

# ALICE "I Feel So Me Now!"

based on Lewis Carroll's "*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*"

Adaptation by Terri New

Music by Terri New - Arrangements by Bob Esty

# ALICE "I Feel So Me Now!"

## List of Characters

**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 audience.

**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 to crazy about CATS either, colorful characters, they are loud and rambunctious, twittery and enthusiastic.

**PAT - A lizard** - Caretaker for the Rabbit's house, a little slow, farmer-type

**LITTLE BILL - A lizard** - 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 it's wake.

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

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

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

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

**SOLDIERS** - 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.

**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.

**DANCE CHORUS** - Scene 9 The Lobster Quadrille – Butterflies, Snail, Whiting & Lobsters

**JURY** – Composed of all the non-speaking characters not in the Scene 10.

## **ALICE "I Feel So Me Now!"**

### **ACT 1 - SCENE 1. "Down the Rabbit Hole"**

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

[*The scene opens with Alice, in blue jeans, T-shirt and a red scarf around her neck, Diana, her sister is reading a large, thick "World History" book under a tree, a large dictionary in 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 (911), and where they had learnt to speak French. William, the Duke of Normandy, became the William the Conqueror (1066) of English History.

Practically, from the standpoint of universal history, all these peoples were the same people, waves of one Nordic stock. These waves were not only flowing westward but eastward.

[*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?...I want to hear YOUR STORY...if it was YOUR STORY you can be sure it would be different...AND 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.

[*Alice lies down to sleep, LIGHTS DIM on Alice as 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 White Rabbit.

**RABBIT'S THEME VERSION 1** [*White Rabbit enters and hops in time to the music across the stage.*]

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

DIANA: (*Continues.*) Who actually took a watch out of it's waistcoat pocket.

[*Alice sits up, rubs her eyes in disbelief, then jumps up and runs after the rabbit and follows offstage.*]

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. In house, SD\*4 LIGHTS SWIRL. A blur of white rabbit fur and Alice's blue jeans.]

ALICE:[From offstage.] Whoaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

**SFX 1: WIND TUNNEL.**

Well, (*getting comfortable now*) after 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. That would be four-thousand miles down I think. Dinah, my cat will miss me very much tonight. I hope they'll remember her saucer of milk at tea time. Dinah, I wish you were down here with me now. There are no mice in the air, I'm afraid. But do cats eat bats? Do bats eat cats? Now, Dinah, tell me the truth, did you ever eat a bat?

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

**SFX 2: RABBIT THEME - CRASH**

## **SCENE 2. "Big & Little, Little & Big"**

*[Lights up on Alice, CENTER STAGE, with twigs and leaves in her hair, sprawled on the ground. There is a door which has huge key hole and knob. A tall table with a key and a bottle with the words "Drink Me" on it.]*

ALICE: Well, Here we are and I'm not a bit hurt. *(She dusts herself off.)* Oh, there goes that rabbit! *(She looks through the keyhole.)*

### **SFX 3: AAHHH**

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! I think I could if I only knew how to begin. So many out of the way things have happened, I think anything could be possible. *(Spots a key on the table.)* A key, maybe to the door! *(Alice walks to the table and picks up the bottle.)*

ALICE: *(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!

### **SFX 4: SHRINKING**

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

### **SFX 5: SHRINKING 2**

*[SD\*5 The door and table grow very tall with the key and keyhole out of reach. Alice tries and tries to reach the table for the key.]*

ALICE: If I get any smaller I'll be out altogether like a candle. What will happen then? OOOOHHHH! 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)* I advise you to stop this moment....  
*(An aside to the audience.)* I generally give myself very good advise, though I seldom follow it. *(Back in scene. Sniffs.)* What this? *(She finds a little cake with the words written in currants.)* "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, and I don't really care which happens!

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.)*

### **SFX 6: EXPANDING**

*[The door expands, Alice stands taller than the door.]*

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

**RABBIT THEME VERSION 2** – *(The Rabbit comes scurrying up to the stage. Bounding past Alice, he drops a fan and gloves as he scampers by.)*

WHITE 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... 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? Let me think...was I the same this morning I remember feeling a little different, but if I'm not the same, the next question is..."Who in the world am I?"

### **SFX 7: CONTRACTING**

*[Alice begins to shorten and the door grows taller again.]*

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 3. "The Caucus Race"**

#### **SXF 8: SPLASHING MUSIC**

*(Alice is splashing about. 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; at any rate, there's no harm in trying.

ALICE: O Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool? I'm very tired of swimming. Hmm, perhaps it doesn't understand English. I dare say it's a French mouse come over with William the Conqueror. *Ou est ma chatte?*

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

*[The Mouse leaps out of the water and quivers with fright.]*

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 cats, if you could only see her. She is such a sweet, dear thing and she sits and purrs so nicely by the fire, licking her paws and washing her face, she so nice and soft 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 I would love to show you! A bright eyed terrier, you know with long curly hair. And it will fetch things you throw, and it's sits up and begs for it's dinner...and all sorts of things...I can't remember half of them.. 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.)*

#### **SFX 9: SPLASHING 2 (WATER & WET CROSS BIRD NOISES)**

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: *(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.

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

ALICE: I'd say it 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. William's conduct at first was moderate. But the insolence of his Normans *(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!

**[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.]

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: *(An aside to audience.)* Oh, dear, what am I to do?

*[Alice goes into audience and gathers prizes. SD\*9 Audience Instructions]*

Prizes, who has Prizes? *[Gathers them from kids in the audience.]*

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

ALICE: Oh, you'd better keep your schoolbooks.

MOM: Sure better!

STUDENT: Darn!

*[Action begins again when Alice gets on stage, she 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. *(Picks up his tail.)*

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

MOUSE: *(SD\*10 Using his tail, as if reading it like a book, with every few sentences, bending his tail for the next section to read.)*

We lived beneath the mat,. warm and snug and fat

But one woe and that, was the Cat!

To our joys a clog, In our eyes a fog,

On our hearts a log, was a dog

When the cat's away, then the mice will play

But alas! One day, So they say

Came the dog and cat, hunting for the rat.

Crushed the mice all flat,

Each one as they sat, underneath the mat;

Warm and snug and fat, think of that *(To Alice)*

...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 lose your temper.

ALICE: Lose 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 capital 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 - VERSION 3** (*The Rabbit springs in.*)

WHITE 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 4. "So Tall"**

*[CURTAIN opens on White Rabbit's house with a wonderful garden with bigger than life plants and flowers. A sign which says "W.RABBIT".]*

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 picks it up and 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.)*

#### **"SO TALL" + SFX 10**

*[SD\*11 Alice's arms and legs of come out through the doors, her huge eyes rolling in the windows. **"SO TALL" SONG** starts.]*

#### **"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?

WHITE 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.

PAT: It's an arm, yer honour!

RABBIT:

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

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?

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

**(SFX: FLYING MISSILE in Song "So Tall")**  
*[SD\*12 Bill flies out of the chimney.]*

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

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

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

*[Alice comes out the door and waves and exits.]*

## **SCENE 5. " I'm Not Who I Am"**

*[Alice is in the garden.]*

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 is not!

ALICE: (*A frustrated look aside to audience.*)

Well, perhaps you haven't found it so yet, but when you have to turn into a chrysalis, you will some day, you know, and then after that into a butterfly, 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!

### **"I'M NOT WHO I AM"**

#### **ALICE: V1**

Now this is something that I ....can'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 it's 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 SD\*15 instruction at end of script.)*

ALICE: Which is which?

**SXF13-16 (1 TRACK) : SLIDE WHISTLE-BOOM**

*( Alice's arms fly up as she shrinks)*

Oh..... my chin's hit my foot.

**SXF14: XYLOPHONE** *(A bite from the other hand)*

Now much too high, Oh, there's a little house down the way.

*(A bite from the other hand.)*

**SXF15: 2 SLIDE WHISTLES**

There now, just a right size, that should do nicely.

**SXF16: CYMBALS**



## SCENE 6. "PIG & PEPPER"

*[Alice enters and comes upon the little house.]*

**SFX 17: DUCHESS-KNOCKING** (KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK... KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK)  
*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-FISH: 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 sits on the floor staring into space, he ignores her so she goes to the door to knocks.)*

FROG-FISH: 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. *(The Frog-Fish is looking to the sky through the whole conversation.)*

COOK: AAAAhhhh-CHOO

PIG: SNORT-HOWL

**SFX 18: AAHCHOO** (SNORT, CRASHING POTS AND PANS)

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

FROG-FISH: There might be some sense in you knocking if we had a door between us... For instance if you were inside, you might knock, and I could let you out.

ALICE: *(An aside to audience.)* Perhaps he can't help himself, looking to the sky. His eyes are so nearly the top of his head.  
At any rate...he might answer questions...*(To Frog)*  
How am I to get in?

FROG-FISH: I shall sit 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-FISH: Are you to get in at all? That's the first question you know!  
COOK: AAAAhhhh-CHOO

PIG: SNORT-HOWL

**SFX 19: ACHOO2 (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-FISH: I shall sit here, on and off for days and days.

ALICE: But what am I to do?

FROG-FISH: 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.

*[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.]*

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 an aside look to the audience, "Holding her temper," Baby howls and a crash of plates by cook.]*

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

COOK: AAAAhhhh-CHOO

PIG: SNORT-HOWL

**SFX 20: ACHHOO3 (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... and the world turning faster... would be an advantage...just think what work it would make with the day and night! You see the earth takes 24 hours to turn around on its axis...

DUCHESS: Talking of axes, chop off her head!

ALICE: *(Anxiously.)* 24 hours, I think... or is it 12?..I...

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

**"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 chorus.)*

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 *(In music Track)*

PIG: SNORT-HOWL *(In music Track)*

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

DUCHESS: *(Hands the baby to her roughly.)* Here, you take it if you like. I must get ready to play croquet with the Queen. *(She picks up a mirror and admires herself.)*

*[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 21: SNORT-SQUEAL (Pig)**

*(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 down and runs away)* If your 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 THEME** (Background Music to Dialogue)  
*[Cat peeks around the side of the building.]*

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?

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

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

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

ALICE: As long as I get somewhere.

CHESHIRE CAT: Oh, your sure to do that, if only you walk long enough.

ALICE: What sort of people live around here?

CHESHIRE CAT: In that direction, lives a 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.

CHESHIRE CAT: Oh, but you can't help that around here, were all mad here. I'm mad, your mad.

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

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

ALICE: I suppose so...

CHESHIRE 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.

CHESHIRE 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.

CHESHIRE CAT: You'll see me there. Bye the Bye, what became of the baby?

ALICE: It turned into a pig.

CHESHIRE CAT: I thought it would. *(He disappears.)*

ALICE: I've seen hatters 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.

## ACT II

### SCENE 7. " A MAD TEA PARTY"

*There is a table set for many people under a tree. The March hare and Hatter are having tea. The Dormouse is sitting between them fast asleep, the other two are using him as a cushion. Alice approaches.]*

HARE & MAD HATTER: No room! No room!

ALICE: There's plenty of room! *(She takes a seat, there is a big showy hat full of flowers, sitting on the seat, she puts it on and ties a bow under her chin.)*

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 Hatter & 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 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 Dormouse's 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, he'd do almost anything you like with a clock. For instance, suppose it were nine o'clock in the morning and time for lessons, 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.

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

**TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR MELODY**

*[Acappella]*

Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!  
How I wonder where your 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: *(An aside)* How dreadfully savage!

**MAD TEA THEME**

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.

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 their names were Elsie, Lacie, and Tillie, and they lives in the bottom of a well...

ALICE: What did they live on?

DORMOUSE: They lives 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?

ALICE: Why did they live at the bottom of a well?

DORMOUSE: It was a molasses well.

ALICE: There is no such thing.

MAD HATTER & MARCH HARE: SHHH! SSSHHH!

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

MAD HATTER: I want a clean cup, let's all move one place on. *(They all move)*

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, I do not appreciate being called names. *(She takes a deep breath.)* I feel ever so much better. Now, I can manage. *(To Hatter.)* BUT, they were IN the well.

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 Hatter pinches him.)* That begins with an "M", such as mouse-traps, and the moon and memory and muchness.. you know things are, much of muchness..did you ever see such a drawing as of muchness..

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

MAD HATTER: Then you shouldn't talk.

ALICE: *(Gets up in great disgust, unties the bow and throws the hat down and walks off.)* 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 loosing your self to others.

**SCENE 8. "CROQUET WITH THE QUEEN"**

**QUEEN'S PARADE THEME** [*SD\*24 Alice is at the entrance of the Queen's garden. There is a procession through the audience of the Queen and King, the Knave of Hearts, White Rabbit, and Ten Card Soldiers; the Cards Two, Five, and Seven are painting furiously the white roses red, exchanging worried looks, as the procession nears they are panicked. As the procession arrives they throw themselves down on the ground; the Queen pokes her finger and red paint comes off, she approaches the cards angrily.*]

**OFF WITH THEIR HEADS – SONG**

[*"Off" Chorus sung, Verse is spoken with music background.*]

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!

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 their only a pack of cards, I needed 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!

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!

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: Are their heads off?

QUEEN:*(Sings)*  
To your place To your place!  
To your place To your place!  
SOLDIERS: Get to your place, Off to your place!  
QUEEN:  
NOOOOOOWWWWWW! We'll begin!

*[Hedgehogs 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!

CHESHIRE 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.

CHESHIRE 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!

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

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

KING:*(He' 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.

CHESHIRE CAT: I'd rather not.

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

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

KING & 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!

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, 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!

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 then 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 see 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: *(In his kingly voice.)* You are all pardoned.

## **SCENE 9. "THE MOCK TURTLES & GRYPHON LOBSTER'S QUADRILLE"**

*[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?

GRYPHON: Why, first, form-a-line along the sea-shore.

MOCK TURTLE: Two lines! Seals, turtles, salmon, and so on; Then when you've cleared all the jelly-fish out of the way.

GRYPHON: That generally takes some time. You advance twice. Each with a lobster partner!

MOCK TURTLE: Change lobsters, and retire in the same order. Then, you know, you throw the...

GRYPHON: Lobsters! As far out to sea as you can (*Screams.*) Swim after them!

MOCK TURTLE: Turn a somersault in the sea! Then back to land, and ...that's all the first figure.

*(They sit down and look sadly at Alice..)*

ALICE: It must be a very pretty dance.

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

ALICE: Very much indeed.

MOCK TURTLE: Come, let's try the first figure! We can do it without lobsters, you know. Which shall we sing?

### **"WON'T YOU JOIN THE DANCE" SONG**

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?

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?

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.

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?

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

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 to watch, and I do like the song about the whiting!

MOCK TURTLE: Oh, as to the whiting, you've seen them of course?

ALICE: Yes, I've often seen them at dinn...(*Stops herself.*)

MOCK TURTLE: I don't know where dinn may be, but you've seen them so often, of course you know what they're like.

CHORUS: The trial's beginning, the trial's beginning!

TURTLE & GRYPHON: Come on, Come on!

## **SCENE 10. "WHO STOLE THE TARTS?"**

### **"QUEEN'S THEME"**

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

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.

ALICE: That seems rather pointless.

*(Jurors write "Pointless" on their slates.)*

WHITE RABBIT: Silence in the court!

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

WHITE 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: *(To jury.)* Consider your verdict.

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

KING: Call the first witness.

### **SFX 22: TRUMPETS**

WHITE RABBIT: First witness!

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

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

MARCH HARE: Fifteenth!

DORMOUSE: Sixteenth!

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

MAD HATTER: It isn't mine.

KING: 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: Give your evidence, or I'll have you executed, whether your 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 bread and butter getting so thin... and the twinkling of the tea...

KING: The twinkling of what?

MAD HATTER: It began with the tea.

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

MAD HATTER: I'm a poor man.

KING: 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: Shan't.

WHITE RABBIT: Your majesty must cross-examine this witness.

KING: 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: Never mind! Call the next witness.

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

WHITE RABBIT: Alice!

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

KING: The trial cannot proceed until all the jury are back in their proper places...What do you know about this business?

ALICE: Nothing.

KING: Nothing whatever?

ALICE: Nothing whatever.

KING: That's very important

WHITE RABBIT: Unimportant, your majesty means, of course.

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

ALICE: I'm not leaving.

KING: 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: The oldest in the book.

ALICE: Then it ought to be number one.

KING: (*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.

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

QUEEN: What's in it?

WHITE 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?

WHITE RABBIT: No, that the strangest thing about it.

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

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: If you didn't sign it, that only makes matter worse. You must have meant some mischief or else you would have signed it like an honest man. (*Clapping from the assemblage.*)

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

ALICE: (*Cuts in.*) It doesn't prove anything of the sort! Why you don't even know what it's about!

KING: Read.

WHITE RABBIT: Where shall I begin, please your majesty?

KING: (*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?

CH:

I gave her, 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 trust that you will set them free, exactly as we were

My notion was that you had been (*To King*) 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

CH:

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 trust that you will set them free, exactly as we were

KING: 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: If there's no meaning in it, that saves us a world of trouble. You know, as we needn't try to find any. 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'.)* All right so far, "if she should push the matter on", that must be the Queen. "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: 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: 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 23: TIMBALES**

ALICE: I won't!

QUEEN: Off with her head!

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 11. "I FEEL SO ME NOW"

*[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 your 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.

### **"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!

**THE END.**

**BOWS TO:**

**“TAKE OUR BOWS”**

**“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!

## **STAGING DIRECTIONS:**

SD\*4

-Use a slide projector with slides of blue, white slurs of color to depict a sea of water.

SD\*5

-The growing tables and door can be accomplished by a fish line attached to an upper and lower point in a picture using a long sheet of cloth or paper and drawing the base of the table extra long as well as the door, so it is unfolding as it is pulled up.

SD\*10

-The full length of the Mouse's tail is concealed within the costume and the Mouse reads it gets longer and longer as he pull's it out of the costume.

SD\*11

-Alice has just walked in the door and out of the door and windows comes a huge stuffed version of Alice's arms and legs. Her giant rolling eyes through the windows, are painted cardboard, we have a little person inside giving motion to the body parts.

SD\*11

-Little Bill flies out of the chimney. Have a stuffed version of little Bill in the Chimney held onto by a fishing line, at the moment reel him out making the appearance of him flying through the air, he then enters slightly dizzy and covered in charcoal.

SD\*15

-A little shelf on the back of both sides of the mushroom holds a piece of brown bread, the same color as the mushroom, and Alice reaches behinds and pulls it out to chomp on.

SD\*24

-In this scene, the costuming of several of the characters become the croquet brackets, put these (and heart crowns, smaller, though than the Queen's) on Alice, the Queen, the Duchess and a couple of others hoop skirts which have the middle cut out and small people roll themselves up as gophers and somersault through. Stuffed flamingos serve as the croquet sticks.