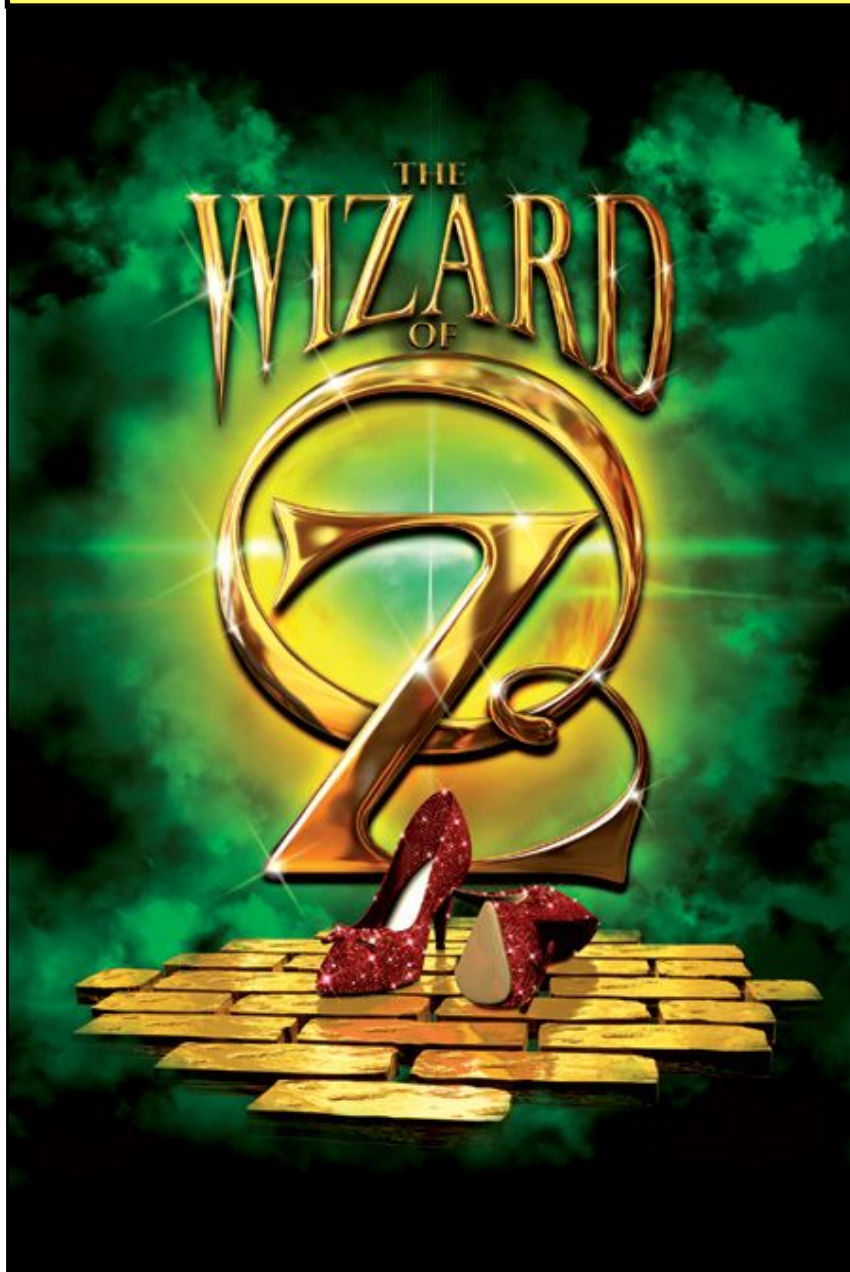


PLAYBILL



The Wizard of Oz is a musical fantasy based on the beloved children's book of the same title, written by L. Frank Baum in 1900. The original musical was produced as a film in 1939 with music by Harold Arlen and lyrics by Edgar "Yip" Harburg. Driven by the star power of Judy Garland, Ray Bolger and Bert Lahr, the film has remained a perennial favorite.

Several stage adaptations of the story have been made through the years. 1942 brought an adaptation for the St. Louis Municipal Opera (the MUNY) and another adaptation from 1987 by the Royal Shakespeare Company of London.

The play tells the story of Dorothy, a girl from Kansas who magically travels to the fantastic land of Oz via a tornado and her quest to return to her home. Her adventure is filled with new friends, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and a formidable adversary, the Wicked Witch of the West. In the end, Dorothy discovers that the power to return home has always resided within herself. In the final scene she awakens at her home and discovers that all of her friends from Oz were actually all of her friends from the farm, for truly, there is no place like home.



Harold Truitt is a veteran of the local theater scene, where he shares his talents directing, designing sets, acting and singing. He is a graduate of Illinois State University and has done masters studies at Eastern Illinois University. He enjoys what theater has to offer. Harold is currently on the staff of Alleman High School and will be directing Disney's Beauty and the Beast this fall. The music of Broadway touches us all in some way and he hopes that your dreams will come true "somewhere over the rainbow."