



## **The Wonderland Academy - Audition Preparation**

**You must register for an audition slot by emailing Gantry saying you would like to audition, by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

### **Audition tick-list:**

- Check you are available for tech and dress rehearsal as well as the show dates (you must be available for tech, dress and all performances in order to be cast).
- Register for audition slot by emailing Gantry by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September
- Complete registration form
- Complete casting preferences form and bring this on audition day (or email it to us if need be).
- Choose and practice an audition piece
- (Optional) Practice the song

### **Production Team**

Director – Sophie Chambers

Assistant Director/Vocal Coach: Katy Livingstone

Assistant Director: Luke Abbess

Assistant Choreographer: Lily Carter

### **Synopsis**

*Disclaimer - This pantomime is written by Sophie Chambers, but largely based on the ideas and plot set out by Lewis Carroll in his traditional tale of 'Alice in Wonderland'.*

The start of the show is set in a modern-day school where a young girl, Alice, is getting told off for daydreaming and doodling on her school book. Whilst in school, she sees a white rabbit with a pocket watch appear at the window and despite protests from her teacher, follows the rabbit and falls down a rabbit hole where she enters wonderland and most importantly, The Wonderland Academy, which is like her own school but much more fun.

The Wonderland Academy has The Cheshire cat as the school receptionist, The Mad Hatter as the food-tech teacher, Tweedledee and Tweedledum as students and the other classic characters as well as some new and exciting additions. Alice starts to learn all that The Wonderland Academy has to offer her before disaster strikes... Miss Hearts ( the headmistress) puts Alice on trial for stealing the jam tarts that were being saved specifically for the Ofsted inspectors!

As Alice is being sentenced in court for ruining The Wonderland Academy's chance of getting out of 'special measures', she wakes up in bed in the real world, realising she's late to school. When she gets to school, she is welcomed by her normal headmistress (Miss

Hearts in 'normal' clothing). The headmistress decides to hold a special assembly to celebrate Alice's creativity, inviting all the students and teachers to participate in a showcase of their own talents. During the assembly, each character from Wonderland makes an appearance, showcasing their own special talents. The Cheshire Cat performs magic tricks, Tweedledee and Tweedledum engage the audience with comedy, and various other acts perform based on the talent of the cast.

### **Dates for your diaries**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Dance Auditions 6:30 – 6:45, Individual audition slots between 6:45 and 9:00.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September - Callbacks (by invitation only)

### **Rehearsals**

Fridays 6:30 – 9:00 from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Show

Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:30 from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Show

Tech rehearsal – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 6:30 – 10:00

Dress rehearsal – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 6:30 – 10:00

### **Shows**

Shows Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January including a Saturday matinee.

### **How Auditions will work**

Auditions will be held at Bitterne Sixth Form College on Diamond Rd on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September with call backs on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. You must register for an audition slot by emailing Gantry saying you would like to audition, by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please let us know in this email if you will be attending the dance audition at 6:30 or not.

**Dance Auditions – Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 6:45.** From 6:30 – 6:45 we will have dance auditions for those who wish to be part of a featured dance routine. Please note – if you do really well with your dancing, this does *not* mean we won't cast you as a lead. Leads may also be in this dance number depending on the talent of the cast. The dance audition won't be a set routine, rather an opportunity to show off to production team what you can do. We will have you doing turns, leaps and jumps of your preference, and you will have the chance to show us any 'tricks' such as splits, roundoffs etc. Please either email ahead, or preferably bring with you a completed '**casting preferences' form**. Without this form, production team will be unable to cast you in the show.

**Individual Audition Slots – Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 – 9:00.** From 6:45 – 9:00 we will have time for individual auditions. You must register for an audition slot by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Following this, you will receive an ‘audition slot’. This will likely be a slot of 15 minutes in which you will come and perform your audition in front of production team. During your audition, you must perform an ‘audition piece’. If you are interested in more than one character, please choose just one to audition with, but specify which characters you are interested in on your ‘casting preferences’ form. Please either email ahead, or preferably bring with you a completed ‘**casting preferences**’ form. Without this form, production team will be unable to cast you in the show.

**Call backs – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 2pm.** You will receive a text by 11pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> if you are called back. No callback does not mean you have not been cast. You do not need to prepare anything for callbacks.

## Roles

**Alice:** Alice is the typical character from Lewis Carroll’s story of Alice in Wonderland. She is a sweet and innocent young girl who is amazed by everything she sees in wonderland.

**Miss Hearts/Headmistress:** Miss Hearts is based on ‘The Queen of Hearts’ from Lewis Carroll’s story of Alice in Wonderland. She is very important and strict. She needs to assert authority in everything she does and take complete control of the stage when she is present in a scene. Miss Hearts is the headmistress of The Wonderland Academy, and when the show is set in the ‘normal school’, the same actor will play the headmistress of this school.

**Dame Dotty:** Dame Dotty is a classic pantomime dame character who needs to be full of energy and have the ability to build a great rapport with the audience each night. Dame Dotty needs to be over the top and exaggerated in everything she does.

**Mad Hatter:** The Mad Hatter is similar to the character from Lewis Carroll’s story of Alice in Wonderland – a mad but loveable character. He is the food tech teacher in The Wonderland Academy but lets his own crazy personality sneak through in everything he does.

**Tweedledee/Tweedledum:** This duo need to build a great rapport as actors to convey the friendship of these characters. The duo are comedy characters who do everything together. At the end of the show, the actors come on in the ‘normal school’ as normal twins who perform jokes. Must have great comedy timing.

**Ms Green/ Ms. Spectacular:** Alice’s teacher in her normal school and also a teacher in The Wonderland Academy. Ms Green begins the show by criticising Alice for having such a wild imagination, but finishes it by recognising that everyone has a unique talent and something that makes them special. Ms Green is a kind and friendly character. Ms Spectacular only has a few lines but is very mystical.

**Cheshire Cat:** The Cheshire cat is similar to the character from Lewis Carroll’s story of Alice in Wonderland. He is mysterious and odd and plays the role of the school receptionist at The Wonderland Academy.

**Little Alice:** During the show, Alice shrinks. To help portray this act of shrinking, there will be half of a scene that is performed by a younger cast member taking on the role of Alice. Alice is the typical character from Lewis Carroll's story of Alice in Wonderland. She is a sweet and innocent young girl who is amazed by everything she sees in Wonderland.

**Carl Caterpillar, Darla Doormouse, Tina Tiddlywink:** Wonderland characters that have various lines within scenes.

**Kayden, Jayden, Iron-Maiden, Stacey, Macey, Lacey:** Students from the 'normal school' who have some lines in a few scenes. These characters are typical teenage characters. Hoods up in puffer jackets for the boys, and over the top high buns, over-drawn eyebrows, fake tan and fake eyelash upon fake eyelash for the girls.

**Playing Cards 1-10:** Miss Hearts' prefects in The Wonderland Academy. The playing cards each have some lines to say, but Playing Card Number 2 is a slightly bigger part due to a running joke about 'Number 2' (poo) throughout the show.

**Featured Singers:** There will be opportunities for solos within songs. Featured singers may also be cast as named parts, however they may be cast solely as a featured singer as well as an ensemble student.

**Featured Dancers:** There is a dance number within this show that will be performed by a group of featured dancers rather than the whole cast. Featured dancers may also be cast as named parts, however they may be cast solely as a featured dancer as well as an ensemble student.

**Walter:** Dame Dotty's assistant who has a few lines in a scene and must engage with the audience during this.

**Winnie the White Rabbit:** This character is based on the character from Lewis Carroll's story of Alice in Wonderland. Alice follows him down a rabbit hole and he says the classic 'I'm late for a very important date' line a few times.

**Smaller ensemble parts with none or 1 line include:** Students 1-6, Jojo Siwa, Ensemble 1-6, Billy Blunder, Lucy Lopsy, Penny Petal, Bunny Ensemble, Wonderland Ensemble.

**What to prepare:**

If you are interested in more than one character, please choose just one to audition with, but specify which characters you are interested in on your 'casting preferences' form. Please either email ahead, or preferably bring with you a completed '**casting preferences' form**. Without this form, production team will be unable to cast you in the show.

<b><u>Character</u></b>	<b><u>Audition Piece</u></b>
Alice or Little Alice	1
Miss Hearts	2
Dame Dotty	3
Mad Hatter	4
Tweedledee/Tweedledum	5
Ms Green/ Ms. Spectacular, Cheshire Cat	6
Kayden, Jayden, Iron-Maiden, Stacey, Macey, Lacey	7
Carl Caterpillar, Darla Doormouse, Tina Tiddlywink, Winny the White Rabbit, Smaller ensemble parts	8
Featured Singer	Please choose a character to audition for (if you just want to be a singer, choose audition piece 8 as this is for 'smaller ensemble part'), and also prepare the SONG – Audition Piece 9
Featured Dancer	You must attend the dance audition at 6:30. Please also choose a character to audition for (if you just want to be a dancer, choose audition piece 8 as this is for 'smaller ensemble part'),

## **Audition Piece 1**

Ms. Green: Alice, what's wrong? Concentrate!

Alice: Oh, sorry, Ms. Green. I was just... dreaming.

Ms. Green: Alice, we've talked about this before. School is for learning, not daydreaming. You need to focus if you want to succeed.

Alice: (*muttering to herself*) But what's the point of all this if it's just the same thing every day?

Ms. Green: Anyway class...the fascinating world of algebra...

***[As Alice continues to doodle in her notebook, she notices something out of the window and gasps.]***

Alice: Look! There's a rabbit outside! With a pocket watch!

Ms. Green: Alice, this is not the time for your imagination to run wild. Please, focus on the board.

***[Alice hesitates for a moment, but she pushes her chair back and rushes towards the window.]***

Alice: I have to see where it's going!

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***[This section happens when Alice has first seen The Wonderland Academy (acted out by puppets to create the illusion of it being very small). At this point, Alice is played by 'Little Alice', however for the purpose of the audition, Alice and Little Alice auditionees will both read this part.]***

Alice: But...but they're smiling? They're having fun?

Dame Dotty: Oh Alice, dear. I do worry about you! Of course they're smiling, it's school!

Alice: It certainly doesn't look anything like *my* school!

Dame Dotty: Well – why don't you go in and have a look around?

Alice: Are you having a laugh?

Dame Dotty: No, I'm entirely serious! Go on, step inside!

Alice: Look at the size of it, it's minute! I know I've shrunk, but not *that* much!

Dame Dotty: Oh Alice....have you never heard of the magic of the theatre?

Little Alice: My teacher said there's no such thing as magic...

Dame Dotty: And I bet your teacher would also say there's no such thing as white rabbits with pocket watches...but we both know that's not true now don't we!

Little Alice: I suppose...

## **Audition Piece 2**

Alice: I... I just ate a jam tart, Miss Hearts.

Miss Hearts: Just a jam tart? That "just a jam tart" was for the Ofsted inspector! An inspector, Alice, who is here to evaluate our school. And you thoughtlessly devoured it without a second thought!

Alice: I didn't know, Miss Hearts. I thought...as it's always time for tea?

Miss Hearts: You STUPID girl. It was meant for a special guest! You have shown a complete lack of respect for this institution and its reputation. Do you understand the gravity of your actions?

Alice: I'm sorry, Miss Hearts. I really am. I'll do anything to make it right.

Miss Hearts: Sorry will not bring back that tart, Alice. But I will give you an opportunity to make amends. A trial.

All: A trial!?

Miss Hearts: A TRIAL!

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Cheshire Cat: Ah, Alice? I've been watching her on the CCTV, following Winnie the Rabbit around like a right stalker... But then again, aren't we all a bit mad here?

Miss Hearts: Mad, yes. But stalker-behaviour is peculiar... I don't like peculiar, Dame Dotty. This Alice had better not cause any trouble. If she steps one foot out of line, she'll regret it. I won't tolerate any disruptions at this academy. And if it comes to it, I'll get one of the prefects to chop her head off.

***[At this, the playing cards, who have been standing by, straighten up with alarmed expressions.]***

Cheshire Cat: (Appearing beside Mrs. Hearts, still grinning) Oh, come now, Miss. Hearts. Blood is so very inconvenient.

Number Three: And honestly, we prefer keeping our heads attached to our own bodies.

Miss Hearts: (Turning sharply to the cards) What's this? Cowardice among my prefects?

Number Seven: It's not cowardice, Miss Hearts. It's more of a...personal preference for less messy solutions.

Miss Hearts: ***(With a cold smile)*** Then see to it that Alice doesn't give you any reason to do so. Keep her in line, and we won't have any issues.

### Audition Piece 3

Dame Dotty: Helloooooo Boys and Girls! Oh, you can do better than that! I said HELLOOOOOO BOYS AND GIRLS! Marvellous. And hello to you too Alice...

Alice: Who are you? How do you know my name!?

Dame Dotty: Oh I'm ever so sorry, what am I like? I didn't introduce myself! My name's Dame Dotty. I used to be called 'Duchess Dotty', but that didn't really work with the whole panto thing, so we've changed my title to 'Dame' just for show week!

Alice: Oh...I see..!?

Dame Dotty: Boys and Girls, whenever I come on stage, I'm going to say "Helloooo boys and girls" and you're going to say "Hello Dame Dotty!". Do you think you can manage that? **(Aud. Part)**. Alice, do you think they can manage that?

Alice: I have no idea who any of you are but it sounds a pretty easy task. Shall we try?

***(Dame Dotty exits and then enters again)***

Dame Dotty: Helloooo boys and girls! **(Aud part.)** Oh you are clever – well done! Now, Alice my dear. I expect you're wondering where you are?

Alice: Well...yes I am rather.

Dame Dotty: Yes, yes. Well this is what you get for following strange rabbits down holes. It's very odd behaviour and you should really think twice before jumping out of classroom windows! Anyway. You're in The Wonderland Academy!

Alice: The Wonderland what now?

Dame Dotty: Oh the wonderland ACADEMY my dear! The only school in Wonderland, comprehensive from Years R – 11!

Alice: But why!? What am I doing here? And why are there so many doors!?

Dame Dotty: Oh Alice, Alice, Alice. So many questions, but all in good time. Unfortunately I've got to trot off now as I've just realized I've left my hair straighteners on backstage...don't want to risk burning gown the theatre...again. Safety first – toodle-oo!



#### **Audition Piece 4**

***[The Mad Hatter is at the center of the cafeteria, serving tea to students]***

Mad Hatter: Tea for you, my dear? How about you, over there? Don't forget your biscuits!

***[Alice approaches the Mad Hatter]***

Alice: Excuse me...what are you doing?

Mad Hatter: Hello dear. My name is Gerald...but everyone here calls me the Mad Hatter! We're having tea - every moment is tea time in Wonderland, my dear Alice! And what better place to spread a bit of joy and cheer than the bustling cafeteria?

***[Alice smiles at the Mad Hatter and takes a seat at one of the cafeteria tables. She watches as students eagerly line up for tea, their faces lighting up with delight as they receive their cups.]***

Alice: You know, this reminds me of the chaos of the cafeteria at my old school. But here, it's different. It's... lively, yet somehow peaceful.

Mad Hatter: Ah, yes! In Wonderland, we like to add a touch of whimsy to everything we do, even lunchtime! Now, would you care for a cup of tea, my dear?

***[He pours Alice some tea]***

Are you joining my food tech class? Today, we're making a Wonderland classic—jam tarts! It's great you've come today...these jam tarts are for extremely special visitors. We must be extra careful with them to ensure they're perfect!

## **Audition Piece 5**

(Please read for 'Tweedledee. A member of PT will read for Tweedledum and Alice).

Tweedledee: A duck walks into a bar and is like, 'You got any grapes?' The bartender is like, 'No, get out of here.' Then the next day, the duck walks into the same bar and goes, 'You got any grapes?' The bartender says, 'Like I told you, we don't have any! Get out. And if you come in here one more time, I'm gonna nail your feet to the floor.' Then the duck comes in the third day and goes, 'You got any nails?' Bartender's like, 'No.' And the duck goes, 'You got any grapes?'

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**Tweedledee:** Well, well, well! Look who we have here, Tweedledum!

Tweedledum: Indeed, Tweedledee! It's Alice, the new arrival in Wonderland!

Alice: Hello there! You two seem to be quite the pair...

**Tweedledee:** Oh, we certainly are, aren't we, Tweedledum?

Tweedledum: Absolutely, Tweedledee! We finish each other's sentences, you see!

Alice: Well, it's very nice to meet you both! Would you like to join me for tea?

**Tweedledee** and Tweedledum: We'd be delighted, Alice!

**Tweedledee:** I think I should sit next to Alice, after all, I'm the one with the better jokes!

Tweedledum: Nonsense! I'm clearly the funnier one, so I deserve to sit next to Alice!

### **Audition Piece 6**

Ms Green: Welcome everyone. It has recently come to my attention, that we don't celebrate your talents enough. Sure, we have awards ceremonies at the end of term, and some of you are entered in the Maths challenge each year. But there are so many of you that have such exceptional talents beyond the classroom, and I want to be able to celebrate those today. Einstein said you would never judge a goldfish's intelligence by its ability to climb a tree....but that's what us teachers do every day in class! Well...not anymore! I'd like to start by welcoming our latest dance club to the stage, performing a beautiful contemporary piece, featuring one of our very own students singing. Please give them a warm welcome!

### **Audition Piece 7**

Please read in for 'student'. In the real script, these lines are split between Kayden, Jayden, Iron Maiden, Stacey, Lacey and Macey.

***The students are stood on stage, chewing gum and whispering. Alice approaches them.***

Student: Alice! I wasn't expecting to see you back so soon..I thought you was a goner to be honest!

Prod Team: You fully recovered now, then?

Alice: Recovered?

Student: Well yeah... you had a nasty bang to your head when you jumped out of that window..Ms Green said you were being treated for concussion?

Prod Team: But to be fair, we don't know what that means.

Student: Glad you're better though! Shame you didn't have a glow up when you was away....

Prod Team: Yeah you still look a bit musty, crusty Alice.

Student: Oh well, it's nice to 'ave you back. I didn't have no one to take the mic out of at lunch!

## **Audition Piece 8**

*Please read in for the part of 'Playing Card'. A member of the production team will read in the other parts.*

Miss Hearts: I will have no choice but to cut off her head!

Playing Card: Um, Miss Hearts, about that... We really don't want to be the ones to cut off her head... blood is quite unpleasant. It gets everywhere, and it's so hard to clean!

Cheshire Cat: (Appearing beside Mrs. Hearts, still grinning) Oh, come now, Miss. Hearts. Blood is so very inconvenient.

Playing Card: And honestly, we prefer keeping our heads attached to our own bodies.

Miss Hearts: (Turning sharply to the cards) What's this? Cowardice among my prefects?

Playing Card: It's not cowardice, Miss Hearts. It's more of a...personal preference for less messy solutions.

Miss Hearts: Prefects...be gone with you. Make sure this Alice girl doesn't cause any trouble.

Playing Card: Oh yes miss, of course miss...three bags full Miss...oh, and one last thing. If this Alice girl *does* cause any trouble..

Miss Hearts: She WON'T! You will see to that..

Playing Card: Sorry, I'm on it!

## **Audition Piece 9**

Be prepared to sing this part of the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYM4-yhwmJY> 1:00 – 1:38

*Have you seen my walrus dear?  
Big mustache that's down to here*

*Made the oysters disappear  
Claiming self-defense*

*Wait, I think you think I think I'm dreaming  
And when I wake up I'll wake up screaming*

*(We don't think as all we simply feel dear) – **You don't have to sing this part***

*Ok, someone tell me what's the deal here*

*Welcome to Wonderland*

*This is your new address*

*You'll love it more or less*

*No time to decompress*

*It's afternoon all day*

*There's lots of games to play*

*Flamingo lawn croquet*

*So please enjoy your stay*

