

Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves

By

Steven J Yeo

Cast of Characters

<u>Ali Baba:</u>	(F)	Principal boy.
<u>Mona Lott:</u>	(M)	Ali's mother and the dame.
<u>Morgiana:</u>	(F)	Servant girl and Ali's love interest.
<u>Asbad Astat:</u>	(M/F)	Baddie. The evil wizard.
<u>Thief #1:</u>	(M/F)	One of the forty thieves.
<u>Thief #2:</u>	(M/F)	One of the forty thieves.
<u>Thief #3:</u>	(M/F)	One of the forty thieves.
<u>Thief #4:</u>	(M/F)	One of the forty thieves.
<u>Thief #5:</u>	(M/F)	One of the forty thieves.
<u>Thief #6:</u>	(M/F)	One of the forty thieves.
<u>Cassim:</u>	(M)	Ali's greedy brother.
<u>Angelica:</u>	(F)	Cassim's bossy wife.
<u>The Narrator:</u>	(M/F)	Narrates the story we can't see.
<u>Humphrey:</u>	(M/F)	A camel. The skin. One or two cast.
<u>Clarence:</u>	(M/F)	A directors type voice from off stage.
<u>Pizza Delivery:</u>	(M/F)	Boy or girl.
<u>Capt. Spanner:</u>	(M/F)	Slow with Zimmer frame. English accent.
<u>Sgt. Haggis:</u>	(M/F)	Scottish accent
<u>Cpl. Smith:</u>	(M/F)	West country accent.
<u>Pvt. Jones:</u>	(M/F)	Welsh accent.
<u>The chorus:</u>	(M/F)	As many as the available cast and stage allows.

3 x Female, 2 Male, 15 Female/Male Plus Chorus.
Total 20 Cast Plus Chorus

Running time 1-hour Act 1, and 45-mins Act 2.

ACT 1

Scene 1 – The Great Forest

(The great forest scene is set on the main stage. It needs to be dimly lit.)

(THE CHORUS dressed as animals of the forest enter and sing and dance to SONG #1 “Bring me sunshine”. When the song has finished THE CHORUS move around the stage pretending to be animals. The NARRATOR enters carrying a large book to read from.)

NARRATOR

If you are all sitting comfortably, then I will begin. A long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far, away, Luke Skywalker... Oops, sorry that is a story for another time.

(Turns the book upside down and starts reading the pages from the back of the book.)

There! A long, long time ago in a far-offshore there lived a wealthy merchant called Barrack 'O Baba and his belly dancing wife Mona Lott. They had two sons Cassim and little Ali. The family were happy. But it is said that Barrack'O Baba had many enemies including the infamous forty thieves, led by a nasty wizard, the self-appointed prince of thieves, Asbad Asthat. It is said that Asbad Asthat, had Barrack'O Baba killed for the money he had in his pockets.

(Stops reading from book. To audience)

Now when you see Asbad Asthat appear in our story, you may boo and hiss at him. Don't worry about whatever he says, his magic cannot work on you.

(Back to book)

The death of Barrack 'O Baba left Mona Lott a wealthy widow with two sons. The eldest son Cassim, who was a greedy man, took over the family business and married a wealthy woman for her money. He was never happy and wanted more and more and he became very greedy and very lazy. He had a servant called Morgiana and worked her tirelessly.

Morgiana hated working for Cassim and preferred Ali and always longed to work for him instead. Ali is not married and settled into a poor life as a

wood cutter. He lives a healthy and happy life and never wants for anything from anybody. There! I think that just about brings you up to date. I may pop back from time to time to fill in a few little bits. So, until I come back enjoy the rest of our story all about Ali Baba and the forty thieves.

(The NARRATOR exits stage right. The lights turn on full to reveal a forest on the outskirts of town with the foot of a mountain stage right. Enter ALI BABA collecting wood. He notices the audience.)

ALI BABA

Oh, hello there. Nice to see so many of you. My name is Ali Baba. I'm a wood cutter and I make all sorts of things from the wood that I collect. I make tables and chairs, plates and spoons to eat with. I never seem to make much money but who cares, I get to spend my days out here in the forest with all the animals in the sunshine. What more could anyone want?

(Voices can be heard from off stage.)

ASBAD ASTHAT O/S

Come on, you lazy lot. Put your backs into it.

ALI BABA (Cont.)

Quick someone is coming.

(He shews the CHORUS animals away. THE CHORUS exit in all directions.)

ALI BABA (Cont.)

One thing I've learnt over the years is to be careful. There are murderers and thieves in this forest. So, I best hide.

(ALI BABA hides out of sight of the cast but must be able to see the magic cave and be seen by the audience while hiding. Enter ASBAS ASTHAT and the thieves stage left. The thieves are struggling with chests of gold and silver. ASBAD raises his arms to the cave.)

ASBAD ASTHAT

OPEN SESAME!

(A deep rumbling sound is heard as the foot of the mountain opens, if possible, to reveal a cave full of riches.)

ASBAD ASTHAT O/S

Come on you lot, anybody would think it was heavy.

THIEF #2

If it is not heavy sir, why aren't you helping?

THIEF #3

Yes why do you never help?

ASBAD ASTHAT (Cont.)

Because I am the leader. I am a wizard. Any arguments? I mean does anyone want to be a lizard.

THIEF #4

If you put it that way, no sir.

THIEF #5 & #6

No sir!

ASBAD ASTHAT

Good, then get everything stored inside men. That was a good day's work.

(Notices the audience.) Hey, are you lot spying on us?

(Audience reaction.)

Well, you better not be, or I'll turn you all into forest animals where you will spend the rest of your lives in the forest with no iPhone, TV's or iPads.

You'd like that wouldn't you?

(Audience reaction.) Oh yes you would.

(Audience reaction.) Oh yes you would.

(Audience reaction.) Oh yes you would.

Well, any way, you lot better keep your mouths shut. You haven't seen or heard anything.

(When the chests of gold and silver are stored away ASBAD raises his arms again.)

ASBAD ASTHAT (Cont.)

CLOSE SESAME!

(A deep rumbling sound is heard as the cave door closes.)

THIEF #1

Can we go to the pub now? I'm so thirsty.

ASBAD ASTHAT

Oh, yes if it will stop you from moaning all the way home. Come on then the first round is on you.

(THIEF #1 looks disappointed as they all exit stage left. ALI BABA comes out from his hiding place.)

ALI BABA

Phew that was close. Did you see that boys and girls? That was the evil wizard Asbad Asthat and his forty thieves. Did you see all that gold and silver they were carrying? Cor! What I could do with some of that gold. If only I could get into the cave,

I could borrow just a little bit to buy some food. But wait a minute I heard him say something that made the cave open. Now what was it he said?

(He walks around the stage as the audience reacts.)

What did he say?

(Audience reacts.)

Open rosemary?

(Audience reacts.)

Sesame street?

(Audience reacts.)

Oh, he said open sesame. Thank you, boys and girls. Let's see if it works.
OPEN SESAME!

(Nothing happens.)

Nothing. Maybe I wasn't loud enough. Will you help me boys and girls?

(Audience reaction.)

After three, will you all shout OPEN SESAME for me?

(Audience reaction.)

Oh, you will that's brilliant. Here we go then. One, two, three. OPEN SESAME!

(The audience react, and a deep rumbling sound is heard as the cave opens.)

Wow. It worked. Look at all that! There is gold and silver, emeralds and diamonds. Wow! I'm only going to take a little bit of the gold. I know it's wrong. But they are the thieves not me, and I haven't eaten for two days and they won't miss it if I just take enough to buy some food.

(Takes a small bag of gold coins.)

Now what did he say to close the cave?

(Audience reaction.)

Oh yes, thank you, he said CLOSE SESAME! Will you help me again boys and girls?

(Audience reaction.)

Oh brilliant. After three. One, two, three. CLOSE SESAME!

(The audience will react, and a deep rumbling sound is heard as the cave closes.)

Now I must go and buy some food in the marketplace. Thank you boys and girls and I'll see you all soon.

(ALI BABA exits stage left. Curtains close. Enter THE HOME GUARD.)

CAPT. SPANNER

Right men, gather round.

(The HOME GUARD gather around him.)

CAPT. SPANNER

Our job in this pantomime is to catch that evil wizard called ASBAD ASTHAT.

PVT. JONES

But is he really, sir?

CAPT. SPANNER

Is who, what, private Jones?

PVT. JONES

ASBAD ASTHAT. Is he really as bad as that?

CAPT. SPANNER

Of course, he is, that is his name. Who else would he be? Stop talking gibberish private. We must also locate and apprehend all forty thieves.

CPL. SMITH

Forty of them. How can we do that when there are only four of us?

CAPT. SPANNER

Simple maths Corporal. If there are four of us and forty of them, how many do we each need to catch?

(CPL. SMITH and PVT. JONES trying to work it out on their fingers.)

CAPT. SPANNER

Oh, tell them Sergeant Haggis, will you.

SGT. HAGGIS

Um, ten each sir. But that is a rather lot of thieves to catch isn't it, sir?

CAPT. SPANNER

Yes it is. And that is why the charismatic, and very good-looking director, who knows everything and sees everything, who also wrote the script, decided that we will have only six thieves in this pantomime.

CAPT. SPANNER (Cont.)

Mainly because [*name of group*] can't afford any more than that. And we are to pretend that there are forty thieves. Now Sergeant, go and ask that lot if they have seen ASBAD ASTHAT or any of the forty thieves.
(Points to audience)

SGT. HAGGIS

You mean six thieves, sir. You said six thieves.

CAPT. SPANNER

Yes, yes.

SGT. HAGGIS

(To audience)

I wonder if you mind awfully, telling me if you have seen the evil wizard ASBAD ASTHAT or any of the thieves yet?

(Audience reaction)

Oh you have that is splendid. Um, would you mind awfully telling me which way they went?

(Audience reaction)

Oh, thank you very much.

CAPT. SPANNER

Well Sergeant?

SGT. HAGGIS

Those very nice people said that they have seen them and that they have gone that way sir.

(Points stage right)

CAPT. SPANNER

Right then men, as quick as we can. I know a short cut, it'll be quicker.

(The HOME GUARD exit. CAPT. SPANNER is very slow with his Zimmer frame. The other HOME GUARDS rush back on and help him exit faster.)

(Enter MONA LOTT leading HUMPHREY the camel, with two sacks on his back, front of tabs.)

MONA LOTT

Come on Humphrey we need to get to the market. Can't you go any faster?
(Notices the audience.)

Oh, hello me dears. I'm Mona and this is Humphrey my camel. Out here in the far east everyone needs a camel. You see the desert here is so hot and there is so much sand everywhere that if we tried to walk across the desert normally, we would get stuck in the sand and the sun would cook us. But Humphrey here can walk for miles without needing water and the sand doesn't bother him. Me and Humphrey are best buddies. Aren't we Humphrey?

(The camel shakes his head. MONA LOTT sings SONG #2 "You got a friend in me" and dances with HUMPHREY)

MONA LOTT (Cont.)

You know, boys and girls, I cross this desert once a week to get to Bagdad market. Where we sell all the stuff that my son Cassim buys all over this land. He's a good boy my Cassim, and such a hard worker. But he's a little bit on the greedy side.

But a good boy at heart. Not like that other boy of mine, Ali. He spends all his time collecting firewood and turning it into rubbish looking chairs and tables that no one ever seems to buy. Why he can't come and work in the family business I don't know. Any way we had best be getting to the market. These raincoats, wellington boots and umbrellas won't sell themselves.

(Proudly) Cassim says that they are all the rage over in England and people

wear them every day. Not sure they're going to catch on here in Bagdad but who am I to argue with the English. Come on Humphrey, see you later boys and girls.

(END OF SCENE)

Mr Pantomime Sample Script

ACT I

Scene 2 – Bagdad Market

(Curtains open to reveal the marketplace. The CHORUS are dressed as towns people going about their business. Enter CASSIM and his wife ANGELICA closely followed by Morgiana carrying the table.)

ANGELICA

Cassim, where is that mother of yours? She should have been here two and a half minutes ago.

CASSIM

I know my love. But it is not easy crossing the desert every week to get here.

ANGELICA

Then she should leave earlier. Think of all the money we could be making if she got here on time for once.

CASSIM

I know. But what can I do? She is already a wealthy woman thanks to my father. And we don't pay her you know.

ANGELICA

So, what! Think of the money we're losing.

(Enter MONA LOTT leading HUMPHREY stage left dragging two sacks.)

ANGELICA

Oi! Don't just stand there Morgiana. Set the table up. We are not going to sell anything from the floor.

MORGIANA

Yes Angelica.

(MORGIANA encourages sympathy from the audience as she struggles with the table)

MONA LOTT

Oh, hello my boy. Hello Ana.

(With displeasure.)

Oh, and you, Angelica.

ANGELICA

(Stage whispers to CASSIM.)

Go on then tell her off for being late.

CASSIM

(Taking no notice of ANGELICA.)

How was the trip? Good, I hope.

MONA LOTT

Sorry if I'm a little late but Humphrey had to go, you know what I mean, and I forgot to bring the pooper scooper, so I had to improvise a bit.

CASSIM

Well so long as you're here safe and sound that's all that matters.

MONA LOTT

(Pinches CASSIM's cheek.) You are such a good boy. Here you go Angelica.

(MONA drops one of the sacks on her foot. ANGELICA hops around the stage. MORGIANA laughs)

ANGELICA

Morgiana, stop laughing and get this lot set up on the table. Lazy girl.

(ANGELICA passes the sack to MORGIANA. MORGIANA asks for more sympathy from the audience.)

ANGELICA

(To MONA)

Did you bring the wellington boots I have been waiting for?

MONA LOTT

Yes, they are in this sack.

(ANGELICA takes out a pair of wellington boots from the sack and puts one on to a squishing sound effect.)

ANGELICA

(Feeling disgusted by the contents of the boot, and almost being sick.)

URGH! What is in my boot?

MONA LOTT

Oh yes, that's where I put it.

(Petting the camel.)

That's a good boy Humphrey.

(Still almost being sick ANGELICA puts her hand over her mouth.)

ANGELICA

Oh, you did that on purpose. *(Angrily)* Cassim you make sure you sell everything before you come home, or don't come home at all.

(ANGELICA carefully exits trying not to be sick with one boot on and carrying the other one.)

CASSIM

Mother I do wish you would stop winding her up. She means well.

MONA LOTT

Well, I'm sorry son but I can't stand her. She is so mean to poor Morgiana. But if she makes you happy. I'll try a bit harder.

CASSIM

Thank you, mother.

MONA LOTT

(To MORGIANA)

Come on I'll help you set up this lot.

(MONA LOTT and MORGIANA set up the boots and umbrellas on the table to sell. Enter ALI BABA.)

ALI BABA

I thought I would find you both here. Hello mum.

(Kisses her.)

Hello brother.

(Waves at him.)

Hello Ana.

(He smiles at MORGIANA embarrassed and gently waves at her trying not to let his brother see.)

MORGIANA

Hi Ali.

(She returns the smile and the gentle wave.)

ALI BABA

(To CASSIM)

What are you selling today brother?

CASSIM

I'm selling raincoats and umbrellas and wellington boots today.

ALI BABA

Raincoats, in the desert. Whose bright idea was that then?

MONA LOTT

Ali, stop making fun of your brother.

ALI BABA

I mean, the only way you would sell that lot is if the sky turned dark and we had a sudden freak rainstorm or something.

(ALI BABA finds it funny and laughs until the lights dim and the rumbling of thunder is heard. Exit HUMPHREY scared. Then the sound of heavy rain can be heard as THE CHORUS rush about onstage and buy everything on the table from CASSIM and MONA LOTT.

The CHORUS sing SONG #3 "Singing in the rain" as they buy all the items. MORGIANA joins them singing and dancing.

When everything is sold, and the song has finished THE CHORUS exit and the lights go up.)

MONA LOTT

Well would you believe it. That *was* a sudden freak rainstorm.

CASSIM

Yes, and I've sold everything in the first five minutes. Angelica will be pleased. Morgiana get this table packed away.

MONA LOTT

Well, I'm so glad you sold everything. But I think I better go and catch Humphrey and get him home and give him a blow dry.

(Exit MONA LOTT)

ALI BABA

Well as you have sold everything, I wonder if I can borrow your scales so that I may weigh some, um, grains.

CASSIM

Grains? Oh well yes go on then, I'm in a good mood today.

(Gives ALI BABA the scales.)

Don't let Angelica find out. Talking about Angelica, I better get home and tell her I sold it all. Morgiana you'll have to catch me up and don't forget to bring the table. Angelica will be pleased with all this money. Catch you later Ali.

(Waving the notes in the air CASSIM exits)

ALI BABA

(Not quick enough to be heard by CASSIM.)

Can I have some plea..... oh too late.

(Moves to the front of the stage.)

He'd never have given me some money anyway boys and girls. But not that it matters now. I've got lots of gold, remember, I took it from the magic cave. Trouble is I'm not used to having gold and I don't know how much each coin is worth. So, I thought I'd weigh them to find out. That is where the scales come in. See I'm not just a pretty face.

MORGIANA

How have you been keeping ALI?

ALI BABA

I'm fine, thanks for asking. But how are you. I hope Angelica hasn't been too rough on you.

MORGIANA

Yes, she has. But that is the life of a servant girl.

ALI BABA

One day I will have enough money to buy your freedom from my brother and you can live how you like.

MORGIANA

I'd like to live with you Ali.

(MORGIANA holds his arm.)

ALI BABA

I know and I with you. But Angelica would never let that happen. But here look at what I have got. I can't tell you where it came from but there is more of it, oh much more of it where this came from.

(ALI BABA shows MORGIANA the bag of gold coins.)

MORGIANA

Wow, how much is it?

ALI BABA

I don't know but I am about to find out.

(ALI BABA Weighs the gold coins. MORGIANA helps him.)

ALI BABA

Cor! Blimey. One gold coin is the equivalent to one week's wages for me. I may not have to work until after Christmas. Here you go Morgiana. You can have some to buy yourself something nice. But don't let my brother or Angelica find out.

(ALI BABA gives her a few coins. They embrace.)

MORGIANA

Oh, thank you Ali.

ALI BABA

You better get home before you are missed.

(ALI BABA helps her with the table. They embrace.)

MORGIANA

Thank you, Ali. I hope to see again you soon. And thank you for the coins.

ALI BABA

You are very welcome. Be careful going home. That nasty wizard Asbad Asthat is about.

(They wave and Morgiana exits.)

ALI BABA (Cont.)

Yuk these scales are sticky and slimy. What has Angelica been doing with them. Never mind I'll wash my hands when I get home. Oh well happy days boys and girls. Now I must go and find Cassim and return his scales before Angelica finds out and has a moan about it. Catch you later boys and girls.

(ALI BABA exits stage right. Curtains close. Enter CASSIM counting his money as he walks stage left and ALI BABA stage right front of tabs.)

ALI BABA

Ah, there you are Cassim. I've finished with the scales. Thank you for loaning them to me.

CASSIM

(Not paying much attention to anything other than the money.)

Yes, thank you Ali.

(He takes the scales.)

ALI BABA

See you soon bro.

(ALI BABA exits stage left.)

CASSIM

Cor look at all this money. *(Waving it in the air.)*

(Enter ASBAD ASTHAT stage right. He sees CASSIM and the money in his hand.)

ASBAD ASTHAT

Thank you. I'll take that.
(Snatches the money.)

CASSIM

Hey! Give that back.

ASBAD ASTHAT

Or what! Pipsqueak.

CASSIM

(Suddenly scared.)
Or, or, oh, nothing.

ASBAD ASTHAT

That's what I thought. That's why I'm the prince of thieves ha, ha, ha. Bye bye.

(ASBAD ASTHAT exits stage right.)

CASSIM

Oh, now what am I going to tell Angelica. He stole all my money. And why am I holding scales. Oh, yes Ali borrowed them didn't he. Yuk what has he been doing with them. They are sticky. And what is this stuck to the bottom. Oh my. It's a gold coin. Where did Ali get gold coins from. And he must have had lots of them if he had to weigh them. I can't go home empty handed, but if I had some gold coins Angelica would forget all about the money. Right Ali.... where are you.

(Exit CASSIM stage left. Enter the NARRATOR front of tabs.)

THE NARRATOR

So, Cassim discovered that his brother Ali had some gold coins. He found his brother and demanded Ali tell him where he got them from. They argued until poor little Ali finally confessed. We didn't want you to see that bit. So, we now find Cassim outside the magic cave, and he has Humphrey waiting close by so that he can take home as much gold as possible. I said he was greedy.

(Exit THE NARRATOR.)

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