scene 4 - Inside the laundry
- Scene 5 - Outside the magic cave (FOT)
- Scene 6 - Inside the cave
- Scene 7 - Outside the cave (FOT)
- Scene 8 - The market place in Peking

ACT 2

- Scene 1 - On the road to Peking (FOT)
- Scene 2 - The royal palace in Peking
- Scene 3 - Front of tabs
- Scene 4 - Inside the pyramid
- Scene 5 - In Peking (FOT)
- Scene 6 - The palace garden

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. "Twas On A Monday Morning" (Chorus)
2. "She Is The Princess Great And Beautiful" (Mikado: "The Lord High Executioner") (Chorus)
3. "You Are The Sunshine Of My Life" (Stevie Wonder) (Princess)
4. "The Stripper" (Pong)
5. "If I Was The Only Boy In The World" (Aladdin & Widow Twankey)
6. "Puff The Magic Dragon" (Aladdin)
7. "Bye Bye Blues" (Chorus)

ACT 2

8. "Moon River" (Aladdin & Princess)
9. Aerobics number: "YMCA" (Village People) (Widow, Nursie, Ping, Pong, Emperor, Empress, Mee Strung Wun, Yoo Week Wun)
Mummy Dance
11. "Sheherazade" (Dancers)
12. Reprise: Mummy Dance
13. "You Belong to Me" (Aladdin & Princess)
14. "By The Light Of The Silvery Moon" (Widow, Genie & Abanazar)
15. "Slow Boat To China" (Ensemble)
16. Reprise no. 13

N.B. This list of songs is only the author's recommendation. All songs are at the discretion of the Musical Director.

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A NOTE ON THE PRINCIPALS

Aladdin - M or F. Young, enthusiastic. Can be played by a woman in traditional panto style or by a man

Widow Twankey - M. Aladdin's mother. Must be played by a man in drag

Abanazar - M. The villain

Princess - F. Young and pretty

Nursie - F. Middle-aged, irritating but with a heart of gold

Emperor - M. Optimistic and opportunistic

Empress - F. A snob

DC Ping - M or F. A police officer. If played by a woman, officious. If by a man, rather camp

PC Pong - M. A policeman. Not too bright

Genie of the Ring - F. Attractive, sexy and sulky

Genie of the Lamp - M. Strong, muscular

Mee Strung Wun - M. A guard - hefty

Yoo Week Wun - M. A guard - puny

Puff - M or F. A small dragon. Played by a child

Chorus Members - M, F and children. A minimum of four adults and four children but speaking parts can easily be spread over more actors. There need to be enough people on stage for credible crowd scenes.

Costumes should as far as possible be stereotypically Chinese. For instance, when Abanazar is disguised as a beggar, he should wear a coolie hat. The scenes in Egypt need traditional Middle Eastern costumes, with belly-dancing outfits for the harem girls.

ACT 1

Scene 1

Front of tabs. Ideally there should be some kind of cut-out or lighting effect to represent a pyramid

Smoke and spooky sound effects

Abanazar appears L. He is the evil magician, vaguely ancient Egyptian in style. He wears a long cloak which he swirls menacingly. His back is to the audience, but he turns suddenly to face them

Abanazar Aha! Welcome to my domain - my hiding place here in ancient Egypt, buried deep under tons of stone in the Great Pyramid. My name is Abanazar - hear that name and despair! For I am the personification of evil. My lifework is to beg, borrow or preferably steal gold, jewels, or ISAs, beyond the wildest dreams of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (*or insert name*). But just now I've hit a snag. I've plundered these tombs of all they held. Where else can I find the riches I need to effortlessly maintain my massively extravagant lifestyle? All that is left of the piles of wealth that I found here - and spent on wine, women and downloading songs on my i-pod - is this paltry ring. (*He shows the audience the ring he wears*) Barely worth bothering to clean it up, but it might sell for a few pence ...

He rubs the ring. There is a flash and the Genie of the Ring appears - a beautiful Egyptian girl. She salaams

Genie *What is your will?*

Abanazar Who are you?

Genie I am the Genie of the Magic Ring. I am locked inside the stone until it is rubbed; then I leap into action to do your bidding. (*She salaams again and he watches goggle-eyed*) Speak now, master.

Abanazar My pockets are empty. I need unlimited cash.

Genie I cannot conjure money from thin air.

Abanazar (*with great sarcasm*) You're a fairly pointless genie then, aren't you? So what *can* you do? A spot of vacuuming and meat and two veg? My old mum could do better than that.

Genie (*offended*) My powers may be limited but I still offer magic. I can fill this dark hall with heavenly voices. (*She snaps her fingers and heavenly voices are heard*) Or I can conjure a feast of luscious fruits.

Again she snaps her fingers. A harem girl appears carrying a dish loaded with exotic fruit. Abanazar takes a banana

Abanazar Is that it? I could listen to Radio One and then go down to Asda for that. (*Bitterly*) Except that I've no money to spend when I get there.

Genie (*helpfully*) They need shelf stackers ...

Abanazar No! A thousand times no! Have I reached this - relatively - advanced age without putting in a stroke of work only to be compromised into menial drudgery? I need money without effort. Is that so hard?

He throws the half eaten banana to the ground. The harem girl picks it up and exits

Genie Well, there's always the lamp, of course.

Abanazar The lamp?

Genie Have you never heard tell of the magic lamp whose powers give unlimited riches to whoever holds it?

Abanazar Well, clearly no. Otherwise I wouldn't be wasting time stuck in this hell hole talking to a half-baked half-dressed piece of fluff like you, would I?

Genie If that's your attitude, I'll be off.

There is a flash but Abanazar rubs the ring and the Genie stays

Abanazar Oh no you don't. You're under my control. Tell me about this lamp.

Genie The lamp lies a million leagues from here, near the great and exotic city of Peking.

Abanazar No probs. Queasyjet fly there from Luton.

Genie (*irritated*) High on a lonely mountainside, a massive rock conceals the entrance to a deep and perilous tunnel. Only the strongest of the strong could move that stone.

Abanazar Fiddle and tush! Do I not visit the (*insert local name*) sports centre on a regular basis?

Genie Once inside the tunnel, the traveller will encounter the fearsome fire-breathing dragon.

Abanazar (*sarcastically*) You encourage me. Go on.

Genie The entrance to the secret cave where lies the lamp is sealed by magic spells. Only a wholly innocent boy may enter.

Abanazar What do you mean, innocent?

Genie A boy untouched by commercialism and greed. A boy innocent of the modern world. A boy with neither Playstation, skateboard, mobile phone nor TV.

Abanazar Well, that's it, then. No such boy exists and even if he did, how could I find him? We're back to square one.

Genie (*smugly*) True, oh great master.

Abanazar Hang on a moment, though. You're a positive mine of information. Can *you* tell me if such a boy exists?

Genie I must tell you, if you ask.

Abanazar Well? I'm asking!

Genie Such a boy does exist.

Abanazar Really? Where? What's his name? How do I get in touch with him?

Genie The boy lives in Peking city with his mother, a poor widow.

His name is Aladdin.

Abanazar And how do I get there? My pockets are empty.

Genie Didn't I tell you? I too can do cheap flights. No frills. (*Exit*)

Abanazar No frills, but plenty of thrills if I can find Aladdin and use him to get the treasure. An innocent boy - he'll be simple to manipulate. I'll plot my way into his life, trick him into finding the lamp - and abandon him while I return to the high life that is my birthright. Wait for me!

He exits with a flourish

Scene 2

The market place in Peking. An open space surrounded by Chinese style buildings. DR, a sign over a shop proclaims "Chinese Laundry. Sole prop: Widow Twankey. Odd socks our speciality"

A queue of adult and children Chorus members are lined up across the stage. As they sing, they pass a joined line of laundry across to the shop door. A moment later, a washing line with pegged 'washing' appears from upstage of the shop and is pulled across to UL, as high as possible At the appropriate point in the song, the 'washed' clothes need to be very small-sized, as if shrunk. Meanwhile, the children dance

Song 1

All Twas on a Monday morning,

Just as the day was dawning,
And every item we were wearing
Needed a good wash.
We went to Widow Twankey's shop
We know she doesn't charge a lot -
She's soaping and soaking and rinsing them,
Soaping and soaking and rinsing them,
She'll wash our clothes today.

Twas on a Tuesday morning,
Just as the day was dawning,
We went to Widow Twankey's shop
To fetch our clean clothes back.
The clothes had shrunk - they're half the size -
The price had doubled - what a surprise -
We'll not be going back there again,
We'll not be going back there again,
No wonder she's so poor.

Children run in and give the adult Chorus members items of ridiculously small clothing

Chorus 1 That's the last time I use this laundry. I haven't been this size since I was eighteen.

Chorus 2 I never was this size.

Chorus 3 We should get our money back.

Chorus 4 Yes! We want our money back!

Everyone joins in the chorus of "We want our money back!", all gathered outside the shop

Widow Twankey enters from DL. She joins in the chorus for a moment and then turns to one of the Chorus members

Widow Twankey What are we protesting about?

Chorus 2 Just look at these awful clothes.

Widow Twankey It's your own fault if you've got terrible taste.

Chorus 1 I'll never fit into these trousers again.

Widow Twankey You obviously need to go on a diet.

Chorus 3 They fitted yesterday.

Widow Twankey Um ... Have you tried Atkins? Six eggs and two pounds of rare steak, and you'll be as thin as a rake. Just look at me.

Chorus 4 It's not us, it's the clothes. We sent them to the laundry
and they came back half the size.

Widow Twankey I hope they only charged half price.

There is a scream from within the laundry and a pretty girl emerges dressed only in a towel and runs off opposite

Aladdin enters from the laundry, looking puzzled

Widow Twankey Aladdin! What have you been up to?

Aladdin It was most peculiar. She couldn't see the new notice I'd put up so I switched the light on for her
and before I knew what had happened she'd taken all her clothes off and she was stark staring naked.

Widow Twankey Stark staring naked?

Aladdin So I put a towel round her, and she screamed and slapped my face.

Widow Twankey Show me the notice.

Aladdin Here it is.

He displays a notice that says "Customers using washing machines should remove their clothes when the light goes on"

Widow Twankey Oh, Aladdin, you're such an innocent. Unless, of course, you're cleverer than we all think.... Anyway, we've got bigger problems. Or rather, smaller ones. All these people say we've been ruining their clothes and they want their money back. So you'd better get the day's takings.

Aladdin If you say so, mum.

He exits into the shop and enters again holding some tiny scraps of paper which he distributes to the crowd

Chorus 4 That's not my money!

Chorus 3 These notes are only half the size they were!

Aladdin Oh sorry. We were doing some money-laundering as a sideline and it shrunk in the wash.

The Chorus exit, grumbling

Widow Twankey draws Aladdin downstage

Widow Twankey Now what are we going to do? No one will use the laundry now and we don't have a penny in the world. The house is so old it's only held together by the woodworm holding hands. I'm so homesick!

Aladdin But this is your home!

Widow Twankey Yes, and I'm totally sick of it.

Aladdin Yes, and just to add to everything else, your pet canary died this morning.

Widow Twankey What did she die of?

Aladdin Flu.

Widow Twankey I didn't know canaries could get flu.

Aladdin They can't. She flew into a rickshaw.

Widow Twankey Poor Tiddles! How will we survive without her? My life will be empty and meaningless.

(Rapid change) So, any ideas how we're going to make a living if the laundry goes bust?

Aladdin Mother dear, I'd do anything to earn enough money to keep you in the luxury you deserve. I know, I'll go and search for diamonds.

A Chorus member crosses the stage

Can you tell me the best place to find diamonds?

Chorus Member Of course. In a pack of cards.

He fans out a pack of playing cards and hands Aladdin a diamond before exiting. Aladdin is disappointed

Widow Twankey Never mind. Perhaps our luck will change. What's this?

The Chorus enter, shepherded by DC Ping and PC Pong. Both are blowing their whistles energetically and pushing the crowd to form

two sides of a passage from UL to DC. Aladdin and Widow Twankey are separated with Aladdin ending up DC

Ping *(speaking more or less at the same time as Pong and both creating chaos)* Everybody to the side. No, not that side, this side. No, not that way, this way.

Pong Now then, now then. Let's be 'aving you. Move along there. Mind your backs.

Child 1 What's happening? We'll be late for school.

Child 2 What are we standing here for? We've got a maths exam. We mustn't be late.

Ping Oooh, listen to this one. Who's a goody-two-shoes then?

Pong I can't cope with these modern kids. Always working hard and that. Why don't you both just go home and brush up on your ignorance like we used to?

Child 1 We want to do well at school and get good jobs. Anyway, I like maths.

Ping I can do maths.

Child 2 Are you good at it?

Ping Yes and no.

Pong Yes and no? That's not a proper answer.

Ping Yes it is. Yes, I'm no good at maths.

Pong Well, when I was at school I was as clever as the next student.

Ping What a pity the next student was such an idiot.

Pong I can do any sum you give me. So long as it's not decimals. I can never see the point.

Child 3 Okay. If you add 20,567 to 23,765 ...

Child 4 ...and then divide the answer by 67 ...

Child 1 and 2 ... what do you get?

Pong That's easy.

Ping (*impressed*) Really? What do you get?

Pong The wrong answer!

Ping I know another one. Why's twice ten the same as twice eleven?

Child 1 It's not.

Ping (*encouraging audience*) Oh yes it is!

Children (*encouraging audience*) Oh no it isn't.

Ping and Pong Oh yes it is.

Children Oh no it isn't.

Ping It is, you know. Think about it. Twice ten is twenty, right?

Child 2 (*checking on all children's fingers*) Right.

Pong And twice eleven is twenty too!

Child 1 You're just stupid. When did you last sit an exam?

Pong 1945.

Child 2 1945? That's nearly 60 years ago!

Pong No it's not. It's (*checking his watch*) half an hour ago. So there.

Ping I always liked geography better than maths, but I never learnt much.

Child 1 Why?

Ping It was the teacher's fault. She kept telling us about places I'd never heard of.

The sound of a trumpet. Everyone falls silent for a minute, all looking upstage

Pong Ping! Ping! Ping!

Chorus 1 Is that someone's mobile phone?

Pong No! It's her name. Detective Constable Ping.

Ping What's that, Pong?

Chorus 2 Probably the drains.

Ping No! That's his name. Police Constable Pong!

Chorus 3 DC Ping and PC Pong?

Ping and Pong (*producing table tennis bats*) Ping Pong at your service!

Child 3 We played table tennis at school the other day.

Ping (*uninterested*) Did you, dear? How fascinating.

Child 4 But we couldn't find a proper ball.

Pong What did you use then?

Child 3 We used an egg, but it was rotten.

Child 4 (*they mime what happened*) First it went ping and then it went pong!

Pong That's quite enough of that, thank you. Now then, we've been so busy chatting to you ...

Ping ... community policing being the way forward in the modern world ...

Pong ... that we forgot the most important message for all of you here.

Ping So we did! And if we don't tell you, you'll all die horrible deaths.

Chorus (*together*) All die horrible deaths!

Pong Oh yes. You'll be hanged till you've suffocated to death, and then they'll cut you up into little pieces and drag them round the town walls, and then if you're still alive they'll make you drink a deadly poison. And after that you'll be thrown into jail for at least twenty years without any visits from anyone, not

even your mummies and daddies.

Chorus (*together, on their knees*) Not even our mummies and daddies!

Chorus 1 Tell us what we must do!

Ping Well, it's not so much what you have to do, as what you haven't to do, if you get my drift. The Emperor's daughter will be shortly passing this way, and if any mere peasant sets eyes on her, then a horrible death awaits!

Pong Yes! You'll be hanged till you've suffocated to death and then ...

Chorus 2 I think we got that message. So what you're saying is that we mustn't look at her?

Ping Not the tiniest glance or else ..

Pong Or else you'll be suff ... (*a couple of Chorus members stop him from speaking*)

Chorus 3 Yeah, okay. We'll all look the other way. Who wants to look at an ugly old princess anyway?

Chorus 4 I wonder what she does look like, though.

Chorus 2 She's probably covered in spots.

Chorus 1 I heard she's got long black hair all down her back.

Chorus 3 Pity she hasn't got any on her head, then!

They all laugh. The trumpet is heard again and Ping and Pong rearrange the lines. Everyone faces away from the passage. A procession enters, as grand and exotic as possible

Song 2

(to the tune of 'The Lord High Executioner' from 'The Mikado')

All She is the Princess great and beautiful,
The only one that all of us adore.
For one like her it is quite suitable,
For all of us to fall upon the floor. (They prostrate themselves)
The Princess! The Princess!
The prettiest and the cleverest!
The Princess! The Princess!
We know she's wise,
And the perfect size,
She clearly is the best.

The centrepiece is a covered litter carried by two guards, Mee Strung Wun and Yoo Week Wun. Predictably, one is big and strong and the other small and weak and having trouble carrying the litter. This is followed by Nursie, who is overweight, out of breath and fanning herself desperately

Nursie Just slow down a minute and let me catch my breath. I can't run fast. I'm wearing run-resistant tights.

Aladdin (*to the audience*) Is that the Princess?

Aladdin

The familiar tale with some novel twists and an exotic setting, featuring a Chinese laundry, Mummies, the Great Pyramid, and of course, two Genies!

Plot Summary

Widow Twankey runs a laundry in Peking, China. Her son, Aladdin, falls in love with the Princess, but lacking funds, is frustrated. Enter villain Abanazar, who offers Aladdin the chance to retrieve a fabulous magic lamp from a cave. Aladdin gets the lamp, rubs it, and thanks to the Genie, becomes very wealthy and marries the Princess.

Evil Abanazar steals the lamp, kidnaps the Princess and decamps to the Great Pyramid in Egypt. However in true panto tradition, Abanazar gets his deserts, and Aladdin wins the day and the Princess.

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