

# THE WIZARD OF OZ

## CAST LIST

Dorothy.....Nicole Winter  
Hunk / Scarecrow.....Jordan Vassallo  
Hickory / Tin Man.....Matt Cavanagh  
Zeke / Cowardly Lion.....Victor Reyes  
Professor Marvel / The Wizard of Oz.....Terry Hogan  
The Guard of the Emerald City.....Wayne Newton  
Glinda, The Good Witch of the North.....Alessa Teunisse  
Miss Gultch / The Wicked Witch of the West.....Danielle Nicholson  
Uncle Henry.....Tony Harrison  
*Aunty Em.....vacant*

Still uncast are the following minor roles:

- Aunty Em
- The General of the Winkies
- Three Crows (*male chorus*)
- Three Trees (*female chorus*)
- A Beautician (*female solo*)
- Maintenance Men (*male semi-chorus*)
- Beauticians (*female semi-chorus*)
- Nikko, the Chief Flying Monkey
- Various Ozian Citizens

*These will be cast from the chorus during rehearsals.*

Also, all Munchkins are to be cast on Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup>:

- The Mayor
- The Barrister
- The Braggart
- The Coroner
- The Fiddler
- 2 School Teachers
- 3 City Fathers
- “The Lollypop Guild” (3 boys)
- “The Lull-a-bye League” (3 girls)

There are two major dance numbers: *The Merry Old Land Of Oz* and *The Jitterbug*. All chorus members will dance a bit, but we are looking for some special movers – a Dance Troupe of Feature Dancers for the complicated steps.

**Auditions for Dance Troupe on Monday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.**  
*Please wear comfortable clothes and dance shoes for Dance Troupe Auditions*

# FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Firstly, allow me to thank you all publicly for your wonderful enthusiasm, your patience and your input into the casting process. We saw over fifty applicants in two nights, and then had an intensive evening's call-backs before arriving at our wonderful cast.

I am staggered by the standard of applicants – it was wonderful to see how much some people I remember from Pirates have improved in the last three years, and it was a very hard thing to have to pass over so many excellent performers. I would like to think that many of you will stay to be part of the ensemble, and there are lots of choice cameo roles for the other forty-one of you to consider trying for in February!

The small but very important role of Aunty Em is still uncast, principally because we were unable to fit in a specific call-back time for her and because I am keen to cast someone to match our lovely Uncle Henry and our delightful Dorothy. I will hold a special audition for Aunty Em at **7pm on Monday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. I encourage all previous applicants to re-audition. Remember that whoever does play Aunty Em will not be able to appear in the chorus, since it is the fact that Dorothy misses Aunty Em so much that she has to get home to Kansas. If she constantly sees Aunty Em in every passing Munchkin or Tree or Citizen of Oz, then she would have no reason to go home at all!!

The very important Munchkin children's chorus and lead roles will be auditioned on Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup>. Children grow and change so fast, and it is six months until the first performance, so I think it best to reassess them all in three months' time.

The Wizard of Oz is certainly a strange kind of musical. There are no lovers, no kissing, no romance at all. Indeed, it all seems to happen in just a few hours on one stormy afternoon! On one level it operates as a kind of serious pantomime – a good old fashioned fun-for-all-the-family romp in fantasy land. In a sense, all that really happens is a teenage girl bumps her head and has odd dreams.

It seems a mystery that this strange story has lasted so long. Where does it get its timeless appeal? It is possibly more popular and well-known today than it was over a hundred years ago when it was written, or seventy years ago when the famous film was made. There must be more to it than pure fantasy? In fact, The Wizard of Oz is teeming with satirical social commentary underpinning the entertainment. And underneath lie some deeper themes involving the nature of reality, the universal longing for home.

Of course the music is delightful. Written in 1938 as Jazz merges into Swing, the songs have that irreplaceable appeal that war-time songs will always have, and it is all just so much fun to sing and dance to! I have been listening to it, and studying it for a couple of months now, and I am more and more delighted with it. I find myself singing "If I Only Had A Brain" far more often than is good for my self-esteem!

It should be quite a journey for all of us in the 2009 HMDS production of this American classic – one where everyone involved from The Great and Powerful Wizard himself to the littlest Munchkin will find out something new about this story, and be part of something truly – *Wonderful!*

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, I am always happy to talk to my cast and chorus.

I invite you to email me:

[pattyandmike@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pattyandmike@optusnet.com.au)

or call me:

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*Patty Macintosh*  
Director, The Wizard of Oz  
Holroyd Musical and Dramatic Society

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## PRINCIPAL DATES

Australia Day Rehearsals.....19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 7:30-9:30pm

Australia Day Performance.....26<sup>th</sup> January (*tba - approx 2:30pm*)

First Rehearsal.....2<sup>nd</sup> February 7:30pm

*Please come early if you'd like to chat to me – I will be there from 7pm.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Rehearsal & Munchkin Auditions.....4<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm - 9pm

Rehearsals continue on Mondays and Wednesdays

7:30 – 10:30pm

*(On Munchkin evenings, I will release the children at approx 9pm)*

Aunty Em Auditions.....9<sup>th</sup> February 7pm

Dance Troupe Auditions.....9<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm

*A Rehearsal Schedule will be released at the first rehearsal, and will be updated regularly as the need arises. However, all members of the production should expect to be available for all rehearsals since the schedule in amateur theatre is an inexact science, and changes will need to be made. I will endeavour to only call performers to a rehearsal that they will actually need to attend, and in return I require all members of the cast to be punctual and regular in their attendance.*

*Rehearsals will continue throughout the April School Holidays with intensive workshops for the major chorus scenes. Please consider that all Munchkins and adult chorus will be required to attend rehearsals during the holidays.*

Performances:

Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>, Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>

Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>