ACT ONE

Scene 1: THE VILLAGE

A village set is already on stage. If you choose to add signs, the Launderette is off SR (Stage Right) and the Palace SL (Stage Left). There is a box marked: ‘Build the Village Hall Fund’, containing a brick, some PVA glue and a photo of a relevant personality, positioned at the side of the stage. The Cardholder(s) will need to be seated at one side of the stage.

**SFX Wedding Bells CD Track 31**

As the Wedding Bells are heard, Scheherazade, Sultan and servant/s enter, preferably through audience. Scheherazade and Sultan sit at side of stage throughout, watching the action.

**Sultan**
Why have you brought apples? They’re green!

**Servant**
As green as the glint in a jealous suitor’s eye, your eminence! As you requested yesterday, they were transported from France.

**Sultan**
That was yesterday! Today I hate green! Bring me oranges!

**Servant**
I am as happy to do your bidding as musical notes are to be part of a divine melody! (Exit)

Scheherazade moves front of stage. Sultan could be reading a large newspaper, ‘Rotten Rulers Weekly – Why beheading your wife can be the best way to cut your losses’. Scheherazade could have her words in a book with the title: ‘Coming Soon 1001 Arabian Nights’.

**Scheherazade**
I am Scheherazade, the Sultan’s new bride.
All of his others have suddenly died!
After the wedding, no breakfast in bed –
She says, ‘I do’, he says, ‘Off with her head!’
If I’m to survive for more than one night
I must weave tales for the Sultan’s delight.
Stories alive with intrigue and romance –
To keep him enthralled is my only chance!
(Thinks for a moment or two) I know! A panto!
Heroes and baddies, humour and drama!
A beauty; a lad – how will he charm her?
At first his clothes may be all in tatters,
But is his heart kind? That’s what really matters.
Imagine a market, vibrant with life,
Teeming with people – from Lord to fishwife.
A suitable setting, full of mystique,
All kinds of people are crowding the streets!

Villagers start to enter from both sides of stage.

Let the action begin, my story unfold,
It had better be good, his int’rest to hold (indicating Sultan).
So, do please join in to help move it along,
Ah, here comes our hero! Bring on the gong!

**Gong Hitter carries on small gong and taps it as...**

**SFX Loud Gong CD Track 32**

Gong Hitter shakes then exits. Aladdin enters looking tatty and rather dirty, carrying some vegetables, with which he could be juggling/playing around.

**Aladdin Refrain 1 (See p74 for lyrics)**

CD Track 1/16
Aladdin

Hello everyone! My name’s Aladdin – Aladdin muddy trousers! Good job my mum runs the local launderette. I’ve come to sell these vegetables at the market, to make some money towards the Build a Village Hall fund! I work in the Palace Gardens you see and they let me take these as part of my wages. Let’s see what we’ve got so far. (Looking in box) One brick, well that’s a start, I suppose.

Builder

(Taking brick) So that’s where that went. At last I can finish my extension!

Aladdin

Some PVA glue – that always comes in handy. Especially in sticky situations! And a photo of (Appropriate name, e.g. Michael Gove). What’s that for?

Villager 1

Oh, that’s to go on the dartboard!

Aladdin

Oh dear, we’re not doing very well, are we? We’ll just have to keep trying. You see, boys and girls, I 
really want to be an entertainer, but there’s nowhere to put on shows at the moment!

And everybody knows how important shows are!

Builder

(Revealing brick) So that’s where that went. At last I can finish my extension!

Villager 1

Apricots, the juiciest in all the east!

Villager 2

Spice up your life! Fragrant spices from the far corners of the kingdom!

Villager 3

Fabrics that can transform even the plainest weed into an exotic bloom!

Villager 4

I’ll have ten metres for my wife!

Wife

(Hitting him with bag) Oi! Don’t be cheeky, you distant cousin of a gnat!

SONG 1 IN THE MARKETPLACE (see p75 for lyrics)

CD Track 2/17

Throughout the song, the stage needs to be a bustling scene, with the various characters mentioned in the lyrics appearing at the relevant moment, i.e. dancers, musicians, etc. It would be fun to have some pickpockets who sneak across the stage during the Chorus, plying their trade!

Abanazar enters SL.

Abanazar

(Pushing villagers) Out of my way, you slimy drippings from a camel’s nose!

Villagers move to BOS (back of stage) in groups and mime grumbling. Abanazar moves FOS (front of stage) and addresses the audience.

Abanazar

I am the keen edge of a tiger’s tooth; the sneer which plays on a hyena’s lips. I am Abanazar, Grand Vizier to the Emperor, soon to be Master of the Universe!

I finally have this ancient scroll, you see, telling me where to find the Lamp of Unlimited Power! When I have that lamp, I will take over the land, banish all the villagers to a life of hard labour and build a resort and golf course for the ridiculously rich and famous and Ofsted inspectors.

I’ll wipe the smiles off the faces of these cheeky peasants who show me no respect! When I have the lamp they’ll throw themselves on my mercy – and it’ll be a hard landing because I haven’t got any! Ha, ha, ha!

Now where is my lazy sidekick? Wantu! Wantu!

Wantu

(Running on SL) Three, four, shake your booty on the floor! (Does silly dance)

Abanazar

Wantu! Have I ever told you, you are the most irritating, evil sidekick ever?

Wantu

Twice a day and sometimes three!

I annoy you constantly!

Abanazar

(To audience) When he was a young scrap he was caught in a mystic moonbeam at midnight and ever since has spoken only in rhyme.
Wantu

When I speak, I speak in rhyme,
I try not to... but it happens every time!

Abanazar

(Aside) That'll teach me to go to 'Sidekicks R Us' for an evil accomplice. I should have gone somewhere posh like 'Horrids'. But when I get the lamp, I'll find a sidekick who's more genteel, then I'll be the slinkiest slither of the slipperiest eel! D'oh, this rhyming thing is catching! Wantu! Come with me!

Wantu

(To audience) Of course I 'wantu' go with him – not!
No choice is the only one I've got!

Abanazar and Wantu exit. Villagers drift forward again.

Villager 5

Mangoes! Succulent mangoes!

Aladdin

Hey! That reminds me of my favourite joke! Man goes to the Doctor’s with a strawberry growing out of his head. The Doctor says, 'I'll give you some cream for that!' (All laugh) I love that joke!

Villager 6

Hi Aladdin! I've got a good joke for you! What's the fastest vegetable?

All

We don't know. What is the fastest vegetable?

Village 6

A runner bean!

Aladdin

Thanks! That's great! I'll put it in my routine on opening night!

Villager 5

It'll be great to have somewhere we can put on shows and have belly-dancing classes.

Villager 7

And Zumba™, mother and toddler, Senior Moves*1...

Villager 6

... and support groups for retired teachers. (All agree)

Aladdin

Oh, I think I can feel the ground shaking. That must be my mum!

Enter Widow Twankey SR.

Widow T

Aladdin! Yoo hoo! (Spotting audience) Oh, hello boys and girls! I didn't know you had so many friends, Aladdin. Those PSHCE lessons must really be working! And they all look very intelligent. Now, I'm trying to think of a new name for my launderette but I can't think of anything I like. Maybe your friends could help. (To audience) Could you give a 'thumbs up' if you like our suggestions and a 'thumbs down' if you don't?

Widow Twankey and Aladdin pace and think, then suggest ideas. The Cardholder holds up relevant signs with a visual cue.

Aladdin

'Suds-u-like'? (Widow T shakes head)

Widow T

'Squeaky-clean laundry'? (Aladdin shakes his head)

Aladdin

Wash your problem? (Widow T shakes head)

Widow T

Have you seen your twin brothers, Wishy and Washy? Maybe they could help.

Aladdin

Hey! That would be a good name, the Wishy Washy Laundry!

Widow T

Oh you are a good boy, helping out a damsel in distress!

Widow T and Aladdin exit SR.

Villager 9

(Moving downstage, to audience) I don't know about a damsel in distress! In dat dress she looks more like a camel!

All exit.

1 Throughout the script, * equals possible product placement opportunity. (This can be a useful fundraising idea, perhaps using held-up cue cards. Alternatively, space can be offered on the programme for relevant local businesses.)
Scene 2: THE PALACE

There needs to be at least one chair at the side of the stage. Enter King SL, carrying apple peeling and accompanied by 3 servants – one with a trumpet, one with a long scroll.

King (To servant, holding up apple peeling) Who do you think this looks like?

Servant 1 (Uncertainly) Er, we don’t all have your artistic imagination, Your Highness.

King It’s obvious! It’s (insert name) Add it to my ‘apple peelings that look like famous people’ collection. Put it next to (Cruella de Vil). There are certain similarities.

Servant 1 (To audience) Apple peelings that look like famous people indeed! He’s barmy to the core! Cue Card: Groan!

King I don’t know what I’d do without my collection of collections. With all the things I have to worry about, it’s the only thing that keeps me sane! You haven’t seen my marbles collection have you? I seem to have lost it somewhere.

Servant 1 No, sorry Your Highness! (Exits as Jasmine enters SL)

King Ah! My beautiful daughter! Now, Jasmine, as it’s almost your birthday, we must think about the ancient law regarding your marriage. (To servant with scroll) Read it to me.* (It was prepared by... Solicitors)

Servant 2 Any Princess not wishing to be exiled to the Island of Beastly Beetles and Crawling Creepies must marry before the birthday specified on page 902, Paragraph 9, Clause b. She must marry a man who is preferably of good character, possibly with a title, but who absolutely must have loads of money and look good in glossy magazines. For further details, see page 306, paragraph 17.

King So, my dear, I have arranged for a selection of suitable suitors to come here so you can choose a husband. Isn’t that exciting?

Jasmine Father, I know you only want the best for me but I don’t think I can do this! I want to be free to marry someone I fall in love with!

King You are, Jasmine! You’re free to fall in love with any one of them! Servant, please announce them! (He claps)

As each is announced, SIX Off-key, trumpeting fanfare (CD track 33), mimed by Servant 2. The suitors walk slowly across the stage giving a royal wave, then exit.

Servant 3 Prince Boris of London! (Enter Prince with wild blond hairdo) (Aside) He doesn’t need a wife, he needs a hairdresser!

Prince Alarming of Transylvania! (Pale with blood-red lips) (Aside) Not a fantastastic match, if you ask me.

Duke Humeer of Tenn (D’you come ere often? Spivvy looking character) (Aside) Bit of a dubious pun-ter!

For further suggestions, see list of other suitable suitors in Appendices, p8

Cue Card: Much later

Jasmine sits looking very bored. Four more suitors stand/sit at one side of the stage, stepping forward one at a time. Again, for further suggestions see list in Appendices (p8).

Suitor 1 I’m fit, handsome and charming, you lucky Princess, Watch my cool gym moves and you’ll be impressed! (Action)

Suitor 2 The most lavish wedding I will arrange, I could buy a small country with just my loose change! (Rattles coins)

Suitor 3 With me you can tap dance into the sunset, There’s nothing to rival my shuffle hop step! (Short tap sequence. Optional VO: Seven!)
**Suitor 4**

I’m a footballing genius and I need a wag!
To go with my big house and ten vintage jags.

**Jasmine**

*(Jumping up)* I’ve had enough! Father, I’m grateful you’ve gone to so much effort and thank you all for coming but you’ve had a wasted journey! *(She runs off)*

**King**

*(To suitors)* Why don’t we all go and have a look at my collections and give the Princess a chance to calm down? *(Exit)*

*Jasmine re-enters with maids, who are carrying various cosmetics, hairbrushes, etc.***

**Jasmine**

I hate being a princess! It’s not fair! Why can’t I just live an ordinary life?

**Maid 1**

Don’t be too keen to give up being royal, being ordinary’s not all that!

**SONG 2** *I’VE HAD ENOUGH* *(See p.76 for lyrics)*

*[Jasmine]*

During the song, the maids could attempt to brush Jasmine’s hair, powder her nose, etc. but she keeps pushing them away as she paces around the stage in an agitated fashion.

**Maid 2**

Every life has its ups and downs, Princess, you just have to look on the bright side.

**Maid 3**

The grass always looks greener on the other side until you get there and realize there are weeds in there as well.

**Jasmine**

If only I could be free, even for one day!

**Maid 1**

I know! Why don’t you swap clothes with one of us, just for a little while? You could sneak out to the market and we’ll cover for you.

**Jasmine**

Do you really think I could?

**Maid 2**

Why not? You could bring us all back some sweets – there’s a really good stall in the market.

**Maid 3**

Come on! We’ve got to make a princess into a commoner – a kind of Cinderella in reverse!

*All exit SL.*

**Scene 3: THE DESERT**

*SFX Desert Wind* CD Track 34

*The Oracle enters and stands SR facing audience with head bowed and eyes closed. Enter Abanazar and Wantu SL. Abanazar has a large scroll.*

**Abanazar**

At last, the entrance to the Cave of Wonders! I believe the Lamp of Unlimited Power lies within! Let me unroll the ancient scroll which gives me the special words to move away this mighty rock.

1 packet of Haribo, 4 pairs of superman boxer shorts, 1 box Grecian 2000 for men...* *(Special offer from...)*

Pah! That’s my shopping list. Ah! Here it is! *(Clears his throat)* I, the great and mighty Abanazar, demand entry to the wonderful world of this curious cave!

**Oracle**

*(Lifting up head and opening eyes)* Good day, A bandana! Never mind the alliteration, what are the magic words?

**Abanazar**

*(Annoyed, reading)* Please and thank you! Aha! That should have done it, now roll over, Rocky!

**Wantu**

My imagination can stretch quite far,
But I can’t see my master as a rock and roll star!

*Abanazar stretches his hand towards Oracle’s metal ring.*