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Young Performers will be Acting Up with Alice in Wonderland

Contributed by Laura Peebles
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Disney's "Alice in Wonderland Jr.," the beloved tale that follows Alice down the rabbit hole into one exciting adventure after another, will be presented by Acting Up the young performers theatre group May 2-4 at the Mason High School Theater.

This fast-paced stage adaptation includes updated dialog and new arrangements of classic Disney favorites such as "I'm Late," "The Unbirthday Song" and "Zip A Dee Do Dah."

For an additional twist, Acting Up will combine vintage Disney magic with new technology to make this Wonderland visit uniquely enchanting. To help accomplish the amazing atmosphere, Acting Up has recruited two local magician organizations — the Society of American Magicians Assembly 11 and the International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 71 — to provide professional magical illusions. A freelance commercial film editor has also volunteered to provide special video effects, practically catapulting the audience into Wonderland itself.

Acting Up has cast 80 talented local performers between the ages of 5 and 17 for this magical "Alice in Wonderland" production. In addition, approximately 15 other youngsters will assist in backstage and coaching positions.

One of Acting Up's goals is to teach the production process to the actors. Acting coaches are used to instruct the students about stagecraft through theater games and character portrayals. Some of the older teens who have starred in past shows also return to help tutor the young students. The children are given as much stage time as is practical and participate in various song and dance numbers as different characters.

Performances of "Disney's Alice in Wonderland, Jr." will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, May 2; 2 p.m., (sign language interpreter will be provided) and 7 p.m., Saturday, May 3; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4. Tickets are \$10 each (\$8 seniors and groups) and are available online at www.ActingUp.com or at the box office. For more information call 513-588-0988.

Whether you're celebrating a birthday... or an unbirthday, everyone should go and experience this multi-award winning group with their performance of "Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr." But please, for the sanity of the White Rabbit, just don't be late!

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Emily Kissela is Alice and Aubrie-Lee Dentino is young Alice in Acting Up's "Disney's Alice in Wonderland" May 2-4 at the Mason High School Theater www.ActingUp.com

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