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Author(s)	Vernon Scott
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What would Lewis Carroll think?

Alice's musical wonderland

By VERNON SCOTT
UPI Hollywood Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD — (UPI) — When Lewis Carroll wrote *'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,'* Walt Disney had not yet arrived on the scene.

Carroll's biting satire holds all the fascination for children that, say, does *"War and Peace"* compared to Disney's creation.

Still American National Enterprises has gone ahead with a musical version of Alice's encounter with the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts, the Caterpillar, March Hare, Mad Hatter, Dormouse and others.

The 1933 version of the book was a lackluster affair with endless sophisticated dialog which bored kids out of their trees.

THIS WILL not be the case with the new film, according to Fiona Fullerton of Wiltshire, England.

One is justified in asking what a Fiona Fullerton might be.

Fiona is a pretty British girl of 16 who plays Alice in the picture. She is bright, feminine and says the name Fiona is of Scottish origin.

"This film is an exact interpretation of the book, except it's a musical," said Fiona. "The 1933 picture was more 'through the looking glass' than it should have been."

"They looked at 2,000 girls and auditioned 200 before they finally chose me."

"THEY" ARE director William Sterling and producer Josef Shaffel who began their search with 7-year-olds. The script was altered to suit a girl of 10 when it was discovered that tots of seven lose their teeth, lisp a great deal and have a short attention span.

The 10-year-old age bracket was not much better. The picture makers raised their sights to 16.

"They saw my picture in a magazine," Fiona said. "It was taken by Anthony Armstrong-Jones, Lord Snowden, for a story on fresh faces of the 70's. From that came a couple of screen tests."

It transpired that Fiona was indeed sweet 16, pure as crystal, modestly endowed and capable of playing a girl of 12.

"THEY PUT no makeup on me and once I was in costume I began to behave like a little girl," the dark-haired green-eyed teen-ager said.

How, pray, does a girl's behavior differ from that of older females?

"When a little girl gets excited, she giggles and jumps up and down and claps her hands," Fiona answered. "She also wriggles a great deal and likes to whisper."

Fiona is a perceptive lass. Zsa Zsa Gabor and Mae West hardly ever do any of those things.

"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" marks Fiona's third movie. Previously she appeared in



Fiona Fullerton as Alice

"Run Wild, Run Free" and "Nicholas and Alexandra."

Still an English schoolgirl, Fiona must return to her homeland and complete classes before turning her full attention to acting. She hopes, thereafter, to become a full-fledged star.