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SF PERUSALS

Aladdin

A Pantomime

John Morley

A Samuel French Acting Edition



SAMUEL FRENCH
FOUNDED 1830

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CHARACTERS

Aladdin Twankey, a Chinese Laundry Boy
Widow Twankey, a Chinese Washerwoman, his mother
Wishee Washee Twankey, another Laundry Boy, his brother
The Great Abanazar, the wicked Egyptian Magician
Chopsuey the Twelfth, Emperor of China
Dragona the Thirteenth, his wife and Empress
Princess Say Wen, their daughter
So Shi, her Handmaiden
Sing Hi, another Handmaiden
Chow Mien, the Grand Vizier
Prince Pekoe, his son
Bamboo, **Typhoo** } Chinese Police
Rick Shaw, a lady Taxidriver
Strong Pong, the Emperor's dreaded Executioner
Madam Flash Bang, the royal Photographer
Mazda, the Genie of the Lamp
Mazawattee, the Spirit of the Ring
The Egyptian Mummy
Chinese Citizens, Attendants at Abanazar's Magic Show, Customers at the Laundry, the Spirits of the Cave, Diners at the Flied Lice Inn, Egyptian Slaves, Guests at the Wedding Feast

NOTE: the two Chinese Police can be male or female, and are equally effective, if less usual, as "Two Chinese Policewomen"

ACT I

Prologue (*optional*)

SCENE 1 The Courtyard of the Emperor Chopsuey's Palace in Pekin

SCENE 2 At Radio Rick Shaw's Hire Service, Ltd

SCENE 3 In Widow Twankey's Laundry

SCENE 4 A Path in the Mountains near Pekin

SCENE 5 a. In the gloomy Cave

SCENE 5 b. The Alcove of a Thousand Jewels

ACT II

SCENE 1 At the Flied Lice Inn, a Chinese Take-Away Restaurant

SCENE 2 The Street of a Thousand Chopsticks

SCENE 3 The Room of My Mummy in the Great Pyramid of Egypt

SCENE 4 The Willow Pattern Plate

SCENE 5 The Feast of Chinese Lanterns

NOTE: The scenes move straightforwardly between full set, front cloth, full set, front cloth, etc. They can be made spectacular, but the front cloth scenes are just as effective in terms of comedy and story if simply played in front of tabs

SUGGESTIONS FOR MUSICAL NUMBERS

The songs suggested here are based on audience research, for pantomime audiences like to hear the songs they know. You are, of course, welcome to alter the choice of songs but it is most important to note that a licence issued by Samuel French Ltd to perform the pantomime does not include permission to use any copyright songs or music. The notice issued by the Performing Right Society (and printed on page vi) should be read most carefully.

ACT I

Song 1	Chinatown	Courtiers
Song 2	For Once In My Life	Aladdin and Courtiers (production number)
Song 3	Hey, Look Me Over	Twankey (and perhaps Courtiers)
Song 4	If It Takes For Ever	Princess and Handmaidens
Song 4(a)	The Old Bazaar in Cairo	Incidental music for Abanazar's Magic Show
Song 5	That Old Black Magic	Aladdin and Citizens
Song 6	Chinese Limehouse Laundry Blues	Twankey, Wishee, Citizens
Song 6(a)	Nellie Dean	Emperor, Empress, two Policemen
Song 7	Baubles, Bangles and Beads	Magic Cave People
Song 2	(reprise)	Aladdin

ACT II

Song 8	It's Today (from *Mame*)	Princess, Handmaidens, Citizens
Song 9	One (from *Chorus Line*)	Aladdin, Wishee, Genie, Twankey
Song 9(a)	Baubles, Bangles and Beads	Slave Girls
Song 10	Flash, Bang, Wallop	All, except Abanazar
Song 11	If I Were A Rich Man	Abanazar and Slaves of the Pyramid
Song 11(a)	"Mummy Song"	Wishee, Twankey and Aladdin
Song 12	Coming Round the Mountain (songsheet)	Twankey and Wishee
Song 1	(reprise)	Company

Description of Characters

Aladdin: ambitious and cheeky, yet friendly. Very much in love with the Princess, and this fact "works the story".

Widow Twankey: an ever optimistic and fun-loving old girl.

Wishee Washee: like the rest of the Twankey family, ebullient and cheerful. This is really a "personality part".

The Great Abanazar: has plenty of comedy, but should remember he is a villain. If he forgets this and plays for charm, and "wanting to be liked" too much, the play suffers. He is a schemer, and it helps the telling of the story if his costume and make-up are not in any way "pantomime Chinese", but are clearly Egyptian-Arabian in style.

Chopsuey the Twelfth: the definitive henpecked husband. The part works well if he appears to be old but fruity.

Dragona the Thirteenth: the definitive wife who wears the trousers.

Princess Say Wen: is pretty but has plenty of spirit, and stands up to her parents and later to Abanazar's wicked treatment of her.

So Shi: pronounced "So Shy", and it is attractive if she, and the Princess, have stylized Oriental Chinese movements—especially So Shi.

Chow Mien, The Vizier: is ruthless, head of the Secret Police and ambitious for his son, Pekoe.

Prince Pekoe: the second Principal Boy. He enters into the fun of the story, but in some scenes is haughty and scheming. He should be played as a character part and not a vague second Principal Boy. He is, after all, Aladdin's rival. Preferably played by a female.

Strong Pong: a small part, but he causes terror.

Madam Flash Bang: is fussy, a curious Chinese lady photographer.

Bamboo: is the more intelligent of the daft Police: he is continually hitting Typhoo with a truncheon, and Typhoo fights back.

Typhoo: is a bit of an idiot.

Mazda, The Genie: needs great presence and dignity and is not to be played for comedy. He is *the story*, and must indicate this in performance.

Mazawattee, the Spirit of the Ring: she is orientally attractive, with hands held in the Hindu style, as though praying. She has presence and as her dialogue is so important—it "works the plot"—then it is best if she speaks almost every word of it directly to the audience, *not* to others on stage.

Rick Shaw: is a Chinese version of a girl mini-cab driver. She is cheerful and perky, with a "catch-phrase".

Production Notes

Abanazar's Magic Show: there need not be many people on stage watching this if they are needed as conjuring assistants. Perhaps the group watching are just the "Court", that is the **Emperor, Empress, Vizier, Princess** and **Pekoe**, who are all at a downstage corner.

Laundry Scene: the four tubs from which the items are taken can be cut-outs that look like old-fashioned tubs on legs, and behind are boxes to contain the various items of laundry.

Cave Scene: when **Abanazar** appears at the entrance he may need to hold an unseen torch that shines upwards on to his face. This solves a lighting problem, and also looks suitably sinister. It used to be traditional that **Aladdin,** when alone in the cave, had a solo song, but this is no longer possible, as the audience knows the story so well that they will shout out "Rub the lamp!" during such a solo—no matter how good a singer **Aladdin** may be.

Transformation: this may be easier to effect if the practical door to the cave is at an upstage wing, away from the backcloth.

The Magic Palace: the top edge of the ground-row representing the rooftops of Pekin and a hill needs to be fairly horizontal except for the hill itself, and to be about 3 feet high to allow a manipulator to work behind it without being seen by the audience. Later in the scene the **Genie** conjures up the magic palace. For this moment, the manipulator enters unseen behind the ground-row until he is behind the hill. When the **Genie** commands, the manipulator slowly lifts into view a cut-out palace and rests it on a shelf attached to the back of the hill. Thus the palace will have magically "grown out of the hill".

The magic palace cut-out is a brightly coloured cut-out of a pagoda-style building, and is about 3 foot by 3 foot. On its back is a strut so that it can stand on the shelf. When it is required to "fly away magically" the manipulator (whose arms must be the same colour as the sky of cyclorama) lifts it up into the air above, though not too high or the human arms will be noticed. The palace has at its base stylized clouds as seen in Oriental paintings, which have not been seen until this moment as they have been hidden by the "hill". The manipulator now slowly moves sideways behind the fairly horizontal collection of Pekin rooftops, holding the palace so that it appears to float across Pekin and then to disappear into the wings.

This "flying palace" business can be done more simply by nylon wires lifting it into the flies, but this way there is *no surprise* because the nylon wires can be clearly seen throughout. There are other possible scenic ideas, and perhaps UV lighting can be used: but the cut-out idea works well.

Wishee's Magic Change of Clothing (see page 41): when the **Genie** makes his magic pass at **Wishee** there is a flash in the footlights which will partly hide his removing his nightshirt and cap with the use of "velcro". Underneath the nightshirt and cap he wears a gaudy pop costume.

Twankey's Magic Change of Clothing: her costume need simply be a glittery full-length coat and hat which is like an enormous pagoda to get the effect, so this Act Two quick change is simple.

The Mummy's Costume: can be white gloves, socks and canvas shoes; a white T-shirt and tights which have bandages sewn on to them. The canvas shoes also have bandages sewn on. The head is a head mask, also covered in bandages.

Twankey's Whisky Bottle: it is important to choose a suitable type of bottle for the scene where she splashes the audience and to rehearse with it full of water. The audience should be sprinkled—not drowned.

Finale: this can open in half light to show off the lit Chinese lanterns. This is an original-looking pantomime scene, and can be very attractive. In the song-sheet before the Finale the "Willow Pattern Plate" is rolled on for a bit of fun with the audience—but the famous Pattern can be used for the Finale scenery, which would then be entirely blue and white, the scenery suggesting the bridge, trees and pagoda on the Chinese Plate. The costumes would be the same blue and white, with no other colours. Either "Lanterns" or "Willow Pattern Plate" works well for this Finale.

PROLOGUE (in Egypt)—*optional*

This is in front of the tabs, or is a frontcloth suggesting Egypt—a temple (exterior or interior) or the Sphinx itself. After the short Overture, dramatic music as the CURTAIN *rises on Abanazar,* C, *his back to the audience, waving his arms to and fro above his head. Percussion crash as he turns round and laughs fiendishly at the audience*

Abanazar Ha ha ha! I am Abanazar the wicked Egyptian magician! And this magician has an ambition! I may live here in Egypt but I want to CONQUER THE WORLD! Ha ha ha! (*As the audience reacts*) Be quiet you neurotic numbskulls that live in (local place)! Listen while I tell you how I'm going to *achieve* my ambition! (*He paces about the stage, declaiming*) You've heard of (political or television villain)? I'm *worse*!

'Cos I want to rule the Universe!
Of the whole wide world, I want to be King—
And to give me what I want, I'll rub the Magic Ring!

He rubs an impressive ring on his finger. Calling

Spirit of the Ring, step forth!
I want to rule the South and North
The East and West—the whole damn lot—

There is a burst of music and a crash from percussion as the Spirit of the Ring runs in and poses, her hands held up in the Hindu style. She addresses the audience, not Abanazar

Spirit Alas oh Master, I can *not*
Help you with your cunning deed.
The MAGIC LAMP is what you need!
Abanazar The "Magic Lamp?" Is it a toy?
Spirit Oh no. A cheeky Chinese boy
Called Aladdin will get you the Lamp
Abanazar *Aladdin*? You mean some Chinese scamp?
But why can't *I* get the Lamp? I'm strong,
Why must I take this boy along?
Spirit The Lamp is in a magic cave
And only Aladdin young and brave
Can enter the door. It's a magic portal
That keeps out every single mortal.
THE CAVE MUST BE ENTERED BY AN HONEST YOUTH.

Abanazar (*insincere*) Well *I'm* honest, and that's the truth!
(*He shrugs*) All right, so Aladdin must take me there
But this magic cave—where is it? *Where*?
Spirit It's high in the mountains near Pekin.
Abanazar Then now let evil magic begin!

Both Abanazar and the Spirit wave their arms about above their heads, making dramatic magic passes. There is thunder and lightning and music and Abanazar calls out over it

Abanazar Now lightning strike and thunder crash
Take me to Pekin—quick as a flash!
Spirit (*calling out over the music, making magic passes*) It shall de done, oh Master! Saleeda! Saleeda! Saleeda!
Abanazar (*also calling out and making magic passes*) Saleeda! Saleeda! Saleeda!

Percussion and dramatic music crashes out as they exit at opposite sides and the Tabs open to show Scene 1

If this optional Prologue is used then the following dialogue must be inserted between the single ruled lines on pages 11–13:

Vizier Find success! *Never*!
Abanazar (*looking up, to the audience*) I don't want to find success, I want to find the lamp! (*He returns to tidying up*)
Vizier (*conspiratorially leading Pekoe downstage*) My boy, I wish to talk with you about your future.
Pekoe My future?
Vizier Yes, you—*and the Princess.*
Pekoe But she doesn't care about me! She doesn't even *look* at me!
Vizier (*cunningly*) She will—soon. Once we break into the Cave of a Thousand Jewels up in the mountains.
Pekoe But father, nobody knows the way to open its door!
Abanazar(*looking up, to the audience*) I do! Ha ha ha! (*He returns to tidying up*)
Vizier Then we must go home and *think* of a way. (*Greatly frustrated*) How can we get into the magic cave . . . (*He looks on the floor, shaking his head with frustration*)
Pekoe Yes—how can we get into the magic cave . . . (*He looks on the floor, also shaking his head with frustration*)

And shaking their heads, scheming, they both cross the stage and exit

As they go, Abanazar addresses the audience

Abanazar All this makes my wicked heart gladden!
So now to find the boy Aladdin!
I'll soon rule the Universe, you ignorant shower,
Once I have Aladdin in my power!
Ha ha ha ha ha ha!

Abanazar exits

The Princess enters

Aladdin enters from the other side, with a bag of laundry

Aladdin (*hissing across to her*) Ssssss!
Princess Aladdin! What are you doing here?

The scene then continues as on page 13.

ACT I

SCENE 1

THE COURTYARD OF THE EMPEROR CHOPSUEY'S PALACE IN PEKIN

The wings are pagoda style buildings and at the back is the grand looking pagoda style palace, perhaps in Chinese red with columns. Various banners with large Chinese letters on them.
Chinese Citizens with pigtails are already entering, trotting to and fro and bowing to each other, the girls using oriental fans. The music has become up tempo, and they sing and dance

SONG 1

After the song, the first Courtier beckons to everyone

First Courtier Hey! You know the police are after Aladdin!
All Really? Didn't know that!
Second Courtier The police are after Wishee Washee as well!
First Courtier Then we'd better warn him! Come on!
All (*calling*) Wishee! Where are you, Wishee! Wishee Washee!

They exit calling for him. As they go Wishee enters to loud, bouncey music

Wishee (*happily*) I'm Wishee Washee, Aladdin's brother! Hello, kids! (*He reacts to the few replies*) It must be Sunday. There's nobody here, I'll try again. Hello, kids!
Audience Hello!
Wishee It *is* Sunday. You must help me! I mean, when I say Hello, kids, you're supposed to say Hello, Wishee! Hello, kids!
Audience Hello, Wishee!
Wishee Beautiful. Unbelievable. You sound like Shirley Bassey singing in her bath. Let's do a bit more. Whatever I say, you say. Hello, hello!
Audience Hello, hello!
Wishee Louder! Hello, hello!
Audience Hello, Hello!
Wishee Lovely. Tickerty-boo!
Audience Tickerty-boo!
Wishee Sparkle! Sparkle!
Audience Sparkle! Sparkle!
Wishee Umpah! Umpah!
Audience Stick it up your jumpah!

Wishee (*laughing*) You got there before me, you rotten lot! Well, now we're friends I want you to do something for me. I've been growing a Chinese fruit tree down there. (*He goes to the side of the proscenium*) Chinese fruit trees are very precious and if anyone takes it, it may not grow. So will you look after it for me?

Audience Yes!

Wishee Thank you, you are kind, and we'll have a practice session. I'll pretend I'm someone else and when I go to the fruit tree you yell out "Wishee"—all right?

He whistles, walks about casually, goes up to a pot with a bit of plant showing

Audience Wishee!

Wishee Lovely. Now, I don't suppose anyone *will* go anywhere near my Chinese fruit tree but—

One of the Courtiers enters, sees the tree, goes up to it

—you never know, I mean they are quite valuable, Chinese fruit trees are . . .

Audience Wishee!

Wishee I have tried to water it with liquid manure and . . .

Audience Wishee!

Wishee I suppose it will be all right but sometimes I wonder if—what's the matter?

Audience Wishee! Man at the tree! etc.

Wishee You what? Eh? (*He sees Courtier*) Hey you, get out of it! (*He shouts and runs up to the Courtier*)

The Courtier exits

That's the idea. Don't forget to call out Wishee—oh and don't forget the other thing, when I say Hello, kids, you say Hello, Wishee, so HELLO, KIDS!

Audience Hello, Wishee!

Wishee (*waving good-bye*) Thanks! Super! 'Bye!

He exits waving

From the other side two Chinese Police (men or women) enter to vaudeville music, on scooters or skateboards, shouting. They are Superintendent Bamboo and Sergeant Typhoo

Police Aladdin! Where's Aladdin! Find Aladdin!

Bamboo I'm Superintendent Bamboo!

Typhoo And I'm Sergeant Typhoo! (*Calling to the audience*) Yoo-hoo.

Audience Typhoo!

Typhoo That's right!

Bamboo We're looking for Aladdin, we found him kissing the Princess in the Palace garden!

Typhoo When I get him, I'll say to him "Irish stew! Irish stew!"

Bamboo You're Chinese—what you shouting Irish stew for?

Typhoo Irish stew in the name of the law!
Bamboo (*hitting Typhoo with his truncheon*) You're supposed to be intelligent, you're a *policeman.*
Typhoo (*posing with arms outstretched*) I'm a tree, I'm a tree!
Bamboo What d'you mean, you're a tree? You're a policeman.
Typhoo I'm Special Branch.
Bamboo (*hitting him*) Pull yourself together.

Typhoo does actions of pulling himself together

We'll get the citizens to help us. (*He calls out*) Everybody here!

All the Citizens and Courtiers enter as Bamboo shouts at them

We've come to arrest Aladdin! He was found kissing the Princess! Where is he?
Citizens Aladdin? He's over there! Yes, that's right, over there! He went that way!

They all point off. The Police stand at attention by the scooters

Police We gotta find Aladdin
We gotta find Aladdin
We gotta find Aladdin
YEAH!

On the word "Yeah" they both kick up their right leg, American vaudeville style and exit with the scooters

While music starts, the Citizens run upstage to a laundry basket that has just been pushed on and open the lid

Aladdin steps out

Aladdin Hello everybody! Well, as we Chinese say, turned out rice again! My name's Aladdin! I'm in terrible trouble with the police 'cos I've parked my rick shaw on a double yellow line. I wrote rude words on the Great Wall of China . . . And now I've walked into the Palace garden and chatted up the Princess! I'm crazy about her! Yes, at last I've got somebody to live for! (*He sings*)

SONG 2

(*After the number*) I must tell my Mum about the Princess. I tell my Mum everything. I know, she'll be in The Rover's Return. (*Or some well known local pub*) Mum! Mum! Widow Twankey!

All exit calling for Twankey

She enters holding a big plastic bag or a basket

Twankey Hello, folks, I'm Widow Twankey! (*To someone in the front row*) No dear, not cranky, *Twankey.* (*To the audience*) Cheeky devil. Yes, I'm Widow Twankey and my two sons are Wishee Washee and Aladdin and we're ever so poor. (*She encourages the audience to join her when*

she says "*Aah*") My husband was a wonderful man, wonderful, but then he died. (*She says* "*Aah*" *with the audience*) Poor man, he had a terrible end—he had lumbago and we rubbed him with alcohol and he broke his back trying to lick it off. So then I had to start a laundry. I put a notice in the front window "Respectable young widow wants washing" —I got some funny replies, I can tell you. My husband left me so poor I had to put my babies in the same nappy—that's how we made ends meet. And I couldn't afford talcum powder—my kids had to rough it. Aladdin's the one that gets in trouble. I remember when he first sat on the stove in the laundry and didn't feel it—I thought "Oh dear, oh dear, he's a dead end kid". (*She laughs heartily*) He's a Dead End Kid! (*She stops laughing*) Please yourself. He was only five when he stole a chicken and fell foul of the law. Then one day he plugged my electric blanket into the gas main and blew me out of bed! Still, they're lovely boys and I've been doing the shopping at Tesco's—(*or a local supermarket*)—for them. (*Looking in her basket*) Oh, I've bought far too much, would you like some of it?

Audience Yes!

Twankey Well, Aladdin is very fond of music so I've bought him some Tunes. Here you are! (*She throws packet of Tunes to the audience*) And Wishee loves space travel so I've bought him a Mars. (*She throws it out to the audience*) Oh, I forgot—any of you suffer from night starvation? Then here's a packet of crisps—have a little nibble in the night! (*She throws a packet—then a second packet which is deliberately undone, the crisps fly all over the audience and she reacts as though it's an accident. She laughs*) Oh dear! Someone's got a chip on her shoulder. You're covered in them—so am I—still my dress is all right, isn't it? (*As she shows it off she starts to sing*)

SONG 3

She straightway gets the audience to clap in time. If required, most of the Courtiers can join Twankey in her song and dance, instead of entering later, which would make this a Production Number. After the song, we at once hear a loud fanfare. Panic for Widow Twankey, she rushes to and fro

The trumpets! It means the Emperor and Empress are coming! Help! Good-bye! See you soon!

Widow Twankey exits, blowing kisses, crashes into the false proscenium, exits with more waves. We hear whistles being blown, as the Courtiers enter in procession. Last to arrive are the two Chinese Police, now behaving ceremonially

Bamboo Make way for Chow Mien, the Grand Vizier of China!

Typhoo And Strong Pong, the Emperor's Executioner!

The Vizier enters, holding a large scroll, followed by the black masked Executioner, Strong Pong, who holds a massive sword shaped like a scimitar

Vizier Citizens of Pekin, and of all the Chinese Nation
Here is the Royal Proclamation!
Any man that looks at the Princess's face
Shall be executed in the market place.

Strong Pong nods his head, pleased

Or his head might be knocked off
By a policeman's truncheon
At twelve o'clock midday
Just before luncheon.

The two Police nod their heads, pleased

Bamboo Kow tow! Kow tow!
Typhoo (*gormless but cheerful*) How now, kow tow!
Bamboo (*hitting him*) NOT NOW! Kow tow!

The Executioner notices the magic tree at the proscenium

Strong Pong (*with a gruff grunt*) Yang soo chang! (*He strides over to the tree at the proscenium arch*)
Audience Wishee!

Wishee enters

Wishee (*happily*) Thanks, kids! (*He comes to the tree, then sees the Executioner and is scared but defiant*) You stay away from my tree!
Strong Pong Kung Fu!
Wishee Kung Fu to you, too!

Wishee exits

Loud fanfare and music

Bamboo His Majesty, the Emperor of China—Chopsuey the Twelfth!

A couple of Attendants enter, ushering in the Emperor (a meek little man), and the Empress (a galleon in full sail)

During the following the Emperor says some of his lines aside to the audience, who are his friends

Emperor (*to the audience*) I am Chopsuey the twelfth and this is . . .
Empress (*booming*) I am Dragona the thirteenth, the Empress of China, and I'm very big in Government circles.
Emperor (*to the audience*) She's very big in other places too!

The Emperor laughs. The Empress glares at him. He stops laughing at once

Empress (*referring to the audience*) Aren't you going to acknowledge them?
Emperor (*waving to the audience*) Greetings, objects!
Empress *Subjects.* I'd better take over.
Emperor You always do, dear.
Empress I am the Empress of China and this insignificant speck of dust on a Chinese carpet is the Emperor. (*She glares at him*) Aren't you?

Emperor Yes, dear.

Empress We live in the Imperial Palace over there. (*She moves her arm round to point to it and knocks him over—percussion crash*) What are you doing down there?

Emperor Getting up.

Empress We live in Pekin. We are therefore Pekinese.

Emperor (*to the audience*) She won first prize at Crufts.

Empress What?

Emperor I said my hair is coming out in tufts. (*He takes off hat, scratches*) It's my pigtail! It's got dandruff!

Empress I don't know what you're talking about. You are two steps away from an idiot.

Emperor Then I'll move. (*He takes two steps*)

Empress Come back here. I am going to issue a decree.

Emperor What, in front of all the people?

Empress If anyone dares to look at our daughter, the beautiful Princess Say Wen, his head will be cut off.

Emperor Well, that's one way of getting a head. Hahaha . . .!

Empress Silence! I'm worried about our daughter. Men *like* to look at her. There are peeping Toms peeping, I know there are.

Emperor In Pekin. (*To the audience, enjoying himself*) There are peeping Toms peeking in Pekin, and Peeping Toms that peek in Pekin will be punished in front of the population at the peak hour.

Empress I am speakin'.

Emperor Speakin' in Pekin.

Empress If a man is found daring to look at our daughter, I will have him executed.

Emperor Step this way for the elocution!

Empress I am anxious for our dear daughter. I have qualms.

Emperor (*to the audience*) You can get pills for that!

Empress As no one is about, our daughter the Princess can arrive. (*She imperiously gestures off*) As for us, we will progress. This is a Royal Walkabout. (*She starts to exit, again brushing him aside*)

Emperor More like a Royal Knockabout! (*Chatting*) Yes, well, good-bye, everyone. It's been smashing meeting you, I've really enjoyed it, and if you want to phone me some time . . .

Empress (*booming*) CHOPSUEY!

Emperor Coming dear. (*To the audience*) You'd never believe it but I think she's ever so sexy.

The Emperor scuttles off after the Empress and all exit with them. Pretty Chinese style music is heard and two Handmaidens enter—So Shi and Sing Hi—walking with very small steps in the Chinese way and holding parasols. The Princess enters

Princess (*speaking over the music*) It is nice to escape from the palace for a while! I hate being told what to do all the time! Yes, I know I'm supposed to be marrying Prince Pekoe, but I don't love him! Oh well, I *will* find the right person for me, however long it takes! (*She sings*)

SONG 4

As she sings, her two Handmaidens stand either side of her and do stylized Chinese mime movements, and perhaps sing with her

After the song Aladdin enters loudly singing a snatch of his opening song. He sees the Princess, and stops

Aladdin Oh! The girl I met in the palace garden!
Princess You know who I am?
Aladdin (*nodding*) You're ssssh—you know who. You're my Princess!
Princess My Aladdin! But you must never speak to me!
Aladdin Rubbish!
Princess I am to marry Prince Pekoe, son of the Grand Vizier!
Aladdin Not if I have anything to do with it!
Princess If the Executioner sees you he'll chop off your head with his axe!
Aladdin Oh, I won't let a little thing like that come between us.
Princess But to risk talking to me! You must be out of your tiny Chinese mind!
Aladdin (*romantically*) I've looked up your name in the dictionary. Confucius he say, Princess Say Wen means Princess Beautiful.
Princess (*romantically*) You're very nice . . .

A trumpet fanfare sounds

(*Alarmed*) The Trumpets! You must go! It's time for my birthday celebrations!
Aladdin Then I'll see you after them!
Princess Oh yes! But now—go—please!
Aladdin Okay—but *don't worry.*
Princess I can't help it!

Aladdin exits, waving good-bye to her. Elsewhere the two Chinese Police enter ceremonially

Bamboo The Emperor and Empress!
Typhoo (*a very quick cheer*) Hooray!
Bamboo The Grand Vizier!
Typhoo Hooray!
Bamboo And his son, *Prince Pekoe.*
Typhoo Boo!

The Emperor, Empress, Princess and Pekoe enter with Attendants

When the arrogant Prince Pekoe hears this "boo" he points threateningly at Typhoo

Pekoe (*enraged*) Silence, idiot!
Typhoo Pardon, o Important One. (*He bows his head*)
Pekoe I should think so too.
Typhoo (*aside to the audience*) It's (*name of trade union leader or politician*)

Pekoe joins the group who are being organized by the Vizier

Vizier Your Majesties, Your Royal Highness, my dear son Prince Pekoe, if you will be seated.

They sit on a bench at the side of the stage

(*Announcing*) To celebrate the Princess's birthday we have the Conjuror from Cairo, the Illusionist from Egypt—the Great Abanazar!

All applaud. The Vizier stands by the wings

Two Arabian-style turbanned conjuror's Assistants enter and usher in the imposing and wicked Abanazar, who enters

Abanazar bows to the Royal Family and then turns to the audience, in the Arabian way—fingers touching his forehead

Abanazar (*loudly announcing to the audience*) Now for some mind-boggling magic! So on with the show! Hey presto! (*He pulls a bouquet of feathered flowers from his sleeve*) Let the magic of Ancient Egypt now begin!

Loud and grand oriental music is heard (4a), and continues softly under the whole of the Magic Show sequence. Each trick is accompanied by much percussion, drum rolls and cymbal clashes

Various Attendants in Ancient Egyptian headdress or Arabian turbans—not Chinese—enter, and one hands Abanazar a brightly coloured cardboard box

(*Displaying it to those on stage and to the audience*) Your Majesties and all others, I have of course nothing up my sleeve. Let me show you this Ancient Egyptian box and see—by the gods of the Pyramid—it is empty. (*He opens the lid and shows the box is empty*) If some kind person will look after it for me. Thank you, sir. Hold on to it tight. (*He hands it to the Vizier, who is by the wings*) Kindly put it behind your back.

The Vizier does so

KALAKAZOOOOM! (*He waves his arms*)

There is a flash in the footlights. At the other side of the stage a Girl screams

It's all right, my dear. Just a little Egyptian magic.

This incident takes attention from the Vizier. A stage-hand exchanges the empty box for an identical cardboard box, and this the Vizier now holds behind his back

And now sir, may I take the box from your safe keeping? I thank you. See, from this absolutely empty box I produce *the flag of Wan Lung Soo.* (*He hands the box to one of his Assistants to hold, and takes out a large flag which he opens out and hands to his Assistant. The Court applauds*)

An Assistant hands Abanazar a blackboard slate and a piece of chalk

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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SF **PERUSALS**