

Audition Notice

The Thalian Theatre Company is holding auditions for 'The Wiz' on Sunday, 12th February, at 2.30 pm. at the Thalian hall, Bridge Road east, WGC.

We are looking for a diverse cast to perform in this fantastical tale of Dorothy's adventures through the land of Oz, based on Frank Baum's 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz'.

There are opportunities for singers, dancers and actors to take on leading and supporting roles, or to be part of a busy ensemble of munchkins, winged monkeys, Kalidahs, poppies, field mice and much more. The story is told through dialogue and a mix of rock, gospel and soul inspired songs and music.

We are particularly looking for our Dorothy, ideally aged between eighteen and thirty. She should have a strong singing voice and be able to show both her vulnerability and her strength of character as the story leads her on this journey of discovery. There is no upper age limit for any of the other characters!

Please see below for the audition pieces. If you don't already have access to the score and script, please get in touch.

If you have any queries, please contact: secretary@welwynthalian.com

The Wiz - Audition Pieces

Sunday, 12th February, 2.30pm, Thalian Hall

Character	Libretto	Songs
Dorothy Gale – Lead Actor. Mezzo singer Age range late teens to a young teacher look (Diana Ross played her in her 30's). A strong actor, singer and dancer required with an air of youthful innocence & wonder & bravery as she walks through fantasy land– we don't ask for much! <i>Background:- After Dorothy gets swept up in a tornado, she finds herself in the fantastical world of Oz. There, she makes new friends, battles evil witches, and seeks the aid of the all-powerful and mysterious Wiz. Ultimately, Dorothy finds that, if you believe with all your heart, you can always find your way home.</i>	Page 24-25 From 'But before you go' To 'I been takin the bus' Pages 127-128 from 'You mean that's all there ever was to it' To 'Right now don't you all see' Please also look at all script for main characters as you may be asked to read in	As soon as I get home From 'In a different place, in a different time' to the end Finale From 'Suddenly my world 's gone' to end of song
The Scarecrow – Lead Actor, Tenor voice (if male). Can be any age or gender but needs to be a flexible mover as he has no bones! <i>Background:- The Scarecrow is a character in the fictional Land of Oz. He reveals that he lacks a brain and desires above all else to have one. In reality, he is only two days old and merely naïve. Throughout the course of the novel, he proves to have the brains he seeks and is later recognized as "the wisest man in all of Oz,"</i>	Page 30-32 From 'Psst' to song	Born on the Day before Yesterday from beginning of song to 'I'm going to make this time' (after Strike a Pose)
The Tin Man – Lead Actor, Baritone voice. Strong singing voice required and be able to move in character ie. Stiffly as he is made of metal, no bendy parts! He is looking for a heart but doesn't realise he already has one. <i>Background:- The Tin Woodman, also known as the Tin Man. In late 19th-century America, men made out of various tin pieces were used in advertising and political</i>	Page 40 – 42 From 'I used to be a real flesh and blood woodchopper to 'Just show me the way'	Slide Some Oil to Me From beginning of song to 'ooh does that feel good'!

cartoons. Baum, who was editing a magazine on decorating shop windows when he wrote <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i>, was reportedly inspired to invent the Tin Woodman by a figure he had built out of metal parts for a shop display.		
The Lion – Lead Actor, Baritone voice. Any age or gender but needs to give the impression of a big scary lion even though he is really gentle and kind.....and a bit of a coward! <i>Background:- The Cowardly Lion is depicted as an <u>African lion</u>, but like all animals in Oz, he can speak! Since lions are supposed to be "The Kings of Beasts," the Cowardly Lion believes that his fear makes him inadequate. He does not understand that courage means acting in the face of fear, which he does frequently.</i>	Page 46-48 From 'Don't hit me no more' to 'big ole scaredy cat'	Mean Ole Lion Whole song as so short
Auntie Em - Supporting Actor/Cameo, Mezzo Singing Just in the prologue scene but sets the tone for the whole show with her initial song. A kindly Aunt but gets exasperated with Dorothy's constant day dreaming... <i>Background:- Aunt Em is the aunt of <u>Dorothy Gale</u> and wife of <u>Uncle Henry</u>, and lives together with them on a <u>farm in Kansas</u>. She appears emotionally distant to her at the beginning of the story. However, after Dorothy is restored to her at the end of the book, we see her true nature: she cries out, "My darling child!" and covers her with kisses.</i>	Pages 12-13 from 'Dorothy' to Song	The Feeling we once Had From beginning to the first set of Feeling we once had ie. First verse and chorus
Adderperle Supporting Actor/Cameo. Mezzo voice. An older witch whose magic often lets her down. Imagine Ms Marple with magic and a good pair of lungs this is Adderperle. Sets the scene for Munchkin land and sends Dorothy off to look for the Wizard <i>Background:- The Good Witch of the North, (not to be confused with Glinda). She is the mild-mannered Ruler of the Gillikin Country. She introduces <u>Dorothy Gale</u> to Oz</i>	Page 24-25 From 'But before you go' To 'I been takin the bus'	He's the Wiz from beginning of Song to 'In a flash, you will be home He's the Wiz He's the Wizard of Oz

and sends her to meet the <u>Wizard</u>, after placing a protective kiss on her forehead.		
Evilene – Supporting Actor, Alto Voice. Can be any age but old enough to look bad (as in evil!) Needs to have a strong voice to belt out the song with the ensemble of Winkies but also be able to act the pantomime villain that she is. Starts off Act 2 and dies in Scene 3. <i>Background:- The Wicked Witch of the West is the malevolent ruler of the Winkie Country. In all versions, she is aquaphobic. She shows no interest in the death of the Eastern Witch and all she cares about is obtaining the <u>Silver Shoes</u> which will increase her power in Oz.</i>	Page 82-84 From 'Now where is that Lord High Underling' To 'Oh Shut up'	Don't Nobody bring me No bad News From beginning of song to 'I'll make you an offer child That you cannot refuse Cause nobody bring me no bad news'
Glinda – Supporting Actor, Cameo. Can be any age but needs to have strong singing voice and be able to act more Sorceress like than Witch. She appears late in Act 2 near the end to help Dorothy get home <i>Background:- Glinda is referred to as the "Good Witch of the South". She does not appear in the novel until late in its development. After the Wizard flies away in his balloon. Later books call her a "Sorceress" rather than a witch, though Baum's writings make clear that he did not view witches as inherently wicked.</i>	Page 125-126 From 'Adderperle' to song	Believe in yourself Whole Song as so short
The Wiz – Supporting Actor, any age, any gender. Mysterious and scary at first until we realise that he is only a magician and a con artist. Has three nice songs one at end of Act one and two at the end of Act 2. Not much dancing required bit needs to appear 'all powerful' until we discover he is as human as the rest of us. <i>Background:- The Wizard is the ruler of the <u>Land of Oz</u> and highly venerated by his subjects. Believing he is the only man capable of solving their problems, <u>Dorothy</u> and her friends travel to the <u>Emerald City</u>, the capital of Oz, to meet him. Eventually, it is</i>	Pages 104-106 From 'Who do I think I am?' to 'right in the middle of a ladies social'	Meet the Wizard Whole song as so short

<i>revealed that Oz is actually none of these things, but rather an ordinary conman from <u>Omaha, Nebraska</u>, who has been using elaborate magic tricks and props to make himself seem "great and powerful". Working as a magician for a <u>circus</u>, he wrote OZ on the side of his <u>hot air balloon</u> for promotional purposes. One day his balloon sailed into the Land of Oz and he found himself worshipped as a great sorcerer. As Oz had no leadership at the time, he became Supreme Ruler of the kingdom and did his best to sustain the myth.</i>		
Other non-singing cameo speaking roles:- Uncle Henry Gatekeeper Lord High Underling Messenger Winged Monkey	Advise interest in roles to Avril & will try out when we start blocking. If no specific interest I will offer out parts to those who I think could do the role	

2.30 – 3.30 – auditions for Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman & Lion

3.30 – 4.00 – auditions for Wiz & Evilene

4.00 – 5.00 – auditions for Aunty Em, Adderperle & Glinda

Thalian Hall,

64-68 Bridge Road East

Welwyn Garden City

Hertfordshire

AL7 1JU