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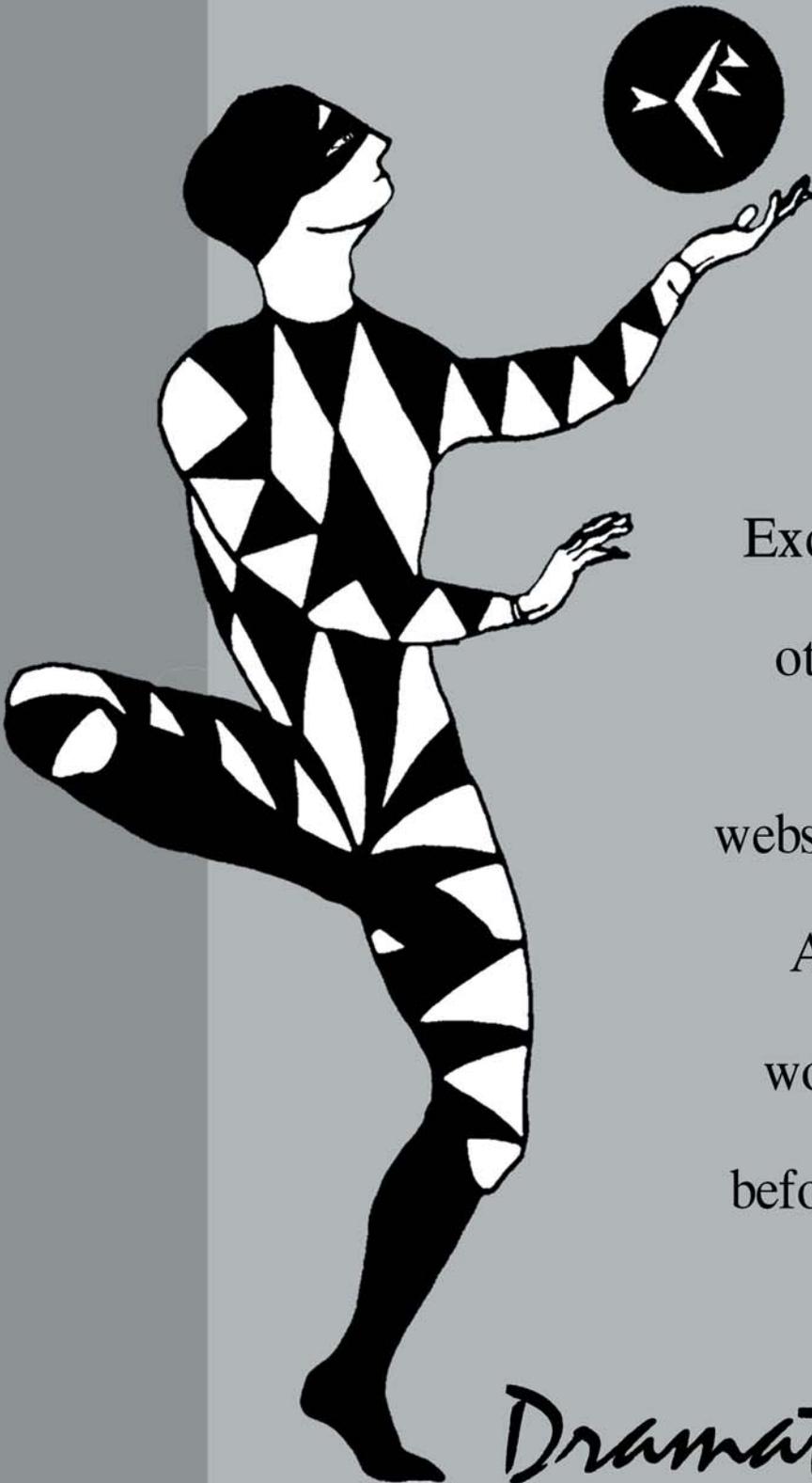
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Dramatic Publishing



Alice's Blue Gown

A Comedy in One Act

by

ROSE CAMPION



The Dramatic Publishing Company

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(ALICE'S BLUE GOWN)

Alice's Blue Gown

A Comedy in One Act

FOR EIGHT GIRLS

CHARACTERS

PATTY.....*Alice's little sister*
MISS PRESCOTT.....*one of those stern directors*
ALICE.....*who simply has to have*
DIZZY..... *who gets confused about*
DODO..... *who can't quite understand*
 about
LOLA..... *who can't be bothered about*
JANE..... *who is very sensible about*
CELESTE... *who is just too sweet about*

} THE BLUE
GOWN

PLACE: *A school room.*

TIME: *The present. A spring evening.*

NOTES ON CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES

ALICE: A pretty young girl in her late teens, tall and slender and blond in coloring. She is a sweet and lovable person, but is easily upset and is inclined to go into hysterical excitement at slight provocation. She is wearing a sports dress of some color other than blue.

PATTY: A long-legged youngster of twelve, with a hair-ribbon, a big doll or teddy bear, low-heeled slippers, short socks, and a simple little dress, short in the French fashion, which is very, very short indeed. She has an all-day sucker, and her usual pose is to wrap one leg around the other, lick her sucker and stare fixedly at nothing. She cannot be hurried when she talks. She is a little too large to push aside and a little too cumbersome to step on, so the girls find her something of an inconvenience when she is around underfoot. She accepts all rebukes as a duck accepts a shower, being equally impervious, and she sticks to her main point, which is "Harold said——"

DIZZY: A charming young girl with vivid coloring, a constant giggle, and an inclination to say, "Well, can you beat that? If my head weren't fastened on, I'd lose it!" One finally comes to wish Dizzy's head weren't fastened on. She is dressed in a very becoming evening dress.

LOLA: A slim, dark, sultry brunette, with a voice suited to reading Shakespeare in the manner of the old school. She is never down to earth unless she is down in the depths. She's always on another plane, drifting along in space. She, too, wears evening clothes, something slinky and form-fitting.

DODO: A comfortably built girl with a box of chocolates, a pretty face, a luscious mouth, and a well-padded-sounding chuckle. If anyone else made remarks so devoid of thought

processes as does Dodo, she would be murdered on the spot, but Dodo is so good hearted! She wears a very fluffy, frilly evening dress, with many flounces and furbelows.

MISS PRESCOTT: A tall, angular, completely-tailored woman of the honorable school of the battle-axe. She is stern, hatchet-faced, lantern-jawed, and she glares through nose glasses at all who dare try to offer excuses instead of accomplishment. With a coat of Valspar, she would be exactly like a machine. It's the only difference now between her and her metal affinities.

JANE: She is perfectly practical and perfectly reasonable, and she runs to the sensible in shoes and attitudes. She can always be depended on to produce either the object required, or a reasonable substitute. Of course, there are no reasonable substitutes for some things, but you can't tell Jane that. She is dressed in a rather severe evening dress.

CELESTE: A little darling who is so tiny she can use the baby stare and the almost-lisp and the confiding look and get away with it. She just admires Alice so much, and she has a way of looking up and up and up at Alice that makes Alice feel at least a foot taller than she really is. Celeste is dressed in a dainty evening dress, well suited to her fragile loveliness.

PROPERTIES

MISS PRESCOTT: A pencil and a notebook.

PATTY: A teddy bear or doll, a rope, an all-day sucker.

DODO: Package containing a pink evening dress, a box of candy.

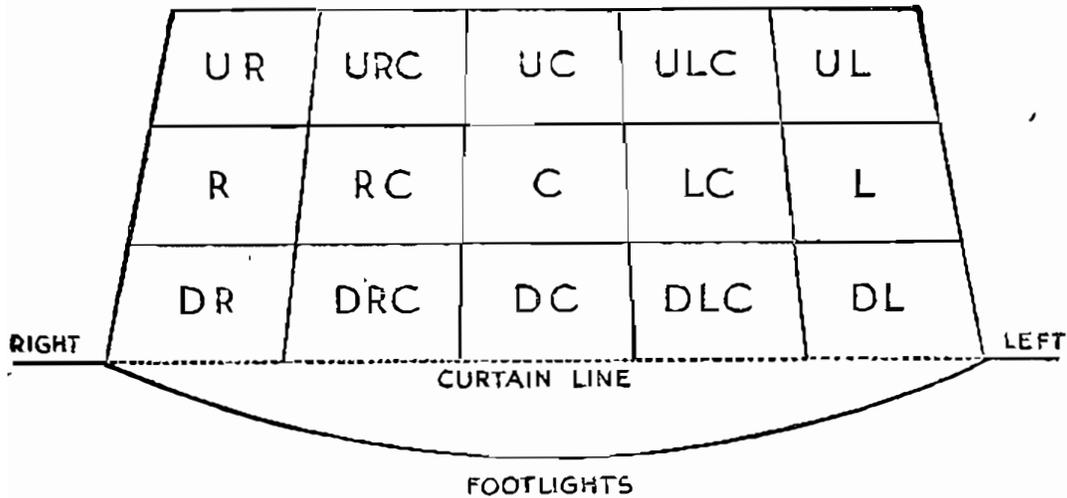
ALICE: A large package with express labels on it.

JANE: A package containing a tailored dark blue wool dress.

CELESTE: A suit box containing a blue dress, plainly too small for Alice.

DIZZY: A suit box containing a man's coat.

CHART OF STAGE POSITIONS



STAGE POSITIONS

A study of the above chart will give one a very clear idea of the exact meaning of stage positions. *Up stage* means away from the footlights, *down stage* means toward the footlights, and *right* and *left* are used with reference to the actor as he faces the audience. R means *right*, L means *left*, U means *up*, D means *down*, c means *center*, and these abbreviations are used in combination, as: UR for *up right*, RC for *right center*, DLC for *down left center*, etc.

One will note that a position designated on the stage refers to a general territory, rather than to a given point. Therefore two people may be c stage simultaneously, for c stage indicates a general territory and not an exact point. Likewise, a chair and a table may both be RC, for RC is also a general territory and not a single point or spot.

Alice's Blue Gown

SCENE: *A vacant class room, with a desk, a substantial chair back of it, several straight chairs, scattered about the room. Piled here and there on their chairs are costumes and traveling bags, as though several girls had seriously considered getting arrayed for some occasion there. There is a telephone on the desk R C. There is a door in the L wall, well up stage, and a window in the R wall, about C.]*

AT RISE OF CURTAIN: *The telephone is ringing. ALICE crosses to R C, sits behind the desk and quickly answers it.]*

ALICE: Hello, hello— Yes, this is Alice talking. It didn't? Oh, Mr. Kelly, are you sure? Did you look at every package? All the special delivery ones? All the little ones? All the big ones? You looked at every one? Oh, dear! When's the next mail from Portland? Ten! Oh, but that's too late! That's impossible! I've got to have that dress in a half an hour! Are you sure it isn't there?

[*Enter MISS PRESCOTT L hurriedly, carrying a pencil and a pad with a list which she is industriously checking.*]

ALICE: Thank you, then. Thank you. Good-bye. [*She hangs up and rises, turning to face MISS PRESCOTT.*]

MISS PRESCOTT. All right, Alice, where is your dress? I am checking all the costumes now, just to make sure that—

ALICE. It didn't come.

MISS PRESCOTT. What?

ALICE. I was having it made. It was to be on that 7:05 sure. And it wasn't. I just had a call from the post-office.

MISS PRESCOTT. Do you mean to tell me that you waited until the last minute on a costume, and then—

ALICE. But I was sure it would be all right. It was made exactly to my measurements, and it was a perfect copy of the picture.

MISS PRESCOTT [*snorting*]. What picture?

ALICE. The "Alice Blue Gown." That's what I'm posing for.

MISS PRESCOTT. And you have no substitute provided?

ALICE. No, Miss Prescott.

MISS PRESCOTT. You should always have a substitute provided.

ALICE. Yes, Miss Prescott.

MISS PRESCOTT. Didn't you know something like this might happen?

ALICE. No, Miss Prescott.

MISS PRESCOTT. You should always expect things like this to happen.

ALICE. Yes, Miss Prescott.

MISS PRESCOTT. Efficiency, that's what we need—efficiency!

ALICE. Yes, Miss Prescott. I've called all the girls I could think of. They all said they'd bring something.

MISS PRESCOTT. This is a lovely time to be thinking about a substitute, isn't it?

ALICE. Yes, Miss—I mean, no, Miss Prescott.

MISS PRESCOTT. That program will be wrecked! Simply wrecked!

[PATTY enters L, and ambles across the floor with her all-day sucker, her teddy bear, and her skipping rope, drawling as she comes.]

PATTY. Alice, when I went in the house a while ago, Harold said——

MISS PRESCOTT. Who is this child?

ALICE. Patty, my little sister. Patty, dear, you're not supposed to be down here. You run along home now.

MISS PRESCOTT. Doesn't she have a definite bed-time?

ALICE. Yes, Miss Prescott.

MISS PRESCOTT. Then she certainly ought to be keeping it better than this!

ALICE. Yes, Miss Prescott. Patty, dear, you run along home now.

PATTY [*screwing one leg around the other, and holding her arms out to balance her*]. Alice, when I went in the house a while ago, Harold said——

MISS PRESCOTT. Patricia, didn't you hear your sister?

PATTY. You mean me?

MISS PRESCOTT. Certainly I mean you!

PATTY. My name isn't Patricia.

MISS PRESCOTT. Of course it is! Your parents christened you Patricia, and then some boor shortened it to Patty.

PATTY. Huh-uh——

ALICE. Patty!

PATTY. No, ma'am. I was really named Patty. No boor did it. My mama did it. You can ask her if you want to. Didn't she, Alice?

ALICE [*distracted to death by now*]. Patty, will you go home this minute? I don't want to hear another word!

PATTY [*trying to manage her all-day sucker and her skipping rope at the same time*]. Alice, when I went in the house a while ago, Harold said——

ALICE [*impatiently*]. Patty! will you go home!

MISS PRESCOTT [*crossing to the door, nose in air*]. Such bringing up!

[*She goes out in a huff. Patty continues to skip rope. ALICE goes to the telephone, and jiggles the receiver anxiously.*]

ALICE. Hello—hello—hello, central—hello, central— Patty, will you keep still? You'll drive me insane!

PATTY [*walking across the floor on her heels without stepping on the cracks.*] Look, Alice, you can't do this. I haven't hit a crack yet. Alice, you can't do this, can you? Alice——

ALICE [*at the same time*]. Central, give me four-nine-four. Hurry please. No, four-nine-four! Yes, thank you.

PATTY. Alice, I haven't hit a crack yet.

ALICE [*exasperated*]. Patty, will you listen to me? Sister told you not to come down here tonight, and now, if you don't go home, she'll tell mother, and then you'll get spanked.

PATTY. If I go home right away, will you tell mother?

ALICE [*in the phone*]. Hello—Jane? Listen, Jane, the most dreadful thing has happened.

PATTY. Alice, if I go home right away, will you tell mother?

ALICE [*shaking her head at PATTY, and still talking in the phone*]. I say the most dreadful thing has happened!

PATTY. Which do you mean, Alice—don't go home, or you won't tell mama?

ALICE [*waving at her to be still*]. I say, the most dreadful thing—yes, dreadful! My dress didn't come!

PATTY [*trying to turn her toes out at a right angle and walk that way*]. Alice, if I go home right now will you won't tell mama?

ALICE. Yes, my dress didn't—I mean, no, my dress didn't——

PATTY [*at the same time*]. If I go home in five minutes will you won't tell mama? Alice, if I go home in five minutes? Just five? Alice——

ALICE. That's right! My dress didn't get here for the tableau! Do you have something blue you can bring over? Yes, I'm posing for the "Alice Blue Gown." Yes—yes——

PATTY. Alice, if I go home in ten minutes, will you won't tell mama? Alice, just ten minutes?

ALICE. Patty! Will you shut up! [*In telephone.*] No, no! No, Jane, I was talking to Patty! Yes, Patty! Yes, blue. You will? Oh, thank you! Yes, right away! I'm the first one in the second group, and Prescott is just having fits. Yes. Yes. [*She hangs up with a sigh of relief.*] Now, Patty, get this through your head! If you aren't out of here before I count to ten, I'll spank you, and have Harold spank you, and then I'll have mother spank you, and anyone else I can think of! Hear? One—two—three——