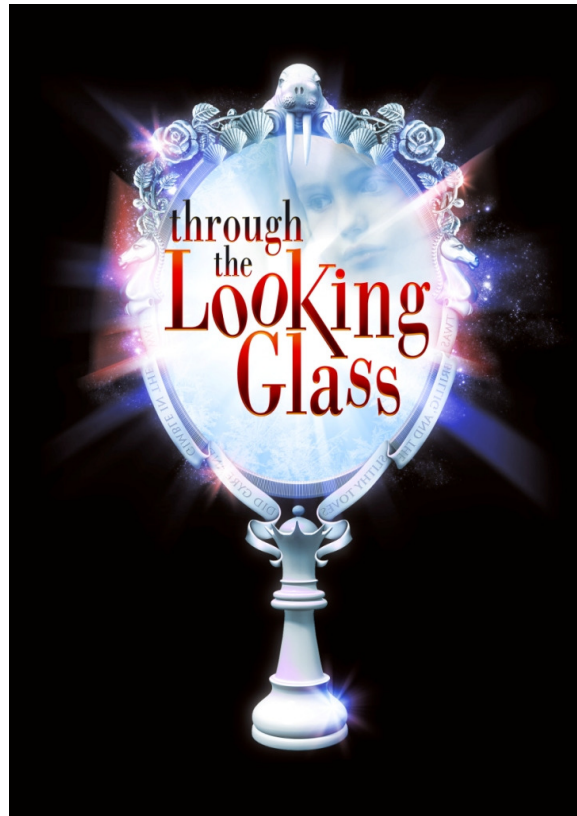


# THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS



Book & Lyrics by  
**Chris Blackwood**

Music by  
**Piers Chater Robinson**

Based on the novel by Lewis Carroll

## LICENSEES' INFORMATION BOOKLET

International Theatre & Music Ltd  
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# Through the Looking Glass

## The Characters

### **Alice** – Soprano (Bb3-G4)

11 years old - A typical child of this age. Curious, bewildered, she learns what it is to be an adult, growing with every encounter. Inquisitive. Likeable and sometimes precocious.

### **Lewis Carroll / The White Knight** – Tenor (A3-G5)

Mid 30s/40s - Lewis Carroll, a whimsical character, more at home with children than adults. Kindly, but with a slight sadness to him. Playful at times, sorrowful at others.

Ancient – The White Knight, creaking, slow, aged, sorrowful, pensive but fiercely loyal and chivalrous. He lives and dies by the Knight's code. Alice's constant companion.

### **Papa / The White King** – Baritone (Bb3-E4)

Mid 30s/40s - A well to do fatherly figure in both guises, but a fugitive through the looking glass, desperately trying to keep his head above water. He is a haunted man, on the run and desperate. He tries to keep himself together but is greatly in need of Alice's help.

### **Miss Prickett / The Red Queen** – Soprano (A3-A5)

Mid 30s/40s - Miss Prickett, Alice's governess, is a strict authoritarian, no soft edges just utilitarian traits. A child should be seen and not heard and she will do everything to make sure this is the way things are. The Red Queen is tall, willowy, angular, spiteful, spoilt, bloodthirsty with a child like way of needing to be constantly entertained by ever increasing torturous means.

### **Mr Dumble / Tweedle Dum** – Baritone (C3-E4)

Mid 40's/ Indeterminate as the Tweedles - Mr Dumble, like his partner Mr Deedle, is a talkative lawyer who is always ready to argue a case whether there be one or not. Spoilt brats both he and his brother as Tweedledee and Tweedledum, always ready for a fight, likes running rings round people, a twisted double act, maliciously teasing and childish. Screeching and spitting, he and his brother, should have been put on the naughty step many moons ago.

### **Mr Deedle / Tweedle Dee** – Tenor (C3-G4)

See above.

### **Mama / White Queen** – Alto

Mid 30s/40s - Motherly and caring.

As White Queen, a strong source of good advice though a little dishevelled by months spent in hiding. She is regal and benevolent.

### **Red King / Reverend Kingston** – Baritone (A3-F4)

Aged / Mid 50s as Red King - he is sickly, weak and dreamy, but when the Red Queen's spell is lifted, he is strong, imposing and regal, with a booming commanding voice.

As Reverend Kingston, he is aged and spends most of his time asleep in a corner.

**Major Reddington / Red Knight** – Baritone

Mid 30s/40s - An imposing old soldier as Major Reddington. No nonsense, strangely enamoured by Miss Prickett as they share a love of extreme discipline. Fiery haired and fiery tempered. As the Red Knight, he carries these traits with him as well as being extremely frightening as the Red Queen's second in command. He thinks nothing of endless executions.

**Elderly Goat** – Soprano or Baritone (E3-C4)

60s - Cantankerous, creaky with a bleating voice. A complaining passenger who is always ready to point out wrongs.

**Newspaper Man** – Baritone (F3-C4)

50s - A deceptively 'normal' man who is prone to flights of fancy, which makes him like a flitting bird.

**Train Guard** – Tenor / Baritone (E3-G4)

40s - Officious, busy, with a nervous tic that makes him sound like a train at times.

**Referee** – Soprano (A3-F4)

Mid 30s - A fairground barker. A showman.

**Villager in Frabjous Day** (dialogue)

Cornish village idiot. Slow.

**Lion** – Baritone (E3-A3)

Mid 60s - Elderly civil servant type. A Gilbert and Sullivan patterer

**Unicorn** – Baritone (D3-F4)

20s/30s - A Glaswegian roustabout. Very sure of himself, puffed out chest and upright.

**Mr Humphry / Humpty Dumpty** – Tenor (C3-Bb4 – Bb4 only for short time)

Mid Fifties - Mr Humphrey is a rotund ruddy faced individual, a little full of himself. Humpty is a slightly mad egotist who is unbelievably fond of his own voice. If you have done something, he has done it faster, longer, higher, larger etc. He is on the verge of hysteria at times.

**Ensemble of Chess Pieces, Villagers, Passengers**

## Through The looking Glass synopsis

### Act One

When Alice is waiting for her parents guests to arrive, she plays chess with herself to relieve the boredom. Her governess, Miss Prickett, arrives to scold her for being childish, closing the music box she has been listening to and taking her toy Humpty Dumpty from her, telling her that she needs to grow up and learn some respect. As the guests arrive, Alice is out of her depth in the adult conversation but is excited by the prospects of fireworks at the end of the evening. When the guests leave for dinner, she meets a strange guest, Mr Dodgeson (Lewis Carroll) who tries to show her that her imagination is the one thing that makes her special. While showing her the Looking Glass, (**Look Deep In The Mirror**) Alice notices something curious. As she stares into the mirror, she is pulled into the Looking Glass World.

The world is in turmoil. Alice hides from the advancing Red Knight and his guardsmen, who are searching for the White King and Queen. She meets the White King who tells her that the Red Queen refuses to relinquish the throne and, without the constant game being played by both sides, the Looking Glass World will die. He enlists her help; she must take the throne from the Red Queen (**The Other Alice**). Alice reluctantly agrees as she is told the only way home is through the Looking Glass in the Red Court. As the Red Knight returns, a White Pawn draws the attention from the White King and Alice. The White King escapes and Alice runs into the Forgotten Forest. The Red Queen enters with her bloodthirsty Momeraths and learns that Alice has returned. She tells the Red Knight that unless he captures Alice, his head will be forfeit. The White Pawn is set upon by the Momeraths.

Alice is lost in the Forgotten Forest, and, as she sits despondently, she comes across what appears to be a railway station. The passengers are all mad and, upon hearing that the effects of the Forgotten Forest have taken their toll on Alice, they hastily retreat (**Tickets Please!**) Alice has forgotten her name and, as she sits and cries, the ancient White Knight comes to her rescue. He plays a music box which is attached to his horse, Chequers, and Alice's memory starts to return (**What's In A Name**). The White Knight says he will protect her on her quest for the Red Court. The Red Knight appears but is addled by the forest and doesn't know what he should be doing. Alice and the White Knight leave him there to, hopefully, choose a better identity for himself.

In the Red Court, the vicious Red Queen has the Red King in her spell. By applying a sleeping draft, she rules the land by whispering what she needs into his ear and his dreams are hers. Anything he dreams becomes real. When she hears that Alice has not been found, she flies into a rage but is appeased by the fact that Alice will not be able to breach the Great Wall, guarded by the infuriating Humpty Dumpty.

Alice and the White Knight are confronted by the self important Humpty Dumpty who tells them that there is no way through to the Red Court (**I Look Down**). When Alice realises all Humpty's worth is just a front, the wall begins to crumble as does his facade. Alice and the

White Knight have breached the wall but Alice starts to feel that she is too young to take on such a task and questions herself. The White Knight tells her that it is only natural (**Small**). Upon seeing the light and order starting to return to Looking Glass World, they take heart.

When the Red Queen is told of Alice breaking through the Great Wall, she decides to let loose a great nightmarish beast upon the land in search of them. By raising the nightmares of the Red King, he dreams the atrocity and it rises up to do it's Mistress's bidding (**The Claws That Catch**).

## Act Two

Alice and the White Knight come upon the Annual Boxing match of the Lion and the Unicorn and, as the festivities continue (**Oh Frabjous Day!**), they are set upon by the Jabberwock. In the frenzy, Alice and the White Knight escape into the forest where they meet the feuding brothers, Tweedledum and Tweedle Dee (**Two Sides To Every Argument**). When the brothers start to battle over the broken toy rattle, the Jabberwock attacks once more. The White Knight slays the beast while protecting Alice but gives his life in the process (**Yonder**). While Alice is weeping over the death of the White Knight, The White Queen appears and provides solace. Just as Alice is to find out why the White king had told her to seek out the White Queen, the Red Queen arrives, furious at the death of her beast. The White Queen tells the Red Queen that Alice will contest the crown but Alice is silent until the Red Queen insults the body of the White Knight. Alice speaks out in anger. She challenges the throne.

In the Red Court, Alice is given an examination to become Queen which is so nonsensical that she fails and her failure means that she will be beheaded at dawn (**You Must Know Something**)

Placed in a dungeon to await her execution, Alice meets the White King who has been captured and is told that they have only one more chance. Alice understands that all the lessons she has learnt on her journey has matured her. She sees things differently now. The childhood Alice leaves her and she is a new and adult Alice (**Growing Up**). Alice is told by the White Queen that the key to the downfall of the Red Queen is the Red King. She is taken to execution.

The Red Queen is given the spoils of the Jabberwock battle, Chequers, the White Knight's horse. She spurns it as a pile of scrap as Alice and the White King and Queen are brought to execution. Just as the executioner is ready to behead Alice, she escapes and tries to wake the Red King. She cannot rouse him but as she is surrounded, she backs into Chequers and the music box falls from its back and starts to play. The Red Queen falls to her knees screaming as the Red King wakes furiously halting all proceedings. He gives the music box to Alice and takes the crown from the Red Queen. He tells Alice she is to be Queen and forces the Red Queen to drink a toast to the new monarch with her own sleeping draft. She is banished to the nightmares he once endured. Alice admits that she doesn't want to be queen and the game

should start anew. Looking Glass World is saved and all the pieces are reinstated, including the White Knight. She says her farewells and steps back through the Looking Glass (**Oh Frabjous Day!/ The Other Alice (Reprise)**).

Mr Dodgeson (Lewis Carroll) wakes Alice who tells him of her wonderful and frightening dream. They watch the fireworks through the window and Mr Dodgeson understands that Alice is different (**Small (Reprise)**). She has grown up. He bids her farewell as she runs off to tell her mother of her dream. Mr Dodgeson laments Alice's loss of childhood and stares in the mirror into the mournful face of the White Knight. The mirror illuminates and Mr Dodgeson is gone. The White Knight slowly fades from view.

# THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

## ORCHESTRATIONS / BAND PARTS

Through the Looking Glass may be accompanied by a solo keyboard or with a variety of orchestrations.

See below for details of our popular Backing Track CD.

### **5/6-piece Band Parts**

MD/Keyboard 1; Keyboard 2; Guitar; Bass; Drums (+optional percussion)

### **8/9-piece Band Parts**

MD/Keyboard 1; Keyboard 2; Guitar; Bass; Drums; Reeds; Trumpet; Trombone (+ optional percussion)

### **14-piece Band Parts**

Same as the 8-piece PLUS keyboard 3; tuned percussion; 1<sup>st</sup> violin(s); 2<sup>nd</sup> violin(s); viola(s); cello(s).

Optional Conductor's Score available to hire from [info@itmshows.com](mailto:info@itmshows.com) (at Concert Pitch or Transposed Pitch).

**NB. We supply these band parts as PDFs that you download and print out.**

## BACKING TRACK CD - without vocals

You may prefer to use our popular, top-quality Backing Track which features 38 tracks (including underscores and walk-offs) that are indexed against the music cues in the script and the vocal score.

Many licensees like to use the backing track in rehearsal even if they intend to back their performances with a live band whilst others use a combination of the two.

We can supply the backing tracks as MP3 audio files, uploaded via the internet, or we can send you a CD in the post – the choice is yours.

## CAST RECORDING CD - with vocals

All 16 songs and choruses. Recorded in 2011 on ITM Records

Available to purchase - please email [info@itmshows.com](mailto:info@itmshows.com) for more details.

All of the tracks can be heard on the Looking Glass SONGS page, on this website, and they are also available on YouTube - search for "*ITM Shows Through the Looking Glass*".

There's no need to spend time and money commissioning a special design for your posters, leaflets and programmes - use our official ITM Shows graphic / logo (see below).

We will provide ordering and pricing information when you submit your NO COMMITMENT [Licence Enquiry](#).

