

'Alice In Wonderland' Opens Tonight

"Alice in Wonderland," the Provincetown Theatre Company's third production of the season, opens tonight at the Art Association. The play is adapted from Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass." Charles Horne, who directed last year's Theatre Company production of "Peter Pan," wrote the adaptation and is the play's director.

Although the story is an old children's favorite, Horne advises against taking pre-school children to see this production of it. "Anyone who has read 'Alice' is aware of its potentially terrifying aspects. We haven't exploited that potential, but we also have not let it lie dormant," he says, adding that "an older child might derive as much out of it as an adult."

Most of the stage and film adaptations of "Alice" have been more or less literal reenactments of the book. But Horne feels that a play adaptation should be an entirely new entity. For this reason, he admits that fans of Carroll's books might not entirely approve of his production.

"The characters and famous scenes are all there, but we've changed the sequence of events and context. And much of the dialogue has been rewritten. Alice, traditionally a saccharin-sweet English schoolgirl, has been given much more dimension. In the story, she first enters this strange world and accepts all of the weird surroundings as she would a butterfly. In our version, she sees, say, the giant caterpillar and she reacts! She's amazed and frightened at the same time: How would you react to a giant caterpillar?"

"We're reading between Carroll's lines. I don't think you can say we've followed it with an intellectual point of view, but we have explored many of the psychological aspects of the story."

However, the psychological end of 'Alice' is not offered at the expense of what the



Members of 'Alice in Wonderland' cast dress for one of their final rehearsals at the Art Association.

stories are most famous for: their fun and nonsense. The zany cast of characters are all there: Ace of Hearts (Jeffrey Hewitt), Queen of Hearts (Valerie Santuccio), King of Hearts (Jeffrey Kresser), Knave of Hearts (Meredith Bruskin), White Rabbit (Chip Bailey), Mock Turtle (Faegg Je), Gryphon (Edmond DiStasi), Duchess (Joe Webb), Cook (Marcia Sadownick), Bab (Jim Ives), Cheshire Cat (Dennis Dermody), March Hare (Matt Breakey), Dormouse (Gerri Corrado), Mad Hatter (Larry Riley), White Knight (Wayne Peter Team), Red Queen (Abbi Marchesani), White Queen (Eve), Alice is played by Alice Hammers, who is making her acting debut. Original music set to Carroll's famous

nonsense verse has been written by Provincetown pianist-composer Richard Busch and will be performed on piano and harpsichord by the Ace of Hearts (Jeffrey Hewitt). The sets have been designed by Jim Bulgher and Hilda Neily.

The play will run through Monday, April 15 and continue next weekend from Thurs-

day, April 18 to Sunday, April 21. In view of limited audience space as a result of the size of this production, reservations should be made in advance by calling 487-9057 between 1 and 5 daily. Tickets are \$2. "Curtain" is at 8:30. And for those who just can't enjoy anything without it, wine and beer will be sold at intermission.