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Alice 9:00

Gareth Davies (UK, 1965)

1/2

In *Alice*, Potter examines the private world of the Reverend Charles Dodgson (the renowned fabulist Lewis Carroll) to discover the psychological underpinnings of his most famous creation, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The inspiration for the classic book is ten-year-old Alice Liddell, whom Dodgson regales with stories of the Mad Hatter and the Mock Turtle. Potter plumbs the queasy relationship between author and inspiration, bringing into play many of his own signature themes, including the deep-seated internal conflicts that spur creativity. For the aging Dodgson, the telling of stories becomes both a seduction and a delicate torment as he constantly entertains his young companion. Potter's second production for the BBC wonderfully recreates scenes from *Wonderland* in keeping with the original Tenniel illustrations. Almost twenty years later, Potter was able to add further complexity to this intriguing story in his 1985 feature film adaptation, *Dreamchild* (see Saturday, January 23).

- Written by Dennis Potter. With George Baker, Deborah Watling, Rosalie Crutchley, David Langton. (75 mins, Color)