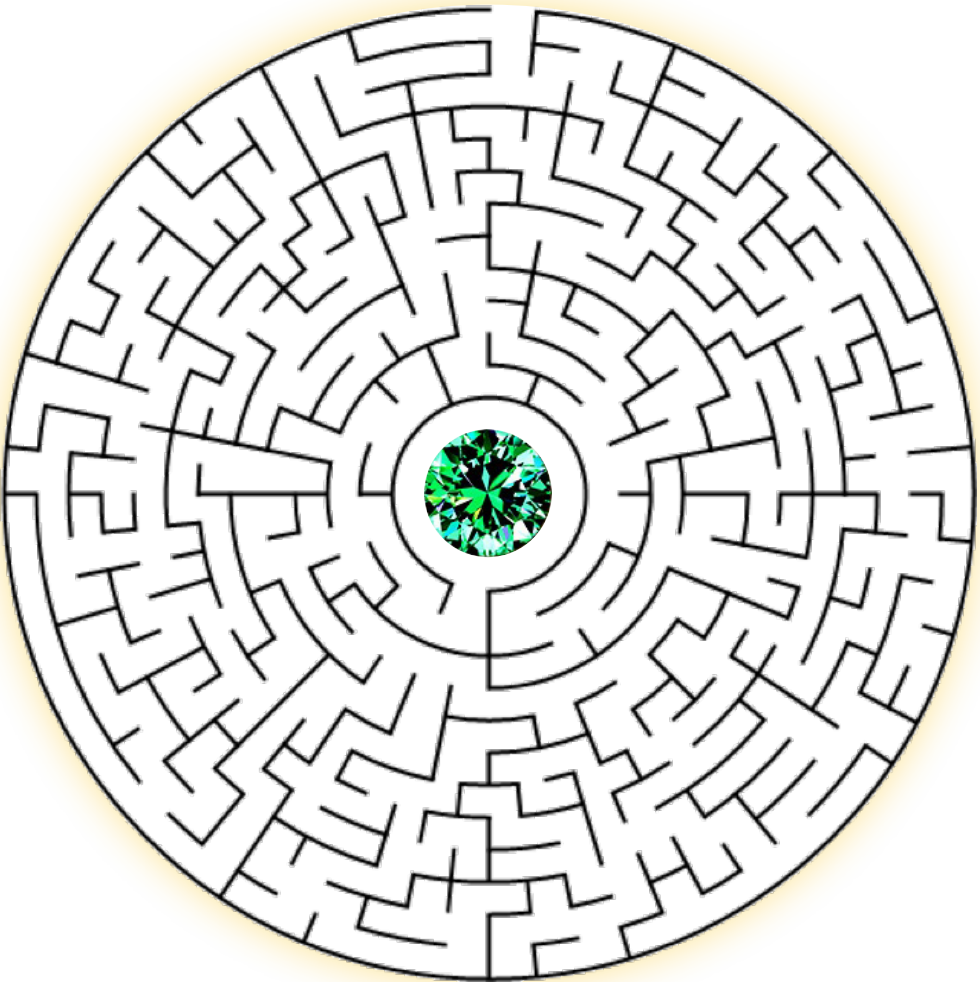


EASE ON DOWN THE ROAD

Help Dorothy and her friends make it to the Emerald City!



“Addaperle: But before you go, maybe you ought to take Evamene’s silver slippers. Here. I hope you don’t mind second-hand shoes.

Dorothy: I never had a pair this beautiful.

Addaperle: But, you gotta promise not to take them off till you get home!

Dorothy: Alright, I promise...but why?

Addaperle: ‘Cause they really got some secret powers.

Dorothy: To do what?

Addaperle: I don’t know. That’s the secret.”



AFTER THE SHOW...

- Dorothy and her friends are all searching for things they need, and end up discovering that they had those things inside them all along. **Can you think of a time that you realized that you had a skill you did not think you had?**
- Watch or read some other adaptations of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. **What essential elements of the story remain, and what things are changed? Which version is your favorite?**
- By the end of her journey, Dorothy has developed a different idea of “home” than she had at the beginning. **What words would you use to describe home? Do you consider home more of a place or a feeling?**
- *The Wiz* reimagines the familiar story of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by placing it in a unique setting. **Think of a popular story that you like, and try writing your own version in a different setting!**

BROADWAY SACRAMENTO PRESENTS



AUGUST 6-11, 2019 : EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

ABOUT THE SHOW

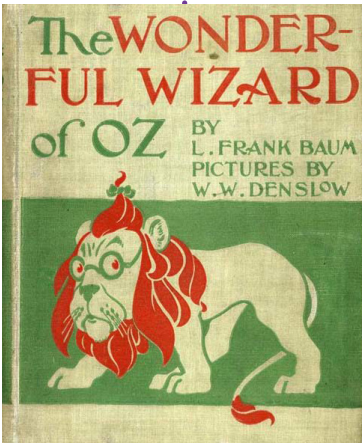
The Wiz is just one of many adaptations of L. Frank Baum’s classic book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, but it stands apart from the rest because of its strong connection to contemporary African-American culture.

When *The Wiz* opened on Broadway in January of 1975, mixed reviews and disappointing box office results seemed to suggest that the show would not last long. The producers launched an ambitious TV marketing campaign—a relatively new concept for Broadway shows at the time—to help reach a broader audience, and *The Wiz* quickly became a smash hit. Young theatregoers, many of whom had never seen a Broadway musical before, came in masses, and the show went on to win seven Tony awards and run for four years.

In 1978, *The Wiz* was adapted into a big-budget film starring Michael Jackson and Diana Ross that presented an urban version of Oz inspired by New York City. While the film was not initially a success, it gained a strong following in later years. A live TV production in 2015 combined elements of both the film and the Broadway production, and was met with critical acclaim.

There have also been multiple tours and revivals of the original musical, with some offering modern updates to the music and script. This production marks the first time that *The Wiz* has been performed at Broadway At Music Circus!

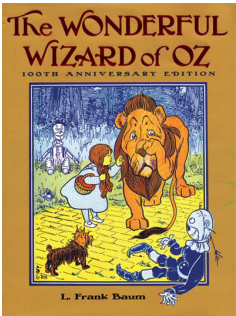
The significance of *The Wiz* goes beyond its trophies and box office receipts, though, as it was the first Broadway musical to feature an all-black cast and creative team. Its success helped pave the way for later works that showcased all-black casts like *Dreamgirls* and *Bring in ‘da Noise, Bring in ‘da Funk* and proved that audiences were eager for more diversity and representation onstage.



TOP: 1900 first edition book cover
BOTTOM: Original Broadway cast of *The Wiz*

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ: ON PAGE, SCREEN, AND STAGE

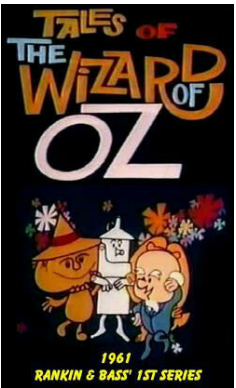
Since its publication in 1900, L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* has been the basis for many works in other mediums. Some simply adapt the story, while others have sought to reimagine and reinterpret the events of the book. Here are some notable works inspired by this classic book:



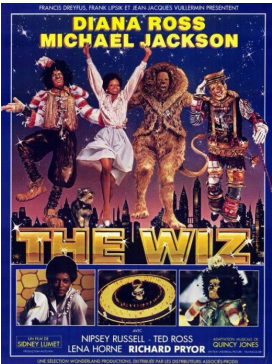
1900
L. Frank Baum publishes *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the first of 40 canonical Oz books



1939
MGM Studios releases the wildly popular musical film adaptation starring Judy Garland, which is now the best-known version



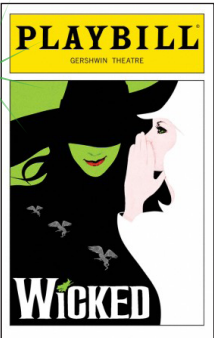
1961
An animated series, *Tales of the Wizard of Oz*, is broadcast on TV



1978
A film adaptation of *The Wiz* is released



1990
The Wonderful Galaxy of Oz, a space-themed anime adaptation, is released



2003
A musical adaptation of *Wicked* opens on Broadway, including elements from both the original book and the 1939 film



2015
The Wiz Live!, a live television adaptation inspired by both the stage musical and the movie, is presented on NBC

1902
The Wizard of Oz, a musical adaptation co-written by Baum, premieres on Broadway

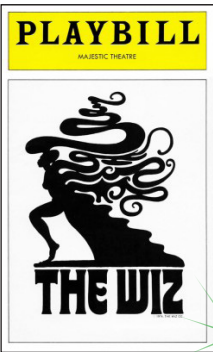
1925
Another silent film adaptation is released, focusing on the Scarecrow



1939
Alexander Melentyevich Volkov publishes *The Wizard in the Emerald City*, a Russian adaptation of the story

1942
A stage musical based partly on the 1939 film premieres at the Muny in St. Louis

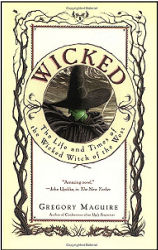
1975
The Wiz opens on Broadway, infusing Baum’s original story with R&B music and a distinctly black perspective



1987
The Royal Shakespeare Company debuts a new musical adaptation of the 1939 film, which is now the most commonly produced version



1995
Gregory Maguire publishes *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, a revisionist interpretation of the Oz world told from the perspective of the titular Witch



2005
The Muppets' Wizard of Oz, a musical film starring the well-known puppets as many of the book’s characters, airs on ABC

2011
Andrew Lloyd Webber produces a new musical adaptation based on the 1939 film

2019
The Wiz is produced at Broadway At Music Circus for the first time!

