



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESENTED BY

BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA – BIRMINGHAM

SO MUCH HAPPENED BEFORE DOROTHY DROPPED IN

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BROADWAY'S BIGGEST BLOCKBUSTER

COMES TO BIRMINGHAM

Tickets Are Now On Sale!



BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ AND WINNIE HOLZMAN

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY GREGORY MAGUIRE

MUSICAL STAGING BY WAYNE CILENTO

DIRECTED BY JOE MANTELLO

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Tickets for WICKED, the most anticipated musical production of the 08/09 season are now on sale and are available for purchase online at www.ticketmaster.com, charge by phone at (800) 982-2787, at all Ticketmaster ticket centers located in select Publix Supermarkets and f.y.e record stores and the Central Ticket Office at the BJCC.

WICKED will be performed at the BJCC CONCERT HALL APRIL 3-19, 2009. Tickets start at \$33, plus applicable service charge and facility usage fee.

There is an 8-ticket limit per patron.

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 3 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 4 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday, April 5 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday, April 7 8:00 PM
Wednesday, April 8 8:00 PM
Thursday, April 9 8:00 PM
Friday, April 10 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 11 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday, April 12 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Tuesday, April 14 8:00 PM
Wednesday, April 15 8:00 PM
Thursday, April 16 8:00 PM
Friday, April 17 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 18 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday, April 19 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

WICKED is a new musical with music and lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz** (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, Disney's *Enchanted*, Academy Award winner for *Pocahontas* and *The Prince of Egypt*) and book by **Winnie Holzman** ("My So Called Life," "Once And Again" and "thirtysomething") based on the best-selling 1995 novel by Gregory Maguire. **WICKED** is set to make its Birmingham premiere starting April 3, 2009.

The musical is directed by 2003 and 2004 Tony® Award winner **Joe Mantello** (*Take Me Out*, *Assassins*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Glengarry Glenn Ross*) and features musical staging by Tony® Award winner **Wayne Cilento** (*Aida*, *The Who's Tommy*, *How To Succeed...*). **WICKED**, winner of 20 major awards, including a Grammy® Award and 3 Tony® Awards, is the untold story of the witches of Oz. It is produced by Marc Platt, Universal Pictures, The Araca Group, Jon B. Platt and David Stone.

Long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. One - born with emerald green skin - is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. **WICKED** tells the story of their remarkable odyssey, how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.

WICKED features set design by Tony® Award winning **Eugene Lee** (*Ragtime*, *Show Boat*, *Candide*, *Sweeney Todd*), costume design by Tony® winner **Susan Hilferty** (*Into the Woods*, *Assassins*), lighting design by Tony nominee® **Kenneth Posner** (*Hairspray*) and sound design by **Tony Meola** (*The Lion King* and the recent *Man of La Mancha*). **Stephen Oremus** is the show's music director. Orchestrations are by **William David Brohn**, with dance arrangements by **James Lynn Abbott**.

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The national tour of **WICKED** has “cast quite a spell” (*Washington Post*) throughout North America. It opened at Toronto’s Canon Theatre on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 and sold out a seven-week run. **WICKED** has continued to break box office records and sell out multiple-week engagements in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, DC, Philadelphia and Boston to name a few.

WICKED, “Broadway’s biggest blockbuster” (*The New York Times*) began performances in New York on Wednesday, October 8, 2003 at The Gershwin Theatre and continues to be the top-grossing show on Broadway. **WICKED** is “good enough to run for a decade or two,” proclaims *The Wall Street Journal*. It’s “a cultural phenomenon,” exclaims *Variety*. “If every musical had the brain, the heart and the courage of **WICKED**, Broadway really would be a magical place,” states *Time Magazine*.

The Chicago open-ended engagement took the stage on Friday, June 24, 2005 at The Ford Center for the Performing Arts/Oriental Theatre, and ended its triumphant run Sunday, January 25, 2009 after 1,500 performances. The Los Angeles extended engagement at the Pantages Theatre opened on February 21, 2007, ended its record-breaking run on Sunday, January 11, 2009, and moved to San Francisco for a first performance January 27, 2009.

There are currently four international productions of **WICKED**: a London production, which opened in September 2006 at the Apollo Victoria Theatre; a Japanese-language production, which opened on June 17, 2007 in Tokyo, Japan; a German-language production, which opened in Stuttgart on November 15, 2007; and an Australian production, which opened in Melbourne, Australia June 27, 2008.

Grammy Award-Winning Cast recording available on Decca Broadway. For more information about **WICKED** log on to www.wickedthemusical.com.

Recommended for ages 8 and up and no children under the age of 4 will be admitted into the theater.

The Birmingham engagement of **WICKED** is presented by arrangement with Broadway Across America and is a subscription offering of the 2008-2009 Broadway Across America-Birmingham season.

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Broadway Across America presents first-rate touring Broadway shows, family productions and other live theatrical events throughout a network of 42 North American cities. A leader in subscription series programs and group ticketing, Broadway Across America is dedicated to creating memorable and accessible experiences for all guests, selling over 5 million tickets to over 3,000 performances each year. As a producer, current and recent Broadway productions include: *Hairspray*, *Chicago*, *Monty Python’s Spamalot* and *The Producers*. It also manages, operates or consults in the operation of 8 theatres across North America. For more information or to purchase tickets through an authorized agent go to BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com.