

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

By

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Shoebox Theatre
2015 Old Orchard Drive
Dallas, TX 75208
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

ALICE:	A curious little girl about 10 years old. Whimsical, imaginative, strong-willed, intelligent.
FELICIA:	Alice's 15 year old sister. Fancies herself more grown up than she is. Feminine and sophisticated.
WHITE RABBIT:	Persnickety, fastidious, obsessed with time. Dapper in his dress.
CATERPILLAR:	Philosophical. Allegorically inclined. Foreshadowing character.
CHESHIRE CAT:	Omniscient. Alice's friend in Wonderland. Expressive through movement and face.
MAD HATTER:	A nut case. Highly intelligent but representative of the looking glass mentality: everything is backwards from reality. Academic.
MARCH HARE:	The Mad Hatter's nemesis. Keeps him in check. As crazy as the Mad Hatter. Sensitive to yelling.
DORMOUSE:	Nocturnal and it's always daytime in Wonderland. Sleeps a lot. Wakes up long enough to move his place at tea.
QUEEN OF HEARTS' GARDEN:	DAISY, PETUNIA, BLUEBELL, ROSE, IRIS, BLACK-EYED SUSAN; Puppets! Animated and whimsical.
RED QUEEN:	A worthy foe. Thinks SHE should be Queen of Wonderland. Snobbish and vain.
WHITE QUEEN:	Ditsy. Knows she's a Queen, but not sure what that means. VERY confused person.

CAST OF CHARACTERS (Cont'd)

TWEEDLEDUM &
TWEEDLEDEE:

Opposites. Speak both sides of a thought. Light-hearted and happy. Afraid of ANY Queen. Physical and funny.

QUEEN OF HEARTS' CARDS:

BLACK 3, BLACK 5, BLACK 7, BLACK 4, RED 5, RED 7, RED 6, RED 3. Act as the Queen of Hearts' Guard. Dancers.

KNAVE OF HEARTS:

PARANOID. Accused of stealing the Queen of Hearts' baked goods. Guilty until proven innocent.

ABOUT LEWIS CARROLL

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898) was an English author. Under the pen name of Lewis Carroll, he wrote "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass". Dodgson was educated at Rugby, and at Christ Church, one of the colleges in Oxford University. After his graduation he became a lecturer on mathematics at Oxford. There he was often the companion of the college Dean's three daughters. Alice Liddell, was the original Alice of this famous story.

NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT

The story of "Alice In Wonderland" is rich in characters and words. Numbers and language were a fascination to Mr. Carroll as is evident in the clever use of both throughout this tale. The entire play is set in Wonderland, a giant chessboard world symbolizing the game of life. Players! Think of the play as an oversized coloring book, and the fun begins as you choose from your box of crayolas and start to fill in the pages. Remember. . . you don't have to think within the lines. The theme of this play is "Experience life, and learn from it!"

DEDICATION

To Michelle. . . who will always be a wonder to me.

ACT I

SCENE I

SETTING: The Garden

AT RISE: FELICIA is reading to ALICE who is really listening and having thoughts of her own.

FELICIA

(Reading)

“The Fairy Godmother said, ‘but Cinderella, it is what is inside of you that is important. If you believe in yourself, your dreams will come true.’”

ALICE

(Lying on her stomach, swinging her feet in the air)

Felicia, do you suppose Cinderella had a hard time being a princess? I mean, she didn’t have any practice or anything.

FELICIA

Well, some people are just meant to do certain jobs. I guess Cinderella was meant to be a princess and adjusted very well.

(Dreamily)

Besides, she had love to carry her through.

ALICE:

(Sitting up)

But how did she know how to behave? She wasn’t very old, I don’t think, so she didn’t know everything.

(Gets up and walks away from FELICIA)

Did they expect her to just KNOW how to be a princess or did she have to go to princess school or what?

FELICIA

(Laughing)

I think she was quite grown up, by the way.

(Stands)

She was at least MY age. And no, she didn't have to go to school. When you get to be a certain age, Alice, you just know things. You watch those around you and you learn. It's really very simple. . .

SONG – AS YOU GROW/FELICIA & ALICE

FELICIA

SINCE THE VERY FIRST MOMENT FROM THE DAY YOU WERE BORN
LIKE THE FIRST BLOOM OF SPRINGTIME LIKE A TINY ACORN
YOU WERE DESTINED TO BE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL SO
AS YOU GLEAM AS YOU GLIMMER AND GLOW

IT IS HARD TO BE PATIENT WHEN YOU'RE WANTING TO BE
SO MUCH OLDER AND WISER WELL, TO BE JUST LIKE ME
BUT YOU LEARN SO MUCH MORE IF YOU JUST TAKE IT SLOW
AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT YOU'LL BE AS YOU GROW

ALICE

SINCE THE VERY FIRST MOMENT FROM THE DAY I WAS BORN

FELICIA

LIKE THE FIRST BLOOM OF SPRINGTIME LIKE A TINY ACORN
YOU WILL BLOSSOM AND BLOOM BUT YOU MUST TAKE IT SLOW
AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT YOU'LL BE AS YOU GROW

ALICE

I WILL SEE I'LL BE ME AS I GROW

FELICIA

My experience in the world is vast, Alice, and I can tell you that you needn't worry about this too soon. Life just gets more complicated the older you become, believe me.

(Gathers up her things)

We should be getting on home. Mother will be expecting us for dinner.

ALICE

You go on. I want to wait for Dinah to come back.

FELICIA

Better not be late. You know how nervous Mama gets when we are having company.

ALICE

I'll be home directly.

FELICIA

All right. But I wouldn't worry too much about Dinah. Cats have a way of showing up when you least expect them.

(Exit FELICIA)

ALICE

I sincerely doubt whether Cinderella believed all SHE was told.

(Sighs)

Growing up is so confusing.

(SHE yawns and lies down. Falls asleep as she speaks)

My brain is tired from just thinking about it. I'll just close my eyes while I wait for Dinah. I'm sure I have. . . plenty of. . . time.

(Lights dim)

1-7-30

ACT I

SCENE VII

SETTING: The Forest

AT RISE: Enter KNAVE OF HEARTS. ALICE is watching TEAPART exit. KNAVE taps her on the shoulder. He is still hiding tray under his GIANT coat.

ALICE

(Turns politely)

Yes? AHHHHHH!

(As ALICE turns, she is face to face with KNAVE)

Oh!

(She catches her breath from fright)

You startled me.

KNAVE

Not on porpoise.

ALICE

I should hope not.

(Smoothing her dress, she gains her composure)

KNAVE

May I help you?

ALICE

I'm not sure. You see I seem to be lost. I'm not sure where I am exactly. Can you direct me to the best way out of here?

KNAVE

No, I cannot.

ALICE

Oh. Well, then, can you tell me where I am exactly?

KNAVE

Heavens no!

ALICE

(Irritated)

Well then, can you shed some light on the subject?

(A shaft of light suddenly downstage of them)

KNAVE

(Looks at her)

Wasn't me...

ALICE

Who then?

KNAVE

Who ever?

(Looks over his shoulder)

ALICE

Are you expecting someone?

KNAVE

NEVER. It's the unexpected I live for.

1-7-32

ALICE

I'm not sure I follow you.

KNAVE

(Begins to sneak around, as if someone is following him)

Well, then DON'T!

ALICE

That's not what I meant. Oh dear, the March Hare said to always say what I mean.

KNAVE

Of course HE would say that. He hasn't said anything meaningful in YEARS! Of course, how would YOU know? You don't understand a thing, it appears. Appears and DISappears. Just like everything else around here. And if you're not careful, YOU'LL disappear and THEN where will you be?....

(Delivers these lines, shouting as he sneaks and exits)

ALICE

(Speaks to no one . . .SHE thinks)

WELL!!!!

CHESHIRE CAT

(Imitating the CATERPILLAR)

Too deep for me!

ALICE

(Turns to find the CHESHIRE CAT)

Now see here . . . Oh, it's YOU!

1-7-33

CHESHIRE CAT

Who else would I be?

ALICE

(Big sigh)

My brain is tired from the thought of thinking.

CHESHIRE CAT

(Grins at her)

Ah, a tiresome thought.

ALICE

Don't start.

CHESHIRE CAT

You're looking at it all wrong, you know.

ALICE

I don't know wrong from right, right now.

CHESHIRE CAT

Could be left, right now. But no matter, I have a message from the Caterpillar.

ALICE

You do?

1-7-34

CHESHIRE CAT

(Affects a pose)

Inside, outside
Circle square
Look on the bright side
If you dare

When you look into the mirror
Do not trust your eyes and ears

CHESHIRE CAT (Cont'd)

Put another frame around
The picture changes without a sound.

ALICE

You people make my brain hurt.

(Music cue)

CHESHIRE CAT

You've gotta change the way you see things, Alice. Reframe it. Turn it around.
There's more than ONE way to skin a cat . . .

DANCE – TAKE A LOOK/CHESHIRE CAT & ALICE

(BLACKOUT)

INTERMISSION