



MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE-IN-RESIDENCE • UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

PRESS PACK

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
2015 TOUR



Growing Up in Wonderland

Alice's Coming-of-Age Story

Written by JILLIAN CAMPANA

Inspired by LEWIS CARROLL'S *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

PRESS PACK CONTENTS:

Below is a list of what is included in this press pack and suggestions on what to do with this material. **Please remember that media agencies need to receive materials as far in advance as possible.**

Press Release: Please give these to your local newspapers as a starting point for a print story on the production. You may enhance these in any way you feel is appropriate. These could also be used for newsletters, TV community calendars, etc.

Press photos: See website: <http://montanarep.org/growing-up-in-wonderland-2015/>

30-second radio ad copy: (Includes 10-second tag time at the end for local information)
If you would like a pre-recorded radio spot on CD, contact Teresa two weeks in advance. If you have no funding to purchase radio ads, try asking a local business to donate some of their yearly radio contract to your agency or school.

Copy for a 15-second PSA: If you are not fortunate enough to run radio ads, you can always get your local radio and TV stations to run short **free** PSAs for you. You need to fill in the blanks, of course, with your local information.

Posters: The poster artwork is available for you to download. Make as many copies as you need. There is white space at the bottom on which to add in local information.

Company bios and general information about Montana Rep: This is not only to acquaint you with the cast/crew before their arrival, but also to give you extra information for any longer news articles or interviews.

Programs: (for your performance's audience members) will arrive with the Stage Manager the day of the show. Programs will not be handed out at in-school performances.



MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL



MONTANA CULTURAL TRUST

MONTANA REP is funded in part by grants from the Montana Arts Council (an agency of state government), The Dramatists Guild, and The Shubert Foundation, with support from the Montana State Legislature, the University of Montana, the Montana Cultural Trust, NorthWestern Energy, Dr. Cathy Capps, Dr. Sandy Sheppard, Jay Kettering & Gwen McKenna, and Jean Morrison.

Growing Up in Wonderland

Alice's Coming-of-Age Story



PRESS RELEASE:

PAGE 1 OF 2

Tickets are now on sale for ***Growing Up in Wonderland: Alice's Coming-of-Age Story***

Montana Repertory Theatre's Educational Outreach Tour is proud to announce the opening of this year's Fall show: ***Growing Up in Wonderland: Alice's Coming-of-Age Story***. Written by Professor Jillian Campana and directed by Rosie Ayers, this funny and engaging modern-day comedy features characters inspired by Lewis Carroll's ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland***.

Coming to _____ on _____ at _____.
CITY DAY and DATE LOCATION

Fourteen-year-old Alice does not want to be an adult, especially because she feels it is being forced upon her. When her older sister Lorina asks her to grow up she responds with "Why would I want to do that?" Perhaps Alice is right. According to her, adulthood is boring, tedious, and unimaginative. But when she meets with a series of absurd characters at Lewis C. Wonder High School, she finds her maturity is tested and questions her sense of self. Perhaps an ability to deal with disappointment, sadness, and fear is just as important as retaining a youthful playfulness. Can Alice stay young at heart and still grow up? Can you?

Told in under 55 minutes, this coming-of-age story is played out by three actors who introduce us to high school freshman Alice, her friend and math tutor Charlie Rabbit (the White Rabbit), the not-so-nice but ever smiling senior Kat (the Cheshire Cat), and Principal Hatter (The Mad Hatter), just to name a few, as they wind their way through the hallways of high school life on the way to growing up.

Director Rosie Ayers earned her master's degree in Integrated Arts and Education from the University of Montana in 2015 and her BFA from UM's School of Theatre & Dance. Past MRT directing credits include *Diaries of Adam and Eve*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, *Good Thing*, and *Bad Habits*.

Playwright Professor Jillian Campana is the Head of Performance and Practice at UM's School of Theatre & Dance. This is Jillian's second time writing for the MRT Educational Outreach Tour. Her first script, *Antigone: 2026*, was performed in 2006.

This presentation follows in the Montana Rep's Educational Outreach Tour tradition of bringing staged selections of the works of acclaimed historical writers to Montana communities.

Growing Up in Wonderland

Alice's Coming-of-Age Story



PRESS RELEASE: (continued)

PAGE 2 OF 2

Tickets are now on sale for ***Growing Up in Wonderland: Alice's Coming-of-Age Story***

Established in 1967, Montana Repertory Theatre has become one of the most respected professional touring companies in the country today. Recent productions include the highly acclaimed *The Miracle Worker*, as well as *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *Leading Ladies*; *Bus Stop*; *Doubt, a parable*; *Biloxi Blues*; and *The Great Gatsby*. Montana Repertory Theatre has operated under the artistic direction of Greg Johnson, a member of the Performance and Practice faculty in the University of Montana's School of Theatre & Dance, for the past twenty-five years.

Tickets for ***Growing Up in Wonderland*** are available at _____
OUTLET

or by calling _____ . Prices range from \$ _____ to \$ _____
PHONE

Performances are at _____ in _____
TIME / DAY / DATE PLACE

This Montana Repertory Theatre performance is sponsored by _____
SPONSOR

Montana Repertory Theatre is funded in part by grants from the Montana Arts Council (an agency of state government), The Dramatists Guild, and The Shubert Foundation, with support from the Montana State Legislature, the University of Montana, the Montana Cultural Trust, NorthWestern Energy, Dr. Cathy Capps, Dr. Sandy Sheppard, Jay Kettering & Gwen McKenna, and Jean Morrison.

(Add local funding information if desired).

Growing Up in Wonderland

Alice's Coming-of-Age Story



RADIO COPY

If you would like a pre-recorded radio ad on CD, please let Teresa know two weeks in advance. (406) 243-2854 / teresa.waldorf@umontana.edu

30-SECOND RADIO SPOT:

(20 seconds of copy and 10 seconds of tag time at the end.)

The University of Montana's Montana Repertory Theatre proudly presents its Fall Educational Outreach Tour of ***Growing Up in Wonderland: Alice's Coming-of-Age Story***. Written by Professor Jillian Campana, this funny and engaging modern-day play features characters inspired by Lewis Carroll's ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland***.

TAG: Please add your local information at the end of this spot ... location, dates, times, and ticket information.

15-SECOND RADIO SPOT (PSA):

Don't miss Montana Repertory Theatre's Educational Outreach touring production of ***Growing Up in Wonderland: Alice's Coming-of-Age Story***, featuring characters inspired by Lewis Carroll's ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland***.

Playing at _____
LOCATION

on _____ at _____
DATE TIME

Call _____ for local ticket information.
PHONE

Sponsored by _____
SPONSOR'S NAME

Growing Up in Wonderland

Alice's Coming-of-Age Story



MEET THE COMPANY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

GREG JOHNSON has served as artistic director of Montana Rep since 1990. He brought with him a commitment to excellence developed during years of experience in the New York theatre, where he worked with the best directors, choreographers, actors, designers, and playwrights in the country. From Neil Simon and Gene Saks to Hugh Leonard, Elizabeth Ashley, Beth Henley, Christine Baranski, Andie MacDowell, Barnard Hughes, and Melvin Bernhardt, Greg has been privileged to work with the finest. He brings energy and expertise to every aspect of his involvement with Montana Rep.

Greg's Broadway credits include *Biloxi Blues*; *Crimes of the Heart*; *Is There Life After High School?*; *Da*; and *Hide and Seek*. National tours include the Broadway productions of *Steel Magnolias*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *Biloxi Blues*. Greg spent nineteen years working in professional theatre in New York City as an actor, stage manager, and director before coming to Montana to head Montana Rep.

Since joining Montana Rep, Greg has directed *Broadway Bound*; *The Heidi Chronicles*; *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*; *Lend Me a Tenor*; *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll*; *The Real Thing*; *Willi*; *The Voice of the Prairie*; and the national tours of *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *It's a Wonderful Life*; *Death of a Salesman*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *The Trip to Bountiful*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *Leading Ladies*; *Doubt, a parable*; *Biloxi Blues*; and *The Great Gatsby*. In addition, he is responsible for development of The Missoula Colony: A Gathering of Artists in Support of the Writer's Craft at The University of Montana. Greg has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and, with the Rep, is a member of the Theatre Communications Group, a national network of regional theatres. He serves on the faculty of the University of Montana College of Visual and Performing Arts.

PLAYWRIGHT

JILLIAN CAMPANA has taught theatre and created projects around social justice, trauma, education, and special abilities in the US, Egypt, Brazil, Sweden, and all over Asia since 1993. She is the founder of *Studio Three Theatre* in Mumbai, India, which focuses on social, political and cross-cultural theatre; her current research projects include a study in Scandinavia on theatre as a form of rehabilitation for brain-injury survivors. Jillian studied acting at Cal Arts, education at American University in Cairo, and performance studies at New York University. She holds a Ph.D. in Theatre for Social Justice. She has been honored at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., for her work and recently published a book, *Acting Successful: Using performance skills to help you succeed*. Jillian teaches theatre workshops around the world and is a professor of theatre at the University of Montana where she is head of the Performance & Practice Program.

DIRECTOR

ROSIE AYERS has been working in theatre since she was a small girl. She grew up on stage at Grandstreet Theatre in Helena and went on to earn her BFA at UM. She has been in Missoula raising her children with her husband Michael for the last 15 years. Rosie has worked with Carroll College Theatre Department, The Montana Shakespeare Co. in Helena, The Young Rep, Montana Repertory Theatre/MRM, MCT, and several other theater companies throughout Montana. Rosie's true passion is for directing and teaching in the arts. She served as assistant director on UM's *Evita* and Montana Rep's 2006 National Tour of *The Trip to Bountiful*. Her other directing credits include *Good Thing*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*, *The Diaries of Adam and Eve*, *Bad Habits*, *Santaland Diaries*, and *Becky's New Car*. Rosie teaches for BRAVO! at UM and at Teresa Waldorf's Summer Theatre Camp every year. She recently received her master's degree in Integrated Arts and Education and performs comedy regularly with her hilarious partner Teresa Waldorf.

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MEET THE COMPANY

TOUR ACTOR/COMPANY MANAGER

HANNAH APPELL is a recent graduate from the University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance. She grew up in Roundup and has always had a passion for theatre, even when it was not always available to her. Hannah has had the wonderful opportunity to work with Montana Rep before, when she played Helen Keller in the 2014 National Tour of *The Miracle Worker*. Her favorite childhood story is *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, so it is a dream come true to be able to play Alice in such a fun adaptation. Hannah's passion is to bring theatre to students in small towns, especially in Montana, and she is ecstatic to be able to do that with this production.

TOUR ACTOR/STAGE MANAGER

HANASARA ITO recently graduated from the University of Montana with dual degrees in anthropology and theatre. Though she grew up in Hawaii, Montana holds a very special place in her heart, so the chance to perform and travel across this beautiful state is a privilege and an honor. She has been blessed with many opportunities on UM's stages, including playing Christmas Eve in *Avenue Q*, Yente in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and several others. She is so thankful to be working her first professional job with Montana Repertory Theatre.

TOUR ACTOR

SEAN KIRKPATRICK is an actor, writer, and Internet-meme connoisseur. He studied acting at the University of Montana and his mother once described him as a "dangerous book addict." Sean is very excited to bring to life one of his favorite novels from childhood and to perform theatre all across this beautiful state. Sean enjoys improv comedy, road trips, and is an adequate kazoo player.

SCENIC DESIGNER

ADRYAN MILLER-GORDER graduated from the University of Montana with a BFA in acting. She discovered her love for design after she joined her father's construction business in Sidney three years ago. Adryan is very thankful and excited for her first experience designing for Montana Rep's Educational Outreach Tour. You may have recently seen Adryan as Helena in UM's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Jillian Campana. Some day in the future, Adryan dreams of becoming the next Lucille Ball.

COSTUME DESIGNER

ELIZA VISSCHER is delighted to return to the University of Montana for her first Educational Outreach Tour. Originally from Belgrade, she literally grew up in the high school's theater program with her directing parents. In 2010, Eliza began studying at UM, where she designed costumes for *Distracted*, co-designed the School of Music's Opera Theatre, and helped build costumes for many other shows. She also worked on Montana Rep's *The Great Gatsby*. Throughout college she had the opportunity to collaborate on the costumes for several high school shows, including *Little Women*, *Death by Chocolate*, and *The Seussification of a Midsummer Night's Dream*. She graduated with a degree in history and a minor in theatre with an emphasis in costuming. She continues to seek design and construction opportunities while enjoying life with her husband and son.

LIGHTING/AUDIO DESIGNER

ZACH HAMERSLEY is a lighting and sound designer from Missoula. He is currently in his final year as a MFA candidate in lighting and sound with the University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance. His most recent lighting design was for the UM production of *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*. His most recent sound design was for Montana Rep's 2015 National Tour of *The Great Gatsby*. His upcoming productions include the lighting design for UM's *Treasure Island* in late fall and the sound design for *All My Sons*, the Rep's 2016 National Tour. Zach would like to thank his family and friends, including the Rep, for making all of his designs possible and believing in his work.

PROPERTIES

DANI WARMUTH is a UM junior studying social work and theatre. This is her third properties design for the University of Montana, but her first for Montana Rep. Her next project will be to stage manage UM Theatre & Dance's Fall 2015 production of *Treasure Island*. Dani plans to combine her two majors in grad school and beyond.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

SHAY FIEGI is a senior at the University of Montana. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre design & technology with emphases in lighting, sound, and technical direction. He is delighted to join Montana Repertory Theatre for his second Educational Outreach Tour, and second time as the technical director. Shay dreams of working as a technical and lighting designer for Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas.

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MONTANA REP TOURING SINCE 1968

MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE was established as a professional touring company in 1967 to provide professional theatre to our own and neighboring Western states at an affordable cost. Montana Rep is one of the oldest and most respected touring companies in the country. Our mission is to tell the great stories of our world to enlighten, develop, and celebrate the human spirit in an ever-expanding community.

Montana Rep delivers a theatrical experience in its entirety, bringing with it everything from lighting to sound design. Completely self-contained, the Rep offers presenters large and small—in facilities ranging from new performing arts centers to high school gyms—the opportunity to enjoy first-class theatre.

Mainstage productions are supplemented by audience talkbacks, professional theatre workshops, and a one-hour performance suitable for high schools.

THE PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLE

Montana Rep is pleased to showcase the talents of principal actors, directors, and designers with prestigious credits and awards from the worlds of Broadway, national and international tours, film, and television. The company operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association and the University/Resident Theatre Association.

Montana Rep has been touring nationally since 1996, when we presented our first production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Following that highly successful tour and building on its success were *It's a Wonderful Life*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*; *Death of a Salesman*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *Steel Magnolias*; *The Trip to Bountiful*; *Lost in Yonkers*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *Leading Ladies*; *Bus Stop*; *Doubt, a parable*; *Biloxi Blues*; *The Miracle Worker*; and *The Great Gatsby*.

Montana Rep is proud to present the very best of the American theatre tradition, as we continue examining the heart of the American character through the medium of live theatre.

A COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

As the professional theatre-in-residence at the University of Montana, Montana Rep offers theatre students unique educational opportunities. UM is one of very few universities in the nation to house a professional touring company, and the only one that incorporates students and faculty into that company. Students touring with Montana Rep work alongside seasoned actors, directors, designers, and technical crew members, gaining experience that other academic programs cannot offer.

To learn more about our theatre seasons and academic programs, please visit these websites:

MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE

www.montanarep.org
salina.chatlain@umontana.edu

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE

www.umt.edu/theatredance
umtheatredance@umontana.edu

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

www.umt.edu/umarts

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

www.umt.edu



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