

Prologue – A Dark and Creepy Place

*[The curtain opens to reveal a dark, smoky and creepy place. Lightning strikes as we see the **Baddie**, an evil magician, standing in the middle with his back to us. He gives an evil cackle as he slowly turns around to face us. Draped across him is his pet snake **Fluffy**.]*

Baddie My oh my, you *are* a pathetic looking bunch. I suppose you're hoping to see a panto tonight – aren't you? Well, you're all too late! In just a few moments I shall have my victory, and the entire kingdom will be mine! *[He points at random audience members.]* Not yours, not yours, and definitely not yours – but all mine! Ha-ha-ha-ha! Was that supposed to be a boo? My snake makes more noise when he belches! Ooh, that's better. Before we go on, I believe that introductions are in order. For those who haven't heard of me, I am the great and very evil magician (*Name*)! *[Lightning strikes]*

Fluffy Hhhhhhh.

Baddie Oh yes, and this is my pet boa constrictor: Fluffy. Say hello Fluffy.

Fluffy Hhhhhhh.

Baddie No: 'hello'.

Fluffy Hhhhhhh.

Baddie He's not much of a talker but he loves me very much, don't you Fluffy? *[Fluffy nuzzles him.]* Yes you do, Fluffy, yes you do! Give daddy a kiss. Come on, don't be shy. *[Fluffy kisses the Baddie on the mouth and gets carried away.]*

That's enough! Stop it! That's enough Fluffy! I said: stop it! *[He hits Fluffy on the head. Fluffy jumps back before looking at the Baddie and turning his head away sadly.]*

After many, many years I have finally managed to find the one thing that will make me Emperor! Behold! The Sacred Ring of Vladivostok! *[He takes out something dramatically from his robes. It's a banana.]*

No wait, a second, that's my lunch... *[He throws it backstage and pulls out a ring.]*

Aha, that is much better. Behold! The Sacred Ring of Vladivostok! *[He looks annoyed at the audience.]*

Whenever someone pulls out the Sacred Ring of Vladivostok, it is only polite to say 'ooooh!' Where are your manners? Now let's try it again, and this time, don't forget to say 'ooooh!' Ready?

Behold! The Sacred Ring of Vladivostok!

Audience Ooooh!

Baddie I summon you oh Slave of the Ring, and you will give me anything! [*He puts the ring on and rubs it. Suddenly the Slave of the Ring appears with a puff.*] It worked!

Slave I am the Slave of the Sacred Ring of Vladivostok and I will grant you three wishes.

Baddie Excellent! For my first wish, I would like to become Emperor of the entire kingdom!
[*Lightning flashes.*]

Slave I'm sorry, no.

Baddie Oh yes... No? What do you mean no?

Slave I mean negative, nyet, nada, no-can-do, le –

Baddie I know what it means! Why can't you do it?

Slave Because I am not powerful enough to grant such a wish. In fact, I know of only one creature that is strong enough to do that.

Baddie And who is that?

Slave Do you wish to know?

Baddie Yes of course I wish to know! Hurry up and tell me!

Slave The Genie of the Lamp is the only one capable of granting such a wish. He is all-powerful and he will grant his master three wishes. However the lamp is well-guarded in the Cave of Mysteries and Wonder.

Baddie Great, I'll go get it then. [*He makes to go.*]

Slave Not so fast. There is only one person who can enter the cave to retrieve the Lamp. One who is pure of heart and noble of spirit.

Baddie Yeah-yeah, whatever. Who is he?

Slave Do you wish to know his name?

Baddie No, I want to know his birthday so I can send him a card. Of course I wish to know his name!

Slave His name is Aladdin. Would you like to use your third and final wish now, or later?

Baddie Final wish? What do you mean final wish? You haven't granted me a single wish yet!

Slave You wished to know about the lamp and then you wished to know about Aladdin. That's two wishes. You have one left.

Baddie That is so sneaky! Isn't she sneaky Fluffy? [**Fluffy** *nods in agreement.*] See? Even Fluffy thinks you're sneaky. But no matter, I will be very careful about how I'll use my last wish and I'll be sure not to waste it. But what should I wish for? A new house? A new phone? (*topical reference*)

Slave How about a new face?

Baddie You know what, you're really starting to bug me.

Slave Do you wish I would leave you alone?

Baddie Yes, I wish you would leave me alone!

Slave Your wish is my command.

Baddie No, wait! *[The Slave disappears with a puff.]* I do not like her. In fact, I hate her almost as much as I hate children! *[He laughs as lightning strikes.]* I hate them all! And once I am Emperor, I will feed every last one of them to Fluffy! You'd like that, wouldn't you? *[He exits laughing maniacally as lightning strikes again and the curtain behind him rises.]*

Act 1, Scene 1 – Town Square in Old Peking

[We see a Chinese Town Square that is ready for a celebration. In the very middle there is Wishee Washee standing alone. When he sees the audience, he approaches the front of the stage to welcome them as 'Can-Can' music starts.]

Song 1 – Welcome to the Panto

WW Hey everybody, welcome to Old Peking! I am your host, Wishee Washee, and have I got a great adventure in store for you today! All you need to do is just sit back, relax, and make yourselves comfortable as we welcome you to this year's Christmas pantomime – Aladdin!

I'M AS HAPPY AS CAN BE
TO WALLOW IN YOUR COMPANY
LOOK AT ME,
YOU WILL SEE;
I AM HERE TO BID YOU WELCOME
I WILL TAKE YOU LONG AGO
THROUGH THIS AMAZING PANTO SHOW
TAKE YOU THROUGH THE HISTORY
OF A COMMON ENEMY

[The Villagers start rushing in from all sides in small groups.]

Villagers ONE, TWO, ONE, TWO
WW HERE'S A DANCE THAT WE CAN DO
Villagers TWO, THREE, TWO, THREE
WW LET ME SEE YOU BEND YOUR KNEE
Villagers THREE, FOUR, THREE, FOUR
WW KICK YOUR FEET UP OFF THE FLOOR
Villagers FOUR, FIVE, FOUR, FIVE
WW THEN YOU'LL FEEL ALIVE
Villagers YOU'LL FEEL ALIVE
YOU'LL FEEL ALIVE
ALIVE, ALIVE, ALIVE, SO...

HEY! WELCOME TO THE PANTO
WELCOME TO THE PANTO
COME AND JOIN THE SHOW
AND HAVE SOME FUN AS WE SAY
HEY! WELCOME TO THE PANTO
WELCOME TO THE PANTO
COME AND JOIN THE SHOW AND HAVE SOME FUN

[The Villagers disperse to reveal Aladdin standing in their midst.]

WW HERE'S THE HERO OF THE SHOW
AND HE'S MY BROTHER DON'T YOU KNOW
I PRESENT
THIS FINE GENT;
HE'S THE ONE THEY CALL ALADDIN
Villager 1 HE'S A GOOD FOR NOTHING BOY
THAT NO SANE PERSON WOULD EMPLOY
Villager 2 ALWAYS UP TO NOTHING GOOD
IN OUR SORRY NEIGHBOURHOOD