

WIZARD OF OZ

AN OPERETTA

**Adapted by Dorothy Skinkle
with original music and lyrics**

FROM THE STORY BY L. FRANK BAUM

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PUBLISHED BY

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PRODUCTION NOTES

“Get as many of the children on the stage as you can, but don’t spend any money.”

That was my instruction when I wrote this operetta. The result was a production involving almost 500 children. At the same time, I wanted to make it flexible enough so that a much smaller number could be used. With cutting and doubling up on parts, it can be presented with as few as 50.

The first time the *Wizard of Oz* was presented, we used grades one through four. The Little Animal sequence was designed for first graders, and the Munchkins and Quadlings were second graders. The other parts were taken by third and fourth graders.

The second time around, we used grades four through six. In this case we had fewer children, so we used the same fourth graders for both Munchkins and Quadlings (*Having them change jackets.*) and omitted the Little Animals altogether.

The dances we used were simple skipping and hopping routines. The dances are not essential to the story. They are only ways to get more children on stage.

Scenery should be very simple. Whenever it is possible, use children for scenery. (*Trees, Cornstalks, etc.*) The house in Scene II can be a bare outline made of laths held up by two or more children.

Costumes should be simple enough for the children to make themselves. Use lots of crepe paper, construction paper, yarn and oodles of scotch tape! Suggestions for costumes are included in the section on CHARACTERS.

As far as props are concerned, the simpler they are, the better. The spotlight used in Scenes VI and IX adds to the overall effect, but it isn’t absolutely necessary. A megaphone can be used instead of a microphone.

Have fun. After all, that’s what it’s for, isn’t it?

The Author, Dorothy E. Skinkle

CHARACTER and COSTUME PLOT

DOROTHY: A little farm girl from Kansas. She wears a pinafore and pigtails and carries a toy dog, Toto, with an offstage bark.

AUNT EM: Dorothy's aunt. She wears a long, drab dress and an apron. Her hair is done in a knot on the back of her head.

UNCLE HENRY: Dorothy's uncle. He wears coveralls and a straw hat.

GOOD WITCH: Really a kind of fairy queen. She wears a sparkly white or light blue dress, and a crown of tinsel. She may have tinsel wings, if desired. She carries a scepter with a tinsel star on it.

MUNCHKINS: The little people of Oz. They are dressed in blue with paper hats.

SCARECROW: Wears coveralls, a straw hat and gloves. Should have straw hanging out of all the seams and edges.

CROWS: Dress these students in black jeans and sweaters. Add crepe paper wings and black caps with big yellow beaks made of construction paper attached to the bills.

CORNSTALKS: Start with a sheet with a hole cut for the head, pin leaves and tassels to the sheet. Make hats out of crepe or construction paper representing a corn shock.

TIN WOODMAN: Blue jeans and a bluish-colored work shirt. Gloves, if desired. A metal funnel for a hat. If you want to use silver spray paint on the jeans and gloves, fine, but it really isn't necessary. He should carry a lightweight ax.

TREES: These girls should wear light-colored dresses with leaves pinned to them. Hats can be crowns of leaves.

COWARDLY LION: Brown shirt and brown pants with a tail of brown yarn with a tassel at the end, pinned to the seat of the pants. Headdress out of yarn or crepe paper, tassels fastened to a brown hat or a cap worn backwards.

SERVANT GIRLS: Pastel dresses with wide skirts, frilly crepe paper aprons and caps, and feather dusters or pom-poms.

GUARDS: Dark pants and white shirts. Short jackets if available. Military style hats of construction paper with high crowns and plumes. You may add crossed bandoliers over the chest. Band uniforms may also be used.

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GENERAL: Same as the guards, only add medals, trimmings, etc.

WIZARD OF OZ: The illusion should be that the voice comes from the Head. May be papier-mâché or a balloon, thus making it three dimensional, or it can be painted on a sheet of cardboard. Should be horrible-looking. The real Wizard of Oz should be dressed in a very neat suit with a tie.

LITTLE ANIMALS: Imagination is the keyword here. Sleeper pajamas could be used as a base. Tails and ears can be made out of yarn and pinned on.

WINGED MONKEYS: Brown pants and shirts. Tails made of yarn without tassels. Wings could be made of crepe paper and fastened on a sort of harness. Brown baseball caps with monkey ears attached. Or, if you prefer, make them look like organ grinder's monkeys with red caps and bolero jackets.

WICKED WITCH: A regular Halloween witch, complete with stringy hair, long black dress, pointed hat and a broom.

GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH: Dress her like the Good Witch, except that her dress should be pink and her crown and scepter gold.

QUADLINGS: More little people of Oz. Dress them in red, white and blue - or in red and white. Paper hats and collars are effective.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. Hi Ho Fiddle Dee Dee.....Scene 2
2. Munchkin Dance.....Scene 2
3. The Scarecrow's Lament.....Scene 3
4. The Tin Woodman's Story.....Scene 4
5. Dance of the Trees.....Scene 5
6. The Feather Duster Song.....Scene 6
7. Servant Girls' Dance.....Scene 6
8. Soldiers' March.....Scene 6
9. Little Animals.....Scene 7
10. Little Animals Dance.....Scene 7
11. Dance of the Winged Monkeys.....Scene 8
12. Ep-pe Pep-pe Kak-ke.....Scene 8
13. The Wizard's Story.....Scene 9
14. The Quadlings' Song.....Scene 10
15. The Quadlings' Dance.....Scene 10

Scene 1

(AT RISE: In front of the curtain. Lights are dim. AUNT EM enters L, followed by DOROTHY carrying Toto.)

AUNT EM: My, it's getting dark. It looks like we're gong to have a storm.

(DOROTHY sets dog down. UNCLE HENRY enters R.)

UNCLE HENRY: There's a cyclone coming! Get in the cellar!

(AUNT EM and UNCLE HENRY exit down steps L. DOROTHY looks around frantically.)

DOROTHY: Where's my dog? I can't go without him! Here, Toto! Here, Toto!

AUNT EM: *(Offstage)* Hurry, Dorothy, the cyclone's coming closer!

DOROTHY: I'm coming!

(DOROTHY picks up Toto and starts towards steps. Clap of THUNDER. BLACKOUT.)

DOROTHY: Aunt Em! Uncle Henry! The house is blowing away! Help! Help! *(Thunderclap)*

End of Scene 1

End of Freeview

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