



A 'CURIOUS' PANTOMIME BY
TOM WHALLEY

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

THE KNAVE OF HEARTS

CHESHIRE CAT

ALICE

SISTER

THE WHITE RABBIT

THE DUCHESS

CATERPILLAR

TWEEDLE DUM

TWEEDLE DEE

THE MAD HATTER

MARCH HARE

DORMOUSE

MOCK TURTLE

QUEEN OF HEARTS

KING OF HEARTS

ADDITIONAL CAST

VOICE

KNOBBY THE DOOR

CARDS: ACE – THREE - SEVEN

[EXCERPT FROM ACT ONE – SCENE TWO]

ALICE IS SITTING ON THE RIVERBANK.

SISTER(OFF): Alice? Alice, where are you?

ALICE: Over here Sister dear!

SISTER ENTERS.

SISTER: Alice! You are late for your Latin lesson.

ALICE: I'm late?

SISTER: So late it's practically time for Arithmetic!

SISTER PLACES A BOOK IN ALICE'S HANDS. SHE FLICKS THROUGH IT.

ALICE: I hate Arithmetic...

SISTER: Then it's Reading, Writing, Spelling, Comprehension, Elocution, Diction and Decorum.

SISTER MOVES THE BOOK TO ALICE'S HEAD.

ALICE: This book has no pictures in it.

SISTER: There are many wonderful books *without* pictures Alice.

ALICE: It makes a much better hat than it does a book. Perhaps you should be a hatter!

SISTER: A hatter? What's the matter with you Alice? You're talking nonsense!

ALICE: Can't we have school out here? It's such a beautiful day!

SISTER: Come on!

SISTER EXITS.

ALICE: In my world, books would be nothing BUT pictures! Flowers would speak! Cats would eat bats and caterpillars would turn into bread and butterflies! In my world, everything would be nonsense. I wish such a wonderful, curious place existed...

ALICE YAWNS AND LAYS DOWN: **MUSIC CUE: WHITE RABBIT ENTRANCE**
THE WHITE RABBIT BURSTS ONTO STAGE AND FALLS FLAT ON HIS BACKSIDE.

RABBIT: Ooof! Right on my scut!

ALICE: Oh no! I must have fallen asleep! Aaah!

RABBIT: Aaah! Who are you?

ALICE: I'm Alice!

RABBIT: I've never seen an 'Alice' before!

ALICE: I've never seen a rabbit with a pocket watch and wearing a waistcoat before!

RABBIT: This happens to be a very expensive waistcoat. It's designer...

ALICE: Giorgio Armani?

RABBIT: No, George at ASDA!

ALICE: I must be dreaming! I've never heard a rabbit speak!

RABBIT: Really? We've always got a 'tail' to tell! Allow me to introduce myself. I am the White Rabbit!

ALICE: Pleased to meet you Mr Rabbit!

RABBIT: I'm sorry, 'Alice'! My head is in a bit of a muddle on account of being so very, very late! [*To audience:*] Maybe you lot can help me with my terrible timekeeping! Every time I see you I'm going to shout "I'm late! I'm late!" and you need to shout back, "HURRY, HURRY MR. BUNNY!". Can you do that? Let's have a practice! [BUSINESS] I know my ears are huge but you'll have to shout louder than that! [BUSINESS] Now don't forget!

ALICE: Where are you rushing to?

RABBIT: I have to collect the tarts for the Queen of Hearts! It's her annual un-birthday soiree today!

ALICE: A party?! I love parties! Can I come?

RABBIT: Do you have an invitation?

ALICE: No.

RABBIT: Ah...well this is going to be a much shorter pantomime then I thought! Maybe you can imagine one. Where I come from, dreams become reality and realities become dreams. Nothing is ever as it seems!

ALICE: I'd love to see!

RABBIT: You would? Well! Hold on tight Alice 'cos we're going to Wonderland! You lot can come too!

ALICE: But how do we get to Wonderland?

RABBIT: There's only one way to get there – down my hole. [*Checking his watch:*] Oh, whiskers and waistcoats! I'm even later now than I was when I were late! Come on Alice; let's hop! Next stop, WONDERLAND!

[EXCERPT FROM ACT ONE – SCENE NINE]

HARE: Welcome to Wit's End!

HATTER: My watch is broken you see...

HARE: So, it's always time for tea!

HATTER: I tried this but it doesn't work either.

HE HOLDS UP HIS ARM TO REVEAL AN APPLE ATTACHED TO HIS WRIST.

ALICE: What is that?

HATTER: It's my apple watch!

ALICE: Can't you fix your pocket watch?

HATTER: There is a vital piece missing.

HARE: He has a screw loose...

ALICE: You can say that again!

DORMOUSE: The Queen has it.

ALICE: The Queen has your screw?

HATTER: How did you know that?

ALICE: Your friend told me!

HATTER+HARE: DORMOUSE! Wakey-wakey!

HATTER: You're not really asleep. I can see right through you!

DORMOUSE: You can't see though me. I'm a Dormouse not a *Window*mouse...

HATTER: Touché. CHANGE PLACES!

EVERYONE FRANTICALLY CHANGES PLACES: **MUSIC CUE: CHANGE PLACES**

HATTER: What's wrong Albert?

ALICE: Alice!

HARE: You've barely touched your tea.

ALICE: This cup is empty...

HARE: You must have been thirsty!

HATTER: I've been learning to draw.

ALICE: Draw what?

HATTER: My own conclusions! You should try it sometime! I've been learning to draw things that begin with the letter 'M' like mouse traps, the moon, memory, moustaches and muchness.

ALICE: Oh! I've lost my muchness...

DORMOUSE: Impractical!

HARE: Improbable!

HATTER: IMPOSSIBLE! You cannot lose your muchness; that is what makes you, you Alvin...

ALICE: Alice!

HARE: You cannot lose it; you can only lose sight of it.

ALICE: I need an invitation to the Queen's Un-Birthday Party but I can't imagine one. Can you help me?

HATTER: No imagination? This is serious! Why is a raven like a writing desk?

ALICE: I love a good riddle! I don't know! Why *is* a raven like a writing desk?

HATTER: Would you like to know the answer?

ALICE: Yes!

HATTER: [*To audience:*] Would you like to know the answer? So would I! [*To Alice:*] Would you like a vol-au-vent?

ALICE: I would love one. I'm so hungry but I can't see any...

HATTER: Oh dear, this is more serious than I thought. You have to *imagine* them!

ALICE: We're wasting time!

HATTER: If you knew time as well as I do you wouldn't talk about wasting it. Time is a 'him' and he'd want you to try one too!

HARE: Try it!

ALICE: Ok. I'll try...this one?!

SHE MIMES PICKING UP A VOL-AU-VENT. THE HATTER STOPS HER ABRUPTLY.

HATTER: No, no, no! That's a coaster!

SHE PUTS IT DOWN AND TRIES ANOTHER. SHE 'EATS'.

ALICE: It tastes...delicious!

HATTER: Callooh! Callay!

HARE: You did it!

HATTER: You know what goes best with Vol-au-vent?

ALICE: No?

ALL: TEA!

ALICE: But there's nothing in this pot...

HATTER: That's the worst tea there is...EMP-tea!

THE WHITE RABBIT HOPS ON.

RABBIT: I'm late! I'm late! Alice! Is that you? You look much, muchier!

ALICE: I feel it!

RABBIT: Look what I have!

THE CHESHIRE CAT ENTERS WITH A TRAY OF JAM TARTS!

HARE: I love tarts!

CHESHIRE: Ah, ah, ah! They're not for you! They're for the Queen's Un-Birthday Party.

RABBIT: Have you got your invitation yet?

ALICE: No, not yet. I was hoping you could help me imagine one Mr. Hatter.

HATTER: I can't do that! I'm mad!

ALICE: Did you make your own hat?

HATTER: Yes. It was the first hat I ever made.

ALICE: By the looks of it you must have a wonderful imagination. Will you teach me how to get mine back?

RABBIT: Will you help her Hatter?

HATTER: Wait a minute! Will I help her? I need to think about this! I've thought about it. I won't do it!

CHESHIRE: Hatter!

ALICE: Please!

HATTER: [*Turning his back:*] Good day!

ALICE: But...

HARE: He said 'good day!'

RABBIT: I suppose that's it then. We'd better get you home.

ALICE, THE WHITE RABBIT AND THE CHESHIRE CAT TURN TO LEAVE.

HATTER: Alice!

ALICE: You just called me A...

HATTER: [*Interrupting:*] If I did help you, what would your invitation look like?

ALICE: Well, it would be red. My favourite colour.

MUSIC CUE: SUSPENSEFUL VIOLINS

HATTER: Yes!

ALICE: And heart shaped, of course!

HATTER: What else?

ALICE: It would be covered in glitter! I love glitter!

HATTER: What would it say?

ALICE: It would say, "Alice, you are cordially invited to my Un-Birthday party signed, the Queen of Hearts"!

HATTER: Alice...what is that in your pocket?

ALICE REACHES INTO HER APRON POCKET AND PULLS OUT HER INVITATION!

ALICE: My invitation!

RABBIT: Alice! You did it!

HATTER: This calls for a celebration. I'm going to make you the finest hat in Wonderland to wear for the party!

ALICE: Thank you but, I don't really like hats...

EVERYONE GASPS. THE MAD HATTER IS VISIBLY VERY SHAKEN.

HARE: You don't...like...hats?!

HATTER: Perhaps it's simply the case you haven't found a hat that likes you!

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