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Alice in One-Hit Wonderland 2: Through The Looking Glass PICK

July 30, 2008

By Wenzel Jones

For those who missed the first installment, Troubadour Theater Company thoughtfully provides [Alice](#) 1 (Lorin Shapiro) in the traditional blue pinafore but sporting less-traditional English orthodontia — running through the highlights with the assistance of such lowlights as "It's Magic" and "My Sharona." We are brought up to speed when the child awakens from her slumbers as Alice 2 (Beth Kennedy), the domestic from The Brady Bunch. [Kennedy](#) is perfectly attuned to the absurdities inherent in sending the prosaic maid through the looking glass with the accompaniment of an excellent band (Eric Heinly, Andre Holmes, Robert Martin, and Tori Ruffin) as they resurrect the pop music detritus of decades past.

There's an exuberance to [Matt Walker](#)'s direction, the piece clocking in at a zippy 80-some minutes. Adherence to the source material is casual, as one would expect, but the Red Queen (Lisa Valenzuela, a powerhouse) and the White Queen (Erin Matthews, delightful) appear, as do Tweedledum and Tweedledee (Matthew Morgan and Dan Waskom, who live up to the comic promise of their huge, stained, prosthetic teeth) and the White Knight (Walker), the latter a bit of costuming whimsy by Sharon McGunigle that incorporates a huge inner tube into the vision. Locale demands the appearance, or at least the mention, of Wonder Bread, the Wonderbra, and Wonder Woman (Audrey Siegel, who handles this and a half-dozen other roles with aplomb). Group sensibilities demand the presence of the throwaway joke Alice Anonymous, featuring Alice Kramden, Alice Cooper, Alice in Chains, Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore, and Go Ask Alice.

One high-energy spot, a bit of group madcappery that has nothing to do with plot furtherance, is an impressive bit of double-dutch jump-roping. The tale would not be complete, of course, without the Jabberwocky, brought to life here by puppet master Matt Scott's remarkable creation. For high energy, low comedy, disposable pop culture, and the kind of lively choreography (Nadine Ellis, Ameenah Kaplan, and Christine Lakin) that makes it all work well together, this Alice is second to none.

Presented by and at the Falcon Theatre, 4252 Riverside Dr., Burbank. Variable schedule. Jul. 25-Oct. 12. (818) 955-8101. www.falcontheatre.com.

Links referenced within this article

Alice

<http://www.backstage.com/bsa/about/Go+Ask+Alice>

Kennedy

<http://www.backstage.com/bsa/about/Beth+Kennedy>

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