

Director's Note

The star of Dominic Cooke's adaptation of Arabian Nights is Shahrazad whose bewitching tales include those of Ali Baba and Es-Sindibad. Many of these stories have passed into our culture and often passed down to our children through books and other media. The play celebrates the power of the imagination and storytelling, told through a mixture of dance, puppetry and illusion.

The story

It's wedding night in the palace of King Shahrayar. By morning, the new queen, Shahrazad, is to be put to death like a thousand young brides before her. She has the one gift that can save her: the gift of storytelling.

With a mischievous imagination and silver tongue, Queen Shahrazad paints a dazzling array of stories and characters, summoned forth from strange and magical worlds populated by giant beasts, singing trees and crafty thieves. Can the power of storytelling save her life?

This production has been a real team effort from costumes, puppet making set, lighting and sound design to the ensemble of actors that bring to you tonight "The Arabian Nights" otherwise know as alf layla wa-layla!

We hope you enjoy it!

Criterion Lottery Fund and Draw

Funds for the theatre are raised through our Lottery Fund. Please consider buying a number (or or more than one) for the small sum of £5 per number per month. Please contact **Mike Tooley** on **024 7667 3789** or **mike tooley@hotmail.com** for details.

Remember... you've got to be in it to win it!

If you have any comments about your experience at the Criterion Theatre, please email Louise at comments@criteriontheatre.co.uk







by John Buchan and Patrick Barlow 15th - 22nd October 2011

Patrick Barlow's Olivier Award winning stage adaptation, based on John Buchan's gripping whodunit memorably filmed by Alfred Hitchcock in 1935, is now in its fifth year at the Criterion Theatre in the West End, but in October it will also be on stage at the Criterion Theatre in Coventry!

Nothing has been cut from this hilarious and spectacular version of Britain's most spell-binding thriller! With four actors playing a minimum of one hundred and thirty-nine roles, it's the most astonishing theatrical tour de force.

'A joyous version of the Hitchcock classic' SUNDAY TIMES

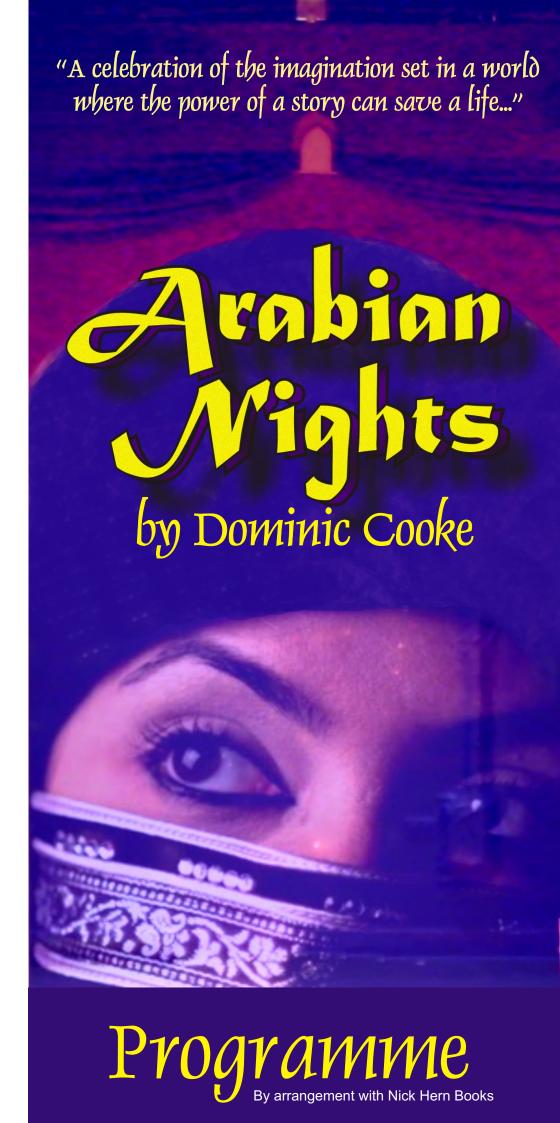
'Clever, very funny and imaginative' GUARDIAN



Supported by Shortland Horne



The Criterion is a non-smoking theatre.



Arabian Wights



hahrazad Rebecca Fenion





12108 Matt Sweatman



Ensemble

Sarah McDonagh



Pete Meredith



Joe Fallowell



Dan Searles



Sara Farmanfarmai

Shahrazad Dinarzad King Vizier

Rebecca Fenion Emma Searles Calum Speed Matt Sweatman

Ensemble:

Director

Dan Searles, Joe Fallowell, Anne-marie Greene, Gennie Holmes, Dave Crisp, Pete Meredith, Sara Farmanfarmai, Emma Withers, Andrew Tyrer, Sarah McDonagh, Susie Murphy.

Earlsdon Egyptian Dancers - Choreographer Diane Cox

There will be one interval.

Assistant Director/
Stage Manager
Set Design
Set Build

Sound Design/Operator
Lighting Design

Lighting Design
Lighting Operation
Properties

Wardrobe

Puppets and models

Talking Bird
Special Thanks:

Pete Bagley

Olivia Holmes Pete Bagley

IC Simon Sharpe, Judy Sharpe, Walter Dean, Susan Schweitzer, Peter Bagley, Louise Bagley, Mike Tooley, Doreen Belton

Dave Cornish lan Knight

lan Knight, Bill Butler, Ben Woodward IC Kathy Brewerton, Jackie Crisp, Ruth Miller, Kim West, Matt Waters

IC Maureen Liggins, Maureen Copping, Pam Coleman, Erica Young, Nancy Sylvester, Chrissy Ihenacho

IC Louise Bagley, Andree d'Anbruminil, Marion McGlove, Maureen Copping, Judy Talbot, Susan Schweitzer

Heather Bagley

Lena Shivshanker for the kind donation of material, and everyone else who contributed to this production.

Ensemble



Emma Withers



Susie Murphy



Andrew Tyrer



Dave Crisp



Anne-marie Greene



Gennie Holmes