

Plays for Young Audiences

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY - MINNEAPOLIS

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Alice in Wonderland

Story by
Lewis Carroll

Adapted for the Stage by
Sharon Holland

Music Composed by
Victor Zupanc

Alice in Wonderland was first presented by The Children's Theatre Company for the 1969-1970 season.
This version was remounted in the 2012-13 season.

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Characters:

- Alice
- Edith
- White Rabbit
- Duchess
- Pig
- Head Cook
- Cook (5)
- Mad Hatter
- March Hare
- Dormouse
- Humpty Dumpty
- King's Men (2)
- Caterpillar
- Cheshire Cat
- Tweedledee
- Tweedledum
- Gardener (4)
- White Knight
- Fish Footman
- Frog Footman
- Queen of Hearts
- King of Hearts
- Flamingo (2)
- Rose Bush (2)
- Hedgehog
- 2 of Spades
- 4 of Diamonds
- 3 of Diamonds
- 5 of Spades
- 8 of Clubs
- 3 of Diamonds
- 7 of Spades
- 6 of Clubs
- 2 of Clubs
- Knave of Hearts

Possible Doubling:

- Alice
- Edith/Duchess/Flamingo
- White Rabbit/Cook/Dormouse/Gardener
- Queen of Hearts
- Head Cooke/King of Hearts
- Mad Hatter/Humpty Dumpty
- Caterpillar/March Hare
- Cheshire Cat/White Knight
- Tweedledee/Gardener/2 of Spades
- Tweedledum/Gardener/4 of Diamonds
- Cook/3 of Diamonds
- Fish Footman/Gardener/5 of Spades
- Frog Footman/Cook/King's Men/Knave of Hearts
- Pig/Rose Bush/Hedgehog/8 of Clubs
- Cook/Flamingo/3 of Diamonds
- Cook/King's Men/7 of Spades
- Cook/Gardener/6 of Clubs
- Cook/2 of Clubs

PRESHOW

(The house opens. As the audience is taking their seats, ensemble cast begin to come out and talk to various audience members.)

INDIVIDUAL ENSEMBLE

Welcome to our theatre!

Is it your first time here?

Is that your program? I am in the program!

Can I shake your hand? Do you want to shake my hand? We are shaking hands!

I have never been on stage before, have you? Have you got any tips for me?

I'm a little nervous! I am very excited!

I hope I remember my lines.

I should practice my singing. Do you want to hear me sing?

Do you want to sing with me? etc, etc, etc

(The ensemble continues with the audience until the start of the show.)

ACT ONE: Scene One

Song: Opening Song

Row row row your boat

Gently down the stream

Merrily merrily merrily merrily

Actor 1 Now we are all actors
Actor 2 Your lowly actors
Actor 1 Some more low than the others
Actor 3 Now, we'll tell you a story
Actor 4 The one he told Alice
Actor 5 A long, long time ago in England
Actor 2 That's why I have this accent
Actor 6 See we're all English
Actor 7 I'm from Fridley
ALL Shhhhhh

Actor 8 *So let's tell that story*

Actors 2/9 *Cuz we're all ready*

Actor 3 *I'm not*

ALL *It's time to start the play*

Actor 10 *I'm in the play*

Actor 11 *And I'm in the play*

Actor 12 *And I'm in the play*

Actor 13 *And I'm in the play*

Actor 8 *And I'm in the play*

Actor 14 *And I'm in the play*

ALICE *And I am Alice.*

EDITH

(Reading with little vocal expression.)

"William the Conqueror, whose cause was favored by the pope, was soon submitted to by the English. Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and Northumbria, declared for him..

ALICE

What did they declare?

EDITH

(Annoyed.)

It doesn't say. "Edwin and Morcar..

ALICE

(Peering into the book.)

What did they look like?

EDITH

There aren't any pictures. Now, pay attention, Alice.

ALICE

(Yawning)

I am paying attention, but what is the use of a book without pictures?

EDITH

I swear, Alice, there are many wonderful books without pictures.

ALICE

But if I had my way, all books would be filled with pictures.

EDITH

What nonsense!

ALICE

Yes, yes, and filled with nonsense too! I would want a world filled with nonsense.

EDITH

Alice, now that is enough. "Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and Northumbria, declared for him, finding it advisable to offer him the crown. And even Steigend, the archbishop of Canterbury agreed to meet with William to offer him the crown."

(ALICE yawns and leans back against the tree as her sister drones on.)

EDITH

(More and more softly.)

"William's conduct had been of late much accustomed to conquest. William's conduct at first was moderate. But the insolence of his Normans..

(EDITH "freezes" and the light changes as the WHITE RABBIT, dressed in

a waistcoat and jacket, runs by ALICE; she at first regards him with little interest.)

ALICE
(Yawning.)

A White Rabbit wearing a waistcoat...

(The WHITE RABBIT pauses and consults his pocketwatch.)

Song: White Rabbit - I'm Late

WHITE RABBIT
(Nervously.)

*I'm late, I'm late, I'm very, very late.
I'm late. I'm late, I'm late, I'm very late,
I'm late, I'm late, I'm very late.*

ALICE
And looking at his pocketwatch . . . Ho hum...

(She settles back against the tree, closing her eyes. Then she sits up abruptly, realizing how unusual the situation really is.)

ALICE
A talking rabbit!? With a pocketwatch!? Mr. Rabbit! Wait!

WHITE RABBIT
Oh, my dear paws! She'll be absolutely savage! I'm late!

(He begins to run off and ALICE jumps up and follows him. There is an extended chase through the theatre)

ALICE
Mr. Rabbit!

WHITE RABBIT
(enters House Left Door 1)
Oh, my fur and whiskers! She'll have me executed! I'm late, I'm late, I'm late! (exits House Right Door 1)

ALICE
Late for what? Oh, please, please wait! (Alice runs after the White Rabbit.)

WHITE RABBIT DOUBLE
(enters House Right Door 2)
I'm late! I'm late! I'm late! (exits HL Door 2 as Alice runs up to him)

WHITE RABBIT
(enters House Right Door 1)
I'm late! I'm late! I'm late! (exits House Left Door 1, Alice runs after White Rabbit and also exits House Left Door 1)

WHITE RABBIT DOUBLE

(enters of House Right Door 1 - voiceover)
I'm late! I'm late (exits House Right Door 1)

ALICE DOUBLE

(overlapping White Rabbit Double - voiceover)
(enters House Right Door 2 and running down House Right stairs)
Mr. Rabbit, please wait! (exits House Right Door 1)

ALICE

(enters House Left Door 1 and stops DC moat)
Where did he go?

WHITE RABBIT

(enters House Left Door 1)
I'm late! (exits House Left Door 1)

WHITE RABBIT DOUBLE

(enters House Right Door 1 - voiceover)
I'm late! (exits House Right Door 1)

WHITE RABBIT

(enters House Left Door 1)
I'm late! I'm late! I'm late!

(White Rabbit and Alice chase through House)

WHITE RABBIT

(Hysterically.)
Sure as ferrets are ferrets, she'll have me beheaded! (To AUDIENCE.)
Then I really will be late! (He dives down the rabbit-hole.)

ALICE

(Running up to the rabbit-hole.)
Wait, Mr. Rabbit!

Scene Two

(ALICE is falling down what seems to be a very deep well. Shadows of flowers in a pot, a rocking chair, book, cards, tea cup/saucer and tea pot and umbrella float past Alice.)

SONG: Look At Alice Falling

Look at Alice falling down

Falling down, falling down, falling down, falling down

Falling down

Look at Alice falling down, falling down

Look at Alice falling down, falling down

Falling down, Look at Alice falling down

Falling, falling down

(ALICE suddenly lands with a thump. Lights come up on WHITE RABBIT scurrying off.)

WHITE RABBIT

Oh, my fur and whiskers! **(Sings) I'm late! I'm late! I'm very late!**

(WHITE RABBIT exits)

ALICE

(Wailing.)

Me Rabbit, don't go! Please wait for me!

WHITE RABBIT

(re-enters) I'm late! I'm late! (exits)

Scene Three

(Lights up on a hall lined with large doors. The WHITE RABBIT scurries onstage at the other end and disappears. Alice tries to pursue but is blocked by the doors.)

ALICE
(Calling.)

Mr. Rabbit! Mr. Rabbit! Now, where could he have gone? (Trying all the large doors in quick succession) They're all locked! How will I ever get out again?

DOORS
You are in the mysterious hall of locked doors!

(They laugh. Alice and the Door Dance.)

DOORS
What you need is a K E Y.

Alice
A Key?

Song: Here's the Key

DOORS
**Here's the key. Here's the key. Here's the key.
The key! The key!
Here's the key. Here's the key.
The key! The key! THE KEY!**

(Alice gets a small key.)

ALICE
A little golden key! It must fit one of these locks! (She tries all of the doors, but they key is obviously too tiny for them.)

DOORS
(DEAN) NO!!!!
(BRAX) Nien
(DOT) Nope
(MO) Unh-uh
(JASON) Non
(JERRY) Niet
(HADEN) Nunka

ALICE
No ... either they're too big or it's too small. (PUPPET DOOR appears down center.)

But here's another door! And the key fits! (She opens the little door and kneels to look through.)

Oh, it's the loveliest garden I've ever seen! How I should enjoy wandering through those flowers! (She tries but cannot get her head through the doorway.)

Well, even if my head would go through, it would be of very little use without my shoulders. Oh, how I wish I could shut up like a telescope!

ENSEMBLE (Mo)

Drink me!!!

(The Doors sway side to side as Alice tries to get the bottle.)

Song: Drink Me Drink Me

DOORS

Drink me! Drink me! Drink me!
Drink me! Drink me! Drink me! Drink me!
Drink me! Drink me!

ALICE

(She picks it up and reads the label.) "Drink me." Oh, no, I won't; it's all very well to say "Drink me," but I'll look first -for if you drink much from a bottle marked poison, it's almost certain to disagree with you, sooner or later. (She examines the bottle and then tastes the contents.)

Song: Tasty Drink

ALICE

*Mmmm. It tastes like cherry tart, custard, pineapple,
Roast turkey, toffee, and hot buttered toast.*

(She drinks the rest.)

Song: What a Curious Feeling?

ALICE

What a curious feeling.
What a curious day.

ALICE

Curiouser and curiouser! I must be shutting up like a telescope now! Oh, what if it ends in my going out altogether, like a candle? What does a flame look like, once it's blown out?

Song: Smaller Smaller

ENSEMBLE

*Smaller, Littler, Tinier,
Teenyer, Lower, Bitsyer
Small and Short*

(Alice is now just the right size for the "little" door; the other

doors have disappeared.)

ALICE

Now for the garden!

Song: Clowns Sing Flower Song

*Orchids, tulips, blue bells and roses
Daisies, crocus, iris and lilac
Lilies and marigold, sunflower, violets
Dafodil, primrose forget me not.
Lilies and marigold, sunflower, violets
Dafodil, primrose forget me not.*

Song: Flowers Sing

*What kind of flower is she?
I think she's a weed, yes a weed, indeed.
Not a flower at all, not a flower at all,
Just a weed, a weed, a weed.*

WHITE RABBIT
(Severely.)

Mary Ann!

ALICE
(Startled.)

Who?

WHITE RABBIT
Why, Mary Ann, what are you doing out here? Run home and fetch me a pair of gloves! Quick, now! Oh, dear! Oh, dear! The Queen will be furious!

(Exit the White Rabbit)

ALICE
But, Mr. Rabbit, I'm not Mary Ann! I'm not ... am I? Oh Mr. Rabbit! Wait!

(ALICE discovers a tiny caterpillar puppet.)

Scene Four

(A series of umbrellas twirl in, they are mushrooms, behind them is the 12 legged caterpillar)

CATERPILLAR

Who are you?

ALICE

(Shyly.)

I -I hardly know, sir, just at present -at least I knew who I was when I got up this morning, but I think I've changed since then.

CATERPILLAR

(Sternly.)

What do you mean by that? Explain yourself!

ALICE

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

CATERPILLAR

I don't see.

ALICE

(Very politely.)

I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly, for I can't understand it myself; and being more than one size in a day is very confusing.

CATERPILLAR

It isn't.

ALICE

Well, maybe you haven't found it so yet, but you just wait, you're going to turn into a chrysalis, oh you will and after that into a butterfly, then you'll feel a little odd, won't you?

CATERPILLAR

Not a bit.

ALICE

Well, perhaps you're different. It would feel very odd to me.

CATERPILLAR

(Contemptuously.)

You! Who are you?

ALICE

(Very gravely.)

I think you ought to tell me who you are first.

CATERPILLAR

Why?

(ALICE is by now so irritated that she turns and begins walking away.)

CATERPILLAR

Come back! I've something important to say!

(ALICE comes back expectantly.)

CATERPILLAR

(With infuriating calmness.)

Keep your temper.

ALICE

(Struggling against her anger.)

Is that all?

CATERPILLAR

No. So you think you're changed, do you?

ALICE

I'm afraid I am, sir. I've changed size -and I can't remember things as I used to.

CATERPILLAR

Can't remember what things?

ALICE

Well, I try to say "How Doth the Little Busy Bee" but it all comes out different.

SONG: How Doth The Little Crocodile

*How doth the little crocodile
Improve his shining tail,
And pour the waters of the Nile
On every golden scale!
How cheerfully he seems to grin,
How neatly spreads his claws,
And welcomes little fishes in,
With gently smiling jaws!*

CATERPILLAR

That is not said right.

ALICE

(Timidly.)

Not quite right, I'm afraid.

CATERPILLAR

(Firmly.)

Nooooooo! Wrong from beginning to end. What size do you want to be?

ALICE

Well, I should like to be a little larger. Three inches is such a wretched height to be.

CATERPILLAR

(Rearing itself, angrily.)

It is a very good height, indeed! I am exactly three inches high!

ALICE

But I'm not used to it!

CATERPILLAR

You will be, in time. One side will make you grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter. (He crawls away without look at her.)

ALICE.

(To herself.)

One side of what? The other side of what?

CATERPILLAR

(Without looking back.)

Of the mushroom.

(Exit the CATERPILLAR. ALICE reaches for the mushroom, but the umbrellas break apart and exit.)

(FISH-FOOTMAN in livery carrying an enormous letter enters. Ignoring ALICE, he raps at the DUCHESS'S door. A FROG-FOOTMAN, also in livery, answers. The FISH-FOOTMAN reads the letter to the FROG-FOOTMAN.)

FISH-FOOTMAN

For the Duchess. An invitation from the Queen to play croquet.

FROG-FOOTMAN

(takes the letter and reads) From the Queen. An invitation for the Duchess to play croquet.

Song: Frog and Fish Footmen

FISH

For the Duchess from the Queen

FROG

From the Queen for the Duchess

FISH

For the Duchess

FROG

From the Queen

From the Queen FISH

For the Duchess FROG

Duchess! FISH

Queen! FROG

Queen! FISH

Duchess! FROG

Duchess! FISH

Queen! FROG

FISH
QUEEN!!

FROG
DUCHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEESS!!

(Frog and Fish Footmen exit)

ALICE
(To audience.)
I'll take this to the Duchess. She may know the White Rabbit.

Scene Five

(Lights up on ALICE in a large, smoke-filled kitchen. The DUCHESS sits stage Center, holding a squalling, sneezing baby on her lap. Right is a stove on which is a large cauldron of bubbling soup. A grim-faced COOK stirs the cauldron, continually shaking great quantities of pepper into it. ALICE proffers the invitation to the DUCHESS.)

Song: Cooks Sing

COOKS

***Boil it so easily
Mix it so greasily
Stir it so sneezily
All so easily!
Baste, boil, bake, broil.
One! Two! Three!***

ALICE

(Sneezing throughout.)

An invitation ... from the Queen... to play croquet. (To AUDIENCE.)
There's certainly too much pepper in that soup!

(The DUCHESS takes the invitation and tosses it over her shoulder without even glancing at it.)

DUCHESS

You don't know much, and that's a fact. (Shaking the howling infant.)

ALICE

I would like to know where I could find the White Rabbit?

DUCHESS

(baby cries) PIG!

ALICE

Oh, please mind what you're doing! You almost hurt the baby!

DUCHESS

(Growling hoarsely.)

If everybody minded their own business, the world would go round a great deal faster than it does.

ALICE

Which would not be an advantage. You see, the earth takes twenty-four hours to turn round on its axis...

DUCHESS

Talking of axes... (To the COOK.) Chop off her head!

(The COOK is too busy stirring to oblige.)

ALICE

Twenty-four hours, I think; or is it twelve? I...

DUCHESS

Oh, don't bother me! I never could abide figures! (She sings to the BABY, shaking it violently at the end of every line.)

Song: Duchess Song

*Speak roughly to your little boy,
And beat him when he sneezes, Ah!
He only does it to annoy,
Because he know it teases.*

COOKS

(Singing in chorus.)

Waa! Waa! Waa!

DUCHESS

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

COOKS

Waa! Waa! Waa!

DUCHESS

**Aaaaaaaa Ah! Aahh ooh! Aahh
Hoo hoo ha ha ha he he...**

ALICE

Poor baby!

DUCHESS

(Standing up.)

Here, if you're so sorry for it, you can nurse it! (She pitches the BABY at ALICE, who catches it with some difficulty.) I must get ready to play croquet with the Queen. Wow! Wow! Wow!

(DUCHESS and COOKS exit. Lights out on the kitchen as ALICE carries the BABY downstage.)

ALICE

(To BABY.)

I can't leave you in that kitchen. They'll kill you. It would be murder to leave you behind. (The BABY grunts.) Try not to grunt. (Another grunt) Don't grunt; that's no way to express yourself.

(ALICE releases the baby into the wing and PIG creeps out.)

ALICE
(Seriously.)

Now, what am I to do with this creature when I get it home? (The baby pig grunts.) Oh, try not to grunt! My, your eyes are extremely small for a baby, and as for your nose, well... (The pig grunts so violently that ALICE suddenly realizes the truth.) Oh! Please don't turn into a pig. (ALICE sets the pig down and it trots offstage.) It would have made a dreadfully ugly child -but it makes rather a handsome pig, I think.

Scene Six

(FANS and the CHESHIRE CAT appear)

CHESHIRE CAT

(Completing his presence.) Heh, heh, heh.

ALICE

(To AUDIENCE.) Well, it looks good-natured. (To CAT, timidly.) Why do you grin like that?

CHESHIRE CAT

I'm a Cheshire cat, that's why.

ALICE

Cheshire Puss, 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. (Cracks up)

ALICE

I don't much care where ...

CHESHIRE CAT

Then it doesn't matter which way you go. (Cracks up again)

ALICE

...so long as I get somewhere.

CHESHIRE CAT

Oh, you're sure to do that if you only walk far enough. (Laughs hysterically and gestures as if he disappeared) I'm gone! Where did I go? Try to find me. Where did I go? (Laughs and gestures.) I'm back! Did you miss me?

ALICE

Well... I'm looking for the White Rabbit. What sort of people live about here?

CHESHIRE CAT

(Pointing left with its left paw.) In that direction, lives a Hatter... (Pointing right with its right paw.) and in that direction lives a March Hare. Visit either you like; they're both mad.

ALICE

But I don't want to go among mad people.

Song: Cheshire Cat Laughing Mad Song

CHESHIRE CAT

Oh, you can't help that; we're all mad here!

I'm mad! Ha! Ha!

You're mad! Hoo hoo ho ha!

I'm mad! You're mad!

I'm mad! Aaaahhh!

CHESHIRE CAT

(voiceover of ALICE)

How do you know I'm mad?

ALICE

(voiceover of CHESHIRE CAT)

You must be or you wouldn't have come here. (big laugh)

CHESHIRE CAT

By the by, what became of the baby? I'd nearly forgotten to ask.

ALICE

It turned into a pig.

CHESHIRE CAT

Boys often do. Did you say "pig" or "fig?" (He laughs)

ALICE

I said "pig." (She laughs)

(CHESHIRE CAT exits, but his head reappears stage left.)

CHESHIRE CAT

I don't think that's one bit funny. (He laughs)

(The Cat disappears stage left, but his Grin appears stage right with a laugh. The fans and the Grin exit.)

ALICE

(To AUDIENCE.) Well! I've often seen a cat without a grin -but a grin without a cat? It's the most curious thing I ever saw in my life. Curiouser and curiouser...

Scene Seven

(Lights up on a large table set with numerous and varied cups, saucers, and teapots. ALICE walks over to the table.)

ALICE

Oh what a lovely tea party. I think I will sit right here.

(The MAD HATTER and the MARCH HARE enter from under the table reacting with alarm.)

MARCH HARE

No room! No room! (tosses four chairs offstage)

MAD HATTER

Hey. Hey. Hey. There's room there.

(Alice goes to sit down, the March Hare grabs the chair.)

MARCH HARE

No room! No room! (tosses one chair offstage- chair lazzi)

MAD HATTER

There's plenty of room!

(MARCH HARE tosses chair into pit, chair immediately pops back up)

MAD HATTER

Have some wine. (sets chair)

(ALICE sits down.)

Song: Have Some Wine

MARCH HARE

***Have some wine. Have some wine.
Have some wine. Have some wine.***

ALICE

(Looking at the table.)

I don't see any wine.

MARCH HARE

There isn't any.

ALICE

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

MARCH HARE

Well!

Well. MAD HATTER

Well! MARCH HARE

Well. MAD HATTER

Well! MARCH HARE

Well. MAD HATTER

MARCH HARE
It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being asked, now was it?

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

MAD HATTER
(As though pronouncing judgment.)
You know, your hair wants cutting.

Song: Barbershop

MAD HATTER and MARCH HARE
Sweet A-de-line

ALICE
It's rude to make personal remarks.
(The MAD HATTER and MARCH HARE shave ALICE's face.)

MAD HATTER
Ooh! Why is a raven like a writing desk?

ALICE
Riddles! I like riddles!

MARCH HARE
Because.....the notes.....

ALICE
(To the HATTER.)
I think I can guess that.

MARCH HARE
(Incredulously.)

Do you mean you can find the answer?

ALICE
Exactly so.

MARCH HARE
Then you should say what you mean.

ALICE
(Confused.)
I do; at least, I mean what I say -that's the same thing, you know.

MAD HATTER
Not 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 (MAD HATTER)
You might just as well say that "I breathe when I sleep" is the same thing as "I sleep when I breathe!"

MARCH HARE
Dormouse!!

MAD HATTER
(Looking at his pocket watch.) What day of the month is it?

ALICE
(Considering.)
The fourth.

MARCH HARE
The 32nd.

MAD HATTER
Two days wrong! I told you butter wouldn't suit the works!

Song: It Was The Best Butter

MARCH HARE
*It was the best. It was the best.
It was the best butter.*

MAD HATTER
Yes, but some crumbs must have got in as well. You shouldn't have spread it in with the breadknife.

MARCH HARE

It was the best butter, you know.

Song: It's Always Six O'Clock Now

MAD HATTER

Be that as it may...

*It's always six. It's always six.
It's always six o'clock now.*

ALICE

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

MAD HATTER

(Sighing.)

Yep. It's always tea time, and we've no time to wash things.

ALICE

Then you keep moving round, I suppose?

MAD HATTER

Yep, as the things get used up.

ALICE

But what happens when you come to the beginning again?

MARCH HARE

Let's change the subject.

(The Dormouse appears snoring - MAD HATTER'S hand)

MAD HATTER

The Dormouse is asleep again.

(MARCH HARE tries to whack the DORMOUSE/MAD HATTER with a mallet.)

MAD HATTER

(To ALICE.)

Have you guessed the riddle yet?

ALICE

No, I give up. How is a raven like a writing desk?

MAD HATTER

I haven't the slightest idea.

MARCH HARE

Nor I.

MAD HATTER

I want a clean cup! Let's all move one place on!

MARCH HARE
(Enthusiastically.)

Move on! Move on!

ALICE

But...

(They all move around the table in a game of musical chairs. Alice "wins" and sits.)

Song: Do Take Some More Tea

MARCH HARE
(Very earnestly, to ALICE.)

Do take some more tea.

ALICE

I've had nothing yet, so I can't take more.

MAD HATTER

You mean you can't take less. It's very easy to take more than nothing.

ALICE

(To HATTER.)

Nobody asked your opinion.

MAD HATTER

Who's making personal remarks now?

DORMOUSE (ALICE)

Of course, of course, just as I was going to say.

MAD HATTER

No, no, no, no no...

DORMOUSE (MAD HATTER)

I vote the young lady sings us a song.

MAD HATTER and MARCH HARE

Yes, yes! Give us a song! (to Audience) Give us a song! Give us a song!

ALICE

I'm afraid I really can't...

MAD HATTER

Then I shall! Delighted! (He stands up and announces the title.)
"Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Bat." (To ALICE.) You know the song, perhaps?

ALICE

I've heard something like it.

MARCH HARE

(Confidentially, to ALICE.)

He sang it at a concert given by the Queen of Hearts. She bawled out,
"Off with his head!"

ALICE

How dreadfully savage!

Song: Twinkle Twinkle

MAD HATTER

Ahem! (Singing with elegant hand gestures.)

Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!

How I wonder where you're at.

Up above the world so high.

DORMOUSE (puppeteer and voiceover)

Twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle...

MARCH HARE

There it goes again! Into the teapot!

(They pick up the singing DORMOUSE and plunge him head first into a
large teapot and covers opening with a saucer.)

ALICE

I really don't think...

(ALICE lifts plate off teapot and confetti explodes through teapot.)

MAD HATTER

Then you shouldn't talk

(MAD HATTER and MARCH HARE twirl the tea party table offstage. As they
exit Alice hears them calling out.)

MAD HATTER and MARCH HARE

There's no room. There's no room.

MAD HATTER

You know, your hair wants cutting...

MARCH HARE

Sweet Adeline...

MAD HATTER

Have you guessed the riddle yet?

MARCH HARE

It was the best butter you know.

MAD HATTER

Have some wine!

ALICE
(To AUDIENCE.)

I'll never go there again! It was the stupidest tea party I ever was at in all my life!

WHITE RABBIT
(enters) I'm late! I'm late! I'm late! (WHITE RABBIT exits. Alice runs after WHITE RABBIT and exits too as the Ensemble rushes in, but can't see where Alice left. They assemble center stage)

ENSEMBLE
***Row row row your boat
Gently down the stream
Merrily, merrily, merrily***

VIVIAN
I have to go to the potty!

AUTUMN
Ah well, isn't that a lovely share. Thank you. Does anyone else have to go to the potty? Alright here's what we will do. We'll take a 15 minute break, go to the bathroom, get a sweet and we'll meet you back here. All right? Go, go! (ensemble exits)

END OF ACT ONE