

Character Breakdown

A *laddin JR.* calls for a large cast of primary, featured, and ensemble storytellers – and each has a unique personality, sense of humor, and special role within the world of Agrabah. Cast actors who can find ways to bring these beloved characters to life with strong, clear choices. The more specific you are with your casting, the stronger your show will be.

Remember, it's important to empower your Ensemble who portray palace guards, Prince Ali's entourage, beggars, and vendors. Activate their imaginations and encourage them to devise character-driven gestures and realistic stage business as they move throughout the marketplace or palace grounds.

Below is a character breakdown for *Aladdin JR.* Performers playing leading roles – the **Primary Storytellers** – should remain those same, single characters from the beginning to the end of the show. **Ensemble Groups** and **Featured Roles** are comprised of selected performers chosen from the larger ensemble. The members of your Ensemble can participate in one, multiple, or all groups, but keep costuming (the number of costumes and costume changes per performer) in mind when casting these featured ensembles. All roles in *Aladdin JR.* require singing, whether as a solo or in a group. Refer to the charts at the end of this section for the Actor's Script pages showcasing the characters' featured lines or vocals as well as their gender (flexibility).

Primary Storytellers

For audition sides for each of these characters, see the Resources Disc.

ALADDIN, a poor street urchin, longs to make his mother proud, but sometimes loses his way. He's the thief with a heart of gold, so cast your most charismatic actor with the versatility to play both the playful prankster and romantic lead. Make sure he has the vocal chops to carry this heavy-singing role.

BABKAK, OMAR, and **KASSIM** are Aladdin's three loyal and playful pals. Babkak is the Agrabahn foodie who loves to snack, kindhearted Omar has a sensitive soul, and stubborn Kassim yearns to be a leader. When auditioning, have your

potential pals read together to get a sense of their chemistry – they should be a truly tight-knit trio of strong singers and actors.

GENIE is the fast-talking, fun-loving, scene-stealing wisecracker who lives in the lamp and yearns to be free. Genie doesn't need to be your strongest singer or dancer – look for an actor with great comic timing and a flashy and fun sense of showmanship.

IAGO is the fawning and funny sidekick to Jafar. With only one lyric to sing, focus on finding an actor who can execute this lackey's many sarcastic asides with comedic flair.

ISIR, MANAL, and **RAJAH**, Jasmine's devoted attendants, keep the Princess grounded with their honesty and openness. Isir, whose name means "inspiration," is optimistic; Manal, "achievement," is assertively encouraging; and Rajah, "hope," is the most protective. As with Aladdin's three pals, audition potential attendants together to get a sense of their chemistry, but above all, cast strong singers who can pull off "These Palace Walls" with aplomb.

JAFAR is the power-hungry and crooked Grand Vizier. Cast a strong actor who can sing and portray both sides of Jafar's two-faced personality – loyal advisor to the Sultan and scheming villain – as well as pull off delicious comedic moments with his lackey, Iago.

JASMINE, the Princess of Agrabah, longs to experience the world outside the palace walls. Curious and assertive, she knows what she wants and craves the freedom to make her own choices. Cast a strong actor and singer who can portray both the romantic lead and a young woman caught between her responsibilities to her people and to herself.

SULTAN, the warm-hearted ruler who dotes on his daughter, is committed to upholding the ancient laws of Agrabah. With only a single lyric to sing, focus on casting an actor who can play this father figure convincingly.

Ensemble Groups & Featured Roles

The Ensemble is your show's primary group of performers from which you will cast the featured roles and other, perhaps smaller, ensembles. Be sure to select strong singers – as few or as many as your production requires – as all ensembles require group singing. The featured roles call for either solo singing or solo acting, or both.

AGRABAHNS are the citizens of Agrabah who help to create the bustling marketplace – merchants, shoppers, beggars, guards, etc. Included in this ensemble are the following featured roles:

- The **BEGGARS (3)** are a small group with whom Aladdin briefly interacts. Feel free to cast more beggars than the three who have scripted lines.
- The **APPLE VENDOR** is a merchant who reviles the beggars and from whom Jasmine unintentionally steals an apple.
- The **FORTUNE TELLER** unwittingly helps Aladdin escape the guards in "One Jump Ahead."
- The **SHOP OWNER** is a marketplace vendor from whom Aladdin steals bread.
- **RAZOUL**, the rough and commanding head of the palace guards, answers to Jafar. Cast a performer who can portray an intimidating leader.
- The **GUARDS (2)** follow Razoul's orders. While there are only two speaking roles, feel free to include as many additional guards as you like in your production, who can help Razoul defend the palace during "High Adventure."

PRINCE ABDULLAH is one of Princess Jasmine's haughty and arrogant suitors.

The **ATTENDANTS (2)** accompany Prince Abdullah on his journey to Agrabah.

The mysterious **SPOOKY VOICE**, conjured by Jafar, reveals the location of the lamp. This voice can be recorded, come from offstage, or with creative staging, come from an ensemble performer onstage.

The **CAVE OF WONDERS** is the ominous voice that instructs Aladdin to fetch only the lamp from the treasures within. This voice can be created in a variety of ways, much like the Spooky Voice.

The **ENSEMBLE** in "Friend Like Me" is conjured by Genie to help wow Aladdin by singing, dancing, and assisting in performing fun and fabulous magic tricks.

The **ENTOURAGE**, led by Aladdin's three pals, helps to create the visually spectacular parade through the palace in "Prince Ali."

