

Ali Baba And The Bongo Bandits

Junior Script

by

Craig Hawes

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

The Narrator

*Alakazam (47)

The Baba Shop Quartet

*Ali Baba (62)

Flossy Baba (64)

Humphrey The Camel (0)

*Genie Of The Ketchup (38)

The Sultan's Household

Sultan Pepper (65)

*Princess Satsuma (65)

Grand Vizier (74)

Booboo The Monkey (0)

Semolina (6)

Tapioca (5)

Figgy (5)

The Bongo Bandits

*Balthazar Bongo (60)

Dusty Sandals (58)

Sandy Sandals (54)

Izzi (4)

Wazzi (4)

Azzi (4)

Mufti (4)

Tufti (4)

Shifti (4)

Gonk (4)

The Palace Guards

Chief Achoo (30)

Guard Apu (13)

Guard Aleik (13)

Guard Azit (12)

Guard Azha (11)

The Rich Sheiks

Sheik Aleg (6)

Sheik Yahand (6)

Sheik Yabuti (6)

The Bazaar Traders

Abdul The Snake Charmer (5)

Fatima The Fortune Teller (3)

Kindle The Bookseller (6)

Nando The Chicken Seller (2)

Taffeta The Cloth Seller (2)

Senna The Perfume Seller (2)

Clementine The Fruit Seller (2)

The Citizens Of Old Baghdad

Bish (5)

Bosh (4)

Baz (5)

Gaz (4)

Jib (4)

Jab (4)

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

NB. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

Grand Vizier.....	74
Sultan Pepper.....	65
*Princess Satsuma	65
Flossy Baba.....	64
*Ali Baba.....	62
*Balthazar Bongo.....	60
Dusty Sandals	58
Sandy Sandals	54
*Alakazam	47
*Genie Of The Ketchup	38
Chief Achoo	30
Guard Apu	13
Guard Aleik.....	13
Guard Azit.....	12
Guard Azha	11
Semolina.....	6
Sheik Aleg	6
Sheik Yahand	6
Sheik Yabuti	6
Kindle The Bookseller.....	6
Tapioca.....	5
Figgy.....	5
Abdul The Snake Charmer	5
Bish.....	5
Baz	5
Izzi	4
Wazzi.....	4
Azzi.....	4
Mufti.....	4
Tufti.....	4
Shifti.....	4
Gonk	4
Bosh	4

Gaz.....	4
Jib.....	4
Jab.....	4
Fatima The Fortune Teller.....	3
Nando The Chicken Seller.....	2
Taffeta The Cloth Seller.....	2
Senna The Perfume Seller.....	2
Clementine The Fruit Seller.....	2

CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

Abdul The Snake Charmer	5
*Alakazam	47
*Ali Baba.....	62
Azzi.....	4
*Balthazar Bongo.....	60
Baz	4
Bish.....	5
Bosh	4
Chief Achoo	30
Clementine The Fruit Seller.....	2
Dusty Sandals	58
Fatima The Fortune Teller	3
Figgy.....	5
Flossy Baba.....	64
Gaz	4
*Genie Of The Ketchup	38
Gonk.....	4
Grand Vizier.....	74
Guard Aleik.....	13
Guard Apu	13
Guard Azha	12
Guard Azit.....	11
Izzi	4
Jab.....	4
Jib.....	4
Kindle The Bookseller.....	6
Mufti.....	4
Nando The Chicken Seller.....	2
*Princess Satsuma	65
Sandy Sandals	54
Semolina.....	6
Senna The Perfume Seller	2
Sheik Aleg	6

Sheik Yabuti	6
Sheik Yahand	6
Shifti.....	4
Sultan Pepper.....	65
Taffeta The Cloth Seller.....	2
Tapioca.....	5
Tufti.....	4
Wazzi.....	4

Non Speaking Roles:- Booboo The Monkey, Humphrey The Camel (Back), Humphrey The Camel (Front)

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Alakazam
 Chorus
 Bazaar Traders
 Citizens
 Rich Sheiks
 Izzi
 Wazzi
 Azzi
 Palace Guards
 Grand Vizier
 Booboo
 Sultan Pepper
 Princess
 Satsuma
 Handmaidens
 Flossy Baba
 Ali Baba
 Humphrey

Scene Two

Alakazam
 Dusty Sandals
 Sandy Sandals
 Bongo Bandits
 Chorus

Scene Three

Alakazam
 Sultan Pepper
 Grand Vizier
 Booboo
 Palace Guards
 Rich Sheiks
 Balthazar
 Bongo
 Handmaidens

Scene Four

Alakazam
 Princess
 Satsuma
 Ali Baba
 Humphrey
 Chorus
 Dusty Sandals
 Sandy Sandals
 Palace Guards
 Bongo Bandits

Scene Five

Alakazam
 Dusty Sandals
 Sandy Sandals
 Bazaar Traders
 Citizens
 Flossy Baba
 Genie
 Grand Vizier
 Booboo
 Palace Guards
 Ali Baba

Scene Six

Alakazam
 Genie
 Ali Baba
 Princess
 Satsuma
 Flossy Baba
 Chorus

Scene Seven

Alakazam
 Sultan Pepper
 Handmaidens
 Grand Vizier
 Booboo
 Dusty Sandals
 Sandy Sandals
 Palace Guards
 Bongo Bandits
 Genie
 Princess
 Satsuma
 Flossy Baba
 Ali Baba

Scene Eight

Sultan Pepper
 Grand Vizier
 Booboo
 Bazaar Traders
 Rich Sheiks
 Citizens
 Humphrey
 Princess
 Satsuma
 Ali Baba
 Flossy Baba
 Palace Guards
 Genie
 Alakazam
 Handmaidens
 Chorus

LIST OF PROPERTIES

Scene One

3 x Bowls of jewels	The Rich Sheiks
Pipe and snake	Abdul The Snake Charmer
Crystal ball	Fatima The Fortune Teller
2 x Large books, including "How to Hide from Guards"	Kindle The Bookseller
2 x Rubber chicken	Nando The Chicken Seller
Silk	Taffeta The Cloth Seller
Perfume	Senna The Perfume Seller
Carrier bag	Clementine The Fruit Seller
5 x Spears	The Palace Guards
Gong and mallet	Booboo The Monkey
Brown paper bag	Princess Satsuma
Stick with beards hanging from it.....	Alakazam
Rolled up carpet	Flossy Baba
Carpet with hole.....	Flossy Baba

Scene Two

Cave Of Wonders	Set on stage
"Back Of Beyond" signpost.....	Set on stage
2 x Bags of coins	Mufti & Tufti
2 x Large lollipops.....	Shifti & Gonk
3 x Bowls of jewels	Izzi, Wazzi & Azzi

Scene Three

Throne	Set on stage
Royal Ruby	Sultan Pepper
5 x Spears	The Palace Guards
Gong and mallet	Booboo The Monkey
Blackened envelopes	Guard Azha
Rubber duck covered in cloth	Sheik Aleg
Tea-cosy covered in cloth.....	Sheik Yahand
Garden gnome covered in cloth	Sheik Yabuti
Brown paper bag	Semolina
Large key.....	Balthazar Bongo
Cardboard thought bubble "Mwa, ha, ha, ha!"	Alakazam

Scene Four

Cave Of Wonders Set on stage
 "Back Of Beyond" signpost Set on stage
 Rolled up carpet Ali Baba
 2 x Bags of treasure Dusty Sandals & Sandy Sandals
 Royal Ruby Sandy Sandals
 5 x Spears The Palace Guards
 7 x Bags of treasure The Bongo Bandits

Scene Five

Pipe and snake Abdul The Snake Charmer
 Crystal ball Fatima The Fortune Teller
 "History of Sausages" book Kindle The Bookseller
 "How to Save Your Son" book Kindle The Bookseller
 2 x Rubber chickens Nando The Chicken Seller
 Silk Taffeta The Cloth Seller
 Perfume Senna The Perfume Seller
 Carrier bags Clementine The Fruit Seller
 Giant ketchup bottle Alakazam
 5 x Spears The Palace Guards
 Gong and mallet Booboo The Monkey

Scene Six

Cave Of Wonders Set on stage
 "Back Of Beyond" signpost Set on stage
 Rolled up carpet Inside the cave

Scene Seven

2 x Bags labelled "S.P" Booboo The Monkey
 5 x Spears The Palace Guards
 Flat cut out of jars The Bongo Bandits
 Giant ketchup bottle Flossy Baba

Scene Eight

5 x Spears The Palace Guards
 Gong and mallet Booboo The Monkey
 Giant ketchup bottle Flossy Baba
 Large pair of briefs Ali Baba
 Wooden "Doo-Doo" bucket Figgy
 Royal Ruby In "Doo-Doo" bucket
 Golden bath plug medallion Sultan Pepper

PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to Ali Baba & The Bongo Bandits! I am sure you will enjoy rehearsing and performing this musical comedy, but to aid you in your production it may be helpful to consider the following notes.

CASTING

The script is written for 44 characters (including the three non-speaking roles: Booboo the Monkey and the two-person role of Humphrey the Camel). These range from principal parts to smaller supporting roles. For productions with fewer cast members, condensing of characters is possible. This can be done in numerous ways, but the following example reduces the cast number to 29:

- Remove Guard Azha (reallocating lines between other Guards)
- Remove Handmaiden Figgy (reallocating lines between other Handmaidens)
- Remove Bandits Tufti and Gonk (reallocating lines to Mufti & Shifti respectively)
- Remove Traders Taffeta, Senna & Clementine (reallocating lines between other Traders)
- Remove all Citizens (reallocating lines between the Traders)
- Enlist two willing adults to play the role of Humphrey The Camel

To expand the cast, unlimited chorus parts may be used as additional Citizens, Traders, Guards, Bandits (there should be forty of them, after all!) and Handmaidens, possibly redistributing some lines. An off-stage choir can also be used for chorus backing on songs. When casting, bare in mind that Booboo should be a smaller actor whilst bandits Izzi, Wazzi and Azzi should be the most 'un-identical' identical triplets in history (Azzi being the tallest and Wazzi being the shortest). Flossy Baba may work equally well portrayed by a brave boy in 'pantomime dame' fashion, or indeed an adult male if you wish to reduce the cast further and a willing volunteer can be found!

COSTUMES

The traditional styles of ancient Arabia can be used to great effect when costuming this show, with plenty of harem pants and head-gear! These are cartoon characters, so rather than attempt historical or cultural accuracy, try to achieve a fun and colourful look that sets the show firmly in the ancient time and place of its origins. For example, some characters, including Ali himself, wear a Turkish fez which, although not traditionally Arabian, works brilliantly on stage - and forms the basis of several jokes!

Colourful costuming is essential, but to avoid the 'explosion in a paint factory' look, just pick out a few bright colours such as red, emerald green, black, white and gold, and try to stick to those as a colour scheme. It is also useful and effective to colour-code costumes. For example, Alakazam, the traders and citizens could wear red harem pants, a baggy emerald green t-shirt worn over the pants and a gold sash tied around the waist, whilst the bandits could wear black harem pants, red and black stripy tops worn over the pants, a black sash & waistcoat and a red fez. Balthazar Bongo needs to look slightly different to the rest of his gang, but it is important to stick to the same colours – he could wear black & red striped harem pants, a black top and a black or red sash and a red fez. The comical characters of

Dusty and Sandy could be enhanced in “sand dance” fashion, with knee-length white trousers, red and white stripy socks, white sleeveless vest, red braces and a red fez, finished off with optional matching moustaches!

White and gold are excellent colours to show power and wealth and are therefore obvious choices for the Sultan, Princess & also the Sheiks. The Princess could be dressed entirely in gold with harem pants and a crop top with lots of sequins and thin glittering material as a head scarf or veil. The Sultan and the Sheiks could be dressed similarly with white harem pants and tops with gold accessories. The Sultan could also have a gold turban and a large tummy by way of a cushion. The Sheiks could have traditional head scarves, large black beards and a fun addition can be dark sun glasses which gives them the wealthy celebrity look! All the servants to the Sultan could be dressed in black and gold. The guards could be dressed completely in black, with harem pants, long sleeved tops and black fezzes but with a gold waist band or sash to show their connection with the wealthy Sultan. The handmaidens could wear black harem pants and crop tops with a gold sash round their waists, and gold sequin head and arm bands. The evil Grand Vizier requires a dramatic black costume, with a large cloak and black hood, turban or other headdress. Booboo’s costume can be easily created by either wearing brown trousers and a top and hood although ready-made furry monkey costumes are easily available for purchase. Either way, face paints are a must! Genie costumes are also available to purchase, but the look can be achieved simply by making harem pants in a glittery material with a bright t-shirt, sash and turban. Ali & Flossy Baba can be dressed similarly to the traders and citizens but in contrasting colours to set them apart. Last but certainly not least, you need to consider Humphrey the camel. Humphrey is a traditional ‘pantomime cow’ style costume requiring two actors in furry trousers beneath a furry cover and camel headpiece, with a tail and furry slippers completing the look. Often the actors remain standing rather than bending over, their heads creating the humps. This important costume is often borrowed or hired, but is also really great fun to make!

STAGING

This production can be staged effectively with very simple scenery. A desert backcloth of sandy dunes and palm trees against a blue, coloured or even dark and starry sky would work for the desert scenes, with moveable cut-out flats of stylised Arabian buildings placed in front and portable market stalls brought on for the bazaar scenes. Palace scenes can be achieved with painted flats or screens positioned in front of the backcloth to resemble palace walls, and the Sultan’s throne positioned centrally in front. The scenery can be painted realistically, but as this is a fun comedy, consider a splash of cartoon creativity using unusual shapes and bright colours with black outlines. Large moveable pieces of scenery play an important part in this production, and creative use can be made of large pieces of sturdy cardboard or plywood. The Cave Of Wonders should be a free-standing scenery flat painted as rock and positioned to one side of the stage. An opening for the cave entrance should be cut out in the middle, large enough for two actors to kneel in, and covered with a flat ‘boulder’ capable of sliding open and closed when those magic words are uttered! The “The Back Of Beyond” sign should be large enough for the audience to see clearly with the top section able to turn so that “The Front Of Beyond” can be seen on the reverse. The Genie’s ketchup bottle is humorous and eye-catching if it is oversized, so it might be better to create one rather than just pop to the supermarket! The Bandits’ jars work well made from one plywood flat painted to be a line of large ornate jars. The Bandits can carry the flat, crawling on behind it, but it may need to be free-standing with a small pair of legs to give stability when the Bandits are popping up and down behind.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Each musical number is designed to have movement, and even simple choreographed moves will bring the songs to life. For maximum effect, the whole cast is intended to perform most of the songs and dances on stage as chorus, whether they are in the preceding drama or not. Of course this is at the discretion of the director and can depend on available space. Choreography of musical numbers is left to the creativity of your own director/choreographer so that moves can be designed to more accurately to match the ability of the individual cast. However, excellent example choreography and useful advice for all the musical numbers in this show can be found on the highly recommended Choreography DVD.

MUSIC

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects, is found on the Backing Track and Vocal Track CDs. Incidental music including Overture, Play On, Play Off and Scene Change tracks, are provided to allow cast and chorus entrances, exits and scene changes to occur smoothly without pauses, resulting in a slick performance. A vocal recording is provided as a guide and to enable the swift learning of songs. The backing tracks without vocals are ideal to use in rehearsals and performances. Directors may, if they wish, allow a choir or separate character to accompany or replace a soloist in a song or section intended for a soloist. This may be necessary if certain cast members are unable to perform the solo themselves or a larger chorus is required to be employed more fully. In Scene Seven, a quick succession of sound effects are used when bandits pop in and out of jars, and these are included on the CD. However, due to the speed of repetition at times it may be more practical to use a live swanee whistle. However, I highly recommend the use of 'sound cue' software which allows for instant playback at the touch of a tablet screen or computer keyboard. This can aid smooth and seamless playback of all sound cues for an entire show and is often easier, more flexible and more reliable than using a CD player.

AND FINALLY.

This musical comedy is intended to be a fun show to rehearse and perform, so remember to enjoy yourselves and your audience will, too! My very best wishes for a successful and enjoyable production.

Craig Hawes

SCENE ONE: THE OLD BAGHDAD BAZAAR**TRACK 1: OVERTURE**

(As the House Lights dim, the overture music begins. At the end of the overture, the curtain rises to reveal The Old Baghdad Bazaar, a traditional Arabian market. Lighting is dim and atmospheric, and mysterious Arabian music underscores the opening dialogue. The Chorus are frozen in position on stage, possibly facing the back and in shadow. A spotlight centre stage reveals mysterious trader Alakazam, our narrator, who notices the audience and addresses them.)

ALAKAZAM: Salaam! Salaam! A thousand welcomes, weary travellers. Shake the desert dust from your sandals and step this way. I see you have an eye for a bargain, well you have come to the right place. The Old Baghdad Bazaar, busiest market in all Arabia! I am Alakazam, whatever you need, I can provide. So what can I sell you today? Spices? Silk? No? Wait - how about... a story! Yes, yes, a story of vile villains and handsome heroes! Of ruthless robbers and mystical magic!

TRACK 2: BAGHDAD BAZAAR

ALAKAZAM: Aha, I see you are interested! Well, take a seat, my friends, as my tale unfolds before your very eyes, right here at the Old Baghdad Bazaar!

WHERE THE SANDS OF THE DESERT RUN DRY,
UNDERNEATH AN ARABIAN SKY,
FOR A FOOL OR A KING,
THERE'S A THOUSAND THINGS TO BUY!
SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING BORROWED OR BLUE,
YOU CAN BUY FOR A SHEKEL OR TWO!
TAKE A WALK DOWN THE STREET, THERE'S A TASTY TREAT
LIKE CAKE AND CAVIAR, SPICES FROM AFAR,
COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT THE BAGHDAD

(A lighting change reveals the chorus, who unfreeze, turn and join in the song and dance.)

ALL: BAZAAR! AHH! AHH! AHH!
WHERE THE SANDS OF THE DESERT RUN DRY
UNDERNEATH AN ARABIAN SKY
FOR A FOOL OR A KING,
THERE'S A THOUSAND THINGS TO BUY!
SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING BORROWED OR BLUE,
YOU CAN BUY FOR A SHEKEL OR TWO!
TAKE A WALK DOWN THE STREET, THERE'S A TASTY TREAT

LIKE CAKE AND CAVIAR, SPICES FROM AFAR,
 COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT THE
 BAGHDAD BAZAAR!
 AT THE OLD BAZAAR!
 AT THE OLD BAZAAR!
 AT THE OLD BAZAAR!

(On the key change, the Chorus split into two groups who sing verse and chorus as two parts.)

GROUP 1:

AHH!

AT THE OLD BAZAAR!

AT THE OLD BAZAAR!

AT THE OLD BAZAAR!

GROUP 2:

WHERE THE SANDS OF THE DESERT RUN DRY,
 UNDERNEATH AN ARABIAN SKY,
 SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING BORROWED OR BLUE,
 YOU CAN BUY FOR A SHEKEL OR TWO!
 WHERE THE SANDS OF THE DESERT RUN DRY,
 UNDERNEATH AN ARABIAN SKY,
 SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING BORROWED OR BLUE,
 YOU CAN BUY FOR A SHEKEL OR TWO!

(The two groups join back together for the end of the song.)

ALL:

CAKE AND CAVIAR, SPICES FROM AFAR
 COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT THE
 BAGHDAD BAZAAR!
 BARGAINS AT THE OLD BAZAAR!

TRACK 3:**BAGHDAD BAZAAR PLAY OFF**

(The Chorus exit as Alakazam moves forward, the Citizens move to one side and the Traders bring out their wares. The three Sheiks enter each carrying a large bowl of jewels. Three bandits Izzzi, Wazzi and Azzi, position themselves unseen behind the Sheiks.)

ALAKAZAM:

Ah, I see you are not the only strangers in Old Baghdad today. If I am not mistaken, three rich Sheiks are walking this way. **(Bowing to the Sheiks)** Greetings, wealthy Sheiks. Let me introduce you to the Traders of the bazaar. Abdul the Snake Charmer.

TRACK 4:**SNAKE CHARMING**

(Abdul walks forward playing his pipe with a large snake around his shoulders.)

ABDUL:

Greatest snake charmer in hiss-tory!

