**Aladdin 2021 (Intro Act 1 – allow 10 minutes)**

Good afternoon/evening everyone. Welcome to Theatre Royal Plymouth for this performance of Aladdin, presented by Crossroads Pantomimes. Directed by Joe Pasquale and Ed Curtis, written by Alan McHugh with additional material by Joe Pasquale.

As we wait for the show to begin, a front cloth hides the stage. The name Aladdin is displayed on it in sparkly letters on a circular blue background. Below the name, a picture of a glittering lamp puffs out wisps of smoke. The outer edges of the front cloth are a rich red, showing line drawings of dragons, one on each side. Golden medallions hang from above and at the edges. To either side of the stage are entrances, their cut-out shapes in oriental style. The lights above and to each side of the stage are red and blue. Other lighting casts shadows of Egyptian hieroglyphics to either side of and above the auditorium.

When the show begins, the cloth rises, and after a moment of darkness, there is a starry sky, and Scherezade, the spirit of the Ring, appears. **Scherezade** is short, with long dark hair. She wears a silver headdress, a close fitting cap with spiky crown-like points. She wears a sleeveless crop top in pink with a silvery trim, and a long pink gauze skirt, and pink satin shoes. She carries a silver wand. Her wand and headdress are illuminated with lights.

Next to appear is **Abanazar**, the sorcerer. He is a tallish man with a mop of lilac-coloured hair, tied with a black bandana. He has pointed eyebrows and a short goatee beard. He wears a long black leather coat with stand-up fan collar. Under the coat is a purple buttoned-up tunic and black leggings. He carries a cobra-headed cane, wears black gloves and boots. When either Abanazar or Scherezade appears there is a flash of light.

Most of the scenery is on painted backdrops in pale water-colour shades. Buildings are cut-out 2 dimensional shapes.

Firstly, there is the Cave of Wonders backdrop. In a landscape of rocks and leafless trees is the rocky cave entrance. A sign above it says “Secret Cave – don’t tell anyone”.

Then we travel to the town square of Jannerstown. Rows of rickety shops line the square, with the open door of Twankey’s Laundry in the centre. Other shops sell groceries, spices etc. The shops have striped blinds above the windows and various pots and jars outside.

**Aladdin** is a dark haired smiling young man. He wears a beige tunic and trousers, both with colourful patches. Under the tunic is a dark red shirt with long full sleeves. He wears a sash around his waist.

**Widow Twankey** is Aladdin’s mother. She is big and buxom and wears a variety of brightly coloured outrageous costumes and wigs. Her first outfit is her laundry dress. This consists of a very wide skirt, and bodice with huge puffed sleeves, and a white apron. The dress is orange, blue and green. Her headdress appears to be a washing basket with a rotary washing line poking up from it. Small items of clothing hang from the line! The headdress is perched on her dark curly wig. She wears striped socks and short white boots.

Next to appear is **Wishee Washee**, Aladdin’s brother. He is short with greying hair and red cheeks, and glasses. He wears a blue, yellow and green waistcoat with capped sleeves over a long-sleeved white shirt and patched red cropped trousers. He wears red boots.

When Widow Twankey appears again, she sports a very tall bouffant orange hairdo. She wears a pink furry cropped jacket over a very short green mini dress with zebra stripes. The dress is very low cut and she has a silver bead necklace and earrings. She carries a sparkly handbag. Her knees are excessively knobbly.

Next to appear is the **Supreme Leader** of Jannerstown, who is the sister of Princess Jasmine. She is short but has a haughty manner and walks with a sway. The Supreme Leader has long dark hair, topped with a headdress of tall purple feathers. She wears a long purple dress with a full skirt. It is low cut and has a paler purple panel to the front.

**Princess Jasmine** is small and deceptively dainty, she has long dark hair, in long plaits when we first see her. She wears a gold, oriental style headdress, a gold dress in several layers with draped sleeves and a sash elaborately designed at the back.

Next we visit the harbour. Junk-rigged boats sit at anchor. Lanterns hang above from a bamboo framework.

Widow Twankey dons her red and yellow costume: this is a red and yellow knee-length flounced dress with a red bow at the neck and matching striped socks. Her auburn hairdo is a pony tail which goes straight up vertically with a pompom on top and tied with a red bow. She has a matching bag, and yellow gloves. Her necklace is made of red and yellow baubles.

The scene inside the palace gardens is portrayed by cut out shapes of the buildings and walls, lined with sparkle. A doorway is to the centre back. There are bonsai trees to either side. Above the scene hangs a lantern and cherry blossom effect.

For this scene, Widow Twankey wears her lampshade outfit. It’s pink with narrow dark purple vertical stripes. She has purple hair with a hat resembling an upturned lampshade. The dress is like two lampshades, curving outwards at the hems of both the bodice and the skirt. She has a matching handbag, purple gloves and vertically striped stockings.

The scene inside the cave is dark and smoky, with steps descending from an entrance halfway up the backcloth. The higher steps are painted on the backdrop, the lower steps are real. The cave entrance shows a starry sky beyond. To either side of the scene are illuminated statues.

The Genie is an 8 foot tall blue puppet with pointy ears and yellow eyes. The eyes open and close, and the jaw moves. The Genie wears a blue and purple tunic. His arms are folded and he wears gold arm bands.

Finally, the magic carpet. Wishee Washee rides on the flying carpet. It has a gold fringe and gold tassels at each corner. It flies around the stage, even turning him upside down at one point!

The actors are as follows: Joe Pasquale as Wishee Washee, David Robbins as Widow Twankey, Sarah Earnshaw as Scherezade, Natalie Chua as Princess Jasmine, Alistair So as Aladdin, Pete Gallagher as Abanazar and Danielle Steers as the Supreme Leader.

Also in the cast is the ensemble who take a variety of roles including townspeople, palace guards, penguins, pandas, Jasmine’s attendants and Abanazar’s henchmen. The music is performed live by the musicians in the orchestra pit, under the direction of Duncan Waugh.