



BIRMINGHAM  
REPERTORY  
THEATRE

# THE WIZARD OF OZ

## VISUAL STORY



## Getting To The Theatre

The entrance to The REP is through Centenary Square.



There are many ways to come in to the building, but our front doors look like this:



## Foyer

Our foyer can be quite busy when people come to see a play. The toilets and the café are all in the foyer. You can also pick your tickets up from our Box Office.

## Chill Out Space

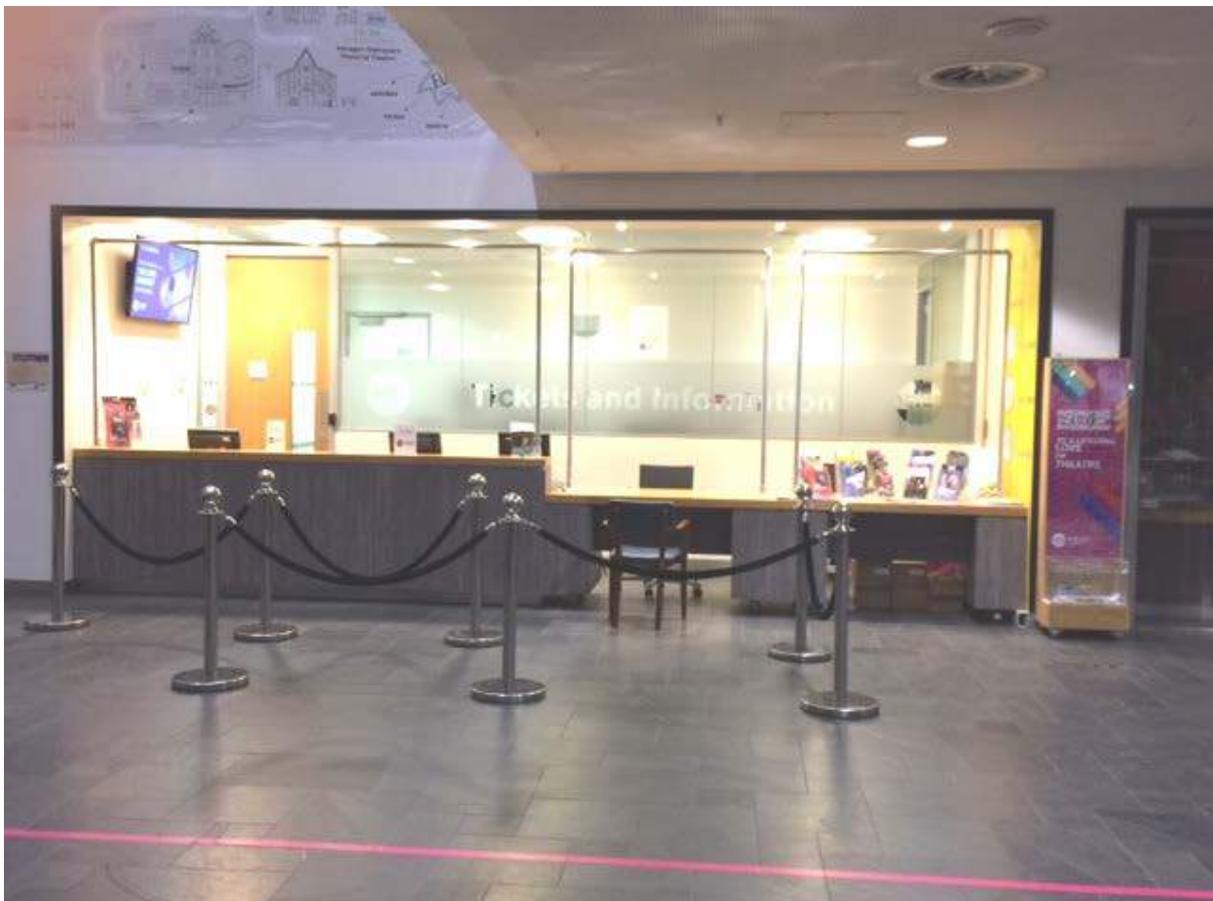
If you need somewhere quiet at any time you can visit our chill out space. Look for this sign:

Relax



## This is our foyer:

This is where you will come and collect your tickets for the show if you haven't already had them in the post.



**This is the stage:**

For different plays, designers add pieces of set to make it look different.



**This is where the audience sit:**

You will have a ticket with a seat number on; this will tell you which seat to sit on.



### These are ushers:

You can recognise the ushers by their black shirts with a red REP logo on it. The ushers are there to help you.

If you feel tired, or need to exit please ask an usher.

They can also show you where the toilets are.

Ushers are good people to go to if you feel worried about anything in the show.



### Show Notes

- The Wizard Of Oz is one of the most well known stories of all time. You may have seen the film or read the book.
- Our version is a Musical so there is lots of singing and dancing. The music can be loud at times throughout the play. There are also lots of sound effects like the witch's laugh.
- There is a live band that plays all the music who you will be able to see in front of the stage.
- Every performance is captioned and audio described.
- The beginning and end of the show is set in Kansas which is a real place in America so all the characters have American accents.
- The middle of the show is set in the made up magical land of Oz.
- The set moves and changes quite a lot to be different places in the story. The actors move some scenery and props and some of it moves mechanically.
- The play has lots of illusions and magic, so expect objects to disappear and appear when you least expect them.
- The actors play lots of different characters, there are also puppets and a real dog.
- Some parts of the show might be a little bit scary, but it is all just part of the story.
- The first half of the show is 1 hour 10 minutes long. There is a 20 minute interval. The second half is 1 hour 5 minutes long.

- Before the play starts some of the characters are on stage playing instruments and the band is playing along.
- There will be an announcement made five minutes before the play starts to let you know it is time to sit down.
- We will leave the lights on low in the audience so if you need to get up and move you can see where you are going.
- You are welcome to come and go from the auditorium as you please.
- If you need quiet, you may relax in the chill out area.

### The Play – Here is what happens in the story:

- Dorothy tells Aunt Em and Uncle Henry that Toto escaped and got in to Ms Gulch's garden. We meet some of Dorothy's friends on the farm, everyone is very busy and they don't have time for Dorothy.
- Ms Gulch comes to take Toto away. She has a letter from the Sheriff and if they don't let Toto go they will get in trouble with the law.
- Dorothy is very upset but luckily Toto escapes. Dorothy decides to run away with Toto.
- Dorothy Meets Professor Marvel. Professor Marvel persuades Dorothy to go home.
- There is a big storm. Aunt Em, Uncle Henry and the Farm workers hide in the storm shelter but Dorothy is too late and has to hide in the house.
- The house falls apart around Dorothy and Toto and they end up inside the tornado.
- Dorothy and Toto arrive in Munchkinland, a magical place over the rainbow. We meet Glinda the Good Witch and the Munchkins. Dorothy's house has landed on the Wicked Witch of the East and killed her. The Munchkins sing and dance to thank Dorothy for saving them from the Wicked Witch of the East.
- The Wicked Witch of the East's sister, the Wicked Witch of the West, arrives and scares everyone. She tries to steal her sister's ruby slippers but they end up on Dorothy's feet. Glinda tells Dorothy not to give them up as they contain powerful magic. The Witch is very angry with Dorothy and threatens her and Toto.
- Glinda tells Dorothy if she goes to see the Wizard of Oz he will be able to help her get home. To find Oz she must follow the yellow brick road.
- On the yellow brick road she meets a Scarecrow who doesn't have brain. Dorothy suggests he join her on her journey to see the Wizard who might be able to help him.
- Dorothy & Scarecrow meet a man made of tin who is all rusty. They oil him and hear the story of how he became the Tin Man without a heart. Dorothy and Scarecrow persuade Tin Man to go with them to Oz and ask the Wizard for a heart.
- The Wicked Witch appears and threatens the three friends and Toto.
- The friends have to follow the yellow brick road through the forbidden forest where they meet a very cowardly Lion. The Lion joins them on their journey in the hope that the Wizard can give her courage.

- The Witch casts a spell on a poppy field to make the friends fall asleep. Glinda appears and casts some magic of her own. When the friends wake up it is snowing and they can see the Emerald city in the distance.

#### 20 MINUTE INTERVAL

- The four friends arrive in Oz. The Wizard says that he will help them all if they go and get the Wicked Witch's broomstick from her castle. The friends know it is very dangerous but they agree and set out to complete the Wizard's task.
- The Wicked Witch sends one of her evil spirits called the Jitterbug to make the friends dance until they drop, her evil flying monkeys can capture them.
- The flying monkeys take Dorothy and Toto to the Witch's castle. The Witch tries to take the ruby slippers from Dorothy but they won't come off! The Witch says she will kill Toto and Dorothy once the timer has run out. Toto escapes and goes to find help.
- Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion disguise themselves as the Winkies who guard the castle and sneak in to rescue Dorothy. Toto shows them the way.
- The Wicked Witch tries to set Scarecrow on fire, Dorothy throws water over the Wicked Witch and she melts. The friends are free and take her broomstick to the Wizard.
- The Wizard refuses to help them. Toto sniffs at a door and finds a lady behind a secret door. The lady is actually the Wizard!
- The Wizard gives the friends everything they ask for and says she can take Dorothy back to Oz in a hot air balloon.
- The balloon goes without Dorothy and she is stranded in Oz.
- Glinda appears and tells Dorothy how to use the magic slippers to get home.
- Uncle Henry and Professor Marvel find Dorothy and Toto asleep in the ruined house in Kansas. Dorothy is pleased to see all her friends again.

## The Characters:



This is **DOROTHY**

Dorothy is a young girl who lives on a farm in Kansas with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry.

Dorothy has three human friends, Hunk, Hickory and Zeke who all work on the farm.

Her best friend is her dog, Toto.



This is **TOTO**

Toto lives on a farm in Kansas with his owner and best friend Dorothy.

Toto likes scaring their nasty old neighbour, Miss Gulch.

Sometimes Toto is played by a real dog and sometimes it is a puppet operated by an actor.



This is **MS GULCH**

Ms Gulch is a mean, rich old lady who lives near Dorothy's farm.

She hates Toto and tries to take him away from Dorothy.



This is **GLINDA**

Glinda is the first person Dorothy meets in Oz.

Glinda is a good witch.



These are **MUNCHKINS**

The Munchkins sing and dance to welcome Dorothy to Oz.

The Munchkins are puppets operated by the actors.



This is **THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST**

The Wicked Witch does not like Dorothy and wants to steal her magical ruby slippers.

The Wicked Witch has lots of magic powers, dark spells and evil helpers.

The Wicked Witch can fly on her magic broomstick.



This is **SCARECROW**

He meets Dorothy and becomes her friend.

He does not have a brain.

Because he is made of straw he is very bendy and unsteady on his feet.



This is **TIN MAN**

He meets Dorothy and becomes her friend.

He does not have a heart.

Because he is made of tin he moves very mechanically and has to be regularly oiled.



This is **LION**

She meets Dorothy and becomes her friend.

She does not have any courage and is scared of everything.