

Alice in Wonderland

UK live TV play : 1946 : dir. : BBC : ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Vivien Pickles](#)
 Philip Stainton; Hilary Pritchard

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	∞	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5091	1.5	1	1	309	-	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Alice as panto?

Source: BBC TV Presents

Caption from **BBC TV Presents – a Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration**:

“Christmas 1946 saw a production of "**Alice in Wonderland**". Left to right: Philip Stainton (the Mock Turtle); Vivien Pickles (Alice); and Hilary Pritchard (Gryphon).”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "How Sweet It Was" or "Television's Greatest Hits"]

No further information currently available. This is to date the earliest TV production in the archive. Although primitive broadcast experiments began in London as early as September 1929, the official opening of BBC TV broadcasting was on November 2nd 1936. In fact there were two debut transmissions the same day – one using the original Baird process and one a competing system by Marconi/EMI. The opening night audience was estimated at 400. The first test colour transmissions, as a point of interest, were in 1955.

Vivien Pickles, though one might not guess it from that still, was 13. Her films as an adult included “**NICHOLAS AND ALEXANDRA**” (71), “**HAROLD AND MAUDE**” (71), “**SUNDAY, BLOODY SUNDAY**” (72) and “**CANDLESHOE**” (77, with Jodie Foster). No other titles are given for her as a child actress, but doubtless she’d already have done theatre work. It’s not likely the BBC would have cast a total novice as the lead in their Christmas production, given that it was broadcast live to such a small and fragile audience.

See “**ALICE IN WONDERLAND – GENERAL NOTE**” for details of other adaptations, most of them lamentable, and subject index under **FANTASY / FOLK TALES / FAIRY TALES** and **TV PLAYS**.