

SCENE NINE | THE MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

MUSIC CUE: TIME FOR TEA THE MAD HATTER RUNS ONTO STAGE. THE MARCH HARE IS FRANTICALLY SETTING THE TABLE. THE DORMOUSE ENTERS DROWSILY. THEY COME TO A STOP AS ALICE ENTERS.

ALICE: Excuse me?

HATTER: [*Like a whistling kettle:*] Yessssssssssssssss?

ALICE: Can I sit down?

HATTER & HARE: NO!

ALICE: Why not?

HATTER: No room!

HARE: No room!

DORMOUSE: [*Waking abruptly:*] No room!

ALICE: There's plenty of room! The table is set for eight.

HARE: [*Checking his watch:*] But it's only six!

ALICE: You're mad!

HATTER: I'm mad too!

HARE: What a coincidence!

HATTER: I don't believe in coincidences...

HARE: Neither do I!

ALICE SITS DOWN.

HATTER: Would you like some wine?

ALICE: I don't see any wine...

HARE: There isn't any!

ALICE: Then it wasn't very civil of you to offer it!

HARE: It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being invited!

HATTER: Do you know what time it is?

ALICE: You said it was six.

HARE: WRONG! It's tea time!

ALICE: I love tea! I'm just in time!

HATTER: Nice to meet you *Justin Time*! I love tea too!

ALICE: My name isn't 'Justin Time'! It's Alice.

HATTER: It's wonderful to meet me, isn't it Andrew?

ALICE: Alice!

HARE: Welcome to Wit's End where it's always time for tea!

HATTER: My watch is broken you see...I tried this but it doesn't work either.

HE HOLDS UP HIS ARM TO REVEAL AN APPLE ATTACHED TO HIS WRIST.

ALICE: What is that?

HATTER: It's my apple watch!

ALICE: Can't you fix your pocket watch?

HATTER: There is a vital piece missing.

HARE: He has a screw loose...

ALICE: You can say that again!

DORMOUSE: The Queen has it.

ALICE: The Queen has your screw?

HATTER: How did you know that?

ALICE: Your friend told me!

HATTER & HARE: Dormouse! Wakey-wakey!

HATTER: You're not really asleep. I can see right through you!

DORMOUSE: You can't see though me. I'm a Dormouse not a *Windowmouse*...

HATTER: Touché. CHANGE PLACES!

EVERYONE FRANTICALLY CHANGES PLACES: **MUSIC CUE: CHANGE PLACES**

HATTER: What's wrong Albert?

ALICE: Alice!

HARE: You've barely touched your tea.

ALICE: This cup is empty...

HARE: You must have been thirsty!

HATTER: I've been learning to draw.

ALICE: Draw what?

HATTER: My own conclusions! You should try it sometime! I've been learning to draw things that begin with the letter 'M' like mouse traps, the moon, memory, moustaches and muchness.

ALICE: Oh! I've lost my muchness...

DORMOUSE: Impractical!

HARE: Improbable!

HATTER: IMPOSSIBLE! You cannot *lose* your muchness; that is what makes you, you Alvin...

ALICE: Alice!

HARE: You can only lose sight of it.

ALICE: I need an invitation to the Queen's Un-Birthday Party but I can't imagine one. Can you help me?

HATTER: No imagination? This is serious! I've got it! Why is a raven like a writing desk?

ALICE: I love a good riddle! I don't know! Why *is* a raven like a writing desk?

HATTER: Would you like to know the answer?

ALICE: Yes!

HATTER: [*To audience:*] Would *you* like to know the answer? So would I! [*To Alice:*] Would you like a vol-au-vent?

ALICE: I would love one. I'm so hungry but I can't see any...

HATTER: You have to *imagine* them!

ALICE: We're wasting time!

HATTER: If you knew time as well as I do you wouldn't talk about wasting him. Time is a 'he' and he'd want you to try one too!

HARE: Try it!

ALICE: Ok. I'll try...this one?!

SHE MIMES PICKING UP A VOL-AU-VENT. THE HATTER STOPS HER ABRUPTLY.

HATTER: No, no, no! That's a coaster!

ALICE: Then perhaps, this one?

SHE PUTS IT DOWN AND TRIES ANOTHER. SHE 'EATS'.

ALICE: Mmm! It tastes...delicious!

HATTER: Callooh! Callay!

HARE: You did it!

HATTER: You know what goes best with Vol-au-vent?

ALICE: No?

ALL: TEA!

ALICE: But there's nothing in this pot...

HATTER: That's the worst tea there is...EMP-tea!

THE WHITE RABBIT HOPS ON.

RABBIT: I'm late! I'm late! Alice! Is that you? You look much, muchier!

ALICE: I feel it!

RABBIT: Look what I have!

THE CHESHIRE CAT ENTERS WITH A TRAY OF JAM TARTS!

HARE: I love tarts!

CHESHIRE: Ah, ah, ah! They're not for you! They're for the Queen's Un-Birthday Party.

RABBIT: Have you got your invitation yet?

ALICE: No, not yet. I was hoping you could help me imagine one Mr. Hatter.

HATTER: I can't do that! I'm mad!

ALICE: Did you make your own hat?

HATTER: Yes. It was the first hat I ever made.

ALICE: Well by the looks of it you must have a wonderful imagination. Will you teach me how to get mine back?

RABBIT: Will you help her Hatter?

HATTER: Wait a minute! Will I help her? I need to think about this! I've thought about it. I won't do it!

CHESHIRE: Hatter!

ALICE: Please!

HATTER: [*Turning his back:*] Good day!

ALICE: But...

HARE: He said 'good day!'

RABBIT: I suppose that's it then. We'd better get you home.

ALICE, THE WHITE RABBIT AND THE CHESHIRE CAT TURN TO LEAVE.

HATTER: Alice!

ALICE: Wait! You just called me Alic...

HATTER: [*Interrupting:*] If I did help you, what would your invitation look like?

ALICE: Well, it would be red. My favourite colour.

MUSIC CUE: SUSPENSEFUL VIOLINS

HATTER: Yes!

ALICE: And heart shaped, of course!

HATTER: What else?

ALICE: It would be covered in glitter! I love glitter!

HATTER: What would it say?

ALICE: It would say, "Alice, you are cordially invited to my Un-Birthday party signed, the Queen of Hearts"!

HATTER: Alice...what is that in your pocket?

ALICE REACHES INTO HER APRON POCKET AND PULLS OUT HER INVITATION!

ALICE: My invitation!

RABBIT: Alice! You did it!

HATTER: This calls for a celebration. I'm going to make you the finest hat in Wonderland to wear for the party!

ALICE: Thank you but, I don't really like hats...

EVERYONE GASPS. THE MAD HATTER IS VISIBLY VERY SHAKEN.

HARE: You don't...like...hats?!

SONG CUE: HATTER PATTERN! | 'THE MUSEUM SONG' – BARNUM

WONDERLAND CHARACTERS ENTER WEARING THE VARIOUS HATS MENTIONED.

HATTER: Perhaps it's simply the case you haven't found a hat that likes you!
*WHEN YOU'RE A HATTER YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW THE PATTERN
AT A GLANCE YOU KNOW A HEAD'S CIRCUMFERENCE
YOU'RE UNWILLING? SOON YOU WILL BE BRIMMING!
LET US HAVE A FITTING AND I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE.
FIRST, WE'LL TRY A BONNET WITH A PRETTY RIBBON ON IT
ALTHOUGH MAYBE FOR HER MAJESTY A GOLDEN CROWN!
YOU'LL LOOK RATHER PROPER WHEN YOU'RE SEEN OUT IN A
TOPPER
OR A BOWLER HAT FOR BANKERS DOWN IN LONDON TOWN!
FOR HIGHLAND BANTER TRY A TAM O' SHANTER
OR A FEZ I HAVE A WHOLE ABUNDANCE
I KNOW YOU WILL BE HAPPY WITH A TRILBY
AND I KNOW THERE'LL STILL BE HATS YOU'VE NEVER TRIED...
I DO THINK YOU OUGHTA' TRY AN ACADEMIC MORTAR
OR A TURBAN'S VERY URBAN ON THE EASTERN SHORE
YOU WOULD LOOK MUCH WISER WITH A POKER PLAYER'S VISOR
OR RISQUÉ WITH A BERET WAIT! THERE'S MORE!
GET A FLAT CAP AND TIP IT WHEN YOU WALK YOUR WHIPPET
TAKE YOUR TIME IT'S REALLY NO ENCUMBRANCE
IT DOESN'T MATTER, LISTEN TO ME SMATTER
DO THE HATTER PATTERN AND THEN
DO THE HATTER PATTERN AND THEN
DO THE HATTER PATTERN AND YOU'LL SOON DECIDE! Hat's that!*

RABBIT: Do you know what time it is Alice?

ALICE: Well, it can't be teatime or lunchtime or bedtime... What time is it?

HATTER: It's party time!

BLACKOUT: **MUSIC CUE: PLAY OUT**

END OF ACT ONE