



## Sortie au théâtre de l'Odéon

Les élèves de première baccalauréat professionnel du lycée ont travaillé sur plusieurs versions d'Alice au Pays des Merveilles de Lewis Carroll en cours de français et d'anglais. Ils sont allés voir la pièce *Alice et Autres Merveilles* au théâtre de l'Odéon, à l'Espace Cardin, écrite par Fabrice Melquiot et réalisée par Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota. Ils ont écrit, en anglais, une critique comparative de la pièce avec les autres versions étudiées. Voici certaines de leurs critiques.

CRITIC REVIEW OF THE PLAY « ALICE AND OTHER WONDERS » at the Théâtre de la Ville  
FOR MY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL WEBSITE by Joanna AFONSO



On Thursday, December 20th 2018, the 1st year of BTEC fashion and the class of upholstery of my vocational school, La Source, went to the Théâtre de la Ville, in Paris.

We have seen the play entitled *Alice and Other Wonders*.

Fabrice Melquiot wrote a new version of *Alice in Wonderland* in 2007. This is an adaptation of the novel by Lewis Carroll originally written in 1864.

Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota is the stage director of this sumptuous play. In this work we find, of course, the main character Alice. It is a more contemporary Alice that we encounter.

In French class we studied the book entitled *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Lewis Carroll invented the story of a little girl, Alice. For his novel, he took the example of the daughter of his friend. And from there was born this little girl, an imaginary story.

In 1951, Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson and Hamilton Luske made a revival based on the work of Lewis Carroll. It is an animated film from the Walt Disney Studio. *Alice in Wonderland* is a fantasy cartoon. Alice's story is similar to Lewis Carroll's book. Alice, a dreamy girl escapes into a strange world in which singing flowers, rub shoulder with a talking cat, a smoking caterpillar, a Queen playing croquet or a rabbit trying not to be late.

And finally, here is Alice's story in the play. She appears on stage with a modern dress style, she sings and plays on different rhythms of current music. In the play as in the original text of Lewis Carroll, Alice lives a similar adventure, where she falls into the burrow of a white rabbit and she lives several adventures. Alice is getting smaller by drinking a potion and she is growing up by eating a cupcake. In the play, there was the scene of the « mad tea party », always with the hare of March, the dormouse, the mad hatter and of course there is the Queen of Hearts, the Cheshire Cat and the white rabbit.

But the only difference in the original story, Lewis Carroll says the rabbit has pink eyes and is wearing a jacket. In the play, the rabbit has red eyes, he is not wearing a jacket and he was not the only rabbit on stage.

Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota changed Alice's story by adding characters known to all like the Little Red Riding Hood, Barbie doll, Big Bad Wolf and Pinocchio.

The play fits equally well for children from the age of 7 or for adults to discover another visual version of Alice's story.

In conclusion, the book's primary concern is that Alice wants to get everything back into the real world and become normal again because when she drinks a potion she grows up and when she eats a cupcake she becomes small.

The movie's primary concern is a similar version as in the book, but when Alice eats a part of the mushroom she gets big and when she eats another part of the same mushroom she becomes small.

Most people and my classmates would probably prefer the movie because Alice's story in the film is closer to the original story and people prefer filmic stories.

Me too, I preferred the film. The play was very interesting to see, we could discover Alice in another version with other characters but I would not advise this play for children because some moments are a little shocking and scaring.

### **CRITIC REVIEW By Aaliyah Bergeri**

On Thursday 20th December 2018, my class and I went to see the play *Alice and Other Wonders* at the Théâtre de la Ville.

Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota, who is the stage director adapted the traditional novel of *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. He respected the original characters of Lewis Carroll : the caterpillar, the white rabbit, the Queen of Hearts etc. But Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota wouldn't be content with this. He wanted to add other characters from other tales : The Little Red Riding Hood, Pinocchio, Barbie.

Nevertheless, a lot of similarities are present in the novel and in the play, like the scene when Alice drinks the potion or when she eats the cake. The scenes are similar in the cartoon too. And there's the scene when Alice is crying like a crybaby. This scene is present in the novel, in the cartoon and in the play too.

But there are still a lot of differences. For example, scenes when other characters from other tales are added.

I think the play is very creepy. It is creepier than the novel or the cartoon.

Alice is a little girl who is an adventurer and she is brave. She solves a lot of challenges. She is still popular despite her age (Alice was created more than 150 years ago).

Paradoxically, the Alice of the play is, for me, the opposite of the beautiful Alice of Lewis Carroll. The Alice in the cartoon is cute too. I think that the Alice of the play, Alice of today, messed up the real Alice and it's pretty sad.

To conclude, I don't recommend the play *Alice and Other Wonders* because I find that it's pretty creepy and it's not for children because sometimes there are violent scenes. But I recommend the novel and the cartoon because it's for all ages

## **CRITIC REVIEW by Shirel NADJAR**

I am going to tell you about the story of *Alice in Wonderland* in three different versions. The three versions are adaptations of the first version, the novel by Lewis Carroll.

The first adaptation is the cartoon *Alice in Wonderland* by Walt Disney. It was released in 1951. The second version is the movie by Walt Disney Studio. It was released in 2010. The final version is the play which I saw with the class in Paris at the Théâtre de la Ville.

The common points of the three versions are :

- Alice is present in the different versions
- She takes the same potion to have the power of growing taller or getting smaller.
- Some characters are the same, as the Queen of Hearts, the rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the caterpillar, the cat...

The principal characters are the rabbit, the Queen of Heart, the Mad Hatter and of course Alice. We can find the same characters in the different versions.

The differences are :

- This is not the same end. For example, in the cartoon, Alice wakes up and she understands everything was a dream while in the movie she kills the dragon and comes back to her house.
- In the play, the characters were playing in water. In the cartoon Alice was crying while in the movie or the play she wasn't. She is not crying in the play but there is water on stage. This makes reference to the novel and the cartoon where Alice was crying because she was 7 years old, on the contrary to the movie or the play where she seems like she was seventeen years old, so she is not crying. In the play, they put water on stage to show how sensitive Alice is and to represent the tears.

My personal advice is that I like the different versions of *Alice in Wonderland* but I prefer the movie of Walt Disney Studio by Tim Burton. I don't like much the cartoon. I prefer real actors like Johnny Depp. And even this version is not the real story of Alice. The real story is the book *Alice in Wonderland*. This book was written by Lewis Carroll in 1865. I really didn't like the play because I don't understand because they put water on stage and characters are different, they come from other tales.

## **CRITIC REVIEW By Margaux Trouilleau**

Alice is an imaginary world with a lot of extraordinary things.

I find it very interesting and funny for children. I really liked the White Rabbit in the cartoon who sang « I'm late, I'm late ».

The cartoon is very representative of the story compared to the film that moves a little away from the book.

I found the play is really bad because it doesn't represent the novel. It got lost in relation to the story. The characters are well represented like in the original book but there were characters who had nothing to do with Alice like Pinocchio, Barbie etc.

Secondly, in Tim Burton's movie, Alice does not dream. Normally, in the original version, she is dreaming all Wonderland.

In conclusion, I can say that the cartoon of Walt Disney is closer to the book by Lewis Carroll.

## CRITIC REVIEW By Chiara Ragusa

*Alice In Wonderland* is an incredible, fantastic and original world where everything is possible.

I love this universe, the different characters, the colors, the atmosphere, the costumes. I find all these things interesting.

Between the theater version and the film, the cartoon and the novel versions, there are many differences and similarities.

The differences are that the story is not told in the same way. In the four versions there are each time new characters and costumes are always different.

The similarities are that there are always the main characters : the Queen of Hearts, Alice, the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit and the cards.

I really like the adaptation of the original Alice. The film, I find it very well directed. The story took place at the same period of time as the novel and the cartoon. The play, at the theater, I like it a lot. It is very modern. We find the story of Alice but in a modern and original way with the water on the stage (representing the feelings and cries of Alice), the ropes that made Alice get smaller and grow, the costumes are more modern.

I also love the novel for the story in itself and the cartoon for the childish side and the songs.

I love the four versions so I cannot choose which one I prefer. The world of Alice is a world that I love. I love the story for its originality and the crazy side.

### *Alice and other wonders by Emy Marillier*



Alice in Wonderland was written by Lewis Carroll in 1865. The novel was then re-adapted into a cartoon in 1951. It was Tim Burton's turn to direct the film in 2010. In the book and the cartoon, Alice is a very sensitive child with a lot of imagination, it's very fantasy and crazy. In Tim Burton's film Alice is a young woman, always with a lot of imagination, unlike Lewis Carroll, Tim Burton chose a darker and less childish scene, new characters appeared there.

Recently with my class we were to see a play written by Fabrice Melquiot and Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota, Alice and other wonders.

As the name suggests, the creators of the play took the story of Alice, but with some changes, that's why in the title there are "other wonders".

The similarities between the play, the book and the movie is that Alice tries to follow the white rabbit and falls into the burrow, falling she sees full of objects around her. On arrival she is confused with many doors, including the little one or she must juggle the cake to grow, and the potion to reappear. Afterwards, she meets characters such as the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, the Queen of Hearts, the Caterpillar, the Hare of March, the King of Hearts ... Other times are similar to the book and film, as when the Queen of Hearts plays golf with pink flamingos and hedgehogs.

The differences is the addition of some characters such as the Big Bad Wolf, Pinocchio, Little Red Riding Hood, Barbie ... Scenes have been added or modified to include these characters. For example, to go to the burrow, Alice had to "face" Little Red Riding Hood because she did not want to let her go for a favor. The scene with Pinocchio happens in the water, more precisely in the tears of Alice when she could not reach the key to be able to pass the door. The moment when Alice crosses the birds is funny because they are on bikes, make a dance court and play games, and it does not seem to me that there is that scene in the cartoon.

The difference in Tim Burton's film, is that scenes have been modified to make sure that it is not considered childish and joyful, but as fantastic and terrifying. New characters appeared like the White Queen, Bayard (the dog), Hamish, the Jabberwocky, the Bandersnatch ...

Alice is now a 19-year-old woman and not a child, so some passages change like the moment when Alice has to grab the key to unlock the door, Alice does not cry and do what she can to get it. As the Bandersnatch, Jabberwocky and the White Queen are neither in the book nor in the cartoon, the director has to add scene, like the final scene where Alice must defeat the Jabberwocky.



I did not really enjoy the play "Alice and other wonders" because for me it was not a play fit for the kids as it was said. There were several white rabbits and the one unlike the book was nasty. What also displeases me is that there are characters of tales added (the little red Riding Hood, the Big Bad Wolf, Pinocchio, Barbie ...) Subsequently I found the theater more and more unwholesome, with all the people in the house, the baby who was banged on...

Some passages were a little too crazy for my taste, but it was because I had not seen the cartoon! So I understand now why it was so crazy.

On the other hand what I found interesting, is the costumes and the way in which the effects were to rise, as to show that Alice was of small or big size, they adapt the objects. Or even her dress, the more she grew up, the more her dress became big too. The moment she falls into the burrow is also very well done, as the pass with Pinocchio in the water.



I do not recommend this play to people who are accompanied by children and to those who swear by the real story of Lewis Carroll. But I still advise it if you are interested in the costumes, the effects and the story of Alice and her other wonders.

