

**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****A New Adventure Down the Rabbit Hole with Moonlit Wings "Alice in Wonderland"**

*Young summer camp performers take Sunrise Retirement Center  
and the community "down the rabbit hole" with a new musical production*

When Walid Chaya, director of Moonlit Wings Productions, Northern VA's celebrated theatre, began adapting "Alice and Wonderland" for the stage, he knew he wanted to challenge the conventional staging of the production. Much like their recent production of "Midsummer Musical," which mixed modern pop-rock hits with Shakespeare's classic text, Moonlit Wings once again takes on a project that celebrates the old as well as the new. Instead of working straight from a pre-designed, "book musical," the creative team develops and tailors original shows for their own pool of young talent ages 6-14. "Like a puzzle, our creative team and cast indulges in the process of discovering a new means of storytelling. Similar to Alice's journey towards self discovery, Moonlit Wings places emphasis on the finding of art rather than the remaking."

Combining the classical movie songs and Lewis Carroll's novel text with music pieces by POGO, the post modern electronic music artist and animated projections, Chaya has created a complex multilayered fantasy. His vision incorporates equal opportunity to all cast members and thus adapted the novel for the stage by adding additional Alice roles. New and never done before, Chaya depicts his four Alice roles similar to that of a Greek chorus and yet, highlights how each one of them are different in attitude and persona. This creative idea enriches the progress of the show as Alice endeavors to discover who she really is. Like our own imagination, this show explores what is obvious and what is hidden, what is joyful and what is scary, and what is familiar and what is unfamiliar.

Such big-concept productions require a lot of effort on the part of both cast and crew. Compound that with two weeks for rehearsal and development and you have quite the feat. With almost no budget, the show depends entirely on the ingenuity of its director, the support of Providence RECenter Summer Camp Theater, the volunteer work by local theatre artists in the area and most importantly, the support from its loving community.

In appreciation of the community's encouragement, every 2 weeks Moonlit Wings workshops a new musical and with each, the company conducts a special outreach project. Past ventures include food drives, dog shelter aid, and variety performances that raise awareness about issues such as bullying. This time around, the cast will be putting together a special preview show of "Alice in Wonderland" as well as premiering their original pieces for friends at the Jefferson Sunset Retirement Center. The new plays are part of Moonlit Wing's "Out-of-this-World Playwriting Challenge", where we're choosing four original plays written this summer by our various casts to fully stage and produce next summer as the opening acts to our 5-Year Extravaganza Main Stage Musical.

Fully aware of the tasks at hand, the creative team of Moonlit Wings Productions is working overtime to bring these events and the to fruition. The theme song can be heard down the hall from the rehearsal room, reverberating on repeat: "Alice! In Wonderland / How do you get to Wonderland?" Carroll's Wonderland may be a fantasy, but the hard work and talent of these performers and their leaders are anything but.

"Alice in Wonderland" premieres Friday, August 19, 2011 at 2:15pm at Providence Theater, 7525 Marc Drive, Falls Church, VA. Admission is free and it's sure to be a new adventure down the rabbit hole. You're invited to our performance, or if more convenient, to our dress rehearsal the day before, Thursday, August 18, 2011 also at 2:15pm. Champion the cause of theatre for the community, learn more about us and get involved at [www.moonlitwings.org](http://www.moonlitwings.org).