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Alice In Wonderland **(COLOR)**

Softcore musical comedy version of the Lewis Carroll classic. Slick and sophomoric.

General National Enterprises release of a Cruiser Productions production. Produced by Bill Osco. Directed by Bud Townsend. Features entire cast. Screenplay, B.A. Fredericks; camera (color), Joseph Barlo; score, Bucky Searles, arranged and conducted by Jack Stearn and Peter Matz. No other credits provided. Reviewed at the National Theatre, N.Y., Aug. 31, '76. (Self-applied X rating). Running time: 88 MINS.

Cast: Kristine De Bell, Larry Gelman, Allan Novak, Terry Hall, Jason Williams, Bree Anthony.

This Bill Osco production, sexualizing the basic "Alice" deeply into the realm of softcore, oozes with the kind of clever cuteness that permits payoff to the kind of customers that would have found Osco's earlier hardcore "Mona," sans classe. "Alice," a musical serial double-entendred to near catatonia, is essentially about one of sexpo's basic themes: the initiation of a young woman.

The woman, in this case, is Kristine DeBell (as Alice), a Playboy "cover girl," who in the course of the film emerges from a standoffish librarian to a fully-adjusted wife to be. The script here could have been written by a corrupted sex therapist.

Instead, Osco, director Bud Townsend and Scriptor B.A. Fredericks have encapsuled the familiar Wonderland confrontations in lushly rustic settings with all the charm of the local massage parlor.

Bucky Searles' lyrics and music are surprisingly adroit, lending strong support to the bouncy, innocent air the film tries for. And, ironically, the film's most interesting performers are two femmes with a number of hardcore credits.

Bree Anthony portrays one of the Tweedle-Dum-Tweedle Dee pairing and, in one sex scene, gives the film's only really erotic performance. Terry Hall as one of the Wonderland handmaidens dances with energy and skill. As for DeBell, she proves a blond, lean and credible Alice, who shows remarkable grace in jumping through waterfalls.

Overall production credits are good. —Sege.