

STAGING NOTES

Although at first sight there are a number of scenes in this production, they can be represented fairly simply by using a generic Eastern village as a backdrop and having side 'flats' (large dividers can be handy), at either side of the stage, stage left (SL)* being the Palace side and stage right (SR) the 'Seedy side of town' with paintings of a palace/some run-down shops respectively. If you want to have several different visuals, you can pin various scenes to the back of the 'flats' and 'throw' them over as required. Heavy-duty white sheeting or very large, sturdy paper can be used for this.

Alternatively, include the launderette and palace on the village backdrop and use signs and a few well-chosen props to denote the various scenes.

If you want to include some shops on your backdrop, the following are suggestions for some silly names:

- Rex Carz Automobile repairs
- Lee King & Ray D Ator Central heating specialists
- Bill Board Advertising
- Ted E. Bares Toy Shoppe
- Kareem Cheese Deli
- Chester Drawers quality furniture

Keep an eye on the Out of the Ark website (www.outoftheark.com) for any digital backdrops that may become available for this musical.

Other possible signs and ideas to set the different scenes:

The Desert

'The Desert: Nearest Oasis 10 km (Picture of a camel/fork and spoon/KFC)'

You could also have a couple of children wafting some sand-coloured fabric on the front of the stage

The Palace

'The Palace: A cross between Buckingham Palace and the (local Eastern restaurant)'

Add a couple of throne-like chairs and an eastern-type rug. If you can find a stuffed corgi or two, all the better!

The Palace – Jasmine's Room

'Jasmine's room: Only girls allowed'

Keep this the same as the palace, but throw some clothes on the thrones/floor and put up a One Direction poster.

The Launderette

'The Launderette: Your stain's our gain!'

Act One: carry on a table with tub, powder (value/essentials range), etc. and laundry baskets/bags with signs on, as per stage directions. The washing line will be carried on.

Act Two: powder should now be 'Waitrose/Tesco Finest'; washing machine is brought on.

Inside The Cave of Wonders

'The Cave of Wonders: Nothing under £1,000!'

Low lighting would be useful for this scene and you will definitely need some treasure.

* Stage left is the actor's left as they stand on the stage facing the audience, similarly, stage right is the actor's right as they face the audience.

PROPS CHECKLIST

Prompt cards:

- Ahh!; Hooray!; BOO!; Groan!
BOO! HISS!; Much later; Visual
thumbs up & down; Yes

Smaller props:

- Vegetables
 Box containing a brick, PVA glue,
photo suitable for dartboard
 Small gong
 Apples
 Newspaper for Sultan: *'Rotten
Rulers Weekly – Why beheading
your wife may be the best way to
cut your losses'*
 Book for Scheherazade: *'Coming
soon, 1001 Arabian Nights'*
 List and scroll for Abanazar
 Chair
 Apple peeling (*could be spiral of
green paper*)
 Trumpet (*real or 2D*)
 Scroll for servant

- Hairbrush, powder, etc. for
Jasmine's Maids
 Bags of sweets
 Perfume bottle
 Rope
 Lamp
 Brass instruments (*real or 2D*)
 Certificates
 Signposts: *'To Wishy Washy
Laundry'; 'To New Village Hall'*
 String of lamps
 Box of junk (*which will have lamp
on top in Act 2*)
 Gems for Aladdin
 DJ Headphones
 Bag with bloomers etc. in for
Widow T to show Abanazar
 Paper for rats

Larger props:

- Rickshaw (*use a cut cardboard
box for the frame of the 'car'
with handles on the inside of this.
Attach a wooden frame to the
outside and cardboard wheels*)
 Signs for rear of rickshaw *'Heavy
Load on board' 'UR 2 WED'* and
balloons
 Washing machine
 Stalls for market traders with
suitable items
 Washing line with odd socks,
humorous items
 Bags for launderette with
contemporary references
 Treasure for cave
 Decorator's van (*Matt Paint and
Wal Paper, Superior Decorators,
watching paint dry since 1990*)
Could be 2D or cardboard box
with shoulder straps that one of
them could be 'wearing'

APPENDICES

Alternative suitors (non-speaking)

Name	Comment	Costume/prop
Otto Graph	<i>thinks a lot of himself</i>	<i>celebrity</i>
Hugh Canduit	<i>an encouraging character</i>	<i>carrying sign 'You go girl!'</i>
Olaf Atdejoke	<i>a bit miserable</i>	<i>dark outfit, miserable face</i>
Al Gebrah	<i>a bit of a mystery man</i>	<i>spy outfit</i>
Dick Shanary	<i>self explanatory</i>	<i>just wave</i>
Theo Saurus	<i>smart, intelligent, clever, bright</i>	<i>'boffin' outfit</i>
Dan Druff	<i>a bit flaky</i>	<i>scratching head</i>
Earl E Byrd	<i>worms his way into your affections</i>	<i>plumed hat and worm</i>
Emile Ticket	<i>rich and foolish</i>	<i>posh outfit</i>
Marcus Absent	<i>never around when you want him</i>	<i>doesn't appear</i>
Lee Derhosen	<i>eccentric dresser</i>	<i>lederhosen!</i>
Harry Stockracy	<i>a cut above the rest</i>	<i>country gent, royal wave</i>

Alternative Suitors (Speaking)

I'll take you up mountains, through jungles and nettles,
You'll just need a rucksack, insect spray and a kettle.

Let me cook you up banquets, TV dinners and roasts,
Be the hostess with the mostest and I'll be your host!

You'll tremble at my tremolo; at my quavers you will quiver
My virtuoso vibrato down your spine will make you shiver!

Explorer outfit

Chef

Opera singer