

Spotlight Publications

Four More Mini-Pantos

By Peter Bond

Aladdin



Babes in the Wood



Beauty & The Beast



Snow White



FOUR MORE MINI-PANTOS

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Aladdin

CAST

Emperor

Empress

Aladdin

Widow Twankey, Aladdin's mother

Abanazar, baddy

Genie of the Lamp

Princess

Time: mythical

Place: a palace, a laundry, a cave

Playing time: about 20 minutes (depending on music and dance)

Scene 1

Front of curtain

Enter Abanazar L, looking very villainous

Abanazar Good evening, my friends. Greetings! Hello!
And welcome to my little show.

He gestures to the audience, encouraging them to boo

You really mustn't hiss and boo—
I wouldn't do the same to you.
This brilliant entertainment stars a
Wonderful actor as Abanazar.
Abanazar—yes, that's me—
A man who rose from poverty
To achieve riches, fortune, success
And even married a fair Princess.
A lady fair, there's no-one sweeter.
Oh yes! Perhaps you'd like to meet her?

Open curtains to reveal:

Scene 2

The Princess's room in the Palace. There is a window Up C, with access through it

The Princess sits on a couch. Abanazar remains L as Narrator

Abanazar Here is the beautiful Princess Lily.

Princess (*annoyed*) Lily? I'm Chinese! Don't be silly!

I should be Ying or Li or Liu.

Didn't that occur to you?

Abanazar I've told you this a hundred times.

You have to have a name that rhymes!

Princess looks puzzled. Exit Abanazar L

Princess (*to the audience*) It sounds ridiculous to me.

You can call me Princess Li.

Enter Emperor and Empress R

Emperor My dear, we really need to speak.

Your birthday's coming—it's next week.

Empress And this event cannot be missed.

Do you have a (*John Lewis/Amazon*) list?

Emperor Would you like a Porsche? A Ferrari?

Empress A trip to Ibiza? A safari?

Emperor A wardrobe full of clothes your size?

Empress We'd like to give you a surprise!

Emperor A beach holiday in Mexico?

Princess No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no!

Each thing you list, we ought to ban it.

All these things destroy the planet!

I don't want an expensive car,

Using too much petrol by far.

I will not holiday again

On a fuel-guzzling aeroplane.

Why do you think a Princess needs

Clothes full of dreadful microbeads?

Emperor I'm sorry, dear. We're only trying

To give you something... (*searches for word*)...um...er...

Empress (*finishing the sentence*) ... gratifying.

Let's go.

Emperor Pardon our mistake.

Do you still want a birthday cake?

Empress And, if recycling's not too hard,

How about a birthday card?

The Princess gives the Emperor and Empress a disapproving hard stare. Emperor and Empress both go out R.

The Princess sits down, looking annoyed

Princess If, one day, I am the Queen,

I shall make this country green!

Noises off: splashing water, bucket banging. Then a louder bang, of a bucket crashing to the ground. The window opens, and Aladdin climbs in. He holds a window cleaning cloth. He looks around warily and then ducks behind the couch

Princess (*puzzled*) I must be going slightly daft

But there seems to be a little draught.

(*To audience*) Do you think there's someone here?

(Waits for response) Speak up a bit! I can't hear.

Audience should start shouting "Behind you!". Princess looks around but does not see Aladdin

Nonsense. You're trying to wind me
Up. There's no-one behind me.

Princess looks around again. This time she sees Aladdin's foot sticking out from behind the couch. She goes to him

Princess *(alarmed)* Who are you?

Aladdin *(to himself)* I do believe I've never seen a
Prettier girl. *(To the Princess)* I'm the window cleaner.

Princess *(suspicious)* Are you? Then where's your bucket?

Aladdin It was too heavy. I had to chuck it.

Princess Why were you climbing in my window?

Aladdin *(passionate)* My lady, it was destined...

Princess *(very suspicious)* So?

Aladdin You are the loveliest girl I've seen
Since I've been making windows clean.

Princess *(smug)* Well, that at least I know is true.
And you are *quite* good-looking too.

Footsteps off

Oh no! Someone is outside.
You'll have to go. You'd better hide.
My parents may be getting madder.
Quickly—get back on your ladder.

The Princess starts to push Aladdin back to the window

Aladdin *(looking desperately out of the window)* Oh no! It's starting to rain.
When will I see you again?

Princess Oh, if only you could stay.
(Has an idea) You can clean my windows every day.

The Princess pushes Aladdin firmly out of the window

Aladdin I'll go, my love. We must be strong.
I'll clean your windows all day long.

Princess *(to herself)* How he sets my heart aflame.
(To Aladdin) You never told me your name.

Aladdin I never did. I should be addin'
My name, my lady, is....

Aladdin's final word 'Aladdin' is lost as he falls. Aladdin is now out of sight. Shout of panic, followed by slithering, then a crash, and a shout of pain

Princess *(looking out of the window, concerned)* I am not sure if all is well.

Enter Abanazar L

Abanazar You're right, my dear. Your lover fell.
(Peering out of the window) A broken leg. A broken arm.
But otherwise quite free from harm.

Princess And who are you? Why are you here?

Abanazar Ah! I should have made my role quite clear.
I'm simply here as the Narrator.

(To audience) So you can save your boos till later.
We now move to a different scene...

Exit Princess R

A low-class house, nasty and mean.
I'm telling the truth—without invention,
So stop the booing and pay attention!
Here is the laundry—rather manky—
Which belongs to Widow Twankey.

Exit Abanazar L

Fade and blackout

Scene 3

Curtains open on Widow Twankey's laundry. There is a large washing machine L

There is an opportunity for a song here, if required. See Song Suggestions

Widow Twankey comes forward to address the audience

Twankey Yes, indeed. I'm Widow Twankey.
(To audience) Can I wash your shirt? Maybe your hanky?
 I can see you need a bit of a clean.
 This, you see, is my washing machine
 And—this will be good for your education—
 You can see it in operation.
 Completely safe—it can't go wrong.
 I just need you to sing a song.

She shows song words on a board or other display. She persuades the audience to join in

Song

(Tune: Row Row Row the Boat)

Splish! Splash! Splishy splosh!
 Round in the machine.
 Give your clothes a lovely wash.
 Make them bright and clean.

Song may be repeated. Twankey takes a wooden spoon and leans into the machine to stir the washing. She stirs, and leans over too much and falls into the machine, shrieking and gurgling

Silence. Enter Aladdin R

Aladdin *(very excited)* Mother! Mother! Can you guess?
 I just met a beautiful Princess.
 She's amazing—

He realises Twankey is not there and stops

Oh. That's weird -
 Mother, have you disappeared?

Washing sounds. Gurgling sounds. Aladdin looks worried. He turns to the audience who may shout some helpful suggestions about where Twankey is

(To audience) What did you say? She's in the machine?

He looks in the machine and pulls Twankey out

Twankey You can't overdo personal hygiene.
Aladdin That's true. *(Feeling Twankey's clothes)* Mother—you're not very wet.
Twankey I haven't put any water in there yet.
 What were you saying about a Princess?
Aladdin Ah—um—ah, ah, exactly! Yes!
 The most beautiful girl I've ever met.
 She's pretty, she's kind...
Twankey *(interrupting)* All right, I get
 The picture. Even if things go jammily,
 You can't marry into the royal family.
 You're not an earl or duke or prince.
 You don't have an accent that makes people wince.

You're not a celebrity making a splash—
And, worst of all, you don't have any cash.
Aladdin (*thinking hard*) I'll have to think what I can do
To make a million, or two.

A knock at the door. Enter Abanazar L

Abanazar Forgive me, if I am too bold—
Is this the Twankey household?
Twankey It is.
Abanazar Is there a little lad here called Aladdin?
Or is his Mum or Dad in?

Abanazar indicates "so high" —about three foot—with his hand

Aladdin Aladdin. That's me. And I'm not that small.
What is the reason for your call?
Twankey Your presence here is not amazing.
You must be selling double glazing.
Abanazar I'm not some unwanted wart or carbuncle.
I am your long-lost favourite uncle.
Aladdin My uncle? Believing that is hard.
You've never even sent a birthday card.
Abanazar It's true. It's time to make amends.
Aladdin! Aladdin! We must be friends!
Come with me—and without a hitch
You will be disgustingly rich!
Aladdin I'll be rich? I'll be rich?
Twankey Are you sure that's true?
Aladdin Uncle Abanazar, I'm coming with you!
Abanazar Good lad! You won't regret it.
Aladdin If there's money to be got, I'm going to get it!

Exit Abanazar and Aladdin L

Twankey Good luck, Aladdin! Opportunity knocks!
(*Sudden thought*) Oh no! He's forgotten his lunch box.

She sadly picks up a lunch box, and fade to blackout

Scene 4

A cave. There is a small entrance to the cave UR

Abanazar and Aladdin are visible through this entrance

Abanazar Aladdin, lad, if you can save
All the treasure in this cave,
You'll be richer than (Barclays/Natwest/etc.) Bank.
And all you need to do to thank
Your aged uncle, for being so kind,
Is search around until you find
A little lamp, quite old and dusty,
Woodworm-eaten, rotten, rusty.
Hand it to me without delay.

Aladdin climbs into the cave and looks around. He finds the lamp on the floor and picks it up

Aladdin It's this. I'll rub the dust away.

Aladdin rubs the lamp and blows some of the dust

That's better. Look—you can see it shine.

Abanazar Don't do that! Give it at once—it's mine!

Aladdin Too late! I've cleaned it.

Abanazar Well, Mr Clever!

In that case—stay in this cave for ever!

Abanazar slams the trapdoor closed. He goes. Aladdin looks around, bewildered

Aladdin What's happened? Is there no way out?

Will anybody hear me if I shout?

Is there no escape from this disaster?

Flash and smoke etc. Enter Genie L

Genie Who summons me? May I help you, Master?

Aladdin Who are you?

Genie I, sir, am the Genie of the Lamp.

Aladdin Can you get me out of here? It's dark and damp.

Genie Of course, sir. I perform any task.

What are your wishes? You need only ask.

Aladdin Any task?

Genie Yes, sir.

Aladdin That's quite a pitch.

Could you make me extremely rich?

Genie Indeed, sir. Have you ever wondered

About buying all the shares in the FTSE 100?

Aladdin (*impressed*) Hmm. Could you build me a stately home

With dozens of columns and an enormous dome?

Genie One moment, sir, and I will just

Borrow one from the National Trust.

Aladdin Well, that's a rather neat idea.

Genie But, first, let us both get out of here.

Genie makes some extravagant magic gestures. Flash. Smoke. Genie and Aladdin disappear

Blackout

Scene 5

Aladdin's palace, with a luxurious couch C

Aladdin and the Princess sit together on the couch. The lamp from the cave sits on a cupboard or shelf, or is easily available at the side of the stage

Song opportunity if required. See Song Suggestions

Princess Aladdin, we get on so well,
I think the time has come to tell
My father— he's the Emperor—
That you would be his son-in-law.

Aladdin My Princess, yes, indeed it's true,
And I think just the same as you.
But the Emperor can be a little fiery.
I'll just check my engagement diary.

Aladdin goes out R

Abanazar *(off)* New lamps for old! New lamps for old!
Straight from the factory. Made of gold.
New lamps for old!

Enter Abanazar L with a tray of lamps

You won't be arguin'
With such an undisputed bargain.

Princess picks up Aladdin's lamp

Princess There's this one. There's no excuse
Not to recycle it. It's really no use.

Abanazar Thank you, my dear. Would you like to pick
One from my tray that won't get on your wick?

Re-enter Aladdin R

Aladdin Stop! He's a villain, a rogue, a cheat.
The nastiest uncle you ever could meet.

Princess I fear that carries no weight with me.
(Indicating a lamp from Abanazar's tray) The bulb in here is LED.
(Indicating Aladdin's lamp) The light this makes is not sufficient
While this one is much more efficient.
You travelled here by magic carpet,
And never found a place to park it.
The carpet, I learn, was jet-propelled,
Its carbon footprint unparalleled.
In fact, I think we ought to ban it—
My dearest aim is to save the planet.

Abanazar goes to the Princess and holds her hand

Abanazar I'm sorry, Aladdin. She's seen the light.
I think she's found her Mr Right.

Enter Widow Twankey R distressed

Twankey Aladdin! Aladdin! This won't do.

The Princess is meant to marry you.

Princess (*squeezing Abanazar's hand*) You may think I am just being trendy

But *he* is much more ecologically friendly.

Abanazar And so I'll marry the Princess.

Didn't I tell you so? I did. Oh yes!

THE END

Four More Mini-Pantos

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The sequel to *Four Mini-Pantos*. As before, these may be performed individually, in pairs, or all together as an evening's entertainment.

Aladdin starts off in the traditional way, with the usual cast: Aladdin (who's a window cleaner), Widow Twankey, Abanazar, and Genie of the Lamp. The problem is the Princess, who's dedicated to things green and recycling. All of this leads to a quite unexpected ending.

Babes in the Wood. The plot is familiar, with all the familiar characters: Robin Hood, Maid Marion, Nurse, Sheriff and King Richard. But these are no ordinary Babes—

Beauty & the Beast tells the story of the merchant who intrudes into the Beast's palace, steals a rose, and is punished for his hubris: he must bring back to the Palace the first person or animal he meets. This is of course his daughter Beauty—so far so traditional but don't expect the traditional ending!

Likewise with *Snow White*. The evil Queen is obsessed with being the most beautiful, and does not take to being told she is no. 2 in the beauty stakes. Snow White, fearing for her life, takes refuge with the Seven Dwarfs. She is a fitness and diet fanatic and when she finds out what the Dwarfs have been eating, she's not impressed. Meanwhile the Queen has been preparing a special apple