

PLAYBILL

THE COMMUNITY FOOTLIGHT PLAYERS
OF LA GRANGE PARK

THE WIZARD *of* OZ

YOUTH EDITION

CAST 1 - WICKED

Elise Arcuri.....Dorothy Gale
Grace Arcuri.....Toto
Kenny Graves.....Scarecrow/Hunk
Atticus Hein.....Tin Man/Hickory
Ella Melendez-Rivera.....Cowardly Lion/Zeke
Sienna Casamassimo.....Wicked Witch of the West/Miss Gulch
Leah Halverson..... Glinda the Good Witch
Jude Mason.....The Wizard of Oz/Professor Marvel
Cora BornerAunt Em ★
Ben McGinn.....Uncle Henry
Jane Fadool.....Nikko/ Ozian Cat/Munchkin
Vivi Guzman.....Mayor of Munchkinland/Chorus/Winged Monkey
Heidi VanVliet.....Barrister/Chorus/Winged Monkey
Liam WaglerCity Father/Chorus/Winged Monkey
Leo Lauksmen.....Coroner/Chorus/Winged Monkey

EMERALD CITY CHORUS:

Leah McQuillan.....Munchkin/Winged Monkey
Lucy Pina.....Munchkin/Winged Monkey
Hannah Williamson.....Tot/Winged Monkey
Juju Rodriguez..... Tot/Winged Monkey
Lily Lauksmen..... Tot/Winged Monkey
Ben Williamson.....Tough Kid/Winged Monkey
Vivien Pohl..... Tough Kid/Winged Monkey
Charlotte Bettencourt.....Tough Kid/Winged Monkey
Bruno Zermeno.....Munchkin Chorus/Doorman/Winged Monkey

TWISTER CHORUS:

Nora Burger.....Winkie Leader/Jitterbug
Carlie Maresso.....Crow/Jitterbug/Winkie Guard
Josie Kaluzny..... Crow/Jitterbug/Winkie Guard
Madelyn DiOrio..... Crow/Jitterbug/Winkie Guard
Vivienne Veihman..... Apple Tree/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug
Jane Veihman..... Apple Tree/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug
Ellen Veihman..... Apple Tree/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug
Addison Januszyk.....Cow in Twister/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug
Violet Schreiber.....Rainboat Man/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug
Emmeline Bettencourt..... Rainboat Man/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug

* Dance Captain

THE COMMUNITY FOOTLIGHT PLAYERS
OF LA GRANGE PARK



January 16-18, 2025
Countryside Banquets

Directed by:
SPENCER DOUGLAS CLARK

Music/Sound Design by:
COLE BURDICK

Choreographed by:
MICHELE RITACCO

A special thanks to our fantastic volunteers:
VANESSA FEUERSTEIN
AMY CALLAHAN

*This is a one-act show that is approximately
1 hour and 15 minutes.*

WICKED CAST



Elise Arcuri (Dorothy Gale)

Elise is so excited to play Dorothy in Wizard of Oz! She is 13 years old and has been doing Footlight shows since she was 8. Her favorite past role was Gertrude in Seussical last year. Outside of theatre, Elise enjoys reading, dance, and cheer. She is so grateful for her parents always supporting her, and of course to Spencer, Cole, and Ms. Michele for making all this possible!



Grace Arcuri (Toto)

Grace is thrilled to have the opportunity to play Toto in Wizard of Oz! Previously, she has been in Seussical and SpongeBob the Musical. She's in 4th grade and enjoys ice skating and dance. She wants to thank her mom, dad, and her older sister for encouraging her to do theatre. She also wants to say a huge thank you to Spencer, Cole, and Ms. Michele for helping her along the way.



Charlotte Bettencourt (Tough Kid/Chorus/Winged Monkey)

Charlotte can't wait for show day! She has been a part of Footlight Theatre for 3 years and has starred in Matilda, Legally Blonde and Seussical the Musical!



Emmeline Bettencourt (Rainboat Man/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug)

Emmeline has starred as a Who in Seussical the Musical with Footlight Theatre and loved it! She can't wait for show day and wishes all the performers a great show!!



Cora Borner (Aunt Em/Chorus) *

Cora Borner is over the rainbow excited to portray Aunt 'Em. When not at Footlight, Cora can be found in the ballet studio. She would like to thank her family for their support and Spencer, Cole and Michele for their continued dedication to Footlight.



Nora Burger (Winkie Leader/Jitterbug/Twister Chorus)

Nora is a 3rd grader at Cossitt School. She loves gymnastics, singing, dancing, and playing with her friends and four siblings. The Wizard of Oz is Nora's first play, and she has really enjoyed being in the Footlight Players production.

WICKED CAST



Sienna Casamassimo (Wicked Witch of the West/Miss Gulch)

Sienna is excited to be playing the Wicked Witch in the Wizard of Oz! Past roles include a rockstar as an Electric Skate in SpongeBob the Musical and Miss Tenny in High School Musical. Besides acting and singing, Sienna enjoys playing soccer, basketball, and softball. Sienna would like to thank Spencer, Cole, and Michele for making this an awesome show!



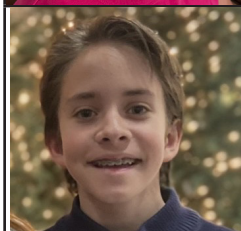
Madelyn DiOrio (Crow/Jitterbut/Winkie Guard/Chorus)

Madelyn has been performing with Footlight Players for 7 years! She loves being part of the Footlight family and rehearsing with every cast. In her free time, she enjoys gymnastics, hanging out with friends, and being part of school activities. She thanks her family for their support with all her activities!



Jane Fadool (Nikko/Ozian Cat/Munchkin)

Jane is very excited to be back on stage with Footlight Players. This is her seventh season and she loves the variety of roles she has performed. When off stage, Jane likes to play video games, eat Italian food, play with her friends, and go to amusement parks.



Kenny Graves (Scarecrow/Hunk)

Kenny is very excited to be back on the Footlight Players stage! He's so happy to be cast as the scarecrow role he first played when he was 4 years old. When he's not acting for Footlight he is busy playing drums in the school rockband, writing articles for the school newspaper or singing and dancing in the drama club. Kenny wants to thank Spencer, Cole and Michele for all their hard work and dedication in creating this awesome show!



Vivi Guzman (Mayor of Munchkinland)

Vivi is beyond excited to be back on stage for her third performance with Footlight Players! She loves to sing, act, and be on stage with the group. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support.



Leah Halverson (Glinda the Good Witch)

Leah is ecstatic to be back on Stage as Glinda, in her 6th production with Footlight Players. Favorite past roles include, Baker's Wife & Miss Honey. She enjoys volleyball, reading and singing in choir. Leah would like to thank her wonderful directors and her family for all their support.

WICKED CAST



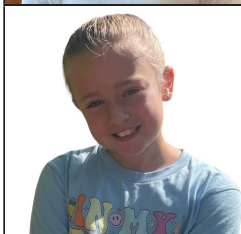
Atticus Hein (Tin Man/Hickory)

Atticus is excited to be making his debut in Footlight Players! He enjoys singing, reading, and acting. He has sung on WGNs "Daytime Chicago", in "Moana" at Brook Park, and every Sunday morning in the Praise Band of First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. He would like to thank his family for their love and support!



Josie Kaluzny (Crow/Jitterbug/Winkie Guard/Chorus)

Josie is a seventh grader at S.E. Gross in Brookfield. She is excited to participate in her first performance with the Footlight Players. Josie also enjoys performing in the middle school Show Choir and playing clarinet in Jazz Band. Josie would like to thank the play directors and her friends and family for their support in her performance.



Addison Januszyk (Cow in Twister/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug)

Addison is a 3rd grader who loves to read, craft, sing, play soccer, and solve math problems. She's enjoyed being in productions such as Moana Jr, Finding Nemo, and Alice in Wonderland. This is her first play with Footlight Players.



Leo Lauksmen (Coroner/Chorus/Winged Monkey)

Leo is over the rainbow to be back at Footlight Players in The Wizard of Oz. When he's not rehearsing around the house, Leo enjoys directing musicals, playing the trumpet, scouting, and performing in his school show choir. Over the summer, Leo directed his first musical, The Secret of Saurus Rock. He was also coincidentally cast as the lead role in the production. Special thanks to Mom, Dad, and Lily.



Lily Lauksmen (Tot/Emerald City Chorus/Winged Monkey)

Lily is excited for her debut on stage with Footlight Players and especially to perform with her big brother, Leo! She recently got a taste of theatre as Dana, the triceratops. Lily would like to thank her parents and brother for encouraging her and she is happy to welcome you to Munchkin land.



Carlie Maresso (Crow/Jitterbug/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug/Chorus)

Carlie Maresso is so excited to be on the yellow brick road! She is in fifth grade and has been previously seen in Seussical and SpongeBob Square Pants. She enjoys baking and drawing in her free time. She'd like to give a huge thanks to Spencer, Cole & Michele for all their support!

WICKED CAST



Jude Mason (The Wizard of Oz/Professor Marvel)

Jude is beyond excited to be playing the Wizard in this production. This is his third performance with the Footlight Players, past roles include a Who and Larry the Lobster. Jude appreciates the support of all his fellow castmates, Cole, Michele, and Spencer and especially his family and little brother!



Ben McGinn (Uncle Henry/Emerald City Chorus)

Ben is excited to be in his fifth Footlight production and is thrilled to play Uncle Henry in the Wizard of Oz! When he isn't performing in shows, he enjoys playing video games, collecting baseball cards and watching all Chicago sports. He wants to thank Spencer, Cole, Michele and all the volunteers who make the show possible. He also wants to thank all his family and friends for their support.



Leah McQuillan (Munchkin/Chorus/Winged Monkey)

Leah is thrilled to join the cast for her second show with the Footlight Players! She previously played a Townfish in Spongebob the Musical. She is a 3rd grader at Brook Park who loves performing and reading. She would like to thank her family, friends, and everyone with FP! She hopes you enjoy the journey on the Yellow Brick Road!



Ella Melendez-Rivera (Cowardly Lion/Zeke)

Ella is thrilled to be participating in the Wizard of Oz with the Footlight Players! This is her fourth show with the program and she can't imagine being anywhere else. She would like to thank Spencer, Miss Michele and Cole for helping her continue to grow and deepen her love for theatre.



Lucy Pina (Munchkin/Chorus/Winged Monkey)

This is Lucy's second Footlight Players production, and she is excited to be playing Munchkin #2! Lucy's previous theater roles include Town Fish in The SpongeBob Musical, a Winkie in The Wizard of Oz, and a pumpkin in Cinderella. When she's not practicing her lines she loves listening to music, making origami, and digging for fossils.



Vivien Pohl (Tough Kid/Chorus/Winged Monkey)

Vivien is happy to join The Footlight Players for her 2nd production. She was previously in Spongebob as a townfish, and is looking forward to many more!

WICKED CAST



Juju Rodriguez (Tot/Emerald City Chrous/Winged Monkey)

Juliana is so excited for her first production with the Footlight Players! She can't wait to represent the Lullaby League and welcome you to Munchkinland.



Violet Grace Schreiber (Rainboat Man/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug)

This is Violet's first performance with Footlight. Previously, she played Grandma Tala in Moana Jr. Violet loves to read, listen to her records, and swim. She is thankful for the support of her family.



Heidi VanVliet (Barrister/Chorus/Winged Monkey)

I'd like to thank my friends family, Miss Michele, Spencer and Cole for helping me get to this point. I am so excited for my first play and can't believe it's all already here. I've had so much fun and can't wait to do it again next year.



Ellen Veihman (Apple Tree/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug/Chorus)

Ellen is so thrilled to join her sisters on stage for Wizard of Oz! This is Ellen's first Footlight Players Show. She has also been in Moana through Ghostlight as well as 13 the Musical and Seussical through BAM. When not on stage Ellen likes to play soccer and basketball.



Jane Veihman (Apple Tree/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug/Chorus)

Jane is excited to be on stage for this fun Wizard of Oz show! Last year Jane was in SpongeBob and also starred as Bruiser in Legally Blonde, both through Footlight Players. Jane has also been in some summer BAM plays, 13 the Musical and Seussical. Other Footlight Players shows Jane has starred in are Matilda and The Magical Forest. When not in plays Jane is an LFC cheerleader and a basketball and soccer player.



Vivienne Veihman (Apple Tree/Winkie Guard/Jitterbug/Chorus)

Viv is thrilled to be part of this awesome Wizard of Oz cast. Most recently Viv was in SpongeBob, Legally Blonde and Matilda through Footlight Players. The past few summers she has worked with BAM and was in 13 the Musical and Seussical. She has also been in Willy Wonka, the Addams Family and The Magical Forest. Outside of theatre Viv plays the piano and clarinet and is a swimmer and volleyball player.

WICKED CAST



Liam Wagler (City Father/Chorus/Winged Monkey)

Liam is delighted to return to the Footlight Players after appearing in the splash hit, *Spongebob the Musical, Jr.* You may have seen his comedy routine at the Forest Road Talent Show or participating in one of the many local Dungeons and Dragons cohorts. He is a Scout in Troop 33 and a comic creator.



Ben Williamson (Tough Kid/EChorus/Winged Monkey)

This is Ben's third production with the Footlight Players. He previously played a Wickersham in *Seussical* and Mr. Krabs in *SpongeBob*. He is excited to spread his wings as a flying monkey in the *Wizard of Oz*! He hopes you enjoy the show!



Hannah Williamson (Tot/Chorus/Winged Monkey)

Hannah is so excited for her first production with the Footlight Players! She is joining her big brother Ben and many friends on stage. She can't wait to represent the Lullaby League and welcome you to Munchkinland!



Bruno Omar Zermeno (Winged Monkey)

This is Bruno's first production with the Footlight Players. Previously, he participated in the Encanto musical theatre class at the Children's Theatre of Western Springs, the Little Actors class through the LaGrange Park District, and BAMtheatre's Broadway Workshop Series summer camp, *Songs from Frozen 2*. In addition to performing, he enjoys spending time with his family and playing Roblox.

Ben and Hannah

We are so proud of you! Can't wait
see the performance. Break legs!

Love you, Mom & Marty

To Ben McGinn:

Break a Leg!

Love Always, Grandma Kris

Good luck Carlie!

We are proud!

Love, Mom, Dad, Allie, Maddie &
Maggie

Addison,

We are so excited to watch you on
stage! We all love you so much and
we're so very proud of you!

Love: Mom, Dad, Rylee, and Eli

Addie,

We are so proud of you! We are
looking forward to the
performance!

Love, Nini and PopPop

To Ben McGinn:

We Love you, break a leg!

Love, NaNa and Uncle Ron

Good luck Liam!!!

You will make a great
flying monkey!

Love, Dad & Mom

Milo & Macie

We are so proud of you both!

Love, Mom, Dad, Mark & Max

Leah –

We love to watch you dazzle on stage! We are so very proud of you!
Break a leg, our sweet Glinda!
Love, your family

Addie,

You go, girl!
We are so very proud of you.
Love, Grandpa and Grandma

**We are so proud of you
Carlie!!**

We know you will do a great job!
Love, Grandpa and Grandma

Ben and Hannah,

Break a Leg! We are so proud of
you!
Love, Dad and Nicole

Violet,

As you embark on this magical journey through Oz, remember: courage, heart and wisdom will guide you. Let your spirit soar and shine like the yellow brick road!
Love, Dad, Mom & Wyatt

Congratulations, Bruno!

Our favorite Ozian. We are so excited to see you on stage! We are SO PROUD of you!!!
Love, Mom and Dad, Amber, and Isaac

To Ben McGinn:

Go Ben! We are so proud of you.
Love, YaYa, Uncle, Arthur and Monroe

Sienna,

Can't wait to hear your evil cackle, Wicked Witch! Break a leg, Sienna!
Love, Mom, Dad, Frannie

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