

Victorian Opera presents

# ALICE THROUGH THE OPERA GLASS

RELAXED PERFORMANCE  
VISUAL STORY



CREATIVE VICTORIA



The Marian and  
E.H. Flack Foundation

William Angliss (Victoria)  
Charitable Fund



## **ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMS**

**Throughout the year Arts Centre Melbourne presents a captivating program of inclusive performances—accessible for everyone—by some of the best Australian and international companies.**

Arts Centre Melbourne presents programs and performances that are accessible, including Relaxed Performances and events that are Auslan Interpreted, Audio Described, Tactile Tours, Highly Visual and Wheelchair accessible. An Assistive Hearing system is available in our venues and Companion Card holders are eligible for a complimentary companion ticket.

Check our website for details on upcoming [Relaxed Performances](#) and [access services](#).

## UPCOMING ACCESSIBLE EVENTS



Melbourne Symphony Orchestra presents

### [Carnival of Dangerous Creatures](#)

An Education Week concert

15 June

Relaxed Performance - 15 June 3.30pm



Arts Centre Melbourne and National Theatre of Parramatta present

### [The Red Tree](#)

Based on the book by Shaun Tan

3 - 4 August 2019

Relaxed performance - Saturday 3 August 2pm

Aslan interpreted show - Sunday 4 August 11am

[Aslan interpreted performance for Schools](#) -

Thursday 1 August 1pm



Arts Centre Melbourne and Australian Music Vault present

### [Laser Beak Man](#)

By David Morton, Nicholas Paine and Tim Sharp  
with music by Sam Cromack (Ball Park Music)

19 - 21 September

Aslan interpreted performance -

Friday 20 September 7PM

Relaxed Performance - Saturday 21 September 1PM

[Relaxed Performance for Schools](#) (Years 5 to 12) -

Thursday 19 September 11AM

Captioned & Audio Described Performance -

Saturday 21 September 7PM

Tactile Tour - Saturday 21 September 5:30 PM



Arts Centre Melbourne presents a CDP Kids & Salspot Production

### [Spot](#)

Based on the books by Eric Hill

13 - 17 November

Aslan interpreted performance -

Friday 15 November 10AM

Relaxed Performance - Saturday 16 November 12PM

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## **INTRODUCTION**

**This relaxed performance has been made possible through the generous support of the Marian and E.H. Flack Trust and the Mazda Foundation.**

### **Relaxed Performance**

Arts Centre Melbourne is committed to providing performances that allow everyone to experience the wonder of theatre. This Relaxed Performance is especially designed to welcome visitors with disability or sensory sensitivities, their friends and families to the theatre.

The atmosphere is 'relaxed', with some house lights remaining on during the performance. A quiet space will be available in the foyer if a break is needed. Enthusiasm is embraced and it's okay to move during the performance!

### **Contact**

This visual resource has been prepared by Arts Centre Melbourne and Victorian Opera. If you would like any additional information in the lead up to your visit, please contact Arts Centre Melbourne on 1300 182 183 during business hours.

## **THE PRODUCTION**

### **Venue**

This production of *Alice Through the Opera Glass* will be performed at the Playhouse Theatre, which is inside Arts Centre Melbourne. The theatres building has a large spire on the roof.

### **Length**

The opera is 55 minutes with no interval.

### **Age Recommendation**

Victorian Opera recommends attendees be aged 5+. Families are encouraged to review warnings and talk to staff in order to assess appropriateness of content.

## **WARNINGS & GUIDELINES**

### **Content Warnings**

- There are a few flashes of light in the scenes when the White Rabbit is put under a curse and again when the curse is reversed. While it might sound like he gets hurt, he's really okay and if he appears dazed, that's just him pretending.
- The stage will go a little dark when Alice and the White Rabbit approach the Queen of the Night's Dark and Scary Castle and there will be some flashing lights and sounds to create lightning and thunderstorm effects. If you feel a little scared, you can just cover your ears and close your eyes.
- It might seem like some of the singers get hurt at times but they have practiced these scenes many times and know how to do the actions properly so they don't get hurt.

### **Theatre Guidelines**

- Photography and mobile devices are not permitted during the performance, however if you need to use a device (i.e. iPad) to assist with communication, please inform the ushers. It's always fine to use a device in the foyer or quiet areas.
- During the Relaxed Performance, a relaxed attitude is taken to movement, noise and eating/drinking in the auditorium (this is okay).
- If you need to take a break during the show, you are welcome to come out into the foyer area. A quiet space will be available, with low lighting and sensory items.



## **THE THEATRE**

*Alice Through the Opera Glass* is being performed at Arts Centre Melbourne. The theatres building has a large spire on top.





## **THE BUILDING**

When you enter the building, there may be many other people in the foyer area. There will be staff members wearing black uniforms. They are called ushers. The ushers can help you with directions or answer any questions you may have about the performance.



## **BEFORE THE OPERA**

Before you go to the theatre, you will need a ticket. You may already have your ticket(s), or you may need to collect them from the Box Office.

There are many theatres inside Arts Centre Melbourne. Follow the directions, or ask staff, to find the Playhouse Theatre.



## **PLAYHOUSE THEATRE**

Before going inside the theatre, you may like to get something to eat or drink, or use the toilet.



## **SEATING**

You can go into the theatre and find your seat early, if you like. The doors will be open about 30 minutes before the show starts.

Before you go into the theatre, you will need to show your ticket to the usher. Your ticket will tell you the row (letter) and seat (number) you will be sitting in for the whole play.





## **DURING THE OPERA**

The opera will go for approximately 55 minutes and has no interval.

If you need to take a break during the show you are welcome to leave the theatre and come out into the foyer area. A 'Quiet Area' with some comfortable beanbags and nice lighting will be available for you to relax in if you'd like to. You can return to the theatre whenever you feel ready.



## **FINAL EXPERIENCE**

At the end of the performance the audience will clap to say thank you to the performers.

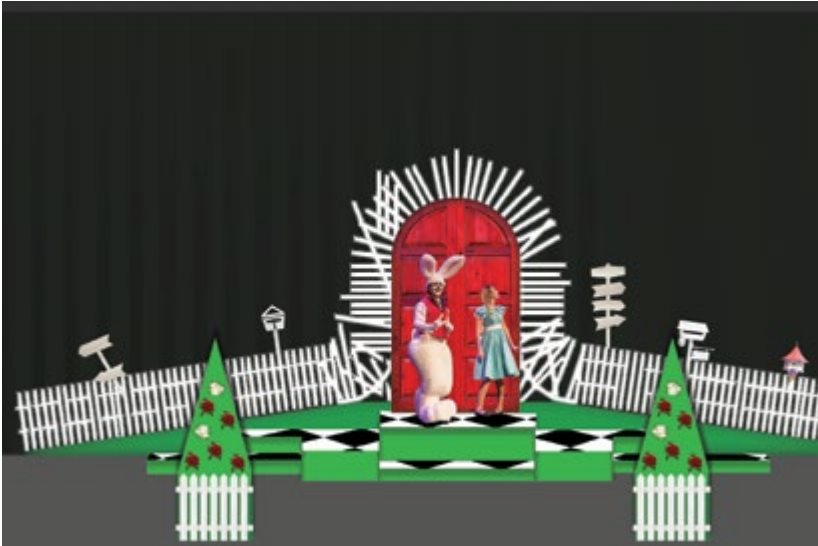


## THE STORY

Alice and the White Rabbit are sitting by a riverbank and come across a flute lying on the grass. There's a note attached to it that says:

*If found, please return to:  
The Queen of the Night  
The Dark and Scary Castle on the Hill  
Operaland.*

White Rabbit has a go at playing it and as soon as he does, there's a flash of light and he gets zapped! Don't worry, he's ok. But you might notice that he acts more like the Mad Hatter than himself. Thankfully, they can change him back if they find the Queen of the Night in the next hour.



Alice and White Rabbit set off on their journey to find the Queen of the Night but first need to figure out how to get into Operaland. They come across Alfredo and he helps them get to Operaland. As Alfredo continues to sing, you'll notice the set will change in the background.





Alice and the White Rabbit meet a number of different people from different parts of Operaland. They meet Mallika in her beautiful flower garden.

They put on goggles, jump into the stream and swim out to the sea to visit Elettra. They want to know if she can help them in the next part of their journey. You'll notice that the stage will go blue so it looks like they are underwater but there's no actual water, so you won't need to worry about getting wet.



After visiting the Enchanted Island and meeting the Islanders, Alice is confused by the hidden beauty of the island and starts to get worried that they won't make it in time to get the curse reversed. She seems unhappy but the White Rabbit does his best to make her feel better by singing a song and dancing. If you feel like it, you can dance along as well!

They come across Alfredo and his friend Papageno, who reassure Alice that they're not too far away and that the Dark and Scary Castle is just across the water.



As they get closer to the Dark and Scary Castle, you'll notice that the stage will get darker, some lights will flash to create a lightning effect and you'll hear something that might sound like thunderstorms. The Queen of the Night enters with Papageno and throws him to the floor. This is all pretend and Papageno is not really hurt.

Alice approaches the Queen of the Night and asks her to reverse the curse even though they're a few minutes late. The Queen agrees to do so on the condition that everyone sings her favourite song about a bullfighter from Spain.

When they finish, she casts her spell and there's another flash of light sending Alice and White Rabbit back to the river bank where they began, fast asleep. They both wake up and Alice is relieved to find that White Rabbit is back to his normal self again!

