**Act One**

**Scene 1 – The Village**

**Sultan:**

Why have you brought apples? They’re green!

**Servant:**

As green as a jealous suitor’s eye! As you requested yesterday, they were transported from France.

**Sultan:**

That was yesterday! Today I hate green! Bring me oranges!

**Servant:**

I am happy to do as you ask, your eminence!

**Scheherazade:**

I am Scheherazade, the Sultan’s new bride.

All of his others have suddenly died!

After the wedding, no breakfast in bed –

She says, ‘I do’, he says, ‘Off with her head!’

If I’m to survive for more than one night

I must weave tales for the Sultan’s delight.

Stories alive with intrigue and romance –

To keep him enthralled is my only chance!

I know…. A panto!

Heroes and baddies, humour and drama!

A beauty; a lad – how will he charm her?

At first his clothes may be all in tatters,

But is his heart kind? That’s what really matters.

Imagine a market, vibrant with life,

Teeming with people – from Lord to fishwife.

A suitable setting, full of mystique.

All kinds of people are crowding the streets!

Let the action begin, my story unfold,

It had better be good, his interest to hold

So do please join in to help move it along,

Ah, here comes our hero! Bring on the gong!

**Aladdin Refrain (1)**

**Aladdin:**

Hello everyone! My name’s Aladdin – Aladdin muddy trousers! Good job my mum runs the local launderette. I’ve come to sell these vegetables at the market, to make some money towards the Build a Village Hall fund! I work in the Palace Gardens, you see, and they let me take these as part of my wages. Let’s see what we’ve got so far. *(Looking in box)* One brick, well that a start, I suppose.

**Builder:**

So that’s where that went….. at last I can finish my extension!

**Aladdin:**

Some PVA glue – that always comes in handy. Especially in sticky situation! And a photo of ………………………………………What’s that for?

**Villager 1:**

Oh, that’s to go on the dartboard!

**Aladdin:**

Oh dear, we’re not doing very well, are we? We’ll just have to keep trying. You see, I ***really*** want to be an entertainer, but there’s nowhere to put on shows at the moment! ***Ahh!***

And everybody knows how important shows are! ***Hooray!***

Don’t worry, we’ll get there! Times might be tough, *(All nod miserably)* but we’re all in it together! *(All smile)* So come on, let’s get this market started!

**Villager 1:**

Apricots, the juiciest in all the east!

**Villager 2:**

Spice up your life! Fragrant spices from the far corners of the kingdom!

**Song 1 – In the Market Place**

***Boo! Hiss!***

**Abanazar:**

Out of my way, you slimy drippings from a camel’s nose. I am the keen edge of a tiger’s tooth, the sneer on a hyena’s lips. I am Abanazar Grand Vizier to the Emperor, soon to be Master of the Universe!

I finally have this ancient scroll, you see, telling me where to find the Lamp of Unlimited Power! When I have that lamp, I will take over the land, banish all the villagers to a life of hard labour and build a new extension for Mr Jeffries to teach PE!

I’ll wipe the smiles off the faces of those who show me no respect! When I have the lamp, they will throw themselves on my mercy…. Will I show them any?….I will not!

***Boo! Hiss!***

Now where is my lazy sidekick? Wantu! Wantu!

**Wantu: *(****running on SL)*

Three, four, shake your booty on the floor. *(do silly dance)*

**Abanazar:**

Wantu! Have I ever told you, you are the most irritating, evil sidekick ever?

**Wantu:**

Twice a day and sometimes three! I annoy you constantly!

**Abanazar:** *(to the audience)*

When he was a young scrap he was caught in a mystic moonbeam at midnight and ever since he has spoken only in rhyme.

**Wantu:**

When I speak, I speak in rhyme, I try not to… but it happens every time!

**Abanazar:** *(aside)*

That’ll teach me to go to ‘Sidekicks R Us’ for an evil accomplice. I should have gone somewhere posh like ‘Horrids’. Wantu! Come with me.

**Wantu:** *(To audience)*

Of course I ‘wantu’ go with him – NOT! No choice is the only one I’ve got!

**Villager 2:**

Mangoes! Succulent mangoes!

**Aladdin:**

Hey that reminds me of my favourite joke! **Man goes** to the doctor’s with a strawberry growing out of his head. The doctor says, ‘I’ll give you some cream for that!’ *(all laugh)* I love that joke!

**Villager 1:**

Hi Aladdin! I’ve got a good joke for you! What’s the fastest vegetable?

**All:**

We don’t know. What is the fastest vegetable?

**Villager 1:**

A runner bean!

**Aladdin:**

Thanks that’s great! I’ll put it in my routine on opening night!

Oh, I think I can feel the ground shaking. That must be my mum!

*(Enter WT SR)*

**Widow Twankey:**

Aladdin! Yoo hoo! *(spotting the audience)* Oh, hello boys and girls! I didn’t know you had so many friends, Aladdin. And they all look very intelligent. Now I’m trying to think of a new name for my launderette but I can’t think of anything I like. Maybe your friends could help. *(To audience)* Could you give a ‘thumbs up’ if you like our suggestion and a ‘thumbs down’ if you don’t?

*(WT and Aladdin pace and think, then suggest ideas. The person holding the humb point it in the relevant direction as a visual clue)*

**Aladdin:**

Suds-u-like?

**Widow T:**

Squeaky clean laundry?

**Aladdin:**

Wash your problem?

**Widow T:**

Have you seen your twin brothers, Wishy and Washy? Maybe they could help?

**Aladdin:**

Hey! That would be a good name, the Wishy Washy Laundry!

Wow! They like it too! Come on, I’ll give you a hand making the sign mum.

**Widow T:**

Oh you are a good boy, helping out a damsel in distress!

**Villager 2:**

I don’t know about a damsel in **dis**tress! In **dat** dress she looks more like a camel!

**Scene 2 – The Palace**

**King:** *(to servant, holding up an apple peeling)*

Who do you think this looks like?

**Servant:** *(uncertainly)*

I don’t know, you majesty…. Who do you think it looks like?

**King:**

It’s obvious! It’s Mr Welsh Add it to my ‘apple peelings that look like famous people’ collection. Put it next to Captain Hook, there are certain similarities!

**Servant:** *(to audience)*

Apple peelings that look like famous people indeed! He’s crazy to the **CORE!**

**King:**

I don’t know what I’d do without my collection of collections. With all the things I have to worry about, it’s the only thing that keeps me sane! You haven’t seen my marbles collection have you? I seem to have lost it somewhere.

**Servant:**

No sorry, your majesty. *(Jasmine enters SL)*

**King:**

Ah! My beautiful daughter! Now Jasmine, as it’s almost your birthday we must think about the ancient law regarding your marriage. Servant read it to me.

**Servant:** *(picking up the scroll)*

Any princess not wishing to be exiled to the Island of Beastly Beetles and Crawling Creepies, must marry before the birthday specified on page 902, paragraph 9, clause b. She must marry a man who is of good character, possibly with a title, but who **must have lots of money.**

**King:**

So my dear, I have arranged for two suitable suitors to be shown so that you can choose a husband, isn’t that exciting?

**Jasmine:**

Father, I know you only want the best for me but I don’t think that I can do this! I want to be free to marry someone I fall in love with!

**King:**

You are, Jasmine! You are free to fall in love with any one of them! Let’s look at number 1.

**Servant:**

Prince Boris of London!

*(aside)* He doesn’t need a wife, he needs a hairdresser.

Prince Alarming of Transylvania!

*(aside)* Not a **fang**tastic match if you ask me.

**Jasmine:**

Father I’m grateful you’ve gone to so much effort, but it’s not going to happen. *(she runs off).*

**King:**

She’ll calm down, meanwhile I’ll go and look at my collections.

*(Jasmine re-enters with maids, who are carrying various cosmetics, hairbrushes etc.)*

**Jasmine:**

I hate being a princess! It’s not fair! Why can’t I just live an ordinary life?

**Maid 1:**

Don’t be too keen to give up being royal, being ordinary isn’t much fun either.

**Song 2 – I’ve Had Enough**

**Maid 2:**

Every life has its ups and downs. Princess, you have to look on the bright side.

**Maid 3:**

The grass always looks greener on the other side until you get there and realise there are weeds in there too.

**Jasmine:**

If only I could be free, even for one day!

**Maid 4:**

I know, why don’t you swap clothes with one of us, just for a little while? You could sneak out to the market and we’ll cover for you.

**Jasmine:**

Do you really think I could?

**Maid 1:**

Why not? Come on! We’ve got to make a princess into a commoner.

**Maid 2:**

A kind of Cinderella in reverse!

**Scene 3 – The Desert**

*(The Oracle enters and stands SR facing audience with head bowed and eyes closed. Enter Abanazar and Wantu SL)*

**Abanazar:**

At last, the entrance to the Cave of Wonders! I believe the Lamp of Unlimited Power lies within! Let me unroll the ancient scroll that gives me the special words to move away this mighty rock.

A Chirstmas jumper, Baubles for the tree, Christmas pudding….

Pah! That was my shopping list. Ah! Here it is *(clears throat)* I, the great and mighty Abanazar, demand entry to the wonderful world of this curious cave!

**Oracle:** *(Lifting up head and opening eyes)*

Good day. A bandana! What are the magic words?

**Abanazar:** *(Annoyed)*

**Please** and **thank you!** Aha! That should have done it, rock roll over!

*(reaching over to the Oracle who slaps his hand away)*

**Oracle:**

**You** cannot enter here, Have-a-nana! Only one who is truly kind and pure of heart can do that.

**Abanazar:**

It’s **Abanazar,** you gormless granite; you senseless stone!

**Oracle:** *(Annoyed)*

Well, it must be one called **Aladdin.** And anyone who resorts to calling me nasty names doesn’t deserve any help. Isn’t that right audience? ***Yeah!***

Goodbye Ebenezer! *(closes eyes and bows head)*

**Abanazar:**

Bah! May the smell of sweaty PE kits be ever in your nostrils! Come on, Wantu, you nincompoop’s knicker elastic. Let’s go and see if we can find ‘Aladdin waiting’. Waiting for us to seal his fate! ***Boo! Hiss!***

**Wantu:**

Bye, bye! Must fly!

**Scene 4 – The Market Place**

**Villager 1:**

Buy your plums, 2 cartons for the price of 1. *(To Jasmine)* Would you like to try one darlin’?

**Jasmine:**

Oh thank you very much.

**Villager 2:**

Perfume, special offer today only! Make you smell like a princess! *(He squirts Jasmine as Aladdin enters. He and Jasmine both make the same ‘phew’ gesture from the bad perfume smell and hold their noses (not facing each other, then they both head for the sweet stall.)*

**Both:**

I’d like some of those please, they’re my favourite *(noticing each other)* Jinx! *(Both laugh)*

**Villager 1:**

A bag for you and a bag for you!

**Villager 2:**

Mangoes! Get the finest mangoes here!

**Jasmine:**

Hey! That reminds me of my favourite joke! **Man goes** into the doctor’s with a strawberry growing out of his head and the doctor says, ‘I’ll give you some cream for that.’ *(both laugh)* I love that joke.

**Aladdin:**

So do I! Are you new around here? I don’t remember seeing you before.

**Jasmine:**

Er, I’ve come from the palace.

**Aladdin:**

You work at the Palace? So do I, in the gardens. But I really want to be an entertainer. Listen…. How do you make an artichoke?

**Jasmine:**

I don’t know, how do you make an artichoke?

**Aladdin:**

You strangle it! *(Both laugh)*

**Jasmine:**

What’s small, round and giggles a lot?

**Aladdin:**

I don’t know. What’s small, round and giggles a lot?

**Jasmine:**

A tickled onion! *(Both laugh)*

**Aladdin:**

Hey we could be a double act!

**Song 3 – Some Things Go Together Perfectly**

**Abanazar:**

Wantu, keep up, you lazy lizard’s nail clipping!

**Wantu:**

All right! I can’t go much faster.

These shoes hurt – I need a plaster.

*(Abanazar waits impatiently at far side of stage as one of the villagers gives Wantu a plaster. Jasmine spots Abanazar and begins to hurry away.)*

**Jasmine:** *Exiting SL trying to hide her face)*

I must go, my…*(pauses)* mistress will be wondering where I am. Goodbye!

**Abanazar:** *(Aside)*

Ha! If I’m not mistaken that’s Princess Jasmine!

**Aladdin:** *(calling after her)*

Goodbye! My name’s Aladdin! You can find me at Widow Twankey’s Launderette if you’d like to!

*(He exits dreamily SR)*

**Abanazar:**

Aladdin! What a stroke of luck! And it looks as if he’s ‘Aladdin love’ – with the Princess. *(Thinks)* Aha! I’ll tell him who his love really is and then offer him the chance to get rich so that he can marry her. ***Ahh!***

**Wantu:** *(To audience)*

Don’t get sentimental, they won’t make it to the church, Abanazar will just use him and then leave him in the lurch!

*(They exit SR)*

**Aladdin Refrain 2**

**Scene 5 – Widow Twankey’s Launderette**

**Widow T:** *(miming doing washing in a bowl)*

Swishy, swashy, swishy, swashy!

*(Wishy and Washy enter)*

**Wishy and Washy*:*** *(Together)*

Did you call us, Mummy wummy?

**Widow T:**

Hello Wishy, hello Washy! Have you come to give me a hand? Wring out Mrs White’s bloomers, would you?

**Wishy:**

Easy peasy.

**Washy:**

Lemon sequeezy! *(They mime wringing them out)*

**Widow T:**

And look at all these odd socks! Anyone would think I had a centipede with cold feet for a customer! *(Wiping her head)* Ooh it’s so steamy and full of hot air in here, it’s just like the staffroom at lunch time!

*(Abanazar enters in disguise)*

**Abanazar:**

Ding dong, anybody home?

**Widow T:**

Widow Twankey at your service. What can I do for you?

**Abanazar:**

*(Bowing)* Madame, *(Reaction from Widow T)* What can I do for you? I am your long lost brother-in-law, your late husband’s brother.

**Widow T:**

My husband didn’t have a brother! He was a **lonely** child!

**Abanazar:**

You mean he was an **only** child.

**Widow T:**

Aha! So you admit it, he didn’t have a brother!

**Abanazar:**

Oh yes he did!

**Widow T:**

Oh no he didn’t! *(etc. etc.)*

**Abanazar:**

Oh yes he did and now I’m here with a job for my nephew, Aladdin. He will be richly rewarded.

**Widow T:**

Why didn’t you say? But sadly, you’ve just missed him. He went off to write lovesick poetry. Why not take Wishy and Washy instead?

**Wishy and Washy:**

*(Shaking hands)* B – O – G – O – F!

**Abanazar:**

I beg your pardon?

**Wishy:**

Buy one

**Washy:**

Get one free!

**Abanazar:**

I’m sure I’ll find a task for this charming pair, but for now I need Aladdin.

**Widow T:**

Righto! I’ll send him as soon as he gets back. Where do you live?

**Abanazar:**

Just tell him to meet me on the edge of town, near to the great rock at the gateway to the Desolate Desert.

**Widow T:**

Just past Tesco’s?

**Abanazar:**

That’s right.

**Wishy:**

Super.

**Washy:**

Duper!

**Scene 6 – Inside the Cave of Wonders**

**Scheherazade:**

As the next scene is unfolding, let me bring you up to speed,

Abanazar sought Aladdin’s help and our Al has agreed!

For love of Princess Jasmine, he’ll do anything he can

To make sure that he’s qualified to be her lifetime man.

Can’t you feel the tension mounting now our Al’s taken the bait?

If you want to see what happens, there isn’t long to wait!

**Abanazar:**

At last I have ‘Aladdin the cave’! I have lowered him down and pulled up the rope so as soon as he throws me the lamp, I’ll close up the entrance and leave him to perish! Oh, it’s so much fun being mean……***BOO! HISS!***

**Wantu:** *(Popping out from behind)*

You can see my master’s truly rotten! *(disappears, then after a short pause, pops back up).* If you’re waiting for the rhyme – I haven’t forgotten!

**Aladdin:**

Uncle, I’ve found the lamp, please throw me the rope!

**Abanazar:**

Throw me the lamp first, so you’ll have both hands free.

**Aladdin:**

I’ll manage, throw me the rope!

**Abanazar:**

The lamp!

**Aladdin:**

The rope!

**Wantu:** *(popping out)*

Abanazar won’t let him exit in case he takes the lamp and legs it!

**Abanazar:** *(To Aladdin)*

You maggot in the apple of my life! Stay there for a few hours and think about it! *(To audience)* I’ll go to my tailor and get him started on my Master of the Universe outfit! When I come back, he’ll be begging me to take the lamp off him – ha, ha, ha! ***BOO! HISS!***

**Aladdin Refrain 3**

**Aladdin:**

It’s scary in here! It’s so dark. *(Tom runs across the stage and off the other side).* What was that? *(Gems shuffle)* What are these strange noises? Will you help me everyone? Will you call out if you see anything behind me? *(Tom runs across again. Aladdin turns just a moment too late)* Did you see something? Where? *(Repeat twice more. The third time Tom runs across, Aladdin turns in time to see him and they both scream)*

Who are you?

**Tom:**

Tom

**Aladdin:**

Tom?

**Tom:**

The only flying carpet with MAT – NAV! (Get it? Tom-Tom)

**Aladdin:**

A flying carpet? Can you fly me out of here?

**Tom:**

I’m sorry – I can only fly round things, not through them.

**Aladdin:**

I’ll have to think of something else. *(looking through treasure)* Maybe there’ll be something here that could help us. Hey! This would make a perfect ring for proposing to a beautiful princess! If I ever get to see her again. *(Gems uncurl and stand up)* Hey what is this? Who are you?

**Gems – to be arranged:**

We’re the gems that people love to own,

Because it makes them richer,

But Aladdin you have wiser eyes –

You see the bigger picture.

We see in you a faithful heart,

A love that’s strong and true,

So riches much more precious

Are the ones we give to you.

**Ruby:**

Ruby, I bring a greater gift than wealth – the ruby cheeks of glowing health!

**Emerald:**

I’m Emerald, green for growth you see. Growth in loving kindness and integrity.

**Goldie:**

Gold am I, a sunny nature’s what I bring, more valuable than coins or pretty diamond rings.

**Pearl:**

I am Pearl, formed slowly in the oyster’s shell, I bring patience and a loyal heart as well.

**Aladdin:**

Thank you. You really are special gems! This is a truly magical place! We could do with a bit more light though. Let’s see if this dirty old lamp would be any use. *(Rubs lamp – Genie jumps on stage followed by the wishes holding various certificates)*

Wow! Who are you?

**Genie:**

I’m the Genie of the Lamp and these are the Three Wishes, three yesses in dresses.

**Three Wishes:**

Hi Aladdin!

**Genie:**

We’re from the lamp that likes to say yes and **we** are here for **you.** That means, you say it, I’ll okay it! You want it, you got it! But there is a limit, so don’t rush in. Think before you wish. I can grant you three wishes and only three; it’s the magic number to you from me!

**Aladdin:** *(In a daze)*

Three wishes? For me?

**Genie:**

That’s right. But I hope you’ll take a little advice I’ve been doing this a long time. *(Three wishes hold up certificates).* Look at all these qualifications I have in wish-granting! Now, I can’t tell you what to wish for, but I can say beware of the details. I once had a wildlife fanatic who wished to be close enough to a lion to feel its breath on his cheek. Of course, he forgot to ask to be invisible and the last we hear of him….

**Three Wishes:**

….. was the lion burping!

**Aladdin:**

Oh dear!

**Genie:**

Look, why don’t you just sit here and we’ll go over it in our own, unique style!

**Song 4 – Just Three Wishes**

**Aladdin:**

I think I know my first wish! Shall I run it past you first?

**Genie:**

Good idea! What is it?

**Aladdin:**

Can I wish to take all this treasure back to my home… and Tom of course!

**Genie:**

Aladdin, your wish is my command! Hold on to your hats, everyone, we’re going out of here… and fast!

**END OF ACT 1**