

Now there's something about Alice

By Andrew Ffrench

Movie maker on trail of children's classic

THE producer of Hollywood hit *There's Something About Mary* visited Oxford to see locations linked with *Alice In Wonderland*.

Frank Beddor visited Christ Church in Oxford, where *Alice* author Charles Dodgson, alias Lewis Carroll, was once a lecturer.

Mr. Beddor's children's book *The Looking Glass Wars*, is being published today by Egmont, and is a reworking of the 1865 classic *Alice In Wonderland*.

Mr. Beddor, 35, is also a former world freestyle ski champion. He started his Hollywood career as a ski stunt double in films such as *Hot Dog The Movie*.



Cameron Diaz in *There's Something About Mary*.

He is now working on a film and games version of *The Looking Glass Wars*.

The writer was inspired to look beyond Lewis Carroll's version after he saw a pack of ancient playing cards in the British Museum when he was in London for the premiere of *There's Something About Mary* five years ago.

The children's book is a change of direction for Mr. Beddor following the raucous adult comedy, which starred Matt Dillon, Ben Stiller and Cameron Diaz.

Following lunch at the Cherwell Boathouse, Mr. Beddor said: "I have never been to Oxford before, so it's great to see some of the locations which influenced Lewis Carroll when he was writing *Alice*. The children's laureate Michael Morpurago was criticizing me for re-visiting a classic but after reading the book he raved about it.

"Maybe my visit to Oxford will help me write the second and third parts of the trilogy.

"I have just started writing the second part of the trilogy and I have plotted the third."