

## ALADDIN

By Derek Dwyer & Merlin Price

### CAST LIST

Abanazer	<b>(Val)</b>	Evil magician, and door-to-door salesman!
Dame Widow Twanky	<b>(Dennis)</b>	Washerwoman mother of Aladdin, Wishee & Washee
Washee	<b>(Andy)</b>	Dame's youngest son ... not very bright!
Wishee	<b>(Vicky)</b>	Washee's twin brother (equally not bright)
Suzuki	<b>(John)</b>	A secret policeman
Yamaha	<b>(Mike K)</b>	Suzuki's assistant
Aladdin	<b>(Janice)</b>	A bright, honest boy ... with nice legs!
Cats (Ping and Pong)	<b>(Stella &amp; Caroline)</b>	Belong to Aladdin, want the Nemo/goldfish!
Jasmine	<b>(Cathy)</b>	Companion to the Princess
Handmaidens		The Palace is stiff with them!
.....		
Fang	<b>(Mike T)</b>	The Emperor's Prime Minister
The Emperor of China	<b>(David)</b>	Rapidly going to pot!
Princess Lotus Blossom	<b>(Mhari)</b>	The Emperor's beautiful daughter
Genie of the lamp	<b>(Tony)</b>	(Light brown hair, from a bottle) – camp!
Ghost	<b>(cardboard cutouts plus Bob!)</b>	A hair raising job
Caterer (Jimmy Oliveoil)	<b>(Derk)</b>	Obviously fed up, foul, grubby, has a running cold and brandishes a dirty hanky
Brigand Chief	<b>(Jacquie)</b>	In charge of a load of hopeless brigands
Brigands		Pretty thick, and downright inept.
<b>(Emma (B1), Lyn (B2), Robert, Polly, Tom plus extra non-speaking?)</b>		
Announcer	<b>(Mary-Anne)</b>	
Narrator	<b>(Bob)</b>	

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**PROLOGUE** (*Front of curtain*)

*A dark and stormy night. Thunder lightening etc. Enter Abanazer shrouded in a cloak*

NARRATOR Hello boys and girls and welcome to a world of magic, mystery and wonder. In far off Peking there lives an Emperor and his very beautiful daughter – none of the inhabitants of this exotic place are allowed to look at her. However things are about to change, certain events are about to unfold that will alter the lives of all involved; especially the lives of the Widow Twankey and her family. All is about to be revealed but along the way there will danger, intrigue and romance. Come with me now...

*Suddenly there is a flash of light, a crash of thunder and smoke. Out of the smoke a figure appears...*

ABANAZER Silence Fool! I am the great, the fantastic Abanazer, King of Magicians, Master of Wizardry, Guardian of Secret Spells, oh! and part-time teacher at South Wolds School. I come in search of the magic lamp that will make me the most powerful man in all the land. It is hidden deep in a cave in a far off Peking. I intend to do whatever I have to make it mine and then you will all tremble in fear. I have wasted enough time on you pathetic mortals and must now continue on my journey, but be warned, you have not seen the last of me! A thousand curses on you all.

*He turns to the narrator.*

Well, carry on then!

NARRATOR As I was saying, before I was so rudely interrupted, come with me now to see the tale unfold.

## SCENE 1

*Dame enters with shopping.*

DAME Oooh the trouble I've had at Kinoulton Post Office today! I picked up three pounds of bean sprouts, two pounds of watter chestnuts,

OFFSTAGE Watter chestnuts?

DAME 40p a pound! - two pounds of instant chop suey mix, a bottle of Hu-phlung soy sauce .. you know, that stuff that brings out the flavour in Chinese food .. it also works wonders as hair restorer and bath scourer ... two dozen chopsticks.....

*PIANIST Plays chopsticks*

DAME Oh shut up! - and a large packet of starch for mixing up stiff drinks, and the bill came to £48 and 73 yen. So I says to the Postmaster, I says, Just like on the telly... CHINESE EXPRESS? "Cash you old baggage, or I'll have the police on yer 'cos yer still owe me 138 yen from last month!" So I decide to get myself a loan. Well, the Bank that likes to say Yes said No, the Listening Bank turned deaf. Finally I ended up at Melton Building Society - you know them whose headquarters is a caravan at the cattle market. Talk about a loan shark - the manager's name was Jaws. "No trouble", he said, "you can have as much money as you want." But I knew I was on to nothing when he told me they had run out of paper for printing it on! Still, we may not be rich, me and my three sons, but we get by.

*Wishee and Washee run on and collapse beside Dame*

W&W Save us! Save us!

DAME Here are my youngest sons Wishee and Washee. Twins! They're inseparable. That means double trouble! They both work at the famous Chinese ice-cream company .... Great Walls of China! (*pauses for reaction*) - Oh please yourselves!

WISHEE Mum, Mum, this is no time for joking!

WASHEE The police are after us!

DAME Why, what have you done?

WISHEE We locked the Boss in the big ice-cream freezer ... and the company's assets have all been frozen!

DAME What were you doing in the freezer?

WISHEE Well, the Boss announced a wage freeze ...

WASHEE So, we went to look for our wages ...

WISHEE In the freezer. It was very icy inside...

DAME I see?

WASHEE Did you?

DAME No I didn't you silly clot! And did you find your wages?

WASHEE No, but we found loads of lolly!

DAME And what did the Boss do?

WISHEE Oh, he came looking for us in the freezer ...

WASHEE But it was very frosty and icy inside ...

WISHEE So we gave him the slip!

DAME What did I tell you ... always in trouble! What you two need is a good hiding! -

You'd better hide behind there! (*points offstage*)

*Enter Suzuki and Yamaha.*

YAMAHA Aro Aro Aro! We have leason to berieve that you are harbouring a fugitive flom justice!

DAME Justice who?

SONG **ALL sing Justice song at twilight, when the jokes are low.....**

SUZUKI Enough of insclutable olliental melliment! Honoulable manager of Glate Walls ice-cleam factory has had honoulable fundament flozen! Yamaha, cally out your honoulable duty.

YAMAHA (*bows to Dame*) Ah so, please to be co-opellating.

DAME (*also bowing*) Ah so. (*This carries on for several times*). We could keep this up all night. Which is probably more than you two can do with those phoney Chinese accents.

SUZUKI Aye .. you're dead right there. Yamaha! Search the old baggage!

(*Yamaha starts to search an old sack in the corner*)

SUZUKI No! Not that old baggage .... This old baggage!

DAME How dare you? I'll have you know I'm very close to the Emperor!

YAMAHA You're close to the Emperor?

DAME Well, not close exactly ... but I wash his smalls! (*Aside to audience*) Smalls he calls 'em! I'm not saying he's fat, but his wives all have to join hands when they want to cuddle him! They thought they'd found a whale in the basin but it turned out the Emperor was just 'aving 'is morning swim!

SUZUKI Come Yamaha, lets go and look elsewhere for fugitive, this is total waste of time! (*cuffs and chivvies Yamaha from the stage*)

*Wishee and Washee come out of hiding. Enter Aladdin, running*

ALADDIN Mother, Mother, hide me!

DAME It never rains but it pours! What have you been doing?

ALADDIN Well, I was walking through the town square when a Herald shouted, "Cover up your eyes, for the Princess Lotus Blossom approaches!"

DAME So of course you covered your eyes!

ALADDIN Oh! Er! Yes of course!

WISHEE They say the Princess is incredibly ugly and has warts on her nose!

ALADDIN Well I never spotted any....

WASHEE They say that when she walks into the kitchens, all the mice throw themselves on the traps!

ALADDIN Well I'd throw myself at her...

WISHEE They say that her eyes have more sties than the royal piggeries!

ALADDIN I think you're telling porkies...her eyes are like stars – they are so beautiful..

WASHEE They say that when she was a baby, she was so ugly that the Emperor had curtains put on her pram!

ALADDIN Oh pull yourself together. You haven't seen her.....I have!  
DAME What? ... You've peeked! Peeked in Peking?! You've probably peeked your least peek, you precocious princess peeker you! You've looked upon the face of the princess! You know that the Emperor has anybody who even glances at her put to death! You're doomed! If the police catch you they'll push lighted matches under your finger nails!  
WISHEE They'll stand you under a dripping tap 'til you go insane.  
DAME They'll keep you awake all night by playing old Des O'Connor records!  
WASHEE They'll make you listen to the collected speeches of Kenneth Clarke!  
DAME You're doomed I tell you, doomed ..... DOOMED!!!  
ALADDIN But Mum, I love her

*(Aladdin moves front of curtain (with Wishee and Washee to help with the singing) to allow for scene change)*

SONG *(Kylie – 'I just can't get you out of my head')*

*Aladdin sits down looking love lorn and miserable at which point cats are slinky and affectionate towards Aladdin and Wishee and Washee exit looking helplessly at Aladdin*

ALADDIN Here are my beloved cats, at least they love me.

SONG We are Siamese if you please, we are Siamese if you don't please etc.

ALADDIN Look Kitties, look at this goldfish, He's called Nemo. I have bought it to give to the Princess.

*(cats lick their lips and exchange glances)*

You won't touch will you?

*(cats slink around and look naughty)*

I do trust my cats but, children, you must shout 'NEMO' if they go near it. I need to know if you can shout. After three, 1,2,3 – shout NEMO.

SCENE 2

*The Palace. On stage, handmaidens and Jasmine. Handmaidens are all crying*

JASMINE        Whatever is the matter my dears?

*Handmaidens cry even louder.*

JASMINE        Come on now you can tell me - What's upsetting you?

HANDMAIDEN        (Snuffles) It's that horrible Mr Fang, he frightens us all!

OTHERS        Yes - Yes - that's right - he's nasty etc.

JASMINE        Come come, dry your eyes, you mustn't let him know you're frightened, even if he is nasty. You've got to look brave! Whenever I feel afraid I always whistle, and then no-one knows!

SONG        "WHENEVER I FEEL AFRAID"

JASMINE        Now then, you feel much better don't you?

HANDMAIDENS Yes!

JASMINE        And you're not afraid any more, are you?

HANDMAIDENS No!

JASMINE        And what are you going to do next time Fang comes around?

HANDMAIDENS We're going to whistle and be brave!

*Enter Fang*

FANG        Clear off out of here you horrible little people!

*Jasmine and handmaidens flee screaming*

FANG        *(to audience in a mocking tone of voice)* Pray silence for His Omnipotence, Master of the Universe, Steward of all Nature, Luminence of the Heavens, Scourge of the Wicked - The Emperor of all China and Hickling.

SFX:        *BONG!!*

EMPEROR        *(offstage)* Fang FANG **FANG !!** *(Emperor Enters).*

*Ah, there you are. (work audience up, Fang should have bowed but ignores hints until...)*

FANG        I abase myself at your feet Your Majesty! My only pleasure is your slightest smile! *(Aside to audience)* What does the doddering old fool want now?

EMPEROR        Have you yet apprehended the man who dared to look on the face of the Princess?

FANG        Have patience Oh Mighty One - my best Secret Agents, Suzuki and Yamaha, are at this very moment of time hot on his heels!

*Suzuki and Yamaha are asleep under coolie hats at the edge of the stage. Suzuki raises his head, winks and makes thumbs-up gesture to Fang, then goes back to sleep. Fang does double-take, then re-gains his composure.*

FANG        And they'd better catch him very quickly, or I'll present both of their heads to you on a silver plate!

*Yamaha and Suzuki exit hurriedly on their knees.*

EMPEROR        Oh very well, but I shall require results very quickly - and now, Fang, my most loyal chamberlain, soon it will be time for your wedding to my daughter, the Princess Lotus Blossom.

FANG        Yes, your majesty. The very minutes and seconds are crying out for the time when your most beautiful daughter will be mine to worship and to treasure.

- EMPEROR And have you paid any thought to the wedding festivities?
- FANG Yes your excellency. It shall be a wedding that befits the daughter of the most high Emperor of all the Chinas (and Hickling). A wedding worthy of your sublime presence. One that will reflect the most noble glory of your majesty. *(Aside)* The stupid old fool believes anything you tell him.
- EMPEROR *(obviously flattered)* Very good, very good.
- FANG If I may crave your indulgence, most illustrious of kings, I have the royal caterers outside to advise me even this very instant on how to prepare a wedding banquet fit for your most royal person. *(Aside)* Particularly for a fat old tub of lard like yourself.
- EMPEROR *(in eager anticipation)* Excellent, excellent. Do show them in.

*Enter Caterer pushing a trolley with dishes of sample food (grotesque ..... He has a squashed and dirty chef's hat which he holds in front of him, a running cold and a dirty hanky which he waves around.*

*At the side of the stage (other characters talk amongst themselves giving caterer chance to talk to audience) the caterer seems to be nervous about the coming interview and he gives the audience a run through of what he has on his trolley;*

- CATERER *(describes and shows what's on his trolley)*  
*(sees other characters who turn to him, bows low, very obsequious)* Your most royal majesty. Allow me to present myself, I am Jimmy Oliveoil. I represent the Mickenson and Doris Catering Company ... of Melton Mowbray! Caterers to royalty throughout the whole of Asia, providers of banquets to the nobility of the realm, chief suppliers to the Chinese Imperial Army and ... drains unblocked while you wait. Actually we have a special on this month and a selection of my produce will be available at the break.

- FANG Yes, yes, do carry on.
- CATERER Oh, ah, er, yes ... I have the honour to present a menu for the forthcoming wedding banquet *(pushing the trolley forward)*

*Approving looks all round*

- CATERER To start, my lord, we suggest fricassée of Dragon's Brain
- FANG Lovely - make certain it's crunchy. I just love to hear the crunch as I bite into it. I can't abide it when it's served up like jelly.
- CATERER Yes, my lord *(feeling threatened but not sure why, moves hastily on...)* Then to follow, we have that most rare delicacy, Snake's Legs in Garlic Butter
- EMPEROR Snake's legs? They are rare indeed.
- FANG Nothing is too good for you, my liege. But pray tell me what is the main course?
- CATERER That, my lord, will be Melton Pies à Liz P. King, served in Saki Yucki Sauce, and arranged on a bed of crunchy toenails.
- FANG Excellent, but make certain the King *(looking furtively at the Emperor)* is well boiled. I don't like rare King. It tends to be too ... hairy.
- CATERER *(Who is fighting off a sneeze)* And finally for dessert we have ... Aaah Choo! *(opportunity for slapstick 'bogey'/slime jokes)*
- EMPEROR Aaah Choo, I don't think I've ever come across that before.
- FANG No your majesty, but no dish, however rare, shall be spared for this most wondrous of occasions. *(To caterer)* Very well, out you go. Get on with it. *(To Emperor)* A

banquet fit for an Emperor I trust, my liege.

EMPEROR Very good. Now, before you go, Fang, there is a certain matter of state I must discuss with you.

FANG Yes, your highness?

EMPEROR We have heard rumours of outbreaks of lawlessness in our kingdom.

FANG Lawlessness, your majesty?

EMPEROR Yes, reports of a band of ruthless brigands who have been attacking defenceless villages on the outskirts of Peking. As far afield as Hickling.

FANG How terrible, your majesty. What an insult to your most royal personage.

EMPEROR We do not want our subjects to be distressed in any way. And there must be no interruptions to the royal wedding. See to it that these ruffians are quashed, Fang!

FANG Your word is my command, oh most royal and munificent master.

EMPEROR And now I must go. I have promised my daughter Lotus Blossom that I will take her for a picnic in the royal park this afternoon.

*Both exit. Curtain comes down, enter Lotus Blossom and Jasmine front of curtain.*

LOTUS And then this commoner had the nerve to gaze upon my face in the street ...

JASMINE Oh, the nerve of it.

LOTUS Mind you, he was quite good-looking, even though he must have known it was against the law - he had lovely brown eyes, and of course, Fang sent his policemen to chase him - I hope they don't catch him because he was the most wonderful man I have ever seen. If they bring him in I'm sure Daddy will cut his head off and that would be dreadful because I think that I've already lost my heart!

JASMINE (*Horrified*) Oh, your highness!

LOTUS Oh Jasmine! Whatever shall I do! Soon I shall be married to Fang and I could never love him! Daddy has never understood me! He wouldn't even buy me a goldfish when I was three and I cried for weeks over that one! (*Cries.*)

JASMINE Don't cry, Your Highness. If it will make you happy I will go straight into the city and find out who the young man was.

*Jasmine and Lotus exit.*

*Cats in front of curtain hide behind pillars, advance towards the goldfish looking naughty. To the backing of the Pink Panther music they advance on the goldfish, glance challengingly at the audience - children shout 'goldfish' - Aladdin rushes on and the cats look innocent. Aladdin asks audience:*

ALADDIN Did those naughty cats go near Nemo?  
*Aladdin turns to the cats and shoos them off and thanks the children for warning him.*

### SCENE 3

*The Road to Peking. Enter Brigand Gang.*

CHIEF Halt! (*Chief stops and the rest bump into him*) Right you lot! Attention! (*sloppy coming together*). Call yourselves the most feared group of brigands in China? (*all*

*nod eagerly*), the scourge of the Emperor, feared by all and loved by none? Well, let me tell you, you're useless. You couldn't steal sweets off a baby.

B1 But boss, it weren't our fault.

B2 All we did were to rush the pram like you said.

B3 Yeah, we didn't know the baby came from a long line of Sumo wrestlers.

*(All brigands start talking together)*

CHIEF Shut up you lot. You know what I'm talking about. That raid on that village last night. A great job you made of that, didn't you? *(All brigands start talking together again)*.

B4 But, boss, we were meant to attack at 06:00 precisely.

CHIEF Yes.

B1 But none of us had a watch, did we.

CHIEF But that was no reason to knock up the guards and ask them the time. And as for telling them that we intended to attack the village ...

B2 Well, they did invite us in for a cup of tea, didn't they ...

B1 And we got chatting, like ...

B2 So they asked us what we were doing, like ...

B3 And you've always told us we were no good, shifty villains, haven't you?

CHIEF Yes.

B4 So that's what we told 'em we were. No Good.

CHIEF And as for looting and pillaging. You lot don't know the meaning of the words, do you.

ALL No boss.

CHIEF I ask you. Knocking on a door and asking if they've got anything to throw out. What on earth are we going to do with 2 sideboards, half a mangle and 25 LPs by Des O'Connor. What did you think we were doing, collecting for the cubs' jumble sale at ..... ?

ALL No boss.

CHIEF Anyway, here comes your employer now. Let's see what he has to say.

*Enter Fang furtively.*

FANG Dolts! Incompetent fools! Can't you be trusted to do anything. After all I am paying you. Let me tell you, your wages will be cut by half after that charade.

CHIEF But my most noble lord, you haven't given us a sou yet. *(Murmurings)*.

FANG Quiet, fools! Haven't I promised you riches beyond measure when I become Emperor of China (and Hickling). *(To audience)* Yes, soon I shall have all I desire ... the Emperor's daughter .... and his throne. All shall be mine. *(To brigands)*. Anyway, I shall trust you with one more mission. The Emperor is organising a picnic in the royal park outside Peking today. I want him taken alive. Then we shall see who commands his kingdom. Be off and make certain you don't fail this time. Or when I become Emperor your heads will roll. *(Exits)*

CHIEF Right, C'mon lads.. If you don't want your heads to be used as footballs for Peking United, we'd better get this one right. *(All Exit)*

*Dip the lights for scene change rather than dropping curtain.*

#### SCENE 4

*The Road to Peking. Suzuki and Yamaha on guard duty. Abanazer enters*

SUZUKI Halt stranger and identify yourself! No aliens may enter the confines of the holy city of Peking without the permission of the loyal police of His Munificence, The Emperor of China (and Hickling).

YAMAHA Scourge of the Oppressed ...

SUZUKI Friend of the Wicked ...

YAMAHA Oppressor of the Weak ...

SUZUKI Managing Director of ..... (Knitting and Cross stitch International?), office hours 9 till 5, estimates free!

ABANAZER *(aside to audience)* Just watch a real expert get round these fools!  
*(to S & Y)* And what does all that mean?

YAMAHA *(standing to attention)* It means..... if we don't know you - you can't come in!!

ABANAZER *(aside to audience)* Bah! Fools! I have a way of dealing with riffraff like them!  
*He extracts a bauble from his robes, and dangles it before them.*

ABANAZER Behold! Watch the jewel carefully! You are feeling sleepy! Your eyes are closing! Their lids are heavy! You want, more than anything in the world, to please me!

S & Y We want to please you!

ABANAZER You will do anything!

S & Y We will do anything!

ABANAZER Good, then you will let me pass?

S & Y We will let you pass!

ABANAZER And one more thing

S & Y And one more thing

ABANAZER No, you don't have to say that!

S & Y No we don't have to say that!

ABANAZER You just have to listen!

S & Y We just have to listen!

ABANAZER SHUT UP!!!!!!

*Suzuki and Yamaha look dazed*

ABANAZER When you wake up you will not remember what has just happened.

SUZUKI We will not remember.

ABANAZER But you will go back into this trance, and labour in my service whenever you hear *(insert something topical)*, and you will awake when you hear the words "*(insert something topical)*"

YAMAHA We will obey!

ABANAZER *(insert topical phrase above)*!

SUZUKI *(Snapping out of trance)* Oh yes Sir, of course you may pass, Peking is just down

this road.

YAMAHA And may a thousand blessings rest upon your noble personage  
SUZUKI May the beneficent rays of the moon shine always upon your path  
YAMAHA May the spirits of your thousand ancestors guide you in all your doings  
SUZUKI May the.....  
ABANAZER Enough! Be still fools! (*He strides towards the wings*), And one last thing!  
YAMAHA Yes Lord?  
ABANAZER (*insert topical phrase above*)!  
(*Suzuki and Yamaha go into a trance & exit.*)

ABANAZER So, Peking is not far! Perhaps I should rest here awhile and think of a plan! Then I need to find a boy who will climb into the cave for me and bring out the lamp! Someone who has renounced all worldly wealth for love. Of course he will not share in my good fortune! As soon as he has given me the lamp, he must die! Ha, ha, ha! Quiet!! Someone's coming!

*Abanazer huddles under his cloak in the corner. Enter, Aladdin, Wishee and Washee.*

ALADDIN And I tell you, I couldn't live without her, ever since I saw her I've been looking at the world through rose tinted spectacles!  
WISHEE You shouldn't wear sunglasses at this time of year Aladdin, Mum says it's not good for your eyes!  
ALADDIN No, no, I mean I've been struck by cupid's little arrow!  
WASHEE It's dangerous playing outside with bows and arrows!  
ALADDIN No, no, no! I mean, I wish she'd say those three little words!  
WASHEE What three little words Aladdin?  
ALADDIN The three little words that would make me walk on air!  
WISHEE Oh! The three little words that would send you straight out of this world?  
ALADDIN Yes! Now you understand! The three little words that would send me straight to heaven!  
WISHEE (*Counting them off on his fingers*) Drop .. dead .. stupid?  
ALADDIN Aargh! Clear off! You'll never understand! (*Chases them from stage.*)

*Curtain drop. Enter Jasmine front of curtain (to allow for scene change)*

JASMINE Excuse me.  
ALADDIN Hello! Can I help you? I've never seen you around here before. Are you lost?  
JASMINE No ..... but, I'm sure I saw you in the town square this morning. (*Observes Aladdin's reaction*). You are the young man who looked upon the face of the princess when she passed by, aren't you? What is your name?  
ALADDIN It's Aladdin. I suppose you've come to arrest me? Well, I suppose you might as well, because I don't really want to live without her! (*hold out hands for the cuffs*)  
JASMINE I haven't come to arrest you! The Emperor has soldiers for that kind of thing!  
ALADDIN Then why are you here?  
JASMINE The princess asked me to come. She saw you looking at her, and she has lost her heart to you!

- ALADDIN Really! Then there's hope for me?
- JASMINE Yes, but I don't know how you could ever persuade her father, the Emperor, to let you see her again.
- ALADDIN Please tell her that I love her too! I will find a way to persuade her father that I am worthy of her ... and then I shall come and claim her hand. I promise it with all my heart!
- JASMINE I will tell her Aladdin ..... and ... good luck! Oh, and one last thing, beware of Fang, the Lord Chamberlain. The Emperor has approved his marriage to her, but she does not love him. But be careful, Aladdin, he is evil, and will be ruthless if you get in his way. *(She exits leaving Aladdin deep in thought at the edge of the stage).*
- ABANAZER *(Aside to audience).* The very boy I need! Hopelessly in love. He will easily be fooled! I'll tell him I'm his long lost uncle Abanazer!  
*(turning to Aladdin)*  
Ah, my boy! Did I hear your friend call you Aladdin? Aladdin was the name my dear long lost brother gave to his fine baby son just before I went away on my travels! It must have been at least *(eyes Aladdin up and down)*, oh, twenty years ago!
- ALADDIN My father has been dead for many years Sir!
- ABANAZER Good! Er, I mean, good grief! Poor man, what a shame, how dreadful! He was a fine man I remember, and so happily married - a wonderful woman, and such a fine mother - the Widow er, er....
- ALADDIN Twanky Sir!
- ABANAZER Eh? Oh yes, yes, Twanky, of course! You must excuse me, my memory isn't all that it was! It all comes back to me now. She had to work hard to bring you up ..... she worked in a , in a....
- ALADDIN In a laundry Sir.
- ABANAZER Exactly! In a laundry! I couldn't have put it better myself! She had a little house in the street er, in the street ... *(waits for assistance that doesn't come)* er, in the street of a thousand er, no, er, *(has an idea)* she's still where she always was isn't she Aladdin? Same old place?
- ALADDIN *(Nodding)*, Oh yes Sir,... same old place!
- ABANAZER *(Prompting)* Er, er? next door to old er....?
- ALADDIN Mrs Chong?
- ABANAZER *(Relieved)* That's right, Mrs Chong - bless her. Many's the happy hour we've spent chatting together. Tell me Aladdin, how is she?
- ALADDIN Oh, she's been dead these last fifteen years!
- ABANAZER Aaargh! *(Despair).*
- ALADDIN Why don't you come round and see my Mum? It's number fifteen, Avenue of the Heavenly Fields,- between the gasworks and the English take-away!
- ABANAZER *(With relief all over his face)* Excellent, excellent! And now that I know you are truly my brother's son, I can tell you that I have news - wonderful news! I can bring you riches which are beyond your wildest imagining! And so, until tonight, - farewell!! *(He exits patting Aladdin on the shoulder and casting meaningful glances at the audience.)*
- (Front of curtain) one cat rushes towards the fish and beckons the other cat, they both try to steal the fish – children shout 'NEMO' – Aladdin comes on.*

ALADDIN *(to audience)* Have they been at it again?

CATS *shake heads*

ALADDIN *(crossly)* Any more of this and I will lock the cat flap and that will put an end to your naughty games

All exit.

## SCENE 5

*Twanky's cottage. As curtain opens, the Dame is seen to be doing an impersonation of Julie Andrews.*

DAME *(Sings)* "The house is alive, with the piles of washing! The socks, pants and knickers, from a thousand homes!" An' I wish they'd stayed there. Oooh, I hate washing! Don't you just hate washing *(Repartee with audience)* I tell you, working in a laundry is no job for someone with a delicate sense of smell *(sniffs armpits)*.

*Enter Wishee and Washee.*

DAME Ah, there you are, you two. Now that you're unemployed, and your brother seems to be living on a different planet since he peeked at the princess, you'd better give me a hand with this laundry. If we finish early, I'll take you all to the park this afternoon for a picnic.

W&W Great, mum.

WASHEE What do you want us to do then?.

DAME Well, you can take the washing off the spin drier.

WISHEE But mum, we haven't got a spin drier.

DAME Oh yes we have. Hold this. *(Dame hands end of washing line to Wishee. Takes off cardigan to reveal bundles of clothes wrapped round her. She twirls round and all clothes come off pegged on to washing line. (possibly splashing the audience?) Hands other end to Washee).* There you are. Hang that lot up.

WASHEE What a way to dry washing.

DAME Well, I've got such a lot of work to do, I've got a little behind.

WASHEE *(Looking behind her)* I wouldn't say that.

WISHEE *(Looking in the tub)* I see you've got the laundry for Kinoulton Villa again *(pulls out strip - holds it out for everyone to see, with big holes in it)*. Hey, what are these holes in it?

DAME Well, everyone says they've got holes in their defence. That proves it.

WASHEE *(Pulling out another pair of bloomers)* And whose are these?

DAME I could do with some of these. *(Singing to tune of My Fair Lady)* "All I want is some knickers like these, to keep me warm from my neck to me knees, oh wouldn't it be lovely." Did you know I once had some knickers made out of a Union Jack.

WISHEE Weren't they uncomfortable?

DAME Not once I'd taken the flagpole out. Oh well, better press on with the ironing. *(Realises what she has said)* Press on with the ironing, ho, ho, ho. Tell you what, you put some starch in that tub over there and starch these clothes while I go and get some sheets to hang out. Not too much starch mind you. Oh and while you're at it, put up another washing line for me, will you.

W&W Yes mum. *(They put a pile of clothes in the tub, and pick up packet marked Starch.*

*They squabble over who is to pour it, and end up ripping the packet and pouring it all in the tub.)*

WISHEE Now look what you've done. We'd better see what its done to the washing.

WASHEE Hey, here's Mr. Hi Pong's best shirt. *(Takes out large cardboard, stiff shirt shape)*. I bet that'll give him a stiff neck.

WISHEE Let's see what else went in there. *(They take out various garments in shape of cardboard cutouts - play with these ad lib)*. Hey, this is fun.

DAME Is that line up yet Wishee.

WISHEE *(Pre-occupied)* Yes mum?

WASHEE The line - we haven't put it up yet!

DAME *(Struggling on to stage with huge sheet)*. Good. Right, I'll hang this up *(she tries to put sheet over washing line she believes has been put up but is not there; falls on floor)*

*Enter Aladdin and the cats who slink around other characters before settling in their basket*

ALADDIN Hi mum. Guess, what, I've just met your long-lost brother in law. He really must be your long-lost brother in law, he knew everything about us. He even knew Mrs Chong, and she's been dead 15 years. He said he used to enjoy a long chat with her.

DAME Funny! Deaf and dumb from birth was Mrs Chong!

ALADDIN Oh! Anyway, he said he'd come round tonight and explain how I could find my fortune and become incredibly rich!

WISHEE If you're rich, you'll be able to marry the princess.

ALADDIN Shhh! It's a secret!

WASHEE *(Very loudly)* What? It's a secret that you want to marry the princess?

ALADDIN Shh!! You didn't understand when I told you this morning! Anyway mother, he should be here anytime now..

*SFX Knock knock*

ALADDIN That must be him! *(He answers door and ushers in Abanazer)*

ABANAZER *(Heading towards Wishee)* Ah! The delightful Widow Twanky! Just as beautiful as the day my brother married you! *(Wishee points to Widow Twanky)*. Eh? Oh! Er, of course, of course! As I was saying - just as beau... er ... yes, well, I would have recognised you anywhere .....

DAME I've never seen you before in my life!

ABANAZER Oh! Er, it seems like only yesterday that you married my dear brother and went off on honeymoon to, er, let me see, where was it now?

DAME Skeggie?

ABANAZER Yes, yes - that's it! Oh I remember it well! You looked so lovely as we waved you off from the reception!

DAME I've never been to Skeggie in my life, - throw him out Aladdin, he's an impostor!

ABANAZER No, no! Now wait a minute - my memory fails me. Let me see .... Ah yes! Aladdin's christening! Yes! He looked so sweet in that long white christening robe!

DAME Blue!

ABANAZER Er, yes .... long blue christening robe!

- DAME Short blue! Aladdin - throw him out!
- ABANAZER *(from door, gripped by Aladdin and Wishee, pushed by Washee)* Wait, wait! I can make you richer than the Emperor! There's gold in this for all of you!
- DAME Of course, of course ... I remember now, it all comes back to me! My long lost brother-in-law! ... Aladdin, go and fetch your Uncle Avabanana a drink!
- (Banana Split song/short burst) Dame pulls a banana out of her washing basket and absent-mindedly offers it to the cats)*
- ABANAZER *(vexed)* Abanazer!
- DAME Oh yes, of course! *(to audience)* I'll never remember a name like that!
- ABANAZER Now gather around and I'll tell you the secret that will make us all rich! *(They all cluster around him. Abanazer should ham up the story making it slow and clear for the benefit of children in the audience)* Many years ago, I discovered a great hoard of hidden treasure. It lies not far from here, buried deep below the Earth! The only entrance is a narrow opening high in the hillside. Alas! I am too old and infirm to climb in there myself, but a young agile lad like Aladdin could manage it with ease.
- DAME What's in it for you, Mr Avabanana? *(takes emptied banana skin from the cats and throws it to the floor, Banana Split song/short burst)*
- ABANAZER Abanazer!
- DAME That's right *(to audience)* I told you I'd never remember that!
- ABANAZER At my age I have no need of such baubles! I want only one thing, a mere trifle...  
*Enter caterer*
- CATERER Did anyone call for trifle? *(holds a pie as if ready to throw, shrugs his shoulders and exits)*
- ABANAZER I want only one thing! a small thing of sentimental value - an old lamp. The rest is yours!
- DAME Sounds reasonable!
- ABANAZER Splendid! Then meet me tomorrow Aladdin, on the Peking Road, and I will lead you to your fortune! Until then ... farewell! *(Banana Split song/short burst, interrupted because Abanazer sees the banana skin and steps carefully over it)*

(NB. 1. During Abanazer exchange above; each time Abanazer fails the other characters push him a step towards the exit ie. applying pressure. When he mentions the money the balance changes and all the characters rush back centre stage.

2. During this scene the cats show their suspicion of Abanazer by sniffing around him, trying to trip him up etc.

**CURTAIN**

## ENTR'ACTE

*Insert Granny Twanky/narrator (to allow for scene change)*

### SCENE 6

*In the royal park. An enclave surrounded by bushes containing Emperor, Jasmine, Lotus Blossom and handmaidens. Suzuki and Yamaha are standing guard.*

EMPEROR Well, my dear, are you enjoying the picnic?

LOTUS Yes, papa, it was most kind of you to spend your precious time with me. But papa ...

EMPEROR It's the least I can do for you, my dear. After all, you will be married to Fang in a few days time.

LOTUS Yes, papa. That's what I want to talk about. You see ...

EMPEROR Ah, Fang. A fine fellow that. A most loyal servant. I'm sure you will be very happy with him, won't you?

LOTUS *(crestfallen)* Yes, papa.

EMPEROR Very good. Well eat up then.

LOTUS Yes papa. *(Nibbles sandwich unenthusiastically)*

*Commotion off. Enter Dame, Wishee singing raucous songs + Aladdin (thoughtful). They sit down for picnic on other side of the bushes so the 2 groups cannot see each other.*

DAME Here's a good spot. Get the food out Wishee.

WISHEE Great! I'm starving. *(Dives into basket and hands out food. Noisy eating)*

SUZUKI Shall we move on these peasants, your majesty.

EMPEROR No. We must take steps to mix with our subjects, to show them that we are not out of touch with them.

DAME *(To Aladdin)* C'mon You haven't touched anything yet Aladdin.

*Lotus & Jasmine react to name of Aladdin. Lotus signals Jasmine to say nothing but eagerly listens.*

WASHEE Ah, he's in love, that's what he is. Off your food are you Aladdin?

ALADDIN *(Miserably)* Oh shut up.

WISHEE Eh mum, what do we do with our rubbish when we've finished with it?

DAME Oh, dispose of it in the usual fashion.

*They both throw rubbish over the bushes and hit the Emperor.*

*Suzuki and Yamaha slapstick in background – catch/chase food etc.)*

EMPEROR I say, do you mind over there.

DAME Ooh. We've got company. Some ighty-toighty, laudy-daudy, toffee-nosed erk by the sound of it too. *(Mimics)* I say, do you mind over there.

WISHEE That's right mum. You tell 'em what for. *(Finishes drink and throws can over the bush)*

WASHEE Yeah! We're as good as anyone else in this park. *(Also throws something over the bush).*

EMPEROR I say, desist from this unseemly behaviour at once.

DAME *(Mimics)* I say, desist from this unseemly behaviour at once. *(Throws complete sandwich over the bush).* Here, have this!

WISHEE Hey, this is a great game. *(W&W reach into picnic basket and start throwing all kinds of things over the bush – cuddly toys? plastic food? local products advertised on placards carried across behind? sweets out to the audience?)*

EMPEROR Madam, do you know who I am. I'm the Emperor of all China (and Hickling)!  
*Wishee, Washee and Dame fall around laughing. Aladdin looks on in horror*

WISHEE *(Exploding with laughter)* He says he's the Emperor ...

WASHEE *(Also exploding with laughter)* ... of all China ...

WISHEE ... and Hickling!

DAME Yeah, and I'm Britney Spears.

EMPEROR I shall have you arrested for this.

DAME Oh yeah, you and whose army!

EMPEROR Madam, your head shall roll for this!

*Wishee, Washee and Dame explode with laughter. Dame mimics Emperor, walks around John Cleese fashion mimicking Hitler etc.*

WISHEE *(Still laughing)*. I'll tell you what. mum. He does sound like the Emperor.

DAME *(Peering over the bush)*. And I'll tell you what. He even looks like the Emperor *(Does double take)*. Aaagh! It is the Emperor.

EMPEROR Guards, arrest them!

DAME Head, say goodbye to body. It's been nice knowing you. C'mon, lets run..

*Exit Dame, Wishee and Washee pursued by Suzuki and Yamaha – insert a chase sequence. Aladdin hides behind a bush.*

EMPEROR Really. Such a disturbance. Uncouth peasants. Let us return to the palace. Come, Lotus Blossom!

*Emperor and handmaidens exit. Lotus signals to Jasmine to keep watch. She tiptoes round the bush and meets Aladdin.*

ALADDIN Oh wondrous dream. Can this be true? Is it really you, who I adore more than anything else in this world?

LOTUS Aladdin. At last we can be together. But we have only a moment. My father is expecting me to follow him back to the palace.

ALADDIN Oh Princess. How I long to stay with you forever. If only I was rich and powerful. I could persuade your father to give me your hand in marriage.

LOTUS No Aladdin. Be true to yourself. For it is that which I love in you.

SONG – Truly Scrumptious?/ Whole New World?

JASMINE Quickly your highness. Your father is looking for you.

DAME *(Offstage)* Aladdin, where are you?

LOTUS Go now. We will meet again.

ALADDIN And soon, I promise you.

*They part reluctantly.*

*Enter Brigands*

CHIEF Halt! *(They all bump into him)* Will you stop doing that.

ALL Sorry, boss

CHIEF Now, Fang said the Emperor and his party would be somewhere around here.

DAME *(Offstage)* Ah, Aladdin, there you are. What kept you?

B1 Sounds like them chief.

B2 Yeah! Let's surround them.

B3 Then we can capture the Emperor ...

B4 ... and claim our reward.

CHIEF That sounds like a good idea. You four go that way, and we'll go round this way  
*They all exit. Enter Dame, Wishee, Washee, Aladdin, out of breath*

DAME Well, we seem to have shaken those guards off. Let's stop here and finish our picnic, shall we.

W&W Good idea, mum.  
*They all sit down. Dame looks in basket.*

DAME Right. Time for pudding. I've made a lovely trifle for us all. Would you like some.

W&W/ALADDIN Yes, mum.

DAME Righto. Three big helpings for my three big boys. There we are.  
*Brigands come rushing in just as Dame stands up.*

DAME We're under attack. We're under attack. Don't panic. Don't panic  
*(She twirls round and all brigands get a face full of trifle).*

CHIEF Hey, you're not the Emperor.

DAME Do I look like the Emperor?

B1 Oh, we thought you were the Emperor.

B2 And we want to catch him ...

B3 And hold him to ransom ...

B4 Then we can be rich.

DAME You're not after my body then? Oh well, one could but hope! In that case, why don't you come and join us in our picnic.

B1 Can we?

B2 I'm starving.

DAME Well then. Let me just put some more of this delicious trifle on a plate. There *(To audience)* Well boys and girls, shall I give them some of my trifle? Shall I? *(Plays up to audience)*

CHIEF Me first. I'm the chief.

DAME With pleasure *(gives him a faceful of trifle)*

CHIEF Thank you. Let me return the compliment *(gets another plate of trifle - aside to audience)* Little does she know that I intend to pour this bowlful of trifle over her.

DAME *(Picking up additional plate of trifle - to audience)* Little does he know that I know that he intends to pour that bowlful of trifle over me, so I intend to pour this bowlful of trifle over him first.

CHIEF Little does she know that I know that she knows that I intend to pour that bowlful of trifle over her and so she intends to pour a bowlful of trifle over me, so I intend

to get my bowl of trifle in first.

DAME Little does he know that I know that he knows that I know that he intends to ...

TOGETHER Oh what the heck (*they push a plate of trifle into each other's face*)

B1 Hey, what about us.

ALADDIN With pleasure (*custard pies him*)

B2 You can't do that to us

WASHEE Why not (*custard pies him*)

B3 Oi. I saw that.

WISHEE But I bet you didn't see this (*custard pies him*)

*Custard pie fight breaks out. When they run out the caterer comes in with new ones on a tray. The cats come in and try to lap up some of the mess but seems too dangerous and they beat a hasty retreat.*

CATERER (*scooping/brushing some of the spilt custard pie mixture into his dirty saucepan*)  
This will do very nicely for my Ahh Choo pudding!

*Quick curtain. Fight is seen to continue beyond this (curtain moving, people coming through it and being dragged back etc.)*

WISHEE (*Peering through curtain*) Cor. You should see the mess behind here. Tell you what. You lot have a cup of tea while we're clearing up (*arm comes round and custard pies him*)

WASHEE (*Peering through curtain*) And don't forget ... be back in 15 minutes (*arm comes round and custard pies him*)

## INTERVAL

## SCENE 7

*The Peking Road Aladdin enters, propelled by Abanazer.*

ABANAZER Good! This is the place! The cave lies just over there in the hillside! Now, tell me again what you must do?

ALADDIN You will help me into the cave entrance and then I must climb down inside and search around until I find the old lamp. I will pass this out to you and then anything else in the cave that I desire will be mine!

ABANAZER Correct! Once the lamp is in my hands, *(meaningful look at audience)* you will have everything that you deserve.

ALADDIN Ooh, thank you Uncle Abanazer!

ABANAZER Come then - we will delay no longer - the cave is just over here!

*They exit, we hear their voices off stage.*

ABANAZER Now Aladdin climb up onto my shoulders, from there you should be able to reach the entrance! Aaaaah! Can you reach?

ALADDIN A little higher, Uncle.

ABANAZER *(falsetto)* Aaaaah! Can you reach? *(coughs)* Are you up now?

ALADDIN Yes uncle, I'm inside now!

ABANAZER Then lower yourself into the cave.

ALADDIN *(muffled)* I'm nearly down.

ABANAZER Good, good - call me when you have the lamp. *(Strides back onto stage)* - The fool! Once he has passed me the lamp, I will seal the entrance, and he will never see the light of day again! Ha ha ha! *(exits laughing)*

*Front of curtain; cats stalk the goldfish bowl, children shout – interrupted by Dame who looks at the cats absent-mindedly as they assume an expression of injured innocence before curling up quietly.*

*Enter Dame and Wishee, Washee*

DAME Now then you two, I'm sure they came this way! You keep your eyes open for that Avabanana fella *(produces a large banana from under her skirts and looks around wondering what to do with it – improvise!)*- I don't trust him and I don't want anything to happen to Aladdin.

WASHEE Don't worry Mother, we'll find them

WISHEE And if that Avabanana tries anything I'll sort him out with my Kung Fu! *(Demonstrates on handy bit of wood (banana box with bananas painted on it) provided by Washee. Exits leaning on Washee and moaning)*

## SCENE 8

*In the Magic Cave*

- ABANAZER *(Offstage)* Have you found it yet?
- ALADDIN Not yet Uncle - are you sure it's here?
- ABANAZER *(Offstage)* Yes, yes boy - it must be there, search carefully - I must have it!
- ALADDIN Oh! This looks like it Uncle, it's awfully dirty!
- ABANAZER *(Offstage)* Never mind, just bring it over here quickly and give it to me!
- ALADDIN What's the hurry Uncle? Why don't I just wipe it clean first - I'll give it a quick rub!
- ABANAZER *(Offstage)* NO! I mean no, em, no thank you - just bring it over here as it is Aladdin and do it quickly. And then you will get your just desserts!
- ALADDIN Just why do you want this lamp, Uncle? And what's wrong in just giving it a quick rub?
- ABANAZER *(Offstage)* NO! I have told you once Aladdin, bring it to me now, or I will lose my temper - *(Menacing)* you would not like me if I lost my temper, Aladdin! so bring me the lamp - immediately.
- ALADDIN *(Aladdin draws back)* Uncle? Why, I believe mother was right. You're not my uncle at all. You are an impostor.
- ABANAZER *(Offstage)* I'm warning you Aladdin - you have 5 seconds to give me the lamp or I will seal the entrance and leave you here to rot! 5.. 4.. 3.. 2.. 1..
- ALADDIN Never!
- ABANAZER *(Offstage)* Then keep the lamp - and perish with it!
- (S.F.X. slamming of stone door)*
- ALADDIN What have I done? Here I am, surrounded by all these treasures, but they cannot help me now! Trapped inside a cave with no hope of escape, and no chance of seeing Lotus Blossom ever again.
- [SONG - Help]
- I wonder why he wanted this dirty old lamp? It doesn't look like anything special!  
*(Rubs lamp - blackout, flash, enter genie)*
- GENIE *(Camp accent)* I'm free!!! At last. Ooh, you look like a nice boy.
- ALADDIN Pardon ? Who are you meant to be **dressed** like that ??
- GENIE Oh you are awful.....but I like you. I am the Genie of the lamp, luvvy and your slightest whim is my command! *(turning to audience)* ooh lovely legs, but he shouldn't wear green should he ?
- ALADDIN You can talk – where did you get **that** outfit from ?
- GENIE Versace, darling – where else ? I've got all the connections in the modelling world, you know ; in fact.....
- Song – 'I'm to sexy for my shirt'*
- ALADDIN Ok so if you're that good, try getting us out of here..
- GENIE Calm down calm down – you haven't seen anything yet..Less haste, more pace. Now like I was saying before, I have got magic powers... I can give you anything you want.. and I mean.....anything....Oh dear, what am I saying
- ALADDIN But all I want is my Lotus Blossom
- GENIE Lotus bottom – I've never been asked for one of those before...
- ALADDIN No blossom..BLOSSOM!
- GENIE Yes sweetie,

ALADDIN No that's her name..Lotus BLOSSOM. I want to get out of here and find her. I love her, she's all I want in the world.

GENIE Oh, we don't want a lot do we? Most people settle for a couple of diamonds and a lottery jackpot. Now then, where did I leave my magic wand ? Oh, there it is...I wondered what that was...OK - where shall we start...what about those clothes. Go over there Aladdin, you're putting me off. Now what's the magic word...Hooty Wooty lets get fruity (*hm hm (ie Family Fortunes noise)*) ...that didn't work – what a flop...ok let's try hanky panky, widow twankey...(*hm hm*) etc.. oh dear I'm getting all flustered..it's no good...I can't phone my friend so.... (*mincing to the front*) I'll just have to ask the audience... oh dear...it doesn't look safe...he looks like an animal.....(*enter cats*) oh look – it's pussies galore. You can help me. Ok so hands up anyone who wants to guess the magic word ? Not you dear, at the back – nice bag, cheap shoes ...oh he'll do – grab that one...Right then – what's your name and where do you come from ? Now there's a prize in it so have you got a magic word for me? (*victim chooses word*) Ooh that sounds good...let's try it together after three...one, two,three (*To audience*) *Blackout, then Aladdin re-appears dressed in fine clothes*).

ALADDIN Gosh. This magic thing really works.

GENIE Told you so...I'm not just a pretty face you know.

ALADDIN Then can you tell me what's going to happen to me.

GENIE Your wish is my command, oh masterful one. Ooh, I should be so lucky (*Kylie impression – 'I should be so lucky, lucky etc.*); look, and behold your future!

ALADDIN Right, Genie, I've got the gear, but how do we get out ?

GENIE Don't worry, just walk this way....(*minces off*) oh, and shut that door.....

*Scene ends with flash, blackout and quick curtain.*

## ENTR'ACTE

*Front of curtain*

ABANAZER A thousand curses. I had the lamp so nearly in my grasp. Curse the stupid boy. Now the lamp will remain locked up in the cave for ever. ... Unless, of course, he discovers the magic of the lamp. Could he? Might he? If so, he may even now be back in Peking. Think, Abanazer, what must you do? Yes, let's go back to Aladdin's house and see if he is there. If so, then he must surely have the lamp with him. Taking it off him will be like taking candy off a child. All may not yet be lost (*exits laughing*)

## SCENE 9

*Inside the laundry. Dame and Wishee and Washee on stage (cats generally get in the way(?)).*

DAME Oh dear, oh dear - I wish I hadn't been so greedy - they've been gone for hours, I know just what's happened - that evil Avabanana Man (*takes a large bunch of bananas and starts squashing them aggressively*) has done for my poor Aladdin! Oh I'll never forgive myself!

WISHEE There, there Mother, don't take on so

WASHEE It wasn't all your fault.

WASHEE Yeah! Aladdin wanted to go.

DAME But he was only young and inexperienced in the ways of this wicked world - I'd give anything to have him back - I'd smother him in all the love and affection that I've neglected to give him all these years.

ALADDIN (*Enters*) Hello Mum, I'm back.

DAME Aaaah - Where have you been all this time you idle, good- for-nothing thoughtless, gad about wastrel, going off like that into terrible danger without even a change of underwear; not that it worried me a bit what happened to you - but I've had to be a pillar of strength to comfort your poor demented brothers here, who were out of their mind with worry.

W&W But Mother.

DAME SHUT UP!!! (*Aside to audience*) Like I was saying, out of their mind - mind you, that's no great change! Get off to bed you great ninnies! (*exit Wishee and Washee*). Anyway, what are you doin' all dressed up like a dog's dinner.

ALADDIN (*Holding up lamp*) Look Mother, look what I got from the cave!

DAME What!!! All those hours of worry thinking you'd never get back with the treasure - and this is all you've managed to get! What is it?

ALADDIN It's an oil lamp, Mother.

DAME Oh, wonderful - (*Heavy sarcasm*) I suppose it runs on Aladdin Pink? (*Aladdin meanwhile rubs lamp*)

*(at this point the cats are stalking the fish again but they are startled by the genie and scuttle back to the safety of their basket!)*

*(Blackout, flash, lights up, Genie on stage)*

GENIE Oh, who's flashing now?

DAME Who is he? He's not that waiter from the Indian Nights Restaurant in Keyworth is he? Here, my Biriani was cold last time I .... (*is dragged off by Aladdin*)

ALADDIN No Mother - he's the Genie of this magic lamp and he can grant you anything you wish.

DAME Anything I wish? Gold! Gold and jewels! I could be rich - rich - do you hear me, rich!

GENIE (*aside to audience*) Well, I've never heard that request before! (*Blackout - flash -*

*lights - Genie holding bags - hands them to Dame)*

- DAME It works - it works! I'm a rich woman (*looks at self*) but a rich woman can't go round dressed like this! 'Ere you! Get me a fur coat. (*Blackout - flash - lights - fur coat on shoulders*) Ooooh money and clothes - what more could a woman ask? (*Pause*) I need a strong man to protect me - better still, two strong men - 'Ere you! Get me two strong men!
- GENIE Ooh yes please – you ‘n me both . (*Blackout - flash - lights up - Yamaha and Suzuki on stage*) Will these do Mistress?
- DAME Hang on, I'll find out - come here you lovely, lovely boys!
- SUZUKI No not that! Give us all night guard duty ...
- YAMAHA Make us peel the spuds for the imperial palace ...
- SUZUKI Make us wash up after the Christmas party at ..... Anything but that. (*run off stage, followed by Dame*)
- DAME (*off stage*) Got yer! Now pucker up me beauty and give me a great big kiss.
- YAMAHA Yeuk - never - get off - aaah! (*kissing noises*)
- DAME Ooh this is more fun than (*insert hypnosis trigger phrase*)! 'Ere your eyes have gone all glazed - what's the matter - I only wanted a kiss.
- S&Y To hear is to obey.
- DAME Oooh - no stop it - gerroff - ooh don't - stop - don't - stop don't stop!!! I can't fight you both off - I wish I'd carried on with those lessons in (*insert hypnosis trigger phrase*)!. 'Ere - why have you stopped? Come back here - it was just getting to be fun! (*all 3 re-appear on stage chase round - she corners them*)
- One more time boys!
- SUZUKI Oh no not again - look lady, we'll do anything you ask - but please stop kissing us!
- DAME Oh! Oh all right then, there is one thing you can do!
- YAMAHA Anything! (*mops brow*)
- DAME Go and find that evil magician, Avabanana (*produces an even larger banana*), or whatever his name is, and bring him 'ere for me to sort out.
- SUZUKI At once, at once! Come on Yamaha. (*Exit*)
- ALADDIN I think that's enough excitement for one night Mother – it's late – time for bed (*Zebedee 'boing!!*) (*Signs to Genie. Genie raises arms - blackout! Lights fade up slightly "blue". Enter Wishee carrying a lamp*)
- WISHEE Go to bed! Just like I was a baby - not even any supper, well I'm not standing for it - I'm a big boy now ..... (*wails like little child*) but I can't sleep without the light on and the lamp's gone on the blink - there must be another one around somewhere. Ah here we are (*picks up Aladdin's lamp*) - now let's turn it on - huh? Nothing works in this house!!!
- ABANAZER (*off stage*) New lamps for old! New lamps for old!
- WISHEE Oh just what I need - 'ere mister, did I hear you right? What's the catch?
- ABANAZER There's no catch sonny! I represent the Hickling & Peking Lamp and Lantern Company plc, and we are giving away one of our new lamps for every old one as a special promotion.
- WISHEE But why are you working at this time of night?
- ABANAZER Well, nobody wants lamps when it's light! - you great twit!
- WISHEE Would you give me a new lamp for this old one?

ABANAZER It's the lamp!! Er hum, I mean, well sonny it's in pretty poor condition, you know, but well, yes, I suppose since it's you - here you are - this is our latest 'Star Wars' model.

WISHEE Cor!! Here's the old lamp then - you must be mad!

ABANAZER Oh yes - completely. Ha, ha, ha! (*Exits*)

## ENTR'ACTE

*Front of curtain. Enter Jasmine and Lotus Blossom*

LOTUS Oh Jasmine, tomorrow's the day of my wedding. What am I to do, for I don't love Fang?

JASMINE Is there no way you can persuade your father to call it off?

LOTUS No, he just won't talk to me about it.

JASMINE You could escape, elope with Aladdin and flee to some other country.

LOTUS No, that would break papa's heart. He is old and I can't let him down. After all, he thinks he is doing the right thing.

JASMINE Then, your highness, your duty must come before your heart.

LOTUS I'm afraid there is no alternative. I must be brave and face up to my duty as daughter of the Emperor (*these words can be amended as cue for the song*)

SONG

## SCENE 10

*The road to Peking. Still late at night. Suzuki and Yamaha are on guard duty.*

*Audience singing sequence – 'Pizza Hut' song*

YAMAHA Do we have to stay here on guard duty, Suzuki? I don't like the dark, and it's very creepy here.

SUZUKI I know, but we're meant to be guarding the road against wild ruffians. Not to mention keeping a watch out for some evil magician called Abracadabra. I don't know who I'm more afraid of, Fang or that crazy washer woman.

YAMAHA At the moment I'm more afraid of ghosties and ghoulies and things that lurk in these woods, than either of those two.

SUZUKI Ghosts! You don't believe in ghosts? There's no such things as ghosts.

YAMAHA There are.

SUZUKI Not. (*etc.*)

YAMAHA I'll tell you what, let's ask the boys and girls out there if there are such things as ghosts. (*A ghost appears behind them both*). There's no such things as ghosts are there, boys and girls (*Oh yes there are sequence led by Yamaha, Oh no there aren't led by Suzuki*). (*Ghost disappears*)

SUZUKI I'll tell you what. If we see a ghost tonight, I'll eat my hat.

YAMAHA You're on. Boy's and girls, have you seen a ghost tonight. *(A ghost appears behind them both)*. There you are, Suzuki. They've seen a ghost. Get eating.

SUZUKI Rubbish. I'll tell you what. I'll go this way, and you go that way, and we'll see if there any ghosts around here. *(Usual back-to-back meeting)*

SUZUKI Aaagh, a ghost. *(Turns round to see it is Yamaha)*

YAMAHA Told you. Get eating.

SUZUKI This is silly. There is no such thing as a ghost.

YAMAHA Well then let's ask the boys and girls where they saw the ghost. *(A ghost appears behind them both)*. Where did you see the ghost boys and girls? *(Usual behind you sequence and ghost disappears. There's nothing there, oh yes there is etc. Finally ghost remains. Suzuki and Yamaha flee)*

## SCENE 11

*Further along the road to Peking. Still late at night. Suzuki and Yamaha enter. Suzuki is just finishing eating his hat.*

SUZUKI Yeuk. That was horrible. All right, so there is such a thing as a ghost. Well at least it didn't follow us.

YAMAHA I'm scared Suzuki. Let's go home before we meet anything else in this wood.

*Offstage noise of brigands*

SUZUKI Aaagh. Too late. There are more ghosts around.

YAMAHA Quick, let's hide. *(They hide behind a bush)*

*Enter brigands.*

CHIEF Halt! *(They all bump into him)*. Will you stop doin' that!

ALL Sorry, boss!

CHIEF Well, men. Soon will be our moment of glory. Your reward is nigh. It's just one small step for man ...

*Enter Fang*

FANG There you are, you bungling fools. I see yet another mission has ended in inglorious failure, another disaster to add to your catalogue of spectacular incompetences.

CHIEF Oh thanks, your lordship. I was just telling the men here how pleased you were with us ...

ALL Yeah etc.

FANG Silence, you gibbering idiots. Well, I shall give you one more chance to save your pathetic little heads. Tomorrow is my wedding day.

*All start congratulating him.*

FANG Shut up, you stupid creatures. My wedding is but a ploy. As soon as I am married to the Emperor's daughter, and become his son and heir ... then we strike. Tomorrow that fat old fool shall lose his daughter ... and his throne. Then his kingdom shall be mine. So see to it that you do not fail this time. The square in

Peking tomorrow, straight after the wedding. Then you shall greet your new Emperor. *(exits laughing)*

CHIEF Well, lads, there we are. Now gather round while we discuss the plan of action.

*They all gather round and start discussing.*

SUZUKI Here, did you hear what he said.

YAMAHA Yes, we must stop this. Where are the palace guards?

SUZUKI We are the palace guards, you fool.

YAMAHA Oh, so we are. I'd forgotten we were on duty before that ghost appeared.

SUZUKI Ghost! That's it. We'll pretend to be ghosts and scare them away.

B1 Boss, can we discuss this somewhere else

B2 Yeah, I don't like it here.

B3 Its too creepy.

B4 There might be wild animals in these woods ...

B1 Or creepy crawlies ...

B2 Or even ... ghosts!

CHIEF Don't be silly. There are no ghosts around here. Anyway, there are seven of us. We're a match for any ghost.

*Sequence of S&Y dressed as ghosts tapping each brigand in turn on the shoulder and scaring him away. During the sequence, the real ghost appears, so there are eventually 3 ghosts chasing the last brigand away.*

CHIEF Right, then, are we ready men? ... Men? Where are you men? *(Sees the 3 ghosts and flees).*

*Suzuki and Yamaha and the real ghost collapse in laughter, congratulating themselves etc.*

SUZUKI Well, that put paid to them, didn't it, Yamaha? *(takes sheet off)*

YAMAHA It sure did, Suzuki *(Takes sheet off)*

SUZUKI Did you see the expression on their faces?

YAMAHA Yeah, talk about being scared out of their wits.

SUZUKI *(Does double take of ghost)* Yamaha!

YAMAHA *(Does double take of ghost)* Suzuki!

S&Y Aaaagh! A ghost!

*S&Y flee, leaving real ghost to shrug his shoulders. Quick curtain.*

## **ENTR'ACTE**

*Front of Curtain. Enter Dame, Wishee, Aladdin and the cats.*

WASHEE I'm fed up mum.

DAME So am I. All our dreams of riches and glory are right up the spout - and why? I'll tell you why! Because of this no good, idle, stupid, lazy good for nothing.....

WISHEE Oh please don't go on like that Mum. I've said I'm sorry - what more can I do?

DAME I'll tell you what you can do! You can .... you can ....

ALADDIN Mother please! It won't do any good! The lamp's gone, and we'll never see it again!

WISHEE I've lost the lamp!

WASHEE Yeah! And I've lost my chance of pocket money.

DAME And I've lost my fur coat!

*Cats mime losing the fish and feeling hungry*

ALADDIN And I've lost my chance to marry Lotus Blossom!

*Long pause.*

WASHEE I'll tell you what. Why don't we sing a song to cheer ourselves up.

ALADDIN I don't think I shall ever laugh again.

DAME In that case, why don't we get that lot out there to sing a song. That's bound to make you laugh.

WISHEE What a good idea. And I know the very song.

PANTO SONG (Always Look on the Bright Side or Don't Worry Be Happy)- *sung by everyone ad nauseam*

DAME Well, I suppose we might as well go into town to see the Royal Wedding. We won't get any customers in the laundry today. C'mon you two. *(Exit)*

**SCENE 12** *The Royal Park*

*Enter Fang*

FANG Ha, ha! Today's the day. The day I've been plotting for all these years while I served that fat old fool, the Emperor. Today my plans shall be fulfilled. The Emperor's son-in-law ... and the chief mourner at his funeral. Then, the next Emperor of all China (and Hickling). Fang the First. Fang the Great. Nothing will stop me this time. *(Exits)*

*Enter Suzuki and Yamaha*

SUZUKI Quick, we'd better find the Emperor and warn him of this evil plot.

YAMAHA And tell him that it's his prime minister who is behind the plan.

SUZUKI In that case, we'd better make certain Fang isn't around when we see the Emperor.

YAMAHA Ssshh! There's someone coming.

SUZUKI It might be Fang ... with a plate for our heads.

YAMAHA No ... look, it's that magician geezer.

SUZUKI Quick, let's hide. If we can get that lamp back, at least we can get a job working in the laundry! *(They exit)*

*Enter Abanazer*

ABANAZER I've got it! It's mine! All the power of this lamp is mine to control! Now I shall rule the world! And today I shall start by overthrowing the Emperor of China (and Hickling). A foretaste of what is to come. Soon, all rulers will tremble in fear at the name of Abanazer the Great. *(Laughs)*. *(takes a phone call on a banana phone nearby – ring tone is the 'Banana Split' song)* In a moment the wedding procession will be passing by this place. Then I shall reveal my power to one and all. *(Laughs)*.

*Enter Suzuki dressed as woman, with Yamaha in a pram as the baby.*

SUZUKI Pardon me kind Sir - but can you tell me the way to the nearest clinic? I've got to take him to a Child Psychiatrist!

ABANAZER Why? What's the matter with the little ..... dear?

SUZUKI Well, every morning when we go to wake him up, we find him underneath the bed ..... and we're beginning to think he must be a little potty!

ABANAZER Bah! I have no time to waste on imbeciles like you, - let me pass!

SUZUKI No, no Sir - just a moment of your time - he doesn't often get to meet such a wise and important person as yourself!

ABANAZER Oh ... very well! Let me have a look at your child *(he peers into the pram - Yamaha gurgles at him etc.)* Madam, this child is next to a total imbecile!

SUZUKI You don't look that daft to me Sir!

ABANAZER *(Raging)* Out of my way! I have wasted enough of my valuable time.

*The baby begins to show an interest in the lamp*

SUZUKI Oh no Sir, don't go, look the baby wants to look at your lamp. It is a lamp isn't it?

ABANAZER Yes, yes it is, just an ordinary lamp. Here you little brat .... now you've seen it! *(Baby becomes excited)*

SUZUKI Oh look Sir, - he wants to touch it!

ABANAZER No! A thousand times no!

YAMAHA Yeah. Go on, let me touch it. Er'... I mean goo, goo, goo

ABANAZER Did I hear right. That baby spoke!

SUZUKI Er, no! Rubbish! Babies can't talk can they? You didn't say anything, did you Yamaha?

YAMAHA No.

SUZUKI There. See. He told you himself.

ABANAZER How amazing.

SUZUKI Oh yes. He is incredibly intelligent for a two year old. *(Thinking quickly)* He's also got psychic powers. Let him have a look at your lamp and he can tell your future.

ABANAZER *(Interested)* Really? Oh, very well! - Just a little look, mind you! *(He bends down and proffers the lamp, - the baby grabs it and stuffs it under the covers of the pram)* Give it back you little horror - give it back - or I'll cut you in two!

SUZUKI No, no Sir, please don't do anything hasty - look - he only wants to play. If you turn your back for a moment ... I'm sure he'll give it to you!

ABANAZER Oh, very well but he'd better be quick about it! *(turns)*

SUZUKI Right Yamaha, give it to him!

*Yamaha leaps from the pram and belts Abanazer over the nut with a potty, he staggers about, slips on a huge banana skin, falls into the pram and they wheel him off.*

*Great commotion off-stage. Crowd comes pushing on, all excited.*

CROWD Here, comes the Emperor. Hooray! etc. etc. *(Narrator signals audience with placards to cheer)*

*Fanfare, enter Emperor followed by Fang and Lotus Blossom in wedding attire. Handmaidens enter and dance before the Emperor. At the height of the dance, enter brigands from all sides.*

CHIEF Halt.

EMPEROR What is the meaning of this outrage. Guards, where are you. Fang, what is the meaning of this.

FANG This ... means the end of the road for you, you doddering old fool. Seize him men. *The brigands seize the Emperor.*

EMPEROR Fang, what is going on. What are you doing with me.

FANG Today, oh "master", your reign comes to an end. Today, you lose your throne.

LOTUS *(Flings herself at his feet)*. No, you can't do this. Papa ...

FANG *(Pushes her away)*. Silence you stupid woman. Yes, today, I become Emperor of China (and Hickling)... as your true son and heir *(Laughs)* And now prepare to meet your end! *(Stands above Emperor with sword raised)*.

DAME Aladdin, stop him. He can't do this.

ALADDIN But what can I do mother. If only I had the lamp.

*Enter Suzuki and Yamaha with pram.*

YAMAHA Oer. It looks like we're too late.

FANG Quick, seize those two idiots.

SUZUKI Here Aladdin. Do what you can with this. *(Throws Aladdin the lamp as the brigands seize him and Yamaha)*

ALADDIN The lamp. It's mine again (*Rubs it. Blackout and flash and genie appears*)

GENIE Oh, that was a big puff. What do you want now, oh masterful one?

ALADDIN Quick! Rescue the Emperor and save the princess.

GENIE Ooh master!

*Blackout and flash. During the blackout, the genie is heard to intone the following:*

Thieves and robbers, now be gone.

All people here become as one.

For all things here, evil and vice

Shall be simple, change 'em to mice

*When blackout ends, it can be seen that the brigands are all dressed as mice. They are chased off stage by the cats.*

ALADDIN Now, Suzuki, Yamaha. Save your Emperor.

*Suzuki and Yamaha quickly disarm Fang, who ends up on the floor with sword raised above his head.*

ABANAZER (*Coming round*), Oh, what hit me? Where am I? Where's my lamp?

DAME Here it is you villain - and you're not getting your hands on it again!

ABANAZER But it must be mine! Give it to me!

DAME You want it?

ABANAZER Yes, give it to me!

DAME Are you sure you want it?

ABANAZER Yes, yes, give it to me now!

DAME So you're really asking for it? He's really asking for it, isn't he? Shall I give it to him? (*She socks him with a large banana, short burst of 'Banana Split' song*).

WISHEE Go on mum. You show him.

WASHEE Yeah! Hit him again mum.

ALADDIN Genie, help us do something

GENIE Now what ?

ALADDIN What is the worst place you can think of ?

GENIE Kinoulton ?

ALADDIN Good idea – send Abanazer there for ever

GENIE That's a bit harsh, but I love it when you're masterful...Ok – let it be written, let it be done,...off to Kinoulton, you evil one

ABANAZER Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo! (*Exits with Genie*).

EMPEROR And now young man. Whatever can I do to thank you. Name it, and it shall be yours.

ALADDIN The hand of your daughter in marriage, your majesty.

LOTUS (*over keen and then modestly*) Oh yes. Please say yes, papa, for I love Aladdin.

EMPEROR But Lotus Blossom ... how can you love this man? What can he possibly offer you? (*turns to Aladdin*) Can you support my daughter in the manner to which she has become accustomed?

ALADDIN Yes!

EMPEROR     There you are my dear, you see? He admits that he cannot .... what?  
ALADDIN     Yes! Just watch this. *(He rubs his lamp)*  
EMPEROR     But you are the penniless son of a washerwoman! How can you expect me to believe that ...  
GENIE        *(Dressed in night-shirt)* Oh it's you again! I was just getting ready for my beauty sleep.  
ALADDIN     Bring the finest rubies, emeralds and diamonds. Bring gold and silver - and present them to the Emperor!  
GENIE        Yes master. You're so demanding but hey ho, let's give it a go*(claps his hands)*.  
*Cats come onto the stage bearing treasure which they place at the Emperor's feet.*

EMPEROR     Well, perhaps I was a little hasty my boy - a man with your undoubted talents could rise very high in my service - could even become the next Emperor! Lotus Blossom, do you really wish to marry this man?  
LOTUS        Oh yes father!  
EMPEROR     Very well then - you both have my blessing.  
CROWD        Hurrah!  
LOTUS        But father, there is still the matter of my marriage to Fang.  
EMPEROR     Oh, don't worry about that. By this time tomorrow, you'll be a widow. Off with his head. *(Suzuki and Yamaha escort Fang off stage)*

*Aladdin turns to Lotus and the cats pass him the goldfish bowl with a penitent expression. He presents them to her, she looks surprised and then delighted!*

EMPEROR     And now, I want to issue a special invitation to you all. Tomorrow you shall all be my guests at the wedding of Aladdin and my daughter Lotus Blossom.

*Close with a full wedding scene (including a Chinese Dragon) and final curtain call.*  
*Finale Song – “All You Need is Love”*