



ALADDIN  
BY  
COLIN BARROW

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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# Aladdin

(version two)



*A Pantomime*

*By*

*Colin Barrow*

## *Aladdin*

Aladdin is one of the most popular pantomimes performed and with that comes the ever-present problem of finding a script that delivers something different from when you did it the last time. This script is one that can solve that problem with simplicity, but still tell the story in a traditional way. In this version the laundry scene has been taken out and the cave scene brought forward to earlier in act one. This has given rise to more story telling of Aladdin and the lamp with its journey of intrigue. There has also been a character change too, Wishy Washy has been dropped and replaced with a second Genie, who's an apprentice Genie and a comedy part. The plight of Widow Twankey and her laundry remain the same as does the Villainous Abanazar, but the journey it takes gives the audience something less predictable. This makes it a win-win situation for cast and the returning viewing audience alike.

## SYNOPSIS

Aladdin has seen the girl of his dreams, Princess Pekoe, but to gain her hand in marriage he must have wealth, and a lot of it. Working in his mother's laundry is not what he feels he was put on this earth to do. Widow Twankey, Aladdin's mother wishes that instead of Aladdin dreaming and fantasising of what could be, he'd be more useful helping her wash Peking's dirty laundry. Abanazar, Aladdin's uncle, who has not seen Aladdin since a babe in arms, returns to entice his nephew into entering a cave for the magic lamp. But when Aladdin reaches the third and final chamber of the cave, there is not one lamp, but two! An old dirty lamp and a sparkling clean lamp, not knowing which to choose, Abanazar instructs that it must be the sparkling clean lamp that holds the power and not some dirty old bit of junk. How wrong he is, for the gleaming lamp holds none other than, Turkish Delight a comic apprentice Genie much to the disappointment and anger of Abanazar. The Vizier, who is side kick to Abanazar, and not as loyal as he ought to be with the Emperor, helps to get the lamps swapped, the new lamp for old! In the meantime, the Emperor, now a widower, and Widow Twankey rekindle their love for each other from the days of their youth. A comedy duo, Cheap and Cheerful, arrive in Peking and soon find themselves working in Twankey's laundry but more importantly, they become a distraction to swap the old lamp for a dud. Bheehi, the most powerful Genie in true pantomime style, thwarts evil and wrongdoings and returns the city of Peking back to be a city of love and harmony. And we hope everyone lives happy ever after.

**Running time:-** Approximately 2 hours not including interval time

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## USEFUL INFORMATION

**Casting:-**The casting can be quite flexible to suit your available performers. Although some are best played by male, it would be quite possible for them to be played by a female if your performer availability dictates to do so

**Chorus:-** This script can be used with or without a chorus. Where there are chorus speaking lines (*ACT I scene one only*) and you have no chorus, these can be delivered by two members as towns folk and could be doubled up by the performers playing the two Genies.

**General staging:-** The scenery and lighting can be as simple and easy as you wish, especially if tight budgets and logistics have a strong influence on your production. This also applies to costuming and properties, and yet still providing a brilliant pantomime. Of course, if budgets and logistics dictate otherwise, the skies are the limit!

**Scenes:-** The script is written with three full stage scenes and two front cloth scenes. These are not set in stone and re-name some scenes if you wish to run more cloths. Likewise, if you are running with limitations. The full stage scenes could use the same back drop of a nondescript mottled effect. And dress each scene where needed to suit its title.

**Set dressing:-** Dressing for the scenes is entirely up to you and the stage space available. It will also depend on what type of back drops you are using too. Especially for those working with no chorus and have more stage space available. The only scene that requires dressing as a must is the one inside the cave

## MUSIC AND DANCE

**Song/dance numbers:-** The script is written to allow the *maximum time* of **one minute to one and a half minutes** for each song or dance routine. In each case choosing and ending to give a natural finish. These can be shorter but watch if too many run longer as this could alter the pantomime's whole running time.

**Not all character song slots need to be executed.** They are there as ideal spots if you wish to use them. This helps those cast who do not feel comfortable to sing to opt out.

**You don't need to use all the slots** allocated for chorus dance numbers, especially if your chorus numbers are very low.

If you are working without a chorus and not using the song/dance slots allocated. You can add an extra cast member song or two or slightly lengthen the other cast songs allocated to make up the time.

The script does supply some song suggestions, but they do not need to be used. All other song/dance numbers are to your own choice. This allows the cast who are involved to select something that's comfortable for them and perhaps a little modern. It also prevents the repetition of music from recent past productions you have staged.

**Song/dance not with time restrictions:-** The opening number, Principle boy and girl duet, the community song and finale song can take their own natural time length as they are important numbers. Also mentioned are a few timing suggestions within the script. By keeping to these parameters, it will keep the production will run at a good pace and be fresh and entertaining to your audience.

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## CAST

3 male, 2 female, 5 either

Aladdin.....Principle boy  
 Princess Pekoe.....Principle girl  
 Widow Twankey.....Dame  
 Cheap.....One of a comedy duo  
 Cheerful.....One of a comedy duo  
 Emperor  
 Vizier.....Semi villainous  
 Abanazar.....Villain  
 Bheehi.....Genie  
 Delight.....Apprentice genie

Two chorus speakers or towns folk (can be doubled up by the performers playing the genies if required)

A Chorus if you have one

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS AND COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

**Aladdin:** Principle boy. Played by a female. Costumed as a traditional principle boy in a Chinese style.

**Princess Pekoe:** Principle girl. Played by a female. She is quite determined in her speech and manner. Costumed as a traditional principle girl in a Chinese style.

**Widow Twankey:** Dame. Can be male or female. Costumed as a traditional Dame for an oriental pantomime. For act two, scene one, a costume for a comedy ballet routine will also be required

**Cheap:** One of a comedy female duo. Can be male or female and Dame like in character. A male would give a more comedy element to the character if you have the availability, otherwise the character can be played by a female. The costuming should be quite sensational, fashion conscious and on the side of tarty. For act two, scene one, a costume for a comedy ballet routine will be required and a slinky outrageous costume for act two scene three.

**Cheerful:** One of a comedy female duo. Can be male or female and Dame like in character. A male would give a more comedy element to the character if you have the availability, otherwise the character can be played by a female. The costuming should be quite sensational, fashion conscious and on the side of tarty. For act two, scene one, a

costume for a comedy ballet routine will be required and a slinky outrageous costume for act two scene three.

**Emperor:** Best played by a male. Although regal, he has a happy go lucky attitude with a sense of fun. Costumed typically like an Emperor. For act two, scene one, a costume for a comedy ballet routine will also be required.

**Vizier:** Best played by a male. Semi villainous with quite a stern attitude. Costumed typically of his status.

**Abanazar:** Best played by a male. The villain. Requires a pointed type chin beard or full facial beard. Costumed in a traditional way for a villain of his type.

**Bheehi:** Can be male or female but would work best as a male. A powerful type of traditional Genie and costumed as such.

**Delight:** Can be male or female. Quite a comedic character that walks prettily and dainty. The character is written so if played by a male, a 'camp' style to the character and can be played with finesse and precision. With an edge of femininity through dialogue or acted with the full-blown works of 'camp'. If played by a female the dialogue lends itself to be very feminine with the Prima-donna or dolly-bird type of character.

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### Act I

PEKING CITY - Full stage  
THE MOUNTAIN SIDE - Front cloth  
PEKING CITY - Full stage  
SOMEWHERE IN PEKING - Front cloth  
INSIDE THE CAVE - Full stage  
SOMEWHERE IN PEKING - Front cloth  
PEKING CITY - Full stage

### Act II

THE ROYAL PALACE - Full stage  
THE MOUNTAIN SIDE - Front cloth  
THE ROYAL PALACE - Full stage  
SOMEWHERE IN PEKING - Front cloth  
THE ROYAL PALACE - Full stage

## Aladdin

### ACT I

#### SCENE ONE

#### PEKING CITY (*full stage*)

#### Opening dance/song

*Aladdin should be sat on stage near the front and appears to be deep in thought. At end of the routine two town folk come forward to Aladdin as the cast exit if they were used. If a chorus was used, then they stand about the stage as set by the director*

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Why do you look like you've the world on your shoulders, Aladdin?

**Aladdin:** Oh, I'm sorry. I was thinking about something.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** If your mother finds you like this she'll have much to say.

**Aladdin:** (*stands and moves*) Mother always has much to say, most of it rubbish.

*If you have more chorus, the following lines can be divided between them instead just using the two as scripted*

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Are you in love, Aladdin?

**Aladdin:** There is someone I think about often.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Do we know her name?

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Is she a local girl?

**Aladdin:** Yes to both your questions. I am in love with Princess Pekoe

**All:** The Princess Pekoe!

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** But those who set eyes upon the Princess must die.

**1<sup>st</sup>:** And where would you find the wealth her father wishes for her dowry?

**Aladdin:** I know! I know! I can't look at her because I am a peasant and I haven't any money for her dowry. But she is the most beautiful girl I have ever seen.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Oh, Aladdin, you had better stop dreaming about her immediately.

**Aladdin:** I suppose you're right, but if I become rich one day, rich enough for her dowry, then I shall marry the Princess. I've been put on this earth for better things than washing the stinky laundry of Peking.

**1<sup>st</sup>:** And we had all better get back to the laundry before your mother, Widow Twankey, catches us away from it.

*Dame enters*

**Dame:** Did I hear my name mentioned? (*See Aladdin*) So here you are, you lazy good for nothing rascal. Why are you not getting all hot and bothered and steamed up in the laundry?

**Aladdin:** I came out here to...

**Dame:** (*cuts in*) I bet you have! Eighteen years I've looked after you. Eighteen years out of my thirty-four on this planet, feeding you, clothing you and teaching you everything I don't know and the little bit I do know...

**Aladdin:** (*cuts in*) But Mother. I just stepped out for a breath of fresh air.

**Dame:** (*taking no notice*) Eighteen years of my glamorous life gone to the dogs. And seventeen of those years without your father getting under my feet, god rest his soul. And all you have time for is to play and make eyes at the girls.

**Aladdin:** I play with the boys too, Mother!

**Dame:** (*with shock*) You what! (*Realising*) Oh. I see, and all these years I've been working my fingers to the bone to put food on the table.

**Aladdin:** What food?

**Dame:** Exactly. I can remember when we had no bread to put the butter on. I can even remember when we had no butter to put on the bread too!

**Aladdin:** And more often than not, it's a plate with neither!

**Dame:** It's difficult for a woman on her own with no husband. (*Sobs a little*) I still remember the last words your father said to me as he drew his last breath.

**Aladdin:** (*shakes head and moves away slightly*) No, not tonight please!

**Dame:** (*astonished*) How did you know that?

**Aladdin:** I didn't, but this is not the time or the place.

**Dame:** Yes, he said that too. But what really shed a tear of the heart was when he said, "I love you more than all my twenty-four mistresses,"

**Aladdin:** (*astounded*) Twenty-four mistresses!

**Dame:** Only whilst I was washing clothes in the laundry and it stopped him getting rusty. And now, I'm all alone. (*Sobs*) No money to buy food, no money to

buy clothes, no money to pay rent. And worse still, no money to go to Bingo.

**Aladdin:** But you will marry again one day, Mother. And one day, I will live in a big fine house with my wife.

**Dame:** And one day you'll realise life isn't that simple.

**Aladdin:** But intend to marry the Princess and live in the Palace.

**Dame:** Marry the Princess! And what may I ask do you intend to pay the dowry with? Smelly socks and grubby knickers from..... (*local group or person*)

**Aladdin:** Our luck must change soon, Mother.

**Dame:** We have loads of luck, Aladdin, and it's always bad! Now, enough of this day dreaming stuff and go do some work. (*Begin to exit*)

**Aladdin:** Okay, Mother. I'll be with you in a minute.

*Chorus begin to exit*

**Dame:** Your idea of a minute is my idea of thirty! (*Exits*)

**Aladdin:** I suppose she's the best mum a boy could have. Trouble is, she won't let me go and I need to break free and make my own life.

**Song:**

*After the song Aladdin sits. Abanazar head just appears stage side left*

**Abanazar:** (*try to get Aladdin attention*) Psssst. Psssssst!

**Aladdin:** Yes.

**Abanazar:** (*just enters onto the stage*) Come here boy.

**Aladdin:** (*stands and moves toward Abanazar*) How can I help?

**Abanazar:** I'm looking for a boy called, Aladdin. Do you know of him?

**Aladdin:** I am Aladdin, but I'm afraid I do not know you.

**Abanazar:** As a babe in arms you'd be too young to remember me. I am your fathers' brother, and I have been travelling the world since a few days after you were born. (*Moves toward Aladdin*) My name is Abanazar.

**Aladdin:** No one has ever said that I have an uncle, not even mother, and I'm sure she would have done so.

**Abanazar:** Possibly not my boy. I was not popular with the family. Now, Aladdin. I want to help you and your mother, it's what my brother would have wanted. Times are hard for you and money is scarce. (*Offers Aladdin some bank notes*) Here, take this money, give it to your mother with my regards.

**Aladdin:** (*holding the money*) I can't take your money, Uncle.

**Abanazar:** I wish to help you, now take it.

**Aladdin:** (*to audience*) Oh, dear should I take it or not?

**Abanazar:** Oh, yes you should.

*Some audience participation could happen here and do business as required*

**Aladdin:** If you insist, Uncle. If I can repay in anyway, you only have to ask.

**Abanazar:** I wouldn't dream of asking you, it's a gift. There is nothing - (*slight pause*) – well as a matter of fact.

**Aladdin:** Yes, Uncle?

**Abanazar:** There is something you could do for me. That's if you don't mind?

**Aladdin:** I don't mind at all.

**Abanazar:** If you come with me I will show you something that will surprise you and I need your help with it.

**Aladdin:** I should tell mother, or she might worry about me.

**Abanazar:** She'd be up to her elbows with soapsuds and wouldn't appreciate you interrupting her.

**Aladdin:** That's true. Well, Uncle, show me this surprise that requires my help?

**Abanazar:** With pleasure, Aladdin. With pleasure. (*Leading Aladdin*) Come, follow me and let me show you.

*Aladdin and Abanazar exits left*

*An upbeat good strutting piece of music/song is played and at a suitable point Cheap and Cheerful enter right like two parading fashion models*

**Cheap:** Here we are boys and girls, two luscious babes of a certain age.

**Cheerful:** We're Cheap and Cheerful and in our prime. I'm Cheerful (*indicating*) and this is Cheap!

- Cheap:** Do you mind! I might be reasonable, but never cheap!
- Cheerful:** Let's face it dear, the only thing we've pulled so far is a bit of tough street food from our teeth.
- Cheap:** But taking them out your mouth to do it, was going a bit far.
- Cheerful:** It was the only way I could see what I was doing.
- Cheap:** Well, I can't go another step. I'm knickered!
- Cheerful:** Don't you mean knackered?
- Cheap:** No, knickered. My breath is coming out in short pants! We've not found one wealthy man to spend his money on us.
- Cheerful:** That one was keen down Chow Mien street.
- Cheap:** But he was living in a card board box up the ally! That's not the sort of luxury I wish to be accustomed too.
- Cheerful:** We've done the rough end of the market now for years, it's time we sampled the better life we hear so much about. And to do that, we need money 'cos we ain't even got enough for prawn crackers!
- Cheap:** And that means getting a job. What skills have you got?
- Cheerful:** I got a Black Belt in origami! (*Taking a Kung Foo stance*)
- Cheap:** That's Japanese paper folding!
- Cheerful:** But I wear a black belt to do it.
- Cheap:** (*looking at cheerful*) I fancy you've put on weight recently?
- Cheerful:** That's 'cos I've had a lot on my plate!
- Cheap:** I could enjoy a full roast and all the trimming right now.
- Cheerful:** That sort of talk will send me daft with dizziness.
- Cheap:** You can't go daft when you already are.
- Cheerful:** I resemble that remark! (*Looks off right*) Look out, we've got a visitor, looks like something the cat dragged in.
- Cheap:** (*looks*) And rejected!

*Dame enters right*

- Dame:** Good day. (*Puzzled*) – Err – well – are you rejects from a dolly factory?

- Cheerful:** Saucy mare, have you looked in the mirror lately?
- Dame:** No, because there is always an old woman looking at me in the thing.
- Cheap:** We're Cheap and Cheerful.
- Dame:** So you are made of Chinese plastic then! I'm Delores Twankey, I run Peking's most illustrious laundry. What are you doing here?
- Cheerful:** Like all ladies of a certain age, we are looking for love.
- Dame:** You won't find anything like that here. I'd know because I've been looking for years.
- Cheap:** So no young men at all?
- Dame:** Now I didn't say that. I have my son Aladdin.
- Cheerful:** And is he available?
- Dame:** The lazy good for nothing is always available. The hardest thing he does of a day is to get out of bed!
- Cheap:** I don't think he's our sort.
- Cheerful:** We want a man each with lots of money.
- Cheap:** Or with enough vigour and will go to work and earn lots of money.
- Dame:** The only man with money here is the Emperor, and if anyone is going to iron his unmentionables, it's me! But if you're looking for work, my illustrious laundry could do with a couple of laundrettes. And if you're lucky, my son Aladdin will help you but as usual he's gone again.
- Cheerful:** Gone where?
- Dame:** Goodness knows. He's got no father you see to keep an eye on him.
- Cheap:** Perhaps we could find him for you between washing clothes?
- Dame:** I'd be grateful if you could.
- Cheerful:** We saw an old man with a young lad not that long ago.
- Dame:** (*alarmed*) What old man?
- Cheap:** Some old geezer with a pointed beard off his chin.
- Dame:** Did Aladdin know him?

- Cheerful:** They seemed quite friendly. Like a Pal.
- Dame:** A Chum.
- Cheap:** Don't know about his Pedigree but he did have a Royal Canin about him.
- Cheerful:** A bit of a Wagg and resembled a Bakers Complete.
- Dame:** (*thinking*) It could be him...
- Cheap:** What, Aladdin?
- Dame:** No. That Wolfhound you described with a beard.
- Cheerful:** Is it someone you know?
- Dame:** (*with some thought*) Well – I mean – it could be, I suppose. Or am I confusing them with someone on the telly!
- Cheap:** ..... (*well known female soap star or a celebrity*)
- Cheerful:** ..... (*repeat the chosen name*) hasn't got a beard!
- Dame:** Will you two be quiet! I'm thinking. (*Pause*) I've got it! I've got it!
- Cheap:** We don't want it, you keep it.
- Dame:** Hankey Pankey had a brother.
- Cheerful:** Who?
- Dame:** My late husband, Hankey Pankey had a brother. Not a nice person and always up to no good. His name is Abanazar, but we called him Flung Dung.
- C & C:** Flung Dung!
- Dame:** And normally from a great height! He left just after Aladdin was born and I was told he died in an accident. 'Course it may have been a lie and he still lives. Oh, dear, I hope Aladdin has not been kidnapped?
- Cheap:** You can rely on us to help.
- Cheerful:** We women will stick together.
- Song:** *A song of unity, friendship, camaraderie or similar*

*The chorus can enter to join in if wished*