

ALADDIN

*An adaptation
by Craig Sodaro*

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THE STORY

Romance, mystery, and more fun than a magic carpet ride, that's what makes this richly imaginative version of the story of Aladdin such a winner. You'll love all the colorful characters including Yahoo and his pet snake who serve as narrators; the evil magician, El Kahsid; the beautiful Princess Celestia; the spoiled, obnoxious Gorgan who wants to marry the Princess; the Lamp and Ring Genies and their "wish-granting associates"; the poetic Cave Creeps; and finally Aladdin himself who starts out as a lazy, insolent boy but proves himself to be a prince.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Approx. 37 parts, doubling possible)

YAHOO: The snake charmer.
SNAKE: Yahoo's pet.
ALADDIN'S FATHER: In Scene 1 only, a poor brass seller.
ALADDIN'S MOTHER: Overworked, worried.
JACHIM: The vendor next door.
VIZIER: Sultan's adviser.
SULTAN: Ruler of the kingdom.
PRINCESS CELESTIA: Sultan's beautiful daughter.
GORGAN: The Vizier's son.
ALADDIN: Young hero.
BABA MUSTAPHA: A friend of Aladdin.
KHOJA: Another friend.
ABDU: Another friend.
SINDAH: Another friend.
BEN WALI: Another friend.
EL KAHSID: Evil magician.
GENIE OF THE LAMP: (Alcalazar) has powerful magic.
GENIE OF THE RING: Not as powerful.
LILY: A Lamp Lady.
VIOLET: Another.
ROSEPETAL: Another.
ASTER: Another.
IRIS: Another.
SULTAN'S WIFE: Loves her daughter.
KAHSID'S WIFE: Appears through magic.
GUARD #1: Announces Sultan.
GUARD #2: Tries to hold prisoners.
CAVE CREEPS 1 – 2: Speak in riddles.
OLD WOMAN: A changed El Kahsid.
SERVANT: Court attendant.
LADY-IN-WAITING: Court attendant.
EXECUTIONER
BUYERS 1-3
TOWNSFOLK 1-2

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I

Scene 1: The marketplace.

Scene 2: The same, several weeks later.

Scene 3: The cave, sometime later.

Scene 4: The marketplace, months later.

Scene 5: The Sultan's palace, several days later.

Act II

Scene 1: The Sultan's palace, several days later.

Scene 2: The dungeon, a short time later.

Scene 3: Palace of El Khsid, a short time later.

Scene 4: The marketplace, just in the nick of time.

See back of playbook for set, prop, and costume directions.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: YAHOO the SNAKE CHARMER is before curtain, DSR, swaying back and forth, playing a few measures on his flute. Gradually the SNAKE slithers out of a huge pot. The SNAKE rears up, and the SNAKE CHARMER stops playing his flute, though the music continues.)

YAHOO: *(To AUDIENCE)* Thank goodness for automatic pilot, no? *(HE continues to sway back and forth with the SNAKE following his movements.)* A grand welcome to you all. I am Yahoo, snake charmer and story teller to a thousand and one sultans.

SNAKE: And you're making me seasick, Yahoo.

YAHOO: *(Stops swaying)* I suppose I should properly introduce you to her.

SNAKE: Her? I'm just a her? I'm the better half of this act, bozo.

YAHOO: You? And what talent do YOU have, my long, skinny friend?

SNAKE: Are you kidding? My fangs'll knock you dead!

YAHOO: All right...so I am worthless without you.

SNAKE: Why don't you come a bit closer and convince me.

YAHOO: Come, come, I value my life.

SNAKE: Do you think I'd really bite the hand that feeds me?

YAHOO: Why not? It's been done before. Take, for example, the story of Aladdin...Aladdin and his wonderful lamp.

SNAKE: Oh, no, you're not selling lamps again, are you?

YAHOO: Alas, Aladdin's lamp was no ordinary lamp...

SNAKE: Sure. And I'm Madonna!

YAHOO: Shhhh! You must listen to my story, and listen well.

SNAKE: Why? Is there going to be a quiz?

YAHOO: What if there is?

SNAKE: Will it count?

YAHOO: (*Frustrated*) Silence! How do you ever expect these good people to shower us with golden coins if you do not let me get on with the story?

SNAKE: All right, already! I'll zip my lips.

YAHOO: Thank you.

SNAKE: Don't mention it.

YAHOO: I thought your lips are zipped?

SNAKE: (*Through clenched teeth*) They are!

YAHOO: All right, then, we begin....

We begin across the desert,
The land of wind and sand
Where a mighty sultan rules,
With a terrible, mighty hand.
Where merchants sell their spices,
Where wives bake the bread,
Where all the people pray at noon,
Where children it is said
Obey their parents firmly,
And do as they are told
So they can share the good things
When they, too, turn old.
Except for one young boy,
A lazy lad, I know...
Whenever work appears for him,
He'll find a place to go. His name? I'm sure you know
He's known far and wide
Within the city his name is called
From every single side.

(*The light fades on YAHOO. From all corners of the theater, we hear...*)

FATHER: Aladdin!

BABA: Aladdin!

TOWNSFOLK 1: Aladdin!

TOWNSFOLK 2: Aladdin!

MOTHER: ALADDIN!

End of Freeview

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