

Alice in Wonderland

Adapted from Lewis Carroll's classic

Written and directed by

Hugo Bélanger

Translated by

Maureen Labonté

Théâtre

*Tout à
Trac*  

Conseil des arts
et des lettres
Québec 



Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts

Restaurations

Théâtre Tout à Trac
514-273-1313
com@toutatrac.com
www.toutatrac.com

Study guide  



Follow the rabbit...

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?



A tardy rabbit...
An egg on a wall that fears his fall...
A grinning cat...
A Mad Hatter that sips his tea...
A Queen of Hearts who enjoys
chopping off heads...

And young girl who refuses
to do her homework...

Alice in Wonderland
revisited by Théâtre Tout à Trac.
A marvellous tribute to childhood
and to the power of dreams and imagination.

For children and adults
who still enjoy chasing white rabbits.

Alice won the Acadie-RIDEAU Award in 2008.



104 rue Saint-Jude, Deux-Montagnes (Québec) J7R 3L5
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A Word from Théâtre Tout à Trac

Everybody knows at least a little about *Alice in Wonderland*. Our production presents a unique reading of the classic that is still faithful to the spirit of the tale created by Lewis Carroll, with all the craziness, freedom, playful language and comic twists of the original.

Alice in Wonderland is above all a coming together of theatre and the magical world of the living arts, and its colourful characters, its ingenious stage setting and its use of masks and puppets, all strive to achieve a single goal: to create wonder by experiencing a truly authentic moment of theatre.

Our mission is to transport young and old to the heart of Wonderland through the use of imagination. By celebrating reading and books as the true gateway to the imagination, we are offering the audience an opportunity to experience a major classic as never before.

This study guide, in which you'll find all the information you need to enjoy the play, includes fun activities for students to do before and after the performance. A kind of travel diary to adventure, the guide is a creative and playful tool to complement the experience of seeing the show.

Enjoy!



THE CREW

CAST

Alice
Valérie Deault or Philomène Lévesque-Rainville

The Rabbit/Tweedledee/the Jack of Diamonds
Sarianne Cormier or Dominique Leclerc

Humpty Dumpty/the Snark Hunter/the Ace of Clubs
Gabriel De Santis-Caron or Maxime Béliveau

the Queen of Heart/the Caterpillar/
the Door/the Cheshire Cat
Marie-Ève Trudel or Cynthia Wu-Maheux

Tweedledum/the Mad Hatter/the Two of Spades
Philippe Robert or Nicolas Germain-Marchand

CREATIVE TEAM

Based on the novel by **Lewis Carroll**

Adaptation and Direction:
Hugo Bélanger

Translation:
Maureen Labonté

English Coach:
Julia Lenardon

Assistant Director:
Claudia Couture

Stage Manager:
Geneviève Gagnon or Audrey Lamontagne

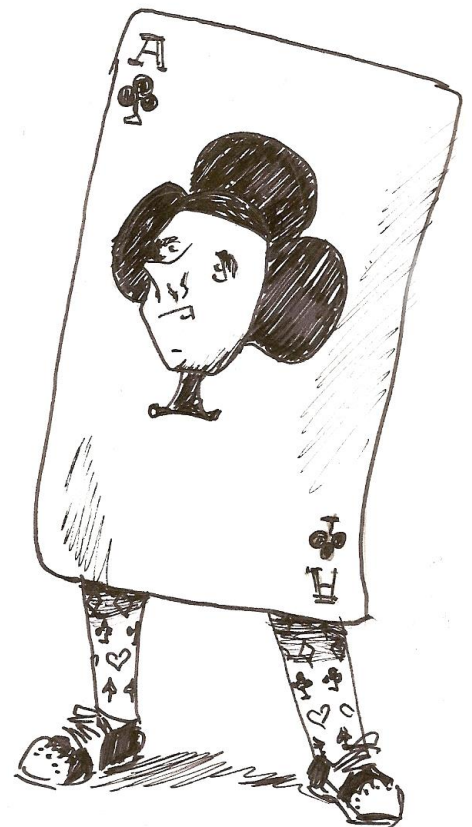
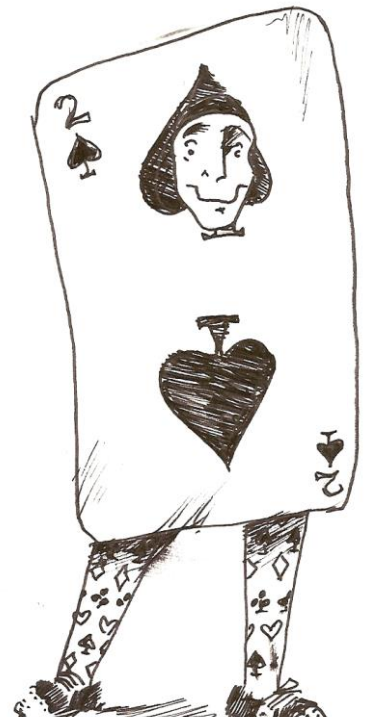
Set, Mask, Puppet and Costumes Design:
Patrice Charbonneau-Brunelle

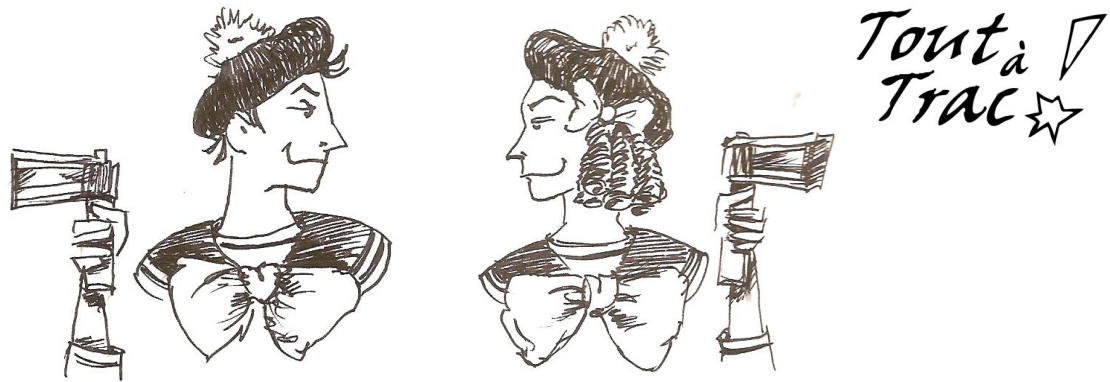
Lighting Design and Technical Director:
Jean-Philippe Charbonneau

Musical and Sound Design:
Patrice d'Aragon

Assistant to Props and Puppet Fabrication:
Marie-Pier Fortier

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Since 1998, Théâtre Tout à Trac has been exploring theatre through various media such as masks, tales and puppetry, never limiting itself, but rather always following its imagination wherever the creative process leads. A member of the Maison Théâtre since 2007, the company is well known for its successful plays *L'Oiseau vert*, *commedia dell'arte...* and *La princesse Turandot*; the latter won several awards including the Masque for Best Script Adaptation in 2006. Théâtre Tout à Trac introduces its first play for children with a unique adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*; this play was winner of the Acadie-RIDEAU Award in 2008.

Pursuers of imaginary lands, digging in invisible worlds and exploring a universe where the impossible is possible, Théâtre Tout à Trac is always on the look-out for new territory to conquer and has been constantly pursuing forms of theatre that embrace magic and dreams. By entering fantastic worlds, and by being archaeologists of the invisible, the company strives to dust off the classics of children's literature and to help audiences discover or re-discover them from a different angle. *Alice in Wonderland* is the first to be explored, but others will follow... *Pinocchio*, *Peter Pan* and all the others are in our sights...



Theatre can flourish anywhere and this is why the company finds its audience in a wide spectrum of places, whether it'd be in theatres or on the streets, under cobblestones. Théâtre Tout à Trac helps us dive into the world of imagination!





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Hugo Bélanger: Writer & Stage Director

For more than 20 years, Hugo Bélanger has been perfecting mask theatre and puppetry as a popular theatre in order to appeal to a wide range of audiences. As the Artistic Director of Tout à Trac since 1998, he continues to search for a style of theatre in which the body is both a rigorous and playful tool.

The company's second production, *L'Oiseau vert, commedia dell'arte...*, allowed the quebecer theatrical world to discover the work of Hugo Bélanger and his company. Acclaimed by critics and audiences, the show was nominated for two important awards at the Soirée des Masques in 2005 - nominations for Discovery of the Year and Best Costume Design.

The company's third production, *La Princesse Turandot*, won 10 audience awards presented at Théâtre Denise-Pelletier in 2006 and 2010. In 2006, Hugo Bélanger's play won the Masque for Best Script Adaptation as well as being *nominated* in five other categories.

His ongoing interest in popular theatre that is accessible to all, and in which imagination is the main theme, has led Hugo Bélanger to street theatre, where he is a puppeteer with the company *Les Sages Fous*. He has toured with them in North America and Europe. He has also directed two shows – in 2005 and 2006 – with Théâtre La Roulotte, the oldest children's touring theatre in Quebec.

In 2008, he created a new version of *Alice in Wonderland (Alice au pays des merveilles)*. This was the company's first play for young audience. In its first year, the show won the Acadie-RIDEAU award and has now been performed more than 350 times in Canada, the United States and in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Because street theatre has always fascinated him, Hugo Bélanger created, in 2009, his first play meant specifically for street performance with *Les Vieilles (The Old Ladies)*. The play has already been performed over 90 times in Québec.

MÜNCHHAUSEN, Les machineries de l'imaginaire (MUNCHAUSEN, The Machinery of the Imagination), his latest all ages group show, has been created at Théâtre Denise-Pelletier in Montreal in January 2011. The show was acclaimed by critics and the audience. *MÜNCHHAUSEN* was on tour in Québec in fall 2012 and will be ready to tour internationally in English in 2014-15.

Also a teacher, Hugo Bélanger has given over 400 workshops to actors – both professional and amateur. He has taught at the National Theatre School of Canada, Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal, St-Hyacinthe CEGEP Theatre Program, the National Circus School and at *En Piste* – the Circus Arts National Network.

Cirque du Soleil hired him to direct the show for the opening ceremony of the Canadian pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai exhibit.

In October 2012, Hugo Bélanger had a first collaboration with the Montreal Symphonic Orchestra. He directed the play *Beethoven vit à l'étage (Beethoven lives upstairs)* at the Maison Symphonique.

Hugo Bélanger presented his latest young audience creation, *Pinocchio*, at Cinquième Salle of Place des Arts in December 2012. This unique adaptation of Collodi's famous tale is once again acclaimed by the critics and the audience. On tour in Quebec, Canada and the United States, in French and English, the show already counts more than 85 performances.

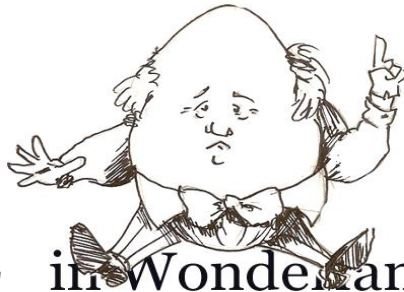
In 2014, he realises his first collaboration with the Opéra de Montréal by directing *Hansel and Gretel* at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. He is also directing *Peter and Alice* at Théâtre Jean-Duceppe.



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ALICE in Wonderland

Alice refuses to do her schoolwork. Preferring to play and day-dream, she hides in her father's study. Out of nowhere comes a curious looking rabbit who likes to eat books. Wanting to keep the rodent from devouring all the books, Alice chases the rabbit through his borough and discovers Wonderland.

Late for his appointment with the Queen of Hearts, the Rabbit leaves Alice in a hurry, but forgets his gloves. These gloves he must wear in the sovereign's presence; otherwise: "Off with his head!"

Eager to save the Rabbit's life, Alice dashes to his rescue and encounters strange and fascinating characters such as Humpty Dumpty the egg, a philosophizing Caterpillar, Tweedleddee and Tweedledum, the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter and the Snark Hunter, in this intriguing universe where rabbits are late and quarrels make good friends.

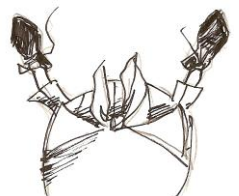


Travel into Wonderland...

Wonderland is a marvellous world to which few people can say they've been... the ways in are a mystery and not well known. But for those who are unafraid of chasing the Snark and who love taking tea with fools, this world is accessible... especially if you love following rabbits...

All you have to do is sit comfortably in the theatre, open your eyes wide, listen and use your imagination to dive into the heart of this magical world where anything is possible. You will discover a world in which doors speak and turn into books, where puppets become cats who can't stop disappearing, where stormy seas disappear at the bottom of a tea cup, where hats become teapots and where an entire set becomes the Queen of Hearts.

Theatre, with its puppets, its masks, its transforming sets and its imaginative costumes, is best way to visit Wonderland.



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Follow the rabbit!

The Characters...

Alice

a young girl

The Rabbit

a herbivore who is always late and who never has time to talk

The Caterpillar

a hookah-smoker with a silky voice

Humpty Dumpty

an egg-xacting and wise-cracking egg

The Door

a very important prop in the play. An important “a-door-n-ment”

Tweedledum and Tweedledee

two poetry-loving twins who are easily rattled

The Cheshire Cat

a smiling marionette of a cat who can deconstruct itself

Sam, the Snark Hunter

a hunter of Snarks who's lost at sea...

The Mad Hatter

a notorious drinker of black tea

The Doormouse

an anxious rodent

The Ace of Clubs

the Ace of aces

The Two of Spades

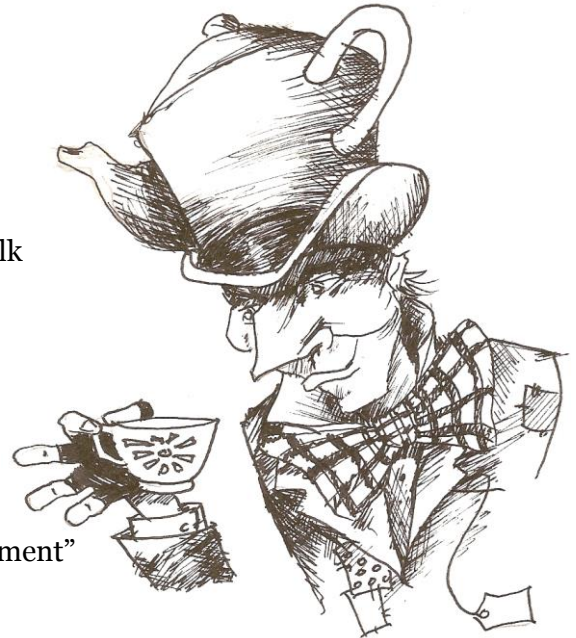
his sidekick

The Jack of Diamonds

the Queen's valet

The Queen of Heart

best known for her chopping of heads





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Lewis Carroll: Writing the Wonderland...

English writer, photographer and mathematician, Lewis Carroll – his real name was actually Charles Lutwidge Dodgson – was born on January 27 in 1832, in Daresbury, Lancashire.



Even as a child, Charles enjoyed creating new games and directing puppet shows for his brothers and sisters. In January 1851, he was admitted to Oxford at the age of seventeen. He worked very hard and earned a degree in Mathematics with first class honours in December of 1854.

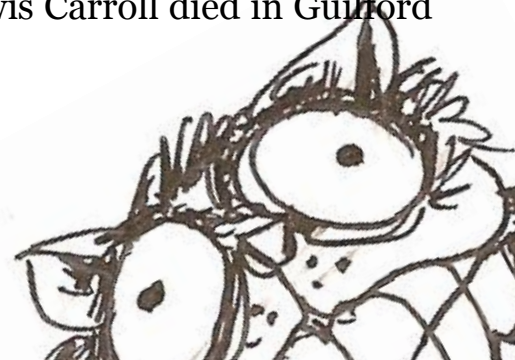
In 1857, he was hired as a teacher at Christ Church College in Oxford where he became a Deacon of the Church in England. When he was not teaching, he wrote poems and short stories, using the pen name of Lewis Carroll.



A lover of photography, he got his first camera in 1856 and took many portraits of the Dean's children. One of them, named Alice Liddell, was the inspiration for the character of Alice.



His relationship with the Liddell family children and the stories he created to entertain them, became the basis for *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* which he created with the illustrator John Tenniel in 1865. This title was changed to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* three years later. It became an immediate success. Carroll wrote a sequel to *Alice* called *Through the Looking Glass* in 1872. Then in 1876, he published *The Hunting of the Snark*, an absurd poem considered a precursor to surrealism. Lewis Carroll died in Guilford in 1898.



Activities to be done before the show



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The Mad Hatter's riddles

The Mad Hatter likes riddles. How about you?
Find the answers to those riddles sent by the Mad Hatter:

- 1- What kind of hat do you wear to the bowling alley?
- 2- What letter of the alphabet can we drink in a cup?

The Mad Hatter's Tongue Twister

The Mad Hatter also likes tongues twisters. A tongue twister is a difficult sentence to pronounce.
Here is the Mad Hatter's favourite tongue twister :



Mr. Tongue Twister tried to train his tongue to twist and turn, and twit and twat, to learn the letter ""T"".

Try to pronounce this sentence. Then, repeat it many times, always faster each time. Not easy, is it?

The nursery rhyme

Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the twins, have a nursery rhyme, which means a short text that contains rhymes. Learn Tweedledum and Tweedledee's nursery rhyme and sing it:



*Tweeduldum and Tweeduldee
Agreed to have a battle;
For Tweeduldum said Tweeduldee
Had spoiled his nice new rattle.*



What rhymes with your name? Create a nursery rhyme by using your name and the rhymes you found. Be careful, because it must truly rhyme!



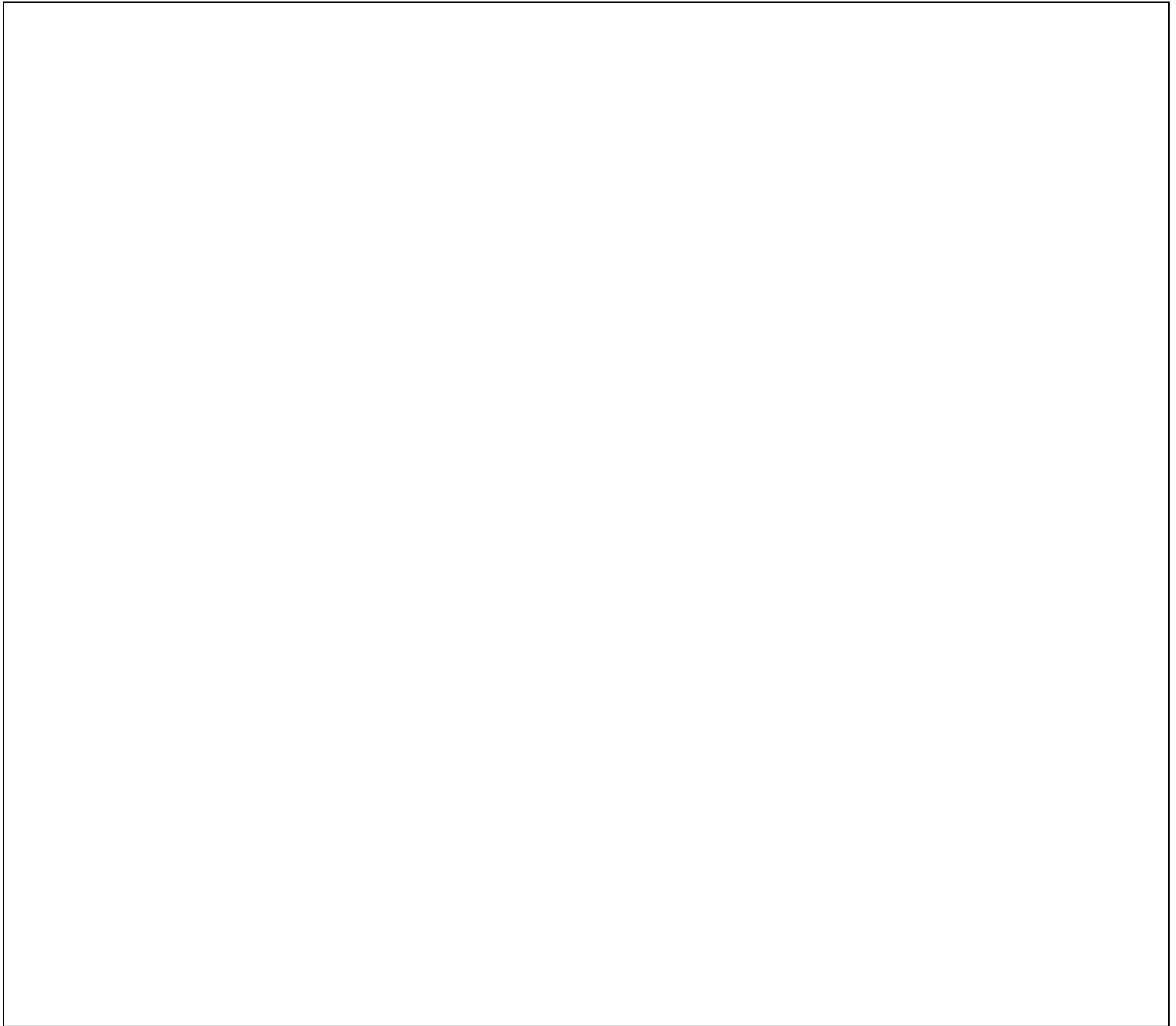


Draw a Snark

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Sam is a great Snark Hunter. He crosses oceans to hunt this terrible creature. What is a Snark? Nobody knows since no one has ever seen one. Is it big or small? What shape is it? What does it look like? Draw the Snark the way you imagine it.

Create fantastic creatures. Give them names and draw them the way you imagine them.





Here is a scene from *Alice in Wonderland*. With a partner, learn the lines of one character by heart, then perform the scene in class. You can create your own costumes and props. Grab your carrots and raise the curtain!

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SCENE THREE: THE HOME OF THE WHITE RABBIT

THE RABBIT

Oh by my ears and whiskers, I'm very late!

ALICE

Excuse me, but what are you doing?

THE RABBIT

I'm... *(he picks up a book and opens it. A bouquet of carrots pops up)*... gathering a bouquet of carrots, of course.

ALICE

A bouquet of carrots?

THE RABBIT

Naturally! The Queen of Hearts adores bouquets of carrots!

ALICE

The Queen of Hearts! Who is she?

THE RABBIT

I can't answer that. I haven't the time! I'm so very late!

ALICE

But...

THE RABBIT

The Queen of Hearts hates to be kept waiting! She cuts off the head of anyone who arrives even a second late! Other than that one tiny flaw, she's really quite charming, I can assure you... *(he looks at his watch)* I'm late! By my ears and whiskers, I have no time to waste! Goodbye!

The White Rabbit disappears.

ALICE

My, but that rabbit is in a hurry...





Activities to be done after the show

Quiz

Now that you've seen the play, you can answer this quiz about Wonderland. Let's hope that you have a good memory!

- 1- What sentence does the Queen of Heart constantly repeat in the play?
- 2- What did the Rabbit lose and is desperately looking for?
- 3- What does the Caterpillar transform into in the story?
- 4- The Cheshire Cat can disappear one part at a time. What part of the Cat is the last to disappear?
- 5- What are the names of the Queen of Heart's two guards?

Mini Humpty Dumpty

Make your own mini Humpty Dumpty.

What you need:

- 1 egg
- 1 bowl
- A needle
- Crayons



With the needle, make a hole at the top and the bottom of the egg. Blow in one of the two holes above the bowl until you empty out the egg. When the egg is empty, draw the face of Humpty Dumpty on it, then draw his arms and clothes. You have now your own mini Humpty Dumpty! Make sure you don't drop it...





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Review

Write a review of the show. Who is your favourite character? What did you like the most in the play? What did you dislike? What was the funniest thing?

Alice's adventures

Alice lived many adventures! Imagine new characters that she could have encountered, new adventures she could have lived, then tell the class about them.

Books

In her adventures, Alice is surrounded by books in the library, where she finds the way to Wonderland. Do you have a library at home? What would you imagine as the perfect library? What is your favourite book, the one you would suggest to everybody? What will be the next book you read? What about *Alice in Wonderland*?





The answers...

Answers to the Riddles of the Mad Hatter:

1. A bowler hat
2. The letter « T »

Answers to the Quiz :

1. « Off with his head. »
2. his gloves
3. A butterfly
4. His smile
5. Ace of Clubs and Two of Spades





Thanks

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We also wish to thank:

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