

ABA. Aha! Yes, it's me! I am the wicked wizard, Abanazar...
(**Acknowledges boos.**) Thank you, thank you... Boo away – I love my boos... Enough!

For years I have travelled the world searching for a magic lamp - a lamp which would bring untold magical power. My journey has taken me to the four corners of the earth. I have braved storms, fought with demons, crossed deserts and seen sights you would not believe. I have been to some truly terrible places... (**local town**) being one of the worst.

Here, I hit rock bottom. Once again – no lamp. I had drawn a blank – until miraculously, I found this! (**Produces a ring.**) A ring! Glinting in the gutter just by (**local landmark**) and engraved with a mysterious, oriental symbol. Could it possibly be the fabled ring of rings?!

(**Rubs ring. PYRO and GENIE OF THE RING appears.**)

G OF R. I am the Genie of the Ring!

ABA. This welcome news makes my heart sing!
For I've a little job for you,

G OF R. You do?

ABA. I do... Yes, yes, I do!
But let's cut to the chase. Do you know the whereabouts of a magical lamp which will bring untold power?

G OF R. Yes.

ABA. (**To AUDIENCE**) You see? (**holding thumb and first finger nearly together**) I am *this* close! (**To GENIE**) Can you get it for me?

G OF R. No.

ABA. No?!

G OF R. No.

ABA. Can you take me where it is?

G OF R. No.

ABA. NO?!

G OF R. No.

ABA. What's the point of a Genie who just says 'NO'!? My wish is supposed to be your command!

G OF R. I would if I could, but the lamp is in an enchanted, jewel filled cave, high in the mountains of China -

ABA. So?!

G OF R. I could get you outside the cave.

ABA. Yes?

G OF R. But no living being can enter.

ABA. Why not?

G OF R. They'd die a million deaths if they even tried – but there is one who can.

ABA. Who's that?

G OF R. A lad in Peking called Aladdin.

ABA. Aladdin... The name sounds strangely familiar. This is my destiny! My course is clear. Once again I must cross the globe – I must journey to Peking! There I'll find Aladdin, I'll take him to the mountains, send him into the cave to get the lamp so that it's mine, all mine and only mine – and then I'll rule the world!
(Laughs wickedly and then to GENIE.) Take me to Peking!
(To AUDIENCE) I'll see you all again in China!

(BLACKOUT.)