

# PSHE/SMSC EXTENSION: CONTEXTUALISING ALADDIN

The objective of this optional piece of work in KS3 PSHE is to help students connect and contrast the main themes in the *Aladdin* storyline with what is considered to be safe behaviour online for young people.

Some KS3 students who see the show will be too young to have social media accounts and you may not feel this discussion is right for your class, but older students may benefit from exploring these issues. Discussion points the class could look at include:

## STARTING POINT

Remind the class or prompt them to consider that, at the beginning of the show, Aladdin and Jasmine feel trapped in their lives and they both end up pretending to be someone they are not to try and escape.

In fact they actually mislead each other about who they are and what their lives are like. Jasmine dresses as a commoner and Aladdin transforms into Prince Ali. They maintain their new personas in front of people they know (each other) – and people they don't know.

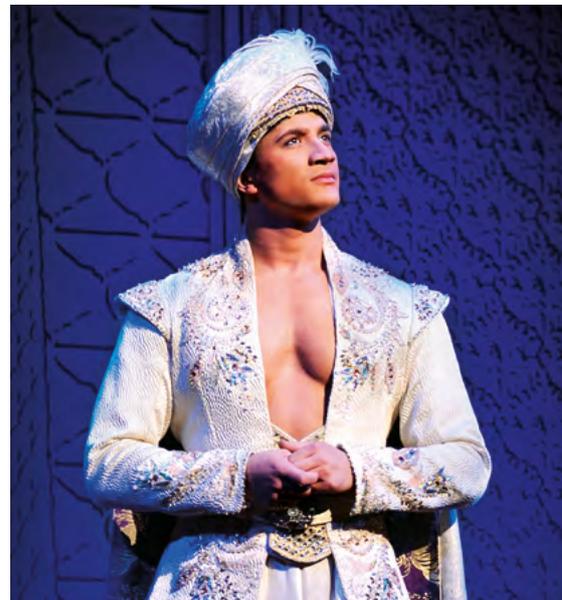
**Q** Challenge the class to think about this in small groups and work through these questions:

## CHANGING IDENTITIES

- How would it feel to mislead someone by pretending to be someone else? When would that be okay, if at all?
- Sometimes people on social media think it's more important to look and sound good than to tell the truth. Is that a cool thing to do, or is it just doing what Aladdin did when he turned himself into Prince Ali?
- What picture might other people form of someone who did that?

## BEING TRAPPED

- What would happen if someone went too far in pretending to be a different person online and couldn't back out again? What would the consequences be for them and for others around them?
- How would that pressure make that person feel?



## EXTENSION:

This work could be broadened to focus on context. The social, cultural, historical, economic, and philosophical contexts of Aladdin could be explored in the English classroom. For example, the role of women in different societies or arranged marriages could be explored via the character of Jasmine.