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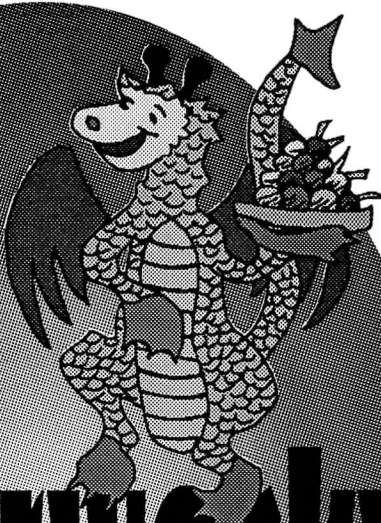
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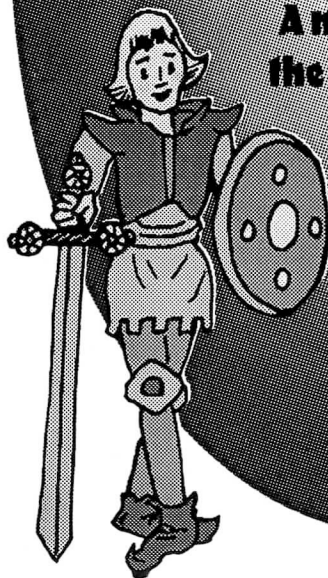
JABBERWOCKY IN WONDERLAND



The Jabberwocky

**A musical comedy featuring
the characters of Wonderland**

*by Arthur Zapel
music and lyrics by
Lauren Mayer*



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Contemporary Drama Service

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PRODUCTION NOTES

This musical was created to be a comedy-farce with many novelty songs integrated into the show's story. The CD recording of the music provides music for both singers and speakers. In many places during the show there are opportunities for the performers to speak over rhythmic music to enhance what they say. If the timing of this becomes too difficult for the actor, the rhythmic music may be faded out at the director's discretion. The length of some of the songs may be shortened, if necessary, by ending the song after the first chorus.

Tweedledum and Tweedledee tell the story of the walrus and the carpenter over music. On our vocal rehearsal track their parts are spoken by the same person. In performance, two distinctively different voices for the twins may be more effective.

The entire show should be played with tongue-in-cheek humor. All members of the cast (except J. Frumious Bandersnatch and the Jubjub Bird) remain in the Wonderland world and don't connect directly to the audience. J. Frumious and the Jubjub Bird may talk (or gesture) to the audience with some sly "asides" if the director chooses.

During casting auditions we suggest that you base your casting decisions more on comedic potential than how well a person may or may not physically resemble their role. Look for actors that can sing and move with comic rhythm. If they can dance, all the better, for there are many dance breaks included in the show. Special abilities like dancing, trick voices or funny expressions will add more to the show than singing talents alone. Adapt this script to include all your novelty talents where possible — they will enliven the show as they add a professional touch.

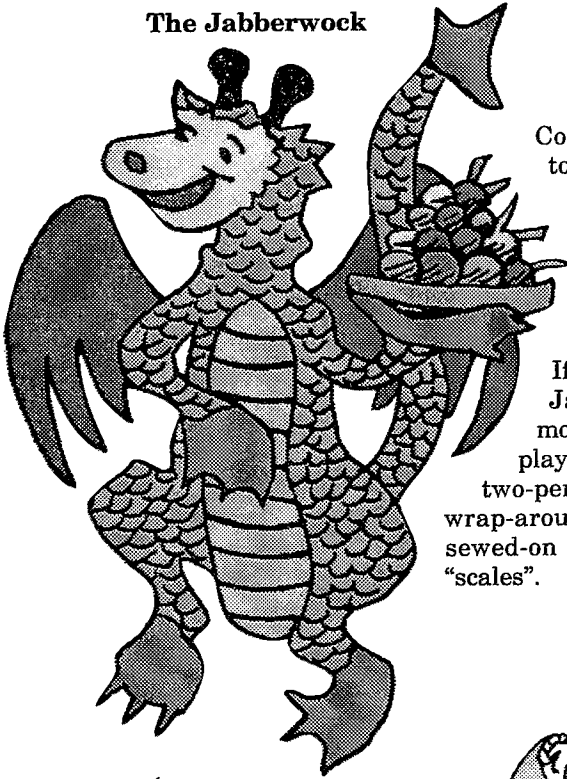
PROP LIST

Act One — **scripts** for Frumious to pass out to the Chorus Ensemble; **placard** — one side says "Hectan-red nab, Suo-i-murf" and the other side says "J. Frumious Bandersnatch"; **easel**; **Burbles and Whiffles candies**; **two road signs** pointing in opposite directions "To Tweedledum's House" and "To Tweedledee's House"; **rattle**; **bolsters**; **blankets**; **dish covers**; **pots and pans**; **two swords** for Tweedledum and Tweedledee; **cardboard cutouts** of sun, waves, moon, cloud and birds.

Act Two — **trumpet**; **parchment scroll**; **gavel**; **teacup**; **bread and butter**; **memo book**; **book**, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*; **basket** with Burbles and Whiffles; **drum**.

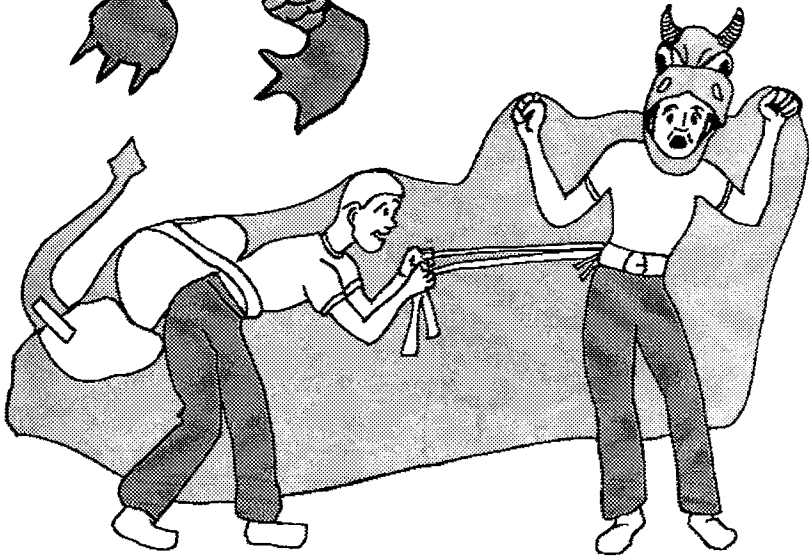
COSTUMING

The Jabberwock

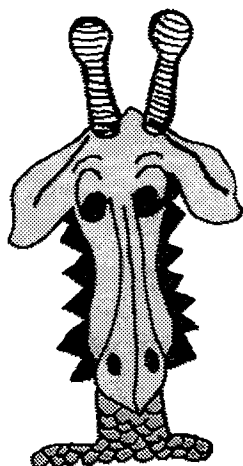


Costumes are important to establish the fantasy of the characters. *The Jabberwocky* offers several costuming options involving one or two performers.

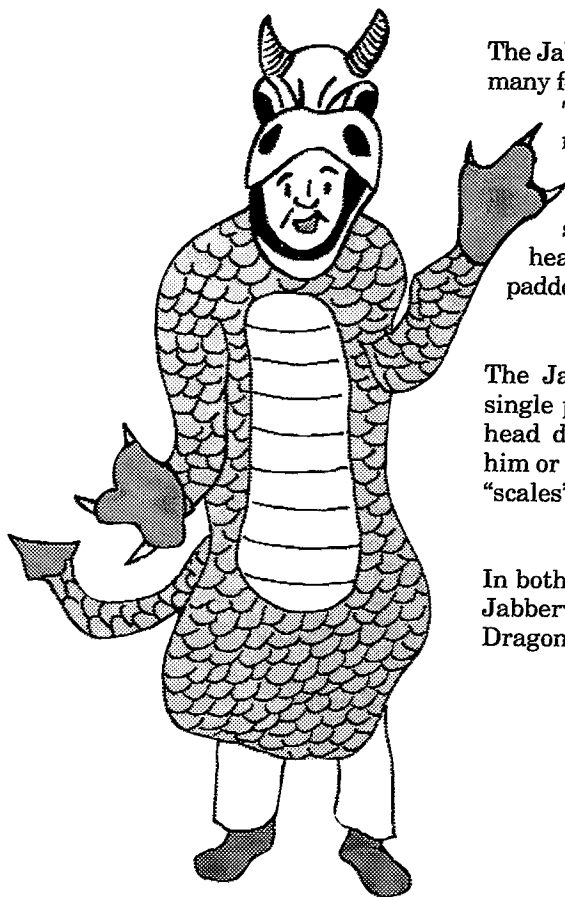
If you choose to cast the Jabberwock as a large monster, two actors may play the role. Enclose the two-person monster in dark wrap-around sheathing with sewed-on green snippets for "scales".



Two-Person Jabberwock



Jabberwock Heads



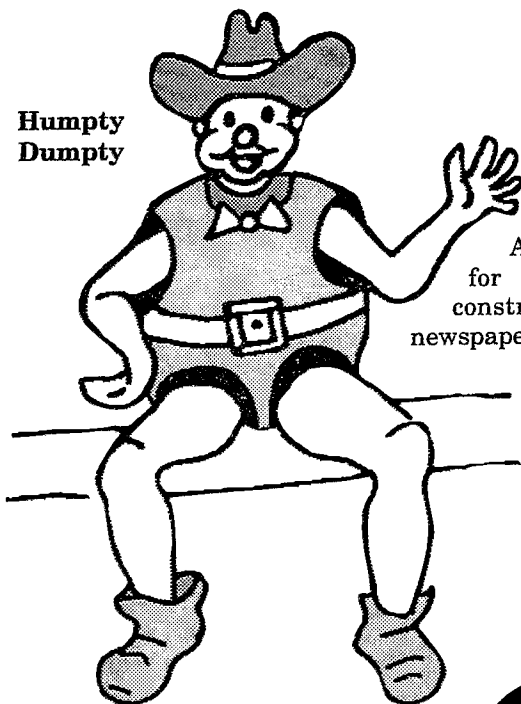
Single-person Jabberwock

The Jabberwock head can take on many forms — ferocious or funny. The features of the head may be formed with paper strips pasted on a helmet, molded into shape and painted; or the head may be made from padded fabrics.

The Jabberwock can also be a single person wearing whatever head design you choose. Drape him or her in a body sheath with “scales”.

In both instances the Jabberwock needs a tail. Dragon wings are optional.

Humpty Dumpty

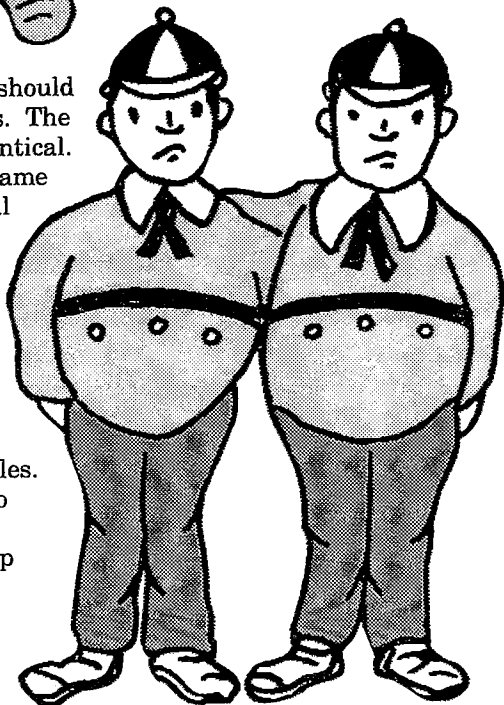


It is important that Humpty Dumpty look as roly-poly as possible.

An "egg-shell" could be made for Humpty. It could be constructed with layers of newspaper (ala papier-mâché) pasted over a circular wire frame with cut-out holes for arms, legs and head. It should be brightly painted to suggest a shirt, belt and bow tie.

Tweedledum and Tweedledee should be costumed as plump twins. The clothing for each should be identical. The actors should be of the same height, both wearing identical small caps on their heads. An equal amount of padding for both will make them chubby. Their child-like suits should also be identical — they are twins.

It is not necessary to find chubby actors to play these roles. Any two actors can be made to look alike with the help of identical clothing and make-up characteristics.

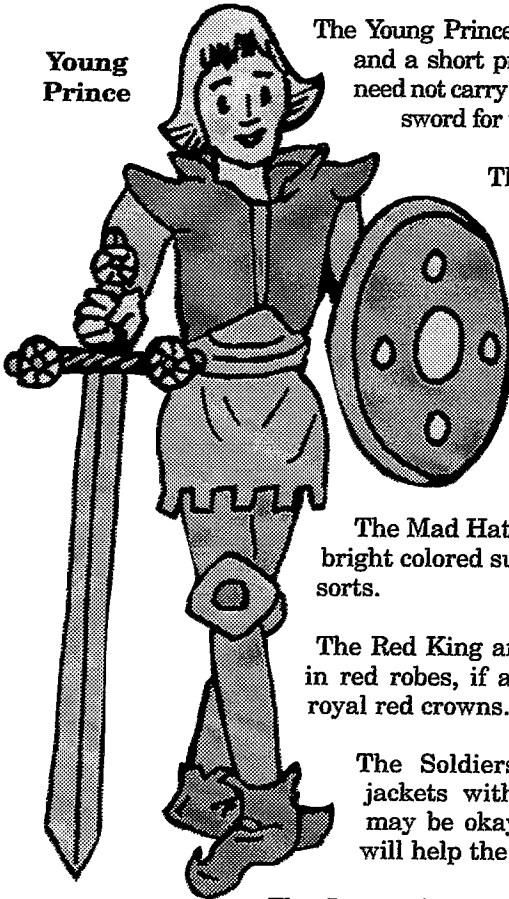


Tweedledum and Tweedledee

J. Frumious Bandersnatch doesn't require any special costume. Any bizarre costume you have will do fine. In Wonderland, anything goes.

The Jubjub Bird is half person, half bird. A bird-beak headpiece may be all that's needed. The costume could simply be tights with a small tail added.

Young Prince



The Young Prince should wear leggings or tights and a short princely kilt with a wide belt. He need not carry a shield, but he must carry a long sword for threatening the Jabberwock.

The White Rabbit should carry a briefcase, wear a hat with ears protruding and carry a cane as he rushes about.

The Mock Turtle costume may be a colored shell attached to his body front and back. It can be constructed in the same way as Humpty Dumpty's egg outfit.

The Mad Hatter needs only a tall hat and a bright colored suit coat. He's a businessman of sorts.

The Red King and Red Queen may be attired in red robes, if available, and they both wear royal red crowns.

The Soldiers will look military in red jackets with white belts. Grey trousers may be okay. If boots are available, they will help the military look.

The Jurors should be dressed in any type of wild attire that's available. This is Wonderland where hardly anyone dresses the same.

The Chorus Ensemble offers your choice of many options. They may all dress the same in varying colors, or they may all be attired individually in the same color.

The costumes can be rented or made by volunteers who may be parents, friends or a school art department.

During the various musical numbers, one or two of the best dancers in the Chorus Ensemble may step forward and do the type of dance appropriate to the music and their dancing skills. In some numbers the entire ensemble may move in unison. This is especially effective to end the first act and for the final musical number of the performance.

Set Design:

The set for the show should be colorful and fanciful, suggesting Wonderland. It may consist of brightly colored, self-supporting, moveable flats with a painted backdrop. If available, several scrims might suggest a variety of mood settings from Tulgey Wood to the Courthouse. If backdrops or scrims are not available, the stage crew could carry in a few trees for the woods, tall chairs for two thrones, and a table and several chairs for the bailiff, the defendants and the jury.

Choreography:

This show offers songs with many musical styles including 50s rock, boogalo with doo-wop, tango-calypso, ragtime and hoedown. All have a strong beat to give non-professional dancers an easy opportunity to improvise any dance steps they may choose.

Lighting:

A variety of colored lights will help establish the wonder of Wonderland. Two spotlights will help direct attention to key characters throughout the play.

Burbles and Whiffles for Fundraising:

“Burbles and Whiffles” can be sold to the audience during the intermission and before and after the show. “Burbles” can be any fluffy-type sweet about the size of a plum. They can be purchased at a bakery or baked by volunteers. Licorice sticks make perfect “Whiffles” to go with the “Burbles”. They can be purchased at candy stores or in the candy section of many supermarkets. Licorice sticks are best because they are hollow and can be “whiffled through”. The price for these bagged goodies, sold to the audience, should be double the cost of purchasing or making them. This is a fair mark-up for having fun and raising money to pay expenses for your next production.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

J. Frumious Bandersnatch — *Energetic, lucid, and persuasive. He is dedicated to revealing the true personality of the Jabberwock for all to see.*

Jubjub Bird — *He's J. Frumious' constant companion. He can't speak, but he gestures comically to make his ideas known. He's J. Frumious' "Yes" man.*

Young Prince — *He's dedicated to his assignment to kill the Jabberwock with his vorpal blade. His single-mindedness never wavers until he tastes the Bubbles and Whiffles.*

White Rabbit — *He, too, is single-minded. Always in a hurry.*

Humpty Dumpty — *The same pompous egg we've always known from the nursery rhyme. He talks with puffed-up cheeks and pats his belly when he nods approval at everything he says. Totally self-centered.*

Tweedledum — *He's a carbon copy of his cute and chubby brother Tweedledee. He agrees with his twin and visa versa.*

Tweedledee — *Like his brother he merely responds to whatever comes before him. These twins are delightful in their simplicity.*

Mock Turtle — *He's a melancholy fellow who would like to have fun but he's too worried about being made into soup. He talks slowly in a monotone until he describes the joy of a Lobster Quadrille.*

Red King — *He wants to be the head man of Wonderland but his wife, the Red Queen, often gets in the way. He always prevails but often looks like a buffoon in doing so.*

Red Queen — *She's snappish. She wants to have everyone's head chopped off. Her imperious attitude makes her look silly.*

Mad Hatter — *A cowardly and preoccupied hat maker. He has little interest in anyone but himself.*

Soldier 1 — *An obedient servant to the throne.*

Soldier 2 — *The same. They speak only to make announcements.*

Jurors 1, 2, 3 — *They, too, have only short lines to move along the action.*

Bailiff *(may be played by one of the Soldiers)*

Chorus Ensemble — *They sing the refrains to the songs and they back up the soloists to give the vocal numbers more energy.*

The Dancers — *They dance with the characters as indicated. They, too, are used to add comic energy to each scene.*

Acknowledgement of the Entire Crew

After the show concludes, we have provided enough reprise music on the CD so that everyone involved can take a bow. This show is made possible thanks to the talents of as many “backstage people” as “on stage performers.” The Jabberwock, or another leading performer, should acknowledge individually the costume crew, stage designers, lighting engineers, stagehands and others.

About the Composer

Lauren Mayer has won many awards for her original music in both professional and educational spheres. She is the recipient of a Peninsula Community Fund arts grant to write and produce educational musicals in local schools. As co-founder and song writer for “Curriculum Rocks” which produces educational music CDs for kids, she currently has three CDs in distribution. A professional theatre in the San Francisco area, Broadway by the Bay, commissioned her to write “December Rainbow.” Her comedy songs have been broadcast on various radio shows. She is the five-time winner of the San Francisco Cabaret Gold Award.

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1 **FRUMIOUS:** *(Speaks in rhythm to the music)*

2 **Hold it! This is a big mistake!**

3 **Time to change, for heaven's sake!**

4 **That second verse is very old.**

5 *(Sings.) This is the way it should be told.*

6 *(As he exits Stage Right, the JUBJUB BIRD enters from Stage*

7 *Left carrying an easel. As FRUMIOUS re-enters from Stage*

8 *Right he carries a large card and a handful of papers. He*

9 *places the card sideways against the easel so that the words on*

10 *it are unseen, and he begins to quickly pass out the individual*

11 *pages of script to the CHORUS ENSEMBLE.)*

12

13 **FRUMIOUS:** *(Out of rhythm as he passes out new song)*

14 **Here now you can sing the new version.**

15 *(The CHORUS ENSEMBLE looks briefly at the script and with*

16 *a downbeat from the leader sings.)*

17

18 **MUSIC CUE 2 — Song:** "Twas Brillig, cont."

19

20 **CHORUS ENSEMBLE:** **Be aware of the Jabberwock, my**

21 **friends,**

22 **With hands that hold, a big heart to match.**

23 **Be aware of the Jubjub Bird,**

24 **And J. Frumious Bandersnatch.**

25

26 *(Both FRUMIOUS and JUBJUB bow to audience when their*

27 *name is mentioned. Music continues under FRUMIOUS speaking.)*

28 **FRUMIOUS:** *(Speaks in rhythm to music as he points to himself.)*

29 **That's me — J. Frumious Bandersnatch! At your service.**

30 *(He puts up the card on the easel with his name spelled*

31 *backwards.) Ooops! That's Hectan-red-nab, Suo-i- murf! (To*

32 *audience) You can't read that! That's not my name. (He turns*

33 *the placard over.) Here's my name: (The opposite side of the*

34 *placard spells his name correctly) J. Frumious Bandersnatch.*

35 **Sorry, about the mistake. But, you know, here in**

1 Wonderland everything is topsy-turvy — left is right,
2 right is left — backwards is forwards, downside is upside,
3 upside is downside. Why? It's because you're on the
4 opposite side of the Looking Glass — you're in
5 Wonderland! (*Music out.*)
6

7 **SINGLE CHORUS MEMBER:** (*He or she steps forward and*
8 *speaks in rhythm.*) **The Jabberwock's our friend today**
9 **Alice is gone and far away.**
10 **Things have changed, but we can try**
11 **To see Wonderland eye-to-eye**
12 (*Pause two beats*)
13 **"Justice for the Jabberwock"**
14 **Hear our new hue and cry!**
15 **The Jabberwock doesn't deserve to die!**
16 (*Lights fade. The spotlights on the stage move back and forth,*
17 *lights fade in and out, we hear screams and strange sounds*
18 *with discordant music*)
19

20 **MUSIC CUE #3 — INSTRUMENTAL:** "Jabberwock Chase"
21

22 (*The JABBERWOCK runs from Stage Right to Stage Left*
23 *followed by the YOUNG PRINCE brandishing his sword and*
24 *screaming: "I'll get you yet!" After they cross the stage they*
25 *return, going from Stage Left toward Stage Right. The*
26 *JABBERWOCK exits as FRUMIOUS steps in front of YOUNG*
27 *PRINCE and stops him.*)

28 **FRUMIOUS: Hold on! Stop! Stop!** (*The YOUNG PRINCE stops.*)

29 **Why are you trying to kill the Jabberwock?**

30 **PRINCE: Because I need to cut off his head so I can go**
31 **galumphing back to the King and he can shout,**
32 **"Calooh, Callay!"**

33 **FRUMIOUS: Wait, has the Jabberwock ever hurt you?**

34 **PRINCE: No.**

35 **FRUMIOUS: Or killed anybody you know?**

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