

# Jaddin



Theatre Royal  
BATH



**A** long long time ago in old Pekin, there lived a washer-woman called Widow Twankey and her son, Aladdin. They were very poor, and the Widow was so busy doing other people's laundry that she had little time for Aladdin, who often had to amuse himself. This meant that he tended to spend all his time playing in the streets with his friends, getting into all kinds of mischief! One afternoon, Aladdin and his friends heard music and cheering, and went to see what it was about. It was a procession, and at the centre of it was the most beautiful girl Aladdin had ever seen. She was the Emperor's daughter, and right there and then Aladdin decided that he wanted to marry her! Of course, all of his friends laughed at him. Who was he, a poor boy, to be thinking of marrying the Emperor's daughter?

**L**ittle did they know that, at that very moment, something was about to happen which would change everything. Not far away, an evil magician called Abanazar had made a magic ring. When he turned it three times, a Genie would appear and obey his commands. The Genie of the Ring was not very powerful, but he told Abanazar of a much bigger Genie which lived in a magic lamp hidden in a cave outside Pekin. The Genie told the magician that there was only one way he could get hold of the magic lamp. Only a boy called Aladdin would be able to find it. So Abanazar began to search for him, and soon found out where he lived.

**A**laddin got back from watching the procession to find a mysterious stranger talking to his mother. Abanazar had offered her a share in the treasure he said he was looking for, if she would let her small and nimble son help him in the search. So, Widow Twankey sent Aladdin with the stranger to find the cave where the lamp was hidden. After a long and tiring walk, they found the place. Aladdin didn't want to go in, but Abanazar wouldn't give up so easily. He gave his magic ring to Aladdin, telling him how to use it and that it would keep him from harm; Aladdin went in. Abanazar waited outside but he was very impatient, and lost his temper. He closed the mouth of the cave, leaving Aladdin trapped inside.

**D**eep in the cave it was very dark and smelled damp and nasty, and Aladdin was in too much of a panic to find anything. The boy wept. Desperate for help, he remembered the magic ring and how to use it. Hoping it would work, he turned it three times. Suddenly there was a flash and a puff of smoke, and the Genie appeared, saying, "I am the Genie of the Ring, and I am here to help you." Aladdin's only wish was to find the lamp and be rescued, and the Genie did ~~both~~ very quickly. Widow Twankey was relieved to see her boy safe and sound, as she had quickly regretted sending him off with a stranger. She was not so pleased when he showed her the magic lamp, though, which was old and rusty. Aladdin rubbed it vigorously,

there was a flash and a puff of smoke, and the most enormous Genie ever appeared, saying, "I am the Genie of the Lamp, O Master, what is your command?"

**D**ropping her basket of washing, the Widow screamed and hid herself. But Aladdin told her not to be afraid, (he was getting used to dealing with oversized Genies by now!), and to think of something she had always wanted. After a pause, the Widow stammered, "Well, I've been needing some new clothes pegs for a while now". Aladdin laughed, but the Genie waved his hand and there was a brand new bag of clothes pegs right in front of her eyes. "Ooh!", she exclaimed, "Can he do *that*?". Aladdin assured her that, yes, the Genie could do anything they wanted him to do. It was not long before Aladdin got the Genie of the Lamp to grant all their other wishes. They asked for food, then clothes, then gold and silver, then a palace with lots of room for both of them. Widow Twankey was overjoyed; she gave up doing laundry and became a lady of leisure, wearing fine clothes and getting her servants to wash them for her!

**I**t was a happy day for Aladdin when he could ask the Emperor's daughter for her hand in marriage, which he did straight away. The Princess said yes, because she liked Aladdin and the jokes he told her. They were married a little while later. But one day, when Aladdin was out, the wicked Abanazar came by the palace disguised as a pedlar. "New lamps for old, new lamps for old", he cried, and the Princess heard him. Aladdin had never told her the secret of the lamp, and so she thought she was doing the right thing when she leaned out of the window and gave the old lamp to the pedlar and got a shiny new one instead. But immediately, the pedlar rubbed the lamp, there was a flash and a puff of smoke, and Abanazar ordered the Genie to carry the Princess and the palace off to some far off country.

**N**o sooner did Aladdin return to where his palace had been than he realised what had happened. He was still wearing the magic ring, though, so he summoned the Genie of the Ring and demanded that they go and rescue the Princess, which of course they did, without further ado. The Genie of the Lamp transported them and the palace back to Pekin, where the Emperor was waiting to greet his daughter. He was so pleased to see her back safely that he gave a big party for Aladdin, who invited all his old friends to celebrate his good luck. They were all rather astonished that he had become so rich and powerful and had married the Princess after all, but they wished the happy couple a long and joyful life together. And so they all lived happily ever after – except for Abanazar, who was punished by the Genie in a suitably magical and horrible way!