ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Alberta Theatre Projects brings classic musical *The Wizard of Oz* to the stage in the biggest family holiday production in the company's history

CALGARY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 – Follow the Yellow Brick Road and join **Alberta Theatre Projects (ATP)** over the rainbow this holiday season for the musical stage adaptation of **L. Frank Baum's** timeless classic, *The Wizard of Oz*, running from November 25 until January 4.

Featuring iconic songs and wonderfully vibrant characters, *The Wizard of Oz* celebrates the enduring power of friendship, bravery, and believing in oneself, and warmly reminds us that in the end, there really is no place like home.

With a creative team of over 30 people (including a core cast of 12, a youth ensemble of 10, and 2 different dogs to alternate performances as Toto), *The Wizard of Oz* is the biggest holiday production in Alberta Theatre Projects' over-50-year history. Featuring a wealth of exceptional and award-winning talent, innovative design, an exciting partnership with **Forte Musical Theatre** and real dogs onstage, audiences are bound to be whisked up in the wonder and magic of the land of Oz.

"What I love most about *The Wizard of Oz* is its incredible ability to ignite imagination and adventure, while at the same time reminding us how beautiful coming home is," says director, **Tracey Power**. "Home can mean so many things, but over the holidays the appreciation for the place or the people you call home seems to deepen. It's such a perfect gift of a show to enjoy and be a part of at this time of year."

ATP is going 'emerald' with the bold, innovative design for *The Wizard of Oz*. During the '**Go Emerald**' recycling drive, ATP invited Calgarians to help build Emerald City, one recycled treasure at a time. Hundreds of donated household items and second-hand gems were collected during this community drive in October, as well as from Goodwill and salvage centres. These items will be transformed into the sets and props that will create the magical world of Oz. Everything from old bicycles and umbrellas to old yogurt tubs and cake pans; from wooden spoons and spatulas to hundreds of tin cans and plastic bottles – all will be creatively reimagined and making appearances on the stage this holiday season. The production's set, lighting and props designer **Narda McCarroll** was inspired by the idea of making the land of Oz echo Dorothy's world back in Kansas.

"The Wizard of Oz is the biggest show in ATP history and a magical holiday experience for audiences of all ages," says ATP Artistic Director **Haysam Kadri.** "The 'Go Emerald' recycling drive makes it even more special. Seeing Calgarians contribute household items and second-hand treasures to help build Emerald City brings the community into the magic of the show. It's a wonderful way to connect, celebrate creativity, and enjoy theatre together."

The Wizard of Oz runs at Alberta Theatre Projects from November 25, 2025 – January 4, 2026 at the Martha Cohen Theatre at Werklund Centre (formerly Arts Commons) (215 8 Ave SE). Tickets are available now at <u>albertatheatreprojects.com</u> or 403-294-7402.

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The Wizard of Oz

By L. Frank Baum

With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

Background Music by Herbert Stothart

Directed by Tracey Power

In association with Forte Musical Theatre Guild

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard

Orchestration by Larry Wilcox

Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.

THE WIZARD OF OZ is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com

Cast (alphabetical):

Hannah Adamson - Dorothy Gale

Kevin Corey – Zeke / Cowardly Lion

Alysse Ernewein – Ensemble, Understudy Glinda & Wicked Witch

Jen Fong – Ensemble, Understudy Dorothy, Dance Captain

Brent Gill – Uncle Henry / Emerald City Guard, Understudy Lion

Christopher Hunt - Professor Chester Marvel / The Wizard of Oz

Jessica Jones - Aunt Em / Glinda

Jason Lemmon - Hickory / Tinman

Ryan Maschke - Hunk / Scarecrow

Dean Stockdale – Ensemble, Nikko, Understudy Tinman

Ethan Vasquez Taylor - Ensemble, Understudy Scarecrow & Guard

Daniela Vlaskalic - Miss Almira Gulch / The Wicked Witch of the West

Breezie – Toto

Duncan - Toto

Creative Team:

Tracey Power – Director, Choreographer

Joe Slabe - Musical Director, Keyboard 1

Narda McCarroll – Set, Lighting & Props Design

Ralamy Kneeshaw - Costume Design

Van Wilmott – Sound Design, Keyboard 2

Sarah Haggeman – Child Supervisor

Mackenzie McDonald - Child Supervisor

Katelyn Morishita – Dog Handler for Duncan

Laura Stone – Dog Handler for Breezie

Sara Turner – Stage Manager

Michael Luong – Assistant Stage Manager

Rawd Almasoud - Apprentice Stage Manager

Audience Advisory: Perfect for kids, kids-at-heart, and Munchkins aged 5-105!

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Media Call:

There will be a scheduled media call on **Wednesday, November 26** from **12:30pm until 1:30pm**. Actors will present an onstage showcase of a key scene for photography and video opportunities. Various creative team and cast members will be available for interviews following the presentation. If you cannot attend, photos can be provided after the event.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Kara Sturk ksturk@atplive.com 587-441-9489

About Alberta Theatre Projects:

We produce world-class theatre that reflects our diverse community, collaborates across the arts sector, and strengthens Calgary's cultural heartbeat. We champion Canadian and international voices, foster innovation in staging and design, and make theatre accessible to everyone.

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