

Plays for Young Audiences

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The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Based on the Books by
L. Frank Baum

Adapted for the Stage by
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ACT 1, SCENE 1

Spotlight on DOROTHY. In her hand, a tiny American flag on a stick, upon which she gazes. Unseen, a CHILD sings the refrain of 'Hard Times'.

CHILD TIS THE SONG, THE SIGH OF THE WEARY
HARD TIMES, HARD TIMES, COME AGAIN NO MORE
MANY DAYS YOU HAVE LINGERED AROUND MY
FARMHOUSE DOOR
OH HARD TIMES COME AGAIN NO MORE.

Light expands to reveal a rag-tag corner of a county fair and entrance to the midway. A weather-worn farmer, HENRY, gazes upstage at EXOTIC DANCER; DOROTHY joins him.

ROUSTABOUT

BARKER Step right up, gentlemen! Right here, right now, on the Prairie
County midway. Gaze upon the gorgeous gams of Little Giza, the
toast of Egypt...

EM (Entering with a basket of roses.) Henry? Dorothy?

DOROTHY Here we are , Aunt Em!

EM moves up t o them; HENRY looks " caught. "

EM Thank goodness; I thought you two had vanished into thin air.

ROUSTABOUT

BARKER ...that's right. A free chance for a glance at Little Giza. (Voice
fading.) But in the wink of an eye, this lovely sphinx'll vanish into
her tent like a mirage in the Sahara desert...

DOROTHY (As EM pulls her away downstage.) Isn't the dancing beautiful, Antie
Em? Have you ever seen so many sparkly jewels?

EM (A glare at HENRY.) Girl could stand to wear a few more if you ask
me.

DOCTOR NOAH and FEMALE BARKER start to set up their fortune telling attraction at the
midway entrance.

HENRY Aw, Em – it's Dorothy's first fair. No harm in a little fun.

EM Mind yourself, Henry, or the fun'll be over before you know it.

MR. KRULLER *(Entering with MRS KRULLER & DAUGHTER.)* Why, Henry! Henry Gale!

HENRY *(To EM.)* Em, the fun is over. Dang it, here comes the banker. *(To KRULLER.)* Mornin' Mister Kruller, Missus Kruller.

MRS KRULLER Mornin' Mister Gale . Happy Independence Day to you, Em.

EM *(A nod as MRS KRULLER & DAUGHTER join them.)* Same to you, Mrs. Kruller. This here's my niece, Dorothy, just come to live with us. *(DOROTHY curtseys . DAUGHTER stands licking a lollipop.)*

HENRY *(To MR KRULLER.)* We're the only family she's got.

MR KRULLER Another mouth to feed , eh , Henry?

MRS KRULLER *(Clucking her tongue. To Dorothy.)* Poor little orphan . How'd it happen, dear heart? How was it you came to lose your parents?

DOROTHY I didn't lose them, ma'am. They died. In a flood.

MR KRULLER Yes, a horrible, watery death... leaving you utterly alone.

DOROTHY Not alone . I had my dog.

HENRY And Em and I.

EM That's right.

DOROTHY *(To DAUGHTER.)* My dog ' s name is Toto . He's home.

DAUGHTER *(Licking lollipop.)* Dogs are dumb.

DOROTHY Un-unh.

DAUGHTER *(A lick.)* I've been on the cyclone three times already.

DOROTHY Cyclone?

DAUGHTER The roly-coaster. Don't you know? *(She points at the banner.)*

BARKER *(Distant.)* Ride the roly-coaster ! Nickle a ride. Come ride the Cyclone !

DAUGHTER I threw up every time. *(MRS KRULLER laughs uncomfortably.)*

MR KRULLER Giving yourself a day off from the dirt patch , eh , Mr and Mrs Gale?

HENRY Not the full day. Can't keep bankers' hours. Besides, looks like maybe a rainstorm brewing.

MR KRULLER Rain on the Fourth. Ruin the celebration. Ruin my speech.

DAUGHTER Oh, Daddy – don't let it rain at the county fair!

MR KRULLER Don't you worry, daughter.

HENRY Been praying for rain. Crops are awful late this year.

MR KRULLER Speaking of being late , Henry. Your mortgage payment was due the first.

HENRY So it was. Been meaning to get away from my chores so's to talk with you.

MR KRULLER Seems you could get away to the fair.

HENRY Bank's closed, ain't it? Independence Day.

MR KRULLER Don't want you frittering away my bank's money on frippery.

HENRY "Frittering Frippery?!"

MR KRULLER Now, Henry, I'd hate to see you lose the farm.

DOROTHY *(Alarmed.)* Lose the farm? Our home? No! *(EM pulls DOROTHY away.)*

HENRY Lose my house? Now just a doggone minute. *(HENRY takes KRULLER by arm and turns away; agitated.)*

DOROTHY *(Regarding her uncle's argument.)* You can't! You can't take away our house!

HENRY *(Indicating to EM to keep DOROTHY.)* Em? ! *(HENRY and MR KRULLER exit.)*

EM *(Pulls DOROTHY back again.)* Now Dorothy, just let your Uncle Henry take care of business.

MRS KRULLER That's right, men's business. Now, Em, do I spy roses in that basket?

EM *(With some pride.)* American Beauties. There's a silver dollar going for first prize.

MRS KRULLER *(Patronizing.)* A whole silver dollar ? Now wouldn't that be a windfall. May I ? *(She bends her face to sniff a rose. A little shriek.)* Ah! That nasty thorn pierced my finger!

EM Sorry.

MRS KRULLER *(Swooning, t o DAUGHTER.)* Polly? Come see! Is mother bleeding?

DAUGHTER No, mama.

MRS KRULLER Lucky for you, Em. These things can lead to lockjaw.

EM Roses got thorns, you know. . .

HENRY *(Entering. To MR KRULLER.)* I'll be by your blasted bank tomorrow.

MR KRULLER Now, Henry . . .

HENRY As for today – Independence Day – here, Dorothy, here’s a nickel.
(With great ceremony and defiance, HENRY gives DOROTHY a nickel.)
Now you run along and go buy yourself something. Something
fripperous. *(Grabbing EM’S arm, exiting.)* Take our house, will he?
Old miser. Come on, Em - let’s enter them roses in the competition
and then get on home to the cows.

EM and HENRY are off. MRS KRULLER grabs DAUGHTER away from DOROTHY and takes her HUSBAND’S arm. They start off.

MRS KRULLER Some people!

MR KRULLER Try to be kind and what does it get you?

MRS KRULLER Lockjaw. Some nerve!

DOROTHY Mister Banker, sir? Please wait. I’ve got a nickel.

MR KRULLER Yes?

DOROTHY Take it.

MR KRULLER Why?

DOROTHY To help pay for our house.

MRS KRULLER *(Sarcastic.)* Oh, isn’t that sweet? *(KRULLERS laugh and exit.)*

DOROTHY What’s wrong? It’s real silver, isn’t it?

DAUGHTER *(Re-entering, sticking out her tongue.)* Goody two-shoes!

MRS KRULLER *(Pulling DAUGHTER out again.)* Polly! *(KRULLERS are gone. DOROTHY stands, crestfallen.)*

FEMALE BARKER Step right up. Right this way. Ask the amazing Doctor Noah Tall.
The Soloman of resolutions. Wizard of wisdom. Step right up. Ask
the Doctor. *(DOCTOR has been observing DOROTHY.)*

DOCTOR *(Tipping his hat to DOROTHY.)* Morning, Dorothy Gale . Name's Noah. Noah Tall.

DOROTHY How do you know my name?

FEMALE BARKER Step right up. Meet the amazing Doctor Noah Tall.

DOROTHY Oh. Know-It-All.

DOCTOR *(Smiles at her pluck.)* And my charming assistant: Claire Voyant.

FEMALE BARKER Charmed.

DOROTHY Are you one of those hypnotizer doctors? You put people to sleep?

DOCTOR Not me. Give me dreamers of the day – they're the ones who make their wishes come true.

DOROTHY Wishes?

DOCTOR Fine little flag you got there. Let's see. *(DOROTHY hands flag to him.)* All the stars. Some folks think stars are for wishing.

DOROTHY I wish . . . I wish that mean old banker wouldn't take away our house.

DOCTOR Your house, you say? Farmhouse? With Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, and you little dog Toto?

DOROTHY How do you know?

DOCTOR Open mind. Open eyes.

BARKER Open ears.

DOCTOR What about you, Dorothy Gale ? Open to suggestions?

DOROTHY Oh, yes sir. Anything that might help.

DOCTOR *(BARKER'S hand is open for payment.)* Open hand.

DOROTHY I've only got...

DOCTOR A nickel. I know. (DOROTHY pays BARKER.) First... the magic spectacles.

BARKER places tinted spectacles on DOROTHY'S face. Lights change. Music.

DOROTHY Magic? All they do is make things look darker.

DOCTOR *(Beginning a soothing drone.)* Yes sirree. Cuts down the glare of your woes and your care. *(To ROUSTABOUT; handing him DOROTHY'S flag.)* Am I right?

ROUSTABOUT That's right.

DOCTOR Now remember, Dorothy: open mind, open eyes... what do you see?

Lights upstage of scrim reveal OZ-ABOUTS against a void: mute assistants dressed in black.

DOROTHY I see people. Strange people. Watching me.

DOCTOR That's good. Let them help you. Now what do you see? *(OZ-ABOUTS reveal a model of a farmhouse.)*

DOROTHY I see -- a house. Our house. My home. *(Wind begins to rise.)*

DOCTOR *(Droning.)* Open eyes. Open heart. *(PUPPET TOTO appears barking.)*

DOROTHY Yes. Toto. Dear Toto.

DOCTOR Open ears. *(Sound of rollercoaster screams in the distance.)*

DOROTHY I can hear Toto barking. Calling. Oh, my goodness! *(Rollercoaster crescendos.)*

DOCTOR What?

DOROTHY That sound!

DOCTOR Only the rollercoaster. The cyclone. Nothing to fear. Now what do you see? What do you hear?

EM *(Appearing simultaneously with a puppet counterpart.)* Dorothy? Dorothy!

DOROTHY Aunt Em. *(Puppet Henry appears simultaneously with HENRY.)*

EM Dorothy? Henry, where's Dorothy?

DOROTHY And Uncle Henry.

EM & HENRY *(As TOTO yaps.)* Dorothy?! Dorothy! Where is she?! Dorothy?!

DOROTHY Something's wrong! Toto! Aunt Em! Uncle Henry! *(Carnival screams grow louder as the wind rises.)*

FEMALE BARKER Noah! It's a cyclone! A twister! Comin' this way!

EM & HENRY Dorothy! Come home! Hurry home! Dorothy!

DOCTOR *(Running, panicked.)* Heaven help us! Run, little girl! Run home!

DOROTHY Home! I've got to go home! Where? I can't see! *(She pulls the spectacles off her face, exits.)*

ROUSTABOUTS Shake a leg! Run, before we're blown to kingdom come! Move it! Run for cover! Hurry!

Wind has risen to a whistle. Puppet house rises and flies in the midst of the twister. Fair scenery disappears.

DOROTHY *(Voice-over during previous action.)* Toto?! Toto?! Into the house! It's a cyclone! A cyclone! Uncle Henry! Auntie Em! Where are you? Help! Help!

ACT 1, SCENE 2

Continuous with preceding. Sounds of cyclone, like the screams of the roller coaster on the midway.

As puppet house is buffeted, DOROTHY with life-sized puppet TOTO appear in a isolated pool of light on a twirling bed as they scream/yap in fear.

Finally, Puppet House begins descent and lights fade on DOROTHY and TOTO. Lights fade on the puppet house. A huge boom of the house landing. A surprised abrupt screech from a female. Quiet.

ACT 1, SCENE 3

Lights rise on house exterior: screen door, with light pouring through. DOROTHY, with puppet TOTO in her arms, cautiously enters through the door.

DOROTHY Goodness gracious, such a ride! Are you all right, Toto? Thank heavens we're alive, but where . . . where has the cyclone taken us? Hello? Hello? (*Lights reveal a green, verdant landscape.*) Such lovely green meadows and trees. Much prettier than Kansas. You don't we've been blown all the way to Iowa? Oh, no, Toto – not Iowa! (*She looks up a the banner. Distant chapel bell.*) Look, Toto... "Munchkinland?" What's a munchkin, I wonder? Hello? Hello? (*A pitchfork appears, pointed defensively at DOROTHY. TOTO yaps.*)

What's the matter, Toto? (*Seeing pitchfork.*) Shh. I'm not sure we're welcome here.

Music. Sound of a North wind. An old woman dressed in fur -- GOOD WITCH OF THE NORTH – appears, twirling and sneezing, accompanied by OZ-ABOUTS with snowflake hoops who stand behind the GOOD WITCH wherever she travels.

GOOD WITCH (*Still spinning, "winding down."*) Welcome! Welcome! Well, well, well! (*She's a bit dizzy.*) Goodness! Rough going, these ding-dang blizzards. Helooo? Helloo? Hellooo? Welcome to Munchkinland, whoever you are . Whereever you are . (*The little woman bumps right into DOROTHY and TOTO.*) Oh, I do beg your pardon. What, why – you're a girl!

DOROTHY (*A curtsy.*) Yes, ma'am. I'm Dorothy Gale.

GOOD WITCH "Dorothy Gale ." What a breezy little name. And you mean no harm?

DOROTHY No.

With a titter of relief and joy, MUNCHKINS appear: child-sized adults like New England rural folk.

GOOD WITCH So then – you're a good witch, are you?

DOROTHY Heavens, no!

GOOD WITCH (*As MUNCHKINS halt, wary.*) Oh, dear. The Munchkins and I were so hoping you'd be good since the Wicked Witch was ever so dreary and troublesome. Isn't that right, Munchkins?

MUNCHKINS Eh, yeah.

DOROTHY (*A gasp, looking about.*) "Wicked Witch?" Where?!

GOOD WITCH Excellent question. Munchkins, where's that nasty old Wicked Witch? (*Pitchfork points to corner of house.*) Ah, there's the old hag... or there she was, I should say.

DOROTHY Oh, dear; she's dead?!

GOOD WITCH Quite.

MUNCHKIN 5 Eh, yep – she's a goner.

GOOD WITCH Which is why the Munchkins have called upon me to ask you... as you... Oh dear, I've forgotten.

MUNCHKIN 1 Please Missy – are we set free?

DOROTHY Set free of what?

MUNCHKIN 2 Free from slavery.

DOROTHY But of course you are. There are no such things as slaves.

MUNCHKINS
1 & 2 (*To OTHERS.*) Hurrah! We're free! Dorothy killed the Wicked Witch!

MUNCHKIN 5 Eh, yep – she's a goner!

MUNCHKIN 1 Three cheers for Witch Dorothy!

MUNCHKINS &
GOOD WITCH Hip, hip, hurrah! Hip, hip, hurrah! Hip, hip, hurrah!

MUNCHKIN 3 Hurrah for Dorothy, the Good Witch of . . . of where?

DOROTHY I beg your pardon?

MUNCHKIN 4 Where do you come from?

DOROTHY Kansas.

GOOD WITCH Thanks be to Dorothy...

GOOD WITCH &
MUNCHKINS The Good Witch of Kansas!

GOOD WITCH "Kansas." And where is that, dear, exactly?

DOROTHY You don't know?

GOOD WITCH Kansas certainly isn't anywhere in OZ that I've heard of.

DOROTHY OZ? What's OZ?

GOOD WITCH Why, OZ is where you is. Are. This land. Here.

MUNCHKINS Eh, Yep.

GOOD WITCH This is the Eastern region of the Land of Oz.

MUNCHKIN 3 Bet yer boots.

MUNCHKINS Eh, yep, eh, yep.

MUNCHKIN 4 Beggin' your pardon, but you did say you weren't a wicked witch...

DOROTHY That's right.

MUNCHKIN 4 Then are you just an ignorant witch?

DOROTHY No! I'm told I'm very bright for my age. And old enough and smart enough to know there are no such things as witches. (*MUNCHKINS chuckle. To GOOD WITCH.*) Now what did I say? Why are they laughing me?

GOOD WITCH Tell me, child – this "Kansas" place – is it civilized?

DOROTHY It must be; it's in America.

GOOD WITCH Then that explains it. You see, OZ is not civilized, therefore we still have magic and witches...

DOROTHY Oh, no! You mean there are others? More witches?

GOOD WITCH Why, yes, dear. Myself for one.

DOROTHY You? !

GOOD WITCH (*A bow.*) I am the Good Witch of the North.

DOROTHY Good witch?

GOOD WITCH And besides myself... there's sweet Glinda, the Good Witch of the South, and then... last but not least... a third... (*MUNCHKINS growl ominously.*)

DOROTHY Yes?

GOOD WITCH (*A nod toward dead witch.*) This one's sister.

DOROTHY The Wicked Witch of the East has a sister?

GOOD WITCH I'm afraid so. The Wicked Witch of the West. And no doubt she'll soon hear about this. So if I were you, I'd fly my house over there straight away and and squash her too.

DOROTHY But how?

GOOD WITCH Hmm. Good question. Haven't you any charms or powers, dear?

DOROTHY If I did, I'd make my house fly back to Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. Back to Kansas.

GOOD WITCH (*Sorrowfully.*) Our land is surrounded by a vast desert which cannot be crossed. I'm afraid you'll have to stay here with us, in OZ.

DOROTHY (*Starting to cry.*) Oh, please, if you all truly wish to thank me, can't somebody please help me to get back home?

GOOD WITCH (*Crying also; as do MUNCHKINS.*) Yes! Yes, perhaps there some help, somewhere, somehow. One, two, three...

GOOD WITCH lifts mittened hand, clicks heels and summons a mini-blizzard from which appears a scroll balanced upon her nose, upon which, she breathes. Frost clouds the surface, through which appears magic writing "Dorothy As the Wizard."

GOOD WITCH *(Reading the scroll.) "Dorothy Ask the Wizard. " (Giving scroll to OZ-ABOUT.)* Just as I thought. You must ask the Great OZ yourself.

MUNCHKIN 5 The wonderful Wizard!

DOROTHY *(A moan.)* You mean there are wizards here too?

GOOD WITCH Yes. And he's far more powerful than any of us witches. Or so I've been told.

DOROTHY And is the Wizard a good man?

GOOD WITCH He is a good Wizard. But what sort of man he might be, no one knows, for he never allows anyone to see him. He lives in the City of Emeralds.

DOROTHY Then please, please take me there at once!

GOOD WITCH Oh, dear. I can't. You'll have to walk.

DOROTHY *(A bit fearful.)* Walk alone?

GOOD WITCH It is a long journey through a country sometimes pleasant, sometimes dark and terrible. But you needn't be afraid, dear Dorothy. My magic kiss will protect you from all harm. *(She gives DOROTHY a kiss on the forehead, leaving a magical mark.)*

MUNCHKIN 3 *(Tugs at GOOD WITCH'S dress.)* The shoes.

GOOD WITCH The shoes.

MUNCHKINS The silver shoes.

GOOD WITCH The silver shoes. Oh, yes – I nearly forgot – another thing, two things actually... The silver shoes of the Wicked Witch of the East.

GOOD WITCH takes the silver shoes from the withered witch feet. Legs disappear in a cloud of dust. MUNCHKINS exclaim.

GOOD WITCH Now they belong to you. (*GOOD WITCH ceremoniously hands shoes to DOROTHY.*) The Wicked Witch of the East was terribly proud of these silver shoes, Dorothy.

MUNCHKIN 4 It is said they possess some powerful magic charm.

DOROTHY (*Removing her shoes ; donning the silver pair.*) What magic charm?

GOOD WITCH (*As MUNCHKINS shrug.*) We never knew. Perhaps you'll discover it for yourself. But as shoes go, being silver, they should be sturdy enough for any journey you may take.

DOROTHY Why, they fit as if were made just for me.

MUNCHKINS "ahh" in unison.

GOOD WITCH How wonderful.

MUNCHKIN 1 Please, can't you stay a spell?

MUNCHKIN 2 We'll have a real nice clambake.

MUNCHKIN 5 Celebrate our independence.

MUNCHKIN 3 Dance till the cows come home.

MUNCHKIN 4 Big parade down Main Street!

MUNCHKINS Please?

DOROTHY It's very kind of you, but I really must get home.

MUNCHKIN 5 (*Handing DOROTHY a picnic basket.*) Then here's a little picnic for you to munch while on your journey. (*A kiss on DOROTHY'S cheek.*) Good luck, my dear.

GOOD WITCH Yes, dear Dorothy, good luck and good bye. (*Sneeze. Blizzard begins, she starts off.*)

MUNCHKINS (*To GOOD WITCH; waving.*) Bless you!

GOOD WITCH Good bye. (*Sneeze.* MUNCHKINS "Bless you!") Good bye ! (*Sneeze.* MUNCHKINS "Bless you!")

DOROTHY (*Calling.*) But wait! How do I get to the Wizard?

GOOD WITCH (*Fading.*)The path is paved in yellow brick. Keep upon the path of yellow. Yellow brick... yellow brick... yellow...

With a gust of wind, GOOD WITCH is gone. MUNCHKINS also have scattered off with calls of "Goodbye!" DOROTHY stands alone.

DOROTHY "The path of yellow brick?"

OZ-ABOUTS enter and gesture at lighted path of yellow. They begin to sing "Goodbye, My Lady Love. " DOROTHY takes her common shoes and places them inside the house and latches the screen door.

DOROTHY Goodbye, old house. I must find my way home. (*With a sigh , she starts down the path with the OZ-ABOUTS. Scene shift.*)