

SCENE 3

Widow Twankey's Laundry. Fullset. An oversized top loading washing machine together with an oversized front loading tumble drier and an oversized mangle. A basket of washing.

WIDOW TWANKEY is revealed sitting on a stool.

TWANKEY. Oh, my poor boy. My poor, dear, Aladdin! To think I'll never, ever, ever see his smiling, cheeky little head again. **(Bursts into renewed sobbing.)**

(WISHEE and NOBBY enter R.)

WISHEE. Hello, Mrs Twankey. Oh, dear. Try not to cry. I know it's upsetting, Aladdin being sentenced to death and having his head chopped off.

TWANKEY. Waaaaah!

WISHEE. Oh, sorry.

(NOBBY whispers in WISHEE's ear. Points to TWANKEY and holding his tummy, imitates laughing.)

That's a good idea. Would you like us to cheer you up? I could tell you some jokes if you like. Give you a bit of a laugh.

TWANKEY. But I don't really feel like laughing.

WISHEE. Don't worry. You will when you hear these. Are you ready? **(Starts to giggle in anticipation of his joke.)** Now – what's got four legs and goes "boo!"

TWANKEY. I don't know.

WISHEE. A cow with a cold!

(NOBBY and WISHEE enjoy joke and TWANKEY has the glimmer of a smile.)

WISHEE. Why are robots never afraid? Because they've got nerves of steel!

(TWANKEY enjoys this joke a bit more.)

I told you they were good, now - what goes "hah hah"- bonk!?

TWANKEY. (much more receptive) I don't know. What does go, hah hah – bonk?

. WISHEE. A man laughing his head off!

(NOBBY falls apart laughing. The effect on TWANKEY is the reverse.)

TWANKEY. That's not funny at all!! (Starts to cry uncontrollably.)

(There is a knock at the door. Sheepishly, WISHEE goes off down R to open it.)

WISHEE. Gosh! It's the Princess.

PRINCESS. (entering) Can I come in?

TWANKEY. What are you doing here? If you hadn't been seen talking to my boy, he'd still have his head on his shoulders!

PRINCESS. That's why I'm here.

TWANKEY. Eh?

PRINCESS. If you ever want to see Aladdin again, we need to rescue him!

TWANKEY. How do we do that?

PRINCESS. Kung fu.

TWANKEY. Bless you.

PRINCESS. No, kung fu!

WISHEE. But we don't know any kung fu.

PRINCESS. Well, I do and I can teach you. Now let's get started. Form up in a line and pay attention, because these moves can be dangerous.

WISHEE. How dangerous?

PRINCESS. Very dangerous.

TWANKEY. Very dangerous?

PRINCESS. Very, very dangerous.

(General excitement.)

(WISHEE runs on with PING and PONG.)

WISHEE. What is it, Mrs T?

TWANKEY. Oh, thank goodness, you've brought the police with you.

WISHEE. Why, what's up? These gentlemen were just advising me on Palace security.

TWANKEY. I've lost my lucky Chinese 50p – I've lost our luck, riches and everlasting happiness!

WISHEE. Oh, dear...

TWANKEY. Is that all you can say??!!

WISHEE. (pointing down of stage) Maybe it rolled down there?

TWANKEY. Well, go and have a look! You'll just have to search the audience.

WISHEE. Search them?

TWANKEY. It's my lucky Chinese 50p, Wishee!

WISHEE. But there's over two hundred of them!

TWANKEY. It's got to be somewhere – and it means everything to me!
(Bursts into tears.)

PONG. Oh, don't cry, Mrs Twankey!

TWANKEY. I can't help it!

WISHEE. OK – OK – we'll search them. Alright?

TWANKEY. But what if you don't find it?

WISHEE. (with surprising relish) We'll search them really thoroughly. Won't we Sergeant?

PING. They won't put anything past us, Mr Washee, sir.

TWANKEY. Well, if you're sure.

WISHEE. Oh, yes. We're sure!