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RGGS
GUILDFORD



MAD AS HATTERS

The distance from Guildford to Japan may be almost 6,000 miles, yet for two nights the joint RGS and Rikkyo School bilingual production immersed the audience in the world of *Alice in Wonderland* and its Japanese connections. The evening started with a light-hearted, humorous look at Guildford, its landmarks, famous inhabitants and its strange customs, with the mantra, "Nothing much goes on around Guildford!" This culminated in the links that Guildford has to Lewis Carroll and also the powerful emergence of Arisu, as the Japanese were seduced by the fantasy and imagination of the story. A festival of colour, flamboyance and feel-good energy then ensued: as the White Rabbit, Tom Postance, led Alice into a magical world where the

appearance of James Harper-Jones as a dancing Tweedledum or Silas Gordon as an emerging butterfly, William Holmes as the Jack of Hearts or Afra Jamshaid as the Mad Hatter, seemed simply the most natural of occurrences. An evening which showcased a truly collaborative initiative had everything from uninhibited polka-dot dancing extravagance to the sights and sounds of the East with beautiful national dress and vibrant yukata. Extraordinary intonation and fluency characterised the boys' performances and the audience was left spellbound by a truly magical experience where Japan suddenly didn't seem so far away after all.



