

PLAYS FOR
New Audiences

A Division of Children's Theatre Company

***Alice, An Adventure
in Wonderland***

by Charles Way

Based on the book by Lewis Carroll

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Roles:

- Mum
- Dad
- Susan
- Alice
- White Rabbit
- Playing Cards
 - 5
 - 9
 - Jack
- Queen of Hearts
- King of Hearts
- Caterpillar
- Cook
- Duchess
- Cat
- Hare
- Hatter
- Dormouse
- Humpty Dumpty
- Jabberwocky (can be a puppet, one actor, or played by multiple actors working together)

NOT LICENSED FOR PRODUCTION

ALICE-AN ADVENTURE IN WONDERLAND

SCENE ONE.

[A modern family on a river boating/ picnic trip. Alice is staring at the clouds. Her sister, Susan, is playing cards. Her bother is eating jam from a jar. Her Mother is rowing / or punting. Her father is at the other end of the boat-. There's a baby who cries every now and then.]

Dad 'I am sailing-I am sailing –far away across the sea'

Susan DaaaaD!

Dad 'Stormy waters-passing high cloud'

Susan Mum-tell him.

Dad 'To be near you –to be free'

Mum Darling?

Dad Yes dear.

Mum Shut up.

Alice There it is again.

Dad What?

Alice The dragon-

Dad 'To be near you-to be free'.

Susan Mum. I'm going to throw myself overboard.

Alice It was a horse now it's a dragon. And it's got huge claws. Great cloudy claws.

[He parents ignore her. Her brother is sick over the side.]

Susan I can't believe it. Why me?

Alice Are you playing cards?

Susan No-I'm scuba diving-duh.

Dad You alright little man?

[The brother nods and eats more jam]

Alice I've been scuba diving.

Susan Fibber-you don't even know what it is.

Alice Yes I do. I scuba dived out of a plane.

Susan No-you scuba dive in water.

Alice Yes-I scuba dived out of the plane-through the air-into water. Where I met-Mr scuba himself.

Susan Alice- I'm trying to play cards.

Alice Why? Is it difficult?

Susan What?

Dad Everything alright?

Alice} Yes.

Susan} No.

Dad Good.

Alice Did you see the dragon Mum?

Mum I'm rather busy Alice- keeping us afloat.

Alice In the clouds.

Mum What?

Dad Alice it's been a long week-give your Mum a break.

Alice How can you have a long week? Weeks are all one length.

Susan AHH! Alice-stop it.

Dad Alice-would you like a boiled egg?

Alice Yes.

[As she reaches out her brother 'takes the egg and eats it]

Dad Hah-that's my boy.

Mum Alice!

Alice What?

Mum Those are your school shoes.

Dad It doesn't matter.

Mum Of course it matters. What if she gets them wet?

Dad It doesn't matter at this moment.

Mum If it matters –it matters-whenever. I wish we'd never sent her to that school.

Dad It was your idea.

Mum No. It wasn't. It was our idea. Yours and mine.

Alice Susan?

Susan What now? Can't you see I'm playing solitaire? Alone.

Dad Now, now, you two. Be nice to each other.

Susan It's Alice's fault-she keeps interrupting me.

Dad 'In the summertime when the weather is high
You can reach right up and touch the sky- da da da
[Susan groans. Dad carries on singing . On the bank a white rabbit wearing a waistcoat runs by. Alice stands the boat rocks]

Alice Look.

Mum Sit down Alice- sit down.

Alice Did you see that?

Susan What now?

Alice A rabbit. Wearing a waistcoat.

Susan Mum –Dad, she's doing it again.

Alice A rabbit-with a waistcoat , pink eyes and –a watch.

Susan Mum?

Mum Yes do stop Alice.

Susan She's driving me mad.

Alice A rabbit with a waistcoat, pink eyes- and a stop watch. A STOP- ---watch.

[Time slows. Alice steps off the boat onto the bank. She searches for the rabbit. The rest of the family surreally sail on. She turns to see the empty river]

Alice Oh-I don't suppose it matters.

[The white rabbit runs by again –stopping to look at his watch].

Oh- you there- you--Stop.

WR How dare you?

Alice Please?

WR Don't you know I'm late?

Alice How would I know? I don't know you.

WR Everyone knows me, and I'm late.

Alice What for?

WR I'll give you what for. Stop indeed. As if I can stop. Don't know what the world's coming to. Stop. Hah.

Alice Where are you going?

[He points]

Alice That's a rabbit hole.

WR Obviously.

[The rabbit looks at his watch and exclaims in desperation then disappears down the rabbit hole]

Alice Something tells me I shouldn't follow that rabbit. Why don't you listen to that voice? Because it wouldn't be me-would it. No it wouldn't me at all.

[Music. She follows the white rabbit. Alice falls down the rabbit hole with a cry. Her journey is described in few moments but can be visually represented here.]

SCENE TWO-WONDERLAND.

[The Queen's garden. Two soldiers/cards numbers 5+9 are busy painting roses. They sing.]

5+9 *White red, white red.*

Who cares, she'll have our heads-

When she does we'll both be---Sorry

[They hear a cry –echoing-which is Alice continuing her fall down the rabbit hole.]

5 Jabberwock?

9 No. Something else.

5 Something worse.

9 There's nothing worse. Just paint. Hey? [He gets paint splashed on him.]

5 Your fault. You jogged my elbow.

9 That's you all over.

5 No-it's all over you.

9 Ha Ha. Always blaming someone else.

5 That's the privilege of being a low number.

9 Hey! [He has been splashed by more paint.] Just-watch your step you. The Queen said only yesterday-you deserve to be beheaded.

5 Why?

9 That's none of your business. Another privilege of being a very low number.

[The White Rabbit runs by]

9 OI!

WR Oh my whiskers.

5 You're not late-not yet.

WR I'm always late—

5 And proud of it.

WR I heard that. I've a mind to report you to the Queen. A personal friend I'll have you know.

5 We know.

9 Because you tell everyone.

WR I heard that too. [He hits Number 5 with his fan] Respect.

[Exit White Rabbit. Enter Alice-unseen.]

9 You deserved that.

5 I don't deserve to be beheaded. I've done nothing wrong.

9 You brought the cook, tulip roots instead of onions.

5 That's a lie.

[Being demonstrative in his defence he flicks more paint over number 9]

Sorry.

9 I am your superior officer you know.

5 I know- but I don't know how.

9 Enough. Now paint. PAINT!

5 And if I don't [More paint goes over Number 9] Sorry. Oh- who's this then?

9 Alright Miss? Lost your way?

Alice I'm not entirely sure ---Why are you painting those roses?

5 Why the fact is Miss, this should have been a red rose bush and he put in a white one by mistake. And-if the Queen was to find out she would cut off his head.

9 And yours.

5 Yours first because you're 'superior'. So I'm doing my best Miss.

9 Hah!

5 To save his superior neck before the Queen notices his superior error.

9 And who are you?

Alice I'm--- I'm---Well I'm—Oh , that's odd. I don't seem to know. At least-I can't seem to remember.

9 Where did you come from?

5 You look a bit strange. No offence.

9 Lost are you?

Alice No not really-I fell down a rabbit hole-that's all.

5+9 Oh.

5 Did it hurt? Falling down a rabbit hole?

Alice No-but it was a very strange experience.

9 Better keep it to yourself then. We're busy as you--

Alice I fell down after a white rabbit and all the way down I could hear him saying, 'Oh my whiskers how late it's getting'. Then I landed in this strange hall. And there were doors-all locked. But suddenly I saw a three legged table made of glass-and there was nothing on it but a small golden key.

[She has it in her hand]

5+9 Ah-

Alice It didn't open any of the doors. Then I found a door only fifteen inches high- and looking through it-down a long passage I saw-you

5 Naturally.

Alice And a beautiful garden and I just had to come, but I was too big , far too big and I began to wish that I would shut up.

9 Yes.

Alice Like a telescope.

9 Oh.

Alice Then I saw this bottle.

5 Wouldn't have touched that.

Alice Why-is it marked poison?

5 No.

Alice So I drank it. Then I began to shrink until I was only ten inches high. And I got through it-the little door which got larger and larger-and suddenly I'm here.

5+9 Ah!

9 Gave us quite a shock.

5 I can tell you.

[Enter the Jack of Hearts with a tray of jam tarts. He does not look at Alice.]

Jack Attention, attention, attention.

9 I assure you sir-you have our full attention.

Jack No. Stand to attention-idiot.

5 [Mutters] One of these days.

9 Keep it in, keep it in.

Jack Have you seen her?

9 Who sir?

Jack The Queen my mother, that's who ?

5+9 *White red, White red*

Who cares she'll have our heads

When she does we'll both be sorry.

Jack And don't you forget it.