

Excerpt terms and conditions



This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

You may view, print and download any of our excerpts for perusal purposes.

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest reading the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity.

Dramatic Publishing

A Participation Play for Children

**dorothy
and
the wizard of oz**

Based on the story by
Frank Baum
by
STEVE AND KATHY HOTCHNER



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

***** NOTICE *****

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty fees are given in our current catalogue and are subject to change without notice. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. All inquiries concerning amateur and stock rights should be addressed to:

DRAMATIC PUBLISHING
P. O. Box 129, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT *THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES*. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including but not limited to the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved. *On all programs this notice should appear:*

"Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois"

©MCMCLXXVIII by
STEPHEN and KATHERINE HOTCHNER

Printed in the United States of America
All Rights Reserved
(DOROTHY AND THE WIZARD OF OZ)

ISBN 0-87129-802-3

DOROTHY AND THE WIZARD OF OZ

A Participation Play for Children

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

GLINDA, the good witch of the North

DOROTHY and TOTO

SCARECROW

LION

TIN MAN

WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST

WIZARD OF OZ

TIME: The Past

PLACE: Oz

In this participation version of "The Wizard of Oz", a truculent, spunky Dorothy finds herself over the rainbow confronted by the Good Witch, Glinda, who worries as much about her vegetable garden as she does about Dorothy getting back to Kansas. All your favorite characters are here. Children oil the Tin Man, stuff the Scarecrow and hide Dorothy from the Wicked Witch of the West in a forest they, themselves, create. Toto is here, too -- a bit stuffed, but held securely in the arms of a Toto watcher -- different children selected by Dorothy to hold Toto whenever his barking gets out of control. The twist, which we dare not reveal, is what has happened to the Wizard himself. Lots of participation for the children in this newest Hotchner participation play -- and something for big people to do, too!

SCENE: After the audience is seated, GLINDA, the Good Witch of the North, enters through the audience with TOTO (a stuffed dog) in her arms.

GLINDA (to various children in the audience). Is this yours? Is this yours? I found this very strange creature lost and wagging its tail. Is this creature yours? No? Dear, dear, it doesn't look like it belongs in Munchkinland. The Wicked Witch of the East is dead. A strange house came sailing through our rainbow and then -- swoosh, pop -- down came the house and landed on the Witch. I saw this creature . . . (Addressing a child in the audience.) What did you say it was? . . . You didn't. A dog? Thank you. I saw this creature run out of the house. Then a girl climbed out and before I could thank her for freeing us from the Wicked Witch of the East, she slipped away. Did you see her? Is she here, Munchkins? Has anyone seen the girl who came sailing through our rainbow and freed all of Oz from the Wicked Witch of the East?

DOROTHY. I'm over here.

GLINDA. Who are you?

DOROTHY. And who are you?

GLINDA. I'm Glinda, the good witch of the North. Are you a witch, too? Is that how you freed us from the Wicked Witch of the East?

DOROTHY. I'm just a person and I'm lost and you have my dog. You're not going to hurt Toto, are you?

GLINDA. Of course not. I hurt no one. I don't even know how to lose my temper.

DOROTHY. Give him back to me.

GLINDA (lets TOTO rub her nose). I like the way he rubs my nose. What did you say?

DOROTHY. Give him back.

GLINDA. Of course. (She hands TOTO to DOROTHY.) Please tell us whether you are a good witch or not?

DOROTHY. I'm Dorothy, and I'm lost and . . . What do I care about your silly questions.

GLINDA. You mean you don't come from Munchkinland?

DOROTHY. No, of course not. I come from Kansas. And I don't know any of you.

GLINDA (to children). We have a problem. (Back to DOROTHY.) Then if you don't come from Munchkinland, how did you defeat the Wicked Witch of the East?

DOROTHY. I didn't! The last thing I remember is a storm, a great tornado, and my house hurtling through the clouds, and a rainbow, and . . .

GLINDA. But, Dorothy, you have the red slippers that belong to the Wicked Witch of the East.

DOROTHY. I do? (Looks down at feet.) I've never seen these slippers before. (Hugs TOTO.) Who are all of you?

GLINDA. They're Munchkins, of course. You freed them.

DOROTHY. From who?

GLINDA. From the Wicked Witch.

DOROTHY. What wicked witch?

GLINDA (irritated). From the Wicked Witch of the East! (Calmer.) Oh, I lost my temper. This girl made me lose my temper.

DOROTHY. I don't believe any of you. This is some horrible dream.

GLINDA (to children). Munchkins, I had planned a lovely

celebration with songs and dances and . . . I can't stand it when someone won't let me say "thank you." You thank her, Munchkins. I'm very upset.

DOROTHY. I want to go home.

(Thunder. The theater darkens. Enter the WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST.)

GLINDA. Don't be afraid of her, Munchkins. She can't do anything here.

WWW (angrily shouts). WHO KILLED MY SISTER? WHO KILLED MY SISTER?

DOROTHY. They tell me I did. But if I did, I don't remember doing it.

WWW. You? You're a mere slip of a girl. You couldn't have . . . (Looks down at DOROTHY's slippers.) There they are! The slippers. You're wearing my sister's slippers! Give those slippers back to me.

GLINDA (to DOROTHY). Don't do it.

DOROTHY. I'm so confused. (To WWW.) I don't like you, I know that. If my house landed on your sister, I apologize, but it's not my fault. I don't like being threatened. So if you want the slippers back, ask for them politely.

GLINDA (to audience). Listen to the girl. (To DOROTHY.) You must not give her the slippers.

WWW. Why, you . . . (Rushes at DOROTHY and tries to take slippers off her feet. Screams as she touches the slippers.) Hot coals. Hot coals. So, I can't get them off you.

GLINDA. Told you.

WWW (to GLINDA). Don't snicker at me. I can control all of Oz with those slippers. But I'll get them. I will. Goodbye,

Dorothy. (To children.) Munchkins. (Thoughtfully.) I wonder what Munchkin meat tastes like. (Laughs and exits.)

GLINDA. That does it. This is my territory and if you don't leave this moment, I'll burn you to a cinder. (Realizes she is gone.) Gone? Oh. Well, good. She can be so unpleasant. Munchkins, I'm troubled. I've lost my temper twice today. I'm afraid this is not such a great day for Oz after all.

DOROTHY. Please tell me how I can get home.

GLINDA. Home? Oh, I can't do anything about that. Only the Wizard can help get you home.

DOROTHY. What wizard?

GLINDA. The Wizard of Oz. My magic is nothing compared to his.

DOROTHY. But . . . where do I find him?

GLINDA. In the Emerald City. But that would take you through the Wicked Witch of the West's territory. You don't want to do that.

DOROTHY. I'm not afraid of her.

GLINDA. You're not?

DOROTHY. Well, a little. But I have to get home. I'll do anything to get back to Kansas. And no evil witch is going to stop me.

GLINDA. In that case, I'll help you. Munchkins, will you help too? Good. The Munchkins and I will be there whenever you need us. Now I have to go and tend my garden.

DOROTHY. But how do I reach the Wizard? And who will keep me company?

GLINDA. Follow the signs. As for company, who knows? Goodbye, Must snip my roses. Trim my daffodils. And

those morning glories . . . (She exits.)

DOROTHY. Toto, you won't get lost again, will you? You won't bark and chase squirrels? You will? Yes, I suppose you will. (To nearest child in audience.) Would you come with me and hold Toto? Make sure he never gets lost. Thank you. Take my hand. Munchkins, help me follow the signs. Tell me which way I should go. (Lights darken. Signs that glow in the dark are visible all over the theater.) Do you see a sign? Where should I go? That way. Thank you. (As she goes in and out among the audience, SCARECROW enters, lies on the ground, scattering straw all about her/him.) Do you see a sign? Which way? Munchkin, do you have Toto? Hold onto him tight.

(Lights. DOROTHY is back on stage with TOTO watcher. She stares at SCARECROW.)

SCARECROW. What are you staring at? Do something.

DOROTHY. You talked! Scarecrows don't talk. (To children.) Do they, Munchkins? Toto watcher, I'll take Toto now. Thank you. You can go back to your seat. (Stares at SCARECROW.)

SCARECROW. What are you staring at? Don't you have any manners?

DOROTHY. Of course I have manners.

SCARECROW. Then stuff me.

DOROTHY. Stuff you?

SCARECROW (pointing to straw). The straw, the straw.

DOROTHY. Oh. Should we stuff this scarecrow, Munchkins? . . . All right. (Points to three children.) Would you help me? And you? And you? . . . (As the children come on

the stage.) You stuff the arms, and you stuff the belly, and we'll stuff the legs. (As they work.) What's a scarecrow doing unstuffed anyway?

SCARECROW. Careful stuffing my belly. I'm ticklish. (Starts laughing.) Please. It tickles. Thanks. What's a scarecrow doing unstuffed?

DOROTHY. Yes.

SCARECROW. The crows. I'm supposed to scare crows. (Laughs.) Please, I'm very ticklish. I don't like to scare crows. I like to think. I like to solve problems. That's all I think about all day. What I'd do if I had a brain. So, what sort of scarecrow am I?

DOROTHY. A very unusual scarecrow.

SCARECROW. All done? Out of my way. When I'm stuffed I feel fresh as a breeze. Out of my way.

DOROTHY (to three children). Better go back to your seats. (To TOTO.) Toto, stop barking.

SCARECROW. Here I go. (He leaps, turns cartwheels, hurls himself down the aisles, taking as many leaps, tumbles, falls as he can.) Thank you. Thank you. Nothing like being stuffed to make you feel spry. (Suddenly droops and shakes head sadly.)

DOROTHY. What's the matter?

SCARECROW. What's the matter? Would you want to go back to scaring crows when there's a universe to explore?

DOROTHY. Do you have to go back to scaring crows?

SCARECROW. What else can I do?

DOROTHY. You could help all of us get to the Wizard of Oz. He's going to show me how to get back to Kansas. Maybe he'd give you a brain.

SCARECROW (leaps up and touches toes). A brain! I could

make maps, charter mountains, cross unknown seas, travel to the stars . . .

DOROTHY. Yes, yes, come with us.

SCARECROW. I will. I'll do it.

DOROTHY. There'll be terrible danger. Glinda said we'd have to go through the territory of the Wicked Witch of the West.

SCARECROW. She'll unstuff me for sure.

DOROTHY. Suppose, suppose all the Munchkins promise to stuff you whenever you come unstuffed. Will you do that, Munchkins?

SCARECROW. You promise? You'll put the straw back in my belly without tickling me? Then off to the Wizard of Oz.

DOROTHY (to audience member). Here, would you hold Toto and come to the next place with us? He loves to chase squirrels. Which way do we go from here?

SCARECROW. Follow the signs. (Lights dim. SCARECROW comes to an upside down sign that points to the sky.) Should we go up there? Up to the sky? Might be fun. No. (Goes to another sign.) This way. This sign points . . . West. Here we go.

(TIN MAN enters. Takes his position with ax pointed up and other arm pointed at oil can next to his foot. GROUP comes back up on stage and passes him. They stop when they hear:)

TIN MAN (barely audible whisper). Help me.

SCARECROW. Did you hear something?

DOROTHY (to child holding TOTO). Quiet, Toto. I'd better take Toto. He's too upset . . . Thank you.

(They move forward a few more steps, then:)

TIN MAN. Help me.

DOROTHY. I hear something. I think. (To children.) Munchkins, did you hear something? Where? (Sees TIN MAN who rattles out a huge sigh.)

TIN MAN. Thank you.

DOROTHY. It's alive.

SCARECROW. Couldn't be. Nothing but an old piece of tin.

TIN MAN (speaking in throating whisper until he/she is oiled).

And you're nothing but an old pile of straw.

SCARECROW. **Says** you. (To DOROTHY.) It's alive.

DOROTHY. I knew it.

SCARECROW (bangs on chest of TIN MAN). Hollow. He doesn't have a heart.

(TIN MAN cries in large throaty sobs.)

DOROTHY. You've hurt his feelings!

(TIN MAN cries terribly.)

DOROTHY. You insulted him. He may not have a heart, but he has feelings. (To TIN MAN.) Don't you?

TIN MAN (sighs gratefully). Thank you.

DOROTHY. Why can you only speak in a whisper?

(TIN MAN tries to speak, then shakes his head.)

DOROTHY. You can't talk any more? Oh, I see. But you can whisper to me if I come close. (TIN MAN nods.)