**“Aladdin”**

At the Theatre Royal Plymouth until15th January 2022.

**Audio description notes for Act 2.**

Welcome back to the second half of our epic pantomime “Aladdin!” My name is Wendy and I shall audio describe Act 2 for you...we’re in for quite a spectacle! I hope you are sitting comfortably........

There are no new speaking characters to introduce you to- but there is a special appearance by a fantastic acrobatic troupe known as “The Acromaniacs”. There are also some important new props used, many new costumes and several new stage sets to describe.

Act 2 opens **inside** Widow Twankey’s laundry- it is lightly sketched in, in pink and green with a central pagoda roof with lamps on either side. 2D painted washing baskets are stacked right and left. There is a central mangle flanked on each side by a large white washing machine. The backcloth is covered in large coloured logos of famous laundry products.

Widow Twankey has six separate costumes in Act 2- she appears here first, wearing a short, bright pink and green kimono jacket and matching knee-length shorts- a relatively modest outfit topped off with a froth of ginger curls held in place by a bright green bow. Her footwear always matches her outfit.

Aladdin is now rich and enters the town square dressed from head to foot in gold....leather knee boots, breeches, tunic, cape and sash. He arrives leading Jumbo, a life-size grey elephant adorned with a red and gold blanket and matching anklets. Dancers dressed in purple and blue spangly harem pants and crop tops and huge peacock tail-feather headdresses parade caskets of his new-found wealth.

We meet Abanazar on the Hoe next- he is disguised in a mottled green ragged cloak with a large, face-obscuring hood. He carries a green canvas semi-circular bag which flips open to reveal several shiny, new, metal lamps.

Widow Twankey’s next outfit resembles the Muppet, Big Bird....or an enormous baby chick! She is swathed in bright yellow feathers with a matching conical hat adorned with two enormous black feathers! She is carrying the much sought after grimy old Lamp of Legend. Princess Jasmine is in a sparkly, cream, long dress with raspberry coloured flowers around the hem and a matching crop top. They leave, also looking for Aladdin.

Wishee Washee introduces us to a team of exercising household guards. They wear bright blue, tight satin tunics and knee-length shorts, both edged in a white pattern, with long white socks and black pumps. They perform daring acrobatic tricks using a crash mat, a red and gold vaulting horse and a trampette.

Next we visit the **outside** of Abanazar’s lair. This is denoted by a sandy coloured back cloth showing a pair of huge Ancient Egyptian figures flanking each side of the central entrance to a building decorated with hieroglyphs.

The next new set is the **inside** of the lair. Abanazar has captured Jasmine to lure Aladdin so he can retrieve the Lamp. His lair is a rather plush, gold, spangly oriental room with a central silver dais and steps, strewn with orange cushions and 2D potted palms....rather like a swanky hotel lobby !

His henchmen sport long metallic tunic coats and silver head gear and breastplates. Some carry weapons.

Widow Twankey comes to the rescue, whirling and karate chopping, dressed now as Wonder Woman ( obviously! ) She is clad in the iconic red star-spangled bustier, blue satin shorts, red and silver edged boots, a huge black curly wig and the famous tiara!

We also meet little Jimbo the baby elephant who has cadged a lift on a magic carpet along with an enormous bandaged Egyptian mummy who is carrying Wishee Washee, trapped in a cage! Enough said!

Widow Twankey’s next appearance is in a purple, crushed velvet puffball coat with darker fur collar and cuffs. She has lilac bouffant hair and wears silver ankle boots to complete the ensemble.

 After a very rapid costume change she arrives in a gold and black vertically striped swing-back dress with a turquoise conical bra top and matching feather trim. Her enormous black wig resembles a pampered poodle with it’s matching turquoise bow!

New props play a BIG part in the ensuing slapstick song routine with two verses:-

Widow Twankey uses a truncheon and then a cricket bat,

Wishee Washee wears a white satin tutu and a curly blonde wig then uses a bucket and sponge, Abanazar ( boo hiss! ) wears a chef’s hat and carries a pancake pan then uses red leather boxing gloves, and finally young Aladdin puts a feather duster and then some yellow rubber gloves to good use! ( Confused? You will be........ All will be revealed in due course! )

The finale is set **inside** the Royal Palace at the wedding of Princess Jasmine and Aladdin- both beautiful in silver. The back drop is of three huge, glittery, overlapping blue fans with silver, white and reddish orange tracery plus a silver central staircase. This colour scheme is echoed in the fabulous costumes. The dancers wear huge, exotic fur and feather headdresses and full length kimono style dresses and coats embellished with bold lozenge patterns.

Even Wishee Washee has a smart new blue waistcoat, matching breeches and a gleaming white shirt.

The belle of the ball is of course Widow Twankey- she sashays down the stairs in an enormous lavender satin fishtail frock and fur peplum coat with an outrageous explosion of purple feathers and fur, finely balanced on her head. What a spectacle indeed!

Well that was exhausting ! We hope you really enjoyed this year’s pantomime here at the Theatre Royal Plymouth. There are further Audio Described panto performances on Thursday 13th January 2022 at 12:30pm and on Friday 14th January at 7pm.

The next show to be Audio Described is that well-loved West End musical “Mamma Mia!” on Saturday 29th January at 7:30pm.

You’ll find more information about our various Access performances in our current brochure and on the theatre’s website, under “Explore” and then under “Access”. We also offer some captioned, relaxed and BSL signed performances and some touch tours- please phone or enquire at the box office for further assistance.

We look forward to meeting you again, here at the theatre. We hope you have a safe journey home. Take care.

Good night/ afternoon.