

Directed by *Michael Sally*

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

by *Brainerd Duffield*

adapted from the book by *Lewis Carroll*

July 3rd through July 19th

Sat/Sun & Holidays

4pm **FREE OF CHARGE**

at **John Hinkle Park**

Featuring

Patrice Binatsu, Paul Bisset,
Natalie Buch-Bauer, Ryan Chin,
Megan Durzynkiewicz, Breezy/Desilva,
Veronica Delgado, Pilar Gonzalez, Joseph Hirsch,
Helen Kim, Eshant More, Avery May,
Erica F. Perry, Virge Poole, Joshua Roberts,
Jean-Paul Zubair.

aeofberkeley.org

Presented by

Adors

Ensemble of Berkeley



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

by Brainerd Duffield

Adapted from the book by Lewis Carroll

Directed by Michael Sally

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Frog Footman/King of Hearts.....Patrice Binaisa
White Rabbit.....Paul Bisesi
Mad Hatter.....Natalie Buck-Bauer
March Hare.....Ryan Chu
Red Queen/Cook.....Megan Darzynkiewicz
Dormouse.....Breezy/Desilva
White Queen.....Veronica Dolginko
Alice.....Pilar Gonzalez
Mouse/Knave of Hearts.....Joseph Hirsch
Duchess.....Helen Kim
Tweedle Dum/5 of Spades.....Avery May
Tweedle Dee/2 of Spades.....Eshani More
Humpty Dumpty/Cheshire Cat.....Erin K. Perry
Queen of Hearts.....Virgie Poole
Fish Footman/Mock Turtle.....Joshua Roberts
Caterpillar/Gryphon.....Jean-Paul Zuhur

Staff

Director.....Michael Sally
Stage Manager.....Arden Somers
Assistant Stage Manager.....Ani Bradfield
Costumer.....Lyre Alston
Set Designer.....Kirsten Yamaguchi
Props.....Susan Dunn
Musicians.....Natalie Buck-Bauer, Megan Darzynkiewicz,
.....Breezy/DeSilva, Veronica Dolginko, Pilar Gonzalez,
.....Joshua Roberts, Jean-Paul Zuhur
Graphic Design.....Sophie Ruf
Publicity Photos.....Jane Shamaeva
Production Photos.....Anna Kaminska
Concessions Coord.....Greg Gutting
Set Construction Assistance.....Crystal Barnes
Producer & Many Other Things.....Jerome Solberg

A Note from the Director

I am delighted to present this adaptation of ***Alice in Wonderland*** to you this afternoon. There are dozens of scripted versions of this iconic story, but I liked this one (with our own embellishments) because it stripped the story down to its core - a girl on an adventure to find herself. It was important for me to present a story that had universal appeal and that was familiar to everyone. We all have something in the story that we can relate to, and I knew that if it was told correctly, we could tap into that playful sense of wonderland. I knew that John Hinkel Park would be the perfect place to tell this story, and give you all, the audience, an opportunity to join her down the rabbit hole.

Theatre ultimately is a team sport, with no one player more important than another. Creating this show required the teamwork of some extraordinary folks. I am grateful to the talents and vision of the impassioned designers - Scenic Designer Kirsten Yamaguchi, Costumer Lyre Alston and Prop Queen Susan Dunn. These remarkable folks created this magical world of Wonderland with their artistry and skills. To Arden Somers, our Stage Manager who kept us on track and provided us with organization. To Jerome, who is really the captain of this ship, for giving us permission to play and for being so enthusiastically positive. And to a remarkably extraordinary cast who brought so much talent, creativity and playfulness to this show. I am forever humbled to have had this experience to work with you.

Michael Sally, July 2026

Next up for Actors Ensemble

REPOSSESSED

by Greg Lam, directed by Gabriel A. Ross.

LaVal's Subterranean Theater

July 31st-August 9th

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT's DREAM

by William Shakespeare, directed by Michael R. Cohen.

John Hinkel Park Amphitheater,

August 22nd - September 6th

The IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

by Oscar Wilde, directed by Jay Manley w/Jane Goodwin.

Live Oak Theater,

October 2nd - October 18th

Cast and Staff Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Lyre Alston (he/him/she/her) (*Costume Designer*) is a designer working in and around the bay area in both Costume design and Wig/Makeup design and artistry and is thrilled to be spending another summer with **AE**. Recent work together includes last summer's *Cymbeline* and *Taming of The Shrew*, and the summer prior's *Imaginary Invalid*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. You may also have seen his work more recently at The Berkeley Playhouse on *CATS*, at Novato Theatre Company on *The Skin of Our Teeth*, or at Town Hall Theatre on *True West*. Thanks so much for coming to the show. Please enjoy~!

Patrice Binaisa (*Frog Footman/King of Hearts*) is a Berkeley-based Ugandan-American actor, making his first foray into the world of Lewis Carroll. Patrice is dedicating his performance to his sister Lillian Binaisa.

Paul Bisesi (*White Rabbit*) is excited to return to **AE** having previously played Charmante in *The Emperor of the Moon*, Doctor John Watson in *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Missing Mystery*, and Zac Connor in *Kudzu 2012*. Other recent credits include Ralph in *The Gods of Comedy*, Hamlet in *Hamlet*, and roles in a variety of short films, including a sociopathic stalker, a pretentious clown, and Death. Check out paulbisesi.com for more.

Natalie Buck-Bauer (*Mad Hatter*) is an elementary music teacher for Oakland Unified, teaching students preschool through 5th grade by day and a performer of theater and opera by night. You may have seen her before as Shauna with **AE** in *Fairies of the Moonlight*. She has also worked with Lamplighters Music Theater, Pocket Opera, San Jose Lyric Theater, CCCT, Pinole Community Player and Ross Valley Players.

Ryan Chu (*March Hare*) is delighted to perform in his fourth production with **AE**. Some of his previous productions with **AE** include *Death of a Salesman* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Other recent favorite roles include Bernard in *Boeing, Boeing* (Onstage Repertory Theatre), Trofimov in *The Cherry Orchard* (Los Altos Stage Company), and Hideo in a staged reading of *The Sisters Matsumoto* (Contemporary Asian Theater Scene). When he isn't pretending to be other people, you can find him with his head in a fantasy novel or nuzzling his reluctant cat's belly.

Megan Darzynkiewicz (*Red Queen/Cook*) is delighted to be joining such a talented and joyous group of performers, making her **AE** debut with *Alice in Wonderland*. Though she is new to Hinkel Park Amphitheater, she graduated from UC Berkeley in 2024 and is thrilled to

be back, performing once again for the Berkeley community. Past roles include Yvette in Coastal Rep's production of *Clue* and as a Mic Man at Cal Football games. She hopes you enjoy this production of one of her favorite stories and that you find delight in this wacky adventure down the rabbit hole!

Breezy/Desilva (*Dormouse*) is thrilled to make their debut with the **AE**, embracing this unique opportunity to express their creativity through both acting and music. Originally from Los Angeles, they joined **AE** for two major reasons: first, to connect with fellow Bay Area creatives, and second, because they firmly believe that sharing the arts is vital community work. For Breezy, live theater is not merely a form of entertainment, nor the preserving of tradition, it is showcasing the real, unmatched value of human expression in an era of artificial intelligence.

Veronica Dolginko (*White Queen*) is a writer, a professional drag performer, and the marketing manager of the theatre Eclectic Box in San Francisco. You can find her books under her drag name *Titus Androgynous* on Readict, JoyLit, and Inkitt while her musings about movies can be found on Back Row Cinema. She also ghostwrites for the period romance imprint Cobalt Fairy, but good luck finding her work with all the different author names they slap on it. For a good time, ask her about her cat.

Susan Dunn (*Props*) is over-joyed to work with **AEB** on a production of the great magic-inspired play of *Alice In Wonderland*. A treat of a story for all ages and perfectly suited for the park. She has worked production on many shows for **AE** at the park, LaVal's Subterranean, and other local venues and loves being part of a creative team approach to theater. Everyone chips in their time and plays many roles. Thank you for attending and supporting live theater in our East Bay World.

Pilar Gonzalez (*Alice*) is thrilled to make her **AE** debut in *Alice in Wonderland*. This is her second trip to Wonderland, after playing Alice in *Peter and Alice* at Lucky Penny Productions this past Winter. Other credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Disney's Descendants* (Lucky Penny), and *Six Degrees of Separation* (Sonoma Arts Live). She wishes to thank Michael for giving her the opportunity to play such an iconic character as well as her friends and family for their constant support.

Joseph Hirsch (*Mouse/Knave of Hearts*) is happy to return to **AE** of Berkeley. He has been acting since age 10 and performing in community theater throughout the east bay for over 25 years. Favorite roles include Eugene in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*, and Peter in The Diary of Anne Frank.

This is **Helen Kim's** (Duchess) 6th collaboration with **AE**, and she is thrilled to be back at John Hinkel Park, where she performed in *The Taming of the Shrew* last summer. Some other recent credits include *And Then There Were None* (Pinole Community Players), *Arms and the Man* (B8 Theatre Company), *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* (Plethos/Chanticleers), *Into the Breeches!* (Masquers Playhouse), *CLUE* (Onstage Repertory Theatre), and *Tartuffe* (Ross Valley Players). Thank you to the wonderful cast and crew, and thank you for supporting live theater! **Disclaimer: No pigs nor babies were harmed in the making of this production.**

Avery May (*Tweedle Dum/5 of Spades*) is a nonbinary little guy who loves participating in theater and is very excited to perform in their first show through **AEB**. They love theater so much that they are here instead of playing Deltarune. They are a proud father of 1 cat and 2 chinchillas, and stepfather of 4 other cats. They would like to shout out every member of the cast and crew who made this show what it is. And thank you to the audience for coming so we aren't performing to an empty amphitheater, as that would be slightly awkward.

Pursuing a major in film and a passion for the creative arts, **Eshani More** (*Tweedle Dee/2 of Spades*) is dedicated to bringing a grounded and nuanced performance with each role she plays. Her recent work includes her role as Connie in a coming-of-age play, *Dance Nation*. Gaining a scholarship for the New York Conservatory for the dramatic arts gave her the push to pursue her passion as an actor and writer. Besides her acting credits, More is a newly published author of the poetry book, *Blue Flame*, screenwriter and aspiring director. She holds an inherent flame towards the exploration of the human experience which fuels her immense desire to create and be a part of stories. She hopes to continue sinking her teeth into the livelihood of storytelling throughout her career.

Erin K. Perry (*Humpty Dumpty/Cheshire Cat*) is excited to join **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley** again with this production! She is a Bay Area actor and theater artist. Some favorite roles include Sister James in *Doubt* and recently Diana in Berkeley Shakes' *Cyrano*. She thanks her family and friends for their constant love and support. Enjoy this purrfectlyyyy delightful show!

Virgie Poole (*Queen of Hearts*) is excited to be returning to John Hinkel for her third summer in a row with **AE**. Some of her most recent and beloved roles include Claire in *Rumors* (Benicia Theater), and Rita in *Prelude to a Kiss* and Celia in *Calendar Girls* (Masquers Playhouse). She would like to send one million thanks to Michael Sally for taking a chance on an actor who could literally pop at any moment. All love to Mikey, Norm, and Puhstefanee.

Joshua Roberts (*Fish Footman/Mock Turtle*) is thrilled to be a part of another **AE** production where he previously played Cléante in *The Imaginary Invalid* and Biff in *Death of a Salesman*. Some other notable recent roles have been Lenny in *Rumors*, Coriolanus in *Coriolanus*, and Edmund in *King Lear*. He is dedicating this performance to his daughters, Eleanor and Florence.

Jerome Solberg (*Producer*) has been in and around **AE** since 2005. Thanks to Hitomi especially and everyone who has helped with this production and all the other ones over the years, and to the audience for contributing to and being a part of the community of live theater.

Michael Sally (*Director*) has been doing theatre in the Bay Area for over 20 years. His first play was *The Sisters Rosensweig* at **AE**. Since then he has performed in over 70 shows, and directed two dozen. He co-wrote the musical *Just My Type* which had its premiere at the Ross Valley Players. He has written 4 solo shows, and now leads performers in the development of their own one-person show, through his workshop "EAST SIDE STORIES".

Arden Somers (*Stage Manager*) is currently a High School student in Berkeley. She has loved participating in theater for as long as she can remember, both onstage and off, and is thrilled to be working with **AE**. Her favorite *Alice In Wonderland* Character is the Gryphon, and in her free time she enjoys visual art and roller skating.

Kirsten Yamaguchi (*Set Design*) This is the sixth **AE** production Kirsten has designed after *Cymbeline*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *Death of a Salesman*. In addition to set design, Kirsten Yamaguchi has designed many theater programs and posters, taught theater design and animation, and works as an animator. As a youth in Los Angeles, Kirsten performed on stage in many musicals. <https://www.yamaguchianimation.com>. *Alice in Wonderland* was one of my mom's absolute favorite stories. She would have loved to see this production. I dedicate my work on this show to her!"

Jean-Paul Zuhur (*Caterpillar/Gryphon*) is a stage, film, television, and voiceover actor. In his spare time Jean-Paul enjoys playing guitar, hiking with his wife, son and peekapoo and has been known to throat sing occasionally. You may have caught him last summer as Iachimo in *Cymbeline* directed by Glenn Havlan. Thanks to Michael for casting him in *Alice* alongside many of his best friends!

Thanks to Berkeley Parks and Recreation for their cooperation with our use of the John Hinkel Park Amphitheater

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Performance Schedule:

**Performance Schedule: 4 p.m. Friday July 3rd and
Saturdays/Sundays through July 19th 2026**

John Hinkel Park Amphitheater

The Performance is around 2 hours including an intermission

Produced by arrangement with Concord Theatricals

Board of Directors: Michael R. Cohen[^], Victoria F. Siegel[^], Jeff
Trescott[^], Jerome Solberg[^], Ron Anderson, AnneJelika Ong Cortez,
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