

TOURING PACK: EN/MT

TEATRU



MALTA



Alice
— IN —
**WONDERLESS
LAND** *by* FRANCA RAME
& DARIO FO



COMPAGNIA TEATRALE
FO RAME
CTFR SRL

A DIY THEATRE PERFORMANCE



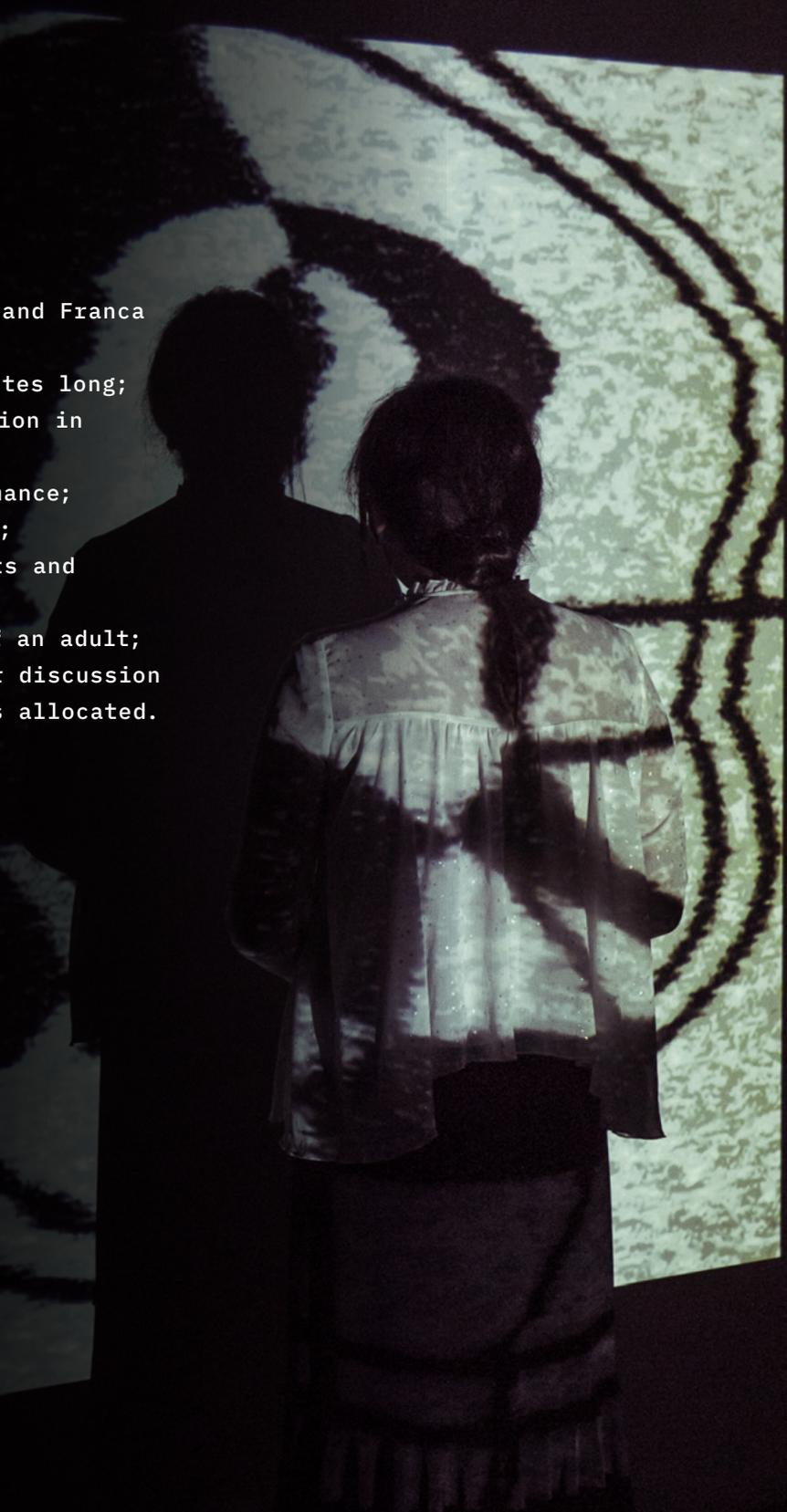
FONDAZIONE
FO RAME

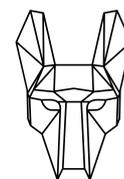


A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE

This play:

- was written by Dario Fo and Franca Rame;
- is approximately 45 minutes long;
- deals with women's position in contemporary society;
- is a DIY Theatre performance;
- can have 3 to 27 players;
- is recommended for adults and teenagers;
- requires the presence of an adult;
- works best when time for discussion after the performance is allocated.





WHAT IS ALICE IN WONDERLESS LAND?

This project is based on a text by Franca Rame and Dario Fo, loosely inspired by the story of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Franca Rame and Dario Fo used theatre for political and social activism and this performance is no different. The team of Teatru Malta have taken the original text and adapted it as a D.I.Y. performance for you to experience.

It is designed to convey the message that society works on patriarchal principles and in many ways treats women as objects. It explores the ways in which society and capitalism use women for pleasure and profit. It touches on the juxtaposition of capitalism and the women's liberation movement, with the irony of capitalism profiting from the idea of a 'free woman', for example through pornography.

The pack is essentially a doll's box, on which you will notice that we called this a DIY theatre performance. Specifically, this is a ready-to-assemble theatre piece. But not just. We wanted the audience to become the theatre-maker in collaboration with us. The DIY experience will hopefully lead each participant to experience what the artists intended because we give you the tools and instructions to do so. We

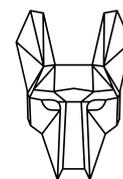
created these instructions inspired by ready to assemble furniture pieces and shadow puppetry instructions. In simple terms, you are not making your own show, we are making a show together.

WHAT MAKES THIS A DIY THEATRE PERFORMANCE?

"Whilst this performance was born of necessity, it is not simply a product you can just put together yourself, it is what you can call a participatory product (Pieters & Jansen). We felt the term DIY applies more to this piece because we need you to be a participant. Therefore, more specifically, this is a ready-to-assemble theatre piece. But not just. We wanted the audience to become the theatre-maker in collaboration with

↓ **Alice in Wonderless Land (2020)**
↓ Photos by Elisa von Brockdorff





us. The DIY experience will hopefully lead each participant to experience what the artists intended because we give you the tools and instructions to do so. We created these instructions inspired by ready to assemble furniture pieces and shadow puppetry instructions. In simple terms, you are not making your own show, we are making a show together. Ironically, this performance is telling you to not do it yourself, but to do it with us and up to another 26 people.”



(4) · Alice in Wonderless Land: Touring Pack

WHAT THEMES ARE TACKLED THROUGHOUT THE PERFORMANCE?

The project addresses the position women in society dealing with issues such as domestic violence, patriarchal authority, pornography and the role consumerism plays in these. The original text was written in 1976, yet most themes remain very relevant in the world today. The objective is to support teenagers to understand that they can take responsibility for changing attitudes and social behaviour.

Due to the sensitive nature of the themes that may resonate personally with a number of youths and their own experiences, we strongly advise that a psycho-social team is involved in processing the performance when adolescents are participating. In no way should the youths be left to watch the performance alone without an introduction. Having said that, although this performance is also relevant to adults, we highly recommend this experience for youths and teenagers.

WHO IS THIS PERFORMANCE SUITABLE FOR?

This performance is suitable for schools, universities, art/theatre

groups, youth organizations & support groups and adults interested in themes of feminism and sexism.

SUGGESTED WAYS TO INTRODUCE THE THEMES TO YOUR AUDIENCE PRIOR TO WATCHING

It is advised that you spend at least one lesson with the youths in preparation for the performance (refer to the resource pack). When you come to experience the performance which is about 45 minutes, you need to allocate some 10 minutes of preparation time with them before it starts, and at least 15 minutes of processing immediately after.

It is important that the youths have time to comment after the performance as it can have a strong impact on them and they will need support to shift out of the experience before being able to continue with their day. We would recommend organizing a post-performance session of around 30 to 45 minutes depending on the needs of the involved participants.

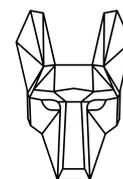


RESOURCE PACKS

For a more in depth analysis of Alice in Wonderless Land kindly refer to the below resource packs written by the project's dramatherapy consultant Lou Ghirlando.

- [Youths Resource Packs](#);
- [Leaders and Teachers Resource Packs](#).





NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Despite Dario Fo's Nobel prize for emulating "the jesters of the Middle Ages in scourging authority and upholding the dignity of the downtrodden", I believe that Franca Rame and Dario Fo's writing is still marginal to the commonly-accepted canon of European literature. On the other hand, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is undoubtedly one of the most famous stories ever told in our history. It has been translated into almost a hundred languages and adapted in so many different ways. Franca Rame's deconstruction of the story into a one-act monologue is symbolic of her lifetime quest to deconstruct the patriarchy. The themes tackled in this piece still feel heavy."

– Sean Buhagiar

PACK CONTENTS AND TECH RIDER

Contents of the Box:

- 1 Doll;
- 1 USB 3.0 Flash Drive in the form of a Rabbit;
- 26 Cards: 13 Black, 13 White;
- 1 Pink Set of Rules for the Doll Bearer;
- 1 Information Leaflet.

Venue Requirements:

- The ideal venue is a classroom sized room which holds not more than 30 people;
- This room must have the possibility to be easily darkened due to the projections;
- It should ideally have blinds or curtains and minimal outdoor noise;
- A blank white wall with a minimum of 2m by 2m white area for projecting is a must.

Technical Requirements:

- A Projector;
- A Laptop;
- A Pair of Speakers;
- Cables to connect the 3 devices;
- A Chair or low Stool or low Table for your Projector;
- A Table for your Laptop;
- An Adult wearing white, ideally long sleeves and Pale trousers for best effect.

Total Price: €250,00

[View the full instruction leaflet here.](#)

Duration of the Show:

The projected performance (excluding set up and discussions) is 35 minutes long.





ALICE IN WONDERLESS LAND: DOCUMENTARY TEASER



ALICE IN WONDERLESS LAND: DOCUMENTARY



**ALEXANDRA ALDEN
SHADOW OF A WOMAN**

SHADOW OF A WOMAN: LYRIC VIDEO

REVIEWS

"A brilliant, funny and wonderful idea. Above all it is a tool for fun and reflection designed for teenagers. A theatrical game where the player becomes an actor, a director, a set design assistant and also a spectator."

– *Jacopo Fo, Theatre Director & Writer / Dario Fo & Franca Rame's Son*

"A brilliant, beautiful and fun idea, and above all a playful tool that provokes reflection, designed for teenagers."

– *Mattea Fo, President of Fondazione Dario Fo e Franca Rame & Representative of Dario Fo and Franca Rame's Estate*

<https://www.fondazioneforame.org/2021/02/01/alice-in-wonderlessland-del-teatru-malta-raccontato-da-mattea-fo-presidente-della-fondazione/>

"Can theatre be adapted to the unstoppable do-it-yourself trend? Of course, yes. Teatru Malta, a Mediterranean theatre company established in 2017 and recognized by various international organizations, demonstrates this in its latest project, Alice in Wonderless Land. Developed as "a Covid-19 friendly project," the piece consists of a doll's box, which needs spectator participation to come to life. "We wanted the audience to become the theatre-maker in collaboration with us," explains its leaders, who revisit Lewis Carroll's piece from a feminist and inclusive perspective."

– *David Alarcón, Online Content Editor: Metal Magazine*

<https://metalmagazine.eu/en/post/interview/teatru-malta>

"Teatru Malta's project is a much needed pedagogical interlude to our educational system, and an exciting corrective to the virtual absence of an important discussion around the themes of sex and sexuality among the younger demographic of Maltese society."

– *Dr. Maria Theuma, Academic*

<https://www.islesoftheleft.org/teatru-maltas-provocative-alice-in-wonderless-land/>

"A new DIY project by Teatru Malta for this year's Žigužajg festival pushes us to consider difficult realities faced by the so-called second sex."

– *Sam Vassallo, Journalist/Activist*

<https://lovinmalta.com/lifestyle/art/alice-in-wonderlessland-this-maltese-diy-theatre-puts-a-harrowing-feminist-twist-on-a-childhood-fairytale/>

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