

WINK AT THE SPHINX"

Has been specifically designed for flexibility, portability and ease of production. One back drop or perhaps a simple cut out ground row of a Bagdad city silhouette perhaps will suffice for the set. This may be enhanced by the addition of wheel on stalls and barrows for the market place, replaced by a few potted palms and pot plants for the palace scene.

Don't forget to include the audience as part of the action at all times. Tell the jokes straight out front, use the downstage area as much as possible. Acknowledge the audiences approval, or disapproval as the case may be whilst maintaining strict stage discipline at all times.

Leave the audience participation to your most experienced actors as things can quickly get out of hand if not carefully controlled.

Feel free to add more songs, or leave some out if this suits your cast better. Perhaps the Princess Fatima could do a number such as "I hate Men." If you don't have strong singers, mimed recorded musical numbers may be the way to go. The Physician and the Queen as a duet with "Goodness Gracious Me!" Or the Physician could sing something like "I'm getting married to the Princess". Choreograph a dance number for the Camel! The possibilities are limited only by your own imagination.

Above all have fun with the script, after all fun is infectious!

A WINK AT THE SPHINX



By Judith Prior

+ Suggested Music +

- 1. In the Old Bazaar in Cairo.**
- 2. Yes we have No Bananas or Lovely Bunch of Coconuts.**
- 3. Istanbul, or any song with a city name title.**
- 4. Any Drinking song. Champagne Charlie or Beer Glorious Beer.**
- 5. Cleopatra, or The Banks of the Beautiful Nile, any Egyptian song.**
- 6. Ballin' the Jack or Thank God I'm Old. A song about ageing.**
- 7. Ayhab the Arab or Whistle a Happy Tune. Any Novelty song.**
- 8. Enjoy Yourself, or any rock song.**
- 9. The Desert Song or any love song.**
- 10. Baubles Bangles and Beads, or Who will Buy. A song about selling.**
- 11. My Ding-a-ling. Any song about silver bells.**
- 12. High Hopes or In the Old Bazaar in Cairo.**

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 from the appropriate publishers of any songs used.

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

PHARAOH FAROOK

QUEEN NEFRITITI

PRINCESS CHARISMA

PRINCESS FATIMA

AYHAB, THE CAMEL TRADER

RAMESES, THE NOMADIC GUIDE

TUT-TUT, THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN

THE GENIE (MALE)

CAMEO ROLES....

- RON, THE FRUIT SELLER**
- A MUMMY**
- HARRISON FRAUD, CAMEL DEALER**
- A CAMEL**
- A NEWS READER**
- A MAGIC CARPET SALESMAN**
- THREE SLAVES**
- THREE MERCHANTS**
- These roles may be doubled up from ...
CHORUS OF SLAVES AND GUARDS.**

WINK AT THE SPHINX (C) Judith Prior

Act One.

THE OLD BAZAAR IN CAIRO. BRIGHTLY COLOURED STALLS, TENTS, PRODUCE, STALLHOLDERS AND PERHAPS A SNAKE CHARMER ETC. OPENING NUMBER. FULL CHORUS, INCLUDING AYHAB, TUT-TUT, AND RAMESES.

MUSIC NO. 1.....

ENTER RON THE FRUIT SELLER

RON: ‘Allo, allo to all-a the lovely ladies and-a gentlemens today. I've got a couple-a specials for you today. Here I am a-selling, selling, selling. Today I've-a got fresh celery, fresh cabbage, well was-a fresh yesterday.....

Fanfare.....

PHYSICIAN. (*Entering*) .Make way for his Royal magnificence, The Pharaoh! Ruler of the desert, Father of the Nile, Commander of the Guards, Keeper of the Faith, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, (**BIG BREATH**) Cheer, everyone cheer!...

(ALL CHEER INCLUDING AUDIENCE)

PHYSICIAN: That's better, now don't forget. Next time we may not have all that time for rehearsal! (**ENTER QUEEN, FATIMA, CHARISMA AND PHARAOH, CROWD ALL FALL BACK FROM CENTRE BOWING ETC.**)

PHARAOH: Arise my subjects, arise (to woman at his feet kissing hem of robe) no need to grovel my dear.

WOMAN: I wasn't grovelling, I was ogling! Your jewels Your Majesty. (**ASIDE TO AUDIENCE**) Pretty ordinary!

PHARAOH: Caught me on a cold night! - Ah, how my subjects love me. Tell me Physician what strange and wonderful treats are there here in the Bazaar to-day - What sweet foreign fruits? What new delicacies to tempt us?

PHYSICIAN: Well, your Portliness, we have wondrous treasures from the Orient, Oh Master, strange lotions and potions from afar, slaves for your Palace gardens, kitchen, stables.

Fruit and vegetables such as you have never tasted from far away lands.....Your Eminence, we have here a new shipment of slaves just arrived from the end of the earth.

PHARAOH: Oh, you mean they're from **(LOCAL TOWN NAME)**

PHYSICIAN: **(TOWN NAME)**..... Is not the end of the earth.

PHARAOH: No, but you can see it from there!

PHYSICIAN: Let me summon them and display their beauty for your approval Magnificence. The slave girls await without -

PHARAOH: Without what?

PHYSICIAN: Without food or clothing sire.

PHARAOH: Slave girls? Without food or clothes? Well feed them and send 'em in!!

PHYSICIAN CLAPS HANDS TWICE --- SLAVE TRADER ENTERS WITH SLAVES..... .PHARAOH OBLIVIOUS TO THEIR ENTRANCE IS NOW SURVEYING THE AUDIENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

PHARAOH: Dear, dear, what a motley looking lot. I don't think I have seen such a puny looking bunch. Slaves? Is this the best you

could do? They all look a bit past it to me --- What do you think my dear? **(TO QUEEN NEFRITITI... QUEEN JOINS HIM AND THE ROYAL PARTY GO INTO AUDIENCE.)**

QUEEN: This lot look like rejects from..... **(LOCAL RETIREMENT HOME OR VILLAGE)** On closer examination I think this one here is dead! This one over here is dead, rigger mortis has set in already. --- unless --- say honey is that a gun in your pocket or are you just glad to see me? Proper little Turkish Delight this one, full of eastern promise he is.

CHARISMA: There's a live one over here mother. I can hear him breathing.

QUEEN: That's not breathing honey, that's called panting ---- Say here's a live one, no, I don't think it is a heart beat it's just his pace-maker on fast forward.

PHARAOH: Really disappointing lot though, I hope we get some better ones tomorrow night **(BY NOW HE IS LOOKING AT THE ORCHESTRA)** These are really decrepit!!

PHYSICIAN: (STILL ON STAGE) But Master the slaves for your inspection are up here.

AYHAB: Allow me to display a small sample of my wares for your approval your Royal Circumference.

CHARISMA: He could display his wares for me any time --- He's really spunky.

FATIMA: Don't be so crude Charisma, he's only a common trader, a dealer in slaves and other uncouth animals. Certainly well beneath our attention.**(ROYAL PARTY RETURNS TO STAGE)**

SLAVE GIRLS PARADE ACROSS FRONT OF STAGE AS AYHAB INTRODUCES THEM ALL. (IT MAY BE FUN TO HAVE A MOCK FASHION PARADE HERE WITH AYHAB GIVING COMMENTARY ON THE GIRLS' COSTUMES) AD LIB AS LAST GIRL LEAVES.

PHARAOH: All very beautiful I'm sure but what I really need is some male slaves for my caravans. Some camel drivers and some horsemen.

PHYSICIAN:(TO AYHAB) What male slaves have you Trader?

AYHAB: Not many male slaves only what you see here before you --- **(INDICATES AUDIENCE)** And they all appear to have their Masters --- or should I say mistresses with them tonight. Perhaps as the night wears on some may become available **(LEERS AT AUDIENCE)** Take heed slaves, obey your mistresses well or you may find yourself with an inside view of the slave auction in Act two. But for now Pharaoh just a few specials - half price to-night for you only Your Royal Flatulence **(CLAPS HANDS) ENTER 1ST SLAVE.**

PHARAOH: (EXAMINING SLAVE) What is your trade slave? What skills have you?

1st SLAVE: I'm a timber-cutter sir.

PHARAOH: Where have you cut timber slave?

1st SLAVE: In the Sahara Desert, sir.

PHARAOH: But there are no trees in the Sahara Desert.

1st SLAVE: Pretty good wasn't I?

ENTER 2nd SLAVE

PHARAOH: What is this brand you wear on your arm slave?

2nd SLAVE: It is the initials of my previous owner, Your Majesty.

PHARAOH: (EXAMINES INITIALS CLOSELY) Hmmm W.C. He sure made a convenience out of you. **(LAUGHS UPROARIOUSLY AT HIS OWN JOKE)** Convenience get it, convenience --- **(REALISES NO ONE ELSE IS LAUGHING)** When the Pharaoh makes a funny every-one laughs - or else! **(ALL LAUGH)** That's better.

ENTER 3rd SLAVE

PHARAOH: And what skills have you slave?

3rd SLAVE: I'm a hunter Your Majesty.

PHARAOH: Good, I could use a good hunter. What is the thing you most like to hunt slave?

3rd SLAVE: Egyptians!
(LUNGES AT PHARAOH, WHO HIDES BEHIND QUEEN.)

AYHAB: (WIELDING WHIP) Back you slaves. Nasty bush wacking animals. Out-side etc. **(EXIT SLAVES)**

PHARAOH: (HIDING BEHIND QUEEN) Let us return to the Palace and the trader may show me the rest of his stock in private **(HE TURNS TO LEAVE).**

QUEEN: Not too private my love, remember your blood pressure. I am coming with you --- come along girls.

CHARISMA: Oh mother may I stay awhile and perhaps purchase some silk for a new robe or a pretty scarf - there is so much here to see, I do love the bazaar. Please let me stay.