

# PROGRAMME

SUDBURY PERFORMANCE GROUP

— *Be a Part of the Art* —

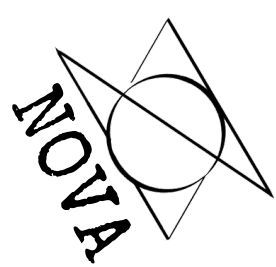
## The NOVA Program's Alice by Heart

June 5-7, 2025

Music by Duncan Sheik

Lyrics by Steven Sater

Book by Jessie Nelson and Steven Sater





# PRODUCTION TEAM



## CHANDA GRYLLS-MAHAFFY – PRODUCER/CO-FOUNDER

Chanda is grateful for her friends and family. Their support for NOVA has been pivotal. What began as Kalem's passion project has grown into a true community theatre experience that the entire cast and crew are passionate about. Thank you for going "Down the Hole" with us! SP, CMM, SM, VB and JK. Bravo!



## SUZANNE THIBAUT – DIRECTOR

Suzanne brings over 30 years of community theatre experience to her role of Director for Alice by Heart. Performer, choreographer, and artistic director are just some of the hats she has worn. Suzanne also brings over 25 years of working with individuals with disabilities and is so honoured to be able to bring both passions together on the stage through the wonderful NOVA Program. She thanks the cast and crew for their courage and heart.



## K.C. RAUTIAINEN – VOCAL DIRECTOR

K.C. is a retired Public Health Nurse and WAS a retired vocal director. Why is she no longer retired from vocal directing? One word! Kalem! It has been a pleasure sharing the NOVA journey with Kalem, Chanda and this wonderful adult/youth production team. The team's support has been monumental! K.C. sends out huge hugs and gratitude to the amazing cast and crew, the volunteers, SP, SPG! Now K.C. can go back into vocal retirement and continue to pursue her true passion for travel. Morocco, here she comes! Böle



## MANHATTAN MACLENNAN – CHOREOGRAPHER

Manhattan started dancing the minute she could walk! She has been a competitive dancer (11 years), taught dance to all ages (five years), and was on a varsity competitive cheerleading, dance & pom team for Carleton University in Ottawa for three years! Manhattan has participated in an extensive amount of workshops and teaching opportunities in the performing arts. She loved choreographing so many talented artists!





VALERIE  
BESSERER



AUBREE  
PERRON



PRESLEY  
McCARTHY



MARGARET  
KAMERMAN

#### VALERIE BESSERER – STAGE MANAGER

Valerie is a long time lover of theatre, and is grateful to NOVA for providing her the opportunity to return to it after 27 years, as a first time Stage Manager. While she was excited to learn this role, Valerie unexpectedly stumbled upon an even more meaningful opportunity in getting to know each of the cast and crew, and has cherished every moment she has been blessed to exist alongside them. She hopes the audience will relish their time with these magical humans as much as she has.

#### AUBREE PERRON – YOUTH STAGE MANAGER

Aubree is a passionate actress and singer who loves bringing stories to life on stage. She has performed in “The Little Mermaid Jr.” (Biggest Little Theater Company), “ABBA Gold” (SPG), and many other productions. With training in voice, acting, and dance, she continues to grow as a performer. Aubree is excited to explore stage management and gain new experience behind the scenes!

#### PRESLEY McCARTHY – YOUTH DIRECTOR

While Presley loves going to see local productions, she’s never been in one herself. This is Presley’s first venture into the world of youth directing and she is amazed with everything she’s learned. In the fall she will be a student at Cambrian College for the Carpentry and Renovation program.

#### MARGARET KAMERMAN – YOUTH VOCAL DIRECTOR/ENSEMBLE VOCALS

Margaret has her Advanced Diploma in Music-Performance from Cambrian College (2020) and graduated from Faculty of Music program at Wilfred Laurier (2023). Credits include a concert production of “Verdi’s La Traviata” (Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra), Beth in “Little Women” (Opera Laurier), “Rudolph Jr.”, “No Fences” (SPG), and concerts with the Parry Sound Choral Collective and the Whispering River Orchestra. She is now works at Long and McQuade as a vocal instructor.

“Alice by Heart” is one act with no intermission.

Trigger warning: loud noises, implied drug use, war, death, and body image.



# CAST



**KAELM MAHAFFY (NOVA CREATOR) as ALICE**

Kalem is a 20-year-old artist with a dream: that people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can make art. Last year, she pitched the idea of NOVA, and now here we are. Kalem would like to thank SPG, for agreeing to this. Her family, friends, and community for their groundbreaking support. Her father, set builder extraordinaire. Her mother, who is infused in every part of this dream. And finally, herself, for believing impossible things, sometimes to an optimistic fault.



**CESAR DIEGO as ALFRED/WHITE RABBIT/MARCH HARE**

Although Cesar isn't the most experienced person in acting, he feels more than prepared to challenge and prove himself capable in this ambitious play. He's been singing since age five. He's grateful for his parents' support, not only in music and singing, but also in the skills he has developed. Cesar has learned a lot with this amazing group, and is interested in pursuing and refining his passion for the arts which music and cinema have stowed in him.



**KATE WALKER as TABATHA/CHESHIRE CAT/CATERPILLAR 2**

Kate is an actor/ singer, born and raised in Sudbury, and a thorough enjoyer of all things Wonderland. She is participating in a musical for the first time with NOVA's first show. Her other experience in performing includes piano and singing in the Sudbury Music Festival for three years. In 2025, she performed in the Stars of Excellence, and will be in the Provincial Kiwanis Festival in June.



**EMILY DUVAL as RED CROSS NURSE/ QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Emily is a 23-year-old musician and aspiring actor. She has been involved with SPG both onstage and offstage as a performer in "ABBA Gold" and as vocal director for "Rudolf Jr." Usually you can find her singing songs in different languages or playing extreme rhythm games, but today you'll be seeing her on the throne where the Queen belongs. She'll be waiting for you in Wonderland!





ANDREA QUACKENBUSH as DR BUTRIDGE/KING OF HEARTS/MOCK TURTLE/JABBERWOCK

Andrea is pumped to be part of NOVA's debut show, and her first production with SPG. Her past repertoire was mostly vocal performances; she's now giving musical theatre a whirl. This show helped Andrea break out of her shell and dive into the madness. She thanks the director, production team, and Kalem for making this performance possible, and a big "high five" to the audience for their support.



SATINE S. as ANGUS/CATERPILLAR/MOCK MOCK MOCK MOCK TURTLE

Satine is no stranger to the SPG stage! You may have seen her as Anna "Frozen Jr.," an apostle "Jesus Christ Superstar," and Jessie in "No Fences." Satine has also performed in Her Northern Voice and Northern Arts with SPG. When not on stage, you can find her watching old films, writing mediocre poetry, and blowing her money on her record collection.



CANDICE DUVAL as HAROLD PUDDING/MAD HATTER

Candice is a completely normal 23-year-old girl and not a magical clown in disguise. Musical theatre, improvisation, voice acting and animation fill her with glee! Her greatest achievements include being born and helping old people pack their groceries. She has over a decade of stage experience in a rock band, but her career in musical theatre is only just beginning. Candice would like to ask you to enjoy the show — and PLEASE don't blow her cover [honk honk].



JOSEPH ROY as DODGY/DUCHESS

After two years, 20-year-old Joseph Roy returns to the stage. Previously, he has performed in productions with SSS, SPG, TNO, and Les Draveurs. Joseph works at Urban Barn (1.8 years) and volunteers with SPG (2.4 years). Last year, he graduated from Cambrian College and is actively completing his bachelor's in psychology. Joey encourages you to laugh at him when applicable and thanks you for supporting the NOVA team.





### RL BANTON as NIGEL/DORMOUSE

RL has been in two musicals in total: "Frozen Jr." and "Rudolph Jr." (SPG). He is excited to perform seeing as it was the first play he saw performed by live actors. Another reason he agreed is because his sister Arabella enjoys Alice in Wonderland.



### GWEN BESSERER as CLARISSA/KNAVE OF SPADES /ENSEMBLE

Gwen is a 16 year old grade 10 student at Lockerby Composite School. Alice By Heart is the first play that she is performing in, and she is very grateful to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing cast. She has learned so much from her time with NOVA from her castmates and crew, and hopes you all thoroughly enjoy the show!



### VICTORIA RAMSAY as QUEEN OF DIAMONDS/ MOCK MOCK TURTLE/ DANCE CAPTAIN

Victoria is super excited for this performance. She is 18 years old. You'll see Victoria dance around with her amazing cast, and you'll always see a smile upon her face. Credits include "Magic Pebble" and "One Small Step" (STC/YES) "Pure Imagination, 'The Little Mermaid jr' and "Shrek jr." (Biggest Little Theatre Company) ABBA GOLD (SPG). Victoria is grateful to be part of NOVA's Alice by Heart and for her friends and family who push her every day. Enjoy the show! :)



### OLIVIA MASK as KNAVE OF CLUBS/ MOCK MOCK MOCK TURTLE/ ENSEMBLE

Olivia is super excited to be able to perform this show with her peers for you tonight. Olivia's a teenage performer with a love for the arts. Some previous roles that taught her most she knows are Gretchen Weiners in "Mean Girls Jr." and Miss Hannigan in "Annie Jr." She'd like to thank her parents for feeding into her many passions and hopes you enjoy the show!



**LINA SWANN as KNAVE OF HEARTS/ENSEMBLE**

Lina is a 17-year-old actress, singer, model and artist. She's been in the theatre community for years with STC, YES, BLTC, St. Charles College, and now stepping into the world of SPG. She's extremely excited to play the comedic role of The Knave of Hearts and looks forward to bringing her talents to the stage. She hopes you get to both cry and laugh while enjoying this show of a lifetime.

**ABBY YAW as ENSEMBLE**

Abby is bilingual and 13 years old, signed with Nexus Talent Group in 2023. Abby's love for theatre started when she put on little plays with her cousins for her family. She's taken acting classes at That Creative Loft. Show credits include "Rudolph Jr." and "Frozen Jr." (SPG) and Brittany in Magnetosphere (Mags Film LLC.) In her spare time she plays many types of sports but her favourites are basketball and tackle football.

**ABBY BUCKNER as YOUNG ALICE**

Abby is 10 years old and has been participating in theater for the last four years with SPG. She first discovered her love of theater when she attended an SPG summer camp. Abby is excited to take on the role of Young Alice in this production. She enjoys theater because it allows her to express her creativity, perform in front of an audience and to meet new people.

**JAXON ROY as YOUNG ALFRED**

Jaxon has been playing piano since the age of six. While new to theatre, he's no stranger to the stage, performing behind the piano. Jaxon enjoys music, singing and gaming. Some of his favourite artists include Benson Boone, Bruno Mars, and Shawn Mendes. He looks forward to meeting new people and growing through this new adventure!

# THANK YOU

Pianist..... Damien Laframboise  
Logistics Coordinator..... Chanda Grylls-Mahaffy  
Audio Technician..... Sean Perras  
Lighting Technician.....Keegan Beaulieu  
Lighting Operator.....Rebecca Lecour  
Head of Wardrobe.....Javy Esquivel  
Set Construction.....Steve Mahaffy  
Front of House Manager.....Emilia P. & Dorothy B.  
Back of House Manager.....Jennifer Kuz  
Props Masters.....Dylan M. & Olivia B.  
Headshots.....Zoe Langille  
Program/Media.....Kalem Mahaffy  
Inclusivity Consultant..... Alicia Grace Chenier  
NOVA Ambassadors.....Celia-Mae M. & Sawyer G.

HUGE thank you to all our donors, community partners,  
volunteers, and audience members.

NOVA (Nurturing Our Voices in the Arts) is an  
inclusive and accessible youth theatre program to  
develop emerging actors, creatives, and production  
team members.

The NOVA Team is immensely grateful to the cast and  
crew for the countless hours of work that went into  
making this possible.





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