

It's just wonderful

THEATRE REVIEW

INVENTIVE, creative, colourful, vibrant and entertaining describe this delightful production at one of Townsville's most beautiful but under-utilised parks – Anderson Park.

This is an *Alice in Wonderland* that invites you to take a journey down a rabbit hole, talk to a caterpillar, have tea with a Mad Hatter and play croquet with flamingoes against a background of glorious raintrees.

With the audience moving from place to place using the geography of a corner of the park to excellent advantage, it was colourful entertainment from start to finish.

In essence the classic Victorian children's books – *Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass* – are a seemingly random collection of nonsensical rhymes connected with a strange narrative in a land peopled with odd characters.

However, director/adaptor Terri Brabon has given the fantasy novel a fresh, contemporary look and feel while at the same time being true to the original spirit of Lewis Carroll.

The result is not only inventive but, with all TheatreiNQ productions, moves at a cracking pace which had



MAGIC: Emma Smith, as Alice, and Rachel Nutchey as Rabbit. Picture: EVAN MORGAN

the family audience riveted and magically transported into this world of white rabbits and grinning Cheshire cats.

Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee (Michael Gleeson and Ron Pullman) opened the show with some ingenious ukulele strumming and engaging song to engage the audience as well as give some necessary instructions. We are then introduced to Alice (played by Emma Smith) who gave a surprisingly mature performance in the pivotal

character, and managed to hold her own against the colourful multitude of exaggerated characters around her.

Performances of note included Brendan O'Connor's infectious Irish Caterpillar (but where, oh where, was his hookah?); Michael Gleeson's Duchess; Rita Neale as the Cheshire Cat; The Mad Hatter (Ron Pullman), the March Hare (Shai Regan) and the Dormouse (Paris Walsh). The stand-out performance was Arminelle Fleming's splendid turn as the Queen of

Hearts complete with rhotacism (inability to pronounce the letter 'r').

The script was updated with contemporary references which amused the adults in the audience, and nowhere was this more evident than in the delightful "cheerleading" song and dance led by the Queen of Hearts. Indeed the music – I suspect which was all original – featured was fun and simply engaging.

Special mention to should also be made of the make-up, costuming and splendid props.

As with all TheatreiNQ productions, it is a true community effort with every detail attended to. Indeed, Anderson Park would serve as a brilliant and versatile backdrop to the company's annual Shakespeare in the Park – but lack of power prevents this. (Come on Townsville City Council!)

Of course, the final word is that for the second successive time this year, TheatreiNQ's production is sold out before it opened.

Alice in Wonderland is at Anderson Park Gardens and plays on various days at various times until Sunday July 9. All performances are booked out, but there is a wait list on the website theatreinq.com.

TREVOR KEELING

LAW LIST
Thursday, June 29, 2017



NOTICES

The next District Court Application Day is 26th July 2017.
The next Admission date for Solicitors is 28 July 2017.

SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND
APPLICATIONS TO COURT
RE: DAVIS, Justice North, Court 1, Level D, 10AM.

FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Before Registrar Boyd
Registrar's Chambers: 9am, Zahner R L & Fisher P S
11am, Hackett N L & D P