

PING. **(shouting over the din)** Good morning honourable citizens!

ALL. Good morning, Sergeant Ping.

PING. Excuse me, a moment.

(PING takes out his truncheon and whacks PONG over the head. The siren stops.)

PONG. **(shaking his head)** Thank you, Sergeant Ping.

ALL. Good morning, PC Pong.

PONG. What? Oh, yes. Good morning, honourable citizens.

(Siren starts up again.)

Oh, no. May I? (Takes PING'S truncheon and whacks himself over the head. Siren stops.)

PING. Thank you, Constable.

CHORUS 1. Would you like to lie down?

PONG. Well, yes I would –

PING. But he must, as always, put duty first. So, you've all got to listen carefully and pay attention, because what we need to tell you is a matter of life and death.

CHORUS 2. Gosh!

CHORUS 3. Life and death!?

PING. Yes. Today the beautiful Princess Jasmine comes of age. And to mark this glorious occasion, our glorious Emperor has declared quite gloriously –

PONG. A public holiday?

PING. No he hasn't, PC Pong! What he's quite gloriously declared is a royal procession.

ALADDIN. Fantastic!

CHORUS 4. So we get to see the Princess?

PONG. Yes!

(CHORUS start chattering excitedly.)

PING. No! No, no, no! Sssh! Stop talking, you've got it all PC Pong - I mean wrong! It is forbidden for any commoner to cast their eyes upon the Princess upon pain of death. So unless you want your heads chopped off, you've all got to clear the streets.

CHORUS 5. But that's not fair!

PING. Of course it's not fair. But I'm only following orders.

CHORUS 6. But we want to stay!

(ALADDIN and the rest of the CHORUS start to join in. "Yes, we want to stay!" Etc.)

PING. Now come on hurry along there, hurry along there please.

ALL. But why can't we see the Princess!

PING. Because I don't want to see any of you without your heads. **(To PING.)** Clear the streets, Constable.

PONG. Righto. Clear the streets please, clear the streets...

(With much grumbling ALL, except ALADDIN, are shepherded off up R by PING and PONG.)

PING. That's right, that's right. Clear the streets. It's not a democracy. We're in China!