

Arabian Nights

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@critteriontheatre.co.uk



www.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.

"A celebration of the imagination set in a world where the power of a story can save a life..."

Arabian Nights

by Dominic Cooke



Programme

By arrangement with Nick Hern Books

Arabian Nights



Shahrazad
Rebecca Fenlon



Dinarzad
Emma Searles



King
Calum Speed



Vizier
Matt Sweatman

Ensemble



Pete Meredith



Sarah McDonagh



Dan Searles



Sara Farmanfarmai



Joe Fallowell

Shahrazad
Dinarzad
King
Vizier

Rebecca Fenlon
Emma Searles
Calum Speed
Matt Sweatman

Ensemble:
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.

Director

Pete Bagley

**Assistant Director/
Stage Manager**

Olivia Holmes

Set Design

Pete Bagley

Set Build

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

Sound Design/Operator

Dave Cornish

Lighting Design

Ian Knight

Lighting Operation

Ian Knight, Bill Butler, Ben Woodward

Properties

IC Kathy Brewerton, Jackie Crisp, Ruth Miller, Kim West, Matt Waters

Wardrobe

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

Puppets and models

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

Talking Bird

Heather Bagley

Special Thanks:

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

Ensemble



Emma Withers



Andrew Tyrer



Anne-marie Greene



Susie Murphy



Dave Crisp



Gennie Holmes