

Spotlight Publications

Sinbad & The Golden Chalice

A pantomime
By Dave Buchanan



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Sinbad & The Golden Chalice

CAST (in order of appearance)

Al Chimera, chief baddy
Sinbad, hero and Principal Boy
Abdul Abulbul, Sinbad's mate
Bettina (Betty), the Dame
Ali Ben Toerag, the Dame's admirer
Vizzy, the Vizier
Princess Shazir
Jazmeen, the Princess's maid
Omar Khan, the urchin
Sultan Suleiman, of Cairo
Zafira, evil Queen of Zamorra

Chorus of Traders, Courtiers & Female Warriors

Place - the bazaar of Cairo, on board ship, Al Aqba's tomb

Time - past

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 - The bazaar in Cairo

Scene 2 - A sidestreet, front of tabs

Scene 3 - Betty's Place

Scene 4 - A sidestreet, front of tabs

Scene 5 - The Sultan's Palace

ACT 2

Scene 1 - On board the Royal Barge

Scene 2 - The Valley of Eagles, front of tabs

Scene 3 - The tomb of Al-Aqba

Scene 4 - On the way back to the barge, front of tabs

Scene 5 - The Royal Barge

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. "Money Money Money" (Abba) (Words by D Buchanan) (Al Chimera)
2. "Walk Like An Egyptian" (Bangles) (Dancers)
3. "The Old Bazaar in Cairo" (Betty & Chorus)
4. Rap: "Yo There Dudes" (Words by D Buchanan) (Omar)
5. "Beautiful Stranger" (Madonna) (Betty)
6. "It Takes Two" (Marvin Gaye & Kim Weston) (Abdul & Jazmeen)
7. "Thank You For The Music" (Abba) (Chorus)
8. "The Sand Dance" (Dancers)

ACT 2

9. "Sailing" (Rod Stewart) (Chorus)
10. "Breathless" (Corrs) (Princess)
11. "It's Raining Men" (Geri Halliwell) (Betty)
12. Mummy Dance: "Thriller" (Dancers)
13. Community Song (Abdul & Jazmeen)
14. Reprise of No. 7 (Ensemble)

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

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A NOTE ON THE PRINCIPALS

Al Chimera is suave and devious, the typical panto villain who deserves and gets little sympathy from the audience, but is lots of fun to play. Singing part.

Sinbad is the Principal Boy and Our Hero. He is the dashing adventurer type, and involved in all the action. A singing part, of course.

Abdul is Sinbad's right-hand man, and also involved in most of the action. Is more than interested in Jazmeen, and sings a duet (or two) with her.

Betty is Sinbad's auntie, and The Dame. As such, she is allowed to be over the top all the time, and hilariously funny. Forms a double act with Ali, and sings a couple of songs.

Ali Ben Toerag is Betty's admirer and bosom-buddy. Possessed of a dry humour, Ali is usually involved in the action. Singing part.

Vizzy is a humorous character who complements the Sultan and Princess.

Princess Shazir is the Principal Girl. Initially a bit spoilt, she comes over later as a pro-active and sympathetic character. Singing part, of course.

Jazmeen is the Princess's maid, and forms an attachment with Abdul. A charming part, with a duet to sing.

Omar Khan, the urchin, is a lively, teenage character who is much involved in the action, initially as Al Chimera's assistant.

Sultan of Cairo. The Sultan is a lively, no-nonsense character.

Zafira is the sinister yet fascinating Queen of Zamorra who commands a band of female warriors and is in cahoots with Al Chimera.

ACT 1

Prologue

Front of tabs

Enter Al Chimera. He wears a pointed hat and black cloak patterned with magic symbols

Al Chimera Greetings, riff-raff! *(He waits for reaction)* Ha ha ha ha ha! Will I say it again? Greetings, peasants of *(local town)*! I am Al Chimera the Great. Al Chimera. In the words of the song, "Just Call Me Al". I am the maestro. No, madam, I'm not here to sell cars! What do I do? I can turn my hand to anything. I'm a master of disguise. A quick change and I'm someone different - in a flash. No, madam, I'm not the flasher you saw in the High Street at the weekend! Who is that woman? *(Knowingly, to audience)* You want to see me flash? Very well.

He creates flashes, ad-lib

What am I doing at the moment? Sadly, I'm short of funds - temporarily - bankrupt, in short, skint. My last scam - er, business venture, failed to yield any profits. But I am always optimistic. I sense that something - call it intuition - is going to happen today, here in Cairo. And when it does, I shall seize the moment. And again I shall be rich, with loads of lovely lolly, mountains of moolah and mazuma - huge amounts of cash, dough, brass and bread - in short, filthy lucre. Money, I love it!

He is joined by the Chorus to sing:

Song 1

Al Chimera I've worked all night, I've worked all day
To think of ways of getting pay.

Chorus You're so bad.

Al Chimera And yet there never seems to be
A single penny here for me.

Chorus It's so sad.

Al Chimera In my dreams I've schemed and planned.
I've got some new ideas on hand.
I'll clear you all out in a flash
And as I do I'll make some cash.

Chorus Money, money, money,
Isn't funny,

Al Chimera It's what makes my world.

Chorus Money, money, money,
Always sunny,

Al Chimera Money is my world.

Chorus Aha-ahaaa,

Al Chimera All the things I could do,
If I had a bit more money,
I could rule the world.

Al Chimera And so I do my best to see
Your cash will soon belong to me.

Chorus You're so bad.

Al Chimera And when I've robbed and swindled you
I'll come and rob your neighbours too.

Chorus It's so sad.

Al Chimera You're in my power, you have no chance,
I'll play my tune and make you dance.
You might as well surrender now,
I won't give up, no way no how.

Chorus Money, money, money,
Isn't funny,
Al Chimera It's what rules the world.
Chorus Money, money, money,
Always sunny,
Al Chimera Money rules the world.
Chorus Aha-ahaaa,
Al Chimera I could do what I like,
If I had a lot of money,
I could rule the world.

Chorus Money, money, money,
Isn't funny,
Al Chimera It's what makes my world.
Chorus Money, money, money,
Always sunny,
Al Chimera Money is my world.
Chorus Aha-ahaaa,
Al Chimera I could crush all of you,
If I had a lot of money
I could rule the world.
I could rule the world.

The Chorus exit after the song

Al Chimera *(to audience)* See you - in a flash!

He exits, roaring

Scene 1

The bazaar in Cairo

There are a number of stalls, with vendors selling various items

Enter R Sinbad and Abdul

Sinbad Well, Abdul, here we are back on dry land.

Abdul Yes, Sinbad. Thank goodness. Good old terra cotta. What a relief. I've had enough of the sea.

Sinbad Come on, isn't that what you joined my crew for?

Abdul No, Sinbad. I joined your crew to see the world. And what did I see? I saw the sea! Seas.

Sinbad Yes. Red Sea. Black Sea. China Sea.

Abdul Southend-on-Sea (*or local variant*).

Sinbad We've seen hurricanes, floods, typhoons -

Abdul You just can't get away from Richard Branson, can you!

Sinbad No, typhoon. You know, like in China.

Abdul I prefer PG Tips.

Sinbad I'll ignore that. Anyway, I'd have thought you would have your sea-legs by now.

Abdul No chance. As soon as I get on board, my legs wobble, then my tummy wobbles, then my collywobbles.

Sinbad You sound like a blancmange!

Abdul Then I'm sick, and everyone says -

Both I'm glad you brought that up!

Sinbad Look, here we are in Egypt. Land of the Sphinx, the Pyramids, the Nile. Land of exotic spices - and pies.

Abdul Pies?

Sinbad Yes, haven't you heard of Egyptian pies?

Abdul No.

Sinbad They're pies like Mummy used to make!

Abdul (*aside to audience*) That's Mummy joke number one!

The traders try to sell their wares

Trader 1 Young gents, try my magic cure-all.

Sinbad What does it cure?

Trader 1 Warts, blisters, chilblains, verrucas -

Sinbad No thanks.

Trader 1 Acne?

Trader 2 Gentlemen, hair-restorer?

Abdul You could use some yourself, mate. (*Taking off his fez*) As you can see, I've got a full head of hair.

Trader 2 Ah, but you know what they say, sir - hair today, gone tomorrow!

They laugh

Al Chimera enters L, disguised as a trader

Al Chimera (*aside, to audience*) It is I, Al Chimera, in disguise. Just call me Al! Watch me go into action. (*To the assembled crowd*) Ladies & gentlemen, some entertainment!

He claps his hands. Some dancing-girls appear and begin to sing and dance:

Song 2

He takes some objects from his stall and begins to work the crowd

Ladies and gentlemen - (*aside*) mugs! - I offer you priceless antiques from the tombs of the Pharaohs.

Sinbad Looks like a pile of old junk to me!

Al Chimera It's Sale of the Century. It's Bargain Hunt - (*aside*) just call me David Dickinson -

Abdul (*picking up a vase*) It's stamped "Made in Hong Kong".

Al Chimera It's Hong Dynasty.

Abdul More like Del -

Al Chimera Del Dynasty?

Abdul Del Boy Trotter!

Al Chimera (*showing another item*) How about this fine jade figurine? From King Tut's tomb. You've heard of King Tutank- amen and his queen?

Sinbad Yes. Tutankamen and Tutangoin!

Laughs

Well I want a prezzy for my Auntie's birthday. How much for the figurine?

Al Chimera A snip at twenty five piastres.

Sinbad I'll give you ten.

Al Chimera Done. (*Wraps it*)

Sinbad & Abdul pay, then go off L, admiring the figurine

Enter R, Bettina, the Dame, and her admirer Ali Ben Toerag

Betty Oh Ali, isn't it exciting?

Ali What, going shopping? I can think of a lot more exciting things to do than that, Betty.

Betty Who's a grumpy little Ali today then? But anyway we're not here for shopping.

Ali What else can you do in the bazaar?

Betty We're here to see the Princess - (*sees the audience*) - oh hellooo, everybody.

Some sort of muffled response

(*Going downstage*) Well *that's* not much of a reply. You'll have to do much better than that, won't they, Ali? Shall we try again? Hellooo, everybody!

A better response

That's much better. Now my name's Bettina - fancy, isn't it? But you can call me Betty for short. So when I appear, I want you to shout out, "Hellooo, Betty-for-short!" No, not the "for short" bit! Just a joke. And talking of jokes, here's Ali.

Ali bows

This is my good friend, Ali. Ali Ben Toerag. He's always been a Toerag.

Ali My grandpa was a Riff!

Betty Well my grandpa was a Liberal Democrat, but nobody's perfect! Anyway, would you all like to say, "Hello Betty!" ("Yes!") Now just imagine you're Frank Spencer. All together now.

They practise till they're quite good at it

That was excellent. You can all give one another a clap on the back. Go on! (*Ad-lib*) Now I think we'll sing a song. (*To the audience*) Would you like me to sing a song? ("No!") You rotten lot! Well just for that I will!

Song 3

Now I'll just apply a little lipstick. A girl's gotta look her best, after all. Especially in the presence of Royalty. (*She takes out a mirror and applies lipstick*) You know, Ali, when I look in the mirror, I can't help admiring my good looks and flawless complexion. Do you think that's vanity?

Ali No, Betty, that's imagination!

Betty Oh Ali, you are awful - but I like you! (*Gives him a playful push*). I got an awful good beauty tip from an aunt of mine. Every evening before I go to bed I eat yeast and apply gloss to my face - you see, I like to rise and shine!

Ali My auntie Morag -

Betty Morag the Toerag?

Ali That's the one. - she took up body-building recently. She did it so well that now she's my uncle Morag!
She is one fierce lady.

Betty Reminds me of my sister Sarah. Very independent.

Ali She stands up to men, does she?

Betty Oh yes. Sometimes, when she's really angry with her husband, she even makes him quake.

Ali That's very nice of her. But I'm surprised she makes him quake at all. If she's angry with him.

Betty Not quake, quake! She makes him quake! You know, tremble. Oh yes, Sarah can be unscrupulous.

Ali What's that mean, then?

Betty It means she has no scruples.

Ali What, none at all? Did she have an operation?

Betty An operation? I don't think so. What for?

Ali To remove her scruples.

Betty Look she never had an operation.

Ali Did she have acupuncture?

Betty No! Scruples is something mental. When I say she's got no scruples, I don't mean she's lost some of her vital parts. No. That means she's ruthless.

Ali Poor girl. Lost her roof as well as her scruples!

Sinbad and Abdul enter R

Sinbad Auntie Betty!

Betty Sinbad!

They embrace

Well this is a surprise, Sinbad, meeting you here.

Sinbad What, you mean you didn't come here specially to meet me?

Betty No, I came here to see the Princess.

A gong is sounded

Enter L Vizzy the Vizier

Vizzy Greetings, people!

Crowd Greetings, Vizzy!

Ali Your name is Vizzy?

Vizzy Yes, after my job, you see. I am Vizzy the Vizier. But my real name is Wazzy. Last year I was the Wasir, but I was promoted.

Ali Let me get this right. Last year you was the Wasir.

Vizzy Yes, I was Wazzy the Wasir last year.

Ali And now you are the Vizier.

Vizzy Yes, I am Vizzy the Vizier this year. And since my promotion I am much busier.

Ali So you are a busier Vizier this year. Betty?

Betty Yes?

Ali Did you know that Vizzy was the Wasir last year?

Betty Was he?

Ali No, Vizzy!

Betty Oh the whole dizzy Vizzy business has put me in a tizzy!

Vizzy And I am here to announce she's here.

Ali Who's here?

Vizzy The Princess Shazir's here.

Abdul I've never seen the Princess before. Shazirzir.

Vizzy No, you've given her too many -irs. She's only one -ir.

Abdul Poor girl!

Vizzy No, her name is Shazir. And she's due to appear here.

Sinbad Where is she?

Vizzy Quite near. In fact here she comes.

A gong is heard

Bow to the Princess Shazir.

Everyone bows as Princess Shazir and her maid Jazmeen appear L. They are both beautifully dressed, and the Princess wears a tiara

Then they all freeze except for the Princess and Jazmeen

Princess Jazmeen, this is like so boring.

Jazmeen What's like so boring, Your Highness?

Princess Everybody bowing and scraping.

Jazmeen But it's in your honour. You should be so lucky.

Princess But it's all about the trappings. It's not really for *me*.

Jazmeen Of course it is.

Princess No it isn't. I bet you if we came back here later in ordinary clothes - dressed as peasants - nobody would recognise us.

Jazmeen How much?

Princess How much what?

Jazmeen How much do you bet?

Princess I don't know. They never give me any money. What do you suggest?

Jazmeen Five piastres will do.

Princess Okay, but I'll have to owe you if you win.

Jazmeen Okay, it's a bet.

She licks her thumb

Princess What are you doing?

Jazmeen That's how you make a bet, Your Highness.

Princess Oh right. *(She licks her thumb)* It's a bet then.

Everyone freezes except for Sinbad and Abdul

Sinbad)

Abdul) Wow!

Sinbad She's wonderful!

Abdul She's fantastic!

Sinbad I couldn't agree more. - which one do you mean?

Abdul Which one do *you* mean?

Sinbad The Princess, of course.

Abdul Which one's the Princess?

Sinbad The one with the tiara.

Abdul Oh. I meant the other one.

Sinbad Oh.

Everyone freezes except for Princess and Jazmeen

Princess What do I do now, Jazmeen?

Jazmeen Press flesh.

Princess What?

Jazmeen Talk to the people.

Princess Which one?

Jazmeen That plump lady there with the way-out clothes.

Princess She looks friendly.

They all unfreeze and cheer the Princess

(To Betty) What's your name?

Betty Bettina. But you can call me Betty.

Princess Hello, Betty.

Betty Hello, your Royal Majesty.

She curtseys and nearly topples over

Whoops!

Princess Are you all right?

Betty (*staggering*) Oh yes thank you, dearie. It's my gurgoyles, you see.

Princess Gurgoyles?

Betty Yes, I've got a touch of the galloping gurgoyles!

Princess Sounds awful.

Betty Yes, my gurgoyles are giving me grief!

Princess Symptoms?

Betty Yes, I've got those too! But worst of all - (*she leans over confidentially*) - I have internal discombobulations!

Princess Oh no! Is there a cure?

Betty I take pills. My doctor says I've to take them once a fortnight - or if that doesn't work, every two weeks!

Princess Good luck, Betty - what's your full name?

Betty Betty Brown. Esquire. COD. And bar. Any bar'll do!

Princess Goodbye, Betty.

The Princess and Jazmeen pass on and exit waving R

The crowd gradually disperse

Sinbad Wow!

Betty What did you say, Sinbad?

Sinbad I said Wow. Don't you think the Princess was gorgeous, Auntie?

Betty Yes, but if you're thinking what I think you're thinking - don't!

Sinbad What, are you a mind-reader or something?

Betty As a matter of fact, I am.

Sinbad When I was last here, you were in the laundry business.

Betty That's all washed up now. I'm a clairvoyant. By appointment.

Sinbad You? Pull the other one, it's got bell bottoms.

Betty I kid you not, nephew. I go to the Palace every Tuesday to read the Sultan's palm.

Ali And his tea leaves.

Sinbad Well well. Oh I almost forgot. I've got you a birthday prezzy.

He brings out the figurine, wrapped

Betty That was last week.

Sinbad I know, I'm late. How old are you anyway?

Betty Now Sinbad, you should never ask a lady her age. But seeing you have, I can tell you it was my twentieth anniversary.

Sinbad I thought it was your birthday!

Betty It was the twentieth anniversary of my 29th birthday!

Ali Why don't you open it, Betty?

Betty (*opening it*) Why it's lovely - what is it?

Sinbad It's a jade figurine. I could say I got it in Samarkand at great expense, but actually -

Abdul He got it in the bazaar ten minutes ago. Doing a budgie.

Betty Doing a budgie?

Abdul Going cheap!

Laughs

Sinbad Can I ask a favour, Auntie?

Betty Ask on.

Sinbad When you go to the Palace next time to read the Sultan's palm - can I come with you?

Betty It wouldn't have anything to do with a Princess, would it?

Sinbad It might.

Betty Sinbad, you are such a dreamer.

Sinbad And another thing - can I come to your place tomorrow to get my palm read?

Blackout

Sinbad & The Golden Chalice

Sinbad goes on an adventure up the River Nile to the tombs of the Pharaohs in search of treasure.

Plot Summary

The discovery of a mysterious tablet covered in hieroglyphics sends Sinbad on a voyage up the River Nile to the Valley of Eagles in search of the fabulous Golden Chalice of Al-Aqba. In his quest he is aided by Sultan Suleiman, Princess Shazir and Dame Bettina (his Auntie Betty!), but also pursued by the villainous Al Chimera and the fanatical female warriors of Al's ally Zafira, evil queen of Zamorra.

The script is packed with laughter, fast-paced, and full of ingenious twists and turns.

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