



NEW MEXICO YOUNG ACTORS Present:

Disney's ALICE IN WONDERLAND, Jr.

Music and Lyrics by **Sammy Fain, Bob Hilliard, Oliver Wallace, Cy Coban, Allie Wrubel, Ray Gilbert, Mack David, Al Hoffman, and Jerry Livingston**

Music adapted and arranged and additional music and lyrics by **Bryan Louiselle**
Book adapted and additional lyrics by **David Simpatico**

Based on the 1951 Disney film *Alice in Wonderland* and the novels *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by **Lewis Carroll**

Directed by Paul Bower

Choreography by Josh Megill

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to New Mexico Young Actors production of *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* We are offering this study guide as a way to help you prepare your classes for our upcoming production and your experience at the theater. Included in this guide are a historical note about the novels from Lewis Carroll, a synopsis of our story, a list of characters, a vocabulary list and lesson ideas, as well as some audience protocol reminders. You may need to prepare your class with a review of our story, as the plot changes slightly from the novels and the movie. We always enjoy hearing from you and your students and look forward to receiving any pictures, stories, or comments about the production. Thank you for your interest and support of New Mexico Young Actors. We look forward to seeing you at the KiMo!

HISTORICAL NOTE

Lewis Carroll was born Charles Dodgson on January 27, 1832 in Cheshire, England. In 1856, Dodgson created the pen name, Lewis Carroll, under which he published his literary works from that point forward. *Alice's Adventure's in Wonderland* was inspired by a girl named Alice Liddell, who was the daughter of one of Lewis' colleagues at Oxford University. After Carroll told the story to the Liddell sisters on an outing in the summer of 1862, Alice asked him to write it down. He did so, and published the work in 1865. The sequel, *Through The Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*, was published in 1871. Although Carroll was a deacon and an academic who taught logic and mathematics at Oxford University, he had varied interests including painting and photography, and particularly enjoyed entertaining children with made-up stories and games. In its essence, *Alice in Wonderland* is a wonderful surrealistic dream world in which the vivid color and imagination of childhood come to life.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE: The Park. Alice's sister, Mathilda, tries to get Alice to enjoy a book, but Alice would rather run around and explore her imagination with the other children. Eventually, Alice lays down to take a nap. SCENE 1: From the Park to Wonderland. The Cheshire Cat introduces the White Rabbit, who is constantly running late. Alice follows the rabbit down the rabbit hole. SCENE 2: Entrance to Wonderland. Alice realizes that she is either too big or too small to fit through the door to Wonderland. After swimming through the door in the ocean of tears that she's cried, she lands on the shore of Wonderland and is invited by the Dodo Bird to join a caucus race in order to dry out. SCENE 3:

Wonderland—White Rabbit’s House. Alice gets a lesson in manners from Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee and gets stuck inside the White Rabbit’s house. SCENE 4: Wonderland—The Garden. Alice meets some very self-centered talking flowers and a pretty cool Caterpillar. SCENE 5: Wonderland—The Tea Party. Alice meets the Mad Hatter and is cheated in a game of musical chairs. SCENE 6: Wonderland—The Royal Rose Garden. Alice plays a game of Simon Says and finds herself on trial by the Queen of Hearts. EPILOGUE: The Park. Alice awakens and realizes she has kept a souvenir from her fantastic adventure.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Alice, on a journey of self-discovery
Small Alice, a shorter version of Alice
Cheshire Cat 1, the head narrator
Cheshire Cat 2, the body narrator
Cheshire Cat 3, the tail narrator
White Rabbit, running a little late
Tweedle Dum, a goofball
Tweedle Dee, another goofball
Mathilda, Alice’s older sister
Rose, a snooty flower
Petunia, another snooty flower
Lily, another snooty flower

Violet, another snooty flower
Daisy, another snooty flower
Caterpillar, the heart of the story, cool
Mad Hatter, the life of the tea party
March Hare, the playful partier
Queen of Hearts, the bully
King of Hearts, ruler of Wonderland
Doorknob, very funny
Dodo Bird, Captain of the Queen’s navy
Rock Lobsters, ensemble
Royal Cardsmen, ensemble

LESSON IDEAS

Classroom Discussion (Pre-Performance)

- How many of you have experienced a live theater performance? What did you see?*
 - What are some of the differences between going to the theater and watching television or going to a movie?*
- Theater features live on-stage actors. They have spent many weeks rehearsing for the performance.
 - The audience is a very important part of the performance. Appreciation and enthusiasm for the performers is shown by close attention and participation and applause at the proper times. The success of the production often depends on the audience.
 - The theater is a very special place. Its atmosphere is entirely different from your home where the television is always available.
 - It is easy to identify with live actors. You can see how they use their bodies and voices to convey different emotions.
 - Actors wear costumes and make-up to help create the impression of the characters they play.
 - There is much more to most live performances than actors. Special sets, effects, lighting, music, costumes, and of course, the audience add to the total experience.

Vocabulary

The following are some words that are associated with *Alice in Wonderland*.

Fantasy	Surrealism	Proboscis	Crustacean	Caucus	Couth
Manners	Curtsey	Preen	Prune	Bower	Annuals
Hyphen	Forceps	Liverwurst	Fickle	Monarch	Croquet
Shuffle	Snooty	Act	Plot	Set	Props
Downstage	Upstage	Program	Director	Producer	

Theater Etiquette

Discuss the role of the audience and proper theater etiquette.

- Arrive on time so that you do not miss anything and so that you will not disturb the rest of the audience while trying to get comfortable in your seat. Lights go out before the curtain goes up and seating is very difficult after that time.
- It is easier for you (and the rest of the audience) to see and hear the performance if you stay in your seat and listen very carefully.
- The KiMo Theater is a historic building. Please respect and preserve the beauty of the KiMo by not bringing food and beverages (including water, gum and candy) into the theater. These items are permitted in the lobby only.
- There is no intermission during the performance, which is 75 minutes in length. Be sure to use the restroom before the performance begins.
- Although you may wish to say something to the actors, you need to hold your thoughts, as you will disturb their concentration.
- Sing or participate *if and only if* you are invited to do so. Your participation is often very important.
- Listen to how the music sets the mood and affects your own feelings.
- Show the cast and crew your appreciation for their hard work with applause. Do this when you like a song or dance or joke.
- Be sure to turn off *all* electronic devices and cell phones. Do not text during the performance. This is very inconsiderate to the performers and distracting to your fellow audience members.

Classroom Discussion and Activities (Post-Performance)

Reading/Writing

- Write a description of one of the characters and share it with a partner. After sharing, students question each other about the ideas presented. This can be done with a drawing for lower levels.
- Have partners decide whether Alice is a foolish or a clever girl. Present examples to support their positions.
- Have students write a question about a specific scene or character in the musical. They can ask the questions as a whole class activity or choose a friend.
- Have the students write a comparative essay on an adventure from *Alice in Wonderland* and a dream they might have had.
- Explore the relationship of protagonists and antagonists in classroom stories and draw a comparison to Alice's relationship with the Queen of Hearts.

Science

- Relate Alice's falling into the rabbit hole with falling through layers of the Earth—crust, upper mantle, lower mantle, outer core, inner core.
- Discuss the life cycle of the caterpillar and the stages of metamorphosis into a butterfly—larva, pupa, chrysalis, etc.
- Identify common flowers such as the rose, lily, daisy, petunia, violet, et. al. Discuss basic gardening and the difference between an annual and perennial.

Art

- Create a class mural of the musical. Include the scenes from the story such as the ocean, the garden, and the tea party. What were the details of each scene that made it believable from the audience's perspective.
- Draw a picture of a favorite scene or character.
- Explore the work of surrealist artists, such Salvador Dali, M.C. Escher, and Max Ernst
- Re-create a scene from the show using clay forms in a box.
- Draw an advertisement or program cover for the musical.
- Design stage scenery for *Alice in Wonderland* or another story that you would like to see on stage.

Music

- Ask the students to identify musical instruments that they heard in the musical. Discuss other instruments that could have been added for greater effect.
- Can you identify any recurring musical themes or motives in the music?
- How did the music express the action or emotion of the story (tempo, volume, range of notes, etc.)
- Did you hear any incidental music (purely instrumental music that functioned as background music for a scene change)?

Math

- Create a budget for a theatrical production. List all of the expenses involved (set design and materials, professional musicians, lighting design, props, costumes, theater rental, scripts, royalties, etc.). Discuss ways that a theater company might raise money to cover all of the expenses.
- Create a rehearsal schedule for a theatrical production. Discuss how much time it might take for the cast to learn all of the staging and dancing. How many hours a day/week/month does it take to put on a production?

History/Social Studies

- Discuss the history of monarchies and how they are structured. What is the function of a monarchy? How does a monarchy differ from a representative democracy? Explore present-day monarchies.
- Identify the elements of a courtroom. What does a trial look like? What people are present? Define plaintiff, defendant, lawyer, bailiff, judge, prosecutor, clerk, court reporter, evidence, verdict, sentence, plea, etc.
- Create a mock-trial in your classroom with various students playing the above-mentioned characters.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Surrealism: https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/themes/surrealism

Caterpillar Metamorphosis: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/caterpillar-butterfly-metamorphosis-explainer/>

<http://www.thebutterflysite.com/life-cycle.shtml>

Lewis Carroll: <http://www.lewiscarroll.org>

<http://www.biography.com/people/lewis-carroll-9239598>

Alice in Wonderland: <http://www.alice-in-wonderland.net>