



2002

Alice in Wonderland

Lena Wagner

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Duffield, Brainerd. *Alice in Wonderland*. Performance Publishing Co., 1978. \$35.00.
77 pp.

Reviewer: Lena Wagner

Reading Level: Preschool; Primary; Intermediate;

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Plays; Fantasy Plays;

Subject: Fantasy fiction, English--Juvenile drama; Drama--Reviews; Children's stories, English--
Juvenile drama; Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898--Juvenile drama;

Theme: You never know where a rabbit hole may lead

Production Requirements: A lot of elaborate costumes and sets

Acts: 3

Run Time: 1 hour

Characters: 20 or more

Cast: older children

Time Period: NA

Alice follows the white rabbit into a rabbit hole and is suddenly in Wonderland. While there she meets quite a few people including the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat, but nobody can tell her how to get home. Alice also meets the Queen of Hearts, who wants to chop off her head. Finally the Red Queen tells Alice how to get home, and she makes it just in the nick of time.

This play would be extremely difficult to produce without a large budget for four reasons. First, it requires quite a large cast, especially considering it is only one hour long. Second, the costuming could prove difficult because so many of the characters are inanimate objects like cards, or animals. The production notes at end of the play suggest that everyone wear a leotard, tights, and a colored shirt as a base costume that should be added upon. The notes also suggested using masks for some of the more famous characters like the Cheshire Cat. The third difficulty has to do with the number of sets required. There are 14 different sets. Many of the fourteen sets could be made simply, but others are very elaborate (such as the underwater scene), and would require a large scene change. A fourth difficulty is in trying to direct such a large cast and to keep everyone busy. This would probably have to be done by splitting up rehearsals into tiny sections, which could prove long and difficult for the director.

If you feel you are up to the challenge of producing this play the story is very cute and the characters are well developed, unique, and interesting.