

Ali Baba & The Seven Thieves

A pantomime written by

Ron Nicol

Spotlight Publications

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Ali Baba & The Seven Thieves

CAST (in order of appearance)

Ali Baba, a poor woodcutter

Hassan, his son

Morgiana, his servant

Kassim, his rich brother

Fatima, Kassim's wife

Karioki, Fatima's servant

Chief Thief

Hanki

Panki

Kitty

Will

Jilly

Dilly

Wally

Chorus of Villagers, and Guests

Place - in and around Baghdad

Time - mythical

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 - A clearing in the forest

Scene 2 - Ali Baba's house

Scene 3 - Kassim's House

Scene 4 - On the road, front of tabs

Scene 5 - Kassim's house

Scene 6 - On the road

Scene 7 - The clearing

ACT 2

Scene 1 - The clearing

Scene 2 - Kassim's house

Scene 3 - The village square

Scene 4 - Ali Baba's courtyard

Scene 5 - Inside the treasure cave

Scene 6 - Ali Baba's courtyard

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Spots for inserting musical numbers have been indicated and suggestions for songs follow, although other music might be preferred.

Song 1 - Chief Thief, Hanki and Panki '*Arabian Nights*' Menken & Ashman)

Song 2 - Morgiana solo '*Once Upon a Dream*' (Fain & Lawrence)

Song 3 - Kassim & Fatima duet '*Love and Marriage*' (Cahn & van Heusen)

Song 4 - Kassim solo '*Money, Money, Money*' (Abba)

Song 5 - Fatima solo '*I'm so Pretty*' (Bernstein)

Song 6 - Karioki and Panki duet '*I'm Lovely*' (Sondheim)

Song 7 - Morgiana & Hassan duet '*Can You Feel the Love Tonight*' (John & Rice)

Song 8 - Chorus Number '*The Hokey Cokey*'

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“**Ali Baba and the Seven Thieves**” was first performed by Glenrothes Theatre Company at Newcastle Community School in January 2005 with the following cast:

Ali Baba	Craig Spence
Hassan	Michelle Robertson
Morgiana	Stephanie Childs
Kassim	Andrew Miller
Fatima	Norma Nicol
Karioki	Lee Mitchell
Chief Thief	Audrey Stevenson
Hanki	Andrew Coull
Panki	William Hill
Kitty	Nikki Conn
Will	Aileen Henderson
Jilly	Cara Swain
Dilly	Sarah Louise Poole
Wally	Louise Morrison

Directed by Ron Nicol

ACT 1

Scene 1

A clearing in the forest

To one side there is a cliff face with a door set into it, although this should not be obvious to begin. Ali Baba and Hassan enter, carrying bundles of wood

Ali Baba Firewood! Who'll buy firewood? We've sold very little today, Hassan, but at least it saves us collecting more.

Hassan Father, we do the same thing every day. We come into the forest. We cut firewood. We make it into bundles. We go to the market. We try to sell it. I'm fed up with branches and boughs, twigs and kindling. Trees! Trees! Nothing but trees! My whole life's made up of trees!

Ali Baba But trees are our life, my son. I'm Ali Baba the woodcutter, after all. I must sell firewood and building timber to get enough money. How else would we survive? Remember we've debts to pay.

Hassan If only we could find hidden treasure - win the Lottery - become millionaires - anything. Anything's better than this! *(Sounds off)* There's somebody coming.

Ali Baba Better hide. Thieves are everywhere. They might steal our firewood.

Hassan They can get their own...

Ali Baba Quiet, Hassan! Hide.

They hide. The Chief Thief and Hanki enter carrying bulging sacks

Chief Aha! The secret cave. Keep watch whilst I enter. *(Loudly)* Open Sesame!

The hidden door swings open. The Chief takes the sacks and exits, and the door closes behind him

Hanki *(to the audience)* Now then, you lot. I don't want any trouble out of you. Step out of line and I'll set the thieves on you. All forty of 'em. They'll strike terror and foreboding in your hearts. Don't believe me? Right then, watch this. *(Loudly)* We are the Forty Thieves!

Panki leaps out - alone

Panki Aha! *(embarrassed)* Oops! Where are they? Where's all the rest?

Hanki This is it.

Panki Me?

Hanki You.

Panki Just me?

Hanki Just you.

Panki I'm supposed to strike terror and foreboding in their hearts?

Hanki Yup.

Panki It's a bit pathetic, isn't it?

Hanki I can't help that. You're one of the Forty Thieves now, so make the best of it.

Panki Are you sure? Forty? *(He counts to two - with some difficulty)* Two. I can only see two. Who says we're the Forty Thieves?

Hanki Everybody. *(Gestures to the audience)* They do.

Panki Do they?

Hanki Of course they do.

Panki Are you sure?

Hanki Yes. Go on - ask them.

Panki I can't.

Hanki Why not?

Panki (*shyly*) I'm shy.

Hanki You? Shy?

Panki Yes - I'm not very big for my size.

Hanki (*pushes him*) Go on.

Panki Er - excuse me - um - are we called the Forty Thieves?

Ad lib depending on reaction. It'll be 'Yes' we hope! Perhaps somebody could appear with a cue card saying 'Yes'

Hanki See! They know all about it. It's a story. Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.

Panki Who's Ali Baba?

Hanki How should I know. I haven't read it.

Panki You haven't read it? How do you know what happens next?

Hanki I don't. We'll just have to wait and see.

Panki Make it up as we go along...

Hanki Something like that.

Panki If I'd known there was only me I wouldn't've joined. I could've been in Big Brother, you know. I've auditioned for Pop Idol as well.

Hanki That's just it, isn't it? Advertise for people to make fools of themselves on a TV reality show and you can't move for applicants. Try to get forty thieves and you're wasting your time. It's the same everywhere. Nobody wants to learn a trade. No new blood. The old ones just have to keep things going. It's Robin Hood and his Grumpy Old Pensioners now. He can't get merry men for love or money.

Panki Hey, Hanki? What's Chiefy doing?

Hanki Hiding the proceeds of our robbery.

Panki I thought he was stashing the loot.

Hanki He is, Panki. It's the same thing.

Panki Why does he get to go into the cave, and we have to stand outside?

Hanki Cos he's the Chief Thief. We're his robber band.

Panki Rubber band?

Hanki Robber band! One of us has to stay outside to open the door. It doesn't open from inside.

Panki What happens if you're on your own?

Hanki I don't know. I reckon you're stuck in there for ever. Anyway, Chiefy should be finished by now.
(Loudly) Open Sesame!

The rock door opens and the Chief enters. The door closes behind him

Chief Stop that nattering. Thou shouldst have been watching.

Panki Why? What happened?

Hanki Nothing. We were watching like you said.

Panki Were we? What were we watching?

Chief Thou wert supposed to be on guard.

Panki What wert we guarding?

Chief Me.

Panki But you weren't here.

Chief I wast within, disposing of our ill-gotten gains. Depositing the proceeds of the daring and imaginative heist which wast masterminded by *moi*, of course. I wast storing the spoils. Stashing the loot. Hoarding the boodle. Lodging the lolly. Stowing the plunder.

Panki You mean you were hiding the money.

Chief Exactly. Therefore wert thou watching for anyone who might be watching us. Keeping a look out for aught strange. Aught out of the ordinary, perchance. Any danger. A spy, mayhap. Didst thou see aught?

Panki Er - will you excuse me for a second? (*Takes Hanki aside*) Why's he talking like that?

Hanki Like what?

Panki That 'didst thou see aught what thou wert looking for' nonsense.

Hanki Oh, that. He's weird. Thinks he's in some epic - 'The Arabian Nights' or 'The Voyages of Sinbad' or something. He'll be bursting into song any minute. You have to watch out. If he

starts singing and there's anybody around, they have to join in. He curses a lot, as well.

Panki What? Swearing? He can't do that! There's children in the audience.

Hanki No, he brings down curses on you, your family, your friends - everybody. That man could start a fight in an empty house. You need to take him the right way.

Panki By the throat, you mean? *(To the Chief)* Your Chieftainship, whilst thou wast within we didn't mayhap see anything perchance.

Chief Very well. But curb thy answering-back, underling!

Panki They were clean on this morning.

Hanki What were?

Panki My long-sleeved underpants. My underthings.

Chief No, no no! Not underthings! Underling! Underling! May the stinking breath of a thousand donkeys waft about thee. I'm surrounded by idiots!

Panki You can't be surrounded by idiots. There's only two of us.

Hanki Yes, Chiefy, be fair. There's only two idiots here.

Chief There's supposed to be forty idiots - forty thieves. I'm the Chief of the Forty Thieves, yet I see only two of thee. Wherefore art mine other thieves?

Hanki Sorry Chiefy, there aren't any.

Panki We asked them. *(Indicating the audience)* They said we were the Forty Thieves, but I don't think they can count. There aren't any others.

Chief No others? There should be forty! I must have a band worthy of my supremely inspiring leadership.

Song 1

Hanki See, I told you.

Chief Thou must get me more thieves. If thou shouldst fail in thy task, may the eggs of a thousand parasitic nits infest thine armpits.

He exits

Hanki I warned you. That's one of his curses.

Panki He's wasting his time. *(Scratching)* I've got a thousand paralytic nits already.

Hanki and Panki exit. Ali and Hassan come out of hiding

Ali Baba Did you hear that? They know about me. They mentioned my name.

Hassan They weren't talking about you, father, they were talking about a book with the same name. A book of magic, maybe. Never mind about that, let's see what's inside.

Ali Baba Not so hasty, my son. I've told you before - let caution be your watch-word. Don't rush into things.

Hassan Father...

Ali Baba Be still. I'm as anxious as you are to see inside. But we must be cautious. What were the words they said?

Hassan Open Sesame.

Ali Baba *(loudly)* Open Sesame! *(The door opens)* Keep watch outside in case the thieves return. If they come back we'll both be trapped. Morgiana would never forgive me if I let anything happen to you. You must stay outside - I'll be but a moment.

He exits and the door closes

Hassan The door's shut! It's just as well I'm still outside. I can rescue him if he can't get out, and then he'd be sorry he didn't let me go inside. But then, if I was inside I wouldn't be able to rescue him, would I? It's always the same. He always says 'Morgiana would never forgive me if I let anything happen to you.' Morgiana's our servant. Father says she worries about me because she loves me. If only she did. My father's been in there a long time. I'd better open the door just in case. *(To the audience.)* What were the magic words, children? Would you shout it with me? *(Shouts, encouraging the audience)* Open Sesame!

The door opens and Ali enters, carrying a sack

Ali Baba At last! I've been trying the password and it didn't work. I was beginning to think I'd never get out.

Hassan I gave the command because you'd been in there so long.

Ali Baba Just as well you did. It seems the door doesn't open from the inside.

Hassan I'm glad you made me wait out here after all.

Ali Baba I told you, always be cautious, my son. Never rush into things. See, Hassan!

He opens the sack to reveal items of gold and silver

Hassan My dream's come true. Treasure!

Ali Baba The cave's full of it. Gold, silver, jewels! Piles of it!

Hassan Just waiting for us!

Ali Baba Not really - it belongs to those ruffians who were here just now.

Hassan They must've stolen it in the first place...

Ali Baba But they might come after us and take it back.

Hassan You haven't taken much, and you say there's plenty more - they won't miss it.

Ali Baba For once in my life I'll take a chance. We need the money.

Hassan Let's get away from here.

They exit. Hanki and Panki enter

Hanki I heard voices.

Panki Maybe it's the others.

Hanki What others? There aren't any others. That's why Chiefy wants us to get more.

Panki How're we going to do it?

Hanki What do you suggest?

Panki Attract some attention. *(Shouting)* Who wants to be a thief?

Ali Baba & The Seven Thieves

Ron Nicol's version of the ever-popular Arabian Nights tale is faithful to the original, but fresh and fun-filled.

Plot Summary

Ali Baba, a poor woodcutter, and his son Hassan discover the robbers' treasure cave. His brother Kassim learns the secret but creates trouble for Ali and himself when he goes back to the cave for more loot and is caught by the gang. They both escape but the gang go to Baghdad bent on revenge. Youthful ingenuity in the form of Morgiana, Ali's servant, finally saves the day.