

Yellowbrick Publications

Present

Ali Baba

A Pantomime in 1 Act

Script by David Barrett

Other pantomimes in this series:

Cinderella

Aladdin

Robin Hood

Ali Baba Dramatis Personae

Cow
4 Servants
Dame Ayeesha Ali's mother
Ali Baba
Karim Ali's Friend
Captain of the Guard
4 Guards

Thieves:

Fizo
Peszsky
Juan
Jock
Pedro
Horst
Sven

Market Traders:

Ernie
Abdullah
Hashim
Abu Dabi
Rashi
5 Stallholders

Princess Sheherezade

3 Arabian Knights (Optional Narrators)

Scene 1: The courtyard of Ayeesha Baba's house

SONG 1

COW *(Servants exit leaving empty stage. Enter COW, humming a tune)*
(Does a short synchronised Arabian dance) Oh what a beautiful morning, oh, what a beau *(stares at audience. Goes closer and peers out)*
My oh my, what have we here. Looks like children. Can't be though, not in this neighbourhood. You don't get many children in this far corner of Arabia. I say, you wouldn't have any grass, would you? Eh, any grass ..?
GRASS! Oh, never mind. I bet you can't answer this: if a cow is tied to a 10m length of rope, how far can it wander eh, eh? As far as it likes, the other end is not tied. *(COW laughs very loudly)* Hey, you'd better not stay too long. Dame Ayeesha will be here in a minute, she does not like uninvited guests and she's got one hell of a temper. You'd better be really quiet when she arrives hold on I can hear someone coming now. Shhhh shhhh *(wanders off stage)* *(Enter servants)*

DANCE 1 Servants

SER 3 *(Preparing feast and looking around nervously)* We'd better hurry up, she'll be here soon.

SER 2 Who'll be here?

SER 1 Ayeesha.

OTHERS Bless you!

SER 3 You know what happened last week when we were late with lunch.

SER 1 Ooh, don't remind me. *(rubs bottom)* I couldn't sit down for days.

SER 2 Should be a law against all this flogging.

SER 4 *(Enters)* May Allah help us, I forgot the washing. *(starts to hang very large bloomers)* It's Wednesday today, the day for washing Dame Ayeesha's smalls. *(pause while others stare at the bloomers)*

SER 1 My oh my, you certainly are getting short-sighted, my friend.

SER 4 Ayeesha has not been in good spirits lately.

SER 3 She thinks Ali is of an age when he should be looking for a bride.

SER 2 One with a handsome dowry.

SER 3 But he is too lazy to spend time looking for a girlfriend.

SER 4 And the inheritance left to her by her poor dead husband

OTHERS *(hats off and sung)* May Allah rest his soul

SER 4 Is nearly gone.

SER 1 Quiet, I can hear her coming. *(most servants exit quickly)*

DAME OOOh, my feel are killing me, I must stop wearing these high heels. *(pulls out a dead fish)* No wonder, I need a new sole. *(throws shoes across*

the stage in temper) What a day! I spent all morning queuing at the

bazaar and all afternoon queueing for a taxi. *(aside)* The producer told me it wouldn't matter if I missed some of the cues. Never mind my nephew Ali will be home soon. He lives with me you know he never new his mother. *(aside)* Just as well if you ask me, the trollop. Ali's friend Karim lives with us too. Karim is so very clever, he was always top of the class at school *(crossly)* and Ali was always bottom.

KARIM *(Off stage)* Knock, knock.

DAME Ooh, I do like a good joke don't you?

KARIM *(Louder)* KNOCK KNOCK!

DAME *(Looking at the audience)* Who's there?

KARIM Bella.

DAME Bella who? *(KARIM enters)* Bella not working so Ia knocks. *(raucous guffaws of laughter from DAME)*

DAME Ooh you are a one Karim. *(slaps him on back and he staggers)* But where's Ali?

KARIM Oh, he went to hire a magic carpet. They've got a good offer on today - only 10 pieces of silver for one hour's hire.

ALI *(Flying in from the wings)* Aaaaah! Hello Auntie.

DAME Hello my little Alikins *(mothers him)*

KARIM *(Looking at magic carpet. Aside)* Wow, this must be the TURBAN-charged model.

ALI You must have had an awful day, you look pretty dirty.

DAME I know, and I look even prettier when I'm clean. It's getting crowded in here. You know, two's company and three's a crowd.

A & K Yes.

DAME Then what's four and five. *(they shrug)*

A & K Nine! *(groans)*

DAME Tell me, where have you been all day?

KARIM Oh, nowhere in particular, Auntie, just here and there.

DAME What do you mean "just here and there"?

ALI Well, I went to the doctor and said: 'Doctor I feel like a bird'. He said Stay there and I'll tweet you in a minute."

KARIM And I said: Doctor, everyone keeps being rude to me and he said "Get out of here you silly idiot"!

DAME I just don't know which one of you is daftest, you're both as bad as one another!

ALI That's right Auntie, like two peas in a pod that's why we're such good friends.

SONG 2 The Best of Friends

(Bell rings off and servants enter. ALI and KARIM hide)

DAME Ah, time to break the fast. I'm so hungry I could eat on ox. *(She sits on the rug and tucks in)*

ALI *(Coming out of hiding)* And I could eat a flaming camel.

KAR Ali, you should not swear like that.

ALI Why not, Shakespeare did.

KARIM Then you should stop hanging around with him.

ALI You are supposed to be the intelligent one and you don't even know who Shakespeare is. What else don't you know? What was the tallest mountain in the world before Everest was discovered? *(steps towards KARIM who backs off)*

KARIM Why, Everest of course.

DAME Alright, but I bet you don't know what a fjord is!

KARIM I do, it's a Scandinavian motor car.

ALI *(Thinks)* Er name me seven animals that come from India.

KARIM Six elephants and a tiger.

DAME Enough! That's enough of this madness. Ali Baba it's about time you did something with your life, you lazy good-for-nothing. All you seem to do is hang around in the bazaar drinking sherbert. Tomorrow you will go and find a job at last you can start to earn.

ALI What's an Arabian earn Auntie?

DAME Stupid boy! It's what we store our wine in.
(Bell rings off, boys hide, servants enter to serve wine)

SER 4 What is it with you two? Every time the bell rings you jump. *(they serve drinks and clear plates)*

ALI We heard that all young men between the ages of sixteen and twenty four are being called up for service in the Sultan's army.

KARIM And we refuse to join; it's not our style.

SER 1 But serving in the Sultan's army is a great honour. The army is proud of its many feats.

SER 2 Is that why they have such big shoes because of their great feats?

SER 1 Foolish boy, do you not know that a great treaty with the King of Persia has just been signed.

SER 2 Oh really, where was it signed.

SER 4 At the bottom of course.

SER 2 Did you hear about the karate expert who joined the army. The first time he saluted he nearly killed himself.

SER 3 I hope you do not mind my mentioning this, honourable Dame, but on the subject of wages

DAME How dare you, you snivelling little wretch. *(servants begin to exit, backwards)* You dare to mention money while we are sat at table. Have you no shame?

SER 3 A thousand pardons my lady. We simply

DAME Enough. Leave my presence, at once, all of you.

SER 4 *(Aside)* There you are I told you she had a temper.
(AYEESHA throws a shoe at the servants. ALI and KARIM stand and make as if to exit, backwards)

DAME And where do you think you two are going? Clear this table and get on with the washing up. Life will be different from now on. We will have to manage without servants and you can do the work. *(they stand open-mouthed. She shuts each of their mouths in turn)*

DAME Well get on with it then. *(exit Dame) (momentary silence)*

KARIM Well now this is another fine mess you've got me into!

ALI I'm sorry Karim; I suppose I'll just have to go out and get a job tomorrow. I know; I can always go and collect firewood - it fetches a good price in the market.
(Noises off: "left-right, left-right etc)

KARIM Uh oh, sounds like trouble; we must be off. *(exits)*
(ALI lags behind and KARIM returns to grab him. Exit.)
(Enter Imperial Guard. Lots of booing.)

GUARD 1 This must be the place, boss. It looks the sort of dump where a creep like Ali Baba would live.

CAPTAIN Yea, what a stinking rat hole. Suits him, I say.

GUARD 3 He needs a spell in the army; that'll cure his laziness once and for all.

GUARD 4 So nice of him to volunteer. *(Hoots of laughter)*

GUARD 2 Place looks deserted to me; no sign of the boy or that smart Alec friend of his.

CAPTAIN Hang on a minute look out there. Those children are spying on us.
(Point front of house)

GUARD 1 Oi you! How dare you spy on the Imperial Guard.

GUARD 2 Do you know what the punishment is?
(All guards mime throat-cutting. DAME AYEESHA enters discretely)

GUARD 3 Don't worry, it's not at all painful.

GUARD 4 Bit like having a sore throat.

GUARD 1 Doesn't last long though.

CAPTAIN Hey what about that old bat, Dame what's 'ername?

GUARD 3 Ayeesha!

OTHERS Bless you!

CAPTAIN That old boot must know where Ali Baba is hanging out.
(AYEESHA is visibly fuming)

GUARD 2 Yea, we could torture her. She'd soon tell us.

CAPTAIN Steady lad, this is not the Gestapo.

DAME *(Revealing herself)* So I'm an old bat am I? *(soldiers shrink in horror)* and an old boot? Well take that *(strikes out with her handbag)* And that and this *(they are chased off)*

CAPTAIN Now, now Blusher, no need to get emotionally involved in this. We are simply carrying out the Sultan's orders that all able young men join the Imperial Guard.

DAME Well then young man it's about time you learnt to just a moment; would Ali be paid for this job?

CAPTAIN Why, of course, the pay is very reasonable.

DAME Then why didn't you say so before? Say, are you free tonight? *(She gets closer and strokes his shoulder)* We could discuss this over a few drinks and maybe come to some arrangement.

CAPTAIN Yes, we certainly could. *(winks at the audience as they exit)*

End of Scene