

Acting Edition

The Wiz

Book by
William F. Brown

Music & Lyrics by
Charlie Smalls

From the Story *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
by L. Frank Baum

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THE WIZ was first produced by Ken Harper at the Majestic Theatre on January 5, 1975. The performance was directed by Geoffrey Holder, with choreography by George Faison, sets by Tom H. John, costumes by Geoffrey Holder, lighting by Tharon Musser, sound by Richard J.C. Miller, and wigs and make-up by Stanley James. The production stage manager was Charles Blackwell. The cast was as follows:

AUNT EM	Tasha Thomas
TOTO	 Nancy
DOROTHY	Stephanie Mills
UNCLE HENRY	 Ralph Wilcox
TORNADO	 Evelyn Thomas
MUNCHKINS	 Phylicia Ayers-Alien, Pi Douglass, Joni Palmer, Andy Torres, Carl Weaver
ADDAPERLE	 Clarice Taylor
YELLOW BRICK ROAD	Ronald Dunham, Eugene Little, John Parks, Kenneth Scott
SCARECROW	 Hinton Battle
CROWS	 Wendy Edmead, Frances Morgan, Ralph Wilcox
TINMAN	 Tiger Haynes
LION	 Ted Ross
KALIDAHs	Phillip Bond, Pi Douglass, Rodney Green, Evelyn Thomas, Andy Torres
POPPIES	 Lettie Battle, Leslie Butler, Eleanor McCoy, Frances Morgan, Joni Palmer
FIELD MICE	 Phylicia Ayers-Alien, Pi Douglass, Carl Weaver, Ralph Wilcox
GATEKEEPER	Danny Beard
EMERALD CITY CITIZENS	 Lettie Battle, Leslie Butler, Wendy Edmead, Eleanor McCoy, Frances Morgan, Joni Palmer, Evelyn Thomas, Philip Bond, Ronald Dunham, Rodney Green, Eugene Little, John Parks, Kenneth Scott, Andy Torres
THE WIZ	Andre De Shields
EVILLENE	 Mabel King
LORD HIGH UNDERLING	 Ralph Wilcox
SOLDIER MESSENGER	Carl Weaver
WINGED MONKEY	 Andy Torres
GLINDA	Dee Dee Bridgewater

CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

AUNT EM

TOTO

DOROTHY

UNCLE HENRY

MUNCHKINS

ADDAPERLE

YELLOW BRICK ROAD

SCARECROW

CROWS

TINMAN

LION

KALIDAHs

POPPIES

FIELD MICE

GATEKEEPER

EMERALD CITY CITIZENS

THE WIZ

EVILLENE

LORD HIGH UNDERLING

SOLDIER MESSENGER

WINGED MONKEY

GLINDA

CASTING NOTE

Originally produced with an all-Black cast, it is preferred that the main characters are cast with people of color; but there are no restrictions so long as the spirit of *The Wiz* is maintained and cannot be confused with *The Wizard of Oz*.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue – KANSAS

“The Feeling We Once Had” Aunt Em
“Tornado” Company

Scene 1 – MUNCHKINLAND

“He’s the Wiz” Addaperle, Munchkins

Scene 2 – OZ COUNTRYSIDE

“Soon as I Get Home” Dorothy
“Born on the Day Before Yesterday” Scarecrow, Crows
“Ease on Down the Road #1” Dorothy, Scarecrow,
Yellow Brick Road

Scene 3 – WOODS

“Slide Some Oil to Me” Tinman, Dorothy, Scarecrow
“Ease on Down the Road #2” Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman,
Yellow Brick Road

Scene 4 – WOODS

“Mean Ole Lion” Lion
“Ease on Down the Road #3” Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman,
Lion, Yellow Brick Road

Scene 5 – KALIDAH COUNTRY

“Kalidahs Battle” Friends, Kalidahs, Yellow Brick Road

Scene 6 – POPPY FIELD

“Be a Lion” Dorothy, Lion

Scene 7 – EMERALD CITY

“Emerald City Dance” Friends, Company

Scene 8 – THRONE ROOM

“Meet the Wizard” The Wiz
“What Would I Do if I Could Feel” Tinman

ACT II

Scene 1 – WEST WITCH CASTLE

“Don’t Nobody Bring Me No Bad News” Evillene

Scene 2 – FOREST

“Funkey Monkey” Monkeys

Scene 3 – COURTYARD

“Everybody Rejoice” Friends, Winkies

Scene 4 – EMERALD CITY GATE

Scene 5 – THRONE ROOM

“Who Do You Think You Are?” Friends
“Believe In Yourself” The Wiz

Scene 6 – FAIRGROUNDS

“Y’all Got It?” The Wiz

Scene 7 – OUTSKIRTS

Scene 8 – QUADLING COUNTRY

“A Rested Body” Glinda
“Believe In Yourself (Reprise)” Glinda
“Finale” Dorothy

PROLOGUE

[MUSIC NO. 01 “OVERTURE”]

PIT SINGERS.

OOH OOH OOH

HE’S THE WIZ AND HE LIVES IN OZ.

HE’S THE WIZARD.

HE’S THE WIZARD.

THE WIZARD.

THE WIZARD.

HE’S THE WIZARD.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

EASE ON DOWN,

EASE ON DOWN.

EASE ON DOWN,

EASE ON DOWN.

AH AH AH

[MUSIC NO. 01A “PROLOGUE”]

(Stage right, we see a small, rather ramshackle little farmhouse in Kansas. Upstage there is a clothesline, and AUNT EM is unpinning various items of clothing. She keeps an eye on the dark and brooding sky as she drops the clothes in a basket. Both AUNT EM and UNCLE HENRY are in their late thirties, perhaps, but life has not been easy for them so far, and promises little else.)

(A small, mongrel dog, TOTO, runs across from stage left to stage right, barking playfully. AUNT EM gives the dog a glance and shakes her head. Closely behind the dog comes a girl of thirteen or

fourteen, dressed in her best Sunday dress. Her name is DOROTHY, and she's as bright and alive as can be. Somehow, it would seem she's built a life of her own on this dreary farm, and would probably rather remain a child as long as possible instead of accepting the responsibilities of adulthood.)

DOROTHY. *(Running on from downstage left to downstage right.)*

Toto! Toto, you come back here!

AUNT EM. *(About to ask for help with the wash.)* Dorothy...

DOROTHY. Toto! You hear me?

AUNT EM. *(A little more sharply.)* Dorothy, I been needin' help all afternoon!

DOROTHY. *(Crossing to right of AUNT EM.)* Soon as I get Toto, Aunt Em. *(She spies him offstage)* Toto!

(She runs off right, above porch. AUNT EM rolls her eyes as UNCLE HENRY crosses behind her.)

UNCLE HENRY. *(Entering from stage left.)* You an' Dorothy at it again, Emily?

AUNT EM. Lord, I don't believe that child!

UNCLE HENRY. *(He exits as DOROTHY returns with TOTO. As he crosses above her.)* You'd better hurry up, a big storm is heading this way. *(Exits stage right.)*

DOROTHY. *(Entering downstage right with TOTO.)* Now what was it you wanted me to do?

AUNT EM. *(Picks up basket of laundry.)* I did it m'self!

DOROTHY. *(Crosses to left of center.)* Oh.

AUNT EM. *(Testy, crossing to below storm cellar.)* I wanted a hand with these here clothes before the storm blew 'em all away!

DOROTHY. I'm sorry, Aunt Em. I didn't...

(AUNT EM stops. UNCLE HENRY enters upstage house, looks, exits stage left.)

AUNT EM. ...*Think.* No, you never do, child. Now we're fixin' for a twister an' you're playin' *(DOROTHY sits center.)* games with that dog. And in your Sunday dress,

too! (*Putting basket just right of storm cellar doors.*) Serve you right if you *both* blew away!

DOROTHY. (*Still seated on ground, left of center.*) I imagine it would.

AUNT EM. (*Turning to her.*) What was that?

DOROTHY. Aw, I'm not much help around here for you and Uncle Henry. Always daydreaming and stuff. I bet it would be a big load off your back if I did blow away, wouldn't it?

AUNT EM. (*After a moment of seriousness, puts DOROTHY on.*) I imagine it would.

[MUSIC NO. 02 "THE FEELING WE ONCE HAD"]

DOROTHY. (*Hurt.*) It would?

AUNT EM. Dorothy...you know how much your Uncle Henry and I love you, don't you?

(*On the line, she moves stage left to DOROTHY, up of her and to DOROTHY's left.*)

PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND ME, CHILD
LIKE WHEN YOU BUMPED YOUR SHIN
THEN YOU'LL KNOW I LOVE YOU NOW
AS I LOVED YOU THEN

(*Kneels, right knee down.*)

THO' YOU MAY BE TRYING SOMETIMES
AND I'LL NEED YOU AND YOU'RE NOT THERE

(*Turns DOROTHY's face to her.*)

I MAY GET MAD AND TURN YOU AWAY

(*Puts DOROTHY's head on her shoulder.*)

BUT I STILL CARE.

(*DOROTHY puts her head down on AUNT EM's left thigh.*)

BUT YOU SHOULDN'T ASK FOR MORE
THAN CAN COME FROM ME

(*AUNT EM gets DOROTHY's eye contact.*)

AUNT EM.

I AM DIFF'RENT THAN YOU ARE,
AND ONE DAY YOU'LL SEE.

(Opens front. Eye contact.)

IF I LOSE MY PATIENCE WITH YOU
AND I SUDDENLY START TO SCREAM
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO BE

(Opens toward stage left.)

WHAT I SEE IN MY DREAMS.

(Moves close.)

AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT IT'S THERE
THE FEELING WE ONCE HAD

(Touches DOROTHY's face.)

KNOWING THAT YOU CAN COME TO ME
WHENEVER YOU'RE FEELING SAD.

PIT SINGERS.

DON'T LOSE THE FEELING WE ONCE HAD

AUNT EM.

OOH

PIT SINGERS.

DON'T LOSE THE FEELING WE ONCE HAD

(AUNT EM rises during PIT SINGERS' phrase.)

AUNT EM. *(Helps DOROTHY up.)*

THO' YOU'RE GROWING OLDER NOW
AND I'M WATCHING YOU GROW

(DOROTHY turns away, a bit embarrassed.)

AND IF I MAKE YOU SAD SOMETIMES

(DOROTHY goes to her for an embrace.)

I SEE YOUR FEELINGS SHOW

(Both cross to right center.)

AND ONE DAY I'LL LOOK AROUND
AND YOU WILL BE GROWN

(AUNT EM pushes DOROTHY toward stage right.)

YOU'LL BE OUT IN THE WORLD

(AUNT EM *curtseys.*)

SUCH A PRETTY GIRL

(DOROTHY *curtseys.*)

BUT YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN

(DOROTHY, *frightened at the prospect, runs to AUNT EM for an embrace.*)

AUNT EM.

PIT SINGERS.

AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW

YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN

THAT IT'S THERE

AH

THE FEELING WE ONCE HAD

PIT SINGERS.

DON'T LOSE THAT FEELIN'

AUNT EM. (*At arm's-length.*)

KNOWING THAT YOU CAN COME TO ME

WHENEVER YOU'RE FEELING BAD

THE FEELING WE ONCE HAD

(*Opens to hold both hands.*)

THE FEELING WE ONCE HAD

PIT SINGERS.

THAT WE HAD THAT WE HAD

AUNT EM.

DON'T LOSE THE FEELING

THE FEELING WE ONCE HAD.

(*They embrace.*)

(UNCLE HENRY *enters on the run, picks up the milk can from downstage left center, and continues toward downstage right.*)

UNCLE HENRY. Em! Dorothy! Hurry! This here's a big one!

[MUSIC NO. 03 "TORNADO"]

(UNCLE HENRY *puts the milk can behind the barrel on the house platform, left of the cellar door. They struggle to get into the cellar.*)

DOROTHY. Aunt Em.

PIT SINGERS.

OOH

DOO-DOOT DOO DOOT DOO-DOO-DOOT DOO-DOO DOW

OOH

DOO-DOOT DOO DOOT DOO-DOO-DOOT DOO-DOOT DOOT

DOO DOOT DOO DOOT DOO-DOOT

I'M COMIN' TO GETCHA

GOTCHA, GOTCHA

(PIT SINGERS perform handclaps.)

GETCHA

COMIN' TO GETCHA

GETCHA

COMIN' TO GETCHA

OOH

DOO-DOOT DOO DOOT DOO-DOO-DOOT DOO-DOOT DOO-

DOO DOW

OOH

DOO-DOOT DOO DOOT DOO-DOO-DOOT DOO-DOOT

COMIN' TO GETCHA

COMIN' TO GETCHA

DO-DO DOO DOOT DOOT

DO-DO DOO DOOT DOOT

DO-DO DOO DOOT DOOT

DO-DO DOO DOOT DOOT

DO-DO DOO DOOT DOOT

OOH

COMIN' TO GETCHA

COMIN' TO GETCHA

GOTCHA

GOTCHA

GOTCHA

(Blackout, except silhouette.)

ACT I

Scene One

[MUSIC NO. 03A “MUNCHKINS’ ENTRANCE”]

(The Land of the Munchkins. Some time later.)

(The porch has come to rest in a strange land, full of strange shapes, and with a strange sun in the sky. As the lights slowly come up, DOROTHY is still on the porch, which has spun through the tornado and has come to rest just left of center stage.)

(Two wall sections have come on from stage right, and Addaperle’s tent has come on from stage left.)

(Two MUNCHKINS enter from stage left, and a third from stage right. They cautiously approach the wreckage.)

DOROTHY. *(On porch.)* Aunt Em! Aunt Em! Where are you?
Aunt Em! Aunt Em!

FIRST MUNCHKIN. *(Crossing to downstage left of center.)* Aunt Em?

THIRD MUNCHKIN. *(At stage right of porch.)* Aunt Em?

SECOND MUNCHKIN. *(Downstage of tent.)* Aunt Em?

DOROTHY. *(Sees the strange little people and draws back in fear.)*
You’re not Aunt Em!

THIRD MUNCHKIN. *(Crossing to and asking FIRST MUNCHKIN.)*
Who’s Aunt Em?

DOROTHY. *(Crossing downstage off porch.)* Where am I?

FIRST MUNCHKIN. *(Crossing downstage and then slightly stage left; SECOND MUNCHKIN counters upstage.)* In the Land of Oz, where the Munchkins live.

(THIRD MUNCHKIN, crossing stage left and surveying the damage of the porch, discovers a pair of feet sticking out from under the porch. They wear the silver slippers of Evvamene, the Wicked Witch of the East, and loud, red-and-white-striped pantyhose.

THIRD MUNCHKIN. Ahhh! *(Moves downstage of the other two, and to downstage left.)* Look! She done set that house on Evvamene!

FIRST MUNCHKIN. *(Crossing upstage to look for herself.)* Is she dead?

SECOND MUNCHKIN. *(Between FIRST and THIRD MUNCHKIN. To THIRD.)* Yeah, and I don't think she's gonna like it!

(DOROTHY also sees legs and backs to stage right of the house, unaware of what the consequences will be.)

SECOND MUNCHKIN. *(Crossing to DOROTHY, hand extended.)* Congratulations!

(Crossing downstage of DOROTHY, to her right, then her left.)

You just killed the Wicked Witch of the East.

DOROTHY. *(Crossing downstage of SECOND MUNCHKIN to left center.)* Oh, no!

THIRD MUNCHKIN. *(From downstage left, crosses upstage of DOROTHY and to her right.)* Oh, yeah!

FIRST MUNCHKIN. Girl, I'm gonna wear *white* to the funeral.
(Does hand slap with SECOND MUNCHKIN.)

DOROTHY. *(Terrified, runs from them toward stage left, and when downstage of the tent unit:)* I didn't mean to kill nobody!

[MUSIC NO. 04 "ADDAPERLE'S APPEARANCE"]

(The center section of the tent flies out, revealing a huge cloud of CO₂ smoke. As it clears, we see ADDAPERLE, the Good Witch of the North, sputtering and spitting. At the sound of the tent opening, DOROTHY and all three MUNCHKINS

have scattered toward stage right, with DOROTHY the farthest offstage)

ADDAPERLE. What's goin' on around here!

MUNCHKINS. Addaperle! *(They all move toward her.)*

THIRD MUNCHKIN. *(Getting to her first, circling downstage and to her left.)* Let me have your autograph, girl.

(ADDAPERLE favors each of them with finger-kiss autographs, and upon receiving them, they also move downstage and to her left.)

DOROTHY. *(Still stage right, wide-eyed.)* Who are you?

ADDAPERLE. The Good Witch of the North.

DOROTHY. The Good Witch of the North?

ADDAPERLE. *(Crossing to right of center.)* Maybe you know me better by my stage name...Addaperle, the Feelgood Girl!

(The MUNCHKINS clap eight times.)

DOROTHY. *(Crosses toward her.)* Your stage name?

ADDAPERLE. Yes, I have a magic act.

(She whips a small, collapsible bouquet of paper flowers out of her waistband.)

I do tricks!

(On the word "tricks," she pops the bouquet open.)

(FOURTH and FIFTH MUNCHKIN enter from upstage of the tent unit, and circling above the porch and to the stage-right side of it, spy Evvamene's legs sticking out.)

THIRD MUNCHKIN. *(Down and left of porch.)* Does she ever!

ADDAPERLE. *(Turning to him.)* You better cool it, or I'll turn you into something.

THIRD MUNCHKIN. *(Crossing to stage left of ADDAPERLE.)* Addaperle, this child here, she done gone and set her house down on your sister, Evvamene.

ADDAPERLE. *(Crossing downstage of him, and to the base of the feet.)* Ohhhh! *(Covers face, moment of grief...not too serious.)*

FIRST MUNCHKIN. That is old Evvamene, ain't it?

ADDAPERLE. *(Cries.)* Yes! *(Partial recovery.)* I'd know those tacky pantyhose of hers anywhere! *(Total recovery... crossing downstage.)* That means there's only three witches left in Oz. Me, the Good Witch of the North.

(She laughs. MUNCHKINS fold hands and smile.)

My sister, Glinda, the Good Witch of the South...

(MUNCHKINS big grin.)

You ought to see her act, honey.

(MUNCHKINS nod...ADDAPERLE laughs.)

And then there's Evillene...

MUNCHKINS. Evillene!!

(MUNCHKINS bless themselves two times, clasp hands, bow heads, most-holy.)

ADDAPERLE. *(Blessing self...just in case.)* ...The Wicked Witch of the West. You better watch out for her. She's a real downer.

(MUNCHKINS nod "yes." ADDAPERLE crosses to DOROTHY. FOURTH MUNCHKIN crosses upstage of ADDAPERLE and DOROTHY to downstage right.)

Now, let's get down to business, honey. What's your name, child?

DOROTHY. Well, my name is...

ADDAPERLE. Wait! Don't tell me. I'll ask my magic slate.

(She moves upstage of DOROTHY, puts down her magic bag, and pulls out a small blackboard with a piece of chalk attached. She hands the slate to the downstage right FOURTH MUNCHKIN, who holds it up for all to see.)

DOROTHY. Your what?

ADDAPERLE. My magic slate. Now, I ain't gonna touch this slate... *(She crosses upstage of DOROTHY to center...going*

to do her act.) but on it, the name of this child shall be written. (Big preparation.) And that name is...Shirley!!

DOROTHY. No.

ADDAPERLE. *(Still hanging in.)* Denise!!

DOROTHY. No.

ADDAPERLE. *(Starting to collapse.)* Starletta?

DOROTHY. *(Now amused at this lady.)* No.

ADDAPERLE. *(Starting to cross upstage of DOROTHY.)* Urylee?

DOROTHY. No.

ADDAPERLE. *(Crosses back to over DOROTHY's right shoulder.)*
Mary Bethune?

DOROTHY. No.

ADDAPERLE. *(Crossing to magic slate.)* Mitzi?

DOROTHY. No... My name is...

ADDAPERLE. *(Grabbing the slate from the FOURTH MUNCHKIN and handing it to DOROTHY, a bit annoyed.)* Then write your name on this magic slate.
(Then, turning to the MUNCHKINS.) Well, you can't win 'em all.

(DOROTHY, having written her name on the slate, hands it back to ADDAPERLE. ADDAPERLE, smiling sweetly at DOROTHY, pushes her face toward the MUNCHKINS stage left, and then pretends magic. DOROTHY does a "What's going on?" look to the MUNCHKINS, who cover their eyes with their fingers.)

Ibbiddy, Dibbiddy, an' more of the same...

Now I'm beginning to see the name...

Dorothy!!

(At the name "Dorothy," the MUNCHKINS uncover their eyes.)

DOROTHY. You call that magic?

ADDAPERLE. Listen, child, I'm doing the best I can. *(Crosses to her bag, returns slate.)*

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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