

Directors Note,

Set in the roaring twenties, Rose, a girl from a local nightclub, has come to work at Aladdin and his sister (or Mother) Suzie Wong's Chinese Take Away Shop. Rose's boyfriend Mac and his two gangster henchmen try to persuade Rose to return to the club; Mac thinks Rose has stolen some jewellery from his safe. Rose refuses so Mac has his boys kidnap her. Their attempt to do so goes wrong and they kidnap Aladdin. Suzie buys an old lamp from the local flea market and she and Rose enlist the help of a very effeminate and ineffective Genie to try to help free Aladdin.

Aladdin's Take Away.



By Judith Prior.

The Genie's attempts to save the day further complicate things when he accidentally conjures up a Pirate King. Meanwhile Louie and Solly's girlfriends, Pearl and Lulu decide to tell Mac, that Louie and Sol really stole the jewels and the boys have to leave town fast. They just happen to stow away on the Pirate King's galleon. Suzie gets some friends of hers from the twelfth street mission to look after the shop and everybody else sets sail for China.

High jinx erupt on the high seas, including sing-a-longs, audience participation and general hilarity as the play reaches its highly improbable conclusion when, of course..... Every body lives happily ever after.

Cast required, seven females, Six males..... Lots of Chorus.

- ALADDIN** Owner of Chinese Takeaway
- SUZIE** Could be widowed mother or sister of Aladdin
- MAC THE KNIFE** Gangster Boss, Owns Cabaret Club
- SOL** Not very bright Gangster
- LOUIE** Even less bright Gangster
- PIRATE KING** Singing Pirate
- GENIE** Effeminate male Genie
- ROSE** Mac's Ex Girlfriend
- LULU** Louie's Girl, Singer from the Cabaret Club
- PEARL** Sol's Girl, Chorus Girl from the Cabaret Club
- ETHEL, PRUDENCE, MURIEL**
Ladies of the Twelfth Street Mission
- 1st MATE, PIRATE 2. , PIRATE LAD** Part of Pirate crew
- CHORUS OF MISSION LADIES, CREW OF PIRATES**
- OPTIONAL.**

SUGGESTED MUSIC

ACT ONE.

1. The Overture. (Five Foot Two.)
2. Mac the Knife.
3. Chase Music (Can Can)
4. Everybody's Doin' It.
5. * Bringing in the Sheaves
6. Oh Dear What can the Matter Be?

ACT TWO

7. Overture. (Ain't She Sweet.)
8. Little Things Mean a Lot.
9. Solo for Lulu. All of Me. (Or any torch song.)
10. Three Little Fishies (Audience Participation)
11. * Bringing in the Sheaves.
12. If you Knew Suzie.

ACT THREE

13. Overture (Sweet Georgia Brown.)
14. Ship Ahoy.
15. Solo for Suzie, Slow Boat to China.
16. Pirate King.(Gilbert &Sullivan)
17. Row, Row, Row Your Boat.
18. *Bringing in the Sheaves.
19. Don't Bring Lulu.

N.B. This script is text only. Above music is an indication only of the type of song suitable. Music is of your own choosing and copyright permission should be sought.

Aladdin's Take Away.

Judith Prior (c) 1997.

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ACT ONE.

SCENE ONE.

(The set is the shop area of a Chinese take away. A counter with menu, a bell, salt and pepper, sauces etc, cash register. A small coffee table with magazines perhaps a bench and several chairs.)

MUSIC No. 1.

(Rose enters, looks cautiously around and approaches counter. She is about to ring the bell when very loud Chinese gong sounds and Suzie appears behind counter.)

ROSE. Oh, you startled me.

SUZIE. Very sorry! The bell's not working. Can I help you with something?

ROSE. Well, yes you can, that is I mean...Yes! My name's Rose and I came about the job.

SUZIE. The job?

ROSE. The employment agency sent me. *(Opens handbag and produces piece of paper.)* See, here it is... Kitchen hand wanted at Chinese Takeaway.

SUZIE. *(Taking paper.)* Ah, so! You came about the job?

ROSE. Yes!

SUZIE. *(Speculatively.)* You ever work in a Chinese restaurant before?

ROSE. *(Quickly and unconvincingly.)* I've worked in lot's of different restaurants and night clubs and several good hotels....

SUZIE. Ah so! But can you make Chinese fortune cookies?

ROSE. I'm sure I could learn. I'm prepared to work very hard. I really need the job and...

SUZIE. *(Cheerfully.)* Never mind. I like you. My name's Suzie Wong and I'll show you how to make fortune cookies. *(Moves to front of counter and offers hand.)*

ROSE. *(Excited, shaking hand.)* You mean I get the job?

SUZIE. Why not!

ROSE. Oh, thank you. Thank you very much.

SUZIE. First we'll go into the kitchen, you'll meet my son Aladdin and I'll show you the wok...You know anything about wok?

ROSE. Err, Well I think....

SUZIE. Confucius say "Hard wok never hurt anybody, unless fall off wall and land on head." Ha, Ha, little Chinese joke, everybody knows that a wok is a Chinese cooking pot.

ROSE. (*Dubiously.*) If you say so....

(*Exit Suzie and Rose to kitchen as enter Mac and Sol from street.*)

MAC. We better case the joint Sol. (*Looks furtively around.*) Don't seem to be nobody about.

SOL. You sure dis is de right place boss?

MAC. (*Impatiently.*) 'Course it's the right place. Louie said the Chinese joint on Main Street, didn't he?

SOL. Sure Boss, that's what he said... You think this is it?

MAC. No dummy. It's the Salvation Army Citadel.

SOL. (*Looking around.*) Gee Boss, You could've fooled me! I didn't know they had dragons at the Salvation....

MAC. Shhhhh!(Mac hits Sol with his hat.)

SOL. I wish you wouldn't do that boss. (To Audience.) I hate it when he does that.

MAC. Shhhh! Somebody's comin'...

(*Enter Aladdin from kitchen rubbing his head, he walks up behind Mac and taps him on the shoulder....*)

ALADDIN. Good morning. May I help you with something?

MAC. (*Mac jumps and goes for his knife.*) Hands Off kid! Watch the suit.

SOL. (*Threatening.*) Yair. Nobody touches the Boss.

ALADDIN. Sorry! (*Attempts to straighten suit.*) Nice suit...

SOL. (*Grabs Aladdin's wrist.*) Ain't nobody touches the Boss. I'm the body guard see. And what I say goes, see. Nobody lays a finger on Mac the knife...Not while I'm...

MAC. Ah, Knock it off Sol.

ALADDIN. (*Alarmed.*) I said I was sorry. Let's not be hasty about this Mr Knife. I've heard a lot about you.

SOL. Yair I'll bet! (*Lets Aladdin go.*)

MAC. Nothin' nobody can prove though. (*Proudly.*) Thirty seven arrests and no convictions.

MUSIC No. 2.

MAC. Who the heck are you anyway?

ALADDIN. My name's Aladdin.

MAC. You the owner of the joint?

ALADDIN. Yes I am the owner.

MAC. Who else works here?

ALADDIN. Only me and my mother. (*Still rubbing head.*) But she's... (*Defensively.*) not here at the moment.

SOL. (*Curious.*) Say, what happened to your head?

ALADDIN. (*Puzzled.*) Very strange, just now out in the kitchen I got hit on the head by a flying rock.

MAC. A Wok? Ya mean somebody clobbered you with a Chinese cookin' pot?

ALADDIN. No, Not a wok! A rock...you know like a stone only bigger.

MAC. Did ya see who flung it?

ALADDIN. No. But Who Flung's a very good friend of mine. He wouldn't throw a rock at me.

MAC. Ya dummy. I mean, do ya know who's tryin' to knock you off?

ALADDIN. I don't think so, but if you hum a few bars I'll try to pick it up. Yes might cheer us up, let's all have a Sing Sing.

MAC. Bite your tongue kid. Don't even mention that place, it's bad luck. Many good friends of mine ain't gonna see the outside of there for a long time. (*Reaches for Aladdin and knocks over salt shaker on counter.*) Ah! Now look what you made me do.

SOL. What's the big deal boss?

MAC. (*Agitated.*) Don't you know it's bad luck to spill salt?

ALADDIN. Never mind. Here, old Chinese custom, throw some pepper over your shoulder that should fix it. (*Mac throws pepper over shoulder into Sols face, Sol sneezes loudly, several times.*)

SOL. Ah, Chooo!

ALADDIN. Bless you!

SOL. Ah, Chooo! (*All over Mac.*)

MAC. The suit! Watch the suit Sol. (*Turns to Aladdin.*) Now look what you've done.

ALADDIN. Sorry. Don't be upset please honourable Mr Knife....Tell you what why don't we all have a nice cup of tea and a fortune cookie.

SOL. Yair, I could do with a...(Loud sneeze.) .

MAC. Cancel the tea kid. I'm tryin' to kick the habit. Just gimme one of them fortune cookies to go. 'Course I ain't superstitious but it might be good for a laugh.

ALADDIN. One moment please I'll get the cookies.... *(Exit Aladdin to kitchen.)*

SOL. *(Sneezing.)* See Boss I never had a *(Sneeze.)* Chinese fortune cookie before. *(Blows nose loudly.)* I wonder what mine will be?

MAC. Shaddup Sol. Or you'll be readin' your obituary in yours.

SOL. Right Boss. Sure Boss. *(Wiping face with handkerchief.)* Er, What's an obitu...*(Enter Aladdin with cookies.)*

MAC. Cool it Sol.

ALADDIN. Here, you see. *(Offers cookies both take one.)* One for Mr Knife and one for you and one for me... You'll like them try and see... What's it say?

MAC. *(Breaking cookie and reading from note.)* It says.. "Did ya get my note tied to the rock Boss? The kid and his mum have the goil. I think she hid the sparklers in the bickies." signed An Informer. *(Mac and Sol look at Aladdin.)*

ALADDIN. Now, now, Mr Knife, You know you can't believe everything you read these days.

MAC. Oh, Yeah. *(Produces knife.)* Enough with the pleasantries already. Where's the loot?

ALADDIN. *(Genuinely surprised.)* What loot?

MAC. Don't get cute with me Chinaman. If you know what's good for you you'll get the goil out here. *(Menaces with knife.)* Now!

ALADDIN. What goil? I mean what girl? I didn't see any girl.

SOL. Yair? Well when The Boss here gets through with you Chinaman, you ain't gonna see nothing... ever again!

MAC. Dat's right! You tell him Sol.

SOL. Yair! When The Boss here gets through with you, you could end up wearin' cement boots see. You betta come clean if you know what's good for you. I ain't gonna...*(Mac turns knife on Sol then back to Aladdin.)*

MAC. Get the picture Chinaman?

ALADDIN. Mr Knife did anyone ever tell you it's very bad luck to kill a Chinaman. Especially for the Chinaman! *(Exit Aladdin followed by Mac and Sol perhaps through audience.)*

MUSIC No. 3

(BLACKOUT.)