

# SHIBAD THE SAILOR

RANDOMNESS

by

Mick Gaunt

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**Pantomime**  
**Sinbad the Sailor**  
by Michael Gaunt

**Scene 1 City of Basra**

*(The setting is the ancient City of Basra. A rear backcloth scene of the City streets. It is a street market scene. Traders and customers are going about their business, it is a noisy, happy, colourful setting. The Princess and her handmaidens are seen in the market. She meets Sinbad during the opening song and dance routine and they are seen talking. The Captain ushers her and the ladies away. Eastern type music is playing.*

**(Song and dance. To suit.)**

Kasim      It's nice to be back home, Sinbad.

Sinbad      And what a lovely welcome. I always enjoy returning to the Port of Basra, our friends make us so welcome.

Kasim      So, are you planning our next great adventure? I love the excitement, fighting our enemies and bopping them on the nose.

Sinbad      All in good time Kasim.

Kasim      You mean to tell me you haven't got anything planned yet.

Sinbad      Nothing planned at all Kasim, I intend to settle down and spend the next few months enjoying myself.

Kasim      You, settle down!

Sinbad      I'll let you into a secret. I have just met the most wonderful girl. In fact so wonderful I hope to spend my whole life with her.

Kasim      Gerroff, I don't believe it, you always said love 'em and leave 'em.

Sinbad      Ah yes! But that was before I met ..... Oh, I don't even know her name. Do you believe in love at first sight Kasim.

Kasim      Oh yes! Have you seen the latest Golf Gti V6 150 Bhp, cruise control, air con, CD player with satellite navigation system! *(Or pick whatever considered suitable.)*

Sinbad      *(Ignores joke)* Well this was, I knew it instantly. I'm meeting her again.

Kasim      By the way your Mother Prosecco is looking for you. Here she comes now.

*(Music plays like an ice cream van. Lots of noise as Prosecco **Enters** with a trailer with adverts for food, curries, chips, hot dogs, burgers, tea and coffee etc. and a large sign 'Prosecco's 'Musical Utility Catering Kart'. She has two assistants, Belle and Nell.)*

Prosecco Well hello! *(Alights in a most regal manner.)* How lovely to see you all again. Oh I must say what beautiful hairstyles, clothes and jewellery. Oh you do look nice, you really have made a tremendous effort. The make up and perfume is absolutely gorgeous. Oh sorry, I beg you pardon ladies, **you** look very nice too! Do you like my dress? I got it from backing a horse. I backed it into Emily Brigden's *(Use local high class ladies fashion shop)* window. Now I understand we have some groups in tonight so give us a big cheer when I call your name. We had a party in from Quarndon the other night. *(Use a local affluent area.)* That's posh up there, that is. They're so posh and rich in Quarndon when anyone has an operation, they don't have **local** anaesthetic, they import it from the South of France. Now we have some groups in tonight lets hear you when I call your name. *(She calls all the audience groups, here, and finishes with.)* And finally '**The over 80's Hand Gliding and Bungee Jumping Group**'. Where are you? Come on give us a shout. Are you there? No? Oh well best get on I suppose, no time for all this gossiping, plenty to do. Right, you can set the Kart up over there. Come on you two. Chop, chop.

Sinbad Hello Mother.

Prosecco Oh it's me son! I'd heard you were back. Oh look at him, stood standing there, all eyes, teeth and legs.

Kasim Does he remind you of his father?

Prosecco I can't remember! Besides, don't talk to me about his father, the worthless, lazy good for nothing, slimy, evil, hardhearted, son of a mule.

Kasim You've still got fond memories then! What happened to him ?

Prosecco What happened to him, what happened to him? Don't ask! *(Pause)* I'll tell you what happened to him my boy. He left me all on my own, alone, by myself, just me, with little Sinbad to drag up, er, bring up, on my own, by myself, with no one with me, didn't he. Oh it was so distressing! *(Getting upset)* He said he was going out to fetch the Fish and Chips for dinner, but he never came back, never came back!

Kasim What did you do?

Prosecco I had to make do with Beans on Toast!

Sinbad Mother!

Prosecco Don't you Mother me. I'm not talking to you. (*Turn back on him. Pause. Turns back.*) But before I'm not talking to you, why haven't you been to see me, you've been back two days?

Sinbad You were out when I called, with this I suppose. (*Indicates 'Musical Utility Catering Kart'.*)

Prosecco Do you like it? It's my '**Musical Utility Catering Kart**' or **MUCK** for short. I had to do something while you were away to keep the wolf from the door.

Sinbad But I left you with a stack of money. Where has it gone?

Prosecco Ah! A friend of mine had some trouble with his horses, so I've let him have it.

Kasim Don't tell me, ..... his name's William Hill!

Sinbad What's that smell? (*Sniffs*)

Prosecco It's MUCK cooking! (*Points*). It's an Australian dish. Boomerang Pie.

Kasim. Boomerang Pie?

Prosecco Yes, it keeps coming back! Do you want something from MUCK?

Kasim Yes I'm peckish, have you got frogs legs?

Prosecco No, no, I always walk this way! (*To audience*) I suppose I could have just 'hopped' over there. Oh they kill me these jokes!

Belle I don't reckon much to this job, come on let's clear off.

Nell Yearh lets go!

Prosecco Hey you pair I didn't say you could leave! (*Assistants about to exit.*)

Nell We thought you'd finished with us.

Prosecco Finished with you? We've only just arrived.

Belle But you haven't any customers.

Prosecco They just want a bit of encouragement; we'll be fighting them away when they smell my cooking. Here, hang these around your necks and go and drum up some suckers, er, I mean customers. (*Sandwich Boards from the trolley, with silly signs. They reluctantly put them on and exit*) They're my acolytes, on work experience..

Kasim Acolytes? What do you mean Acolytes?

Prosecco One collects the 'ackers' and the other switches on the lights. (*Presses switch, music and flashing lights*) Now are you going to try something? My speciality is being able to supply any sandwich filling you care to name.

Sinbad Any filling?

Prosecco Any filling you want!

Kasim (*To Audience*) Right, this will stump her. In that case can I please have Mayonnaise and Rhinoceros meat.

Prosecco One Mayonnaise and Rhinoceros meat coming up. Oh sorry I can't do it.

Kasim Ah! You just said you could supply any filling we liked!

Prosecco Oh I can, any filling, but I've run out of bread!

Sinbad I brought you a present from my voyage Mother.

Prosecco Oh isn't he good! There was me thinking he'd forgotten. I do love surprises. Oh what is it, what is it, no don't tell me, no don't tell me ..... well aren't you going to tell me?

Kasim You just said not to! Have a guess. Go on!

Prosecco Well give me a clue.

Sinbad It's something you said you always wanted.

Prosecco. Is it Michael Buble? (*Whoever is suitable.*) Well if he plays his cards right I might just make myself available.

Sinbad Mother! Be serious.

Prosecco **I was being serious!** Something I've always wanted? I know some new false teeth? A framed portrait of Boris Johnson. An autographed Derby County Football? I give up.

Sinbad Gonzo! (*Monkey enters.*) Mother, meet Gonzo.

Prosecco Oh look my own little Monkey. Isn't he cute? I hope he's house trained.

Kasim Of course he is, watch! Show her your tricks Gonzo.

*(Acrobatics here incorporating the sort of things a trained monkey can do. The Monkey stays with Prosecco throughout the Pantomime, performing little tricks and being mischievous.)*

Prosecco Gonzo you can help me.

Sinbad. *(Aside to Kasim)* Kasim, here's the girl I was telling you about.

Sinbad *(Raiya enters. Kasim moves to MUCK.)* Hello, we meet again.

Raiya. Hello, you did say we might bump into each other again.

Sinbad I see you have lost your friends.

Raiya Yes. *(Laughs)* To tell the truth I've given them the slip. They mean well but Captain Mohamed does tend to be over protective.

Sinbad Yes, he was quite insistent that I shouldn't speak to you. May I ask your name?

Raiya *(Pause)* Raiya, and I know you are Sinbad the Sailor. I've heard all about your great adventures.

Sinbad Do you often come to the Market? I'm surprised we haven't met before?

Raiya. No this is my first visit.

Sinbad Then may I show you around. *(They exit stage left.)*

Kasim Sinbad's friend reminds me of someone, but I can't think who.

Prosecco Roll up roll up get your muck here. Prosecco's MUCK cart is here.

Captain *(Enters with Ladies looking for the Princess)* I say there you, Woman!

Prosecco *(Looks around.)* Are you addressing me?

Captain Yes. Come here immediately.

Prosecco *(Posh voice)* To whom, do you think you are talking, cock?

Captain. Don't call me cock. It's Sir. Come here at once my beauty.

Prosecco He called me his beauty! Right away Sir cock. Oh I say! Oh aren't you masterful. I can see we are going to get along fine. I love a man who's masterful **and** handsome. Can I tempt you to some crumpet?

Captain I beg you pardon?

Prosecco Granted. (*Indicates MUCK*)

Captain Oh I see. Not at the moment my lovely. I'm looking for a girl.

Prosecco Then look no further handsome, you've found one! (*Making up to him*)

Captain I don't think you quite understand.

Prosecco Oh, I think I do! (*Running her fingers through his hair.*) I can supply anything you desire.

Captain No. No. I've mislaid the Princess Raiya.

Prosecco Oh how forgetful of you! Now think back, where did you last put her down?

Kasim. (*Spins around*) Princess Raiya? **That's** who she was!

Captain Have you seen her?

Kasim Er ... possibly.

Prosecco (*To Kasim*) Do you mean... that...?

Kasim **Precisely!**

Prosecco Sinbad and the ...?

Kasim Yes.

Captain Have you seen her?

Kasim/ Prosecco **Oh no! Not us!**

Captain Oh dear, oh dear. I hope she's alright, I've got to find her. I'll search over here, you girls go that way. (*They exit, opposite to way he pointed.*)

Prosecco I smell trouble, its not permitted for the Princess to be un-accompanied, alone, by herself, with Sinbad. Oh you know what I mean.

Kasim Come along we'd better look for them before the Caliph gets to hear about it. (*The stage gets visibly darker. They exit stage left.*)

(*Stage gets very dark, thunder and lightening. Lights fade to **Blackout.***)

**(End of Scene)**

**Act 1 Scene 2 (A City Street. Same as scene 1.)**

*(Stage in Blackout. Suleiman's booming voice is heard. It appears to come from each corner of the theatre, first from the rear of the audience then travels around the auditorium.)*

Suleiman. *(Evil laughter)* I am the great and powerful Suleiman. Yes, you are right to feel afraid! That's right look around; no you can't see me for I am a great magician with phenomenal powers. The greatest this world will ever see. Where am I? *(Speaker one)* Am I here? *(Speaker two)* Or here? *(Speaker three)* Perhaps here? *(Speaker four)* What's the matter? Can't you find me? **Here I am!** *(Pyrotechnic flash stage left and Suleiman enters spotlighted in an eerie green light.)* Listen carefully to what I am saying. Long have I searched this world for the Keys of Destiny, which unlock the secrets of the Universe. It is written in the book of all knowledge that they are hidden deep in a labyrinth in the bowels of the earth. Polyphemus the Cyclops lives there. The Ogre with the one eye has killed all who have entered to claim the keys. Even my wondrous magic cannot defeat him. There is but one man brave enough to fight this creature and I have come to the City of Basra to search for him. He is only a mere mortal but has been on many adventures and is reputed to have done many brave deeds. Perhaps you have heard of him, his name is Sinbad. Yes, you have met him, and as you have seen he loves the Princess Raiya. That will help with my plan for if I kidnap her and take her to Cyclops cave, Sinbad will try to rescue her and to do so will have to fight the Cyclops. That will give me my chance to steal the Keys of Destiny. *(Evil laughter)* I **shall** have my destiny. When I have the Keys, I **Suleiman** will be the undisputed ruler of the Universe. I shall kill Sinbad, destroy this City and impose my rule. I shall control the world. All who oppose me shall be thrown to Polyphemus, who will tear them limb from limb. No one shall deny me! *(Pyrotechnic flash exits. Evil laughter.)*

*(Light come up again. Sinbad and Raiya enter. Now 'arm in arm'.)*

Sinbad And finally I managed to climb out of the deep ravine bringing the treasure with me.

Raiya. *(Enthralled with the story Sinbad has been relating)* What a wonderful adventure Sinbad. Oh how I would love to go with you on such a voyage.

Sinbad You would? Then come with me.

Raiya That is impossible I'm afraid. My Father. ....

Sinbad I shall speak to him.

Raiya But you do not understand Sinbad. I am not who you think.

Captain *(Enters)* Princess Raiya!

Sinbad Princess?

Captain Thank goodness I have found you! If I had returned without you **Caliph Harun al-Rashid** would have removed my gizzard, cut out my tongue, pegged me out in the desert and left me for the vultures.

Sinbad Can this be true?

Captain Oh yes, he can get very angry sometimes!

Sinbad The **Princess Raiya**?

Raiya It is so, Sinbad.

Sinbad I meet the only girl I want to spend my life with and she's the Caliph's daughter?

Raiya. To spend your life with? *(Holding hands completely engrossed)*

Prosecco *(Enter and sidles up to Captain)* Hello Sailor, we meet again. Say sweet words to me and sweep a young innocent girl off her feet.

Captain Young? Innocent? I don't believe it! You? ... Princess, I must insist you return immediately to the Palace. Sinbad, you should not be here with her.

Raiya. In a moment, Captain Mohamed. Sinbad I **shall** speak with my father the Caliph and tell him of our meeting, but I fear it will be to no avail, he is vain and arrogant consider all women to be inferior. He will never allow us to continue to meet.

Sinbad Please tell him that I will do whatever is necessary, go on another voyage to bring him more treasures. I walk through fire, to win your hand. *(They are still gazing at each other.)*

Prosecco *(To Captain.)* Mohamed, what a nice name. My sweet masterful and handsome Mohamed, look into Prosecco's young attractive eyes and tell me how beautiful they are. *(Drags his head round to hers.)*

Captain Oh yes. They remind me of mountain pools.

Prosecco How romantic. You mean, silent, mysterious and deeply foreboding?

Captain No murky and covered with blanket weed. *(To audience)* Do you know I think this woman has everything a man desires? Muscles and hairy legs! Not only that she's discovered eternal youth. She lies about her age!

Prosecco Oh you are such a tease.

Captain Please come along, your Highness.

Raiya I'll join you in a moment Mohammed. Leave me a moment.

Prosecco Wait for me Captain. (*Both exit*)

Sinbad When can I see you again? (*Duet, Sinbad and Raiya.*)

### End of Scene

#### **Act 1 Scene 3. The Caliph's Palace.**

*(The Caliph's Palace, he is presiding over his Court. Raiya enters during the early dialogue. The Wazir, Kalib, announces the visitors as they arrive. A couple of visitors bearing gifts should be presented before Suleiman arrives. Two servants bring on his magic cabinet.)*

Kalib. Oh great and powerful Caliph. O King of great dignity and highest authority, may it please you. I present to you the great magician Suleiman. He comes to you this day from a far off land of to perform amazing magic for you, to admire, and to be astounded.

Caliph Magic, utter rubbish! Why in Allah's name would **Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid** want to see some idiot pull a rabbit out of a hat or cut a lady in half? No idea some of these fools!

Suleiman *(Bowing low)* Sire, pray grant me the right to approach and I will show you that I am no ordinary magician. I come from the magical land of Ali-Vast-On *(This is a local area so adapt and use whatever suitable.)* in the China Seas.

Caliph Oh very well lets see what you have, but woe beside you Kalib if this guy's no better entertainment than this year's Royal Variety Show.

Kalib Come Suleiman, approach the Caliph.

Suleiman May the benevolence of Allah bring blessings upon this your fine home oh mighty **Caliph Harun al-Rashid**.

Caliph And on yours.

Suleiman And may Allah's abundant grace and wisdom bring success in all your undertakings.

Caliph And in yours.

Suleiman May his radiance always light up your life.

Caliph And up yours.

Suleiman See O mighty and merciful Caliph, this is a simple wooden cabinet. It is made of strong wood but is completely empty. See, *(he taps the side and back)* there is no exit from the rear, sides, top or bottom. The Wazir can inspect it. *(Kalib checks it all out.)*

Kalib Yes, just an empty box Sire.

Suleiman Watch, oh great and magnificence, **Caliph Harun al-Rashid**

Caliph Oh, I do wish you'd get on with it! **What does it do?**

Suleiman Gracious Caliph, if you will permit me, I Suleiman great magician, shall show you. This magic cabinet produces wondrous jewels and precious objects. It has a mechanism for transporting objects from far off lands and will bring them directly to your Palace.

Caliph Poppycock! How can objects in a far off land suddenly appear. Can we have the next act please? You are dismissed Suleiman. There are others waiting to see me.

Suleiman But wait O great Caliph I will demonstrate. See *(shows a picture)* this wondrous jewelled necklace belongs to Khubilai Khan the Mongolian Emperor and it currently lies in a secure vault in the depths of his imperial place. But with my powers I can transport it here to you. One of your handmaiden's simply needs to stand inside the magic box and with a few magic word I will make it appear around her neck.

Caliph What form of magic is that?

Suleiman It is called tele-transportation Sire. Shall I demonstrate?

Caliph Do so, but if you are deceiving me I shall have your head! *(Waves handmaiden to enter.)*

Suleiman Come child be not afraid. *(Takes her hand and stands her inside the box. Draws a black curtain across the front says some magic words. Pyrotechnic flash. Stage blackout. Lights return as he draws the curtains and the handmaiden is seen wearing the necklace. He presents the necklace to Caliph.)*

Caliph By Allah the Omnipotent! Is it not written only our Lord the Beneficent himself knows such secret powers. Surely only he can command such a miracle. *(Pause as he ponders)* Suleiman, I must have this marvellous creation. State your price, what can I trade, for I will assuredly grant you whatsoever you wish?

Suleiman O great and magnificent Caliph, the magic cabinet and its secrets can be yours. What do I wish you to trade in return? I am afraid my price is high.

Caiph State it, whatever you ask shall be yours!

Suleiman My price (*pause for effect*) is the hand of your beautiful daughter, the Princess Raiya.

All on stage. (*Various comments.*) Oh! - That cannot be. - Ridiculous, etc)

Suleiman For years I have heard stories of the Princess beauty and admired her from afar. (*Admires her*) I can see the stories are all correct.

Raiya (*Gasps*) No Father! Please do not condemn me to live with this man who I do not know.

Caliph Silence child! You are a woman, you will do what I command. Am I not ruler here.?

Raiya. Surely, O great and wondrous Caliph. (*Bows low before him*)

Caliph Suleiman, I must have this magic cabinet. (*Pauses to ponder*) I **shall** grant your request, and you will show me its secrets. But, be very careful Suleiman, my daughter is a Princess and very precious to me, she must be treated gently and with kindness. She will be given jewels, treasures, servants and shown the respect her royal status demands.

Suleiman (*Bows.*) You will learn all its secrets O great and mighty Caliph and the Princess will be treated as her position befits.

Caliph See there is nothing to fear, Suleiman will treat you well. (*Claps.*) So be it!

Raiya (*Pleads*) Father, spare me please from this miserable existence.

Caliph Come, come my child. Such passion. You are but a mere woman. Did I your father and Caliph not insist that you be treated well. You will be cosseted and well looked after. A life of luxury awaits you.

Kalib (*To Rayia*) We must respect the wishes of the Caliph, your highness, for he has great wisdom, and such wisdom is beyond your knowledge. He has told you that he knows what is best.

Raiya But I love Sinbad. (*Said to the Kalib, but the Caliph hears her*)

Caliph (*Very angry*) **Sinbad!** What's that? Sinbad did you say? I have commanded you to forget him! How dare you disobey my will?

Raiya But Father .....

Caliph Are you are not mine to do with as I will! You are but one of my many daughters. Sinbad is indeed a good man and a great adventurer but he is not of sufficient rank to marry a Caliph's daughter. You **will** forget him. I **Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid** command it. You **shall** go with Suleiman. I have spoken. Am I understood?

Raiya Pardon O great and mighty Father. (*Bows low.*)

Suleiman. Have no fear, come stand just here inside the box. To show how much I respect your Father's wishes, I will decorate you with jewels from all the known world. You will see what wonderful powers I have.

Caliph Into to the cabinet girl! See what treasures Suleiman will give you.

Kalib Come, Princess, let me assist you.

Raiya But I ..... (*She is helped by Kalib into the box..*) Father, I am most unwilling in this matter.

Suleiman Have no fear Princess, this will not hurt. (*Black curtains are drawn. **Pyrotechnic flash and blackout again.** The Palace, Suleiman and Raiya disappear in the blackout. (Upstage **Black Tabs are drawn in front of the Palace backcloth during the blackout or fly the cloth.**) Screams and general panic throughout the Palace. Kalib draws the curtain to show the empty cabinet, unless the cabinet can also be removed in the blackout.*)

Suleiman (*His lines are delivered off stage. Evil laughter*) Ha, ha, ha, Princess Raiya is mine! How easy it is to deal with such simple people. You are stupid and foolish Caliph, I knew your greed would deliver her to me. I have taken her and your Palace to my island Ali-Vast-On. Now (*sneeringly*) be sure to send the **great adventurer** Sinbad to search for me. Tell him I will await his coming.

Caliph Where is my Palace? Traitor, villain! Guards, catch him, catch him before he escapes! After them! Follow them!

Kalib. O mighty Caliph, begging your illustrious pardon we cannot follow. We know not where they have gone, how can mere men follow when we do not know where to start. Whatever shall we do? This scheming villain has made our Princess disappear.

Caliph (*Sinbad enters*) Sinbad, oh thank goodness you are here we need your help! Suleiman that low villain, that thief, that dog, has stolen away fine Palace, ... oh yes, and taken my daughter Princess Raiya.

Sinbad He has taken Raiya? Where to?

Kalib        A far off Island called Ali-Vast-On is his destination.

Sinbad        Then I **will** follow. I shall search diligently to find her Sire, I promise your daughter will return safely to you.

Caliphoh      Find Suleiman, return my Palace to me Sinbad ... er and of course the Princess ... and you **shall** have her hand in marriage. Kalib assemble a body of men. My finest and fastest ship is in the Port of Basra, see she is prepared and loaded with provisions for a long voyage. Do all that Sinbad asks immediately!

Kalib        To hear is to obey O mighty Caliph.

Caliph        Sinbad! Ask, and you shall have it. Anything! (*Humbly*) Please bring my Palace and daughter safely home, and you **shall** have my blessing.

Kalib        What ever are we do now Sire? (*They begin to exit*)

Caliph        Well, until Sinbad get my Palace back, we can perhaps get temporary lodging at Chatsworth.

Kalib        No I meant about the Princess ..... (*shrugs and spread his arms as they exit.*)

**(End of Scene)**

**Act 1 Scene 4. A City Street (Same as scene 2 or possible a Front Cloth)**

(Akil & Haram enter.)

Haram        Watch your step Akil, guess who I've just seen coming this way. **Black Hearted Meg.** (*Evil musical cords.*)

Akil        **Black Hearted Meg?** I don't want to get mixed up with the likes of her again, she hates men.

Haram/Akil    **Best stay out of her way!**

Akil        Folk do say that her crew of pirate women are worse than any men.

Haram/Akil    **Best stay out of her way!**

Haram        And some say, she be a ..... **WITCH!** And that she hates all men because she was jilted at the Altar.

Akil        She be a nasty piece of work.

Haram/Akil **Best stay out of her way!**

Haram Have you noticed whenever she leaves she always says, “Right I’m off”?

Akil I wondered what the smell was.

Haram Yeah she does pong a bit! Tell you what, lets get this lot down here  
*(Audience)* to annoy her.

Akil. Good idea. If you hear **Black Hearted Meg** say “Right I’m off” will you all shout “**And don’t come back!**”? Well will you?

Audience Yes

Haram You can’t mistake her, she looks like a witch, dresses like a pirate, is wicked, smelly, and ugly.

Meg *(Enters silently from the wings with Bell and Nell now as Pirates)* Psst!  
Psst!

Haram Never touched a drop!

Akil And I’ve only had a coffee!

Meg Hah! Did I hear you say someone was ugly? Who’s ugly? *(Cutlass in hand)*

Haram er. Sinbad.

Meg Not half, **and** he’s a man, and I hate all men, especially Sinbad, he’s so ugly and have you seen his Mother? Now listen you lily-livered landlubbers. I’ve just the job for a pair of idiots, er, skilled pirates like you.

Haram But we’ve given up pirating Captain Meg.

Meg What did you say my lovelies. Given up pirating. That’s not allowed! These two have learnt that lesson haven’t you girls?

Belle Oh aye Captain Meg.

Nell That be so Captain.

Meg Once a pirate always a pirate. **NOW WHAT DO YOU SAY?** *(Belle draws her Cutlass and puts its point into Akil’s bottom.)*

Akil Once a pirate always a pirate! *(High pitched voice)*

Meg AND YOU! (*Nell draws her Cutlass and puts its point into Haram's bottom.*)

Haram Once a pirate always a pirate! (*High pitched voice*)

Meg Good, I'm glad we see eye to eye like. (*She wears an colourful eye patch, which she points to as if it's a big joke*) Now that ship Sinbad has, is the fastest in the fleet, and **I want it!** This is what you pair of clowns are going to do. Aren't you?

Haram/Akil Aye, aye Captain Meg.

Meg First you'll join the crew of Sinbad's Ship. Got it?

Haram/Akil Sinbad's Ship. Got it!

Meg I need to know all his plans. Got it?

Haram/Akil All his plans. Got it!

Meg When he sails, my Pirate Ship will be following just over the horizon. Got it?

Haram/Akil Over the horizon. Got it!

Meg When I get the chance I shall attack so keep your eyes and ears open, and report everything. Got it?

Haram /Akil Report everything. Got it!

Meg Why does everybody keep repeating what I say.

Haram Just a minute, how will we do that? This Panto's set before the days of mobile phones and satellites.

Meg Idiot! You'll have to use semaphore.

Akil What's that then?

Haram Use your arms and flags. Wave!

Akil Like this you mean. (*Both do a silly little Morris dance with hankies.*)

Meg Aye! Like that if you both want to be arrested. Ha. Ha. Ha. Then you will get rid of all their weapons, but if you fail me, you'll be strung up from the yardarm, keel hauled, and walk the plank. Ha. Ha. Ha. I'll feed you to the sharks. Not only that, you'll do two matinees on Saturday.

Akil Oh no! Not two matinees! I can't stand the noise from all those flipping Cubs and Brownies!

Meg Don't fail me. I'll sort this Sinbad out or my name not **Black Hearted Meg**. (*Evil musical cords.*) Right I'm off.

Audience. **And don't come back!** (*Haram and Akil encourage audience.*)

Meg Bah! I've no time for you lot. Right I'm off. (**Exit** with *Belle and Nell who threaten them with Cutlass as they go.*)

Audience. **And don't come back!**

Akil A nasty piece of work. I wonder why she's got it in for Sailbad the Sinner

Haram You mean Sinbad the Sailor.

Akil Do I? I keep forgetting his name.

Haram I say kids, will you help Akil if he gets Sinbad's name wrong, and shout "Sinbad the Sailor". Well will you?

Audience Yes!

Haram Thanks, that'll be great. Now lets see if it works. Go on off you go, over there, turn round three times. (*Spins Akil*) Tell me what his name is.

Akil er. Sailbad the Sinner

Audience Sinbad the Sailor!

Akil Thanks!

Haram Right now come along we'll find Sinbad and follow him.

Akil Good idea. .... What for?

Haram. He'll lead us to his Ship.

Akil Right. .... Why?

Haram Remember what **Black Hearted Meg** said, we get on board and be ready to sabotage the Ship when she attacks it.

Akil But I don't want to be a sailor.

Haram Look at it as an opportunity. There's always the romance. I mean sailors are supposed to have a girl in every Port.

Akil        It's a lot better with a Port in every Girl.

Haram      Would you rather be swinging from the yardarm?

Akil        Good point!

Haram      'cause that's what Meg said she do to us if we didn't help her. Now come on there's no time to loose if we want to join the Ship. They are signing on the crew and loading the ship now.

Akil        Yeah. Let's go and find, er, what-is-name, Sammy the Shammy.

*(Audience "Sinbad the Sailor". Both Exit)*

**(End of scene)**

### **Act 1 Scene 5 On Board Ship**

*(They are about to set sail).*

**(Dance and Song 'YMCA'. Gonzo being mischievous.)**

Gonzo, he is one jump ahead, and then  
Gonzo, he jumps in and gets fed again  
Gonzo, he has lots of street-cred, and when  
he's there things go missing

Gonzo, he has a habit of thieving, and  
Gonzo, likes to grab it and leave in a  
Hurry, and he won't ever worry if  
Some-one else goes hungry  
*Bom Bom Bom Short instrumental/ percussion link*

So let me tell you that Wise Men Will Say  
here is an explanation Why There's No Way  
you'll ever catch Gonzo when he's on the loose  
so don't try to, it's really no use.

That crazy ape will be One Jump A-Head  
And he'll escape 'cos he's One Jump A-Head  
He's a permanent crime wave, so quick and so slick  
He's a master of each monkey-trick

One Jump A-Head – He's always gonna stay  
One Jump A-Head - He does it ev-ry day  
One Jump A-Head – He's always gonna stay  
One Jump A-Head – He does it ev-ry day  
etc..... may fade out

*(Sinbad, Kalib and Caliph Enter.)*

Kalib We have loaded the Caliph's finest ship Sinbad. It is all ready to sail we are just waiting for the Tide to turn.

Sinbad Thank you Kalib. So are you sailing with us?

Kalib No sailing the seven sea's is not for me. One seaman in the family is enough.

Sinbad You have a family member at sea.

Kalib Yes my twin brother Balik. He ran off to sea as a young man. I'm afraid he was a bit of a tearaway in his youth.

Sinbad Oh was he?

Kalib He got himself involved with some of the Caliph's 'bored wives' and decided that a life at sea was better than loosing his head.  
*(The Captain and Caliph enter.)*

Caliph What's that you are saying Kalib?

Kalib I was telling Sinbad that my brother is also a sailor and that he's abroad somewhere.

Caliph Hmm and he'd best stay there, the villain! If he ever returns I'll have his head! Now Captain is the Ship prepared?

Capt That it be Sire.

Caliph Remember, Sinbad is in charge of this Voyage.

Capt Sire, he will have my full support.

Sinbad I promise O great and mighty Caliph, to do all in my power to find your daughter and release her from Suleiman's power.

Caliph Sinbad you are a great adventurer and a brave man. I am depending on you to return her to us. You **will** have my blessing when everything is returned safely to us. *(Pause)* I suppose we ought to say a few words.

Kalib. Of encouragement, yes. I'll do it shall I!

Caliph. Just a minute **I** do the speeches.

Kalib *(To audience)* Just wish he'd get on with it.

Caliph **I, Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid**, will be forever are grateful to you Sinbad and your brave people for undertaking this voyage. Good luck to

you. This is the finest vessel ever built may Allah bless the Ship and may the Gods look kindly on you. Please make all hast to the South China Sea, find the island of Ali-Vast-On and return my Palace .... er, oh, er, .... and rescue the princess. Come Kalib it is time this adventure got under way.

Sinbad Thank you Sire. Captain make ready to sail.

Captain Aye aye Sinbad.

Caliph *(As they both exit)* I wonder which route he will take to Ali-Vast-On?

Kalib Well he could go via the Ring Road but personally from here I'd take Snelsmore Lane *(Exit) (Local references)*

Captain Anyone not sailing leave the Ship now. Pay attention as our Cabin Steward gives a safety demonstration.

*(Prosecco does a safety check here i.e. Like an Air Hostess. Use sound effect recording. She points to the emergency exits, blows up life jacket, which could explode, oxygen mask, use an old Gas mask, which falls from above, lands on her head, and of course she gets it hopelessly wrong. Spotlight should be on her and stage lights dim.)*

Captain All ashore. Rig the mains'l. Cast off for'ard. Cast off aft. All hands on deck, all hands on deck. *(All these instructions are echoed by Crew members around the Ship)* Take the wheel Kasim. Where is Kasim? Prosecco!

Prosecco *(Enters. To audience.)* Yes it's me! You don't think I was letting this lovely, sexy man sail off without me did you? *(All over him.)*

Captain Stop all that. I'm the Ship's Captain. Now do you know where Kasim is?

Prosecco Oh isn't he masterful! I just sent him down to the sharp end of the Ship.

Captain Bow. Woman. Bow.

Prosecco Sorry Captain I didn't realise I had to be formal! *(Bows)*

Captain No. No. Bow is what you call the sharp end of the Ship.

Prosecco Oh how silly of me, what a silly billy I am. Now I come to think of it, I sent him to the blunt end.

Captain Stern. Woman. Stern.

Prosecco Well he had been a little cheeky.

Captain No I don't mean you are stern. The stern is what you call the blunt end.

Prosecco Oh I see, are there any other names I should get to know?

Captain See that sail? It's called a mains'l not a mainsail, that is the foc'sle not the forecastle, and the Poop Deck is not what you think it is.

Prosecco Oh! I hope someone cleans it up then!

Captain So there you are. A lesson in nautical terms. I hope you catch on quick.

Prosecco Oh I catch on very quick sweetie! Oh you are so wonderful. Where have you been all my life?

Captain Well for half of it I wasn't born!

Prosecco Cheeky! I say Captain I **am** going to be safe on this voyage aren't I?

Captain Safe Madam? I can't vouch for the weather, but I assure you the Ship is sea worthy.

Prosecco No, what I mean is, do you promise not to try for a bit of slap and tickle when we are all alone?

Captain Of course I do.

Prosecco Do you promise not to take advantage of my girlish charms?

Captain Yes of course I do.

Prosecco Do you promise not to trifle with my affections?

Captain Yes. Yes, how many more times?

Prosecco That's the trouble with you, no sense of adventure! (*Nudges him*) Oh go on try sweetie. Go on, flatter me, and say nice things to me.

Captain I'm not very good at that sort of thing.

Prosecco Oh come here, love of my life, and kiss me! Kiss me!

Captain I am the Captain woman! Control yourself.

Prosecco No I won't. Kiss me now, or I'll make an exhibition of myself. Kiss me, here now, in front of the Ship Mast.

Captain I can't kiss you here, with all those people watching.

Prosecco Oh all right, we'll go round the back and you can kiss me behind. (*Grabs his hand and drags him off.*)

Captain Help. Hell ..... llp. Mother!! HELP! (*Both exit*)  
(*Haram & Akil enter. They creep on one from each side and bump into each other.*)

Haram Oh, it's you. You frightened me to death. Have you had a good look round?

Akil Yeah. Don't reckon much to the sleeping quarters. Now I know what they mean when they say 'sling your hammock'. Not like the Queen Mary is it?

Haram Now did you sign on?

Akil Yep. With Captain Mohamed and that other fellow.

Haram Who?

Akil Er, you know. Oh, er, Mickey Mouse.

Haram (*Encourage audience*) Sinbad the Sailor

Akil Yeah, that's him.

Haram Now while you were doing that, I've been busy.

Akil You've stocked up with beer from Aldi?

Haram No!

Akil No? Do I have to do everything myself? (*Turns to go*)

Haram Be serious will you? I've located the Armoury.

Akil Great! I've always wanted to know where that was! (*Yawns*)

Haram Pay attention. Now we have to find a way to get in there.

Akil Why is the beer in there?

Haram (*Slaps him about*) Idiot! You know what **Black Hearted Meg** (*Evil musical cords.*) told us to do. We break in, steal the weapons and throw them over the side, come along lets get on with it. (*Both exit.*)

(*The lights dim. Suleiman enters stage left. Green spotlight. Evil laugh.*)

Suleiman Look at all these pathetic fools. Do they honestly think they have any chance of defeating me? The Princess is locked away deep in the

labyrinth, where Polyphemus the Cyclops, guards the Keys of Destiny. Sinbad will have to overcome him if he wants to see his beautiful Princess alive again. While he is fighting the Cyclops that's when I will be able to steal the Keys of Destiny. What a truly magnificent plan. All my problems solved in an instance. Sinbad will be dead; I Suleiman will have the Keys and be supreme ruler of the Universe. I will also have the beautiful Princess to keep me amused. Now what other evil can I do? I wonder how brave this adventurer Sinbad is? Let's see! I Suleiman, great magician, command the Ocean around this Ship to be still! Lets not make it too easy for Sinbad to find his way to the labyrinth. The pirates will soon catch up with them and then there will be some fun. Ha ha ha. (*Evil laugh and exit*)

Sinbad (*Lights back up. He is fishing, pulls out an old bottle.*) I've caught something. Oh it's only an old bottle. I'll throw it back, oh, but it's still got the cork in. Perhaps it has a message inside. (*Pulls out cork. **Pyrotechnic flash.** Smoke comes from the bottle as if the Genie is actually coming out of the stopper.*)

Genie Free! Free at last.

Sinbad. By the beards of all the Prophets. Where did you come from?

Genie Sakhr al-Genie at your service. I am the Genie from the bottle. I have been entombed inside for 200 years. Now I am yours to command, and will help you all I can. You are also allowed three wishes. But think wisely before you use them.

Sinbad Three wishes? But that is wonderful it will solve all my problems! First of all I wish Raiya free and here with me now.

Genie Your wish is my, ..... What? ... (*Tries twice.*) Master I do not understand! My powers fail you! This cannot be. There is some vast evil force surrounding her. Is she under some form of magical entrapment?

Sinbad Suleiman has her in his control.

Genie **Suleiman!** Suleiman is my old adversary; it was he who condemned me to life in this bottle.

Sinbad I've heard of a life on the bottle but never in it. Well, now I have let you out, you are free.

Genie I'm afraid not Sinbad. Suleiman condemned me to this life for ever.

Sinbad Then I am sorry for you Genie. But if you cannot grant my wish to see Raiya here by my side, in what way can you help me to rescue her.

Genie Alas Sinbad, no, I cannot grant your wish and bring her here. The magical powers I have are not strong enough to overcome Suleiman's evil. He has her hidden in a labyrinth in which roams a fearsome Cyclops. But I can however prepare you to face the many dangers before you.

Sinbad Well any help I can get I will take with open arms.

Genie Then remember when you come face to face with the Cyclops I shall be on hand to guide you. May I suggest you now save your three wishes until you can do something really worthwhile?

Sinbad A very wise suggestion Genie, I shall do as you say.

Genie Goodbye for now Master. I shall be here for you whenever you call. *(He bows low and disappears)*

*(Captain enters. His face is covered in lipstick kisses.)*

Captain Ah there you are Sinbad. Tell me have you seen your Mother?

Sinbad Not recently, but it looks like you have. Would you like me to shout her?

Captain No! *(Quickly claps hand over his mouth)* Please don't bother old boy.

Sinbad Are we making good time Captain?

Captain. Well, we were. But look, there is no wind in the sails. We are sitting here becalmed.

Kasim *(off)* Ship ahoy, ship ahoy.

Captain *(Shouts)* What is she Kasim?

Kasim. *(Enters, carrying the Ships Wheel)* A large Man of War, in full sail, Captain. By the cut of her jib I'd say she was up to no good.

Captain Just a minute, what's that?

Kasim Well you told me to take the wheel.

Captain Idiot! Put it back! Now where is this Ship *(Looking through telescope.)* That's strange she seems to be moving fast towards us and we are sitting here becalmed. You don't think they could be pirates do you.

Kasim She's flying a very funny flag. Looks like two bones and a skull.

Captain The skull and cross bones. She be a pirate ship then, .....*(realises)*  
Aahhh! Pirates and blackguards! It'll be **Black Hearted Meg** *(Evil*