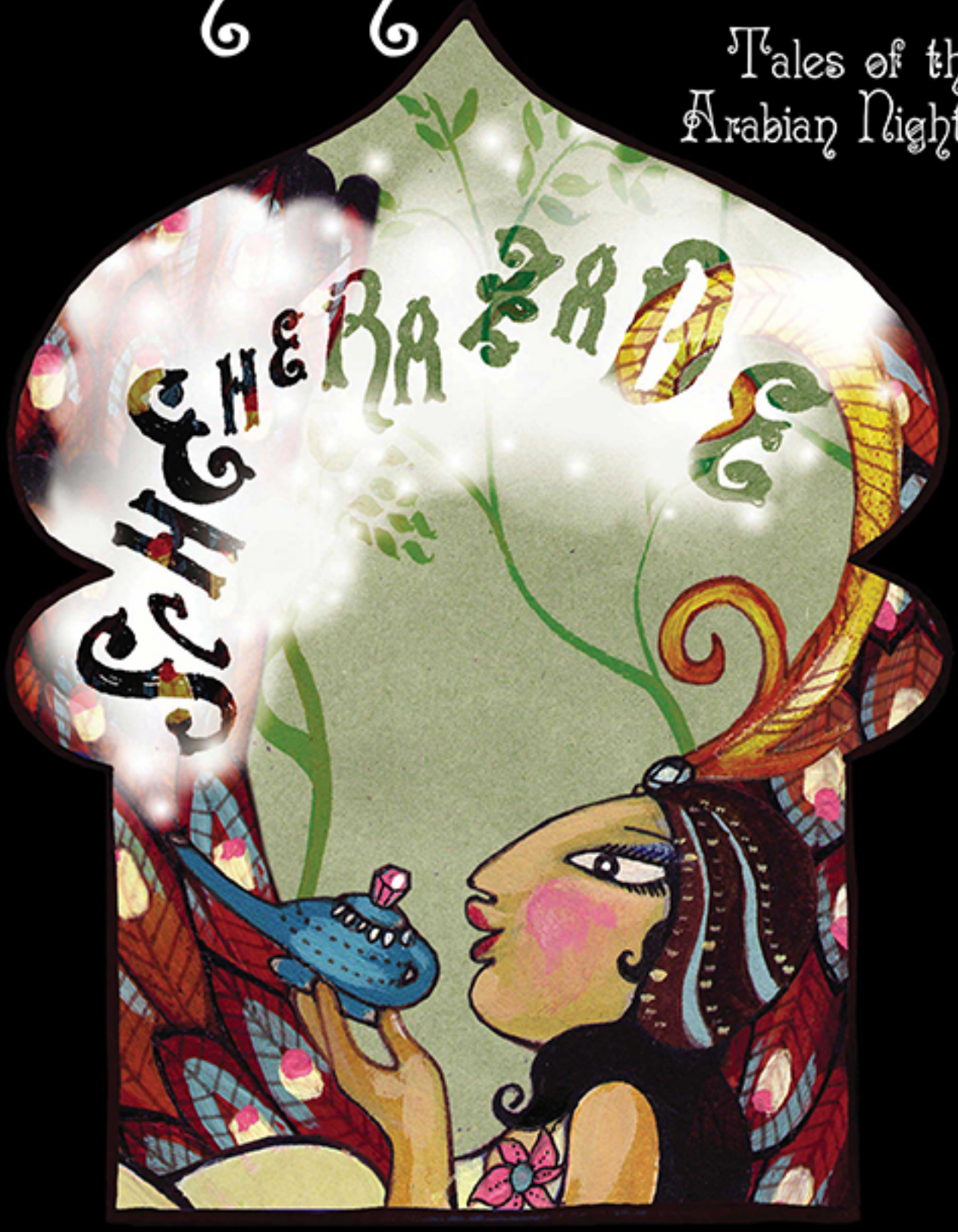
Starshine music

Scheherazade

Tales of the Arabian Nights



A Musical by Nick Perrin

Scheherazade

Tales of the Arabian Nights

by

Nick Perrin

(ed. Ruth Kenward, arr. Mark Dickman)

www.starshine.co.uk

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The Director's Pack includes: mp3 files of song demos and backing tracks, pdfs of pupil script/lyrics and other printable resources for the sole use of the purchaser

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Director's Notes

The show requires 9 main characters and 24 other speaking parts. Along with parts for crowd, dancers, thieves, etc., this show may be performed with around forty-five children each having a distinct role, and the chorus may be extended as required to meet the needs of much larger groups. However, the show may be put on with a total cast of only 24 if the same group of around fifteen actors is used in every one of the three tales.

CAST

*__Characters in bold type__ have solo or group singing *(which may be taken by the Chorus if necessary)*

Central Speaking Parts*

Chris	Lively, cheeky child - could be cast as a girl or a boy.	
Sammy	Brother or sister of Chris. Sensible, sensitive.	
Old Man (or Woman)	Slightly eccentric story-teller.	
Scheherazade	Heroine, brave, patient.	***Soloist***
Dinazade	Moderate amount of dialogue. Scheherazade's sister.	***Soloist***
Vizier	Scheherazade's father, Sultan's adviser. Several appearances, few lines.	
Genie	Larger than life figure.	***Soloist***
Sultan	Fearsome, humourless character. Several appearances, few lines.	***Soloist***
Shopkeeper	Very little dialogue. Minor character, appears in the final scene.	

Characters From The Tales (minor roles)*

The Beggar:	**Tailor, Tailor's Wife, Beggar, Doctor, Doctor's Wife, Sultan's Man, Sultan's Man's Wife, Merchant, 2 Guards, Crowd** (5-10 people)
The Story of Ali Baba:	**Ali Baba, Cassim,** Ali Baba's Wife, Chief Thief, any number of Thieves, Tree, Cave Entrance (2+ performers with large capes)
The Fisherman, Prince & Stone King:	*(**Genie** – see above)* Fisherman, Prince, Courtiers, Stone King, Wicked Wizard, Fish Dancers/Singers

Other Parts (non-speaking)

Extra performers in the Chorus dress as the Sultan's subjects. These may dance /mime during the '1001 Tales' number, and add to crowd scenes.

STAGING SUGGESTIONS

Main action to take place Centre Stage. Chorus and other characters seated Upstage on benches.

Sultan's bed and a chair for Scheherazade Downstage Right, initially unlit.

Al's Place - a junk shop - is a signed and lit area Downstage Left, includes props as outlined above. The shop doubles as the cave, so also contains treasures. Chair, pile of rugs and box for Old Man and children to sit on - placed Downstage outside Al's Place, high enough to be visible at all times.

Throne area - staging block and embellished chair Upstage Centre, to raise up Prince, Sultan, Stone King.

PROPS

Al's Place: Junk shop items should include a jug with a stopper, old Persian style rug, traditional woven laundry basket, scimitar, boxes, heavy old book. An old-fashioned birdcage, peacock feathers, etc. add an oriental touch.

The Beggar's Tale: An oversize fish-bone

Ali Baba's Tale: Axe / saw, lots of 'treasure', comb for Cassim

Fisherman's Tale: Fishing line, large jug with stopper for the genie to hide behind, or from which he appears to have emerged. Fishing net.

Director's Overview

SCENE 1 - Sammy And Chris Begin Their Adventure

Two children begin their adventure, meeting an old man in a junk shop.

Instr.	**A TALE BEGINS**	**Track 1**

SCENE 2 - The Old Man Tells The ChildrenAbout Scheherazade

The Old Man reads to the children from his copy of 'Tales of the Arabian Nights'.

Song	**SCHEHERAZADE**	**Track 2**

SCENE 3 - The Sultan

The Sultan used to be good, but is under a spell which has made him bitter and cruel. He takes a new bride every night, and kills her the following day.

Song	**SULTAN'S SONG**	**Track 3**

SCENE 4 - Scheherazade's Plan

Scheherazade believes that she can stop the killing, and asks her father, the Vizier, to offer her hand in marriage to the Sultan.

Song	**TEARS IN THE DESERT**	**Track 4**

SCENE 5 - Dinazade Asks For A Story

Dinazade, Scheherazade's sister, accompanies her to the palace. Scheherazade will tell stories to the Sultan each night, tales that are interesting enough to make him want her to tell him another the following night.

Song	**PLEASE TELL ME**	**Track 5**

SCENE 6 - The Tale Of The Beggar

A beggar seems to die, choking on a fish bone. Various people think they've killed him, and try to avoid the blame.

Song	**POOR OLD MAN (part 1)**	**Track 6**
Song	**POOR OLD MAN (part 2)**	**Track 7**
Sfx	**GONG**	**Track 18**

SCENE 7 - The Tale Of Ali Baba

Ali Baba discovers magic words that enable him to enter a cave full of riches. His envious brother, Cassim, loses his life due to his greed.

Song	**ALI BABA (part 1)**	**Track 8**
Song	**ALI BABA (part 2)**	**Track 9**
Sfx	**GONG**	**Track 18**

SCENE 8 - The Fisherman's Tale

A Fisherman catches a Genie in a jar, and is persuaded to free him. The Genie shows the Fisherman some strange fish with legs, who dance. The Fisherman takes the fish to a prince, and exchanges them for gold.

Song	**HEY MAN, I AIN'T A BIG FISH**	**Track 10**
Sfx	**GENIE WHOOSH (used four times)**	**Track 19**
Instr.	**FISH DANCE**	**Track 11**
Sfx	**GONG**	**Track 18**

(contd.)

(contd.)

SCENE 9 - The Prince And The Stone King

The strange fish take the Prince to the sea, where he finds a King whose legs have been turned to stone by a Wicked Wizard. The Prince frees the King (and the fish) from the curse. **Track 12**

Instr.	**THE FIGHT**	**Track 13**
Song	**AT LAST WE'RE HOME AND DRY**	**Track 18**
Sfx	**GONG**	

SCENE 10 - 1001 Tales

A dance, with vocal ending, that alludes to the other 997 tales! **Track 14**

Song	**1001 TALES**	

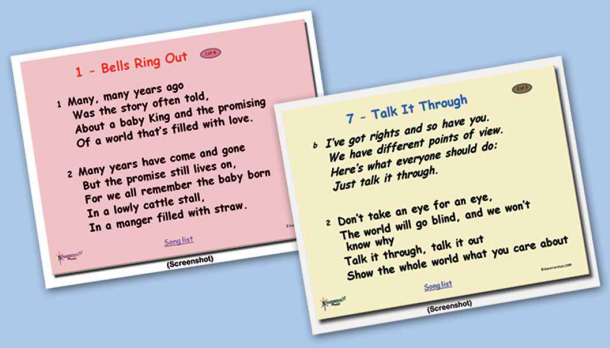
SCENE 11 - No More Songs

Scheherazade runs out of stories, but wishes for the Sultan to be freed from the curse. The Genie, hearing her wish, duly obliges, and all ends happily. **Track 15**

Song	**NO MORE SONGS**	**Track 16**
Song	**THE WISHING GAME**	**Track 19**
Sfx	**GENIE WHOOSH**	**Track 20**
Sfx	**MAGIC ZING**	**Track 17**
Song	**FINALE**	

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Scheherezade

by Nick Perrin

SCENE 1 Sammy And Chris Begin Their Adventure

A TALE BEGINS *(instrumental)* **(Track 1)**

[Ideally, CAST are all offstage, or else seated on benches (base positions) out of the main performing area. SAMMY & CHRIS (perhaps on a skateboard) enter, move to Centre Stage.]

SAMMY Can't we get something different for Grandad's birthday?
We always get him socks.

CHRIS But it's traditional!

SAMMY Traditional and boring. Come on Chris, think of something special.

CHRIS What kind of special?

SAMMY Well, we know he likes old stuff.

CHRIS Old stuff?

SAMMY You know, stuff from the old days. Old tins, old books, old stamps, that sort of thing. Old stuff!

CHRIS Hmm... *(thinks)* ...I know!

SAMMY *(in anticipation)* Yes?

CHRIS *(excited)* Sammy, I've got it!
(excited, as if it's a new idea) We could get him some old stuff!

SAMMY Oh ha, ha, very funny.

[They look up and see a junk shop (Stage Left) – Al's Place. They point and speak together.]

CHRIS & SAMMY Old stuff!!

[CHRIS & SAMMY go into the shop and look around.]

SAMMY Wow, Chris, this is a real Aladdin's cave!

[SAMMY picks up an old pottery jug with a cork stopper.]

SAMMY How about this? Grandad likes old crocks.

CHRIS Yeah, like Grandma, you mean!

SAMMY I'll tell her you said that!

[SAMMY passes the jug to CHRIS, who examines it. SAMMY picks up a rug and unrolls it.]

Hey look at this! It's like a magic carpet!

CHRIS Yeah! It reminds me of a film I saw on TV – Sinbad the Sailor.

[CHRIS moves to Centre, speaks out to audience, increasingly animated.]

There was this one-eyed monster, ripping the sailors to pieces with its bare hands! Blood and guts everywhere!

SAMMY *(bored)* Yes, thank you Chris, I get the picture.

[CHRIS shrugs, and returns to shop.]

CHRIS Wow! Look at this! *(points to a laundry basket)* In the film there was a basket just like this! It was full of snakes!

SAMMY *(wrinkling nose)* Snakes?

CHRIS *(using lots of animated gestures)* Yeah, snakes! And a snake charmer sat beside it and played this weird pipe thing, and out came this gigantic cobra!

SAMMY Come on, Chris, focus! Grandad's present!

[SAMMY keeps her back turned to CHRIS most of the time, trying to ignore him as she hunts for a present.]

CHRIS You're so bossy, Sam! *(mutters ad lib)* Bossy Sammy, Sammy's bossy... *(repeat until he spots a scimitar)* Wow!

[CHRIS waves scimitar around, narrowly missing SAMMY.]

SAMMY Hey, careful!

[SAMMY re-focuses, ignoring CHRIS, who continues to play with the scimitar, moving to Centre as he speaks.]

CHRIS Sinbad fought a massive, terrifying giant with one of these. *(jabbing with the scimitar)* Hah! Take that! And that! And that!

[CHRIS's three 'Take that' jabs are aimed at audience Left, Right, Centre. Meanwhile, SAMMY is ignoring him, pulling back boxes, etc., behind which she finds a heavy old book. She blows dust off it, wipes it, reads the title aloud. As she reads, OLD MAN (or woman) appears. SAMMY turns to look at OLD MAN.]

SAMMY 'Tales of the Arabian Nights'!

OLD MAN *(mysteriously, moving to Centre)* Ah! You've found my precious book!

[OLD MAN approaches SAMMY, reaching out for the book.]

SAMMY *(startled)* Oh! I hope you don't mind – we were just trying to find a present for our Grandad...

[SAMMY hands book to OLD MAN. CHRIS joins them, curious.]

OLD MAN Mind? Of course I don't mind!

CHRIS Why is this book so precious?

SAMMY Chris! Don't be nosy!

OLD MAN Well, boy, it's precious because it's a magic book, full of mystery and adventures beyond your wildest dreams.

SAMMY It looks very old.

OLD MAN It was given to me by my father, *(slowly walking to shop)* and to his father before him, and to his father before him, and to his father before him, and to...

CHRIS *(interrupting cheekily)* ...his father before him ?

SAMMY *(hissing)* Chris! *(rolls eyes, shakes head at his rudeness)*

OLD MAN *(sitting down slowly on chair)* Yes – adventures beyond your wildest dreams!

SAMMY You said 'Magic'. How is the book magic?

OLD MAN What is your name, child?

SAMMY Sammy.

OLD MAN Sit down, Sammy. And you, Chris.

[They all sit by the sign for Al's Place. OLD MAN opens the book. ***Cue Track 2.*** *OLD MAN speaks over Intro music.]*

SCENE 2 The Old Man Tells The Children About Scheherazade

OLD MAN Listen, children! Listen! *(reading from book)* In a land far from here, many, many years ago, a strange and wonderful story began.

*[**Optional solo v.1***
During the song, cast enter in groups, building up volume.]

[In the final bars, main characters quickly move from performing area into base positions. SAMMY & CHRIS respond with amazement as they watch this colourful spectacle.]

SCHEHERAZADE (Track 2)

Soloist / Group

LISTEN ALL YOU BROTHERS,
LISTEN ALL YOU SONS!
LISTEN ALL YOU SISTERS,
LISTEN NOW EVERYONE!
TELL THE TALE TO YOUR BROTHERS,
TELL THE TALE TO YOUR SONS!
TELL THE TALE TO YOUR SISTERS!
TELL IT TO EVERYONE!

Add groups of singers to increase the volume line by line.

Enter VIZIER, SCHEHERAZADE & DINAZADE, to stand Downstage Centre.

SCHEHERAZADE OUR PRINCESS,
SCHEHERAZADE OUR STORY QUEEN!
ONE WISH WOULD DO
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.
SCHEHERAZADE OUR PRINCESS,
SCHEHERAZADE OUR STORY QUEEN!
ONE WISH WOULD DO
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

ALL cast apart from the SULTAN should be on stage by the beginning of the up-tempo repeat.

SCHEHERAZADE, VIZIER & DINAZADE exit after second time.

[Repeat all the above, up-tempo, but replacing the last two lines as follows:]

Group 1
ONE WISH WOULD DO
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

Exit all other main characters.

Group 2
ONE WISH WOULD DO
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

Group 1
ONE WISH WOULD DO

Group 1& 2
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

Boys (or other group)
SCHEHERAZADE! SCHEHERAZADE! SCHEHERAZADE!

[During the last bars of the song, CHORUS either lie down on the stage in front of the Sultan's throne, or move to sides, remaining there until they next sing.]

SCENE 3 The Sultan

CHRIS Wow! That was amazing!

SAMMY Yeah! Amazing! When you read from the book it was so <u>real</u>!

CHRIS Like it was really happening!

SAMMY What does it mean 'Scheherazade our story queen'?
Who was Scheherazade?

OLD MAN Children, this is a strange and mysterious world. There are so many things that you don't know or understand.

Track 2

Scheherazade

Music and Lyrics by Nick Perrin
Arr. Mark Dickman

Andante (♩ = 72)



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Cm Bm Cm Cm Adim
Tell the tale_ to your bro - thers, tell the tale__ to your sons!
18
Cm Bm Cm Gm G
Tell the tale to your sis - ters, tell it to ev - 'ry - one! Sche -
22
A♭ B♭/A♭ Gm7 Caug C7
he - ra - zade our prin - cess,_ Sche - he - ra - zade our sto - ry queen! One
26
Fm7 A♭m/C♭ B♭ B♭6 E♭ D♭/E♭ E♭
wish would do_ to make her dreams come true._____ Sche -
cresc. poco a poco
30


A♭
B♭/A♭
Gm7
Caug
-he - ra - zade our prin - cess, Sche - he - ra - zade our sto - ry queen! One
34
With Urgency (♩= 124)
Fm7
E♭/G
A♭
A♭/B♭
Cm
Cdim
Cm
wish would do to make her dreams come true.
38
Cm
Cdim
Cm
Cm
Cdim
Cm
ALL:
Lis-ten all you bro - thers,
42
Cm
Adim
Cm
Cdim
Cm
lis-ten all you sons!
Lis-ten all you sis - ters,
46


Gm G Cm Cdim C
list - en, now ev - 'ry - one! Tell the tale__ to your bro - thers,
50
Cm Adim Cm Cdim C
tell the tale__ to your sons! Tell the tale__ to your sis - ters,
54
Gm G7 A♭ B♭/A♭
tell it to ev - 'ry - one! Sche - he - ra - zade our prin - cess,_ Sche -
58
Gm7 Caug C7 Fm7 B♭7 B♭ B♭6
he - ra - zade our sto - ry queen! One wish would do_ to make her dreams come
62


E♭ E♭7 A♭ B♭/A♭
true.
GROUP 1: Sche - he - ra - zade our prin - cess, Sche-
GROUP 2: Sche - he - ra - zade our prin - cess, Sche-
66
Gm7 Caug C7 Fm E♭/G A♭6 A♭/B♭
- he - ra - zade our sto - ry queen! One wish would do to make her dreams come
- he - ra - zade our sto - ry queen! One
mf
70
rit.
Fm E♭/G A♭6 A♭/B♭ Fm E♭/G A♭6 A♭/B♭
true. One wish would do to make her dreams come
wish would do to make her dreams come true, to make her dreams come
74

Scheherazade

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Narrated Version

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Director's Notes

CAST

***Characters in bold type have solo or group singing** *(which may be taken by the Chorus if necessary)*

Central Speaking Parts*

Narrators 1, 2, 3, 4	Large speaking parts, telling the story. May be read from script.	
Sultan	Fearsome, humourless character. Several appearances, few lines.	***Soloist***
Scheherazade	Heroine, brave, patient.	***Soloist***
Vizier	Scheherazade's father, Sultan's adviser. Several appearances, few lines.	
Dinazade	Moderate amount of dialogue. Scheherazade's sister.	***Soloist***
Executioner	Brief appearances - non speaking	
Genie	Larger than life figure.	***Soloist***

Characters From The Tales (minor roles)*

The Beggar:	**Tailor, Tailor's Wife, Beggar, Doctor, Doctor's Wife, Sultan's Man, Sultan's Man's Wife, Merchant, 2 Guards, Tree, Crowd** (5-10 people)
The Story of Ali Baba:	**Ali Baba, Cassim** *(Ali Baba's greedy older brother)*, Ali Baba's Wife, Chief Thief, any number of Thieves, Tree, Cave Entrance (2+ performers with large capes)
The Fisherman, Prince & Stone King:	*(**Genie** – see above)* Fisherman, Prince, Courtiers, Stone King, Wicked Wizard, Fish Dancers/Singers

Other Parts (non-speaking)

Extra performers in the Chorus dress as the Sultan's subjects. These may dance /mime during the '1001 Tales' number, and add to crowd scenes.

Narrated Version

STAGING SUGGESTIONS

Main action to take place Centre Stage.
Chorus and other characters seated Upstage on benches.

Sultan's bed and a chair for Scheherazade Downstage Right, initially unlit.

Downstage Left, a cave which contains treasures.

Throne area - staging block and embellished chair Upstage Centre, to raise up Prince, Sultan, Stone King.
Doctor's Doorway and Sultan's Man's Doorway could be painted flats, positioned wherever suits.

PROPS

The Beggar's Tale: An oversize fish-bone

Ali Baba's Tale: Axe / saw, lots of 'treasure', comb for Cassim

Fisherman's Tale: Fishing line, large jug (perhaps a painted flat) with a removable stopper for Genie to hide behind, or from which he appears to have emerged. Fishing net.

Director's Overview

N.B. You will notice that some track numbers are missing.
This is because some parts of the full version of 'Scheherazade' have been omitted for this Narrated Version.

Song **SCHEHERAZADE** **Track 2**

Far away in Arabia is a Sultan who used to be good, but is under a spell which has made him bitter and cruel. He takes a new bride every night, and kills her the following day.

Song **SULTAN'S SONG** **Track 3**

Scheherazade believes that she can stop the killing, and asks her father, the Vizier, to offer her hand in marriage to the Sultan.

Song **TEARS IN THE DESERT** **Track 4**

Dinazade, Scheherazade's sister, accompanies her to the palace. Scheherazade will tell stories to the Sultan each night, tales that are interesting enough to make him want her to tell him another the following night.

Song **PLEASE TELL ME** **Track 5**

Scheherazade tells the Sultand a story about a beggar who seems to die, choking on a fish bone. Various people think they've killed him, and try to avoid the blame.

Song **POOR OLD MAN (part 1)** **Track 6**
Song **POOR OLD MAN (part 2)** **Track 7**

Scheherazade's second story is about Ali Baba discovers magic words that enable him to enter a cave full of riches. His envious brother, Cassim, loses his life due to his greed.

Song **ALI BABA (part 1)** **Track 8**
Song **ALI BABA (part 2)** **Track 9**

Scheherazade's third tale is about a Fisherman who catches a Genie in a jar, and is persuaded to free him. The Genie shows the Fisherman some strange fish with legs, who dance. The Fisherman takes the fish to a prince, and exchanges them for gold.

Song **HEY MAN, I AIN'T A BIG FISH** **Track 10**

The strange fish take the Prince to the sea, where he finds a King whose legs have been turned to stone by a Wicked Wizard. The Prince frees the King (and the fish) from the curse.

Song **AT LAST WE'RE HOME AND DRY** **Track 13**

A dance, with vocal ending, that alludes to the other 997 tales!

Song **1001 TALES** **Track 14**

Scheherazade runs out of stories, but wishes for the Sultan to be freed from the curse. The Genie, hearing her wish, duly obliges, and all ends happily.

Song **NO MORE SONGS** **Track 15**
Song **THE WISHING GAME** **Track 16**
Song **FINALE** **Track 17**

Narrated Version

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Scheherazade

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Narrated Version

NARRATOR 1 — In a land far from here, many, many years ago, a strange and wonderful story began.

SCHEHERAZADE (Track 2)

Soloist / Narrators

LISTEN ALL YOU BROTHERS,
LISTEN ALL YOU SONS!
LISTEN ALL YOU SISTERS,
LISTEN NOW EVERYONE!
TELL THE TALE TO YOUR BROTHERS
TELL THE TALE TO YOUR SONS!
TELL THE TALE TO YOUR SISTERS!
TELL IT TO EVERYONE!

Add groups of singers to increase the volume line by line.

Enter VIZIER, SCHEHERAZADE & DINAZADE, to stand Downstage Centre.

SCHEHERAZADE OUR PRINCESS,
SCHEHERAZADE OUR STORY QUEEN!
ONE WISH WOULD DO
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.
SCHEHERAZADE OUR PRINCESS,
SCHEHERAZADE OUR STORY QUEEN!
ONE WISH WOULD DO
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

ALL cast apart from the SULTAN should be on stage by the beginning of the up-tempo repeat.

SCHEHERAZADE, VIZIER & DINAZADE exit after second time.

[Repeat all the above, up-tempo, but replacing the last two lines as follows:]

Exit all other main characters.

Group 1
ONE WISH WOULD DO
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

Group 2
ONE WISH WOULD DO
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

Group 1
ONE WISH WOULD DO

Group 1& 2
TO MAKE HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

Boys (or other group)
SCHEHERAZADE! SCHEHERAZADE! SCHEHERAZADE!

[During the last bars of the song, CHORUS either lie down on the stage in front of the Sultan's throne, or move to sides, remaining there until they next sing.]

Narrated Version

NARRATOR 1 The land of Arabia was ruled by a great Sultan. He was a good leader, wise and kind, and respected by his subjects.

NARRATOR 2 Unfortunately, his wife deceived him. He was so shocked and angry that he had her killed.

NARRATOR 3 While the Sultan was still in a state of grief and despair, an evil magician cast a wicked spell on him.

NARRATOR 4 Every day he would marry a new bride and the following morning, at first light, he would have her killed. That way, no woman would ever be able to cheat him again.

Option:
SULTAN could shout instead of singing.

[SULTAN enters and goes to face audience, gesturing as he sings. When CHORUS sing, SULTAN strides around, glaring.]

SULTAN'S SONG (Track 3)

Sultan I AM THE KING OF THIS LAND.
I AM THE KING, I'M THE MAN.
BRING ME A WIFE AND I'LL TAKE HER LIFE!
NO-ONE MAKES A LOSER OUT OF ME!
I AM THE PRINCE OF THE SEAS.
I CAN DO AS I PLEASE.
BRING ME A WIFE AND I'LL TAKE HER LIFE!
NO-ONE MAKES A LOSER OUT OF ME!

If lying down, CHORUS raise themselves up to sitting, hands still on floor, following SULTAN with their eyes, lying down again as SULTAN sings.

Chorus MERCY, MERCY, SULTAN.
MERCY, MERCY, KING.
MERCY, MERCY, SULTAN.
SHOW A LITTLE MERCY, MIGHTY KING!

Sultan I AM THE LORD OF ALL MEN!
I WON'T BE FOOLED, NOT AGAIN!
BRING ME A WIFE AND I'LL TAKE HER LIFE!
NO-ONE MAKES A LOSER OUT OF ME!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN CHEAT ON ME!
NO-ONE MAKES A LOSER OUT OF ME!

CHORUS sing more urgently, some kneeling up, using hand movements to express entreaty.

Chorus MERCY, MERCY, SULTAN...

...SHOW A LITTLE, GIVE A LITTLE,
HAVE A LITTLE, JUST A LITTLE,
SHOW A LITTLE MERCY MIGHTY KING!

Sultan *(shouts)* OUT!

[SULTAN stands with hands on hips as CHORUS run off – afraid – to base positions. SULTAN strides off.]

NARRATOR 1 The Vizier was the Sultan's chief advisor. Every morning it was his unfortunate task to order the execution of the Sultan's latest bride.

NARRATOR 2 The Vizier found this job deeply distressing, but never more so than when his own daughter, Scheherazade, offered to become the Sultan's next bride.

Narrated Version

NARRATOR 3 But Scheherazade had come up with a plan to put a stop to all the killing. She was sure it would work, but there was no way her father would agree. He was certain that she would be killed.

NARRATOR 4 If Scheherazade went ahead with her plan, the Vizier knew that he might have to order his own daughter's execution. He was even more horrified when he found out that his youngest daughter, Dinazade, was also to be involved.

NARRATOR 1 However, Scheherazade was determined. Eventually, she persuaded her father that her plan had to be tried, otherwise the killing would never stop! Day after day, innocent girls would die...

TEARS IN THE DESERT (Track 4)

SULTAN enters during first verse

All TEARS IN THE DESERT, A FOUNTAIN OF RAIN
FILLING THE DEEP WELL OF DESPAIR, ENDLESS PAIN.
MORNING BRINGS SADNESS, YOUNG LIFE SACRIFICED.
CURSE ON THE SULTAN A CRUEL WICKED PRICE.

Enter VIZIER with SCHEHERAZADE, to present her to SULTAN.

WHAT A PRICE, WHAT A PRICE, WICKED SACRIFICE.
WHAT A PRICE, WHAT A PRICE, WICKED SACRIFICE.

[Dialogue continues with music under – turn volume down if necessary.]

Sultan I will marry Scheherazade, but your daughter is no different from the rest. She must die in the morning.

Scheherazade O Sultan, grant me one last wish.
Could my sister stay with me on my last night?

Sultan Very well.

[Song continues. SCHEHERAZADE moves to VIZIER; they hug each other goodbye. Exit VIZIER Left. SCHEHERAZADE exits Right to get DINAZADE.]

SULTAN moves to bed and sits on it.

HOPE IN THE DESERT, A JEWEL IN THE SAND.
TALES OF HER WISDOM WOULD SPREAD THROUGH THE LAND.
COULD SHE BRING LAUGHTER, EASE THE PAIN?
ONE THOUSAND TALES, ONE THOUSAND NIGHTS,
ONE THOUSAND DARK ARABIAN NIGHTS,
ONE THOUSAND TALES TO WISH UPON...

Enter SCHEHERAZADE & DINAZADE, slowly to Downstage Centre, and then to bed.

COULD SHE BRING LAUGHTER, EASE THE PAIN?
ONE THOUSAND TALES, ONE THOUSAND NIGHTS,
ONE THOUSAND DARK ARABIAN NIGHTS,
ONE THOUSAND TALES TO WISH UPON TONIGHT.

[SCHEHERAZADE sits on the chair by the bed; DINAZADE kneels on the floor at the foot of the bed.]

NARRATOR 2 So: the Sultan had agreed to marry Scheherazade, though he was surprised that the Vizier would allow his own daughter to be killed.

Narrated Version

NARRATOR 3 It was just as surprising that he had allowed Scheherazade's sister to stay with her but - after all - it was her final request.

NARRATOR 4 Late that night, as the two sisters had planned, Dinazade asked the Sultan if Scheherazade could tell one of her stories.

[DINAZADE stands Centre to begin her solo.]

PLEASE TELL ME (Track 5)

Dinazade PLEASE TELL ME A STORY,
A STORY THAT WILL LAST THE WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH.
Chorus echo *WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH.*
Dinazade PLEASE TELL ME A STORY,
A STORY THAT WILL TAKE ME TO A PLACE
WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE.
TELL YOUR TALES OF MAGIC SPELLS,
FLYING HORSES, WISHING WELLS,
PLEASE TELL ME.
Chorus echo *PLEASE TELL ME.*

Dinazade PLEASE TELL ME A STORY,
A STORY THAT WILL LAST THE WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH.
Chorus echo *WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH.*
Dinazade PLEASE TELL ME A STORY,
A STORY THAT WILL TAKE ME TO A PLACE
WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE.
TELL YOUR TALES OF FANTASY,
DISTANT LANDS, DARK MYSTERY,
PLEASE TELL ME.
Chorus echo *PLEASE TELL ME.*

SCHEHERAZADE joins DINAZADE Centre, ready to sing.

Dinazade AND WHEN THE MORNING BREAKS
THE SUN LIGHTS UP THE SKY.
Scheherazade SO WILL I LIVE OR WILL I DIE?
Dinazade PLEASE TELL ME.
Scheherazade I'LL TELL YOU
A STORY THAT WILL LAST THE WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH.
Chorus echo *WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH.*
Dinazade PLEASE TELL ME.
Scheherazade I'LL TELL YOU
A STORY THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE
WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE.

Chorus & Dinazade TELL YOUR TALES OF FANTASY,
DISTANT LANDS, DARK MYSTERY,
PLEASE TELL ME, PLEASE TELL ME.
AND WHEN THE MORNING BREAKS
THE SUN LIGHTS UP THE SKY.
Scheherazade SO WILL I LIVE OR WILL I DIE?

PLEASE TELL ME
Dinazade A STORY,
Scheherazade PLEASE TELL ME
Dinazade A STORY,
Sche. & Din. PLEASE TELL ME.

[SCHEHERAZADE & DINAZADE move to chair / bed.]

Narrated Version

NARRATOR 1 The Sultan had no objection to Scheherazade telling one of her tales, and so she began like this:

[Enter TREE, to stand Upstage Centre.]

SCHEHERAZADE Long ago there lived a tailor and his wife. They loved each other very much. One day a beggar came to the tailor's shop. He was very poor and very hungry.

[Enter BEGGAR Stage Left, crosses to TAILOR & TAILOR's WIFE, who enter Upstage Right. They mime as required.]

The tailor took pity on him and took him home to share their supper. They sat down to a delicious meal of fish and vegetables.

Unfortunately, the beggar swallowed a large fish bone.
They did everything they could to help him, but the poor man choked.

(or Tailor & Wife) 'Oh no!' said the tailor. 'We've killed a man! Whatever shall we do?'

POOR OLD MAN (Part 1) (Track 6)

Tailor & Tailor's Wife WE MUST FIND A WAY TO HIDE THE BODY.
POOR OLD MAN, HE'S HAD HIS CHIPS!
WON'T BE GOOD ENOUGH TO SAY WE'RE SORRY
SWINGING FROM THE HANGMAN'S JIB!

[During the following verse, TAILOR & TAILOR's WIFE will drag the BEGGAR to sitting position in DOCTOR's 'doorway', where they knock, then quickly exit.]

Chorus Group 1 TAKE HIM TO THE DOCTOR,
Chorus Group 2 JUST PRETEND HE'S ILL!
Group 1 PAY HIM FOR HIS SERVICE,
Group 2 SETTLE UP THE BILL!
All TAKE HIM TO THE DOCTOR
WHEN IT'S DARK AS NIGHT.
LEAVE HIM ON A STAIRWAY,
SOMEWHERE OUT OF SIGHT!

Cue DOCTOR & WIFE.

[As SCHEHERAZADE speaks, DOCTOR & DOCTOR's WIFE enter, fall over BEGGAR and react as appropriate.]

Scheherazade Later on, the Doctor and his wife came out of their front door...
They tripped over the beggar, knocking him to the ground...
When he just lay still, they were horrified, thinking he was dead.

Doctor *(to Wife)* Oh no! We've killed a man!
Doctor's Wife *(to Doctor)* Whatever shall we do?

All THEY MUST FIND A WAY TO HIDE THE BODY,
POOR OLD MAN, HE'S HAD HIS CHIPS!
WON'T BE GOOD ENOUGH TO SAY THEY'RE SORRY
SWINGING FROM THE HANGMAN'S JIB!

[During the next verse, DOCTOR & DOCTOR's WIFE take BEGGAR to SULTAN's MAN's house, put him in kneeling position outside his door and quickly run away.]

Chorus Group 1 TAKE HIM TO THE NEIGHBOUR,
Chorus Group 2 TO THE SULTAN'S MAN!
Group 1 HE'LL THINK HE'S A ROBBER:
Group 2 WHAT A CUNNING PLAN!

Cue SULTAN's MAN & WIFE.

Narrated Version