

Savile Clarke *Alice* Productions

Articles

Production: 1886-1887, Phoebe Carlo

Performance: Prince of Wales's Theatre

Article: Reference to Alice's costume, in the regular column, "CAUSERIE"

The Court Circular, Saturday 1 January 1887 pages 5-6

CAUSERIE.

The Christmas holidays are essentially a children's festival, and the correct clothing of small people for their varied festivities is a source of much wear-and-tear of mind to some parents and guardians. For little children under 10 years of age nothing is so satisfactory as the smock-frock. A loose blouse, honey-combed, and feather-stitched at the neck and sleeves, much in the fashion of an old-fashioned ploughboy's garment, is a perfect dress for a small child. The blouse adapts itself to violent exercise as well as to repose. It never compresses or represses. It is elastic in every sense of the word.

...

Although ladies have declined to be trammelled by any conventionality of costume, or to wear a uniform at the bidding of common-sense, they accord wise regulations to their little children, and the blouse has become the recognised outer garment of English infancy. Soft silk, cotton, or linen form the summer garments; serge, velvet, or cashmere the winter ones. The size is increased with the child's growth, but otherwise the form remains the same, a loose, sloppy dress, held in place by pretty expanding embroidery, and a big sash.

The dress prepared for *Alice in Wonderland* in the first scene of the play was something akin to a blouse, but possessed more of shape than that used for tiny children. The garden costume was of soft greeny-blue woollen stuff, embroidered with the same colour in silk, and tied with a soft Indian silk sash. A large hat covered with the same material was also prepared; but some technical stage difficulty limited Alice's attire to one gown, and the "Looking-glass" one was selected as having a better stage effect than the green dress.

As "Alice" might be supposed to be dressed for the evening in the drawing-room act, she had a becoming dress of sheeny cream material bordered with swansdown, and tied with a sash of silk. Little Phoebe Carlo makes such a charming picture in the gown that she will probably set a fashion to be followed by many small people for party-dresses this winter. The dress is sufficiently warm to save the wearer from the chill so common to the changing of dress in wintry weather. Little girls are much more charming in high, substantial evening dresses than in the perilous tulle or muslin drapery so many mothers adopt for their little ones. Grown-up girls may also learn a lesson from this. ...

CELIA.