

NOFIT

STATE

CERUS

ALICE

in this
style
10/6

PROGRAMME '96



Welcome to Wonderland, a bizarre place where you should expect the unexpected and be surprised by the ordinary. A place where dreams come true and reality is just a figment of the imagination. Make sure you don't fall down any holes. Beware of the grown-up's and small children. And don't eat or drink any potions or pills.

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WISH NOFIT STATE CIRCUS ALL THE BEST FOR THEIR '96 TOUR

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THE PERFORMERSSERA

ABIGAIL YEATES

MARK MORREAU

TOBY PHILPOTT

PETER REYNOLDS

ALI WILLIAMS

JACKIE CROSHER

THE DIRECTORS . . JAMIE GARVEN

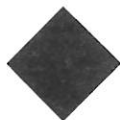
BILL BELLAMY

THE WRITERS . . KATHERINE JONES

AND THE COMPANY

MUSICPETER REYNOLDS

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ALICE IN WONDERLAND

THE CAST AND CREW AND COMPANY



PRODUCTION & DESIGN TOM RACK

PRODUCTIONTIM HUDSON

ELECTRICIAN . . PAUL MCGUINNESS

TECHNICIANAMLYN HEDD

COSTUMES SILVIA JAHNSONS

SCENIC ARTISTS DELLA REES

SIÓN LEWIS

PROPSSALLY WOZENCROFT

CHRIS & KAREN

NETREILLY

MECHANICTIM BARKER

COOKSUE COOKMAN

CHILD MINDERLISA EVERY



Alice Williams has recently been certified insane - why else would she still be performing with NoFit State after 11 years. Apart from her obvious artistic talents she is a whizz with finances and fundraising - check out the new lights and sounds! But as one of the partners of the circus she can't understand why she's not playing Alice

Jacky Crosher began in circus 8 years ago, she started with juggling, but after overcoming her vertigo she took to the air and has never looked down. When not working with NoFit State she teaches trapeze at Circus Space and attempts to defy gravity herself. That daring "not so young" girl on the swinging trapeze who longs to become a punk rock and roll star and to play Alice.

As a child Sera was a star of stage and screen with her "memorable miserable manner" (Godesses of The Silver Screen magazine) but performing brought her out in a cold sweat. She was happily playing housemum in Hebden Bridge when the phone rang. Next thing she's pulling faces for a living. And laughing again. She should have been Alice.

THE PERFORMERS

Formerly with Cirque du Soleil (well, in the audience) Mark Morreau, the NoFit State trampette champion, has spent the last two years perfecting acts especially for this production. Amongst these are the famed "clarinet of death" and the amazing "klezmer of mild danger." Mark says "I should have played Alice."

Abigail Yeates escaped from her Swiss finishing school to play footsie with Japanese business men in hot tubs. She was spotted by a NoFit State talent scout whilst playing Heidi in the Brecon Beacons. She learnt to act in an afternoon on the couch with the directors. Abi plays Alice..

In this show Peter Reynolds appears as a caterpillar. As a musician he finds life is hard, especially since he's expected to play accordion, saxophone, drums and two melodicas simultaneously while somersaulting over a box without breaking his leg. When asked what he thought about this he replied "Well, that's show business, isn't it? And I don't have to play that stupid girl."

In the last 23 years Toby Philpott has worked as an acrobatic juggler, clown, animatronic puppeteer for films, teacher, researcher, administrator but never Alice. He reads serious non-fiction (chaos theory, whole systems, etc) but is still a complete fool. He enjoys travel, life behind the scenes and changing his mind.

Jamie Garven has worked with NoFit State before so should know better. At least this time the lights should work. He has just finished a world tour of "The Tempest" where he discovered Abi in a Japanese hot tub and rushed her home for intensive acting lessons. Jamie does direct other shows or did before this one. Alice, Alice who the ... is Alice?

Ex TV presenter, veteran pantomime performer, writer and director, Bill finds himself co-directing Alice after a chance meeting in a Cardiff pub. He relished the chance to return to Wales thinking he'd be able to watch his beloved Newport AFC on his days off. Alas, he discovered too late that NoFit State don't have days off. Still, at least Jamie introduced him to the joys of hot tubs.

AND PLAYERS

Tom Rack is the designer and production manager for this show and he's just had a baby. (No she's not called Alice.) One of the founders of NoFit State he is now at Gwent College studying interactive arts, producing installations, sets, and just about everything else. He is also half of the award winning juggling act "Risky in Pink" so it's no surprise that his new baby is a girl.

After years of Advice Work Sue Cookman took her own advice and quit. She now lives up to her name and is the company cook - what a combination, huge power little responsibility and no custard - the pudding Queen of the North.

Lisa Every has developed her own unique acrobatic technique to get to the bar as fast as possible. But can mainly be found training Jako, the company's youngest member in his tumbling routines.

From tedious Tim to tail-end Tim. Tim Barker is now out in paperback and available at all good bookshops.

Amylyn Hedd, the company technician, has worked for all the good theatre companies in Wales. No one knows what he's doing working for this lot.



Lewis Carroll was one of eleven children, and must have had lots of practise at amusing bored youngsters. He arranged shows with puppets, conjuring and magic lantern slides, and spent a lot of time devising puzzles, riddles and games.

As an adult he lived at Oxford University - his work was in the abstract

the imagination. Each contains an inspired mixture of word-play, satire and nonsense.

His lasting influence is reflected by, for example, the term "Wonderland" which entered the language as shorthand for a place where anything might happen: and we can still say "Looking glass worlds" to describe

THE LIFE OF LEWIS CARROLL

world of mathematics and logic, but his hobby was the still-new technology of photography. He also wrote satirical "squibs" on current issues, like the debate between the Darwinian evolutionists and the Church.

He was encouraged to write down the stories he had invented for his younger friends. They are dream adventures - trips through virtual worlds of

places where nothing is quite what it seems.

Carroll's stories are gentle adventures. Alice may be puzzled or irritated by the strange manners, eccentric habits and peculiar beliefs of those around her but she is never really in any kind of danger. She is always able to return to her safe and familiar world in time for tea. Toby Philpott.



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Following the success of The Autogeddon Project last summer NoFit State Circus are broadening their horizons.

In the spring of '97 the Circus are hoping to organise another large scale, site-spe-

The audience will actually be Alice and will experience for themselves Wonderland and it's amazing characters.

A variety of art forms will be used to alter the audiences' perception of reality, creating a surreal dream-

**Alice in
Wonderland**

NOFIT STATE TO CHECK IN 3 MOVES

cific, multi-media, extravaganza.

It too will be based on the works of Lewis Carroll, but will be radically different from the present show.

NoFit State Circus would like to thank everyone who has supported them over the years, especially the many fans who keep coming back for more.

We would also like to acknowledge the assistance given us by ASW plc, Cardiff County Council, the Arts Council of Wales, The Foundation

scape.

So be there or you might hear the Queen of Hearts order "Off with their heads!"

for the Sports and the Arts and also The National Lottery.

WITH THANKS

Finally a tremendous hug and lots of kisses to partners, friends and loved ones for putting up with all the grief and always being there to help out.

Thank you.



scale touring company the
Circus has now grown into
a small scale touring com-
pany. Somehow along the
way they managed to
acquire a Big Top, a fleet
of vehicles and lots of
things with plugs on.

They still produce "circus-
theatre" shows and claim

REFLECTIONS

Looking-Back On The Circus

they are Britain's best non-
animal new circus with a
name beginning with N.

Each year their ideas get
bigger as their budgets get
smaller. But Antogeddon
at least showed they could
get a good review in The
Guardian. (And no-one
had to bribe the reviewer.)

So NoFit State Circus
keeps on going. And will
until they either all grow
up or grow too boring to
do it again.

It's the best life you could
dream of except being an
accountant or an estate
agent or a traffic warden
or a taxidermist or a

NoFit State Circus
was set up in 1985
by five friends as
an alternative to getting a
grown-ups' job.

And so far some, at least,
have carried on this Peter
Pan-like existence. Just
look at what they do if you
don't believe me.

Dressing
up and
playing
the fool,
travelling around in trucks
and caravans as if on their
summer holidays. It's the
life of Reilly for sure.

But it's not all kid's play.
Finding a new pub every
week is very difficult and
so is meeting all these dif-
ferent, attractive people all
the time.

The glamour of the life,
the sound of the applause
and the smiling faces do
compensate somewhat.
But they still dream of hot
running water and conve-
nient conveniences.

But back to the story.
Having started as a small

