ISU Theatre goes to ‘Wonderland’

By Anthony Capps
Ames Out Loud

ISU Theatre is taking audiences to the world of the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts.

“Alice in Wonderland” opens Friday and runs through Dec. 9.

The story is a fresh take on the 1865 Lewis Carroll novel.

“We have used the chess game in the Looking-Glass stories to organize Alice’s journey through Wonderland, so in each chess square as she travels on her way from being a pawn to a queen, she meets the well-known stable of Lewis Carroll characters,” said Matt Foss, director of “Alice in Wonderland” and lecturer in theater at Iowa State University.

Other well-known movie adaptations include the 1951 animated Disney adaptation and the more recent Tim Burton live-action adaptation.

The adventure begins when Alice enters a rabbit hole and falls into a fantasy world (Wonderland). There she meets many bizarre and offbeat characters and creatures, including the temperamental Queen of Hearts.

Alice is played by Kathleen Holl, an ISU senior in performing arts.

“Alice is a young, imaginative girl who can’t wait to grow up. She is bored with school and is very curious about the world around her,” she said. “When she travels to Wonderland, she learns that growing up isn’t something that needs to be rushed into. She also learns a lot about self-identity and being an individual. The most important lesson, and the theme of the play, is the importance of preserving and embracing her imagination.”
Hoill said the cast and crew have made the production their own.

“We use several forms of storytelling: music, movement, puppeteering, etc. in the performance, which I think will really keep the play exciting for the audience,” she said.

Foss said the play is full of joyful curiosity as that’s what Carroll wrote about.

“We hope the play advocates for imagination,” he said.

‘Alice in Wonderland’

When: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7 and 8; 1 p.m. Dec. 2; 2 p.m. Dec. 9

Where: Fisher Theater, Iowa State Center

Tickets: $16 adults, $14 seniors, $8 ISU students; available at the Stephens Box Office or through Ticketmaster

Length: 90 minutes