Aladdin

A pantomime by

Richard Coleman

Spotlight Publications
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Aladdin

CAST (in order of appearance)

Aladdin, son of Widow Twankey.
Wishee Washee, brother to Aladdin
Widow Twankey, mother to Aladdin and Wishee Washee
Widow Twinkey, Aladdin’s aunt
Widow Twinkey, Aladdin’s other aunt
A Long Pong, the Emperor’s servant
Emperor of Old Peking
Princess Wong, daughter to the Emperor
Ethelazar, the villain
The Genie of the Lamp
The Slave of the Ring
Stir Wok
Fry Wok
The Medicine Seller
Ratman
Clarence, the pantomime camel
Chorus of Villagers

Place:- Old Peking
SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 - The market place in Old Peking
Scene 2 - The street outside Widow Twankey’s laundry, then inside the laundry
Scene 3 - The palace garden
Scene 4 - The market place
Scene 5 - A cave in the mountains

ACT 2

Scene 1 - The Emperor’s palace
Scene 2 - Ethelazar’s palace
Scene 3 - The Emperor’s palace
MUSICAL NUMBERS

A range of songs for different situations; many of these are traditional and can be added to by more relevant songs ‘of the moment’.

“You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile” (Annie) (Widow)
“Hey Look Me Over” (Wildcat) (Widow)
“It’s a Lovely Day Today” (Call Me Madam) (Aladdin/Wishee)
“And I Love You So” (Aladdin)
“Stranger in Paradise” (Kismet) (Princess Wong/Aladdin)
“Hang Out the Washing on the Laundry (Siegfried) Line” (Widows)
“Racing With the Clock” (The Pajama Game)
“With a Little Bit of Luck” (My Fair Lady)
“Some Day we Shall Meet Again” (Lisbon Story) (Aladdin)
“Baubles Bangles and Beads” (Kismet) (Slave of the Ring)
“Chicago” changed to Peking (Chicago) (Chorus)
“Dance of the Cygnets” (Swan Lake) (Clarence)
“The Entertainer” (Scott Joplin) (Clarence)
“Wish Me Luck as You Wave Me Goodbye” (Aladdin)
“Diamonds Are Forever” (Slave of the Ring)
“Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend” (Gentlemen Prefer Blondes)
“Big Spender” (Sweet Charity)
“Take Back Your Mink” (Guys and Dolls)
“Money Money Money” (Abba) (Ethelazar)
“She’ll Be Coming Round the Mountain” (Voting for Aladdin)
“I Could Have Danced All Night” (My Fair Lady) (Princess)
“Thank you For the Music” (Abba) - Finale
“Reach For the Stars” (S Club 7) - Finale
“There’s No Business Like Show Business” (Annie Get Your Gun) - Finale
“Chinatown” - Introductory Number

Music from The Mikado

“Chinese Laundry Blues” (George Formby)
Production Note
Usually you will find that two minutes is the correct length of time for a song, though obviously the Audience Participation Number takes longer. Audiences do like songs that they recognise, hence the contemporary advice at the start of this section. Please be aware that if using a song in your show you may have to obtain permission from:-
The Performing Rights Society
29-33 Berners Street,
London
W1P 4AA

A NOTE ON THE PRINCIPALS

Aladdin, son of Widow Twankey.- Principal Boy. A young boy smartly dressed and quite streetwise, who falls in love with Princess Wong.
Wishee Washee, brother to Aladdin. This is the comic’s role. Unfortunately, Wishee Washee makes too many mistakes, and is not very bright. A soppy individual.
Widow Twankey, mother to Aladdin and Wishee Washee. The three sisters can all be typical dames, a twist on the original idea.
Widow Twinkey, Aladdin’s aunt.
Widow Twinkey, Aladdin’s other aunt. The three Aunts play the role of the Dame with Widow Twinkey being the main part. Dressed brightly, with large bloomers, striped socks etc. highly coloured wigs and make-up.
A Long Pong, the Emperor’s servant. Very well dressed manservant to the Emperor. Does not like Aladdin and is very particular and fussy
Emperor of Old Peking. A Very stern character approximately fifty years of age. Mandarin beard perhaps, rather short tempered, but loves his daughter dearly.
Princess Wong, daughter to the Emperor. A very attractive young woman who falls in love immediately with Aladdin. Doesn’t wish to defy her father but will do anything for love.
Ethelazar, the villain. The ‘Demon’ of the play. Dark costume, perhaps a cape or robe with flame etched on the material. Loud and aggressive, sinister and superior.
The Genie of the Lamp. Rather a weak-willed individual, who is very short-tempered and constantly complains about anything that he’s asked to do.
The Slave of the Ring. A young, attractive female, with an important but brief part to play. A wispy, gossamer style costume.
Stir Wok
Fry Wok) Two local merchants with inverted Woks as their hats and Chinese peasant clothes. Perhaps each has a long, Mandarin style moustache.
The Medicine Seller
Ratman. An unusual part but dressed in black tights, a bowler hat, long tail, whiskers.
Clarence the pantomime camel
ACT 1

Scene 1

*The market place in Old Peking. Townsfolk are mingling onstage from stall to stall. The stalls are highly coloured and decorated with bright ribbons. There is a lantern stage, centre stage, and perhaps stalls with comic names upon them*

*The Chorus of villagers is onstage for the opening number*

**Song 1**

*Enter Wishee Washee*

Wishee *(to villager)* Excuse me, have you seen my mam?  
Villager No, sorry.  
Wishee *(to stall holder)* You haven’t seen my mam, have you?  
Stallholder No, sorry.  
Wishee *(to audience)* Oh hello out there, you haven’t seen my mam, have you?  
Audience No!  
Wishee Thank goodness for that! I can eat my sweets in peace. My mam doesn’t like me eating sweets, she says they spoil my appetite. That’s ridiculous - it’s not the sweets that do that, I just don’t like her cooking. She can hardly be called a good cook. Last night we had curried lettuce, and tonight we’ve got sweet and sour trifle. I just wish I could use chopsticks. Last week we had spaghetti and I ended up knitting myself a sweater. By the way, my name’s Wishee Washee. I’m called that because my mother owns a laundry, and she always wishes that I would wash more, so - Wishee Washee! As you can imagine, laundering is a tiring business, and my mother is always shouting at me. She’s a ratty old bag sometimes, and so are her two sisters. You haven’t met them yet, have you? *(points to a member of the audience)* like him over there. I say, wake up, we’ve got hours to go yet. I can’t help it, but I may need your help. Do you think you could help me stay awake for my mother?  
Audience Yes.  
Wishee Excellent. If you see me falling asleep, you must shout, “Wake up, Wishee Washee!” Do you think you can do that?  
Audience Yes.  
Wishee Let’s try it. *(pretends to sleep and snores loudly)*  
Audience Wishee Washee!  
Wishee That wasn’t very good. The old ratbag would have caught me by now. Try again, and this time put more effort into it.  
Audience Wishee Washee!  
Wishee I suppose that will have to do. Now don’t forget if you see me dropping off, don’t forget to shout.

*Sound of bicycle bell, and Widow Twankey enters from the back of the hall on a bicycle. She is accompanied by Widows Twinkey and Twonkey. If the design of the auditorium allows each can ride a bicycle down an aisle. It has been done with each bike linked by a washing line, so that washing brushes the heads of the audience. Be careful here, though, on Health and Safety grounds. See Production Notes*

Oh dear, here comes my mum and sisters now. You can always hear her miles away. In fact her mouth is so big she keeps her false teeth in a bucket.  
Twankey Right, come along girls. The laundry should be dry by now. Hello everybody, I’m Widow Twankey. I own the fastest laundry in the west.  
Twinkey We’re in the east, dear.  
Twonkey No the south.  
Twankey The west.  
Wishee You’ve missed the north out.  
Widows Shut up, stupid boy.
Twankey Now I think I’d better introduce myself again. As you obviously weren’t listening. I’m Widow Twankey.

Twinkey I’m Widow Twinkey, Widow Twankey's sister.

Twankey I’m Widow Twonkey, sister to Twinkey and Twankey, and you have to be careful how you say that.

Wishee Yes, they’re all widows. I wonder why?

Twankey We lost our husbands.

Wishee You mean they all ran off.

Twankey No such thing. Mine just didn’t realise how lucky he was. He couldn’t cope with my extreme beauty. I went out one day to get some crispy noodles, and when I came back he’d moved house.

Twinkey Mine was so ungrateful I’d just had a face lift as well.

Twankey You had yes. When you sit down, your mouth opens. (To audience) That’s not a dimple on her chin, it’s her navel. My husband always liked my Roman nose.

Twankey Yes, it’s roamin’ all over your face.

Twinkey Stop arguing all of you please.

Twankey Quite right, we have a laundry to run. Now, (to audience) don’t forget when you want your smalls doing we’ll look after them.

Twankey Small? Looking at this lot you must be joking.

Twankey Though our hours are long and the work hard, we need to make what little money we can in these days of rising inflation.

Twankey Even worse we only have your two sons to help us. Wishee Washee, and Aladdin. (Pulls Wishee across the stage by ear)

Twankey This one is always falling asleep. If I catch you dropping off you’ll be in trouble. Don’t forget.

Wishee Don’t worry, I’ve got a new alarm clock. (Waves to the audience)

Twankey How will you get this lot into your bedroom?

Wishee starts snoring

Audience Wake up, Wishee Washee!

Twankey Was he snoring then?

Audience No.

Twinkey Are you sure?

Audience Yes.

Twankey He was snoring.

Audience Oh no he wasn’t!

Widows Oh yes he was!

Etc.etc.

Twinkey He sounded like a pig.

Twankey I had a pig once who cut himself.

Twinkey What did you do?

Twankey Put some oinkment on it!

Twankey Must we put up with your weak jokes all day long? We have work to do, but first I think we should tell these good people a little bit about our family history. We’ve been in Peking for generations.

Twinkey Four?

Twankey It’s more than four.

Twankey No … for generations. Our father bred four-legged chickens.

Twinkey We don’t know what they tasted like though, we could never catch one.

Twankey I bet they tasted fowl.

Twankey We had to give that business up though as the returns were too paltry (poultry). Come on wake up, I’m not doing all the work for you!

Twankey Where have you been all day?

Twankey I’ve just been to the English takeaway. (To audience) Yes, we do have English takeaways in Peking. They sell fish and chips. We’ve even got a Sun Readers Buy Back.

Twankey Now, sisters, can we be serious for a minute. I’m afraid that I have some bad news for you.

Widows What?
**Twankey** I went to the doctor’s this morning.
**Twinkey** Why?
**Twankey** I’m suffering from morning sickness.
**Twonkey** What did he say?
**Twankey** He told me to get up in the afternoon.
**Twonkey** I told my doctor I was down in the dumps, and he thought that was my address. So to cheer myself up I went shopping.
**Twankey** What did you buy?
**Twonkey** Oh some fortune cookies. Here they are. *(Threw them into the audience)* There you are, catch. I also bought some rice. *(Threw that into audience)* And does anyone like fireworks?
**Audience** Yes.
**Twonkey** Good. I bought some crackers as well!

_She throws cream crackers_

**Twankey** Oh you really are silly. *(To Wishee)* Now what are you doing with yourself? Wasting time no doubt. You should be helping me, not lazing around doing nothing. There’s laundry to collect.
**Twinkey** Quite right. If brains were a disease you’d be healthy. There’s not enough money in washing as there is, don’t you agree sisters?
**Twonkey** I found five pence in a pair of shorts last week.
**Twinkey** You know what I mean.
**Twinkey** The old saying is certainly true.
**Twonkey** What old saying?
**Twinkey** Grime doesn’t pay. It’s a hard life.
**Twankey** *(to Wishee)* You’re very much like your father. He was a shift worker.
**Twinkey** When there was work to do he shifted.

_Wishee is meanwhile falling asleep_

**Audience** Wishee Washee!
**Twankey** That’s right, you tell him. Get up, you lazy lump. Why can’t you be like your brother Aladdin? When you were born I should have called you ‘Vick’.
**Wishee** Why?
**Twonkey** Because you get right up our noses! You really are hopeless.
**Twinkey** Never doing what you should be doing.
**Twankey** Is your brother Aladdin back from delivering the laundry yet?
**Wishee** No he shouldn’t be long. The last time I saw him he was coming out of *(local pub)*.
**Twonkey** With a couple of shirts in the sunshine?
**Wishee** No, three sheets to the wind!
**Twankey** Well I can’t wait for him. The Emperor wants his clothes washing. We must get back to the laundry. I want to see if the new washing machines that I’ve ordered have arrived. Come along sisters, and *(to Wishee Washee)* don’t you be late for tea. It’s noodle and marmite ice-cream.

_Exit Widows_

_Enter Aladdin_

**Aladdin** Hello, everybody, hello, Wishee Washee.
**Wishee** Hello, Aladdin. Mother’s been looking for you. Have you delivered all the laundry yet?
**Aladdin** Of course I have, but my deliveries take me longer and longer.
**Wishee** It’s all the pubs you visit.
**Aladdin** No it isn’t.
**Wishee** Anyway I’m off home for tea.
**Aladdin** What is it tonight?
**Wishee** Noodle and marmite ice cream. Mother said that if you’re late there might not be any left.
**Aladdin** See you about midnight then.
Exit Wishee

Aladdin He’s my brother, but not very bright you know. I don’t know what it is today but I feel different. I feel excited, as if I’m on the verge of a big adventure as if something is about to happen.

Song 2

Sound of gong

Aladdin Oh, the gong! That means the Princess is approaching. Now if she was to speak to me it would be my lucky day. Oh dear she’s brought her minder with her. Though he looks more like a used car salesman.

Enter A Long Pong

A Long Pong On your knees! On your knees! Make way for Her Royal Highness, Princess Wong, the only daughter of Emperor Yuu Ring Mee.

Aladdin Yuu Ring Mee!

A Long Pong Yes, it saves me the money. Come on peasants, on your knees.

Aladdin Who are you calling a pheasant?

Everybody goes down on their knees

A Long Pong That’s better. Princess, you may now enter.

Enter Princess Wong

Princess Please stand, everybody. Go about your work, as if I wasn’t here.

Aladdin

Synopsis

It is some time long ago in Old Peking. Aladdin the son of Widow Twankey who owns the Peking laundry, falls in love with Princess Wong, daughter to the Emperor. The Emperor insists he is not worthy enough even to speak to his daughter unless he is rich. Ethelazar, Aladdin’s cousin offers him riches if he helps her. Aladdin agrees but is tricked into finding a magic lamp for Ethelazar. However, Ethelazar cannot have the lamp immediately and the Slave of the Ring with the Genie’s help allow Aladdin to escape from Ethelazar’s clutches and return to Old Peking where he marries the Princess. Wishee Washee, Aladdin’s brother, is tricked into helping Ethelazar as she seeks revenge, and even Aladdin’s two aunts Widows Twinkey and Twonkey are unable to stop the Princess being kidnapped. Finally Aladdin and his family track down Ethelazar and the Princess is saved. They return to Old Peking where Aladdin is voted into Parliament and everybody is happy.

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