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Community Theatre Giving Back to the Community

Contributed by **Laura Peebles**
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For some of Mason's most special residents, "Wonderland" was closer than they thought. Alice, the White Rabbit, and Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum were among the several characters from "Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr." that made an appearance at the Brookside facility thanks to Acting Up, the young performers community theatre founded here in Mason. Brookside, an extended care facility treating both children and adults, is passionate in the care of their patients, not only by providing excellent treatment, but also by providing an environment of creativity, hard work and fun.



Alice in Wonderland (Emily Kissela) visits with residents of Brookside Extended Care Facility in Mason including Susan Heck and Marian West

Acting Up also believes in excellence and, of course, fun. But it also believes in giving to those who struggle daily with disabilities that most cannot understand. Along with acting, singing and dancing, Mason's youth learn another trait while performing with Acting Up: giving back to their community. Acting Up performs a community service show for each of their productions. In the past, Acting Up has performed at the Ronald McDonald House and nursing homes in the Mason area. Their performance for the mentally and physically challenged Brookside residents is their latest achievement in promoting a sense of community and service.

In addition to performing for those who may need some "cheering up", Acting Up serves its community in many other ways. The group provides a sign-language interpreted performance for each production. Furthermore, for its production of "Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.," Acting Up will give children from One Way Farm Children's Home, as well as many other needy Mason-area families, the opportunity to follow Alice down the mysterious rabbit hole for free.

Not to fear, you too will have the opportunity to experience Alice's exciting adventures this weekend. 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 will present "Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.,":
Friday May 2, 7:00 pm
Saturday May 3, 2:00 pm (sign language interpreter provided)
Saturday May 3, 7:00 pm
Sunday May 4, 2:00 pm

All performances will be at the Mason High School Theater, 6100 Mason Montgomery Road. Tickets are \$10 each (\$8 for seniors and groups of 20 or more). Tickets are available online at www.ActingUp.com or at the box office one hour before showtime. 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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