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Seattle Children's Theatre Presents *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, a Multicultural Interpretation of the Literary Classic

Diverse creative team leads production of all-ages play based on L. Frank Baum's novel

(Seattle, Wash.) SEATTLE – March 9, 2023 – **Seattle Children's Theatre** (SCT) today announced its final production of the season, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, will open on Friday, April 7, 2023. The beloved story of Dorothy and her friends, The Tin Man, The Cowardly Lion and Scarecrow, based on the novel by L. Frank Baum, was adapted by Jacqueline E. Lawton, playwright, producer and advocate for access, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the realm of American Theatre. The play will be directed by Seattle actor, playwright and educator, Jéhan Òsanyìn (they/them).

Though the production includes the story's cast of familiar characters, fans of the movie and book will appreciate a fresh take on the classic tale. In SCT's production, Dorothy is depicted as a Black orphan in search of her own power. With her dog Toto by her side, she discovers the magical land of Oz and embarks on a journey to make her dreams come true. The all-ages production fuses the novel's original narrative while exploring themes of place and identity, reflecting the experience of Black and Filipino homesteaders in the mid-twentieth century.

"Our version of Dorothy's journey to the Emerald City is told through a multicultural lens, made possible because of the actors and the creative team behind the show," said SCT artistic director [Idris Goodwin](#). "The production leverages favorite characters to tell a deeper story. Though the play is largely based on the novel, our unique approach asks the audience to reimagine a familiar story in a new way—bringing lesser-known parts of Black history in America to light."

The professional production is backed by Jéhan Òsanyìn and 12 others. The play's cast is comprised of 20 actors who are all local to the Seattle area, including 10 youth actors. "Live theatre creates a transformative experience for the audience, actors and everyone involved in the production. By leaving certain elements open to interpretation, theater becomes a mirror for people and society at large to see and understand themselves in new, powerful ways," said Òsanyìn. "Though the novel was written decades ago, we hope our interpretation of Dorothy's experience in Oz will contribute to present-day conversations about how our culture provides community care for kids and what it looks like to forge your own path in life."

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz signifies the last show of Goodwin's first season as SCT's artistic director. Goodwin joined SCT last June where he launched the season with *The Boy Who Kissed the Sky*, inspired by Jimi Hendrix's life growing up in Seattle's Central District.

Event and Ticketing Details

What: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

Where: Seattle Children's Theatre: 201 Thomas Street in Seattle Center

When: April 4–May 21

Cost: Tickets from \$15*; purchase at sct.org or by calling the box office at (206) 441-3322.
(See additional info below for low-cost, free and sensory friendly performances)

About the Creative Team

Idris Goodwin is SCT's artistic director. He joined SCT following his tenure as executive director of The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, where he also taught for six years as a professor in the department of theater and dance. His playwriting accomplishments encompass more than 60 stylistically diverse works, including his groundbreaking Break Beat Play Series (*How We Got On, Hype Man*); *The Way The Mountain Moved*, commissioned as part of Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American Revolutions series; and *Ghost*, adapted from the novel by Jason Reynolds. His Muhammad Ali coming-of-age play, *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*, penned for Stage One Family Theater, was featured in SCT's 2018-19 Season.

Jéhan Òsanyìn (they/them) - Director
Jacqueline E. Lawton - Playwright
Jamie J. Kranz (she/her) - Stage Manager
Quinn Chase - Assistant Stage Manager
P. Alyda Sorm - Production Assistant
Alice Gosti (she/her) - Choreographer
Julia Welch (she/her) - Scenic Director
Taya Pyne (they/them) - Costume Designer
Adem Hayyu - Lighting Designer
Erin Bernarz (she/her) - Sound Designer
Kafi Masika Modest Roberts, Wig & Hair Designer
Amy Jurkiewicz (she/her) - Youth Cast Supervisor
Lillia Nelson- Swing Youth Cast Supervisor

Low-Cost Tickets and Additional Performances

SCT for ALL

Under SCT for ALL, SCT provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and any family who express need. To book tickets simply call (206) 441-3322 or email [the Ticket Office](#) and set any price for any upcoming show in the 22-23 Season.

Sensory Friendly/Relaxed Performance

Sunday, May 7 at 11 a.m.

SCT's Sensory Friendly performance incorporates special modifications to accommodate children and families with sensory needs. **Learn more about Sensory Friendly Performances** [here](#).

ASL Interpreted and Audio Described Performances

ASL Interpreted Performance: Saturday, April 29 at 1 p.m.

Audio Described Performance: Saturday, May 6 at 1 pm.

Central to Seattle Children's Theatre's mission is a commitment to serving diverse communities including those who are deaf and hard of hearing and who have low vision or blindness. Tickets for ASL/AD performances are available throughout the season online or through the Ticket Office at tickets@sct.org or (206) 441-3322.

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With our 2022-23 Season, Seattle Children Theatre's celebrated its 121st World Premiere since 1975. SCT is a leading generator of new works, providing youth of all ages access to professional theater and theatre education. Under new initiatives, SCT for All provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and families. In addition, every first and fifth grade classroom in Seattle Public Schools can receive free tickets under One&Five. Learn more information about both of these programs at sct.org.

The 2022-2023 season is supported by generous contributions from season sponsors Microsoft, ArtsFund, and The Shubert Foundation, which will help the organization serve 130,000 annually and provide more than 60,000 free or significantly reduced tickets to children in the Puget Sound area.