

MACARONI THEATER: LOOKINGGLASS ALICE

Lookingglass Alice

Stage Theatre, Denver

Now playing through October 11, 2015

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Alice in Wonderland is an ageless tale about a girl who falls through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar creatures. Written in 1865 by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll, the story was created to entertain a young girl, Alice, and her sisters as they traveled down the River Thames.

Lookingglass Alice, a very engaging and modern update to the tale, was developed by playwright Dave Catlin, who has a precocious daughter of his own. Seemingly a cross of a children's classic and Cirque du Soleil, we are immersed in the story via riddles and characters performing acrobatics, aerial work, and magic. We are introduced to many of the characters we remember in the original story: the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts, the Cheshire Cat, the Caterpillar, the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, the Dormouse, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, and Humpty Dumpty. At the end of the show, my son was shocked and amazed that all of these characters were played by only five people.





Credit: Adams Visual Communications

The show is loud and bright — sudden flashes of light indicate that Alice has moved to another block on the chess board on her way to become the Queen. Things are tossed about: shoes, papers, chairs, characters, and gigantic balls (reminiscent of Blue Man Group, according to my 11-year-old). There were not many kids in the audience but the ones who were there were definitely treated to a wonderful show with slapstick comedy, improv (when one audience member was caught using a cell phone by the queen), and a wee bit of sophomoric bathroom humor (as in "Doody calls!"). We loved the show.

Lookingglass Alice runs 90 minutes with no intermission. It is quite perfect for the whole family. The age recommendation is 4 years and older, although 6 years might be a better starting age in order to sit through the show and be able to better understand some of the humor as well as the storyline.

Tickets start at \$35. Discounted tickets are available for students, seniors, and the military. Buy and print online at DenverCenter.org or charge by phone by calling (303) 893-4100. You can also purchase in person at the Denver Center Ticket Office, located in the Helen Bonfils Theatre Complex lobby.