SLIDE 1

Look closely at how the MC engages and sustains the audience’s attention from the very beginning of the production. It is a familiar story which has been made very modern and so the audience’s attention needs to be grabbed from the very start! This opening is also a very good demonstration of how theatrical automation can be used to great effect.

SLIDE 2

Without / within: The MC is a strange character which is both within the performance and not part of the performance.

A master of ceremonies, abbreviated MC, is the official host of a ceremony, staged event, conference, convention, or similar performance. As the host, they are not usually a character within the play. However, in wonder.land, the MC is very much part of the performance and the story and plays a pivotal role in leading and negotiating with the characters. In my presentation I’m going to look at the acting style of three components of the MC

Mediator = where the MC bridge between the audience and the play - for example at the very start of the play

Animator = how the MC plays the role sets up the expectation and enthusiasm and excitement of the audience - for example when he is encouraging Ali to set up an online avatar - an important moment as she passes the threshold into the online world

Part-character = relates to the main character when he is the caterpillar, which is an important device to challenge Ali/Alice’s self-identity

SLIDE 3

Highly enunciated speech to open the play with lots of expression

A posh accent is used indicating authority / establishment and elements of the past

Humour and surreal references already intimate the tone of the drama

The character is seated like the audience, suggesting he is part-audience

Looks jolly, has clownish hair and has sparkly clothes

The scale contrasts between the high-rise backdrop and the armchair is intriguing

The acting and positioning suggests that the MC is also within the play

SLIDE 4

Dialogue with characters - urging the characters on, acting like an inner voice that questions and draws the characters to explain how they are thinking and feeling.

The acting is extreme, zany, deliberately expressing the extremes of our emotions.

He speaks highly confidently like someone advertising something on the streets

All his speaking has music behind it

SLIDE 5

Changes clothes, becomes character, walks and sings

Maintains elements of the MC - voice and expression

Voice is mellow and sinister during the song (which also slips in a reference to the Who’s song Who are you? In the middle)

His character can dramatically change personality