



Disney's *Aladdin* Jr.

music by Alan Menken

lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice

book adapted and additional lyrics by Jim Luigs

music adapted and arranged by Bryan Louiselle

directed by Matthew Howe

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This is the musical you know in all its glory and more! Three narrators –

count ‘em, three! – welcome you to Agrabah. They acclimate you to the hot Arabian nights, and guide you through the story. There’s a magic carpet ride, a real live genie, and even a talking parrot. **Aladdin** is so much like the animated classic you’ll be able to sing along – but it’s all live!! Be prepared to caravan to a land of spectacle, magic, and exotic enchantment.

• A SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY •

It is down to the last day! Princess Jasmine is being forced to choose a prince to marry. It’s the Law Of The Kingdom, and everyone is standing by: the sultan himself; Jafar, the evil vizier and his smart mouthed parrot; and even a hungry (but heroic) street kid named Aladdin. Three new princes present themselves, but the princess is outraged. “No girl wants one of the most important decisions of her life forced on her,” she says, a radical thought in Agrabah.

Jasmine disguises herself and escapes the palace – it’s a prison to her. Then she meets Aladdin, and it doesn’t take long for them to see they have a lot in common. They both dream of freedom – of making their own choices. They don’t know each other’s names, but they like each other. Then the sultan’s guards arrest Aladdin and send Jasmine back to the palace. On Jafar’s orders Aladdin ends up in a cave full of “junk” Jafar has been “collecting,” where Aladdin finds a lamp. He rubs it, and out pops a Genie who promises three wishes. Before you can say, “Scheherazade,” Aladdin has made his first wish and become Prince Alibabwa. But despite an

elaborate introduction by Genie, Jasmine is NOT interested in a guy that looks like just one more, pushy prince. When he shows up later, though, and takes her for a magic carpet ride, they begin to see eye to eye. They see “A Whole New World,” together, and decide to marry. It’s sudden, but she’s on a deadline, and they like each other. A lot.

Aladdin can’t go through with the lie. The next day he admits he’s not a prince, reveals his identity, and Jafar seizes the chance to banish Aladdin to the ends of the earth. Quickly, Aladdin uses his second wish! Genie freezes the guards and Aladdin escapes, leaving the lamp behind. Jafar grabs it and makes a wish of his own – for ultimate power. He will be a powerful genie!!!!...which confines him in a lamp for all eternity. Like Aladdin says, “phenomenal cosmic powers, itty-bitty living space.”

The Sultan changes the law: the princess shall marry only if she chooses, and as part of the ensuing celebration Aladdin frees his buddy, Genie. It’s freedom all around (except for you-know-who that’s stuck in the lamp), and it truly is a whole new world.

Things to **imagine**, think about and do

QUESTION: What do Aladdin, Jasmine and Genie all have in common?

ANSWER: They all want to be free. Aladdin wants to be free of hunger, of poverty, free from always being pegged as a “street rat,” good for nothing. Jasmine wants to be free to make

decisions without always checking a rule book that’s older than anybody can remember. Genie wants to live somewhere with room for an extra pair of shoes...but especially to be free to say “NO” to the demands of his “masters.” **What does freedom mean to you? Do you feel like you have it?**



• You may have seen the animated movie version of this story. **Can you think of something that can happen in animation that is impossible live onstage?** What about something that can happen in a live play that couldn’t happen in a cartoon? It’s important to be able to enjoy the difference when you come see the play. There are so many different ways to tell the same story!

• There is an Arabian legend of a woman named Scheherazade who saved her life by telling stories. As long as she had a new story every day, she was allowed to live. **Do you know enough stories to tell one every day for a week? A month? A year? Perhaps you could write one, just in case.**

Check it Out!

Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp, by Philip Pullman. *Aladdin is a shiftless good for nothing boy until he unwittingly acquires a magic lamp inhabited by a genie.* (ages 4-12)

Aladdin and the Magic Lamp, by James Howard Kunstler. *Aladdin outwits an evil magician who first tries to trick him into handing over an old lamp with a genie inside and later steals Aladdin’s wife and possessions.* (ages 4-10)

Fabled Cities, Princes & Jinn from Arab Myths and Legends, by Khairat Al-Saleh. *A fascinating book if you want to find out about the mythology that originally produced the story of Aladdin.* (age 12-14)

Not One Damsel In Distress, by Jane Yolen. *These thirteen traditional tales from around the world celebrate the smart, strong, sassy heroines of legend and lore.* (ages 10-14)