

SPRING REESC MUSICAL PLAY:

ANYA IN WONDERLAND

“Аня в стране чудес”

IN RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH



Directed by Julia Nemirovskaya

Inspired by Vladimir Nabokov's 1923 translation of Lewis Carroll's
Alice in Wonderland and Vladimir Vysotsky's 1973 musical.



The musical play you are about to see is the result of collaboration of friends struck by love for languages, music and theater. Or else how can a group of college students and native Russians with busy schedules spend days and nights practicing Rabbit steps, Frog singing and stealing tarts? I am so grateful to this fantastic Cast for an opportunity to see love, devotion and talent at work!

Our play is based on yet another example of collaboration, spread out in time and unique. In 2007, the world celebrates the 175th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dodgson, whose pen name was Lewis Carroll. Dodgson often rowed on the quiet Oxford canal with his colleague Liddell's little daughters, entertaining them with stories about a girl who jumped into a rabbit hole and found herself in a strange and unpredictable world. After Alice Liddell implored the storyteller to write out his fantasies, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* were born.

But if the production is based on Carroll's book, how come it's a Russian play?—you may ask. Here enters another name, that of Vladimir Nabokov, one of the greatest 20th century writers who wrote equally well in Russian and English. Few know that in 1923, he translated *Alice in Wonderland*. Nabokov and Carroll had a lot in common—Ox-Cam education and professorship, math and chess genius and love for logics. Carroll's themes of chess, playing cards, and a young girl in curious circumstances would later occur and reoccur in the translator's own work.

But Nabokov was collaborator rather than just a translator. Writes Leigh Kimmel, "Nabokov sought to 'translate' the situation of the novel into one familiar to the Russian child. He renamed Alice 'Anya,' which is a common Russian girl's name, rather than transliterating it into the essentially foreign Alisa. He transformed other characters so that they would fit into a Russian milieu and managed to turn out the most hilarious parodies guaranteed to amuse any Russian child bored to tears at having been forced to memorize tons of redundant information and moralistic tales."

Finally, our third collaborator is the Russian cult singer, songwriter, poet and actor Vladimir Vysotsky, the "Russian Elvis," whose work is extremely popular. His untimely death shook all Russia: more people came to his funeral than to that of the late Pope. Vladimir Vysotsky wrote a musical, *Alisa* which still forms the regular stock of quotes for any Russian. One can see how Vysotsky, a semi-outcast and implicit critic of the Communist regime, was attracted to the fearless girl and absurd and dream-like world of Carroll's book.

But can the rabbit-hole where Anya/Alice jumps one afternoon be a way out for all of us? Are we not drawn by a different reality where anything small can become huge, and where all we know becomes new and vibrant and perplexing?

Follow us, dear public! You know the story so it will be easy to understand the Russian lines (Mr. Dodgson himself will help you too). You will have a chance to talk to the Russian smoking Caterpillar, party with the Russian Mad Hatter, Dormouse and March Hare, defend a Knave in the Russian Court and see a Russian Cat smile hanging in the air. And we hope that you will smile, too!

Julia Nemirovskaya
Director

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Anya	Anya Polishchuk
Mr. Dodgson, Dodo, Antipode.....	Alexander Hendricks-Clark
Edith, Eaglet, Two of Hearts, Juror.....	Gabriella Anelauskaite
Lorina, Parrot, Juror	Dasha Bakhtina
White Rabbit	Pat Benad
Big Lizard, Queen of Hearts, Antipode.....	Tanya Beede
Antipode, Caterpillar, Mad Hatter, King of Hearts.....	Melissa Cook
March Hare, Flutist, Flamingo.....	Maren Couch
Flying Cat Dinah, Five of Diamonds	Athena Wisotsky
Mouse, Flower	Lydia Maxson
Cheshire Cat	Shona Allison
Duchess, Seven of Hearts, Flower	Luda Kremers
Pigeon, Juror	Dasha Shulgina
Antipode, Executioner	Clark Engdall
Frog, Knave of Hearts	Michaela Rife
Sonia the Dormouse, Hedgehog	Amanda Golbek
Gryphon, Flower	Anastasia Yurchenko
Cook, Flower	Yulia Golosov
Jester, Six of Spades with Tuba	Mary Renolds
Duck, Queen of Diamonds	Anne Wilson
Mock Turtle	Laura Brandt
Fish, Juror	Masha Partch
Judge	Tanya Van Orman
Guinea Pig Petka	Lizka Vaintrob
Little Lizard Yashka	Philip Bindeman
Baby Piglet	Victoria Beede
Duckling	William Beede



SYΦIOΦSIS

ACT ONE

Charles Dodgson (a.k.a. Lewis Carroll) and the three sisters Edith, Alice (Anya), and Lorina, are punting down the river. Mr. Dodgson (whom the girls have affectionately nicknamed Dodo) is telling them a story about Anya's adventures in a magic land. The other girls don't want to be left out, so Dodo includes them in the story too, as a Parrot and Eaglet.

Later, Lora and Anya are resting. Lora is reading a book, but Anya is very bored and wishes for something fun to happen. Suddenly she sees a White Rabbit carrying a watch, and finding this very curious, she follows him down a rabbit hole. As she falls down the hole, Anya meets the Antipodes, a funny people who walk on their heads. She also sees her beloved cat Dinah.

Anya reaches the end of the tunnel and chases the White Rabbit, who is already very late for his meeting with the Duchess. As the White Rabbit escapes, Anya sees two locked doors, and tries to open them. Anya desperately wants to reach the Magic Garden she saw in the keyhole.

Suddenly Cards appear carrying a table with a key. It unlocks the door, but the opening is too small and Anya cannot fit through. On the table Anya then sees a bottle. When she drinks it, she shrinks in size. She then tries a cake, which makes her grow to an enormous height. Anya realizes that she has forgotten all the sensible lessons she had learned at home. She cries and cries and as she fans herself she again shrinks in size. Anya now sees that when she was large she cried a river of tears

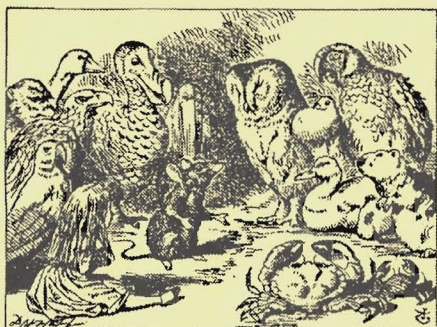
As she swims around, she comes upon a Mouse. Many other animals begin to gather, all frolicking in the water. When the party reaches shore, everyone is cold and they decide to dry off. The Parrot thinks the best way to dry off is to sing, but the Mouse thinks that a boring lecture is better. Finally the Dodo Bird announces that he has the best idea. When Eddy the Eaglet complains that she cannot understand his complicated phrase, Dodo explains that they will all participate in a Caucus Race

The race is over, and all the animals are curious as to who won the race. In fact, everyone did and they all demand and get prizes from Anya. Anya tells them all about her beloved cat Dinah and this frightens the animals away.

Anya notices the White Rabbit again. The rabbit mistakes her for his maid. As she goes to his house to fetch his gloves and fan, Anya is accosted by Petka the Guinea Pig and Yashka the Little Lizard. Anya escapes, only to encounter the Dancing Flowers and Caterpillar. The Caterpillar asks Anya to read a popular poem and it comes out all wrong. Caterpillar advises Anya to eat different pieces of the red mushroom in order to change her size.

Then the Pigeon appears, and she mistakes poor big Anya for a snake. Anya runs away and into a singing Frog. She sees a Fish who guards the house where the Cook and Duchess live. The Cook throws pepper and kitchenware into the Duchess and the Duchess leaves. Anya is left to care for the Baby, which unexpectedly turns into a Piglet and runs away.

INTERMISSION...



ACT TWO

The Cheshire Cat agrees to appear and disappear bit by bit not to make Anya dizzy and tells Anya that both of them and everyone else in Wonderland is mad. Anya reaches the place where the Mad Hatter, March Hare, and Sonia the Dormouse are having a tea-party. They tell Anya about their quarrel with Time which ended in them having teatime all day. Sonya begins a tale about three sisters in a treacle well and gets upset with Anya's questions. The party becomes rude to Anya and she leaves.

After that, Anya discovers three cards painting some white rosebushes red to please the Queen. When the irritable Queen of Hearts and her entourage arrive, the Queen gets upset and orders the executioner to chop off first the painters', then everyone else's heads. Then the queen invites Anya to play croquet with her. The game is ridiculous, with the mallets being live flamingoes, a hedgehog instead of a ball, and courtiers serving as gates. The King of Hearts then gets upset with the Cheshire Cat. After an argument over whether or not it is possible to cut off the Cat's head if there is no visible body, the Duchess almost talks Anya to death. Anya is luckily rescued by the Queen who takes her to the lazy Gryphon. Together they visit the Mock Turtle, who tells them her tragic life's story and demonstrates the Lobster Quadrille.

Suddenly, the Queen of Hearts appears again and announces a trial. The Knave of Hearts stole some tarts! After listening to the testimonies of various witnesses, it is decided that the Knave is guilty and he is sentenced to death. Anya finds this trial silly, and in frustration tells everyone that they're not scary – just a pack of harmless cards.

As the cards fall on their backs and disappear, Anya wakes up to find herself in a boat with Dodo and Edith. Anya decides that all that has just happened was simply a dream... or maybe not?



CREDITS

Director	Julia Nemirovskaya
Assistant Directors	Pat Benad, Tanya Beede Laura Brandt
Assistant	Megan Dixon
Music	Mary Renolds (tuba), Aleksandr Polishchuk (guitar), Maren Couch (flute), Pat Benad, Jason Palmatier (CD), Dasha Shulgina (Sound Effects)
Music on the CD	S. Gubaidullina, D.Shostakovich, A. Schnittke, E. Denisov
Choir	Sasha Polishchuk, Megan Dixon, Kaitlin Mead, Luda Kremers, Dasha Shulgina, Dasha Bakhtina, Alexander Hendricks-Clark, Gabriella Anelauskaite, Lydia Maxson, Maren Couch, Michaela Rife,
Choreography	Tanya Beede Pat Benad
Stage Managers	Maren Couch Pat Benad
Backdrop	Julia Tikhonov
Stage set design and painting	Laura Brandt, Pat Benad, Clark Engdall, Eric Herz, Athena Wisotsky, Mary Renolds, Anastasia Yurchenko, Michaela Rife, Lydia Maxson, Seth Davis, Kevin O'Brien, Shona Allison, Melissa Gillett, Tish Peterson
Flyer and Program	Gabriella Anelauskaite
Props.....	Clark Engdall Pat Benad Athena Wisotsky
PR	Sergei Larionov, Anne Wilson, Masha Partch, Wes Ritter, Athena Wisotsky
Language tutoring	Dasha Shulgina, Luda Kremers, Melissa Cook, Tanya Van Orman, Masha Partch
Costumes	Joanne Peterson, Valerie Couch, Tanya Beede, Mitra and Aaron Chester, Judy Marr, Gabriella Anelauskaite, Bonnie Harris, Yuliya Golosov, Tanya Van Orman, Chris Ann Mead
Makeup	Dasha Bakhtina, Tanya Beede, Dasha Shulgina, Yuliya Golosov
General Support	Wes Ritter
Technical Support	Albert Nasybvullin Val Golosov

THANK YOU FOR COMING!



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