

ALICE

“I Feel So Me Now!”

MINIATURE THEATER VERSION

ALICE “I Feel So Me Now!” © 2006 T. NEW

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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 minuteeeeeee... (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}

ACT II

SCENE 8. "A MAD TEA PARTY"

Backdrop 11A - There is a table set for many people under a tree.

Backdrop 11B – Trees flowers. Goes behind Backdrop 11A.

MARCH HARE - DORMOUSE

& 3 chairs.

MAD HATTER 1

ALICE 11 – Standing with hat on.

"TEA PARTY" (ALICE THEME Version 2) [There is a table set for many people under a tree. The March Hare and Mad Hatter are having tea. The Dormouse is sitting between them fast asleep. The other two are using him as a cushion. As they see Alice approach.]

MARCH HARE & MAD HATTER: No room! No room!

ALICE: There's plenty of room.

MARCH HARE: Have some juice.

ALICE: I don't see any juice.

MARCH HARE: There isn't any.

ALICE: Then it wasn't very civil of you to offer it.

MARCH HARE: It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being invited.

ALICE: I didn't know it was your table, it's laid out for a great many more than three.

MAD HATTER: Your hair wants cutting.

ALICE: You should learn not to make personal remarks. It's very rude!

MAD HATTER: Why is a raven like a writing desk?

ALICE: (An aside to audience) Now we shall have some fun, they've begun to ask riddles! (To the Mad Hatter & March Hare) I believe I can guess that.

MARCH HARE: Do you mean you think you can find out the answer to it?

ALICE: Exactly so.

MARCH HARE: Then you should say what you mean.

ALICE: I do...at least... at least I mean what I say...That's the same thing, you know.

MAD HATTER: Not the same thing a bit. Why, you might just as well say that 'I see what I eat', is the same thing as 'I eat what I see'.

MARCH HARE: You might just as well say, that 'I like what I get' is the same thing as 'I get what I like'!

DORMOUSE: (One eye open) You might as well say, that 'I breathe when I sleep' is the same thing as 'I sleep when I breathe'!

MAD HATTER: (To Dormouse) It is the same thing with you...What day of the month is it? (Looks at his pocket watch)

ALICE: The fourth.

MAD HATTER: Two days wrong. (To MARCH HARE) I told you butter wouldn't suit the works!

MARCH HARE: It was the best butter.

MAD HATTER: Yes, but some crumbs got in as well. You shouldn't have put it in with the bread-knife.

MARCH HARE: It was the best butter you know.

MAD HATTER: The Dormouse is asleep again. (Pours tea on its nose)

DORMOUSE: Of course, of course, just what I was going to remark myself.

MAD HATTER: Have you guessed the riddle yet?

ALICE: No, I give up, what's the answer?

MAD HATTER: I haven't the slightest idea.

MARCH HARE: Nor I.

ALICE: (Sighs wearily) I think you might do something better with your TIME, than wasting it in asking riddles which have no answers.

MAD HATTER: If you knew TIME as well as I do, you wouldn't talk about wasting "IT" it's "HIM"!

ALICE: I don't know what you mean.

MAD HATTER: Of course you don't. I dare say you never even spoke to TIME!

ALICE: Perhaps not, but I do know how to beat TIME when I learn music.

MAD HATTER: AH! That accounts for it. He won't stand beating. Now if you'd only kept on good terms with him, you'd only have to whisper a hint to TIME and round goes the clock in a twinkling and it's time for dinner!

ALICE: Is that the way you manage?

MARCH HARE: I only wish it was.

[MUSIC PAUSE]

MAD HATTER: Well not I, we quarreled last March...just before he (Points to the MARCH HARE) went mad, you know. It was a great concert given by the Queen of Hearts, and I had to sing:

**TWINKLE, TWINKLE
[Acappella)
Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!
How I wonder where you're at!**

(Says) You know the song perhaps?

ALICE: I've heard something like it

**MAD HATTER: (Sings)
Up above the world you fly
Like a tea-tray in the sky.
Twinkle, Twinkle...**

**DORMOUSE: Twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle.
(They pinch him to stop)**

MAD HATTER: Well, I'd hardly finished the last verse, when the Queen bawled out "He's murdering the TIME! Off with his head!"

ALICE 12 – Sitting in a chair with hat on.

ALICE: (An aside) How dreadfully savage!

MAD HATTER: And ever since that he won't do a thing I ask! It's always Tea Time now!

ALICE: Is that the reason there are so many tea things put out here?

MAD HATTER: Yes, that's it, it's always tea-time, and we've no time to wash dishes between whiles.

ALICE: So you keep moving round?

MAD HATTER: Exactly so, as the things get used up.

ALICE: But what happens when you come to the beginning again?

MARCH HARE: Suppose we change the subject, I'm getting tired of this. I vote the young lady tell us story.

ALICE: I'm afraid I don't know one.

MAD HATTER & MARCH HARE: Then the Dormouse shall! Wake up, Dormouse!

DORMOUSE: I wasn't asleep. (In a hoarse, feeble voice) I heard every word you said.

MARCH HARE: Tell us a story!

ALICE: Yes, please do!

MAD HATTER: And be quick about it or you'll be asleep before it's done.

DORMOUSE: Once upon a time there were three sisters and they lives in the bottom of a well...

ALICE: What did they live on?

DORMOUSE: They lived on molasses.

ALICE: They couldn't have you know. They'd have been ill.

DORMOUSE: So they were, very ill! But why did they live at the bottom of a well?

MARCH HARE: Have some more tea.

ALICE: I've had nothing yet, so I can't have more.

MAD HATTER: You mean you can't take less, it's very easy to take more.

ALICE: Nobody asked your opinion.

MAD HATTER: Who's making personal remarks now?

DORMOUSE: It was a molasses well.

ALICE: There is no such thing.

MAD HATTER & MARCH HARE: SHHH! SSHHH!

DORMOUSE: If you can't be civil, you'd better finish the story yourself!

ALICE: But I don't understand. Where did they draw the molasses from?

MAD HATTER: You can draw water out of a water-well, so I should think you could draw molasses from a molasses-well...eh stupid.

ALICE: Excuse me. (An aside to audience, flabbergasted) Excuse me. (Alice proceeds to do karate chops in the air, kicking in the air, getting all her anger out and then regaining her composure) My anger was starting to get the better of me. (She takes a deep breath) I feel ever so much better. Now, I can manage. (To Mad Hatter) **BUT**, they were **IN** the well.

[MUSIC STARTS]

DORMOUSE: Of course they were, well in...They were learning to draw, and they drew all manner of things, everything that begins with an "M".

ALICE: Why an "M"?

MARCH HARE: Why not?

DORMOUSE: (He starts dozing off, shrieks when the Mad Hatter pinches him) That begins with an "M", such as mouse-traps, and the moon and muchness... you know things are, much of muchness...

ALICE: Really now, if you ask me, I don't think...

MAD HATTER: Then you shouldn't talk.

ALICE 11 Switch ALICE 12 Lie flat.

ALICE: (Gets up in great disgust.) I will never go there again, that was the stupidest tea-party I ever was at in all my life! My sister, Diana says to stand up for yourself, but walk away rather than losing yourself to others.

[MUSIC FADE]

SCENE 9. "CROQUET WITH THE QUEEN"

Backdrop 11 - The Queen's garden. Partially painted white roses, red.

**QUEEN
KING ALEC
2 CARD SOLDIERS
ALICE 13 – In ball gown & crown.
DUCHESS 2
CHESHIRE CAT 2 with cloud halo.**

QUEEN'S FANFARE THEME [Alice is at the entrance of the Queen's garden. Enter the Queen and King Alec. The Cards are painting furiously the white roses red, exchanging worried looks, as the procession nears they are panicked. As the Queen arrives she pokes her finger and red paint comes off, she approaches the cards angrily.]

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS - SONG

**QUEEN: (SINGS)
Off with their heads, off with their heads
Off with their heads, off with their heads**

**SOLDIERS:
Off with their heads, off with their heads**

**QUEEN:
OOOOOOOOOOOffffff...with....their... heads!**

[Verse is spoken with music background]

ALICE: (The Cards run behind her for protection, their mouths gaping) You shan't be beheaded!

**QUEEN: (Walks up to Alice and addresses the Knave of Hearts next to her, he says nothing, only smiles and bows)
WHO is this... What is your name child?**

ALICE: ALICE! So please your majesty. (An aside to the audience) Why they're only a pack of cards, I needn't be afraid of them!

QUEEN: Can you play croquet?

ALICE: (Shouts) YES!

QUEEN: Come on then!

QUEEN: (SINGS)

**Off with their heads, off with their heads
Off with their heads, off with their heads**

SOLDIERS:

Off with their heads, off with their heads

QUEEN:

OOOOOOOOOOOffffff...with....their.. heads!

[Verse is spoken with music background]

QUEEN: Are their heads off?

SOLDIERS: Their heads are gone, if it please your majesty.

KING ALEC: (He is dressed in jeans like Alice, and has a royal cape and crown on. To Alice) It's...it's a very fine day.

ALICE: You, you look like me!

DUCHESS

KING ALEC: I'm on an adventure too! (Sees the Duchess) Oh dear, here comes the Duchess!!! Hush! Hush! She's under sentence of execution! She boxed the Queen's ears... (Alice screams with laughter) OH SSSSSH! The Queen will hear you.

QUEEN: To your places!

QUEEN: (Sings)

To your place! To your place!

To your place! To your place!

SOLDIERS: Get to your place, Off to your place!

QUEEN:

NOOOOOOOWWWWWW! We'll begin!

**ALICE 14 with flamingo Switch ALICE 13 exit
CHESHIRE CAT 2 – with cloud halo**

[Verse is spoken with music background, The Croquet Balls “Hedgehogs” - enter. They somersault through arches as they are hit with stuffed flamingo heads, they crowd and bump into each other and play in a thoroughly disorganized manner. The Cheshire Cat appears next to Alice.]

ALICE: They're dreadfully fond of beheading people here. The great wonder is that there's anyone left alive!

CAT: How are you getting on?

ALICE: They don't play at all fairly and they all quarrel so dreadfully, you can't hear oneself speak.

CAT: How do you like the Queen?

ALICE: Not at all, she's so extremely... (Alice notices the Queen is behind her and eaves dropping)...ah... likely to win, that it's hardly worth finishing the game.

QUEEN: (SINGS)

Off with their heads, off with their heads

Off with their heads, off with their heads

SOLDIERS:

Off with their heads, off with their heads

QUEEN:

OOOOOOOOOOOffffff...with....their.. heads!

[Verse is spoken with music background]

KING ALEC: (To Alice) Who are you talking to?

ALICE: It's a friend of mine...A Cheshire Cat.

KING ALEC: (He is starting to get into his role as KING and starts putting on airs) I don't like the looks of it at all...however, it may kiss my hand if it likes.

CAT: I'd rather not.

KING ALEC: Don't be impertinent. (Feeling his power, speaks to the Queen) Your majesty, I do wish you would have this cat removed.

KING ALEC & QUEEN: (As they sing the Cat disappears)

KING ALEC & QUEEN: (SINGS)
Off with their heads, off with their heads
Off with their heads, off with his whiskers.

SOLDIERS:
Off with their heads, off with his whiskers?!
(The soldiers are caught by surprise)

QUEEN:
OOOOOOOOOOOffffff...with....his.. whiskers!

[Verse is spoken with music background]

DUCHESS: (Sides up to Alice) You can't think how glad I am to see you again, you dear old thing!
(The Duchess is avoiding the Queen, moving this way and that, so that the Queen doesn't see her)

ALICE: (An aside to audience) Perhaps it was the pepper that made her so savage. When I'm a Duchess I won't have any pepper in my kitchen at all.

DUCHESS: You're thinking about something my dear, and that makes you forget to talk, and I can't tell you the moral of that...

ALICE: Perhaps it hasn't one.

DUCHESS: Tut, Tut Child! Everything's got a moral, Tis so, tis so, and the moral of that is...OH, tis love that makes the world go round!

QUEEN: (SINGS, everyone clutches their throats)
Off with their heads, off with their heads
Off with their heads, off with their heads

SOLDIERS:
Off with their heads, off with their heads

QUEEN:
OOOOOOOOOOOffffff...with....their.. heads!
[Verse is spoken with music background]

DUCHESS: (To Alice) I quite agree with you and the moral of that is..Be what you would seem to be..or..if you'd like it put more simply- Never imagine yourself not to be otherwise than it might appear to than be otherwise.

ALICE: I can't quite follow what you say. I think I should understand it better if it were written down.

DUCHESS: That's nothing to what I could say if I chose. I make you a present of everything I've said thus far.

ALICE: (An aside to audience) A cheap sort of present. I'm glad people don't give birthday presents like that!

DUCHESS: Thinking again! (Queen sees the Duchess and sings at her, the Duchess scurries off.)

QUEEN: (SINGS)
Off with her head, off with her head!
Off with her head, off with her head!

SOLDIERS:
Off with her head, off with her head.

QUEEN:

OOOOOOOOOOOffffff...with....her..head!

QUEEN: (To Alice) Have you seen the Mock Turtle yet?

ALICE: No, I don't even know what a Mock Turtle is.

QUEEN: It's the same thing you make mock turtle soup from. Come along, he shall show you the Lobster-Quadrille.

(They walk off together)

KING ALEC: (In a Kingly voice) You are all pardoned.

SCENE 10. "THE MOCK TURTLE & GRYPHON LOBSTER QUADRILLE"

Backdrop 13 – A Seaside with ocean and cliffs

QUEEN
ALICE 4 - Standing
GRYPHON
MOCK TURTLE
ALICE 15 – Dancing

[The Queen and Alice come upon the Gryphon]

QUEEN: Up lazy thing! Take this young lady to see the Mock Turtle and show her the Lobster Quadrille. I must go back and see after some executions I have ordered. (Exits)

GRYPHON: What fun!

ALICE: What is the fun?

GRYPHON: Why she. It's all her fancy that, they never executes nobody you know. Come on!

ALICE: Everybody says "Come on" here. I never was so ordered about in all my life, never! Now I should be happy to accompany you IF you don't order ME around. Agreed!

GRYPHON: If that's your fancy, it's agreed.

(Alice reacts in a smug manner, nodding her head)

ALICE: (An aside to audience) If you don't set people correctly on what you will tolerate, they will make your life rubbish.

(They approach the Mock Turtle, he let's out a huge sigh)

ALICE: What is his sorrow?

GRYPHON: It's all his fancy, that, he hasn't got no sorrow, you know. Come on!...(remembers her words) please... this here young lady, she want for to see the Lobster Quadrille.

MOCK TURTLE: Sit down, both of you, and don't speak a word till I've finished.....(They wait & wait)

ALICE: Ahem, I don't see how he can ever finish, if he doesn't begin.

MOCK TURTLE: You may not have lived much under the sea.

ALICE: I haven't.

MOCK TURTLE: And perhaps you were never introduced to a lobster.

ALICE: I once tasted..(Checks herself) No, never.

MOCK TURTLE: So you can have no idea what a delightful thing a Lobster-Quadrille is!

ALICE: No indeed! What sort of a dance is it?

MOCK TURTLE: Would you like to see a little of it?

ALICE: Very much indeed.

MOCK TURTLE: Come, let's try the first figure!

ALICE 15 – Dancing

"WON'T YOU JOIN THE DANCE" SONG

MOCK TURTLE:

"Will you walk a little faster?" said the Whiting to the Snail
"There's a porpoise close behind us, and he's treading on my tail"
How eagerly the lobsters and turtles advance!
They are waiting on the shingle, will you come and join the dance?

GRYPHON:

You can really have no notion, how delightful it will be

**When they take us up and throw us, with the lobsters out to sea!
The snail replied "Too far, too far (Speaks) and gave a look askance. (sings)
Said he thanked the whiting kindly, but he would not join the dance.**

MOCK TURTLE & GRYPHON:

**Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, won't you join the dance?**

MOCK TURTLE:

**"What matters it, how far we go" his scaly friend replied
"There is another shore, upon the other side"
The further off from England, the closer to France
Then turn not pale beloved snail, but come and join the dance**

MOCK TURTLE, GRYPHON & ALICE:

**Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, won't you join the dance?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, won't you join the dance?**

ALICE: Thank you, it's a very interesting dance!

CHORUS (yells from off stage): The trial's beginning, the trial's beginning!

MOCK TURTLE & GRYPHON: Come on, Come on!

SCENE 11. "WHO STOLE THE TARTS?"

"QUEEN'S THEME"

Backdrop 14A – Courtroom with a jury box filled with characters.

Backdrop 14B – Flying cards.

CUE: SFX 21: DRUMS INCREASINGLY LOUDER.

ALICE 17
KING ALEC & QUEEN - Seated on throne.
KNAVE
GRYPHON
RABBIT
MAD HATTER 2 - Standing with a teacup.
COOK
MARCH HARE 2
DORMOUSE 2
SOLDIER CHORUS

[King Alec and Queen of Hearts are seated on the throne, the King Alec wears a huge wig. There is a jury box with a crowd assembled. The Knave stands accused.]

ALICE: (An aside) That's the judge, you can tell by his great wig. And that's the jury box. (The jurors are furiously writing. To Gryphon) What are they doing? They can't have anything to put down yet, before the trials begun.

GRYPHON: They're putting down their names for fear they should forget them before the end of the trial.

RABBIT: Silence in the court!

KING ALEC: (Thoroughly into the role) Herald, read the accusation!

RABBIT: The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts
All on a summers day
The Knave of Hearts, he stole the tarts
And took them quite away!

KING ALEC: (To jury) Consider your verdict.

RABBIT: Not yet! Not yet! There's a great deal to come before that!

KING ALEC: Call the first witness.

SFX 20: TRUMPETS

RABBIT: First witness!

MAD HATTER 2 – Standing with a teacup.

MAD HATTER: (He has a tea cup and saucer with him) I beg your pardon, your majesty, but I hadn't quite finished my tea when I was sent for.

KING ALEC: You ought to have finished. When did you begin?

MAD HATTER: Fourteenth of March, I think it was.

MARCH HARE 2

MARCH HARE: Fifteenth!

DORMOUSE 2

DORMOUSE: Sixteenth!

KING ALEC: (To jury) Write that down...(To Mad Hatter) Take off your hat.

MAD HATTER: It isn't mine.

KING ALEC: Stolen! (Jury writes stolen on their slates)

MAD HATTER: (Tea cup is rattling in his hands) I keep them to sell, I've none of my own. I'm a hatter.

KING ALEC: Give your evidence, or I'll have you executed, whether you're nervous or not.

MAD HATTER: I'm a poor man, your majesty, and I hadn't begun my tea... not above a week or so... and what with the twinkling of the tea...

KING ALEC: The twinkling of what?

MAD HATTER: It began with the tea.

KING ALEC: Of course twinkling begins with a T! Do you take me for a dunce? Go on!

MAD HATTER: I'm a poor man.

KING ALEC: You're a poor speaker. If that's all you know, you may stand down...Call the next witness. (The Cook enters) Give your evidence.

COOK

COOK: Shan't.

RABBIT: Your majesty must cross examine this witness.

KING ALEC: Well, if I must. What are tarts made of?

COOK: Pepper, mostly.

DORMOUSE: Molasses.

QUEEN: (Shrieks) Collar that Dormouse! Behead that Dormouse! Turn that Dormouse out of court! Suppress him! Pinch him! Off with his whiskers!

KING ALEC: Never mind! Call the next witness.

ALICE: I wonder who the next witness will be. They haven't got much evidence yet.

ALICE 17

RABBIT: Alice!

ALICE: Here! (Bumps into the jury box, knocking them over))
I beg your pardon!

KING ALEC: What do you know about this business?

ALICE: Nothing.

KING ALEC: Nothing whatever?

ALICE: Nothing whatever.

KING ALEC: That's very important

RABBIT: Unimportant, your majesty means, of course.

KING ALEC: Unimportant, of course, I meant.. important... unimportant...important...unimportant (The jury starts mimicking the KING ALEC) Silence! (Reads from a book) All persons named Alice must leave the court. (Everyone looks at Alice)

ALICE: I'm not leaving.

KING ALEC: You are.

ALICE: Well I won't go. At any rate, that's not a regular rule, you invented it just now. (An aside) You know if you don't stand up to people they'll just walk all over you!

KING ALEC: The oldest in the book.

ALICE: Then it ought to be number one.

KING ALEC: (The King has nothing to say to Alice as a retort so he turns to the jury, Alice nods her head in smugness.) Consider your verdict.

RABBIT: There's more evidence to come, please your majesty, this paper has just been picked up.

QUEEN: What's in it?

RABBIT: I haven't opened it yet, but it seems to be a letter to nobody, which isn't usual you know.

JURY: Is it the prisoner's handwriting?

RABBIT: No, that the strangest thing about it.

KING ALEC: He must have imitated somebody else's hand.

KNAVE

KNAVE: Please, your majesty. I didn't write it, and they can't prove that I did. There's no name signed at the end.

KING ALEC: If you didn't sign it, that only makes matter worse.

QUEEN: That proves his guilt, of course, so, off with..

ALICE: (Cuts in) It doesn't prove anything of the sort

KING ALEC: Read.

RABBIT: Where shall I begin, please your majesty?

KING ALEC: (Gravely) Begin at the beginning, and go on till you come to the end; then stop.

"THE NOTE" Song

RABBIT:

They told me you had been to her,
and mentioned me to him
She gave me a good character,
but said I could not swim.
He sent them word I had not gone (To Jury)
"We know this to be true!"
If she should press the matter on,
What would become of you?

JURY - SOLDIER CHORUS:

I gave her one, they gave him two,
you gave us three or more

**They all returned from him to you,
though they were mine before
If he or I should chance to be,
involved in this affair
He trusts that you will set them free,
exactly as we were.**

RABBIT:

**My notion was that you had been (To King Alec)
before she had this fit!
An obstacle that came between, him, ourselves and it.
Don't let him best, or be a pest, for this must ever be
A secret kept from all the rest, between yourself and me**

JURY - SOLDIER CHORUS:

**I gave her one, they gave him two,
you gave us three or more
They all returned from him to you,
though they were mine before**

RABBIT:

**If he or I should chance to be involved in this affair
He trusts that you will set them free, exactly as we were.
we were. we were. we were!**

KING ALEC: That' the most important piece of evidence we've heard yet, so now let the jury.

ALICE: If anyone of them can explain that, I'll pay them. I don't believe there's an atom of meaning in it!

KING ALEC: If there's no meaning in it, that saves us a world of trouble and yet I don't know. I seem to see some meaning in them, after all, "Said could not swim"...you can't swim can you, Knave. (Knave shakes head 'NO')
What would become of you" what indeed!.."I gave her one, they gave her two" why that must be the tarts you know.

ALICE: But it goes on "They all returned from him to you".

KING ALEC: Why, there they are (Points to tarts) Nothing can be clearer than that. Then again "Before she had this fit" (To Queen) You've never had fits, my dear.

QUEEN: Never!

KING ALEC: Then the words don't fit you (Dead Silence)
Let the jury consider their verdict.

QUEEN: NO, NO! Sentence first, verdict after!

ALICE: Stuff and nonsense! The idea of having a sentence first!

QUEEN: (Outraged) Hold your tongue!

SFX 21: DRUMS INCREASINGLY LOUDER.

Backdrop 14B – Flying Cards come down.

ALICE: I won't!

QUEEN: Off with her head!

SOLDIER CHORUS

ALICE: (Soldiers start coming at her, Alice holds her ground and points at them) Oh, no you don't! (The Jury screams and scrambles out of the jury box, creating chaos)

[BLACK OUT.]

SCENE 12. "I FEEL SO ME NOW"

Backdrop 1A - Trees with Rabbit hole, country-garden

Backdrop 1B Woods (Trees in front of & 1B Woods)

ALICE 1

DIANA

[Alice is fast asleep, her sister is shaking her, trying to wake her]

DIANA: Alice, Alice, wake up, wake up. I've been looking for you everywhere, I've finally found you, I was so worried, I saw you chasing after that strange rabbit and away you went. (Grabs her and hugs her) But you'r're back... and safe, that's what's important.

ALICE: (Rubbing her eyes) Was it that long? Oh, I have had the most incredible, wonderful and strange time, or dream, or.... All these people, creatures, they talked at me, not to me, but I stood up to them and you know, I'm very proud of myself.

ALICE 1 Switch, lay down ALICE 18

"I FEEL SO ME NOW"

ALICE:

**I feel so me now, I touched a key
It led me far, it felt strange
With the world rearranged
On my own.**

**I feel so free now, though it was strange
It was delicious and fine
This play on my mind
I held my own**

**Lai, lai, EEE, Lai,lai lai,
lai, lai, EEE, lai**

I feel so me now, as I awake

**Now with my eyes I can see
New ways to be
It feels like home**

**Lai, lai, EEE, Lai,lai lai,
lai, lai, EEE, lai**

MUSIC INTERLUDE/DANCE

ALICE : It was a most wonderful and strange dream.

**I feel so me now, as I awake
Now with my eyes I can see
New ways to be
It feels like home**

**I feel so me and free
I feel so me and free**

**Lai, lai, EEE, Lai,lai lai,
lai, lai, EEE, lai**

ALICE: (Speaks to Diana as she grabs her hand) We must find Dinah and have tea, I have so many things to tell, yes, let's have tea! I feel so free...so me!

Music to fade.

THE END.

BOWS TO:

“ANGEL’S ON OUR SHOULDERS”

“THE oUR hoUSE THEME SONG - 2 versions

CAUCUS CHORUS: Bird sounds

PIG : SNORT

COOK: AHHHHCCCHOOO

KNAVE : All right, all right I stole the tarts, what’s the big deal?!!!

CARDS: (AS they lead in the Queen) OOOFFFF with HER HEAD!

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!