

Press Release Thursday 25 May 2017

ALICE FEARN AND SOPHIE EVANS TO HEAD NEW LONDON CAST OF WICKED FROM MONDAY 24 JULY 2017 BRADLEY JADEN, MELANIE LA BARRIE, ANDY HOCKLEY, JACK LANSBURY AND LAURA PICK ALSO JOIN CURRENT CAST MEMBERS MARTIN BALL, SARAH McNICHOLAS AND CARINA GILLESPIE



WICKED, the West End musical phenomenon that tells the incredible untold story of the Witches of Oz, is delighted to announce that **Alice Fearn** (*Elphaba*), **Sophie Evans** (*Glinda*), **Bradley Jaden** (*Fiyero*), **Melanie La Barrie** (*Madame Morrible*), **Andy Hockley** (*The Wizard*), **Jack Lansbury** (*Boq*) and **Laura Pick** (*Standby for Elphaba*) will head the new London cast from Monday 24 July 2017, joining current cast members **Martin Ball** (*Doctor Dillamond*), **Sarah McNicholas** (*Nessarose*) and **Carina Gillespie** (*Standby for Glinda*).

Alice Fearn (*Elphaba*) originally joined the London production of *WICKED* in 2016, as *Standby for Elphaba*, and will now assume the role. Her previous West End appearances include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Shrek The Musical*, *Into The Woods*, *Les Misérables* (also the film version) and *The Woman in White*. **Sophie Evans** (*Glinda*) was the acclaimed runner-up in the BBC talent show 'Over the Rainbow' and subsequently played 'Dorothy Gale' in *The Wizard of Oz* at the London Palladium; **Bradley Jaden** (*Fiyero*) is currently starring as 'Fiyero' on the international tour of *WICKED*. He previously starred as 'Enjolras' in *Les Misérables* at the Queen's Theatre; **Melanie La Barrie** (*Madame Morrible*) is currently part of the acclaimed Everyman Company at the Liverpool Everyman Theatre. Her West End roles have included 'Mrs Phelps' in the original cast of *Matilda*, 'Mme. Thénardier' in *Les Misérables* and 'Mrs Corry' in the original cast of *Mary Poppins*; **Andy Hockley** (*The Wizard*) has enjoyed a long association with *The Phantom of the Opera*, playing 'Monsieur Firmin' at London's Her Majesty's Theatre as well as on the UK & Ireland Tour for over 1000 performances. He most recently played 'Grandpa Potts' in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at West Yorkshire Playhouse and on the UK & Ireland Tour; **Jack Lansbury** (*Boq*) is a graduate of Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts and will be making his West End debut in *WICKED*; **Laura Pick** (*Standby for Elphaba*) appeared in *The Sound of Music* at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, covering and playing 'Maria von Trapp'. **Martin Ball** (*Doctor Dillamond*), **Sarah McNicholas** (*Nessarose*) and **Carina Gillespie** (*Standby for Glinda*) all continue in their current roles.

Current cast members **Willemijn Verkaik** (*Elphaba*), **Suzie Mathers** (*Glinda*), **Oliver Savile** (*Fiyero*), **Sue Kelvin** (*Madame Morrible*), **Mark Curry** (*The Wizard*) and **Idriss Kargbo** (*Boq*) will all play their final performances on Saturday 22 July 2017.

From Monday 24 July 2017, the London production will star **Alice Fearn** (*Elphaba*), **Sophie Evans** (*Glinda*), **Bradley Jaden** (*Fiyero*), **Melanie La Barrie** (*Madame Morrible*), **Andy Hockley** (*The Wizard*), **Martin Ball** (*Doctor Dillamond*), **Sarah McNicholas** (*Nessarose*), **Jack Lansbury** (*Boq*), **Laura Pick** (*Standby for Elphaba*), **Carina Gillespie** (*Standby for Glinda*) and **Jennie Abbotts**, **Ashley Birchall**, **Nicole Carlisle**, **Nicholas Corre**, **Conor Crown**, **Kerry Enright**, **Aimée Fisher**, **Joseph Fletcher**, **Alexandra Grierson**, **Katy Hanna**, **Tom Andrew Hargreaves**, **Olivia Kate Holding**, **Claudia Kariuki**, **Will Lucas**, **James McHugh**, **Danny Michaels**, **Ellie Mitchell**, **Rosa O'Reilly**, **Matt Parsons**, **Alex Pinder**, **Sam Robinson**, **Paulo Teixeira**, **Samantha Thomas**, **Hannah Toy**, **Russell Walker**, **Sasha Wareham** and **Libby Watts**.

Acclaimed as “**one of the West End’s true modern classics**” (Metro), *WICKED* is now in its 11th smash hit year at London’s Apollo Victoria Theatre, where it is already the 17th longest running show in West End theatre history. The “**hugely popular show**” (The Times) is a three-time winner of the theatregoer-voted **WhatsOnStage Award** for ‘Best West End Show’ and a two-time winner of the **Olivier Audience Award**. The critically acclaimed and multi record-breaking **UK & Ireland Tour** returns from 31 January 2018, visiting **Bristol, Liverpool, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds, Dublin, Sunderland, Southampton, Cardiff and Manchester**.

Based on the acclaimed, best-selling novel by **Gregory Maguire** that ingeniously re-imagines the stories and characters created by **L. Frank Baum** in ‘The Wonderful Wizard of Oz’, *WICKED* tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two sorcery students. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as *Glinda The Good* and the *Wicked Witch of the West*.

WICKED has music and lyrics by multi Grammy and Academy Award-winner **Stephen Schwartz** (*Godspell*, Disney’s *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Enchanted* and, for DreamWorks, *The Prince of Egypt*) and is based on the novel ‘Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West’ by **Gregory Maguire** and adapted for the stage by **Winnie Holzman** (*My So-Called Life*). Musical staging is by Tony Award-winner **Wayne Cilento** and the production is directed by two-time Tony Award-winner **Joe Mantello**.

WICKED is produced around the world by **Marc Platt, Universal Stage Productions, The Araca Group, Jon B. Platt** and **David Stone**. Executive Producer (UK) **Michael McCabe**.

Apollo Victoria Theatre, Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1LG

Official UK website: www.WickedTheMusical.co.uk

Twitter: [@WickedUK](https://twitter.com/WickedUK) | Facebook: [/WickedUK](https://www.facebook.com/WickedUK) | Instagram: [@WickedUK](https://www.instagram.com/WickedUK)

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

WORLDWIDE

“A phenomenon that keeps growing” (Los Angeles Times), *WICKED* has already been seen by over **50 million people** around the world and is one of the most celebrated and successful musicals of all time. Winner of over **100 major international awards**, the original production has already been performed in over **100 cities** in **15 countries** around the world (United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan, Germany, The Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, The Philippines, Mexico, Brazil and China) and has also been translated from its original English into six other languages: Japanese, German, Dutch, Spanish, Korean and Portuguese.

LONDON

“Still a phenomenon after ten years in the West End” (The Daily Telegraph) and already the **17th longest running show in London theatre history**, the West End production premiered on 27 September 2006 (with previews from 7 September) and will shortly play its **4500th performance** at the Apollo Victoria Theatre. Now also one of the top five longest running musicals currently playing in London, *WICKED* has been hailed as **“one of the greatest musicals of our time”** (Daily Mail); **“the biggest new musical London has seen in years”** (BBC London News) and **“one of the most popular West End musicals ever”** (London Evening Standard).

BROADWAY

The multi record-breaking original Broadway production remains **“Broadway’s biggest blockbuster”** (The New York Times) after more than 13 years and over **5000 performances** at the Gershwin Theatre, where it premiered on 30 October 2003 (with previews from 8 October 2003). Now the **9th longest-running show in Broadway history**, *WICKED* has already been seen by over **9 million people** on Broadway alone and been acclaimed as **“a magical musical with brains, heart and courage”** (Time Magazine), **“an irresistible extravaganza of music, magic, artistry and enchantment”** (The New York Observer) and **“a spectacular spectacle”** (New York Post).

CREATIVE TEAM

WICKED has music and lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz**, a book by **Winnie Holzman** and is based on the acclaimed novel by **Gregory Maguire**. The production is directed by **Joe Mantello**, with musical staging by **Wayne Cilento**. Scenic design is by **Eugene Lee**, costumes by **Susan Hilferty**, lighting by **Kenneth Posner**, sound by **Tony Meola**, projection designs by **Elaine J. McCarthy** and Hair and Wig designs by **Tom Watson**. Music arrangements are by **Alex Lacamoire** and **Stephen Oremus**, with dance arrangements by **James Lynn Abbott**, orchestrations by **William David Brohn** and musical supervision by **Stephen Oremus**.

THE STORY

Was the infamous *Wicked Witch of the West* really wicked, or the innocent victim of a corrupt regime?

When *Dorothy* famously triumphed over the *Wicked Witch*, we only ever heard one side of the story. **Gregory Maguire’s “outstanding novel”** (The Independent), *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, ingeniously re-imagines the Land of Oz, creating a parallel universe to the familiar story written by **L. Frank Baum** and first published as *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in 1900. *WICKED* tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two young women who first meet as sorcery students at Shiz University: the blonde and very popular *Glinda* and a misunderstood green girl named *Elphaba*. Following an encounter with *The Wizard*, their friendship reaches a crossroads and their lives take very different paths. *Glinda’s* unflinching desire for popularity sees her seduced by power while *Elphaba’s* determination to remain true to herself, and to those around her, will have unexpected and shocking consequences for her future. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as *Glinda The Good* and the *Wicked Witch of the West*. Experience this unforgettable musical and discover that you’ve not been told the whole story about the Land of Oz.

FOR GOOD.

WICKED: FOR GOOD is the production’s philanthropic programme that supports causes at the heart of its story, including anti-bullying, human rights and equality. It is proud to support the remarkable work of the following UK charities: the **Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA)**; the **Cybersmile Foundation**; the **Rainbow Trust Children’s Charity** and **Stonewall’s** ‘Education For All’ campaign. The production’s annual **WICKED DAY** supports **The Woodland Trust**, raising funds for the planting of trees and the creation of acres of new woodland space across the UK; and the annual **Wicked Young Writer Awards** champions creative writing in young people (aged 5-25) and is presented in partnership with the **National Literacy Trust**. Further information: www.WickedForGood.co.uk.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

NOW BOOKING TO SATURDAY 26 MAY 2018

Apollo Victoria Theatre, Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1LG

The theatre is one minute from London Victoria Mainline and Underground Stations

Box Office Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 7.45pm

No booking fees or transaction charges for tickets booked in person at the Box Office

Official UK website: www.WickedTheMusical.co.uk

Box Office and 24 Hour Credit Card Bookings:

ATG Tickets **0844 871 3001** / www.ATGTickets.com/Wicked

(Calls cost 7p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge)

Ticket prices: from £19.50 - £125.00*

*An ATG Tickets booking fee of up to £2.75 may apply to bookings made online and by telephone. A one-off ATG Tickets £3.00 transaction fee may also be added to each booking made online and by telephone. All ticket prices include a £1.75 Theatre Restoration Levy.

Group Sales (10 tickets or more): Group Line 020 7206 1174 / www.Groupline.com/Wicked

No booking or transaction fees for group bookings of 10 or more. Sales subject to terms and conditions.

Day Seats: £29.50: A limited number of seats released daily for that day's performance(s) at 10.00am, in person at the Box Office.

Students: Best available seats **£29.50** from 10.00am at Monday-Friday 7.30pm and Wednesday & Saturday 2.30pm at the Box Office with student ID. Subject to availability. One ticket per ID.

Standby Concessions: Best available seats **£29.50** from 10.00am at Monday-Friday 7.30pm and Wednesday & Saturday 2.30pm at the Box Office for Senior Citizens, Jobseekers, Equity, BECTU and MU members and registered disabled. Subject to availability. One ticket per ID.

Performance Times: Monday-Saturday 7.30pm, matinees Wednesday & Saturday 2.30pm

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes including a 20 minute interval.

EXTRA SHOWS ADDED:

Thursday 17 August 2017
Thursday 24 August 2017
Thursday 26 October 2017
Tuesday 26 December 2017
Friday 29 December 2017
Thursday 15 February 2018
Thursday 12 April 2018.

All extra shows commence at 2.30pm

Gregory Maguire's '**Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West**' is published in the UK by **Headline**.

The book is recommended for readers aged 16+

The Grammy award-winning Original Broadway Cast recording on **DECCA BROADWAY**

The Rubens at the Palace is the official hotel partner of **WICKED** London. www.rubenshotel.com

The producers cannot guarantee the appearance of any particular artist, which is always subject to illness, injury and statutory leave entitlement.