

 Warkworth Theatre

# **Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves**

**a pantomime by Stuart Ardern**



## **AUDITIONS**

**25 Aug 7pm and 28 Aug 10am**

**All welcome - give it a go!**

Info Pack - [wwtheatre.co.nz](http://wwtheatre.co.nz)

Ph: Sally **021 256 3258**

## ***Principal Roles***

<b>Ali Baba</b>	Principal Boy (male or female). Hero of the story. Sings some solos / duets.
<b>Fellah</b>	Ali's mother (panto dame – played by a man) – forceful personality.
<b>Salma</b>	Principal Girl. Heroine of the story. Ali and Fellah's servant. Sings 2 duets.
<b>Genie</b>	Fairly active character, “larger than life”. Good singer required. <i>The above four characters all interact with the audience quite frequently.</i>
<b>Princess Amirah</b>	Young and bossy – Ali wants to marry her.
<b>Sultan Bin Roolin</b>	Princess Amirah's father
<b>Hoo Wazir</b>	The Sultan's Chief Minister. Villain of the story.
<b>Jabbar</b>	Leader of the thieves (used to be a pirate and needs to speak piratically).
<b>Toot &amp; } Carmen }</b>	A pair of thieves – the comic duo – lots of goofing about.
<b>Fayha</b> <i>(non-speaking role)</i>	The pantomime camel - one person is the front half & another is the back half

## ***Chorus***

<b>Thieves</b>	At least six required (one very short) – a few speaking lines & group singing
<b>Wakil or Ruqayyah</b>	The snake charmer (a few speaking lines)
<b>SatNav</b>	The voice of the Camel ( <i>probably pre-recorded</i> )
<b>Extras</b>	Citizens, traders, Sultan's guards <i>A mixture of non-speaking roles, some roles with a few speaking lines, group singing, and some dancing roles may be available.</i>

## ***Character Descriptions***

<b>Ali:</b>	Principal Boy. Hero. Optimistic, impulsive, good-hearted. A bit of a dreamer, given to speech and action before careful thought.
<b>Salma:</b>	Ali and Fellah's servant. Very resourceful. Pretty, shy, enthusiastic but subservient. Needs to win the hearts of the audience.
<b>Fellah:</b>	Dame. Ali's Mother. A widow trying to attract men. Comically greedy, vain and self-important.
<b>Hoo Wazir:</b>	Female villain. Pompous, self-important, vaguely threatening.
<b>Sultan:</b>	Stern but fair. If it's possible to be a benign tyrant, then he is it.
<b>Princess:</b>	Beautiful and knows it! Self-obsessed; thinks that the world revolves around her - which, at court, is probably true.
<b>Genie:</b>	Larger than life, fills the stage with his presence. The epitome of magical cool. Doing magic for other people appears to be beneath his dignity. In view of his first entrance, needs to be supple!
<b>Jabbar:</b>	Leader of the thieves. A former pirate, turned to land-based robbery. Speaks the language of Bristol Pirate.
<b>Toot / Carmen:</b>	Pair of low-ranking thieves. Their enthusiasm exceeds their confidence. They are eager to please, but clumsy. Whilst the rest of the thieves were originally pirates, Toot and Carmen only joined them on land. As a result, they are attempting to speak Pirate but from a background of middle-eastern loquaciousness.
<b>SatNav:</b>	The SatNav should speak in the manner of a machine assembling phrases from a dictionary of recorded words - thus the emphasis should be in the wrong places.

## ***Synopsis – OR What’s It All About?***

Ali Baba falls for the Sultan's daughter and determines to impress her by retrieving valuables stolen by a band of thieves. Unfortunately, the thieves have other ideas. Ali has Salma, the resourceful servant girl, a Genie, a camel with integral SatNav, and, of course, his mother to call on, but what he really needs is an audience to help him win through!

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves is a British pantomime with magic, spectacle, music, visual jokes, slapstick and verbal humour. Pantomimes are traditionally staged around Christmas, when the English professional theatre actors are off season/not so busy and need some extra cash! The pantomime grew out of the old music hall tradition, adapted for family viewing – as a result there are some jokes which have double meanings (which means the older members of the audience may laugh at different things sometimes). Some characters are traditionally played out of gender to heighten the comic impact.

For anyone concerned about how that fits in a modern LGBTQ-aware society here is an interesting defence of the role of the pantomime dame in modern society by Grayson Perry in *The Guardian*. He says, “Cross-dressing undermines the increasingly rigid gender roles that are pushed on our children. Being in drag has a comedic bent. It means you can perhaps edge into darker territory, without causing serious offence. And that’s part of the role of the panto dame, to be genuinely outrageous, and the best pantos always weave in the socio-politics of the day. They can be very topical, very sharp. It’s the honest fool thing; that’s part of what it’s about.”

## ***So What Do I Do At An Audition – And Who Can Take Part?***

We are looking for **people of all ages and experience** – whether you have ever been on stage before or not it doesn’t matter – there is something for everyone.

We are **family inclusive** - if anyone under the age of 16 would like to take part that’s fine as long as an older family member or caregiver will *also* be in the show.

**For the audition** we will do some group singing to warm up our voices, then the people auditioning for a principal singing role will sing something on their own to show us how strong their voices are. For those who want a speaking role we’ll also try reading out loud some parts of the show. If reading is not your thing, then please prepare a short poem or a monologue so you can recite it from memory. We want to find out how strong and confident your voice sounds because the people watching the show need to be able to hear you 😊.

Just fill in the form at the end of this pack and bring it with you to the Warkworth Town Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm, or Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 10am (you don’t need to come to both, although you are welcome to join us again if you want).

## ***Going On Stage Is Not My Thing – What Else Could I Do?***

We also have lots of things that need doing to make the production happen – there will be teams working on the scenery construction (designing, building and painting large and small items), props (finding or making the things carried on and off stage by the actors), costumes (sewing/altering). We also need people to help backstage during the performances (mainly moving things on and off) and out the front (ushering, selling food & drinks etc.) We’d love to have your help!

## *What Happens After The Auditions*

If you have auditioned for a speaking role, we'll call you within the week to let you know if we've been able to match you to a part. It is likely that everyone who auditions will be in the cast as it is quite a flexible-sized production. We'll have a read through with everyone on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September in the Mezzanine Room (upstairs at the Town Hall, where some of our rehearsals will also take place).

Most of our chorus and whole group practices will take place at rehearsals on Sundays from 10am to 1pm. The principal characters will also rehearse on a Tuesday and/or Thursday, depending on which scenes they are involved in and nearer the performance time more cast will have to do some evening rehearsals. The rehearsal schedule and performance dates are below – you need to be able to commit to the dates – we're a team and we rely on each other being there. **Talk to the director if you are not sure of your availability on any of the dates listed.**

<b>Sun 11 Sept</b> 10am-1pm (Mezz Rm) Readthrough – <i>ALL CAST</i>		
<b>Sun 18 Sept</b> 10am-1pm (Main Hall) <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Tues 20 Sept</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 22 Sept</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY
<b>Sun 25 Sept</b> 10am-1pm (Main Hall) <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Tues 27 Sept</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 29 Sept</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY
<b>Sun 2 Oct</b> 10am-1pm (Main Hall) <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Tues 4 Oct</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 6 Oct</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY
<b>Sun 9 Oct</b> 10am-1pm (Main Hall) <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Tues 11 Oct</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 13 Oct</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY
<b>Sun 16 Oct</b> 10am-1pm <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Tues 18 Oct</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 20 Oct</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY
Sun 23 OCT LABOUR WEEKEND – no rehearsal	<b>Tues 25 Oct</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 27 Oct</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY
<b>Sun 30 Oct</b> 10am-1pm (new venue) <i>ALL CAST – MASONIC HALL</i>	<b>Tues 1 Nov</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 3 Nov</b> 7-9pm (Mezz Rm) PRINCIPALS ONLY
<b>Sun 6 Nov</b> 10am-1pm (Main Hall) <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Tues 8 Nov</b> 7-9pm (Main Hall) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 10 Nov</b> 7-9pm (Main Hall) PRINCIPALS ONLY
<b>Sun 13 Nov</b> 10am-1pm (Main Hall) <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Tues 15 Nov</b> 7-9pm (Main Hall) PRINCIPALS ONLY	<b>Thurs 17 Nov</b> 7-9pm (Main Hall) PRINCIPALS ONLY

<b>Sun 20 Nov</b> 10am-6pm PACK IN/ TECH REHEARSAL <i>ALL CAST ON CALL</i>		<b>Tues 22 Nov</b> 6-9.30pm TECH REHEARSAL  <i>ALL CAST ON CALL</i>	<b>Wed 23 Nov</b> 6-9.30pm DRESS REHEARSAL  <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Thur 24 Nov</b> 6-9.30pm FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL  <i>ALL CAST</i>	<b>Fri 25 Nov</b> 6-9.30pm <i>ALL CAST FOR</i>  <b>FIRST SHOW</b>	<b>Sat 26 Nov</b> 6-9.30pm <i>ALL CAST FOR</i>  <b>2nd SHOW</b>
<b>Sun 27 Nov</b> 1-4.30pm <i>ALL CAST FOR</i>  <b>3rd SHOW (matinee)</b>			<b>Wed 30 Nov</b> 6-9.30pm <i>ALL CAST FOR</i>  <b>4th SHOW</b>	<b>Thur 1 Dec</b> 6-9.30pm <i>ALL CAST FOR</i>  <b>5th SHOW</b>	<b>Fri 2 Dec</b> 6-9.30pm <i>ALL CAST FOR</i>  <b>6th SHOW</b>	<b>Sat 3 Dec</b> 1-4.30pm <i>ALL CAST FOR</i> <b>7th SHOW (matinee)</b> ***** 6-9.30pm <i>ALL CAST FOR</i> <b>FINAL SHOW</b>

**Sun 4 Dec** 10am – 1pm meet at the Hall to “pack out” and clean up then have a farewell lunch.



## AUDITION FORM

*Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*

*Nov 25 – Dec 3, 2022*

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for the pantomime 😊

Name .....

Email .....

Phone ..... Age .....

Address .....

### REHEARSAL TIMES:

Please look at the dates on the previous page and list any known commitments that may cause you to miss rehearsal times in this period:

.....

### Preferred role/s if known:

.....

You will be informed within a week of the audition whether or not you have been allocated a part. In the event that you are not able to be included in the cast, would you still be interested in remaining involved in the production and for me to contact you with more information? Yes  No

Would you like to be added to our mailing list for newsletters? Yes

Please note: to participate in this production you must be a paid up member of Warkworth Theatre Group Inc. Cost is \$20 per year.

### Any questions? Contact the director:

Sally Knight    **ph/txt** 021 256 3258    **e** sallyknightlewis@gmail.com



## Membership Form

To become a member of Warkworth Theatre Group please fill out the form below and return it to: warkworththeatregroup@gmail.com

The annual membership is \$20 per year (or part of).

Name :

Address :

Phone :

Email :

Payment Method:  Bank deposit     Cash                      Date:    /    /2022

If possible, please can you make payment by bank deposit. Our bank account details are:

Warkworth Theatre Group Inc

12 – 3095 – 0103646 – 00

ASB Warkworth

Please ensure that you use your name and Membership as the reference on our bank account.

**Are you interested in:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting            | <input type="checkbox"/> Directing / Producing            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stage management  | <input type="checkbox"/> Set design, construction         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wardrobe, make up | <input type="checkbox"/> Support the shows, social events |