

# Alice By Heart

Music by Duncan Sheik • Lyrics by Steven Sater • Book by Jessie Nelson and Steven Sater

**Fall 2023**

## Who?

A Senior Thesis in Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies for Maya McGrory. Music direction by Sophie Dvorak.

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## What?

A young girl takes refuge in a London Tube station during WWII and confronts grief, loss, and love with the help of her favorite book, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

## When?

Date of First Rehearsal: Thursday, 9/14

Current Tech Week Dates: 11/26–12/02

Performance Dates: 11/30–12/02

Overall Dates (First Rehearsal to Last Performance): 9/14–12/02

## Time Commitment

Estimate 2–4 hours of rehearsal per week until October break, after which anticipate 4–6 hours a week until tech.

## Content Warnings

Staged intimacy, staged violence, depictions of PTSD, illness, death, and war.

## Audition Expectations

- (1) Prepare a ~one minute cut of a musical theatre song of your choice! (Memorization not necessary, possible songs at the end of this packet)
- (2) Talk to us about a book or piece of art that impacted you as a child. There are no additional guidelines for this — you don't have to plan anything in advance or follow a certain script. We just want to hear something that is true to you!

## Audition Location(s)

TBD! You will receive an email at least 24 hours before your audition with a location and directions.

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## What To Expect From Your Audition

Auditions will take place from August 31 to September 2, in a location TBD. Please prepare:

- (1) *A 32-bar cut (one minute) of a musical theatre song of your choice.* This can be any song that you feel comfortable singing and that you think shows off your voice! If you're unsure of what to sing, please find suggestions in the back of this packet, no memorization necessary! If you would like to be accompanied, please bring a copy of your sheet music to the audition.
  - (2) *Tell us a story about a book or piece of art that impacted you as a child.* There are no right or wrong answers here — feel free to write something out beforehand or just speak off the cuff. We'd just like to hear about something that is genuinely meaningful to you.
  - (3) *The [audition form!](#)* Please fill this out *before* you get into the audition room.
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## Show Synopsis

*Alice By Heart* follows Alice Spencer, a young girl hiding in a London Tube station during World War II. Her close childhood friend, Alfred, is sick with tuberculosis and to be quarantined. To find comfort in a moment of fear and sorrow, Alice turns to her favorite childhood storybook, *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland*. Throughout the show, Alice and Alfred explore their feelings for each other and for the future through the world of Wonderland and all of its charming complexities. As the Londoners take on the personas of Wonderland characters, Alice learns how to move through her grief and stay grounded in a world that is as beautiful as it is unpredictable.

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## Characters

(All roles are open to all races/ethnicities. All roles are open to actors of any gender identity.)

### **Alice Spencer / Alice**

*(this role has already been cast)*

A young woman full of questions and wonder. Very driven for what she wants. Range: G3–D5

### **Alfred Hallam / White Rabbit / March Hare**

Alice's closest friend. Sick. Filled with love, deeply understands the passage of time. Range: B2–A4

### **Tabatha / Cheshire Cat**

Tough, wise, intuitive, compassionate. Range: Bb3–D5

### **Red Cross Nurse / Queen of Hearts**

Severe. Only sees one side of things. Range: F#3–D5

### **Dr Butridge / King of Hearts / Jabberwock / Mock Turtle**

Old-fashioned. Straightlaced, with little humor or room to think outside the box. Range: C3–G4.

### **Harold Pudding / Mad Hatter / Knave of Spades / Mock Mock Turtle**

A young soldier with PTSD. Finding truth in strange places. Range: C3–F4.

### **Clarissa / Queen of Diamonds / Mock Mock Mock Turtle**

Posh, frivolous. Range: B3–D5.

### **Dodgy / Duchess / Mock Mock Mock Mock Turtle**

Vague, aloof, standing alone. Range: C3–E4.

### **Nigel / Dormouse / Knave of Clubs**

Newly orphaned. Shy, anxious. Range: E3–Bb4

### **Angus / Caterpillar / Knave of Hearts**

Rough around the edges. Range: F3–B4.

### **Young Alice**

Her whole life ahead of her. Range: F#4–A#4

### **Young Alfred**

Playful. Living in every moment. Range: C#4

### **Ensemble**

Various Londoners and Wonderland characters/creatures.

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### **A Note On Casting**

We encourage students of all genders, races, ethnicities, and abilities to audition. This production is meant to be embodied by a diverse cast, and our goal is for the characters to be representative of the actors playing them. Our team is excited to mold the original script into a work that embraces the individual attributes of each member of our cast. We especially encourage LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, and first-time theatremakers to join our team.

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### **Possible Audition Songs**

Below are possible musical theatre songs to use for your audition, along with recordings and sheet music.

“Dust and Ashes” from *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*

[Recording](#)

[Sheet Music](#)

“The Starry Night” from *Starry*

[Recording](#)

[Sheet Music](#)

“The Innkeeper's Song” from *Les Miserables*

[Recording](#)

[Sheet Music](#)

“I Don't Need A Roof” from *Big Fish*

[Recording](#)

[Sheet Music](#)

“Mama Who Bore Me” from *Spring Awakening*

[Recording](#)

[Sheet Music](#)

“I Don't Know How To Love Him” from *Jesus Christ Superstar*

[Recording](#)

[Sheet Music](#)

“I'm Alive” from *Next To Normal*

[Recording](#)  
[Sheet Music](#)

“Why God Why” from *Miss Saigon*

[Recording](#)  
[Sheet Music](#)

“Carrie” from *Carrie*

[Recording](#)  
[Sheet Music](#)

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### **Musical Numbers**

*Alice By Heart* is an ensemble-heavy show, with each actor taking on multiple characters to build both the world of the London Tube station and the world of Wonderland. Below is a breakdown of musical numbers in the show and which characters sing in which numbers.

**West of Words:** Alice, Alfred, Tabatha, Ensemble

**Down the Hole:** Alice, White Rabbit, Mad Hatter, Dormouse, Cheshire Cat, King of Hearts, Queen of Hearts, Duchess, Queen of Diamonds, Caterpillar, Ensemble

**Still:** White Rabbit, Alice

**Chillin’ the Regrets:** Caterpillar, Queen of Diamonds, Alice, Ensemble

**The Key Is:** Alice, White Rabbit, Caterpillar, Ensemble

**Those Long Eyes:** Cheshire Cat, Alice, White Rabbit

**Manage Your Flamingo:** Duchess, Knave of Spades, Queen of Diamonds, King of Hearts, Knave of Hearts, Queen of Hearts, Knave of Clubs, Alice, Ensemble

**Sick to Death of Alice-ness:** Mad Hatter, Dormouse, March Hare, Alice

**Brillig Braelig:** Jabberwock, Alice, Ensemble

**Some Things Fall Away:** Cheshire Cat

**Your Shell of Grief:** Mock Turtle, Mock Mock Turtle, Mock Mock Mock Turtle, Mock Mock Mock Mock Turtle, Alice, Ensemble

**Another Room In Your Head:** Alfred, Alice, Queen of Diamonds, Duchess, Cheshire Cat, Caterpillar, Ensemble

**Isn't It A Trial?:** Queen of Hearts, Caterpillar, Knaves, Ensemble

**Do You Think We Think You're Alice?:** King of Hearts, Queen of Hearts, Duchess, Queen of Diamonds, Mad Hatter, Caterpillar, Alice, Dormouse, Ensemble

**I've Shrunk Enough:** Alice, Cheshire Cat, Queen of Hearts, White Rabbit, King of Hearts, Duchess, Ensemble

**Still (Reprise):** Alice, Alfred, Young Alice, Young Alfred

**Afternoon:** Alice, Alfred, Ensemble

**Winter Blooms:** Alice, Tabatha, Ensemble

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Thank you for your interest in *Alice By Heart!* We can't wait to see you audition. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns!