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## Texas Woman's University presents "Alice in Wonderland" at the 2008 Fringe Festival

The TWU production of "Alice in Wonderland," is a new twist on Lewis Carroll's classic tale. In this folk-rock dream by Parisian-trained Lake Simons and Texas musician John Dyer, forty puppets romp with Alice who constantly shifts from a puppet to a real girl. The one hour performances are at 10:15 August 4–9, at the prestigious Bedlam Theatre in downtown Edinburgh. Venue 49 in this year's Fringe, the Bedlam Theatre is located at 11b Bristro Place in Edinburgh. Tickets prices are £6 (£5). For more information, please call either the Fringe Box Office at 0131 226 0000 or the Bedlam Theatre Box Office at 0131 225 9893.

In this playfully impressionistic retelling of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, forty puppets ranging in style from shadow to hand-held to three-person articulated Bunraku-style puppets are featured in a movement rich

recreation of the fall down the rabbit hole, the croquet match, the tea party and other delightful scenes. The fast paced sixty-minute musical is imaginatively created to engage adults and is appropriate for children five and up. This adaptation of "Alice in Wonderland" was first presented and produced at the Hip Pocket Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas and again by the HERE Arts Center through Dream Music Puppetry Program in New York City, and most recently at TWU's Redbud Theater in Denton, Texas.

The co-creators, Lake Simons and John Dyer are native Texans. Simons received her training at Ecole Jaques Lecoq in Paris, France and the North Carolina School of the Arts. She has been awarded three Jim Henson Foundation grants and is a member of Basil Twist's Dream Music Puppetry Program in New York City. Dyer, now a New York musician, conceived, wrote and performs the music and the libretto; serving as the abstract narrator for "Alice in Wonderland." The recipient of four ASCAP Plus Awards, his CD "Gostayplay" was a Best Album Finalist at the Independent Music Awards. Producer of "Alice in Wonderland", Sharon Benge, is an independent theatre director/producer, arts broadcaster and educator. Her show, "Art Matters" has been a staple on Dallas' classical music station WRR-FM for twenty years and for the last eight years she has headed the Drama Program of Texas Woman's University. "Alice in Wonderland" is the third international production she has led.

"Alice in Wonderland" is an ensemble cast of TWU Drama students: Brandianne Kramer, Samantha Bianchini, Colleen Carroll, Tiffany Fetty, Brittany

Fowler, Elizabeth Lambert, Jill Laney, Christina Williams, Gerald Young, Crystal Bratton, Georgana Jinks, Dan Pucul, and Clay White. Traveling with the cast is a technical crew of TWU Drama students: Audrey Lewis, Crystal Holub, Megan Endres, David Gutierrez, Chris Taylor, Taylor Reed and Susan Serota. TWU faculty and staff members traveling with the students will be Professor Sharon Benge, Dr. Patrick Bynane, and Technical Director Judy Drouin.

Organized as a public institution of higher learning over 100 years ago, Texas Woman's University is now the nation's largest university primarily for women. With a total enrollment of over 12,000 graduate and undergraduate students at four campuses in Denton, Dallas and Houston, it has experienced additional growth since opening its doors to male students in 1972. It educates more nurses and other health care professionals than any other university in Texas and is a leader in producing highly qualified professionals in the fields of education and the liberal arts. The university's drama program is known for creating productions on an international scale. In recent years its students have studied and performed in the Czech Republic and Ireland and in 2007, they mounted an original production off-Broadway in New York.

**For ticket information please contact the Bedlam Theatre (Venue 49) at 0131 225 9893 or the Fringe Box Office at 0131 226 0000.**

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