

Alice in Wonderland

US TV : 1985 : dir. Harry Harris : CBS / Irwin Allen / Columbia : 2 x 95 min
 prod: Irwin Allen : scr: Paul Zindel : dir.ph.: Fred Koenecamp

[Natalie Gregory](#)
 Lloyd Bridges; Red Buttons; Sid Caesar; Carol Channing; Imogene Coca; Sammy Davis Jr;
 Ann Jillian; Arte Johnson; Harvey Korman; Karl Malden; Jayne Meadows; Robert Morley;
 Roddy McDowall; Anthony Newley; Louis Nye; Martha Raye; Telly Savalas; Jonathan Winters

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"Mind-boggling TV version of an English classic, with tacky costuming and weird casting. Writer: Paul Zindel; dir.ph: Fred Koenecamp; music: Mort Stevens; songs: Steve Allen "

"Of all the many, and sometimes perverse, interpretations of the Lewis Carroll classic, the most bizarre must be Irwin Allen's 1985 travesty for American TV, with its legion of unsuitable actors who all too clearly hadn't read the book. Natalie Gregory is a cute nine-year old Americanised Alice."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"Irwin Allen has burned skyscrapers ("TOWERING INFERNO"), turned over ocean liners ("POSEIDON ADVENTURE") and left Los Angeles quaking in its boots ("EARTHQUAKE"). Now he trashes Lewis Carroll, leaving few survivors in the all-star cast. The rampant mugging and flavourless songs qualify this as a natural disaster to rank with the Titanic, Mt. St. Helens and Irwin Allen's "THE SWARM". *½ "

Cast:

Alice[Natalie Gregory](#)
 Walrus[Karl Malden](#)
 White Knight[Lloyd Bridges](#)
 Queen of Hearts[Jayne Meadows](#)
 White Rabbit[Red Buttons](#)
 King of Hearts[Robert Morley](#)
 Gryphon[Sid Caesar](#)
 March Hare[Roddy McDowall](#)
 White Queen[Carol Channing](#)
 Mad Hatter[Anthony Newley](#)
 Cook[Imogene Coca](#)
 Carpenter[Louis Nye](#)
 Caterpillar.....[Sammy Davis Jr](#)
 Duchess[Martha Ray](#)
 Red Queen[Ann Jillian](#)
 Cheshire Cat[Telly Savalas](#)
 Dormouse[Arte Johnson](#)
 Jonathan Winters[Humpty Dumpty](#)
 White King[Harvey Korman](#)
 (plus other celebs in bit parts)

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Agreed. It is a grotesque parody of the story, with the kind of casting to make a Carroll aficionado wake up in the dead of night shrieking: Telly "Who-loves-ya-baby" Savalas as the Cheshire Cat? Sammy Davis Jr as the Caterpillar? Anthony Newley (SHRIEK!) as the Hatter and Roddy McDowall (shudder) as the March Hare? Carroll's mischievous dark wit and playful sense of the surreal are here reduced to the level of inept pantomime. There are worse incarnations of Alice, but those are the pornographic ones. This is merely risible American trash, an illiterate *hommage* to a classic of children's literature. **Avoid!**

See **ALICE IN WONDERLAND – GENERAL NOTE** for a list of other adaptations, and subject index under **FANTASY / FAIRY TALES / FOLK TALES**