

THE WIZARD OF OZ

By Chase Owen

Adapted from the original book by L. Frank Baum

THE WIZARD OF OZ

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THE WIZARD OF OZ

*For my mother, Sandy, who is somewhere over the rainbow
looking after me.*

THE WIZARD OF OZ

SETTING: Kansas, The early 1900s.

LIST OF CHARACTERS - 3F, 4M, 3+ either

Dorothy

Good Witch of The North

Scarecrow

Tin Man

Lion

Guardian of the Gate

Crow

Wicked Witch of the West

Oz

Ensemble: *Storytellers, Toto, Munchkins, Trees, People of Oz, Winged Monkeys, Crows.*

PRODUCTION NOTES:

The ensemble can be as small or large as you would like. The ensemble members can say lines however you choose to divide them up. Multiple actors can say lines together if desired. The named characters are encouraged to double as ensemble members when possible.

THE WIZARD OF OZ

ORIGINAL COMPANY

The Wizard of Oz was premiered by Caldwell Theatre on October 24th, 2024, in the Lou-ida Marsh Auditorium at Caldwell High School in Caldwell, Texas. The production was directed by Chase Owen.

DOROTHY- Anna Moyer

TOTO - Rylin Johnson

GOOD WITCH - Alina Dimas

SCARECROW - Landon Rountree

TIN MAN - JonPaul Hill

LION - Nate Murray

GATE GUARDIAN - Maddy Matthews

OZ - Ethan Garcia

WICKED WITCH - Chloe Taylor

CROW - Ollie Etheredge

ENSEMBLE - Kataliah O'Riley, Ruthanne Lawrence, Hailey Rountree, Kimberly Enriquez

STUDENT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Dustin Braun

STAGE MANAGER: Haden Rogers

TECHNICAL CREW: Cheyenne Dodds, Luis Ramirez, Wyatt

Canterberry, Chloe Taylor, Layla Clubb, Dakota Cherico, Angelikah Hill

Andrea Rinard, Sofia Alcocer, Aaron Orona, Donovan Sherwood

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SCENE 1

Lights rise on the ENSEMBLE and DOROTHY in the prairies of Kansas.

ENSEMBLE. There once was an orphan named Dorothy.

ENSEMBLE. Who lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies.

ENSEMBLE. When Dorothy looked at the world around her -

ENSEMBLE. She could see nothing but the great gray prairie on every side.

ENSEMBLE. Not a tree nor house broke the broad sweep of flat country that reached to the edge of the sky in all directions.

ENSEMBLE. Even the grass was not green.

ENSEMBLE. The people who lived here looked as if the sparkle had been taken from their eyes.

ENSEMBLE. Their gaze was merely as sobering gray as the prairie around them.

ENSEMBLE. The only sparkle in all of Kansas was Dorothy's dog; Toto.

DOROTHY. Toto? *(Calling out to her dog.)*

ENSEMBLE. It was Toto that made Dorothy laugh

ENSEMBLE. and saved her from growing gray like her surroundings.

ENSEMBLE. Toto and Dorothy played every day

ENSEMBLE. Dorothy loved him dearly.

ENSEMBLE. One day, while Toto and Dorothy were playing in the prairie

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ENSEMBLE. There was a low wail of wind

ENSEMBLE. The grass began to bow.

DOROTHY. Toto. Listen.

ENSEMBLE. In the distance, you could hear a faint whistle.

DOROTHY. Is that -

ALL: A CYCLONE!

DOROTHY. We have to get home! Quickly!

ENSEMBLE. Dorothy ran home and went inside.

ENSEMBLE. The wind became stronger.

ENSEMBLE. The sky grew dark.

DOROTHY. Aunt Em! Uncle Henry! *(No response. The cyclone consumes the stage. The house is lifted into the cyclone along with Dorothy and Toto. The set and ensemble are flying all over the stage. Lights shift.)*

SCENE 2

Finally, the house hits the ground and everything is still. A bright and colorful land that does not resemble the Kansas that Dorothy is used to.

DOROTHY. Is it over, Toto? *(She catches her breath and fixes her hair and clothes; collecting herself after such a terrifying storm. The ensemble creates Munchkinland.)*

ENSEMBLE. Munchkinland! *(Dorothy steps out of the house and carefully examines Munchkinland. The Munchkins are curious about their new guest. Suddenly, in a moment of magic, the GOOD WITCH appears.)*

GOOD WITCH. Welcome, noble sorceress!

DOROTHY. *(Beat.)* Me? *(Munchkins giggle.)*

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GOOD WITCH. Yes. Welcome to the Land of Munchkins.

ALL: Welcome! (*Variations of greeting and sounds of excitement.*)

GOOD WITCH. The munchkins of this land owe you many thanks. You have killed the Wicked Witch of the East!
(*Munchkins celebrate.*)

DOROTHY. You are mistaken. I have never harmed anyone in my life, much less killed anything.

GOOD WITCH. That may be true, but your house did. Look there! (*Dorothy gasps as she sees the two feet with silver shoes sticking out from under the house.*)

DOROTHY. Oh dear!

GOOD WITCH. Do not fret, noble sorceress. There is nothing to be done.

DOROTHY. But who was she?

GOOD WITCH. The Wicked Witch of the East. She has had rule of this land for many years. The Munchkins have lived in fear, but now, thanks to you, they are free from her rule! (*The munchkins celebrate.*)

DOROTHY. Are you a Munchkin? (*The munchkins laugh.*)

GOOD WITCH. No, my dear. I am the Good Witch of the North, a friend of the Munchkins.

DOROTHY. A good witch? I thought all witches were wicked.

GOOD WITCH. There are only four witches in the Land of Oz. Two are good, and two are wicked. Until today, you have killed one of them. Now there is only one witch left: the Wicked Witch of the West.

DOROTHY. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to kill anyone. There was this great cyclone and –

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GOOD WITCH. As a token of our gratitude those silver shoes from the Wicked Witch of the East now belong to you. (*The munchkins take the shoes and put them on Dorothy's feet.*)

DOROTHY. Thank you, Good Witch, for your kindness. But I must find my way home. I don't want my family to worry. Can you help me find my way?

GOOD WITCH. I am sorry, I cannot. However, the great OZ could help you find your way.

DOROTHY. Oz?

GOOD WITCH. A good Wizard that rules the City of Emeralds.

DOROTHY. How can I find this Wizard?

GOOD WITCH. Follow the road paved with yellow brick! It will lead you there. The journey may be long. You may find yourself scared and in terrible places. However, know that I will be with you to keep you from harm. Goodbye, and safe travels! (*The witch disappears.*)

ENSEMBLE. The Munchkins cheered

ENSEMBLE. as they showed Dorothy and Toto

ENSEMBLE. The way to Emerald City.

ENSEMBLE. Follow the yellow brick road.

DOROTHY. Thank you, kind strangers. Goodbye!

ENSEMBLE. Dorothy and Toto begin the journey

ENSEMBLE. To find home.

SCENE 3

The scene shifts to a cornfield. A SCARECROW on a fence is standing nearby, motionless.

ENSEMBLE. As she left the land of Munchkins

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ENSEMBLE. They walked briskly along the yellow brick road

ENSEMBLE. Her silver shoes sparkled in the sunlight

ENSEMBLE. After several miles

ENSEMBLE. She stopped to rest by a cornfield.

DOROTHY. Toto, look! A scarecrow! He will keep us safe while we rest.

ENSEMBLE. Admiring the fields, Dorothy rested beside the Scarecrow.

SCARECROW. Good day *(Dorothy jumps in fear as she does not see any strangers nearby. A moment passes. Toto growls.)*

SCARECROW. How do you do? *(Dorothy is shocked, the Scarecrow speaks!)*

DOROTHY. Was that you talking to me?

SCARECROW. It was! I was simply saying hello.

DOROTHY. Oh, I'm sorry. How do you do?

SCARECROW. I am not doing well. I'm stuck here on this fence all day and night to scare away crows. I can't get down. Can you please help me?

DOROTHY. Why, of course! *(She helps him down. It was easy as he is made of straw. He struggles to get his balance.)*

SCARECROW. Thank you, uh, noble -

DOROTHY. Dorothy. My name is Dorothy. I am on a journey to find the Emerald City. I will ask the Great Oz to send me home to Kansas.

SCARECROW. Who is Oz?

DOROTHY. A great wizard. I thought you would have known him.

SCARECROW. I don't know anything. I am made of straw and have no brains.

DOROTHY. Oh. I am very sorry.

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SCARECROW. It's alright. I don't mind my body being made of straw because I cannot be hurt. But I don't want people to call me a fool because I cannot think. Do you think I could go with you? Maybe this great Oz could help me too? I would ask for brains!

DOROTHY. Absolutely. I would rather travel with good company, and not alone. *(Toto growls)* Oh, this is Toto, don't mind him. He doesn't bite.

SCARECROW. I'm not afraid of him. The only thing I am afraid of is a lighted match!

SCENE 4

The scene slowly becomes dark. The forest. In the clearing, we see the TIN MAN poised as if he were about to chop wood, but stands frozen.

ENSEMBLE. Off to see the wizard!

ENSEMBLE. Following the yellow brick road -

ENSEMBLE. They traveled to OZ.

ENSEMBLE. Scarecrow stumbled along the way.

ENSEMBLE. Dorothy told tales of Kansas.

ENSEMBLE. As they walked

ENSEMBLE. The farmland slowly faded behind them

ENSEMBLE. Day turned to dusk

ENSEMBLE. They approached a great forest

SCARECROW. If this road goes in, it must lead out.

DOROTHY. We must go. Emerald City is at the end of the road.

ENSEMBLE. Arm in arm they braved the woods.

ENSEMBLE. The daylight slowly faded.

ENSEMBLE. Dusk turned to night.

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DOROTHY. Let's rest here for a moment in this clearing.

SCARECROW. A perfect place to stop. *(A groan is heard.)*

Dorothy? Are you alright?

DOROTHY. I was going to ask you the same.

SCARECROW. That wasn't me. *(She sees the Tin Man standing in the clearing.)* Look, Dorothy.

DOROTHY. Was that you?

TIN MAN. *(Barely able to speak.)* Yes

DOROTHY. Oh, my! How can we help you?

TIN MAN. *(Barely able to speak.)* Oil-can

SCARECROW. I think he said to use the oil can! *(Dorothy oils his mouth.)*

TIN-MAN: Thank you. I've been stuck like this for more than a year and no one has heard my cries for help. Please, oil my joints. *(She does. He moves all of his joints slowly. Finally, he sighs with relief.)*

DOROTHY. Glad to help.

TIN MAN. I have been holding that axe in the air since I rusted. You saved my life. What brought you to these woods?

SCARECROW. We stopped here to rest on our way to the Emerald City.

DOROTHY. To see the Great Oz.

TIN MAN. Why do you wish to see Oz?

DOROTHY. I want him to send me back home to Kansas

SCARECROW. Hopefully, he will gift me a brain.

TIN MAN. Do you suppose he would give me a heart?

DOROTHY. I don't see why he wouldn't. If you don't mind me asking, why don't you have a heart?

TIN MAN. You see, I used to be a regular person, just like you. I was a woodsman tasked with chopping wood for the Wicked Witch of the West. I was in love with a beautiful Munchkin

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maiden. The maiden clouded my every thought. I was so distracted by her that I stopped working completely. Hearing of this, the Wicked Witch flew down and turned me into a heartless man of tin, cursed to chop wood for eternity.

DOROTHY. Oh my! Please join us.

SCARECROW. Yes! Join us!

TIN MAN. Thank you both so much. I shall ask for a heart!

SCARECROW. To Oz?

TIN MAN/DOROTHY. To Oz!

SCENE 5

The company continues through the forest. It is very dark and the company is proceeding with caution.

ENSEMBLE. Three new friends

ENSEMBLE. and Toto

ENSEMBLE. Followed the yellow brick road through the woods

ENSEMBLE. Night grew darker

ENSEMBLE. In the distance, they could hear something

ENSEMBLE. or someone

ENSEMBLE. Fearful, they walked faster.

DOROTHY. Is anyone else feeling scared?

TIN MAN. No *(simultaneously.)*

SCARECROW. Yes *(simultaneously.)*

TIN MAN. Don't worry, Dorothy. We will protect ourselves if we are in danger.

ENSEMBLE. As they spoke, a dreadful roar echoed through the forest. *(LION bounds onto the road. He knocks over Scarecrow and then strikes Tin Man. Toto goes to protect Dorothy. The lion*

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stands up, preparing to attack Toto when Dorothy jumps in front of Toto and slaps his nose.

DOROTHY. How dare you! You should be ashamed of yourself! A big beast like you, to bite a poor little dog!

LION. I didn't bite him *(Rubbing his nose.)*

SCARECROW. But you tried to!

DOROTHY. You are nothing but a big coward!

LION. I know it. I've always known it. Look at this dog. He's a small animal. No one would think of biting such a little thing, except a coward like me.

TIN MAN. What makes you such a coward?

LION. From birth, all animals in the forest expect me to be brave. Known to all as the King of Beasts. If I roared loudly, everything would be frightened and get out of my way. But behind the roar, I am very scared. What if the elephants and tigers try to fight me? I would run away. Oh, I am such a coward.

SCARECROW. But the King of Beasts shouldn't be a coward.

LION. I know it. It's my great sorrow and makes my life very unhappy. Whenever there is danger my heart begins to beat very fast.

TIN MAN. Perhaps you have heart disease. *(Beat. The lion begins to panic.)* Oh, I didn't mean it! That just means you have a heart. I can't get heart disease - I don't have one.

SCARECROW. I don't have brains. My head is stuffed with straw. We're going to the great Oz to ask him for some.

DOROTHY. Tin Man wants a heart, and I am going to ask him to send me back home to Kansas.

LION. Do you think he could give courage?

TIN MAN. Just as easily as he could give me a heart

SCARECROW. Or give me brains

DOROTHY. Or send me home.

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LION. My life is unbearable without a bit of courage. May I go with you?

DOROTHY. You are very welcome to join us. You can help keep the other beasts away.

SCENE 6 - THE GATES OF OZ

The scene shifts. The ensemble begins to move the trees and create the land of Oz.

ENSEMBLE. So once more the company set off on the journey

ENSEMBLE. At first, Toto did not approve of Dorothy's new friend

ENSEMBLE. But as time went on he began to trust the Lion.

ENSEMBLE. The forest seemed to go on forever

ENSEMBLE. But in the distance, they could see a little light

ENSEMBLE. Approaching the light

ENSEMBLE. An exit was found.

ENSEMBLE. It was dawn.

ENSEMBLE. A new day was rising with the sun.

ENSEMBLE. They could see a beautiful country with green meadows and flowers.

DOROTHY. This must be the Land of Oz, and we are getting closer to the emerald city.

ENSEMBLE. It was not long before the company saw a beautiful green glow in the distance.

ENSEMBLE. As they walked on the green glow became brighter and brighter.

ENSEMBLE. Suddenly they approached a large gate studded with emeralds.

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DOROTHY. This must be the emerald city! (*Dorothy knocks on the gate. A man clothed in all green, THE GATE GUARDIAN, pops up from behind the large gate.*)

GATE GUARDIAN. Who's there?

DOROTHY. I am Dorothy, and this is Tin Man, Scarecrow, Lion, and of course, Toto. And you are...

GATE GUARDIAN. The Guardian of the Emerald City Gates! What do you want?

DOROTHY. We came here to see the great Oz. (*A Beat. The Guardian busts out in laughter.*)

GATE GUARDIAN. It has been many years since anyone has asked to see the great and powerful Oz. What a foolish errand.

SCARECROW. But it is not foolish, it's important.

TIN MAN. We have been told that Oz is a good Wizard.

GUARDIAN. And he is very good. But those who approach with dishonesty will face him at his most terrible. Few have dared to gamble with that possibility.

DOROTHY. We are honest and have very important wishes.

GUARDIAN. (*Thinks.*) Fine. Since you demand to see Oz with good intentions. I will personally guide you to see him at his Palace.

DOROTHY/TIN MAN/SCARECROW. Thank you so much! Thank you!

SCENE 7 - THE GREAT OZ

The ensemble opens the gate and the guardians walks them through the city of Oz until they reach the palace.

ENSEMBLE. The gate was opened -

THE WIZARD OF OZ

ENSEMBLE. And the guard led them through.

ENSEMBLE. As they walked their eyes were dazzling from the brilliance of the city.

ENSEMBLE. The pavement was green marble.

ENSEMBLE. The windows were green glass.

ENSEMBLE. Even the sky above the city had a tint of green.

ENSEMBLE. There were many people walking through the city

ENSEMBLE. All of them looking strangely at the new group walking through the streets

ENSEMBLE. The guardian led them through the streets until they approached a big building.

ALL. The Palace of Oz. *(The guardian opens the doors.)*

GUARDIAN. Please make your way through this hall to the throne room. There, you will find Oz. *(As the company makes their way down the hall the music becomes suspenseful. They get to the end of the hall. There is an enormous head that appeared before them. It is OZ. His voice is booming and intimidating. The friends huddle together for safety.)*

OZ. I am Oz, the great and terrible! Who are you, and why do you seek me?

DOROTHY. I am Dorothy, the small and meek. I need your help.

OZ. Dorothy, eh?

DOROTHY. Yes.

OZ. What do you wish for me to do?

DOROTHY. Send me back to Kansas, where my Aunt 'Em and Uncle Henry are.

OZ. And you three?

SCARECROW. *(Steps forward.)* I am only a scarecrow stuffed with straw. I have no brains. I pray that you will put brains in my head instead of straw.

OZ. Next! *(Scarecrow retreats.)*

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TIN MAN. (*Steps forward.*) I am a woodman, made of Tin. I have no heart, and cannot love. Please give me a heart.

OZ. Next! (*Tin Man retreats. The group has to force the lion forward.*)

LION. (*Shaking and stuttering.*) I am a Cowardly Lion, afraid of everything. I beg that you give me courage, so that I may become the King of Beasts.

OZ. Enough. (*Lion runs back in line, trembling.*) Dorothy. Where did you get those silver shoes?

DOROTHY. I got them from the Wicked Witch of the East when my house fell on her and killed her.

OZ. Strange. Why should I help you?

DOROTHY. Because you are a great strong wizard, and I am only a weak little girl.

OZ. But you were strong enough to kill the Wicked Witch of the East.

DOROTHY. That just happened. I -

OZ. Silence. I have my answer. In this country, everyone must pay for anything they get. If you wish for me to use my magic powers, you must do something for me first. You help me, and I will help you.

DOROTHY. What must I do?

OZ. Kill the Wicked Witch of the West.

DOROTHY. But I cannot!

OZ. You killed the Wicked Witch of the East and you wear the silver shoes. Those shoes bear a powerful charm. There is now but one wicked witch left in all of this land. When you can tell me she is dead, I will fulfill your wishes.

DOROTHY. How can we -

OZ. GO! (*They all run in fear out of the throne room.*)

DOROTHY. Oh, what do we do now?

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LION. There is only one thing we can do. *(He begins to tremble.)*

TIN MAN. We have to seek out the Wicked Witch of the West.

SCARECROW. And destroy her.

DOROTHY. Oh. *(She begins to cry.)* I don't want to kill anyone!

LION. I am too much of a coward, but I will go with you.

SCARECROW. I'm a bit of a fool, but I'll try my best.

TIN MAN. I don't have the heart to harm an insect, much less the witch! However, I am here to support you!

DOROTHY. Thank you, all of you. I suppose we can always try.

SCENE 8

The company leaves Oz. They approach a poppy field.

ENSEMBLE. Arm in arm

ENSEMBLE. Holding each other close for safety

ENSEMBLE. The group makes their way to the witch's castle.

ENSEMBLE. Leaving the Emerald City behind.

ENSEMBLE. They walked along listening to the singing of brightly colored birds.

ENSEMBLE. And gazing at the lovely flowers.

ENSEMBLE. They pause and admire the beauty.

DOROTHY. Aren't they beautiful?

LION. I always liked flowers. They seem so helpless and frail.

But there are none in the forest so bright as these. *(The scene shifts to a dark castle. We see the WICKED WITCH of the West in her tower watching over the land through her all-seeing eye, which is a mystical orb, with her CROW henchman at her side.)*

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WICKED WITCH. A man of tin. A Man of straw. A Lion. And a girl wearing the silver shoes of my sister. These are the people responsible for my sister's death.

CROW. Shall we capture them now, so you may make them your prisoners?

WICKED WITCH. No. Not yet. Wait for my order. They are in a field of poppies.

CROW. Poppies?

WICKED WITCH. When there are this many poppies together in the meadow their collective scent is very powerful. Anyone who breathes it in will fall asleep.

CROW. I see. *(The scene shifts back to Dorothy and friends. They are walking through the field.)*

DOROTHY. The flowers are so beautiful. They remind me...of... *(Dorothy cannot stand any longer.)*

TIN MAN. Dorothy? Dorothy!

SCARECROW. She's asleep! Toto Too!

TIN MAN. *(See's Lion slowly drifting.)* Oh no, not you too!
(Both the TIN MAN and SCARECROW slowly drift off to sleep. The scene shifts back to the WICKED WITCH.)

WICKED WITCH. Go to those people.

CROW. Would you like all four? You could make them your servants.

WICKED WITCH. No. One is tin, One is a straw and another is a lion. None of those three are fit to work for me. Leave them sleeping in the poppy field.

CROW. And what of the girl?

WICKED WITCH. Fly there. Retrieve the girl and her dog. Bring her to my castle. The others are of no use to me. We dare not harm this little girl, for she is protected by the power of the Good Witch of the North and that is greater than the power of evil.

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CROW. Yes, your wickedness.

ENSEMBLE. The crow flew to the field of poppies

ENSEMBLE. and carefully lifted Dorothy into the air.

ENSEMBLE. They swiftly flew through the air until they arrived at the castle.

ENSEMBLE. Flying through an open window,

ENSEMBLE. The crow placed Dorothy and Toto on the ground of a small dusty room.

ENSEMBLE. As the crow laughed Dorothy slowly began to awaken.

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