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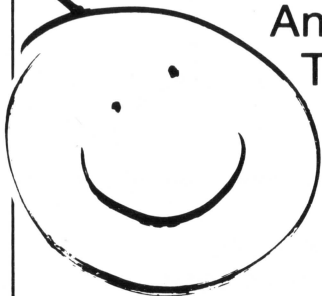
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CHOW**

**By Oscar Asche &
Frederic Norton**

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THE STORY

ABU HASAN the feared Robber Chief has been robbing the tight fisted merchant KASIM BABA in a variety of disguises for some time. This is revealed by ZAH RAT, a slave girl to Kasim, who is being blackmailed by Hasan when she tells Kasim's wife ALCOLOM and her maid MARJANAH that the robber is coming again that night disguised as one Chu Chin Chow from China, a supposedly wealthy merchant. Zahrat suggests that if Marjanah pretends to recognise the emerald ring which Hasan has worn in all of his disguises and therefore has given away his real identity they will be able to blackmail him in return.

The price of their silence will be an agreement by Hasan to buy both Zahrat and Marjanah at a sale of slaves to be held by Kasim the next day and to immediately set them both free — Zahrat to be re-united with her lover held prisoner by Hasan and Marjanah to marry NUR AL-HUDA, the son of Kasim's brother, the happy-go-lucky spendthrift, ALI BABA, who is himself in love with Alcolom and she with him in return. As a further part of the bargain Hasan is to dispose of Kasim thereby leaving Ali and Alcolom free to pursue their extra-marital fun and games under the nose of Ali's battleaxe of a wife, MAHBUBAH.

The villainous Hasan has no intention of going through with the deal and sees his opportunity to renege on the idea when Ali, more than somewhat sloshed at Kasim's feast offers to cough up 40,000 gold pieces for the slave girls although he hasn't a bean. Kasim knows that Ali is broke as usual but the law says he must allow him 24 hours to find the cash. Marjanah and Nur Al-Huda know that Ali won't find the money and plan to elope, but when they meet in the Cactus Grove they overhear the robbers and Hasan returning to enter their secret hideout and hear the magic 'Open O Sesame' password. Recruiting Ali they help themselves to as much gold and jewellery as they can carry.

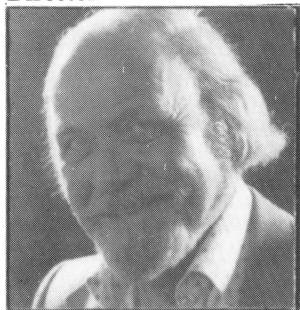
Meanwhile Zahrat, on Hasan's instructions has drugged Kasim's wine at the feast so that Alcolom conducts the slave auction instead. Hasan buys Zahrat but instead of setting her free hauls her off to the secret cave as his men rob all the slave dealers of their money and Act I ends at half time with the robbers and Hasan leading 1 - 0 as it were (or more appropriately 0 - 1 as the robbers are really playing away from home !!)

In Act II Kasim, now recovered has to keep his word and sell Marjanah to Ali but is so suspicious of how his brother obtained so much wealth that he induces Ali to confess. Unable to believe the unlikely tale about the cave, Kasim goes off to find out for himself but Nur Al-Huda and Marjanah get there first, open the cave and then close it so that Kasim is trapped. When Hasan and his men return they find Kasim and make short work of him, leaving him, we are led to understand in four quarters! Zahrat is released and Kasim's quartered corpse is sewn back together again by a mercenary cobbler, BABA MUSTAFA, as the death must appear to have been natural otherwise the secret of the cave would become known. (for the squeamish, it's all in the mind and we don't actually see the cobbler on the job with the bits.)

Zahrat suggests that Hasan adopts yet another disguise as a wealthy oil merchant passing by who asks permission to store his jars of oil at the late lamented Kasim's palace, now gleefully occupied by Ali whooping it up with the now widowed Alcolom, — just for the night he says.

The plan, of course, is to hide his men in some empty jars and on Hasan's signal they can burst out of the jars and slaughter all and sundry at the feast that night marking the wedding of Nur Al-Huda and Marjanah and help themselves to everything in sight including the girls! Ali, on cloud nine with Alcolom in spite of Mahbubah's inconvenient appearance welcomes Hasan with open arms but Zahrat has other plans. When all the jars are in place she gets Abdullah, the major-domo (whom we had met right at the beginning of Act I by the way) to pour in the traditional boiling oil and she herself brings the proceedings to a close by neatly skewering Abu Hasan in time for the final curtain.

Director



Alan Blakey

CHU CHIN CHOW

By Oscar Asche & Frederic Norton

Musical Director



Violet Graham

CAST(In order of appearance)

Zahrat	Sally Bowden
Abdullah	Ron James
Alcolom	Patricia Parkins
Marjanah	Temime Bowling
Abu Hasan (Chu Chin Chow)	Don Gregory
Khuzaymah }	Toby Ells
Musab } (Chu Chin Chow's Henchmen)	Denis Howdle
Sofar }	David Irwin
Ali Baba	Philip Carter
Kasim Baba	Tony Gummer
Nur Al-Huda	Richard Bowden
Mahbubah	Margaret Bowden
Bostan — Mahbubah's Maid	Beverly Smith
Mukbill the Auctioneer	Rick Beugg
Zanim the Slave Buyer	Mike Corden
Baba Mustafa	Bill Bennett
Otbah the shopkeeper	John Dixon

DANCERS and SLAVE GIRLS

Caroline Arnold, Victoria Beugg, Alexandra Beugg, Karen Burr ridge, Jenni Dexter, Karen Diplock, Claire James, Mandy Simmons, Claire West

CHORUS

Jill Baxter, Sylvia Blogg, Pauline Booker, Margaret Bowden, Marjorie Butler, Delia Butterworth, Betty Dale, Eve Frampton, Gwen Fuller, Aldwyth Humphries, Anne Jones, Mary Patten, June Redford, Beverly Smith, Margaret Wisdom, Margaret Woods, Bill Bennett, Rick Beugg, Mike Corden, John Dixon, Ron James, Denis Howdle, David Irwin, Harry Winsdale, Simon Wragg

ORCHESTRA

Lead Violin	Louise Leask	Flute	E. Ward
1st Violin	C. Herbert	Horn	S. Caldicott
2nd Violin	A. L. Upton	Percussion	R. Spoore
Piano	Mollie Tearle	Clarinet	Mary McCleod
Cello	Katherine Morris		

There will be an interval between Acts

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

- Scene 1 Kasim Baba's Palace
- Scene 2 Outside Marjanah's window
- Scene 3 The Cactus Grove
- Scene 4 The Silk Stall
- Scene 5 The Slave Auction at Kasim's Palace

ACT II

- Scene 1 Kasim Baba's Palace
- Scene 2 In the starlight
- Scene 3 The Cave
- Scene 4 A room in the Palace
- Scene 5 The Bazaar
- Scene 6 A room in the Palace
- Scene 7 Finale — The Wedding Feast

MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

Overture The Orchestra

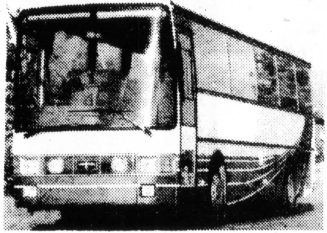
Act I

- 1 Here be Oysters Abdullah and Chorus
- 2 Entrance of Chu Chin Chow Abu Hasan
- 3 Javanese Dance The Dancers
- 4 Cleopatra's Nile Marjanah, Chorus and Dancers
- 5 I'll Sing and Dance Ali Baba and Chorus
- 6 Corraline Nur Al-Huda and Marjanah
- 7 When a Pullet is Plump Ali Baba
- 8 We are the Robbers of the Woods The Robbers
- 9 Why should I repine Ali Baba, Marjanah and Nur Al-Huda
- 10 All my Days Marjanah and Ali Baba
- 11 Behold Abdullah and Dancers

Act II

- 12 I long for the Sun Alcolom, Dancers and Chorus
- 13 Hail the Grand Wazir Ali, Dancers and Chorus
- 14 Mahbubah Marjanah, Nur Al-Huda, Alcolom, Ali Baba, Kasim Baba and Chorus
- 15 I Built a Fairy Palace in the Sky Marjanah
- 16 The Scimitar Abu Hasan
- 17 Any Time is Kissing Time Alcolom and Ali Baba
- 18 The Cobbler's Song Baba Mustafa
- 19 We bring you fruits Chorus and Dancers
- 20 How dear is our day Alcolom and Ali
- 21 Olive Oil Abdullah and Chorus
- 22 Finale — On with the Wedding The Company

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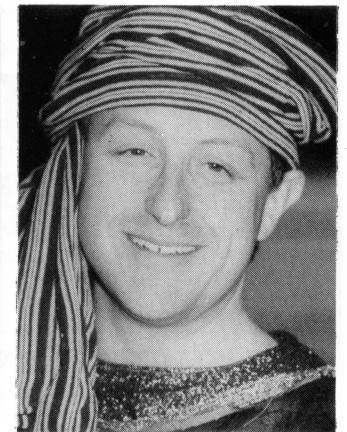
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Don Gregory — Abu Hasan



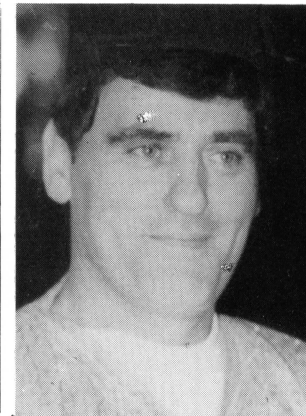
Sally Bowden — Zahrat



Philip Carter — Ali Baba



Temime Bowling — Marjanah



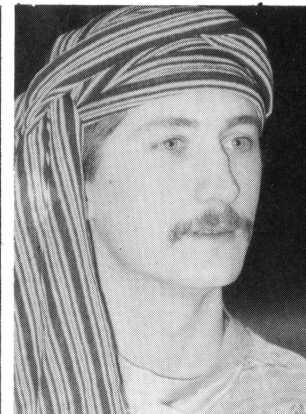
Ron James — Abdullah



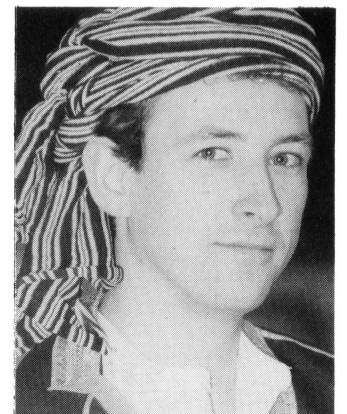
Patricia Parkins — Alcolom



Bill Bennett — Baba Mustafa



Tony Gummer — Kasim Baba



Richard Bowden — Nur Al-Huda

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