

PRESS RELEASE

The Wizard of Oz

adapted by John Kane, based on the book by L. Frank Baum,
music & lyrics by Harold Arlen, E.Y. Harburg & Herbert Stothart

NORTHWEST CHILDRENS THEATER and SCHOOL

NW Neighborhood
Cultural Center
1819 NW Everett Street
Suite 216
Portland, OR 97209-2189

phone: 503-222-4480
fax: 503-222-4130
www.nwcts.org

Our mission—to educate,
entertain and enrich the lives of
young audiences

Managing Director
Judy Kafoury

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Education Director
Carolyn Newsom

Volunteer Director
Diane Carlson

Follow Dorothy and Toto down the Yellow Brick Road all the way to the Emerald City in this Technicolor masterpiece brought to life! Based on one of the best-loved books of all time, and featuring the Oscar-winning song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”, this show is the perfect holiday outing.

For over seventy years, children of all ages have delighted in the story of the girl transported from her Kansas farm to the merry old Land of Oz. From Dorothy and Toto to the beloved Tin Woodsman, Scarecrow and Cowardly Lion, all of Oz has a place in the hearts of audiences both young and old.

The all-star cast includes Deirdre Atkinson (*The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*) as Glinda the Good Witch, Ryan Stathos (*The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*) as The Scarecrow, John Ellingson (*Hansel and Gretel, Go, Dog, Go!*) as The Tin Woodsman, James Wesley Peppers (*HONK!, Disney’s Beauty & the Beast*) as The Cowardly Lion, Merritt Glover as The Wicked Witch of the West, Erik James (*Hansel and Gretel, The Devil and Daniel Webster*) as The Wizard of Oz, and newcomer Natalie Hovee as Dorothy.

With an ensemble of Munchkins, flying monkeys and citizens of The Emerald City, this journey over the rainbow is an enduring family favorite in a wondrous place where home is just a heel-click away. Through the messages of self-discovery and returning to the ones you love, L. Frank Baum’s rich work is ready to be re-discovered by a new generation in this spectacular stage version with all the songs and heart of the beloved classic film.

The Wizard of Oz runs December 13, 2008 through January 4, 2009, Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 & 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., and is most enjoyed by audiences ages five and up. Join NWCT for special

holiday performances on December 23, 24, 26, 30 and 31; visit www.nwcts.org for schedule.

NWCT Special Events! Family Date Night: Fri., Dec. 19; dinner before the show from Elephant’s Catering. Grandparents’ Day: Sat, Dec. 13; \$2 off for grandparents. For more information call 503-222-4480.

The Wizard of Oz is sponsored by The Standard, the Collins Foundation, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Work for Art, the Oregon Arts Commission and K103. Over 5,000 area school children will join Dorothy and Toto on their journey to see the Wizard over ten student matinees.

Feature Story Ideas:

1. As a full-fledged member of the artistic staff, NWCT Resident Artist John Ellingson is a featured performer in every production, and is also the company’s scenic painter and props designer. An accomplished professional clown who studied under Portland’s Rusty Nails since age 8, readers will discover John’s multi-faceted approach to creating worlds of wonder for adults and children alike, from intuitive painting to inspired performances.
2. *The Wizard of Oz* is an internationally recognized icon of motion pictures and children’s literature. Through interviews with the artistic team and a cast of some of Portland’s best musical theater actors, readers can learn how NWCT conveys the timeless truths and highlights the most beloved moments of this classic story.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date
October 23, 2008
Kill Date
January 5, 2009

Media Contact
To set up interviews
or discuss other
possibilities for feature
stories, please contact:
Marri-Beth Serritella
Sucha Production, Inc.
503-528-1370
mb@suchaproduction.com

When: December 13, 2008-January 4, 2009:
Fri. & Sat. 7 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. + special holiday performances

Where: NW Neighborhood Cultural Center
1819 NW Everett Street, Portland, OR 97209

Tickets: 503-222-4480 or WWW.NWCTS.ORG

Age Range: Most enjoyed by ages 5 and up

Prices: \$17-22 adults, \$12-18 youth (14 & under)

Info: 503-222-4480 or WWW.NWCTS.ORG

SPECIAL
HOLIDAY
PERFORMANCES
weekdays at 2 pm
December
23, 24, 26, 30, 31
January 2

PHOTO CAPTIONS

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high resolution photos online at: <http://nwcts.org/html/press.html>

35, 37 & 105

Ryan Stathos (The Scarecrow) and Natalie Hovee (Dorothy) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

128, 144, 163, 177, 183 & 190

James Wesley Peppers (The Cowardly Lion), Natalie Hovee (Dorothy) and Ryan Stathos (The Scarecrow) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

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Natalie Hovee (Dorothy) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

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