



Sinbad the Sailor

by Bradford and Webster

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15 The Metro Centre
Peterborough PE2 7UH
Telephone: 01733 374790
Email: info@noda.org.uk
www.noda.org.uk

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PantoScripts Sample

Scenes

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- Scene 2 Ayesha's Lair, in the Royal Palace
- Scene 3 The Shopping Mall
- Scene 4 The Harbour
- Scene 5 Ayesha's Lair, in the Royal Palace
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ACT 2

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- Scene 16 The Ship's Hold
- Scene 17 The Island of Enchantment

Song Sheet

Finale

The Pantomime Voyages of Sinbad - Cast List

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| SINBAD | Principal boy. Traditionally played by a female. Initially he is a rich, arrogant “ladies man”, but eventually we see the return of his heroic and attractive nature. He falls for Saffron, not realising that she is a Princess. |
| PRINCESS SAFFRON | Principal girl. A confident and good-natured Princess – and intelligent enough not to trust Ayesha. She knows her own mind, but is weaker when it comes to love, and she finds herself falling for Sinbad. |
| DAME SHEBA SHIMMYSHAKE | The Dame. Mother of Sinbad and Ali. Traditionally played ~ flirty, fun and larger-than-life. |
| AYESHA, THE SORCERESS | The “baddie”. She is strong and evil and will stop at nothing to get what she wants. Should be played by someone with the confidence to get the audience “booing”. |
| ALI | Sinbad’s brother & Dame’s son. He is terribly shy with girls and wishes he was more like Sinbad. He should be played by someone who has the confidence to interact with the audience – to get them “onside”. Also requires good comedy ability. |
| KAZAM | Ayesha’s assistant. He helps with her wicked tasks, but underneath, he is very good-hearted. He is not very bright and needs to be played by someone with a good instinct for comedy. |
| THE CALIPH | The ruler of the kingdom. He thinks that he is in charge, but he takes advice from his “trusted advisor” Ayesha. He is also hen-pecked by his wife, The Calipha. Some comedy required |
| THE CALIPHA | Confident and grand, but a little shallow! Loves to shop. Some comedy required. |
| SALLY THE CAMEL | The two-person “skin role”. Don’t underestimate the requirements for this role – we need to see the character coming through, despite being beneath the fur! |
| GUARDIAN OF THE ISLANDS | Act II only. He (or she) appears on each of the islands it is obvious that he is the same person even though the costumes & characters change. A good comedy role and fun to play. |
| LEELA | Attractive girl on My Mother’s Island. Becomes Ali’s girlfriend, so need to consider her age in relation to the person playing Ali. |
| SHOP MANAGER | Appears in one scene only. Confident, slightly aloof. |
| NASIM, NASIR & TOM-TOM | Sailors with speaking lines. |
| SEA DOGS 1 & 2 | A couple of “Salty Sea Dogs” with a few lines ... arrrh, matey! |

Chorus roles:- Courtiers, Shop Assistants, Sailors, Islanders

Act One

Scene 1 The Royal Palace

SONG "One Short Day in Our Beautiful City" Parody of "Emerald City" [Company]

Ayesha, the Sorceress, enters.

AYESHA

[Raises hand, as if casting a spell] Silence!

Lights change. Everyone is frozen.

AYESHA

Here I am, trying to plan my future and I can't even hear myself think!

[looks around at cast] Ugh! People - I hate them and **happy** people are particularly irritating!

But soon I will have ultimate power, and will no longer be surrounded by these pathetic creatures!

[sees audience] ... Oh no! More of them! And some particularly ugly specimens, too!

And do I see more happiness?! Ugh! I can't bear it! *[encourages reaction from audience]* Oh be quiet!!!! *[shouts to wings]* Kazam!

Henchman, Kazam, enters.

KAZAM

Yes mistress.

Ayesha gives Kazam a double-handed magical blast [ie doesn't hit him physically, but lets fly from about eight feet away] which sends him flying.

Ayesha sighs with relief.

AYESHA

Oh, I find lashing out so relaxing. I've tried yoga and tai chi, but nothing is quite as satisfying as gratuitous violence. That feels so much better. Begone, Kazam.

Kazam is trying to clamber to his feet. He is somewhat dazed.

KAZAM

Yes mistress.

Kazam crawls off stage.

AYESHA

[to audience] And you! You might well just sit there and stare because that's what you've paid for. But you will soon bear witness to my power! ... but not quite yet. For the time-being, I'm keeping my magic under wraps - it's all part of my plan. But soon, the world will be mine! All mine! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ...

Ayesha exits, laughing.

Lights back to normal. The chorus moves again.

Ali enters

ALI

Blimey, this palace is huge. I got completely lost. And I don't know where Sinbad's got to. *[proud]* We've been summoned ... to the palace ... by the Caliph. Well, when I say **we've** been summoned, it's **Sinbad** who's been summoned and me and mum have come along as his .. entourage ... you know, Klingons ... *[thinks, that's not right, oh yeah]* "hangers on". But now I've even lost mum. She's probably got distracted by something shiny. That happens quite a lot. But wait! I'm getting ahead of myself. We haven't been introduced. I'm Sinbad's brother, Ali. Sinbad is the most famous, most handsome, most successful, richest sailor in the whole world. And he gets all the girls. He just has to say hello to them and they go weak at the knees. Me, I can't even talk to them. If a girl ever came up to me, I'd probably just do an impression of a fish and then faint. *(thinks)* Hold on, why am I telling you this? Actually, I'm brilliant at talking to girls and have got loads of ...

Girl 1 walks up to Ali.

GIRL 1

Hello.

Ali stands there, opens his mouth a few times without saying anything, then falls into a dead faint.

Girl 1 leaves shaking her head.

Ali springs up again.

ALI

Where'd she go? I think she liked me. Oh, who am I kidding? *[looks sad]*

AUDIENCE

Aaaah!

ALI

I don't really have any friends *[looks sad]*

AUDIENCE

Aaah!

ALI

Not like Sinbad! That's the trouble - Sinbad's so amazing, that no-one ever even notices me *[sad]*. Hey! But you lot seem really nice and friendly ...er maybe **you** would be my friends? Will you? Oh, that's great!

Sally the Camel's head appears from right wings she moves to attract attention of the audience. Hopefully audience shout "Behind you!"

ALI

[continues chatting to audience] It'll be great to have some real friends *[continues to talk until audience notices camel]* Sorry? I can't hear you? You'll have to speak up! did you say "behind me"? Behind me where? *[looks behind, to his left]* No ... nothing there!

Camel is now on stage and moves to stand behind and to the left of Ali.

ALI

Behind me? But I just looked behind me! *[Ali looks to his right]*

No, nothing there. *[Ali walks across to centre]*

Camel is now to Ali's right.

Ali peers out towards MD bending forward

ALI
Are they trying to trick me?

Camel, behind Ali, bends his head down and shoves Ali's bottom, so that Ali falls flat on his face on the stage.

ALI
[rolls over and looks up at Camel] Oi! What did you do that for?

Sally looks sad.

ALI
[getting up] Yes, I know I forgot you again - but that's no excuse!

Sally looks even more sad

ALI
No that won't work I'm not falling for the old "camel doing puppy eyes" thing. It's just too confusing for a start.

Sally now spurts real water tears from her eyes

ALI
[hugs Sally] Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I'll never forget you again!

Sally gives the audience a "works every time" look

ALI
[to audience] Oh, let me introduce you! This is my pet camel, Sally. Sally, these are my new friends.

Sally nods "hello" to audience

ALI
Sally's great! Do you like her? She's a great pet. It's like having a dog except that you need a much bigger pooper-scooper! She likes to go everywhere with me ...

Sally nods, in agreement

ALI
..... but sometimes I forget her

Sally nods, in agreement sadly

ALI
Sally - I've got an idea! My new friends here can remind me ... er ... not to forget you!
[to audience] Will you remind me?

AUDIENCE
Yes!

ALI
When you see me, if I don't have Sally with me you can shout "Where's Sally, Ali?!" Shall we have a practice? *[play-acting]* Oh, I seem to have forgotten something

AUDIENCE
Where's Sally, Ali?!

ALI
Louder!

AUDIENCE
Where's Sally, Ali?!

ALI
That's great!

Dame enters.

DAME
Oooh, they've got some lovely shiny, expensive-looking things in the palace. Unfortunately, they're all nailed down.

ALI
They must have known you were coming, Mum.

DAME
Very funny! And why is Sally here? You know that the Calipha doesn't like animals unless they've been made into a coat.

Sally's knees start to tremble

ALI
Don't worry, Sally I wouldn't let that happen! Mum, I've been introducing Sally to my new friends.

DAME
Friends? You?

ALI
Yes! Boys and girls, meet my mum, Sheba Shimmymyshake.

Dame shimmies

ALI
Stop it, mum!

DAME
I was a very famous belly-dancer in my day. I was renowned for my huge talent.

ALI
I thought it you were renowned for your huge ass ..ets! Come and say hello to the boys and girls.

DAME
Hello boys and girls! *[await response]* I said hello boys and girls!

ALI
There, see. Lots of friends.

Sally nuzzles Ali

ALI
And I've got Sally, of course

DAME
Ahhh! Our Ali does love his pet camel. Do you know, boys and girls, there's even a song about it
[sings Vera Lynn song] **Sally, Sally, pride of our Ali**

ALI
Mother!

DAME
It's nice that you've found some new friends, Ali. *[to audience]* Poor Ali doesn't have many friends. Not like Sinbad. Sinbad has friends to spare. He's so handsome, and intelligent he takes after his mother, of course! Oh, and Sinbad is **so** popular with the ladies. Ali, on the other hand, has never had a girlfriend.

ALI
Mum!

DAME
It's not his fault, he just can't talk to girls.

ALI
Mum, that's not true. Just the other day I had this really long conversation ...

*Mum is looking the other way, shaking her head because she doesn't believe a word of it.
Girl 2 walks up to Ali.*

GIRL 2
Hello.

*Ali does the fish fainting thing again. Girl 2 shrugs and exits.
Dame turns to talk to Ali.*

DAME
So, have ... ?

Ali is on the floor. She doesn't see him. She looks around.

DAME
Where did he ... ?

Ali springs up.

ALI
I'm fine!

DAME
Oh, there you are. Now, where's Sinbad?

ALI
I thought he was with you ...

DAME

I wonder where he's got to ...

ALI

He's probably chatting up some girls ...

Dame and Ali have a simultaneous realisation. Sharp intake of breath. Look at each other.

DAME & ALI

The harem!

Dame and Ali exit at a run.

DAME & ALI

Sinbad!

Sally looks around, then follows them.

Ayesha enters, still laughing.

AYESHA

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha! Oh, be quiet! And, before you ask, yes, I have been laughing all this time. I find the situation rather amusing. Now, to put my fiendish plan into action.

Caliph enters and heads to throne.

AYESHA

Ah, Caliph. Your Majesty.

CALIPH

Ah, Ayesha, my most trusted advisor. How are you today?

AYESHA

I am expectant, your majesty.

CALIPH

Ahh! Congratulations! Who's the lucky father?

AYESHA

[raising eyebrows] Expectant! **Eager**, your majesty. Soon the Jewel of Destiny will be mine ... ours ... yours

The Caliph doesn't notice the slip.

AYESHA

Then you will be the most powerful Caliph in the world.

CALIPH

Will I? Excellent. And that's what I want, is it?

Ayesha looks deeply into the Caliph's eyes – she has a hypnotic power over the Caliph.

AYESHA

That is what you want, your majesty.

CALIPH

That **is** what I want. Yes, the Jewel of Destiny will be mine! *[thinks]* Don't we need that ... big papery thing with drawings on it?

AYESHA

[raises eyebrows] Yes, your majesty. The map.

CALIPH

The map! Yes! Where is the map?

AYESHA

It is safe.

CALIPH

Can I see it?

AYESHA

[eyebrows again] As you wish, your majesty. *[to audience]* He's like a child.

Ayesha pulls the map out from the folds of her clothing.

CALIPH

Yes, you're right, that is safe. Who's going to look in there?

Ayesha is not impressed.

AYESHA

And lay off the jokes or I'll beat you senseless with your own funny bone. *[beat]* You didn't hear that.

CALIPH

I didn't hear that.

AYESHA

Your map, your majesty.

Ayesha hands over the map. Caliph holds it up.

CALIPH

So this shows ...?

Ayesha leans over and rotates the map, which the Caliph was obviously looking at upside down.

AYESHA

[sigh ... how many times do we have to go over this?] The Island of Enchantment, your majesty. It is an ...

The Caliph's wife, the Calipha, enters. She is all toggled up ready to hit the shops.

CALIPHA

I thought we were going shopping.

Ayesha whips the map out of the Caliph's hands and hides it on the throne. The Caliph doesn't notice.

CALIPH
Shopping? Darling? Again?

CALIPHA
What do you mean “again”? I haven’t been shopping since ... this morning.

The Caliph makes a whimpering sound.

CALIPH
[whimper] This morning? Did you buy anything, dear?

CALIPHA
[forthright] No, not really.

CALIPH
[suspicious] How much did you ... spend?

CALIPHA
I didn’t spend any **money** at all ...

The Caliph relaxes.

CALIPHA
.... I charged it to the Royal account.

CALIPH
[can hardly breath. He tries to smile] And what did you buy, exactly?

CALIPHA
A juice maker. They’re all the rage!

Calipha snaps her fingers and a rather gormless looking person wearing a chef’s hat and carrying fruit enters.

CALIPH
[not convinced] All the rage? Do you really think ...?

CALIPHA
Yes! Cleopatra’s got one! And, if it’s good enough for her, it’s good enough for us!

Calipha turns and storms off towards wings shoving juice maker off before her. She meets the Princess coming in.

PRINCESS
Mother. Is father in here? I wanted to talk to him.

CALIPHA
[spitting] Yes. He’s with that *[hissing]* Ayesha.

PRINCESS
Ah. That’s what I wanted to talk to him about. I don’t trust her. I’m sure she’s plotting something.

CALIPHA

Yes! They're trying to stop me going shopping!

PRINCESS

Oh, mother, I've got a feeling it's more important than that.

CALIPHA

[fuming] There is NOTHING more important than SHOPPING!

Calipha completes her exit. As this conversation has been going on, the Caliph and Ayesha have picked up the map again and are miming a discussion downstage left. The Princess sneaks closer to the & listens.

AYESHA

As you can see, your majesty, the journey to the Island of Enchantment is most perilous, but the prize is worth the trouble. The Jewel of Destiny has truly remarkable powers. You could use it to become the greatest king in all history.

CALIPH

Remarkable powers, eh? Will I be able to stop my wife shopping before she bankrupts me?

AYESHA

With the Jewel, you will control all the wealth there is in this world.

CALIPH

Oh, she will find ways to spend it, mark my words.

The Princess steps forward.

PRINCESS

Father, I feared you were plotting something and now I see it is true!

CALIPH

Ah! It is ... merely ... ah ...

AYESHA

... politics. Nothing to trouble ...

PRINCESS

[interrupting] ... my pretty little head with????!!!

CALIPH

Um ... er ... quite ...

The Caliph turns and heads to the throne, trying to avoid a confrontation.

PRINCESS

The Island of Enchantment? The Jewel of Destiny?

The Caliph is at the throne. He turns to face his daughter with sadness in his eyes.

PRINCESS

Father, I beg of you, do not trust this Ayesha. I warn you ...

AYESHA

[dark] And I warn you, child!! Do not meddle in things you do not understand!!

The Princess is taken aback, and a little frightened.

PRINCESS

Father?

The Caliph turns to Ayesha. Her power over him should be clear to see. Her gaze is strong and unwavering.

CALIPH

Ayesha is right. Leave us.

PRINCESS

Father?!

CALIPH

Go!

The Princess turns on her heel and heads to the exit.

AYESHA

Well said, your majesty.

There is a commotion offstage and, before the Princess can leave the stage, a gaggle of ladies enter.

LADIES

Sinbad! Sinbad! Sinbad! Etc

Sinbad extricates himself from the ladies and steps forward, straightening his attire.

SINBAD

It's a tough job but someone's got to do it.

PRINCESS

Oh please!!

Sinbad turns to the Princess.

SINBAD

Well, since you ask so nicely

Sinbad reaches up to take Princess by the chin to kiss her. She recoils.

Caliph stands.

CALIPH

Sinbad!

Sinbad turns and sees the Caliph.

SINBAD

Your majesty.

Sinbad goes down on one knee. The Princess disappears into the crowd of ladies who exhale at

*Sinbad's every move and sigh at his every word.
The Caliph comes forward with Ayesha. He has left the map on the throne, the fool.*

CALIPH

Sinbad, it is an honour to meet you at last.

As Sinbad talks, he emphasises words that make the ladies melt, turning to face them and raising an eyebrow.

SINBAD

Your majesty, the "honour" is all "mine".

*The ladies melt, scream, faint etc
Ayesha is clearly whispering into the Caliph's ear, telling him what to say.*

CALIPH

Yes, you're right, it is. Sinbad, you may be wondering why I summoned you here today.

SINBAD

I assumed you wanted my "autograph".

Sinbad turns to smile at the ladies, who melt again. Princess, on the fringes of the group, is disgusted by this behaviour.

CALIPH

Ahem! No, I have a job for you. I wish you to undertake a voyage.

SINBAD

A "voyage"?

Ladies melt again.

AYESHA

Will you stop doing that!!!!????

SINBAD

Oh. Sorry.

CALIPH

The course is perilous and only a true master of the seas will succeed, but the rewards will be ...

SINBAD

Let me stop you right there, your majesty. I have not long returned from my seventh voyage, where I faced dangers and certain death at almost every turn, as usual.

The ladies gasp.

SINBAD

But I am now richer than I could ever have dreamed and I'm thinking of taking it easy for a while, you know, go to a few "parties" ...

Sinbad turns to wink at the ladies.

SINBAD

... have some "fun".

CALIPH

Young man, I think you misunderstand the seriousness of the situation. This voyage ...

AYESHA

Your majesty, with all due respect, perhaps it might be more appropriate to discuss this in private.

The Caliph notices the ladies as if for the first time.

CALIPH

Quite.

The Caliph nods at Ayesha, who claps her hands and the ladies depart making little sighs of disappointment. It is at this point that the Princess steals the map from the throne. Sinbad, the Caliph and Ayesha are left on stage.

AYESHA

Now we can talk without fear of interruption.

Dame and Ali rush in.

Ayesha looks to the heavens & sighs with frustration

DAME

Sinbad! There you are! Finally! I hope you've been behaving yourself!

ALI

Oh I think I've forgotten someone!

Ali steps forward to encourage audience

AUDIENCE

Where's Sally Ali?!

Sally pokes her head around the curtain, Ali pulls her on stage

ALI

Here she is!

CALIPH

[bewildered] Who are these people? and what is that ... that ... camel ... doing in my palace?

SINBAD

Oh, this is my mum and my little brother..... and Sally.

DAME & ALI

[waving] Hello.

CALIPH

Quite. As I was saying, this voyage is ... er ... er is it house-trained?

Caliph looks to Ayesha. He has lost his train of thought. Being hypnotised can do that to you.

AYESHA

... vital to the future prosperity and security of the kingdom.

CALIPH

... vital to the future prosperity and security of the camel.

AYESHA

Kingdom! *[then under her breath]* Stupid!

CALIPH

Kingdom, stupid!

All look at Caliph - Ayesha quickly interrupts

AYESHA

Ahem! You will, of course, be rewarded amply.

DAME

Could you define "amply"?

AYESHA

Your son will be given a huge amount of cash.

DAME

Oh, that's nice, isn't it dear? "Huge amount of cash".

SINBAD

Mum! It's not always about the money.

DAME

Oh yes it is!

SINBAD

Oh no it isn't etc

SINBAD

Mother! Please! *[to Caliph]* You haven't even told me my destination.

Ayesha tries to think of a lie but before she can, Caliph blurts it out despite her attempts to stop him.

CALIPH

The Island of Enchantment.

Sinbad guffaws.

SINBAD

Ha! The Island of Enchantment?! You want to pay me a "huge amount of cash" to sail to an island that doesn't exist. The Island of Enchantment is a myth, a fairy tale. I'm sorry but ...

AYESHA

[interrupting, menacing] Sinbad! Denying a request from the Caliph could lead to serious consequences!

CALIPH

[Looks at Ayesha and even in his dazed state realises he should have some part in this conversation]
Consequences!

DAME
Consequences?!

Ali looks worried. Sinbad looks bored by the whole thing.

AYESHA
I warn you Sinbad, you do not want to invoke my ... his wrath!

CALIPH
Wrath!

DAME
Wrath?!

AYESHA
[getting ever more furious] Your refusal could be tantamount to treason!

CALIPH
Treason!

DAME
[getting ever more worried] Treason?!!!!

SINBAD
Mother! You sound like an echo!

CALIPH
[agreeing] Echo.

DAME
[simply in a panic] Echo?!

SINBAD
Mother!

DAME
[worried] Oh, great Caliph, there's no need to bring your wrath into this, over a little sailing trip?

SINBAD
[stubbornly] I'm not go-

DAME
[interrupting] Let me take him home I might be able to talk him round.

AYESHA
Agh! *[through gritted teeth]* Alright, Sinbad, you have until tomorrow.

SINBAD
I'm still not

DAME

[pushes Sinbad behind her, towards exit] Sinbad! Shh! Until tomorrow, then, your super-caliph-fragilistic majesty.

ALI

Bye kids.

Ali exits. Dame is backing out slowly, bowing, pushing Sinbad off to wings. Sally follows.

SINBAD

[exiting] ... you can't make me

Dame et al exit.

AYESHA

Well, that could have gone better. Give me the map. I shall return it to the safety of my undergarments.

CALIPH

The map?

The Caliph remembers and turns to go to the throne.

CALIPH

I left it on my ... It's gone!

AYESHA

What!!??

CALIPH

I left it on my ... It's gone!

Ayesha turns to face the audience with a malevolent look in her eye.

AYESHA

The Princess!

Blackout.

Scene 2 Ayesha's Lair in the Palace Catacombs

Ayesha enters screaming.

AYESHA

Aaaaaaaaagh! Oh, you lot pipe down! I've had a bad enough day already! Kazam!

Kazam enters.

KAZAM

Yes mistress?

Ayesha hits Kazam with a magical blast that sends him flying. He hits the floor, shakes his head to

regain his equilibrium.

KAZAM

Does that feel better, mistress?

AYESHA

No! No it does not!

KAZAM

Perhaps you would like to ... er ... hang me upside down from the rafters, mistress. Or turn me into a slug. *[gulp]* Again.

AYESHA

No, Kazam. Maybe later.

KAZAM

Something is troubling you mistress?

AYESHA

That fool of a Caliph! He couldn't persuade an MP to fiddle his expenses, never mind persuade Sinbad to sail to the Island of Enchantment. A hypnotised fool is still a fool!

Kazam, now standing, approaches Ayesha.

KAZAM

Why do you need to sail to the island, mistress? Couldn't you use your magic to get there?

Ayesha looks at Kazam with fire in her eyes. She raises her hand, ready to hit him with another blast, but changes her mind....

AYESHA

A good question, Kazam. The Island of Enchantment is in the exact centre of the Great Ocean and is the most magical place on earth. Rather annoyingly, though it is the "most magical place on earth", you cannot **use** magic there! You cannot use magic **on** the island and you cannot use magic to **get to** the island. The last time I tried, I got very, very wet!

KAZAM

[backing away] Yes mistress, I remember....the pain. I was wondering ... erm ... *[he is struggling to piece together the thoughts in his head with the words he knows]*

AYESHA

What is on the Island of Enchantment, that I desire so much, that I am willing to go to all this trouble?

KAZAM

Erm ... yes miss.

AYESHA

The Jewel of Destiny!

KAZAM

Ooooooh, a jewel. Is it shiny, mistress?

AYESHA

[sigh] Yes, Kazam, it shines with the magic of a thousand generations. Magic begins and ends with the jewel. It can do anything you ... anything I want it to.

Kazam approaches. Hopeful.

KAZAM

Could it make me more cleverer, mistress?

AYESHA

What do you think this is, the Wizard of Oz?

Ayesha raises her arms to "blast" Kazam, but he quickly exits, before she can do so.

AYESHA

I want the Jewel! And I **will** have it!

SONG "I Want It All" [Ayesha & Backing]

Blackout.

Scene 3 The Shopping Mall

The scene is set with a "mirror", USC, flat sides facing wings. Each side of the mirror, US, there is a changing room and rack of dresses.

*Shop Manager is tidying dresses. Shop assistants are busy working.
Princess and Calipha enter.*

CALIPHA

Come along, Saffron....

SHOP ASSISTANTS

Ooh, it's the Calipha! And Princess Saffron! Look! Your majesty! etc *[all bow heads]*

MANAGER

[bows] Oh, Your Highnesses, it is an honour to serve you. How may I help you?

PRINCESS

You may help by telling my mother that shopping is not the answer to everything!

MANAGER

Buying dresses and shoes can be both therapeutic and beneficial to one's well-being.

CALIPHA

[to Princess] There! See!

PRINCESS

You're paid to say that.

MANAGER

I **am** paid to say that, but it has been thoroughly researched in a well-known journal.

PRINCESS

"Hello" magazine?

MANAGER

er ... yes.

PRINCESS

Oh, I'll just try on some dresses. Will that make you happy, mother?

CALIPHA

[bitter] Blissfully, darling.

MANAGER

[showing Princess the rack of dresses] These should be your size. The changing room is just there.

Princess looks through the rack of dresses, chooses one and enters the changing room. Calipha also looks through the rack and picks out another one

CALIPHA

Try this one on, darling! It's much more expensive!

Calipha rushes into changing room after Princess.

Dame enters

DAME

I've decided to indulge in some retail therapy to take my mind off things. Oh, there's nothing like a little self-indulgence to cheer up a lack-lustre day ... and unfortunately, most of my days lack lust-

MANAGER

[quickly interrupts] Good morning ... er ... *[looking Dame up and down]* ... madam, can I help you?

DAME

[Points to a small, dark green dress] Do you have that dress in my size?

MANAGER

No, I'm sorry, we don't. You could try downstairs *[aside]* in the camping department.

DAME

[indicating rail of dresses] What about those?

MANAGER

Yes, madam, these are extra extra large - the changing room is just there.

Dame picks up first dress & goes into changing room.

Calipha enters from Princess's changing room, backwards, rather quickly.

CALIPHA

Well! *[dusting herself down]* Thrown out of a dressing room by my own daughter. I've never been so insulted.

MANAGER

I can't believe that!

CALIPHA

I beg your pardon!!??

MANAGER

Oops! Did I say that out loud? ... er ... what I mean is that I can't believe that ... anyone has **ever** insulted you ...why could anyone possibly? *[quickly changes subject]* ... can I show you anything else, your majesty?

CALIPHA

I need shoes. I've only got 842 pairs.

MANAGERESS

Certainly. This way. *[Then, to assistants]* I may need some help.

Manageress, Assistants and Calipha exit.

The following has to be timed well, so that the Princess and Dame do everything at the same time. It works well with musical backing – a “shopping-related” pop song, perhaps? Princess and Dame emerge wearing “dress 1” they both look into the “mirror”. Princess is horrified (she can see Dame). Dame is thrilled (she can see Princess). They each rush back into the changing rooms, Princess in state of horror, Dame delighted. Manageress & Calipha cross the stage (downstage), followed by the assistants, carrying shopping bags & boxes. If possible, this is done as a short dance routine as they make their way across the stage. This short routine will cover the time it takes for Dame and Princess to change into their next dress but they will have to change quickly for the routine to be effective (they will need Velcro fastenings and helpers to dress them). This whole process is repeated twice. The shop assistants carry more bags and boxes each time.

Manageress & assistants return. Manageress is carrying a glamorous pair of shoes.

Princess comes out of changing room carrying dresses.

MANAGERESS

Any good, Your Highness?

PRINCESS

No, thank you, they made me look like an ugly great elephant!

Princess gives dresses to an assistant, then exits.

Dame emerges from the changing room

MANAGERESS

Any good, madam?

DAME

Do you know, I look absolutely gorgeous! Like a Princess! I'll take them!

MANAGERESS

(taking dresses & dropping them over into wings) I'll have them wrapped and delivered, madam. (returns to centre, still carrying the glamorous pair of shoes) Anything else I can help you with?

DAME