

MILAM
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PRESENTS

THE WIZARD of OZ

By **L. Frank Baum**

With Music and Lyrics by
Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg

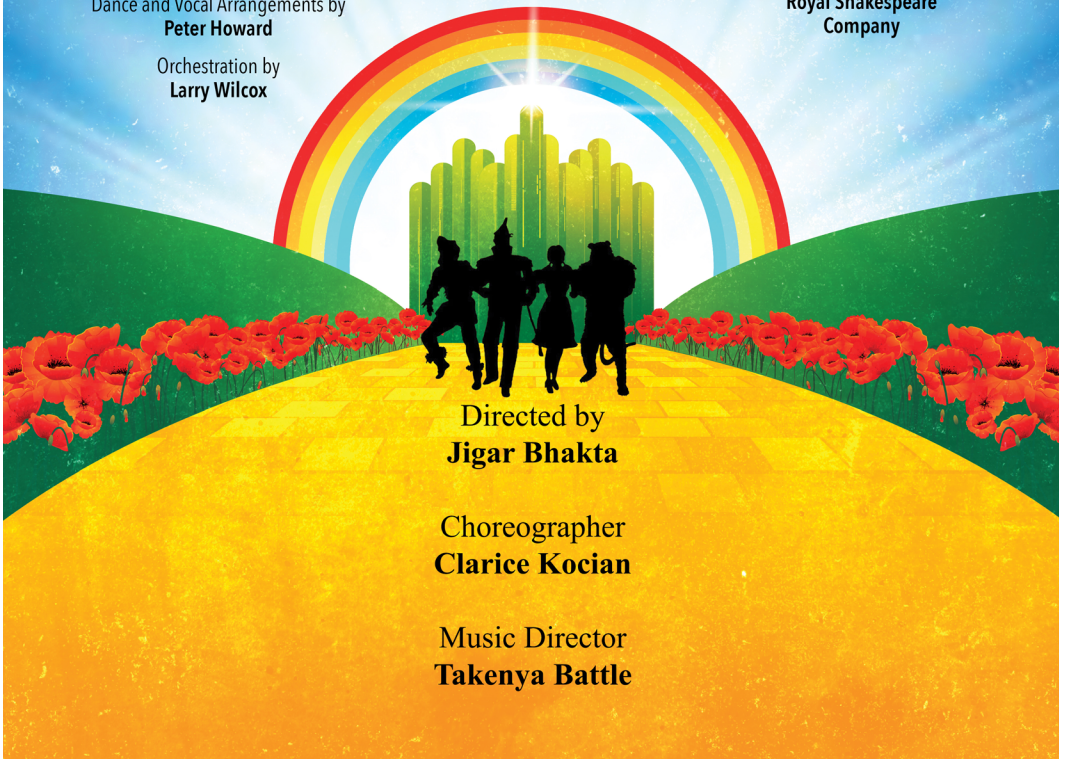
Background Music by
Herbert Stothart

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by
Peter Howard

Orchestration by
Larry Wilcox

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Adapted by **John Kane** for the
**Royal Shakespeare
Company**



Directed by
Jigar Bhakta

Choreographer
Clarice Kocian

Music Director
Takenya Battle



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MILAM
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THE
WIZARD
of **OZ**

July 30 | 6 p.m.

July 31 | 2 p.m.

August 6 | 6 p.m.

August 7 | 2 p.m.

C. H. Yoe High School
Performing Arts Center
1000 N Fannin Ave

The Cast

Dorothy Gale	Sierra Higginbotham
Aunt Em	Mary Nuttall
Uncle Henry/The Wizard of Oz	Ryan Heller
Hickory/Polisher	Callen Otto
Hunk/Winkie	Avery Garrett
Zeke/Polisher	Harrison Otto
Miss Almira Gulch/Crow 2	Cheryl Heller
Professor Chester Marvel/Crow 1/ Emerald City Guard	Alex Rios
Glinda	Tia Garrett
Mayor/Manicurist	Jayla Lenued
Coroner/Manicurist	Emily Morgan
Barrister	Alisha Benson
Braggart/Poppies/Winkie General	Sunnie Diver
City Father/Winkie	Amaury O'Bryant
City Father/Winkie	Bryson O'Bryant
School Teacher/Beautician	Wraina Wheelless
School Teacher/Polisher	Daniel Morse
Tot	Jordyn Henderson
Tot/Winkie	Macelyn Furname
Tot/Winkie	Olivia Van Cleave
Tough Guy/Winkie	Jocie Tucker
Tough Guy/Flying Monkey	Kyla Kate Bow
The Wicked Witch of the West	Lisa Debault
Scarecrow	Brock Wright
Crow 3/Poppies/Manicurist	Analee Morse
Tinman	Chuck Dart
Tree 1/Beautician	Samara Garrett
Tree 2/Winkie	Jessilynn Henderson
Tree 3/Beautician	Ella Byars
Lion	James Henderson
Poppies/Winkie	Maryetta Owens

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Cast (Alphabetical)

Alisha Benson

“This is my stage debut! I am excited about acting for the first time. My hobbies include spending time with my kids and watching TV/Movies!”

Kyla Kat Bow

Introducing Kyla Kate Bow with her second performance on the MCT stage. Kyla has also played the part of “Cindy Lou Who” in “A Seussified Christmas.” Kyla so enjoys acting and has been eager to step on stage again! Kyla lives with her Mom and Dad and two brothers whom she follows around to baseball most every weekend. Tonight it’s their turn to watch her shine! Kyla Kate is a bundle of energy and brings her character to life. Kyla hopes the audience enjoys watching her and the other cast in Munchkinland!

Ella Byars

Although this is Byars’ first performance on the MCT stage, she is no novice to acting on stage or singing. Byars is the daughter of the music director, Takenya Battle.

Chuck Dart

“Can’t sing, can’t dance. Life is full of those kinds of messages. At 68 years, I’m going on stage for the first time in over 50 years, and a musical at that! Retired from careers in computer-related sales and rural city economic development, ReNae and I moved to Cameron permanently in 2019.”

Lisa Debault

“I’d like to welcome all the audience to the production of The Wizard of Oz, which i feel certain will not disappoint! This will be my third time on the MCT stage. Previous performances have been Murder in the Heir, Steel Magnolias, and now I am playing the Wicked Witch of the West! What a fun character! The part of this experience I am most looking forward to is that I am sharing the stage with my Granddaughter, look for her, she’ll be one of the munchkins and her personal favorite, one of the Wicked Witch’s cute little monkeys! I plan to leave all my energy on the stage so hold on to your seat “ my little pretties,” there’s a new witch in town!”



(Left to right) Jocie Tucker, Tia Garrett, Olivia Van Cleave, Alsiha Benson, Jordyn Henderson

Sunnie Diver

Diver is a senior at C. H. Yoe High School and has been acting at MCT for several years. She enjoys drawing, playing the French horn and spending time with her friends and family.

Macelyn Furmage

Macelyn is homeschooled and moved to Texas 2 years ago. This is her first time acting on stage. She lives on a farm with lots of animals. She loves soccer, showing animals for 4H and horse judging. She hopes to do a great job, and that everyone enjoys the show!

Wyatt Furmage

Wyatt is 7 and homeschooled.

He moved from Georgia 2 years ago, but loves being a Texan. He shows lambs and chickens for 4H, but likes to read and play with his toys whenever possible. This is his first play and his goal was to be the best flying monkey there ever was. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Avery Garrett

Garrett enjoys playing games, chatting with friends and getting her nails done. She has been acting in MCT shows for 3 years. She hopes you enjoy the show.

Samara Garrett

The theater is a place Samara likes to call 'home.' She has performed in several productions

for MCT, TCT, Jr. High OAP, and High Scoll OAP. Samara will be in 10th grade this fall. She is excited about the performance tonight and hopes you enjoy the show.

Tia Garrett

This is Tia’s debut performance for MCT. She is a teacher at C. H. Yoe High School and is a mom to two actresses. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Cheryl Heller

Cheryl is a retired elementary school teacher. She is very excited to be back in theater again. She was last seen in “Gypsy” and “Shrek.” Heller is thrilled to be

performing again!

Ryan Heller

Heller graduated from Texas Tech University in December 2020 with a BA in Electronic Media and Communication. Some of his hobbies are watching sports, especially football, basketball & baseball, playing video games and acting. He was recently seen in Gypsy, as Peter Pan in Shrek the Musical, Around the World in 80 days, and as Felix Ungar in Odd Couple at MCT. He is currently the sports writer and photographer for the Cameron Herald.

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James Henderson

James, an assistant principal at Cameron Junior High, is making his acting debut. After watching his kids perform in many MCC plays, they told him it was his turn to try. In his free time he enjoys chilling with his wife and kids, playing sports, and playing the drums and singing at church. He hopes you enjoy this performance!!

Jessilynn Henderson

Henderson is an 8th grader at Cameron Jr. High. She enjoys reading, writing, playing basketball and spending time with her friends. She has been in several shows with MCT and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Jordyn Henderson

Henderson has acted in several MCT plays. She enjoys playing with her friends and baking in her free time.

Sierra Higginbotham

Sierra is a senior and has been acting for eleven years. Some of her favorite rolls include Jo March (Little Women), Wendy Darling (Peter Pan), and the

March Hare (Dorothy in Wonderland). She has also directed two shows. Sierra is excited to be bringing this classic character to life and hopes you enjoy the show.

Jayla Lenued

This is Jayla's first production with MCT. Jayla is a sophomore at C.H. Yoe High School and started acting during her Freshman year. Outside of theater, she enjoys playing in the band, hanging out with friends, and finding new hobbies to indulge in. She hopes you enjoy MCT's production of The Wizard of Oz.

Emily Morgan

Emily is a sophomore at Yoe High school. Her favorite role so far was Aunt March (Little Women). Outside of theater she enjoys spending time with friends and doing flag routines for color-guard. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Analee Morse

Analee has enjoyed acting and singing for a long time now, and she is delighted to get the chance to do both with such a wonderful story and a wonderful cast!

She loves writing, drawing, and dancing too. She's certain you'll have jolly good fun when you visit our merry old land of Oz in this whimsical play from a timely classic.

Daniel Morse

Morse lives in Rockdale with his family. This is his third show with MCT. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Mary Nuttall

This is Mary's first performance in 20 years! She was in a few musicals at Sealy High School. She lives in Cameron with her

husband (Kyle), daughter (Lillyana), and son (Lucas). She enjoys reading, sewing, and making soap!

Amaury O'Bryant

Amaury, will be an 8th grader at Rockdale JH in the Fall. I dream of being a big movie star one day. This is Amaury's stage debut!

Bryson O'Bryant

Bryson, a freshman at Rockdale High School in the Fall. This is Bryson's stage debut! My hobbies include playing basketball, my favorite sport. I dream of being in the NBA one day!

(Left to right) Bryson O'Bryant, Chuck Dart, James Henderson, Amaury O'Bryant



Harrison Otto

Otto has acted on a competitive level with Lexington's One Act Play as well as volunteered on MCT productions. He has appeared in many shows. Some of his shows include "The Odd Couple," and "Jeeves at Sea."

Callen Otto

Otto is a fourth grader and has performed with MCT since he was 6 years old and has been in several shows like Seussified Christmas, Aladdin JR, and Dorothy in Wonderland. He loves to love on his dogs, read and play video games.

Maryetta "MO" Owens

Oz is MO's first production and she is loving it. She enjoys playing volleyball and basketball, loves being on the swim team and she enjoys playing softball. MO lives with her little sister who she calls the little dragon! She hopes you enjoy the show and continue to support MCT.

Alex Rios

Alex, 14, a busy brain and an active soul, loves performing and can't wait to put a smile on your face. They have a passion for performing arts and have been acting

since they were very young.

Jocie Tucker

Jocie has been in many MCT shows since 2019, including a Seussified Christmas Carol, Aladdin Jr., Charlotte's Web, A Wick-ed Christmas Carol, Jungle Book, and Happily Ever Before. When she's not acting, she loves to play softball and be a social butterfly.

Olivia Van Cleave

Olivia is going into the fifth grade at Cameron Elementary she loves reading, drawing, playing with friends and acting. She has done 9 shows with the MCT youth theater, she grows more and more in love with theater with each show.

Wrainia Wheelless

"I am so excited to participate in The Wizard of Oz! This is such a fun cast and I hope you enjoy all of our hard work! Outside of theater, I am a honor student at Yoe High, I am the Color Guard Lieutenant for the Yoe Band and I love to do missionary work. Thank you for joining us tonight and I hope you enjoy the show! Please remember Jesus loves you!"

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Brock Wright

Wright attends C. H. Yoe High School and has acted in several plays with MCT including “Aladdin Jr” and “Little Women.” He hopes you enjoy the show!

Brylee Wright

This is Wright’s debut performance. She hopes you enjoy the show!



(Left side, Left to Right) Macelyn Furmage, Wyatt Furmage (Center Back) Lisa Debault (Center Front) Maryetta Owens (Right side, left to right) Kyla Kate Bow, Avery Garrett

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(Rear Left to Right) Jessilynn Henderson, Ella Byars, Samara Garrett
(Front Left to Right) Analee Morse, Cheryl Heller, Maryetta Owens



(Left to Right) Ryan Heller, Daniel Morse, Jayla Lenued, Harrison Otto, Alex Rios, Wrainia Wright



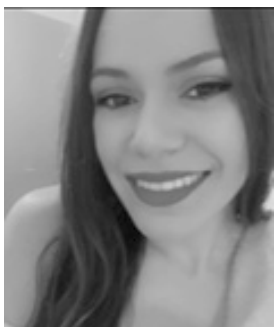
(Left to Right) Sierra Higginbotham, Mary Nuttall, Callen Otto



Takenya Battle

Takenya Battle is a master musician, teacher and entrepreneur who helps children and adults alike arrange, articulate and amplify their inner musician with online voice and piano lessons.

The founder of Kenya's Keys Voice & Piano Studio, Kenya specializes in the key of easy. Private music teachers who are ready to trade hustle for harmony rely on her expertise to make their business sing. In her signature Key of Easy program, music educators learn the notes to automate their systems, attract new students and take their profits up to the highest octave.



Clarice Kocian

20-year-old, Clarice Kocian, attends Texas State University where she is studying dance as her major. This is her first time being a choreographer for a big production such as the Wizard of Oz and is honored to be chosen to create and teach each dance of the play to the actors and actresses. She believes this is a great opportunity/experience and will help her succeed throughout her dancing career.

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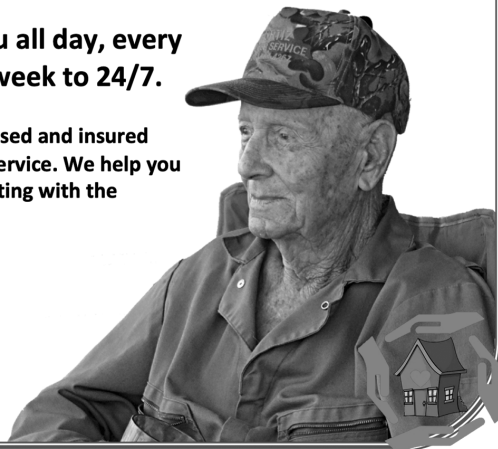
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Director's Note

The story of “The Wizard of Oz” focuses on Dorothy Gale, a kind, determined and imaginative girl who live on a farm in Kansas with her little dog, Toto. It's the same basic story we all know. Our protagonist lives with a caring family, but the hero then wants to see the world. Add in whirling wind of an inciting incident and now our little Dorothy is in a new land. She goes on an adventure and makes friends along the way who turn into her family. Finally, our heroine does a bit of growing and learns the important lesson that makes her character dynamic.

Every day of rehearsal was a learning moment. My goal was not to direct the best show, but the bring out the best in the performers. With a third of the cast not having acted on stage and a little over a third not performed in a musical, there was pretty large wicked witch standing in my way. I came into each rehearsal focusing on what would make a better actor or a singer or a performer in general. I've had a lot of personal achievements that has made the past three months worth it. Being able to see someone who can barely whisper a song to having their own solo is a phenomenal moment for any director. That was the moment when I saw the house fell on the witch and all was finally right in the world.

I hope you enjoy watching these performers as much as I've enjoyed working with them. Listen for the rutabagas.

Jigar Bhakta



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