

Alice's Wonderful Adventure
8th-16th December 2017
and
UK BK Xmas Gathering
on final show 16th December 2017
GCH, LONDON, REPORT

The story of Alice's adventures in Wonderland is a well loved and well known fantasy adventure known across the world, with numerous film versions made in recent years. It was written in 1865 by Lewis Carroll, a mathematician from Oxford University. He was out boating on the Thames, (and would have passed Global Retreat Centre), and along the journey he told a story to three young girls, one called Alice, the daughters of the Vice-Chancellor of the University. It was a tale of adventure and discovery and immediately after the trip he started to write the story down. By the end of the year the manuscript was ready and the rest is history. With this production at GCH there was a sense of the story coming home and also a return to essence. Written and directed by **BK Minal Patel**, so many gyani themes and messages were built in to some of the more traditional storylines and characters, to truly bring it alive and relevant.



The cast, all Bk students, underwent weeks of intense rehearsing throughout November and the whole of the GCH family got involved in every department, from serving to ushering, to cleaning and caretaking, security and cooking! This end of year family project pulls everyone together with Baba as the backbone and became a dance of harmony and yoga in action in all areas of production and support.

Over 4,000 souls visited GCH over the 5 days of public shows. There was an opening performance for the London BK's on Friday 8th, then two public shows on both Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December. On Monday and Tuesday 11th and 12th December school children came from many local schools to experience the magic and there was another public show on Wednesday 13th December in the evening.

The last and final show was put on for UK BK's who travelled from up and down the country and beyond to be together with **Sister Jayanti**, **Sister Maureen** and the family for the annual pre Christmas gathering.

See the end of this report for a synopsis of the play and some quotes from the characters.

Sister Jayanti congratulated everyone involved and invited Minal to come up on stage to join the cast: *'I have seen Minal working harder than anyone.....he was the one inspiring all the actors and the One inspiring Minal is That One! Thank you Baba, Thank you Drama and thanks to each and everyone...it was a marathon production with 11 performances which has benefitted so many and inspired thousands....a big big thank you from everyone's hearts and to all of you and the news will reach Dadi. Dadi sends all her love to the whole gathering and Baba's love is reaching you all.*

Sister Jayanti invited everyone to switch from Wonderland to Madhuban as a video message from **Dadi Janki** was shared, who highlighted how love and cooperation is creating harmony and which closed with Dadi inviting everyone to enjoy the mincepies! (see end of this report for Dadi Janki's words).

Sister Jayanti went onto to explain how Pune is about to fulfill one of Dadi's dreams..and a video showed Dadi's recent visit at the end of November to the site of Jagadamba Bhavan. This is to be inaugurated on 18th January 2018 and is the realization of a long held dream to honour Mama....It includes an open ampitheatre for 3,000 people and an auditorium on the round for 600.

Sister Jayanti concluded the celebration with wishing to underline one theme of the play and also what was expressed in today's Murli blessing. ***What is the definition of yoga and full enlightenment? Love. What is the definition of full knowledge....Love. A beautiful message for the year ahead, as well as Dadi's message of unity and harmony. When we see the goodness in everyone...then automatically there will be love in our hearts. On an external level London has fulfilled many of Dadi's hopes and dreams...Pune is fulfilling another one. It is time now to fulfill Dadi's inner desires for all of us...to create the inner harmony and inner united kingdom...***

We listened to Baba's message of pure love on 5th December....stay lost in love for Baba and live in His heart... see each other with vision of love and respect then the impossible becomes possible....love, love, love. A very merry Christmas and a wonderful year ahead.

More good news. We have been waiting for a few years now and the GRC project is moving. And with everyone's finger of cooperation more magic will happen and with everyone's help it will happen smoothly and easily.

Banubhai from Madhuban completed the morning with a beautiful song of love.

Toli was shared from Madhuban, along with mincepies and calendars and diaries.

Brahma Bhojan was shared with all. (over 600 people were present).



Synopsis of Alice's Wonderful Adventure:

As the restless girl, and in this case the very 2017 Alice, suffering from stress and low self esteem, followed White Rabbit through the looking glass and she entered a magical world....full of characters....meeting first the wise Caterpillar who motivated her to look for her 'true self' as he questioned her *'Whooooooo are you?' and 'what, in the very depths of your heart to you seek? 'I want to feel I am worth something ...and not stress about my exams too! Caterpillar nudges her on to adventure further and cautioned her as went on 'You will be given tests and opportunities and will find what you are after in unexpected ways!' The caterpillar maps out her mission: 'The Wonderlanders are edging closer to misery and damage beyond repair. The heart of the clock of time has been stolen and dying slowly.....and taking everyone into an irreversible eternity of unhappiness...you can fix it Alice.'*

So off she went, wrestling with doubt whether it was really her who was worthy of such a mission. Continuing to meet White Rabbit, always rushing and *'tired of everything being about time...enough!'* But also aware that it was going to be Alice that would find the *'Find a heart and deliver it to the clock of time...but time there is not much time left!'*

Caterpillar, often in the background continued to encourage Alice to have faith in herself and to *'listen closer, learn more and keep going'*

Alice then experienced being shrunk and enlarged and met various intriguing characters along the way....TweedleDee and TweedleDum, the contrariwise couple of twins; Mad hatter and his companions, Hare and Dormouse who were all stuck in an *'eternity of tea time'*, a spell cast on them by the Red Queen many years before, as punishment for wasting her time!

Alice is informed that the Red Queen, who she was yet to meet, had stolen the Wonderlanders Eraball, which was the Heart of Time. She had continued to create misery for all her subjects in her endeavor to control time and be powerful forever. As TweedleDum explained to Alice the Queen is *'a bossy old boots'*. The kingdom was on the verge of being committed to eternal misery, if the Eraball (the heart) was not returned to the Clock of Time very soon, as time was dying without it.

Poor old Hatter bellowed in misery every hour on the hour.... *'OOOH What is the Hatter with me!'* Alice found out the Red Queen had the Eraball and it was up to Alice, who was not a Wonderlander and who could, therefore, touch the Eraball without time continuing to die faster, and return it to the Clock of Time and save the Kingdom. The characters had been waiting for Alice.... *'we've known for centuries you are the one....and in my head you are much more muchier'* expresses Hatter. So with the hopes and expectations of the Kingdom, Alice affirms that maybe *'I can try to convince her to give it back....ask for it nicely'*.



The Red Queen and Alice's path finally cross..... *'I'm the Queenwho are you?'* *'Alice from Kilburn'....'from Kill, Burn, I like the sound of that place...it sounds exotic....I like you, Alice from Kilburn...who will be my new friend....* Alice enquires about the Eraball and Red Queen retorts: *'I took it as time was making me old and haggard, and I am the monarch so I should be in charge of time....I can do all sorts of things with it; freeze people; enjoy the past; and no sharing!'* The Red Queen demonstrates the power of using the Eraball, by taking Alice back to the day she was crowned...to what she remembered as her *'glorious momen't..but also the memory continued to show what then happened as the young Queen shouts at her new subjects declaring 'I hate you all....no one loves me'....* Returning to the present the Queen chastises the Caterpillar for somehow being responsible for the Eraball *'not working'*. He tells her simply that she has been using it too much and it is time for it to be returned. He also reveals to the Queen that Alice is here to take it away from her. *'I just showed her my most prized memory....how ungrateful!'*

Alice is now feeling under pressure to save the kingdom, and Caterpillar gently reassures her that she has such a gift, such goodness and possibilities inside her that need to be used to help the people of wonderland to be rescued from eternal unhappiness. He teaches her to go quiet, to be in the moment and let go of stress that is clouding her mind..... *'the more quiet you are the more goodness you will see inside yourself'... Don't give up Alice....you will find a way....*

Alice returns to Hatter's Tea Party and quickly passes on her new found wisdom, and empowers Hatter to go back in the past and draw on a memory when he felt whole and happy.... *one time, one moment,,just a moment of happiness.....and hold onto this.*

Red Queen interrupts this happy scene and declares Alice a fraud who has deceived her by coming to Wonderland to take away *' my Queendom, my home and my Eraball!'* She then threatens *'Off with her head'* and a chase ensues and in which Alice somehow manages to wrangle the Eraball from the Queen's grasp.

Alice reminds the Queen that all she does is shout and order her subjects about and that her heart has become cold. Alice offers the Queen a way out recognizing she could be an excellent queen by being kind and generous. Slowly the Queen gives up her protestations that it is everyone else's fault and awkwardly apologizes to her subjects. *It's too late for time but not too late for you.....you have to learn to bring the good feelings into the present moment.....because if you don't love yourself....noone will love you. You have to be grateful....* As the Queen remembered her happy childhood her heart started to soften and at this moment the Clock of Time started working again...the Kingdom now saved....Alice closed the play with a beautiful song...*no-one is alone.....just remember someone is on your side.....*

Caterpillar reminds Alice that Time holds the secrets of all the stories from the beginning to the end and it is possible to make friends with time..... *'Time knows what to send your way to make good use of it'...* and to remember that *'no one has a bad heart...it is just broken or forgotten about'*. Caterpillar acknowledges Alice that she *'helped save time and helped the Red Queen let go of her past and feel whole again...and helped Hatter too.....'* and Alice admitted that *' You were right all along, you knew....but I still feel stressed about my exams.....so I will stop worrying and focus on the goodness...be quiet.....be focused.....be happy...'*

'Alice...you have helped save Wonderland...don't you think you can pass your exams' Caterpillar wryly stated. Just remember always look to goodness and you won't have to worry about a thing....

Alice finally wakes up in her garden where she started the play and it was all a dream....' I'm Home'. She exclaims.



Dadi Janki's message for the UK Gathering in London

Alice's Wonderful Adventures (16th December 2017)

Om Shanti Om shanti Om shanti. Jayantiben – tomorrow is Friday and you have invited the UK family. Very good. Give everyone Brahma Bhojan and also show them the children's play. Baba sent me abroad, made everyone belong to Him and gave everyone so much love. Even today, I told Gulzar Dadi, you invite everyone for the Christmas show, celebrate the holidays so well. You will give everyone very good food, won't you? The whole UK family is coming, it is not a small thing. The whole of UK in London. Aaaahhh! All of you have been taught "om shanti". What happens through "Om shanti"? Who am I? Who is mine? The Almighty Authority is my Father. My Father is the Almighty Authority. By having faith in the intellect you will always remain carefree. If you perform good actions, you will experience happiness. Baba says: Children. You must have taught everyone who Baba is? Baba is the Supreme Father, the Supreme Soul, God the Father. Those of all religions remember the Supreme Soul. By remembering God, you perform good actions. Do not perform any wrong actions that you have to ask for forgiveness. God, our Father, has taught us children so well. Perform such good actions that you become deities through your actions. When you do good service and inculcate divine virtues, accordingly, you will remain happy and become an example for others. The more you stay in remembrance of God, the more attention you will pay to the virtues. To pay attention to the virtues means not to take sorrow and not to give sorrow. Always keep everyone happy. Don't get upset with anyone. Don't get upset or upset anyone. Imbibe such good virtues that through the Christmas show, people realise that this Christmas show was most wonderful, even though you may have celebrated many Christmas many times before. What is wonderful? Let there be God's remembrance. It is the whole UK. UK means United Kingdom. Unity. Not disunity. With Unity, you develop power in yourself and you receive power from God. And seeing one another, the happier you remain and share that happiness, that is truly celebrating Christmas. Is that right, sister? I have been remembering you a lot. I spent a long time in London. London made the whole UK belong there, and have shared so much happiness and peace. Happy Christmas means to be healthy, wealthy and happy. What does it mean to be wealthy? Not to have money, wealthy means to be full with all virtues, completely viceless. Not have to any lust, anger, greed, attachment or ego. Then God will be happy and you will happy and the world will be happy. So, Happy Christmas and give everyone loving remembrance. Also remember me when you have Brahma Bhojan and I will come and eat there. You have given such a good invitation that my heart's desire is to fly and be there with you. Hansa says she can get me on the plane any minute and bring me there.

What are you going to feed everyone? Cut a cake, have some pizzas? Mince pies? You know how to make them and to feed everyone. Open your mouths and I will feed you. Achcha. Om shanti. Open your mouth. Thank you. Om shanti. * * * * *