



# Aladdin

by Stephen Duckham

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**CAST**

**ABANAZAR**

**SLAVE OF THE RING**

**PC SWEET**                      A Policeman

**SERGEANT SOUR**              A Policewoman

**ALADDIN**

**WISHEE WASHEE**

**WIDOW TWANKEY**

**EMPERESS**

**PRINCESS JASMINE**

**MARSINAH**                      Her

**GENIE OF THE LAMP**              Handmaiden

**CHORUS OF TOWNSPEOPLE, SPIRITS OF THE CAVE, SLAVE GIRLS AND GUARDS**

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**SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**ACT ONE

- SCENE 1 ABANAZAR'S LAIR  
SCENE 2 OUTSIDE THE TWANKEY LAUNDRY IN CHANDRA  
SCENE 3 BEHIND THE LAUNDRY  
SCENE 4 THE PRINCESS' BOUDOIR  
SCENE 5 INSIDE THE LAUNDRY  
SCENE 6 THE HILLS OUTSIDE CHANDRA  
SCENE 7 INSIDE THE ENCHANTED CAVE

ACT TWO

- SCENE 1 FLYING HIGH  
SCENE 2 OUTSIDE THE TWANKEY LAUNDRY  
SCENE 3 THE STREET OF A THOUSAND TAKEAWAYS  
SCENE 4 ALADDIN'S PALACE  
SCENE 5 THE STREET OF A THOUSAND TAKEAWAYS  
SCENE 6 ABANAZAR'S PALACE  
SCENE 7 BEHIND THE LAUNDRY  
SCENE 8 ALADDIN'S PALACE

## CHARACTERS

- Aladdin:** Loveable dreamer, but with ambition. Can be played male or female as a Principal Boy. Important to be a good singer.
- Widow Twankey:** Big-hearted and comic. Always larger than character life, and of course, has an outrageous wardrobe. Should always be played by a man for full comic effect.
- Wishee Washee:** Aladdin's younger brother. Knock-about comic with a good rapport with the audience. Needs to be a good all-around entertainer.
- Abanazar:** The villain of the piece. Interacts with the audience and must always retain the upper hand when the 'booping' starts.
- Princess Jasmine:** Principal Girl. Lovely to look at, but with a mind of her own and a determined nature. Strong singing voice required.
- Emperess:** Fussy and authoritative mother figure. *[NOTE: This character can be the Emperor, with little alterations to the text.]*
- Marsinah:** Handmaiden to the Princess. A forthright 'jolly hockey-sticks' type of girl. Comedy interaction with Wishee Washee.
- Sergeant Sour:** A Policewoman. Knock-about comedy part with a sharp 'official' delivery.
- PC Sweet:** A Policeman. The other half of a comedy duo. Slow on the uptake. It is funnier if he is taller than Sour.
- Slave of the Ring:** Rather than be the 'typical' type of magical character, she should be played as though things are a bit of a chore for her – especially with Abanazar.
- Genie of the Lamp:** Physically, he should be quite stunning. He is a 'cool' character and makes much of the rap dialogue.

*A note about the rap.*

If, in rehearsal, more modern rap phrases or words are found to work, please feel free to alter them. But always keep in mind that 'less is more' and don't overdo the speeches.

Aladdin is first and foremost a pantomime adventure, and the action should not let up for a moment. Every pantomime needs pace, and this one in particular relies on speed of dialogue.

The comedy sequences, of course, must be timed, but the rest of the action must move swiftly along to ensure the maximum audience enjoyment.

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences – particularly the younger members – like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially the ballads. I recommend that no number should be more than two minutes.

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**ACT ONE****SCENE 1 ABANAZAR'S LAIR**

*[A dimly lit scene taking up the area Down Left. The imposing figure of ABANAZAR stands holding a large, ancient-looking book. On the middle finger of one hand HE wears an impressive ring. HE reads, quickly turning the pages until he finds what he is looking for.]*

**ABANAZAR** At last! At last! The ancient rhyme to complete the puzzle that I have been trying to solve for years. The whereabouts of a magic lamp. A lamp that holds the power to make me the greatest magician in the whole of the Universe! *[HE recites, reading from the bottom of the left-hand page.]*

From ancient times, a hidden cave  
Holds wonders to behold.  
Jewels and rings, exquisite things  
Of silver and of gold.  
But most of all, a magic lamp  
With powers beyond compare,  
Lies deep within its rocky walls  
Just outside – *[HE looks up at the right-hand page for the rest of the rhyme.]*  
Weston-Super-Mare!

That can't be right. *[HE looks again and then exclaims.]* Oh no! A page is missing! All these years of searching, and I still don't know the answer. *[HE snaps the book shut.]* I know, I'll get my servant – the Slave of the Ring – to tell me. *[HE rubs the ring on his finger. The SLAVE OF THE RING appears down right. She is a voluptuous vision with heavy makeup and long, fluttering eyelashes. She poses seductively against the proscenium arch.]*

**ABANAZAR** *[Taken aback.]* Great heavens! What happened? Are you the same person?

**SLAVE** *[As common as muck!]* Yeah, it's me chuck! I decided to have a makeover since I started watching Love Island!

**ABANAZAR** Well, I must say I somewhat approve of the change.

**SLAVE** Yeah, it's really got the boys in the – [*Local Nightclub.*] – excited! Yer know wot I mean? [*SHE gives a raucous laugh.*]

**ABANAZAR** If only we could do something about the voice!

**SLAVE** Wot yer mean? What's wrong wiv me voice?

**ABANAZAR** Nothing that a course in elocution wouldn't solve!

**SLAVE** 'ere, I've been elocuted!

**ABANAZAR** Yes, by – [*Name of Eastenders character.*] no doubt! Anyway, enough of all this. I need to know the last line of the rhyme.

**SLAVE** What rhyme is that?

**ABANAZAR** [*Impatiently.*] The rhyme in this book. It tells me where the Magic Lamp is.

**SLAVE** Ooh, the Magic Lamp. I can't help you there, dear.

**ABANAZAR** Why not?

**SLAVE** That information is way above my pay grade!

**ABANAZAR** Oh, you're no use to me at all.

**SLAVE** Well, if that's how you feel, I'm off.

**ABANAZAR** No. Wait. [*Attempting to be nice.*] I acquired this book on my travels in the mystical east. Do you think the lamp could be found there?

**SLAVE** Well, I did 'ear a rumour that a small country, almost hidden from the outside world, holds many strange and exotic mystical tales. And a few strange geezers as well!

**ABANAZAR** What country is that?

**SLAVE** [*Thinking.*] Ooh, now let me see.

**ABANAZAR** *[Getting excited.]* Think, slave. Think.

**SLAVE** All right, don't get yer beard in a twist. *[She thinks.]* It began with C. Cheltenham, Chester, Cardiff, Chippenham. Ah! I remember. Chandra!

**ABANAZAR** Chandra? I've never heard of it.

**SLAVE** Not many people have.

**ABANAZAR** *[Delighted.]* I must go there straight away. And when I get the lamp, I shall be even greater.

**SLAVE** But you've got to get it first.

**ABANAZAR** That'll be easy. I know the magic word to open hidden caves, and then I'll just walk in and claim it for myself.

**SLAVE** *[Slowly shaking HER head.]* Oh no no no no .....

**ABANAZAR** No?

**SLAVE** That ain't no good dear.

**ABANAZAR** What do you mean?

**SLAVE** Well, if memory serves – *[SHE recites the next part monotoned, as though remembering the rule.]* The cave has a protective power surrounding it. Only an innocent youth who has no prior knowledge of what the lamp can do may enter the cave. *[In her natural voice again.]* If a scheming old sorcerer like you should go in, all the treasures would vanish into the mists of time, and the cave will reseal itself. *[SHE gives another piercing laugh.]*

**ABANAZAR** *[Angry at what she called him, but restrains himself.]* Then, Slave of the Ring, I command you to locate such a youth who will assist me in my quest.

**SLAVE** I have heard of a cute geezer what resides in the city.

**ABANAZAR** *[Frustrated.]* Well? His name? His name?

**SLAVE** His name is Aladdin, son of a laundry woman.

**ABANAZAR** Then take me to his home straight away.

**SLAVE** What right now?

**ABANAZAR** This very minute.

**SLAVE** But I'm meeting the lads!

**ABANAZAR** This instant. Do my bidding or suffer the consequences.

**SLAVE** Alright. Alright. Calm yerself, or you'll have another turn. *[SHE looks off stage, puts her fingers in her mouth and gives a loud whistle.]* 'Ere lads. Get me a Voddie and tonic. I'll be back soon.

**ABANAZAR** Now, Slave. Now!

**SLAVE** *[SHE clears her throat and chants.]*  
Out to the mystic East we fly,  
In but a twinkling of an eye!

*[SHE makes a pass and the lights blackout. The scene changes to*

.....

SCENE 2 OUTSIDE THE TWANKEY LAUNDRY

*[Stage left is Widow Twankey's Laundry. Stage right features other buildings, all of which have an Oriental design. The backcloth depicts a continuation of the street, and in the distance we can see the EMPRESS'S Palace. Other buildings' facades are seen up stage, including the Imperial Baths up right. Other entrances are down stage right and left. A ledge is attached to the false proscenium down right, on which is situated an oriental tea urn and cup. A sign above it reads. "Chandra Tea. – Soothing and Calming." As the scene opens it is a hive of activity with the CHORUS singing the opening song.]*

OPENING NUMBER

*[After the number, a police siren is heard off. Music from a TV Police Series is played. The lights black out, and SERGEANT SOUR enters. SHE is wearing a British police outfit, but with added comic trimmings. A British police helmet with a flashing blue light on top. SHE is a typical sergeant, full of selfimportance and always on duty. As SHE arrives centre stage, the lights return.]*

**SOUR** PC Sweet? PC Sweet, where are you?

**SWEET** *[Off.]* Coming Sergeant. *[HE runs on, also wearing a comic police outfit, British helmet, but only one glove. Quite the opposite of the Sergeant HE treats everything as a bit of a joke. HE bumps into SOUR and EVERYONE laughs.]*

**SOUR** What do you think you are doing?

**SWEET** Sorry, Sergeant.

**SOUR** We are the pride of the Chandra Police Force, not some pantomime knockabout team!

**SWEET** *[Having heard it all before.]* No Sergeant.

- SOUR** We must conduct ourselves with the utmost professionalism.
- SWEET** *[Rolling eyes.]* Yes Sergeant.
- SOUR** What's the motto of the Chandra Police Force?
- SWEET** *[Not listening.]* Three bags full, Sergeant!
- SOUR** WHAT?
- SWEET** *[Realising.]* Er – I mean – always do your duty.
- SOUR** Right. And don't you forget it. *[Notices his gloved hand.]* Why are you only wearing one glove?
- SWEET** Well, I heard the weather forecast this morning. *[Gestures with gloveless hand.]* It said it was going to be warm – *[Holds up gloved hand.]* – but on the other hand, it might turn cold! *[ALL laugh.]*
- SOUR** You idiot! *[SHE addresses the CHORUS.]* Now listen, everyone. I have a special announcement. As protectors of the royal personages, it has come to our attention that a stranger has been climbing the tree outside the Palace garden to get a quick butchers at her Highness, Princess Jasmine.
- SWEET** *[Not hearing correctly.]* Princess Has Been?
- SOUR** Jasmine, idiot.
- SWEET** You can't call the Princess an idiot.
- SOUR** Shut up! *[Continuing.]* As I was saying, a stranger has been seen trying to look at the Princess, which, as you all know, is a very serious crime with the most severe punishment. *[ALL react.]*
- SWEET** Ohhh yes. It's horrible. *[HE starts to describe graphically.]* First, they hang you upside down by the ankles and throw rotten vegetables at you. Then they put you in the stocks and throw rotten meat at you! You end up in a right stew! *[HE comes face to face with SOUR, who is staring at him.]*
- SOUR** When you've quite finished.

**SWEET** Sorry, Sergeant.

**SOUR** There is a price on this ruffian's head, so if anyone sees a lad in –  
*[At this point, ALADDIN enters up right and waves to the crowd.]*

**1st VOICE** Hey, Aladdin.

**SOUR** *[Not seeing ALADDIN.]* – yes, a lad in the vicinity of the Royal Palace, they must report it to one of us at once. *[ALADDIN moves to one side. SOUR and SWEET are not aware he is there.]*

**1st VOICE** But who is he?

**2<sup>nd</sup> WOMAN** What does he look like?

**SOUR** Ah ha! We have an eyewitness description of him.

**SWEET** Yes. *[Consults his notebook.]* My mother's next door neighbour's second cousin's number one son told my mother's next door neighbour's second cousin, who told my mother's next door neighbour, who told my mother, who told me!

**SOUR** *[Grabbing the notebook and hitting SWEET. ALL laugh.]* He is believed to be wearing – *[SHE now describes what ALADDIN is wearing.]* Has anyone seen him?

**ALL** *[Ad lib.]* No sorry. Doesn't ring a bell. Not anyone from around here.

**SOUR** Well, keep your eyes peeled. This villain must be apprehended. *[To SWEET.]* Come on, Sweet, we must be on our way. At the double. *[SOUR and SWEET run at double time around the stage, bump into each other and exit.]*

**ALADDIN** What an idiotic pair. How did they ever get into the police force?

**1<sup>st</sup> VOICE** They did a crash course at somewhere called Scotland Yard!

**2<sup>nd</sup> VOICE** Aladdin, have you been climbing the walls of the Palace again?

**ALADDIN** Well, maybe just for a quick peek into the garden.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VOICE** One of these days, the Police will catch you.

**1<sup>st</sup> VOICE** And then you'll be for it!

**ALADDIN** *[Hand to his throat.]* Mm, I know. But it's worth it if I can see Princess Jasmine.

**1<sup>st</sup> VOICE** Oh, you have got it bad.

**ALADDIN** *[Sighing.]* I know. But she is the most beautiful girl in the whole of Chandra.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VOICE** And you're just the son of a lowly washerwoman, so you stand no chance with the Princess, even if you did get to meet her.

**ALADDIN** Don't be too sure of that. I intend to make something of myself. Become someone important, and then I can ask her to marry me! Just wait and see.

**SONG – ALADDIN AND CHORUS**

*[At the end of the number, a lot of noise and shouting is heard off, and WISHEE WASHEE enters on an old broken-down bicycle with a laundry basket piled high with washing attached to the front.]*

**WISHEE** *[As he enters.]* Watch out. Runaway laundry basket approaching. Help! Clear the road. *[The CHORUS runs off as HE circles the stage, narrowly missing ALADDIN and disappears into the wings. There is a sound effect of him crashing into all sorts of things.]* Owwww.

**ALADDIN** Wishee, what are you doing? *[WISHEE staggers back on with various articles of washing around his shoulders and carrying the rest in the basket.]*

- WISHEE** Mum asked me to collect the laundry from our regulars, so I thought I'd use that old bike.
- ALADDIN** But the brakes on that haven't worked for years.
- WISHEE** So I've just found out!
- ALADDIN** Here, let me give you a hand. *[HE takes some of the washing and puts the basket by the laundry door.]*
- WISHEE** Thanks, Aladdin. Although Mom did ask you to do this job. Where have you been all morning?
- ALADDIN** Oh, just out for a walk.
- WISHEE** A walk, eh? *[Suddenly in a panic.]* Oh no, not to the Palace again. You've been looking at the Princess, haven't you?
- ALADDIN** Oh, Wishee, she's so beautiful. I couldn't resist it.
- WISHEE** But can you resist being arrested? If you're caught, you'll be strung up and.....
- ALADDIN** So everyone keeps telling me. But what else can I do? I've just got to meet her.
- WISHEE** You may as well put that idea right out of your head. Even at today's Royal Parade, our exalted Empress has insisted that all eyes be averted when she passes by.
- ALADDIN** *[Surprised.]* Royal Parade? You mean she'll be walking through these very streets today?
- WISHEE** *[Wishing he hadn't said that.]* No! No, I didn't mean that. I meant the other side of town. *[Pointing into the audience.]* Way, way over there.
- ALADDIN** You said these very streets.
- WISHEE** No – no I didn't. *[Pushing his hands to his mouth.]* Look – I'm eating my words! Rewind! I never said anything.

**ALADDIN** This is just the chance I've been waiting for. I'll try to attract her attention and get her to talk to me.

**WISHEE** NO!!

**ALADDIN** Thank you, Wishee. *[HE exits into the house left. WISHEE paces around the stage.]*

**WISHEE** Thank me? For what? Giving them a reason to arrest you? Then what will happen? I'll have to do all the work – that's what! *[Dithering all over the stage.]* Oh, I'm all of a dither – *[To someone in the audience.]* – are you all of a dither, missus? No? Well, you should be. This is a worrying situation. My lovesick brother could get himself into a lot of bother. I must calm down. *[Sees the sign down right.]* Hello, what's this? *[Reads.]* "Chandra Tea – Soothing and Calming". Just what I need. *[HE pours himself a cup, drinks and starts to relax.]* Ha! That's better. I feel much calmer now. I must remember this. Never know when I might need another one. I know – do you think you could help me? *[Audience reaction.]* When you see me getting all of a dither about something, and I say "I'm worried" – will you remind me to have a cup of tea? *[Audience reaction.]* Will you? Oh, that's wonderful. Just shout out "have a cup of tea" and that will remind me. Shall we have a trial run? When you hear me say, "I'm worried" shout out, "have a cup of tea". Here we go then. *[HE walks around the stage.]* Oh, that brother of mine. He gets himself into all sorts of trouble. I do worry about him – I'm – I'm worried. *[Audience shouts out, but WISHEE doesn't hear them. HE crosses down stage.]* Did you shout? Well, I didn't hear you. You'll have to shout really loud to remind me. Let's have another go. *[HE resumes walking around the stage.]* I wish Aladdin wouldn't go looking at the Princess. If he gets caught, it'll be the end of him. Oh, I am worried. I'm really worried. *[Audience shouts out and WISHEE turns, smiles and pours a cup of tea.]* That was much better. *[HE drinks.]* Now I've got nothing to worry about!

**TWANKEY** *[Off left.]* Wishee. Wishee, where are you?

- WISHEE** That's Mom. She'll be wanting all this laundry. *[The door to the left house opens, and WIDOW TWANKEY enters. SHE holds up an enormous pair of brightly coloured bloomers in front of her.]* Mother! Pull your skirt down when you bend over!
- TWANKEY** *[Lowering the bloomers.]* They're not mine, you cheeky young thing. They're from a new client. *[Reading the label. This should be of a famous female and in the news. SHE gives him the bloomers.]*
- WISHEE** *[Wide-eyed in amazement.]* Mum, you know who that is?
- TWANKEY** Yes, and you'd better get them back to her before she realises they're missing! Now I want you to help me hang out the last lot of washing.
- WISHEE** But Mum .....
- TWANKEY** Don't "but Mum" me. It's a beautiful day. Really good drying weather.
- WISHEE** *[Crossing to the house, left and picking up the basket.]* All right, Mum.
- TWANKEY** *[Calling after him as he exits.]* And get that brother of yours to give you a hand. *[To the audience.]* He's a good lad, really. *[SHE peers out into the auditorium.]* Well, it's nice to see you all. Are you all together or haven't you been introduced? What? Don't you know each other? We can't have that. Here in Chandra, we're a friendly lot, so let me introduce myself. I'm Widow Twankey, and I run this Garment Cleansing Establishment! That's laundry to you lot! Now what are your names? Come on, don't be shy. Everyone shout out their name after three. Ready? One – two – three. *[The audience shouts out.]* There we are. Now all of you know me, and I know all of you! But do you know each other? *[Audience reaction.]* That's easily solved. Turn to the person next to you. *[SHE encourages them to do so.]* Now repeat after me. *[SHE should wait until the audience responds to each phrase.]* Hello. – How are you? – I'm very pleased to meet you. – Do you come here often? – Lend me a fiver! *[Audience reaction. WIDOW TWANKEY quietens them down and continues.]* There – now we're all friends. I like to have friends – 'cos I was very lonely as a child. *["Ah's from audience.]* I was! Nobody would talk to me 'cos I was so ugly. When I was born, the midwife slapped my parents! And they never bothered with me.

They were in the iron and steel business. Mom used to iron, and Dad used to steal! Then I met my husband. What a charmer he turned out to be. When we got married, he told me my life would be like a fairy tale. He was right, it was *Grimm!* I had to tell the neighbours that he had royal connections. He was always away at Her Majesty's pleasure! But I do have my two sons who give me a hand in the laundry – now and then. Talking of them, where have they got to with the washing? *[SHE crosses to the house left and calls.]* Wishee. Aladdin. Where's that clothesline? *[SHE crosses back to down centre.]*

**ALADDIN** *[Off.]* Coming Mum. *[HE enters and crosses down to TWANKEY. WISHEE follows him, holding the end of a washing line that has to be long enough to stretch across the stage into the wings. On the line is a varied assortment of clothes.]*

**WISHEE** We've pegged all the clothes on.

**TWANKEY** *[Pointing off right.]* Tie it off over there.

**WISHEE** Right O, Mum. *[HE exits right, pulling the washing line. During the next dialogue HE should run around the set to re-enter through the laundry door. Stagehands keep the line travelling across the stage.]*

**TWANKEY** *[To ALADDIN.]* And where have you been since first thing this morning?

**ALADDIN** Just around and about.

**TWANKEY** Yes – around and about the vicinity of the Palace, I'll bet.

**ALADDIN** Well, I may have passed by.

**TWANKEY** Aladdin, what have I told you? You'll get caught one day, and then where will I be? No number one son to carry on the business.

**ALADDIN** Oh Mum, I don't want to spend the rest of my life working in a laundry. I've got ambitions. I've got dreams.

**TWANKEY** Dreams are all well and good, but they don't pay the off-licence bill ... I mean the rent.

**ALADDIN** One day, I'll have enough money to buy a hundred laundries.

**TWANKEY** You'd better buy a farm as well to keep all those flying pigs in! [*SHE crosses right and calls off.*] Have you tied that line off, Wishee?

*[WISHEE enters from the laundry holding the other end of the line.]*

**WISHEE** Nearly there, Mum. [*HE crosses right, trips and falls, and the line goes whizzing off.*]

**TWANKEY** Now look what you've done. All the washing's fallen onto the dirty street. I'll have to do it all again! [*SHE starts to push them both off right.*] Come on.  
There'll be no lunch for either of you until it's done. [*With ALADDIN and WISHEE protesting, they ALL exit right. The lights dim slightly, and ABANAZAR enters down left.*]

**ABANAZAR** [*Looking around.*] Chandra. My search for the lamp is nearing its end. Now all I have to do is find this boy Aladdin and persuade him to retrieve the lamp from the cave. I'll summon my slave of the ring to guide me to where he is. [*HE holds up his hand and rubs the ring. The SLAVE OF THE RING appears down right.*]

**SLAVE** Here I am to do your bidding, master. But be quick about it, will you, the East Enders omnibus [*Or another TV programme.*] is about to start!

**ABANAZAR** This boy, Aladdin. I wish you to find his home. Where is it?

**SLAVE** Is that all? Have you dragged me out here just for that?

**ABANAZAR** Don't speak to me like that! You are my slave, now answer my question.

**SLAVE** All right, dearie. Keep your wig on! It's where you'd expect it to be in pantomime.

**ABANAZAR** Eh?

**SLAVE** *[Slightly sarcastically.]* It's behind you!

**ABANAZAR** What? *[HE turns and sees the laundry.]* Widow Twankey's Laundry. Ah yes. The son of a washerwoman. This must be the place. *[To the SLAVE.]* That will be all. *[SHE rolls her eyes at the audience and exits down right.]* Now I can get to the boy, gain his confidence and have him retrieve the magic lamp from the hidden cave. And then the whole world will be mine. *[HE laughs evilly. Audience 'boo' and HE turns on them angrily.]* Oh, be quiet, you pathetic lot, or I shall turn you all into – *[Names a creature from a scary movie. Then does a double take at someone in the audience.]* – which in your case would be an improvement. *[There is a commotion, and WISHEE and ALADDIN enter right, both carrying a large pile of washing. WIDOW TWANKEY follows.]*

**TWANKEY** I want every bit of this washing done again before tonight, or else there'll be no lunch, no dinner and no supper! Go on, get in there and get started. *[WISHEE and ALADDIN exit into laundry - ad libbing.]*

**ABANAZAR** *[Approaching TWANKEY.]* Madam, do I have the honour of addressing the owner of this fine establishment?

**TWANKEY** *[To the audience.]* Oh, girls, it's – *[Name of film or pop star.]* Yes, that's right. I am Tomasina Twankey, widow of the parish.

**ABANAZAR** Splendid. I've just come .....

**TWANKEY** You've come to get your laundry done. *[SHE sniffs at him.]* And not a moment too soon! We've got a special offer this week. Cut price deals on all underwear. Knickers are down!

**ABANAZAR** No, madam, I've not come about laundry, I've come about your son Aladdin.

**TWANKEY** Aladdin? What do you want with him? *[Suddenly thinking he is with the police.]* Oh, it's not about him trying to get a look at the Princess, is it? I've told him about it, and he's promised never to do it again. *[SHE falls to her knees.]* Please don't take him away from me! *[SHE starts pleading and wailing.]* I need him here to help me with the laundry. I'm an old woman, and I need all the help I can get.

**ABANAZAR** Madam I .....

**TWANKEY** *[Suddenly normal voice.]* Hang on, I haven't finished yet! *[Back to pleading.]* It's hard enough trying to make ends meet. Ever since my husband passed on, life's been getting more and more difficult. *[SHE clings to his robes. Big dramatics.]* Oh, sir, please don't take him, I beg you. Please! Please! PLEASE!! *[Normal voice again as SHE gets up.]* All right - you can carry on now.

**ABANAZAR** I merely wanted to tell him that I am his long-lost Uncle. Uncle Abanazar.

**TWANKEY** Uncle Howsyerfather? I've never heard of you.

**ABANAZAR** That's because I've been away for many, many years, roaming the globe in search of gold and jewels.

**TWANKEY** Gold and jewels? Does that mean you're rich?

**ABANAZAR** Filthy rich!

**TWANKEY** And you've come to us for a good wash!

**ABANAZAR** I've realised all too late in life that no matter how much money you have, you're penniless without a family around you.

**TWANKEY** I should be so poor!

**ABANAZAR** So you see, as Aladdin is your eldest son and I have no one else in the world, he will be heir to my fortune.

**TWANKEY** Well, that'll be nice for him ..... *[Realising what he has said.]* Heir to your fortune? You mean he's going to be rich?

**ABANAZAR** Eventually.

**TWANKEY** *[Running to the laundry door.]* Aladdin! Aladdin, come here – quickly.

**ALADDIN** *[Off.]* I thought you wanted me to do the washing.

**TWANKEY** Never mind the washing. Come here. *[ALADDIN enters and crosses down to them. WISHEE follows.]* This is your long-lost Uncle Aberystwyth!

**ABANAZAR** Abanazar.

**TWANKEY** He's come all the way from sunny Wales to meet you! *[Aside to ALADDIN.]* And he's got some very exciting news.

**ALADDIN** Long lost Uncle? I didn't know Father had a brother.

**TWANKEY** *[To ABANAZAR.]* Come to think of it, he never mentioned you.

**ABANAZAR** I was the black sheep of the family. I left home many years ago.

**WISHEE** *[Aside to ALADDIN.]* I don't know whether you should trust him, Aladdin. He looks a bit mysterious to me.

**ALADDIN** What do you mean?

**WISHEE** I don't know, but I'd be careful. He looks scary. I'm worried he's not who he says he is. I am – I'm very worried. *[Audience calls out. WISHEE has a cup of tea.]*

**TWANKEY** *[To ALADDIN.]* He's very rich and wants to share his lolly with us.

**ALADDIN** Really?

**ABANAZAR** Life has been good to me, my boy. And as recompense for deserting the family all those years ago, I want you to benefit.

- TWANKEY** Oh, just think of it. No more washing and ironing.
- WISHEE** No more *scrumping* and saving!
- ALADDIN** So, Uncle, this fortune you say you've amassed. When are we going to see it?
- ABANAZAR** Soon. Very soon. There's something I want you to do for me first.
- ALADDIN** I thought there'd be a catch.
- ABANAZAR** No, there's no catch. I just want help with a little job, and as a reward, you'll have wealth beyond your imagination.
- TWANKEY** 'ere, you don't want him to rob a bank, do you?
- ABANAZAR** *[Laughing.]* Rob a bank – you'll be able to buy your own bank this time tomorrow.
- WISHEE** I say! Do you need a hand?
- ABANAZAR** *[Sharply.]* No! *[Softly.]* No, thank you. Aladdin will be able to manage on his own. *[Taking ALADDIN to one side of the stage.]* I'll explain everything later. Meet me at sunset behind the laundry.
- ALADDIN** Sunset behind the laundry.
- TWANKEY** *[Hearing this and turning to WISHEE.]* Sunset behind the laundry.
- WISHEE** *[Turning to no one.]* Sunset behind the ..... *[HIS voice trails off.]*
- ABANAZAR** Soon, everything you've ever wished for will become a reality. Until later. *[To the others.]* Goodbye – family! It was a pleasure to finally meet you all. *[Laughing evilly towards the audience, HE exits down left.]*
- ALADDIN** Mum, I can hardly believe it. We're going to be rich!
- TWANKEY** And I shall finally have enough money to subscribe to Spotify! *[Or paid for TV channel.]*

**WISHEE** And I can get a – [*Name of a young children’s toy.*]

[*ALADDIN and TWANKEY give him a strange look.*]

**TWANKEY** Come on. Let’s go and start making plans. [*ALL THREE exit into the laundry. SOUR is heard calling off stage.*]

**SOUR** [*Off.*] Make way for her exalted Highness, the Empress of Chandra and the Princess Jasmine. [*The CHORUS enters excitedly. SOUR and SWEET enter up stage and cross down centre.*] Stand aside, all you rabble. Her Celestial Highness comes.

**SWEET** [*Pushing the crowd back.*] That’s right – make way for her Cholesterol Highness!

ENTRANCE OF THE EMPRESS AND PRINCESS – CHORUS

[*The EMPRESS enters and crosses down centre. SHE carries a large fan. PRINCESS JASMINE follows him. SHE has a veil covering her face. MARSINAH, her handmaiden, accompanies her. As the number ends, the EMPRESS bows to the ensemble left then right and in doing so bumps into SWEET.*]

**EMPRESS** Oh! My royal dignity has been damaged. [*She regains his composure.*] Good and loyal citizens of Chandra. I come among you today for a very special reason. Sergeant Sour, read the proclamation.

**SOUR** [*Bowing.*] At once, O mighty one. [*SHE unrolls a scroll.*] Her Imperial Highness decrees that, as Princess Jasmine has reached her twenty-first birthday, a suitor for her hand will be sought.

**SWEET** What about the rest of her?

**SOUR** [*Pushing him over.*] Be quiet – idiot. [*Continues reading.*] Candidates will only be considered if they are of a highborn family.  
[*Begins to roll the scroll.*]

- EMPRESS** *[Aside to SOUR.]* And have pots of money!
- SOUR** And have a personal fortune.
- EMPRESS** That's right. No time wasters, please! *[To SOUR.]* Continue Sergeant.
- SOUR** As the ancient law of this land decrees that no one may look upon the face of the Princess until the marriage ceremony, all must avert their eyes and retire.
- SWEET** But I'm only twenty-six. I'm too young to retire.
- SOUR** Retire from this place, nincompoop.
- SWEET** Oh, I see. *[To the CHORUS.]* All right, everyone scarpers. No peeking at the Princess. *[SOUR and SWEET disperse the crowd.]*
- SOUR** Move along now.  
*[The CHORUS exits.]*
- SOUR** No one around, Highness.
- EMPRESS** Thank you, Sergeant. *[SOUR goes to exit. SWEET just stands there. The EMPRESS glares at him.]* Well?
- SWEET** Yes, thank you, your Mountainship, although I have had a bit of a twinge in my left leg!
- SOUR** *[Shouting.]* PC Sweet! *[SWEET crosses to her.]* Move it! *[SHE pushes SWEET into the wings and they both exit.]*
- EMPRESS** Now, Jasmine, you may remove your veil. We are quite alone.
- JASMINE** *[Removing the veil.]* This law is quite ridiculous mother. Why do I have to keep myself covered up when all the other girls can show their faces to anyone?