

**Playstage**

**Junior**

[www.schoolplaysandpantos.com](http://www.schoolplaysandpantos.com)

# **DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE!**



***A RETELLING OF "ALICE IN WONDERLAND" WITH THE USUAL  
GENEROUS PLAYSTAGE HELPING OF COMEDY AND SONGS.***

**Written by  
Stewart  
Auty**

**CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:****Singers (dressed like jesters)****Alice****Sis (Alice's sister)****White Rabbit\*****Mouse \*****Caterpillar\*****The Duchess****Cook\*****Cheshire Cat\*****March Hare\*****Mad Hatter \*****Dormouse\*****Two of Hearts\*****Five of Hearts\*****Seven of Hearts\*****Various soldiers/courtiers (non-speaking but singing)****Queen of Hearts****King of Hearts****Knave of Hearts\*****Jurors 1, 2 and 3 \*****Executioner (non-speaking but singing)\*****RUNNING TIME APPROX. 50 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR.**

**20 speaking parts (some could be doubled), 6 only singing parts, any number of courtiers/soldiers can be used (non speaking but singing, 1 specific non-speaking part. \* denotes parts that could be doubled. So you could actually do this play with as few as 12 children or as many as 35!**

## MUSIC

***Lyrics for 8 suggested songs included. Inclusion of these songs is optional. Please feel free to amend the script if you decided to omit any or all of the songs. The full lyrics are given but, in practice, most schools prefer to cut these songs down to about half of their written length.***

***Backing tracks or instrumental versions of songs can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artist's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do.***

***If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks or MP3 versions. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney" this means there is no backing track we know of but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD.***

### **DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE SONGS**

**59th Bridge Street Song(Feeling Groovy)(Simon & Garfunkel**

**[www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)**

**Run, Rabbit, Run (Flanagan & Allen)(instrumental version only – MP3 track from HOME FRONT – Songs from WWII)**

**[www.classicsonline.com](http://www.classicsonline.com)**

**Ugly Bug Ball (Summer Magic)**

**[www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)**

**You'll Always Find Me in the Kitchen at Parties (Jona Lewie)  
(downloadable MP3 version)**

**[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)**

**Everything stops for Tea (instrumental version only – MP3 track from MORE TEA VICAR? – gentle teatime classics)**

**[www.classicsonline.com](http://www.classicsonline.com)**

**All Around My Hat (Steeleye Span)**

**[www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)**

**Stand By Me(Ben E.King)**

**[www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)**

**Daydream Believer(The Monkees)**

**[www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)**

**DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE**

*The stage is bare. The SINGERS start moving on some pieces of set/furniture whilst singing the opening song, to create a woodland grove (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES) The action throughout the play is continuous and different locations are suggested by the bring on and taking off of various items of furniture and props.*

**SONG – FEELING GROOVY (SINGERS)**

**Slow down, you move too fast.**

**You got to make the morning last.**

**Just kicking down the cobble stones.**

**Looking for fun and feelin' groovy.**

**Ba da, Ba da, Ba da, Ba da...Feelin' Groovy.**

**Hello lamp-post,**

**What cha knowin'?**

**I've come to watch your flowers growin'.**

**Ain't cha got no rhymes for me?**

**Doot-in' doo-doo,**

**Feelin' groovy.**

**I've got no deeds to do,**

**No promises to keep.**

**I'm dappled and drowsy and ready to sleep.**

**Let the morning time drop all its petals on me.**

**Life, I love you,**

**All is groovy.**

***(SINGERS exit, leaving ALICE and SISTER on stage, sitting by the tree)***

**SCENE 1****THE WHITE RABBIT****ALICE**

*(Sighs)* It's all very well you sitting there reading, but it's not very good for conversation, is it?

**SISTER**

Sorry? What did you say? I was reading.

**ALICE**

But that's the point! You sit and read, so really I've no one to talk to. And that book – it looks very dull, no pictures, no conversations in it.

**SISTER**

Well, I'm enjoying it. And I'm sorry if you feel that I should be entertaining you with sparkling conversation.

**ALICE**

I don't need you to sparkle. I just need you to talk to me. *(Big sigh)* I wonder if I should make a daisy chain. That would be something to do.

**SISTER**

What?

**ALICE**

Oh, don't you worry about me. You read your book, I'll be fine. It's such a warm day, it's making me feel tired. I might just lie back and have an afternoon nap.

***(ALICE lies back. Enter WHITE RABBIT , carrying a pair of long white gloves. SISTER continues to read.)***

**WHITE RABBIT *(Running on the spot)***

**I'm late, don'tcha know. Don't talk to me or you will make me even later still.**

**ALICE *(sits up)***

**Who are you?**

**WHITE RABBIT *(Runs on the spot)***

**I said not to talk to me.**

**ALICE**

**I wasn't thinking of talking to you. You're a rabbit, and rabbits normally can't talk.**

**WHITE RABBIT**

**I'm the White Rabbit, so I'm different. Anyway, you've started talking to me. I distinctly remember telling you not to.**

**ALICE**

**I only spoke to tell you that I wasn't going to speak. What am I saying?**

**WHITE RABBIT**

**You shouldn't be saying anything.**

**ALICE**

**But I....**

**WHITE RABBIT**

**Sorry, can't stop. Did I tell you I was going to be late? *(Takes watch out of waistcoat pocket)* Have you seen the time? I must be going!**

***(SINGERS come on for the song and they give the WHITE RABBIT various help around the stage – piggy backs, carrying him, pushing him, etc. while the song is going on.)***

**SONG – RUN, RABBIT, RUN (SINGERS)**

***Run rabbit - run rabbit -***

***Run! Run! Run!***

***Run rabbit - run rabbit -***

***Run! Run! Run!***

***Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!***

***Goes the farmer's gun.(clap)***

***Run, rabbit, run, rabbit, run.***

***Run rabbit - run rabbit -***

***Run! Run! Run!***

***Don't give the farmer his fun!***

***Fun! Fun!***

***He'll get by without his rabbit pie***

***So run rabbit - run rabbit -***

***Run! Run! Run!***

***(WHITE RABBIT runs off stage, dropping gloves. SINGERS also exit.)***

***ALICE (Picks up gloves and calls)***

**You've dropped your gloves! Wait for me! Can I come with you? It's so boring sitting here doing nothing. Wait, will you!**

***(ALICE runs off after WHITE RABBIT)***

***SISTER (Looks up from book)***

**Well, would you believe that? One minute she's there, the next minute she's gone. I'd better go after her. If she gets lost, I'll be in trouble. I promised Mama that I'd look after her.**

***(SISTER exits following ALICE. SINGERS come onstage, move the tree and bring on a table with a gold key, a bottle and a cake on it and a large toadstool. The CATERPILLAR comes on stage and curls itself up by the toadstool. The WHITE RABBIT enters, tripping and rolling, then standing)***

***WHITE RABBIT (looking offstage)***

**Oh, my ears and whiskers! Look at the time! I knew that silly girl would delay me, and now I think she's trying to follow me!**

***(The WHITE RABBIT exits and ALICE enters from the opposite side, wearing the white gloves)***

**ALICE**

**Where's he gone, that White Rabbit? *(to audience)* Did any of you see which way he went?**

***(SISTER enters)***



**SISTER**

**There you are. Don't bother to wait for me. Just run off as and when you please.**

**ALICE**

**I followed the rabbit. Did you hear him speak?**

**SISTER**

**A talking rabbit? Don't be so silly.**

**ALICE**

**But he did speak. He's a White Rabbit, not your common or garden bunny. He said he was going to be late, and when he ran off, I followed him here.**

**SISTER**

**And I followed you. So here we are, wherever here might be.**

**ALICE**

**This is a strange place. There doesn't seem to be a way out.**

**SISTER**

**Can we go back then, the way we came?**

**ALICE**

**That's if you can remember it. I can't, I was watching the rabbit.**

**SISTER**

**I know! It's like a game! We have to look for clues, things that might help us. I'll wait here and read my book. It's fascinating.**

*(SISTER sits by the tree again)*

**ALICE**

**That's it. Go back to your reading. Don't bother about me.**

**SISTER**

**You go and look around, Alice, and see what you notice.**

**ALICE**

**I can be very observant when it suits me. Now what have we here?**

**There's a tree.**

**SISTER**

**I had noticed the tree.**

*(ALICE walks behind it)*

**ALICE**

**There's a large rabbit hole behind it. You hadn't noticed that.**

**SISTER**

**A rabbit hole? That's interesting. That could be a way out. Rabbits go down rabbit holes, you know.**

**ALICE**

**You're stating the obvious. I do know about rabbits. Only this rabbit didn't look the sort to go down rabbit holes.**