



ALICE "I Feel So Me Now!"

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ALICE

“I Feel So Me Now!”

MINIATURE THEATER VERSION

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ALICE "I Feel So Me Now!"

Character Description

DIANA- Alice's kind, elder Sister

ALICE - Blue jeans and a feisty attitude, polite, but always seems to be putting her foot in her mouth, talks & interacts directly with the audience.

THE WHITE RABBIT - Dressed in tails & a Waistcoat (vest), generally in a hurry and always worried about the Queen's reactions to things

The MOUSE - Thoroughly disgusted with cats and loves to tell tales which he reads off his tail, a bit short on patience.

The CAUCUS RACE CHORUS: The Lory, Duck, Dodo, Eaglet, Magpie, & Canary - None too crazy about **CATS** either, colorful characters, they are loud and rambunctious, twitters and enthusiastic.

FARMER PAT - Caretaker for the Rabbit's house, farmer-type

LITTLE BILL - A lizard – Assistant Caretaker for the Rabbit's house, quick thinker and quick to act.

CATERPILLAR - Cops an attitude, big time, easily insulted and easily loses his temper.

FOOTMEN: FISH FROGMAN, FROG FISHMAN - Exceedingly polite & rather confusing.

DUCHESS - Bawdy, haughty, nosy, loud, & opinionated

COOK - Cooks for the Duchess, is rather raucous, peppery & savage

PIG-BABY - The pig that gets away

CHESHIRE CAT - Has a quick way of appearing and disappearing and leaving confusion in its wake

MARCH HARE - Born in March, friends with the Mad, a bit sour and snide, but enjoys his tea.

MAD HATTER - Rather "MAD" as in crazy, and a bit uppity.

DORMOUSE - Falls asleep at the drop of a hat and needs to be constantly reminded of what he has said last.

The CARDS: Seven, Five & Two - Quite scared of the Queen and her over reactions and though trying to keep clear of her, they usually end up in her way.

SOLDIERS CHORUS - They keep very little order in this orderless world.

KNAVE OF HEARTS - Accused of stealing tarts.

KING ALEC - He's on an adventure too! Plays along with the characters and enjoys playing King with a dramatic flourish. He's sort of a "smart" ...alec!

QUEEN - She's **BIG** in character, angry and loves to rule, snotty, haughty.

MOCK TURTLE – Anxious!

GRYPHON - Rather depressed & woeful, but loves music & dance.

MOM & STUDENT - A plant in the audience for the Caucus Race Scene #3. Plant prizes on other audience members to give to Alice in Scene # 3.

ALICE "I Feel So Me Now!"

SCENE 1. "The White Rabbit"

ALICE THEME [Curtain rises at last few bars of theme.]

**Backdrop 1A - Trees with Rabbit hole, country-garden
Backdrop 1B Woods (Trees in front of & 1B Woods)**

**ALICE 1 - Sitting
DIANA - Standing
WHITE RABBIT**

[The scene opens with Alice, in blue jeans, T-shirt and a red scarf around her neck, Diana, her sister is reciting "World History. A stack of books are next to them.]

DIANA: In 1066, a third wave of the same conquerors flowed over England from the "Norman" State in France, where the Northmen had been settled since the days of Rolf the Ganger...

[Alice is becoming bored with the subject and starts fidgeting, her sister looks up.]

DIANA: You are not attending! Dear heart, what are you thinking of?

ALICE: What is the use of a book without pictures or conversation in it! Besides ...History, his story, why is history always about conquerors and wars? HIS STORY! I want to hear YOUR STORY... I'm sure it would have pictures and conversations in it! (Yawns)...and....My story... (yawns).my story would be different too; full of wonderful adventures... this very hot day makes me very sleepy.

[Diana walks to audience and talks directly to them]

DIANA: At the time it all seemed very natural. I was looking up a word in the dictionary I looked up just in time to see a Rabbit.

ALICE CHARACTER 1 - Lay down flat & exit at end of scene.

RABBIT 1

RABBIT'S THEME [White Rabbit enters and hops in time to the music across the stage]

RABBIT: Oh, dear, Oh, dear I shall be too late!

DIANA: (Continues) who actually took a watch out of its waistcoat pocket.

DIANA: I ran over the hill just in time to catch a glimpse of Alice and the rabbit pop down a large rabbit hole under the hedge. How in the world will she get out again? **ALICEEEEEEEEEEE!**

[BLACKOUT]

[Diana exits.]

SCENE 2. "Down the Rabbit Hole"

Backdrop 2 - A Tunnel

ALICE 2 – Arms & Legs Spread out

ALICE: Whoaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

SFX 1: DOWN A WIND TUNNEL.

Well, (getting comfortable now) after such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling down the stairs! How brave they'll all think me at home. I must be getting near the center of the earth... Dinah, my dear cat, I wish you were down here with me now. There are no mice in the air... Dinah, tell me the truth, did you ever eat a bat?

RABBIT: [From offstage]
Oh my whiskers and ears, how late it's getting!

SFX2: OOOHHHH! CRASH & THUMP
SFX3: A DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING.

SCENE 3. "Big & Little, Little & Big"

Backdrop 3 - A normal-sized room with a door, keyhole with view of the flower garden, a table with a key and a bottle.

ALICE 3 – Normal Size

ALICE: Well, Here we are and I'm not a bit hurt. Oh, there goes that rabbit! What could be through this door?

(She looks through the keyhole)

SFX 4: ANGELIC AAHHH'S

Oh, it's the most beautiful garden!

(Tries the door) It's locked! Well, I could fit my head through this key hole, but it would be very little use without my shoulders. If only I could shut up like a telescope! (Spots a key on the table) A key, maybe to the door! (Alice walks to the table)

ALICE: (Seeing the bottle continues) "DRINK ME". Humph. I'm not going to do that in a hurry. No! (An aside to the audience)

You must always look and see if it's marked "poison", for if you drink from a bottle marked "poison", it's almost certain to disagree with you sooner or later. (Then back in scene. Alice looks closely and sniffs the bottle, judges it OK, and starts to down the potion with each drink comes a different flavor) Cherry Tart! (Gulp) Pineapple! (Gulp) Roast Turkey! (Gulp) Toffee! (Gulp) Hot-buttered toast!

SFX5: BOEINGGGG! SLIDE WHISTLE.

ALICE: What a curious feeling. I feel like I'm shutting up like a telescope.

SFX6: BOEINGGGG! SLIDE WHISTLE.

Backdrop 3 - A Tall room.

ALICE: If I get any smaller I'll be out altogether like a candle. I can't possibly reach the key or the door like this. (She starts to cry.) ...I know, there's no use in crying, I'll stop this minuteeeee... (Cries more)

(An aside to the audience) I generally give myself very good advice, though I seldom follow it. (Back in scene)...(Sniffs) What this? (She finds a little cake with the words written in currants, she reads)"EAT ME"...Well, I'll eat it and if it makes me grow smaller I'll creep under the door and if it makes me grow taller, I can reach the key; so either way I'll get into the garden.

ALICE: (Continues...closes her eyes and eats a huge piece, puts her arms out) TA DA! (Opens her eyes, surprised) Nothing happened...(Aside to audience) I know, to be sure, this is what usually happens when you eat cake, but I'm getting used to so many out-of-the-way-things-happening, it seems rather dull and stupid for life to keep going the same old way! (Back in scene, gulps down the last bit of cake.)

ALICE 5 - Quick Switch – Alice legs

ALICE: Oh, I'm taller than the door (She starts crying again) How will I ever get to the garden?

SFX7: BOEINGGGG! SLIDE WHISTLE.
[Alice stands taller than the door.]

RABBIT 1

[RABBIT THEME. The Rabbit comes scurrying up through the audience, to the stage bounding past Alice., He drops a fan and gloves on the stage as he scampers by.]

RABBIT: Oh, the Duchess! The Duchess! Oh! Won't she be savage if I've kept her waiting.
[Alice stands staring as if in shock, the rabbit is off stage before she has a chance to respond.]

ALICE: Ah...Ah....Wait! If you please, Sir...(MUSIC FADES) Why he's gone and left his fan and gloves. (She picks them up) How strange everything is today...yesterday...everything went on as usual. I wonder if I've changed in the night. I remember feeling a little different, but if I'm not the same. Who in the world am I?

SFX8: BOEINGGGG! SLIDE WHISTLE.

Backdrop 3 - A room with a door, keyhole with view of the flower garden, a table with a key.

ALICE CHARACTER 3 – Normal Size

ALICE: OH! I must be shrinking again. (Looks at the fan and gloves, then drops them quickly.) It's the fan. (An aside to the audience) That was a narrow escape! (Back in scene) And now for the garden!

SCENE 4. "The Caucus Race"

Backdrop 5 - Pool of Tears
Backdrop 6 - Shore & Woods

ALICE CHARACTER 5 -Wet Hair - Treading water

SXF9: SPLASHING

(Alice is splashing about, as she has slipped in her Pool of Tears)

ALICE: I wish I hadn't wept so much. I'll be punished for it now by being drowning in my own tears. (More splashing) Something's swimming at me, is it a walrus or a hippopotamus? Oh, I've forgotten I'm small, it's only a mouse!

(An aside to audience as she treads water) Would it be any use to speak to this mouse? Everything is so out-of-the-way down here, I should think it very likely that it can talk.

ALICE: Oh, Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool? I'm very tired of swimming. Hmmm, perhaps it doesn't understand English. Ou est ma chatte?

(An aside to the audience) I asked him in French if he liked "cats".

MOUSE 1 - Swimming.

Backdrop 6 - Shore & Woods

[The Mouse leaped out of the water and quivered with fright, theme stops]

MOUSE: (Insulted) Like cats! Would you like cats if you were me?

ALICE: Oh, I do beg your pardon. Please, don't be angry about it. If you could meet my cat, Dinah, I think you'd take a fancy to her. She is such a sweet, dear thing and she sits and purrs so nicely by the fire, and she's such a capitol one for catching mice...OH, I do beg your pardon. We won't talk about her anymore if you'd rather not.

MOUSE: WE indeed. As if I would talk on such a subject! Our family always hated cats, low, vulgar, nasty things! Don't let me hear the name again!

ALICE: I certainly won't. Are you fond of dogs? There is such a nice little dog near our house! It will fetch things you throw... it belongs to a farmer, and he's so useful. He says it kills all the rats and... oh dear...

(An aside) I'm afraid I've offended it again.

(Mouse swims off)

SFX10: WATER SPLASHES. BLEEP, BLURB.

ALICE 6 – Exit ALICE and bring in ALICE 6

ALICE: (Continues) Mouse, dear, do come back. We won't talk about cats, or dogs, if you don't like them.

(Mouse swims back)

MOUSE 2

MOUSE: (Quite pale with passion) Let us get back to the shore and I'll tell you my history, and you'll understand why it is I hate dogs and cats.

DODO

**CAUCUS CHORUS 1 & 2: Enter from both sides.
DUCK – LORY – EAGLET – CANARY - MAGPIE**

(Alice and the Mouse are joined by many other birds and animals, with heads of extraordinary size)

ALICE: I'd say it's high time to go, it's getting quite crowded here.

(The group gathers round, dripping wet, cross, uncomfortable)

MOUSE: Sit down, all of you, and listen to me! I'll soon make you dry enough...ahem...this is the driest thing I know. William the Conqueror, whose cause was favored by the pope, was soon submitted to usurpation and conquest.

LORY: Ugh!

MOUSE: I beg your pardon! Did you speak?

LORY: Not I!

MOUSE: I thought you did. I proceed. Edwin and Morcar, the Earls of Mercia and Northumbria found it advisable.

DUCK: Found what?

MOUSE: Found it, of course, you know what IT means.

DUCK: I know what IT means well enough, when I find a thing, it's generally a frog or a worm. The question is what did the Earls find?

MOUSE: Found it advisable to go with Edgar Atheking to meet with William and offer him the crown. (To Alice) How are you getting on my dear?

ALICE: As wet as ever, it doesn't seem to dry me at all.

DODO: In that case I move that the meeting adjourn, for the immediate adoption of more energetic remedies.

EAGLET: Speak English! I don't know the meaning of half those long words, and, what's more, I don't believe you do either! (Eaglet bends down to hide a smile, the other birds titter audibly)

DODO: What I was going to say was that the best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus Race.

ALICE: What's a Caucus Race?

DODO: Why the best way to explain it is to do it!

ALICE 7 - running

[CAUCUS RACE THEME, a choreographed wild race begins, each character doing a unique body movement, there is no beginning, and no ending, Alice is befuddled at first, but soon joins in.]

ALICE 6

DODO: The race is over!

CHORUS: Who has won? (Echo) who has won?

DODO: Everyone has won, and all must have prizes.

CHORUS: But who will give the prize? (Echo) Who'll give the prize?

DODO: Why, she, of course.

CHORUS: PRIZES! (Echo) PRIZES!

[FREEZE ACTION]

ALICE: (Talks to audience) Oh, dear, what am I to do?

Prizes, who has Prizes? [Planted Kids in the audience bring prizes up to Alice.]

OH, you've saved the day. Thank you, thank you!

ALICE: Oh, you'd better keep your school books.

MOM: Sure better!

STUDENT: Darn!

[Action begins again when Alice distributes the prizes of candy]

CHORUS: PRIZES! (Echo) PRIZES!

LORY: She must have a prize too!

MOUSE: Yes, she must have a prize.

DODO: What else do you have in your pocket?

ALICE: Only a thimble.

DODO: Hand it over here...We beg your acceptance of this elegant thimble.

[Chorus Cheers]

ALICE: Thank you ever so kindly.

(CHORUS: I can't taste mine. I can't swallow mine. Cough, gulp.)

EAGLET: Tell us some more Mouse.

ALICE: You promised to tell us your history, you know, and why it is you hate...C and D.

MOUSE: Mine is a long and sad tale.

ALICE: It is long certainly, but why do you call it sad?

MOUSE: (Using his tail, as if reading it like a book.)
We lived beneath the mat, warm and snug and fat
There was one woe and that..... was the Cat!
...You are not attending! What are you thinking of?

ALICE: I beg your pardon, you had just got to the fifth bend I think.

MOUSE: I had not, I had not. You insult me by talking such nonsense!

ALICE: You are so easily offended you know.
[An aside to the audience, raises her hands in question as if to say "Don't you agree?" Mouse growls and walks away)

ALICE: (continues) Please come back and finish your story.

CANARY: What a pity it wouldn't stay.

MAGPIE: Ah, my dear, let this be a lesson to you to never loose your temper.

ALICE: Loose my temper?

EAGLET: Hold your tongue.

ALICE: (Her temperature rising) Hold my tongue?

DODO: Your enough to try the patience of an oyster!

ALICE: Patience (She takes a deep breath) Yes, patience... (Changing the subject) I do wish I had Dinah here! She'd soon fetch it back!

LORY: And who is Dinah, if I might venture to ask the question?

ALICE: (Eagerly) Dinah's our cat. And she's such a capitol one for catching mice, you can't think! And, oh, I wish you could see her after the birds! Why she'll eat a little bird as soon as look at it!

MAGPIE: (Obviously worried) I really must get home; the night air doesn't suit my throat!

CANARY: Come away dears, it's high time you were all in bed!
(They all exit twittering nervously)

ALICE: (To audience) I think I shouldn't have mentioned Dinah. Nobody seems to like her down here, and I'm sure she's the best cat in the world. I wonder if I'll ever see her again.

[RABBIT'S THEME, the Rabbit springs in]

RABBIT: The Duchess! The Duchess! Oh, my dear paws. Oh, my whiskers and fur. Where can I have dropped them, I wonder?... She'll have me executed, as sure as ferrets are ferrets. (Addressing Alice) Why Mary Anne what are you doing here? Run home this moment and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick now!

ALICE: (To audience) He took me for his housemaid. How surprised he'll be when he finds out who I am! I'd better take him his gloves and fan.

SCENE 5. "So Tall"

Backdrop 7 - W. Rabbit's house and a wonderful garden. A sign which says "W. RABBIT, a bench, a bottle on it.

**ALICE 3 - Normal
RABBIT
FARMER PAT
BILL**

ALICE: (Reads) "W. RABBIT". How strange it is running errands for a Rabbit, next thing I know Dinah will be sending me on errands.

[Alice walks up to the porch where there is a table with a bottle on it. She looks at it]

ALICE: (To audience) I know! ...But something interesting is sure to happen... I'll just see what this little bottle does.

(She drinks it down, pauses, throws her hands in the air like "SEE, nothing happened" and slips in the door.

SFX11: BOOOOOOOOOEING

ALICE 8 – Alice as HOUSE. It covers up the one on the backdrop. Alice arms and legs are out through the windows, her eyes in the windows.

"SO TALL"

ALICE:

**I'm tall, so tall, so suddenly tall
My head won't fit through the door
I wish, I hadn't, drunk quite so much
Oh, I hope I can't grow anymore
What's to become of me?**

RABBIT: (Speaks)

Mary Ann, Mary Ann, fetch my gloves this moment!

ALICE:

**I'm stuck, can't they see.
Now they're trying to get in,
But they can't get in through the door.**

FARMER PAT: It's an arm, yer honour!

RABBIT:

An Arm, you goose! Why it fills the whole window!

FARMER PAT: Sure does yer honour!

RABBIT:

Well it's got no business there, go and take it away!

ALICE:

**So small, oh small, I wish I was small
I wonder what they will do next
If they had some sense, they'd take off the roof
They can see I can't walk out the door
What's to become of me?**

FARMER PAT: Get the ladder Bill, the master says 'Down the chimney!'

ALICE:

**I'm quite stuck, can't they see?
Yes, they're trying to get in,
But they can't get in through the door**

**CUE: FLYING MISSILE. BILL – Behind House on a fish line and pulled up
from the chimney ...fast as a rocket.**

**BILL: All I know is something comes at me like a jack-in-the-box and I goes
up like a sky-rocket!**

FARMER PAT: You shore did! You shore did old fella!

RABBIT: We must burn the house down!

(Silence)

ALICE: (Yells) If you do I'll set Dinah after you!

ALICE:

I'll eat this cake, I'll grow the right size

I'll find the garden, an excellent plan!

I'm tall, so tall unusually tall

(Eats cake)

Hmmmmmm, I'm small, Now small!

I'm back to normal again

ALICE: (Talks) But what's NORMAL?

I'm small, so small

I'm back to normal again

But what is NORMAL?

So tall, now small

I'm back to normal...

ALICE 8 – Alice as HOUSE - SWITCH - lie flat.

ALICE 3 - Normal

ALICE: (Talks) WELL, at least I can walk out the door now!

[Alice exits.]

SCENE 6. "I'm Not Who I Am"

Backdrop 8 - A garden with a large mushroom.

**ALICE 9 – Looking up at Caterpillar.
CATERPILLAR**

ALICE: I used to think I knew what normal was, now I really don't know. I've got to grow up, how is it to be managed. I know I should eat or drink something but the great question is 'WHAT'?

[Alice spies a large mushroom and goes up to inspect it, a big head with big eyes comes over the top and surprises Alice, it's a Caterpillar.]

CATERPILLAR: Who are you?

ALICE: I hardly know Sir, just at the present. I know who I was when I got up this morning, but I think I must have changed several times since then.

CATERPILLAR: What do you mean by that? (Sternly) Explain yourself!

ALICE: I can't explain myself, I'm afraid, because I'm not myself you see.

CATERPILLAR: I don't see.

ALICE: I'm afraid I can't put it anymore clearly, for I can't understand it myself to begin with, and being so many sizes in a day is very confusing!

CATERPILLAR: It isn't.

ALICE : (A frustrated look aside to audience)
Well, I should think you'll feel it a little strange.

CATERPILLAR: Not a bit.

ALICE: Well, perhaps your feelings may be different. All I know is that it would be very strange to me.

CATERPILLAR: YOU! Who are you!

(Music starts)

"I'M Not Who I AM"

ALICE: V1

**Now this is something that Ican't explain
Just at the present I'm not who I am
And when I try to explain what I don't know
I can't explain myself**

ALICE: (Speaks) Because... Because I'm not myself you see.

CATERPILLAR: You! Who are You?

ALICE: V2

**I'm feeling so different, I'm not who I am
And these things keep happening over again
I'm feeling so different it all seems so queer
I'm this way and that way and over again**

CATERPILLAR:

So you think you've changed do you?

ALICE: CHORUS

**I can't explain myself for, you see, I'm not myself
I'm not, not, Who I am, Who I am..... Who am I?
& I try to understand, the way I feel, the way I am
To understand, understand, Who am I?**

ALICE: V3

**Yes, this is something that I can't explain
For just at the present I'm not who I am
And things are confusing, It's not very clear
I can't explain myself**

ALICE: (Speaks) It's...It's all so complicated you see!

CATERPILLAR: Complicated?

ALICE: V4

**It all is so different, it all is so strange
I'm short and then tall and then shorter again
And then I am swimming inside my own tears
And try to explain that... I can't understand that**

ALICE: CHORUS

**Now this is something that I... can't explain
For just at the present I'm not Who I am.
Yes this is something, that I... can't explain**

CATERPILLAR: Well, what size do you want to be?

**ALICE: Well, I should like to be a little larger Sir.
Three Inches is such a wretched height to be!**

**CATERPILLAR: (Angrily) It is a very good height indeed!
(Starts crawling away)**

**ALICE: But...but...I'm not used to it, that's all.
Wait! Don't go! Wait!**

**(The Caterpillar looks back at Alice and throws its nose up in the air,
mumbling misgivings all the way)**

**CATERPILLAR: The nerve of that girl, insulting my size! Humph! How dare
she! Can you believe the nerve of that girl? Insulting my size! Wretched
height indeed!**

**ALICE: (An ASIDE to the audience, walks toward them)
I wish the creatures wouldn't be so easily offended!
Did he look about three inches tall to you?**

PERSON IN AUDIENCE: I'd say exactly three inches tall.

ALICE: Oh...(Puts hands to face)... Oh, dear!

**CATERPILLAR: (Stops and turns to Alice with a motion " come here")
Keep. Your. Temper.**

**ALICE: Keep my temper? Sir, there are times when a temper is a very good
thing indeed! And there are times when a bit of control is called for, I do find
when the intensity of anger has been released constructively, I deal ever so
much better with things.**

**CATERPILLAR: (Yawns) You'll get used to it in time (Yawns)
One side will make you grow bigger, the other side will make you grow smaller.**

ALICE: The side of what? The side of what?

CATERPILLAR: Of the mushroom.

(Alice takes a piece of the mushroom from each side)

ALICE: Which is which?

(Follows the Caterpillar offstage)

SXF13: SLIDE WHISTLE

ALICE: (off stage) Oh, my chin's hit my foot.

SXF14: BOOOINK

ALICE: (Continues off stage) Now much too high, Oh, there's a little house down the way. There now, just the right size, that should do nicely.

SCENE 7. "PIG & PEPPER"

Backdrop 9 – The Duchess’s House Porch and interior kitchen.

Backdrop 10 - Duchess House Interior kitchen.

FISH-FROG - A huge Curly headed Doorman is at the door with a large invitation in hand.

FROG-FISH - The door is answered by a huge Curly headed Doorman. Frog

ALICE 3

DUCHESS 1

[Alice enters and comes upon the little house)

SFX15: KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK, KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK - THE DUCHESS THEME MUSIC - Bagpipes

A huge Curly headed Fish-Frog Doorman is at the door with a large invitation in hand. The door is answered by a huge Curly headed Frog-Fish Doorman.]

FISH-FROG: For the Duchess. An invitation from the Queen to play croquet.

FROG-FISH: From the Queen. An invitation for the Duchess to play croquet.

(They both bow and entangle their curls, Alice laughs at this. The Fish leaves and the Frog staring into space, ignores her so she goes to door to knock.)

FROG: There's no use in knocking, and that for two reasons. First, I'm on the same side of the door as you are; secondly, because they're making such a noise inside, no one could possibly hear you.

COOK: AAAAhhhh-CHOO

PIG: SNORT-HOWL

SFX16: AAAAhhhh-CHOO, SNORT, CRASHING POTS AND PANS

ALICE: Please then, how am I to get in?

FROG: I shall be here till tomorrow... (The door opens and a plate flies out) or the next day, maybe.

ALICE: UUM...How am I to get in?

FROG: Are you to get in at all? That's the first question you know!

COOK: AAAAhhhh-CHOO

PIG: SNORT-HOWL

SFX17: AAAAhhhh-CHOO, SNORT, CRASHING POTS AND PANS

ALICE: (An aside to audience) It's really dreadful the way the creatures argue down here. It's enough to drive one crazy!

FROG: I shall stand here, on and off for days and days.

ALICE: But what am I to do?

FROG: Anything you like.

ALICE: (An aside) There is no use in talking to him, he's perfectly... absurd. I don't mean to be unkind, but he's very hard to reason with.

Backdrop 10 - Duchess House Interior kitchen.

[Alice enters the kitchen of the Duchess where the cook is boiling a pot of soup, the pig-baby is howling, the Duchess is growling and a Cheshire Cat grinning]

**DUCHESS 1
COOK
PIG
CHESHIRE CAT**

ALICE: AAAAhhhh-CHOO....There's certainly too much pepper in that soup. (To Duchess) Please would you tell me why that Cat grins like that?

DUCHESS: (Curtly) It's a Cheshire Cat, that's why! (To baby) PIG!

ALICE: I didn't know that Cheshire Cats always grinned; in fact, I didn't know that Cats could grin.

DUCHESS: They all can and most of them do.

ALICE: I don't know of any that do.

DUCHESS: You don't know much, and that's fact.

[Alice does aside look at audience, "Holding her temper" Baby howls, crash of plates by cook]

ALICE: OH, please mind what you are doing, you might hurt the baby.

COOK: AAAAhhhh-CHOO

PIG: SNORT-HOWL

SFX18: AAAAhhhh-CHOO, SNORT, CRASHING POTS AND PANS

DUCHESS: If everybody minded their own business the world would go around a great deal faster than it does.

ALICE: If everyone minded their own business this world would be a good deal worse off than it is now...

DUCHESS: Oh! Don't bother me! I never could abide talking back!

"PIG & PEPPER SONG"

**DUCHESS:
Speak roughly to your little boy
And beat him when he sneezes
He only does it to annoy
Because he knows it teases**

(Cook joins in with a dissonant harmony on all choruses)

**Wow, wow, wow, Wow, wow, wow
Wow, wow, wow, Wow, wow
Wow, wow, wow, Wow, wow, wow
Wow, wow, wow, Wow, wow**

COOK: AAAAhhhh-CHOO

PIG: SNORT-HOWL

DUCHESS:

**I speak severely to me boy
I beat him when he sneezes
For he can thoroughly enjoy
The pepper when he pleases**

**Wow, wow, wow, Wow, wow, wow
Wow, wow, wow, Wow, wow
Wow, wow, wow, Wow, wow, wow
Wow, wow, wow, Wow, wow**

ALICE 10 - Holding Pig Baby- ALICE 3 lie flat.

DUCHESS: You take it if you like. I must get ready to play croquet with the Queen.

[Alice takes the baby out the front]

ALICE: What a strange looking child. (The child starts snorting and grunting.) If I don't take this child away they'll surely harm it. My sister says "All children are our children, and we must protect them." Yes, surely they would harm it.

SFX 19: PIG SNORTING

(Grunts and snorts are louder, he is squirming) Now, now, don't grunt, it's not at all a proper way of expressing yourself. (He grunts and twists.) If you're going to turn into a pig, my dear, I'll have nothing more to do with you. (An aside to audience) It would have made a dreadfully ugly child; but it makes a rather handsome pig, I think.

CHESHIRE CAT (OH) THEME [Cat peeks around the side of the building]

CHESHIRE CAT

ALICE: Cheshire-puss.... (Aside) He's grinning, seems pleased so far. (To Cat) Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?

CAT: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.

ALICE: I don't much care where...

CAT: Then it doesn't matter which way you go...

ALICE: As long as I get somewhere.

CAT: Oh, you're sure to do that, if only you walk long enough.

ALICE: What sort of people live around here?

CAT: In that direction, lives a Mad Hatter ...in that direction lives a March Hare. Visit either you like, they're both mad.

ALICE: I don't want to go among mad people.

CAT: Oh, but you can't help that around here, we're all mad. I'm mad, you're mad.

ALICE: How do you know that you're mad?

CAT: To begin with, a dog's not mad. You grant that?

ALICE: I suppose so...

CAT: Well then, you see a dog growls when it's angry, and it wags its tail when it's pleased. Now I growl when I'm pleased, and wag my tail when I'm angry. Therefore I'm mad.

ALICE: I call it purring, not growling.

CAT: Call it what you like. Do you play croquet with the Queen today?

ALICE: I should like to very much, but I haven't been invited yet.

CAT: You'll see me there. Bye the Bye, what's wrong with the baby?

ALICE: It's turned into a pig.

CAT: I thought it would. (He exits)

ALICE: I've seen a Mad Hatter before, so the March Hare may be the most interesting, and perhaps as this is MAY, it won't be raving mad...at least not as mad as in March.

{MUSIC FADE OUT}

KNAVE : All right, all right I stole the tarts, what's the big deal?!!!
CARDS: (AS they lead in the Queen) OOFFFFF with HER HEAD!