

ALI BABA

AND

The Forty Thieves

a pantomime
by G. Smith



PROGRAMME

Ali Baba

a pantomime

written and directed by Jo Smith & Dil Williamson

Performed by Headley Theatre Club at Headley Village Hall
19, 20, 21 & 26, 27 January 2001

Welcome — Princess Scheherazade tells the last of her Arabian Night's tales to avoid execution! Will she succeed or not? Well, since this is pantomime, and we don't want a mess on the floor, I imagine you may know the answer already ...!

Her story is of a poor carpenter called **Ali Baba** who stumbles upon a cave full of riches out in the Arabian desert. But the hoard is that of the most dastardly gang of thieves in the East, who will stop at nothing to keep to themselves the secret of their illicit earnings.

And all might be well if it wasn't for Ali's stoopid brother Cassim – well, you know what brothers can be like, don't you? And this one is just like that. Always getting in the way and trying it on.

Mind you, the women were just as bad ...

But I'll be telling you the whole story before you've seen it if I'm not careful. You know it already? You may *think* you do, but ... sit back, relax — and let us entertain you.

(Oh, and by the way, what's the magic word?)

WARNING: This show contains scenes of explicit stupidity.

Cast

Schahriah, the Sultan Rod Sharp
Scheherazade, the Sultan's young wife Jo Lewis
Executioner Dave Downs
Captain of the Sultan's guard Simon Webb

Ali Baba, a poor carpenter Nick Webb
Barbara Baba, Ali's wife Laurie Lewis
Ben Baba, Ali's son Naomi Burrows
Cassim Baba, a rich oil merchant, Ali's elder brother ... John McGregor
Fatima Baba, Cassim's wife Pru Harrold
Rhum Baba, Cassim's daughter Jamie Stickler
Morgiana, slave-girl to Cassim Becky Radford
Delilah, Ali's donkey Denise Burrows & Kay McGregor
Rashah-al-Gammon, chief thief Dorian Burrows
Isim, one of his 40 thieves Emily Lamport
Getim, another of 40 thieves Georgia Keen
Gotim, another of 40 thieves Lizzy Hemus
Hadim, another of 40 thieves Nikki Cross
Wasim, another of 40 thieves Jacqueline Scarrott
Thirty-four, another of 40 thieves Rebecca Jones

Senior Chorus: Dave Downs, Wendy Downs, Heidi Farnlucher, Maggi Farnlucher, Daniel Radford, Stan Sharp, Simon Webb, Dil Williamson

Junior Chorus: Susie Davis, Sammy Gedsyk, Andrea Hinson, Amy Holloway, Mark James, Ashleigh Keech, Helen Keech, Siân Lewis, Danielle Owen, Stephen Owen, Moa Persson, Matthew Powell, Samantha Tayler, Daisy Whillans

Scenes

Act I

- Prologue Scheherazade & the Sultan
Scene 1 A Street in the Town
Scene 2 In the Robbers' Camp
Scene 3 Outside the Cave
Scene 4 Inside the Cave
Scene 5 Scheherazade & the Sultan
Scene 6 In Ali's House
Scene 7 In the Robbers' Camp
Scene 8 Outside the Cave
Scene 9 Inside the Cave

**** INTERVAL of 15 minutes or so ****

Act II

- The Interlogue – Scheherazade & the Sultan
Scene 1 In Ali's House
Scene 2 In the Robbers' Camp
Scene 3 A Street in the Town
Scene 4 Scheherazade & the Sultan *
Scene 5 The Sultan's Palace

*** Sing along with the Community Song in Act II Scene 4:—**

*Take one fresh and tender kiss,
Add one stolen night of bliss,
One girl, one boy,
Some grief, some joy,
Memories are made of this.*

Songs & Dances

‘Old Bazaar in Cairo’	Chorus
‘No two people have ever been so in love’	Ben and Morgiana
‘Money can’t buy you love’	Ali, Ben and Chorus
‘A four-legged friend’	Ali, Ben and Delilah
‘The night has a thousand eyes’	Rock Creatures (<i>dance</i>)
‘Love is a many splendoured thing’	Scheherazade
‘When you’ve got friends and neighbours’	Chorus
‘In a cavern in a canyon’ †	Ali, Barbara and Cassim
‘Polovtsian Dances’	Rock Creatures (<i>dance</i>)
‘Sing as we go’	Thieves and Cassim
‘We’re in a nice bit of trouble, we confess’	Ali, Barbara, Ben, Fatima, Rhum Baba

*** INTERVAL ***

‘Sheik of Araby’	Ali and Chorus
‘Diamonds are a girl’s best friend’	Ali, Barbara, Fatima, Rhum Baba
‘Together’	Ben and Morgiana
‘Fall in and follow me’	Thieves
‘Little brown jug’	Dance of the Jars
‘Over my shoulder goes one care’	Ali, Barbara, Ben and Morgiana
‘Memories are made of this’ *	Sultan, Scheherazade and Executioner

† Join in with the chorus here:—

*Oh my goodness, oh my goodness, oh my goodness, what a line,
There’s a fortune all around you when you step into that mine.*

... and please sing along with us anywhere else you feel inclined!

Production Team

Author/Director	Jo Smith
Co-director/Choreography	Dil Williamson
Musical Director/Pianist	Jo Levy
Instrumentalists	Martin Levy (guitar), Keith Ireland (percussion)
Junior Rehearsals & Junior Costumes	Laurie Lewis, Alison Keech
Costumes/Choreography/Tap instructor	Denise Burrows
Belly Dancing instructor	Anita Austin
Stage Manager	Deb Williamson
Lighting/Sound	Paul & Peter Kosinski
Set Construction	Members of the Club
Posters/Publicity	Pru Harrold, Heidi Farnlucher
Front of House	Members of the Club

Dramatic Events in 2001

- Apr 6/7** 'A Tomb with a View' — a classic thriller
- May 5/6** Headley Theatre Club goes to Corné
- July 13/14** Old Time Music Hall
- Sep 14-23** The return of 'The Broomsquire' on local tour

We celebrate our Golden Jubilee in 2002 — watch out for further information on plans for that auspicious year!!!

To go on our Mailing List, contact Kay McGregor, 11 Bluebell Road, Lindford, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 0YN – (01420) 477682

Cast Notes

Denise Burrows (*Delilah, rear end*) hiding her talents inside a donkey is also seamstress and tap dancer extraordinaire.

Dorian Burrows (*Rashah-al-Gammon*) is playing with HTC for the first time.

Naomi Burrows (*Ben Baba*) is a relative newcomer to HTC and has free reign to develop her role as Principal Boy this year.

Nikki Cross (*Hadim*) played *Lamb* in ‘Humpty Dumpty’ way back in 1995, and we’re glad to have her back in another speaking role this year.

Dave Downs (*Executioner + chorus*) is most often seen in our musical productions, where his singing knocks the birds right out of the trees.

Wendy Downs (*Chorus leader*) has played a number of roles with Headley Theatre Club, was *Louisa Tyndall* in ‘A Balance of Trust’ and most recently *Susanna Verstage* in ‘The Broomsquire’. She also sings a bit.

Heidi Farnlucher (*Chorus*) was principal boy in ‘Puss in Boots’ back in 1989, and has been involved in a number of our productions since then.

Maggi Farnlucher (*Chorus*) has been a regular chorus member in HTC pantomimes over the years.

Pru Harrold (*Fatima Baba*) has played many and varied parts in pantomimes, comedies and more serious plays. She played *Octavia Hill* in ‘A Balance of Trust,’ and was seen last year in ‘The Barchester Chronicles’ at Chichester

Festival Theatre, and as *Sarah Rocliffe* in ‘The Broomsquire’.

Lizzy Hemus (*Gotim*) is playing with HTC for the first time.

Rebecca Jones (*Thirty-four, last time she looked*) is playing a cover-up agent this year.

Georgia Keen (*Getim*) is playing with HTC for the first time.

Emily Lamport (*Isim*) is playing with HTC for the first time.

Jo Levy (*Musical Director + Piano*) Good humour and patience are prime requirements of a pantomime musical director, and we are very lucky that Jo has both. She also plays a mean piano!

Jo Lewis (*Scheherazade*) joined HTC in 1981 and has been in many productions since then, playing the title role in ‘Cinderella,’ *Nun Better* in ‘Robin Hood,’ *Miss Muffet* in ‘Humpty Dumpty,’ and various Music Halls and other productions.

Laurie Lewis (*Barbara Baba*) joined HTC in 1988, and has played various roles including *Jiminy Cricket* in ‘Pinocchio,’ the title role in ‘Humpty Dumpty,’ *Tinbad* in ‘Sinbad’ and *Gnawman* in ‘Nutcracker’.

John McGregor (*Cassim Baba*) joined HTC in 1991, and among other parts has played *Squire Aldworthy* in ‘Tom Jones’, *King George* in ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’ the *Duke of York* in ‘Humpty Dumpty,’ *Sinistro* in ‘Sinbad’ and *Hans Stahlbaum* in ‘Nutcracker’.

Kay McGregor (*Delilah, front end + chorus*) joined HTC in 1991 and has since then been involved in most of our productions, both on and off the stage.

Becky Radford (*Morgiana*) continues a long-established family tradition of involvement in HTC pantos. Principal girl parts are often a bit wet—but *Morgiana* isn't. Go for it, Becky!

Daniel Radford (*Chorus*) follows in an established thespian line, and has been promoted to the senior chorus this year.

Jacqueline Scarrott (*Wasim*) is playing with HTC for the first time.

Rod Sharp (*Sultan*) has been involved in too many HTC pantos for his (or the audiences') good! Among favourite roles of his have been *Blind Pew* in 'Robinson Crusoe,' *Crunchbones* in 'Sinbad,' *Friar Tuck* in 'Robin Hood' – and one of the Thieves in his parents' 1979 production of 'Ali Baba'.

Stan Sharp (*Chorus*) with his wife Joan wrote and directed the 1979 'Ali Baba'. He has played *Mr Foreshaw* in 'Flora's Heatherley' and *Giles Cheel*, and other parts, in 'The Broomsquire' — and he's already played *Gepatto* in the LAMPS production of 'Pinocchio' this season!

Jo Smith (*Author/Director*) joined HTC in 1978, his first role being *Cassim* in

Stan & Joan Sharp's 'Ali Baba'! Since then he has played many roles in the Club, particularly enjoying pantomimes. He now writes and publishes for a living, and is responsible for today's script. Oh yes he is!

Jamie Stickler (*Rhum Baba*) has played many parts in previous productions, but never one like this before! We worry, because he's enjoying it so much!! Judge for yourselves!!!

Nick Webb (*Ali Baba*) joined HTC as a junior more years ago than he cares to remember and has appeared in most Club productions since then. He recently played *Walter Chapman* in 'Flora's Heatherley' and *Markham* in 'The Broomsquire'.

Simon Webb (*Captain + chorus*) has played several roles in previous HTC productions.

Deb Williamson (*Stage Manager*) currently watches TV for a living—dream on! One day she will be a famous cameraman, but right now has to make do with sorting out HTC!

Dil Williamson (*Co-director + chorus*) is the current chairman of Headley Theatre Club, for whom she also acts, sings, dances, directs, back-stages, front-of-houses, and stops bucks from passing.

Visit the Headley Theatre Club website
www.headley1.demon.co.uk/htc

Our thanks to all those who sold tickets for us, especially Tina's Hairdressers, Alfred Whittle & Sons (Headley Down) and Business Connections (Grayshott)
