



Media Release: Tuesday 13th August at 10am

The BOA Group announce The Wizard of Oz for Christmas 2024

The BOA Group are delighted to announce that their Christmas show for 2024 will be **The Wizard of Oz**. This wicked pantomime adventure will run in Birmingham from **Tuesday 26th November** until **Tuesday 31st December** at **The Old Rep Theatre**. This will mark the ninth Christmas production that The BOA Group have produced at the theatre.

It's time to don your ruby slippers and join us as we hop, skip, and jump our way down the yellow brick road to the Emerald City...

Dorothy loves her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry, but she spends most of her days daydreaming of a place where she and her little dog Toto can escape Kansas and live a life free from the troubles, trials, and tribulations of the farm.

What Dorothy hadn't been planned for though was a tempestuous tornado whisking her away to a strange and magical land with no way of getting back home. Not only that, but her crash-landing arrival into Oz angers the vile and vicious villain, the Wicked Witch of the West!

This adventure follows Dorothy who, with the help of the Good Witch Glinda, a spirited scarecrow, a tender tinman, and a loveable lion, follows the yellow brick road to try and find a way home. Encountering both friends and foes during her quest through the colourful kingdom, watch as Dorothy and her charismatic companions journey to the Emerald City.

Leading the way in her sparkling ruby slippers, will Dorothy have the brains, heart, and courage to find the wonderful wizard, save Oz from the Wicked Witch, and safely get back home to Kansas?

This dazzling production promises to be a feast for the senses and a treat for all the family. The Wizard of Oz will be an unforgettable panto extravaganza making it an unmissable experience this festive season.

This year's production of **The Wizard of Oz** will be directed by **Lorna Laidlaw**. Lorna is a professional director and actress. Her performance credits include: Mrs Tembe in *Doctors*, Aggie in *Coronation Street*, *Getting It Straight* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Birmingham Rep.



Theatre Directing: *Caribbean Kitchen*, *Nativity*, *Stranger in the Park*, *ID-79* and *In Between the Music* (Birmingham Rep), *Mr Soon Come*, winner of The MVSA Award, Best Black Theatre Production (The Drum), *Big for me*, *Little for you* (Midlands Arts Centre and National tour), *Dismortal Life* (Stratford Fringe Festival. Lite, The Public and Arena Wolverhampton), *Bun and Cheese* (Bussey Centre, Peckham and Old Joint Stock). *Rosa Parks the Hidden Journey* (Midlands Arts Centre), Sky Comedy Festival: *Black Men Fishing* and *Patch* (Birmingham Rep Theatre), *She's Royal*, an all-female production (Birmingham Hippodrome and The Wolverhampton Grand).

Lorna said: *"I am thrilled to be bringing to the stage this production of The Wizard of Oz. A production full of fun and laughter for the whole family. The yellow brick road is waiting for you!"*

We are also excited to announce that actress and **comedian Janice Connolly BEM** will be joining our Creative Team as Comedy Dramaturg. Janice is best known for performing stand-up comedy as her character Barbara Nice. Her other performance credits include: *Phoenix Nights*, *That Peter Kay Thing*, *The Good Ship Murder*, *Coronation Street* and *So Awkward*. Connolly is the artistic director and founder member of the Birmingham-based Women and Theatre. In 2017, she appeared in the New Years Honours list in recognition of her contribution to community arts through her work with Women and Theatre.



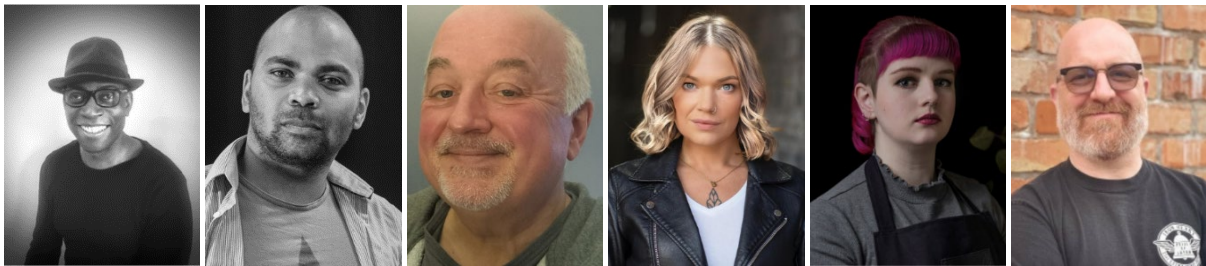


Kate Tague, Chief Executive of the BOA Group said:

*“We are delighted to be announcing this year’s Christmas production is **The Wizard of Oz**. It will bring together leading talent from across the region alongside our own up and coming performers and crew. We are thrilled to be welcoming **Lorna Laidlaw** who will direct this year’s production.*

*This family favourite will be a pantomime performance packed with popular songs and lots of audience interaction. Pantomime is a British tradition and Birmingham’s historic Old Rep Theatre is the perfect home for this year’s production. Get ready to laugh, shout and sing as we bring **The Wizard of Oz** to life this festive season. We can’t wait to see you there!”*

The rest of the creative team journeying to the Emerald City include **Gladstone Wilson** as Musical Director, **Ebrahim Nazier** as Set Designer and **Richard G Jones** as Lighting Designer. We also have returning creatives from last years’ Peter Pan including **CiCi Howells** as Choreographer, **Leanne Fitchett** as Costume Designer and **Clive Meldrum** as Sound Designer.



Tickets go on sale on Tuesday 13th August 2024. For more information about the production please call the Box Office team on 0121 643 5858 or visit www.crescent-theatre.co.uk.

British Sign Language (BSL) interpreted performances will take place on Tuesday 10th December (10.15am) and Sunday 29th December (7.00pm). As well as Relaxed performances on Thursday 5th December (10.15am) and Friday 27th December (2.30pm).

ENDS

For further information please contact the Marketing Team on 0121 359 9300 or email emma.ferguson@boa-group.co.uk.

Listing

The Wizard of Oz

Tuesday 26th November – Tuesday 31st December

The Old Rep Theatre, Station Street, Birmingham, B5 4DY

Box Office: 0121 643 5858

Tickets: Schools & Educational Groups* (£14.50), Standard (Adult £22.50, Concessions £20), Premium^ (Adult £25.00, Concessions £22.50).

*Schools & Educational Group(s) ratio is every 10 children to 1 staff member or accompanying adult. Every 11th ticket is free as part of this ticket type booking, this ticket is for staff or accompanying adult.

^ Premium performances include Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve), Tuesday 26th December (Boxing Day) and Sunday 31st December (New Year's Eve).

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The Wizard of Oz

by Tom Whalley Pantomimes

Notes to Editors

About BOA Group

The BOA Group is a multi-academy trust of specialist academies located in Birmingham City Centre – including BOA Creative, Digital & Performing Arts Academy, BOA Stage & Screen Production Academy and BOA Digital Technologies Academy – in the hub of the creative and digital industries.

Together with its founding partners – Maverick TV, the BRIT school and the Ormiston Trust – the BOA Group has a large number of creative and industry partners. They provide crucial support in helping to design, develop and deliver specialist programmes of study - and offer students the opportunity to collaborate on a range of projects and gain invaluable industry experience. BOA's Board of Trustees also consists of an impressive array of educationalists, entrepreneurs and businesses - from the BBC and the British Record Industry to PRG and Birmingham City University.

BOA Group, 1 Grosvenor Street, Birmingham, B4 7QD
Contact details: w. boa-group.co.uk | t. 0121 359 9300 | e. info@boa-group.co.uk

Socials see below:

BOA Stage & Screen Production Academy
Twitter @StageScreen_BOA, Facebook /StageandScreenBOA, Instagram @screenscreen_boa

BOA Creative, Digital & Performing Arts Academy
Twitter @imagineBOA, Facebook /imagineBOA, Instagram @imagine_boa

BOA Digital Technologies Academy
Twitter @Digital_BOA, Facebook /BOADigitalTechnologies, Instagram @digital_boa

About The Old Rep

The Old Rep is an iconic Grade II listed venue that occupies a unique place in theatre history as Britain's first purpose-built repertory theatre. Opened in 1913, The Old Rep was the original home of the Birmingham Repertory Company led by Sir Barry Jackson, who moved to their new site on Broad Street in 1971.

In June 2024, it was officially announced that The Crescent Theatre, that celebrated its centenary this year, would be taking over the running of the historic 111 year old theatre from August 2024, alongside its own theatre in Brindley Place.

Address: The Old Rep, Station Street, Birmingham, B5 4DY
Contact details: w. oldrep.co.uk | t. 0121 643 5858 | e. boxoffice@crescent-theatre.co.uk

Socials:
Twitter @theoldrep, Facebook /theoldreptheatre, Instagram @theoldreptheatre

Full Show Schedule

Tuesday 26 November	7.00pm	
Wednesday 27 November	7.00pm	
Thursday 28 November	1.30pm	7.00pm
Friday 29 November	10.15am	1.30pm
Saturday 30 November	2.30pm !	7.00pm
Tuesday 3 December	10.15am	1.30pm
Wednesday 4 December	10.15am	1.30pm
Thursday 5 December	10.15am *	1.30pm
Friday 6 December	7.00pm	
Saturday 7 December	2.30pm	7.00pm
Sunday 8 December	1.30pm	
Tuesday 10 December	10.15am +	
Wednesday 11 December	10.15am	1.30pm
Thursday 12 December	10.15am	1.30pm
Friday 13 December	7.00pm	
Saturday 14 December	2.30pm	7.00pm
Sunday 15 December	1.30pm	
Tuesday 17 December	10.15am	1.30pm
Wednesday 18 December	10.15am	1.30pm
Thursday 19 December	10.15am	
Friday 20 December	7.00pm	
Saturday 21 December	2.30pm	7.00pm
Sunday 22 December	1.30pm	
Tuesday 24 December (Christmas Eve)	2.30pm ^	
Thursday 26 December (Boxing Day)	2.30pm ^	
Friday 27 December	2.30pm *	7.00pm
Saturday 28 December	7.00pm	
Sunday 29 December	7.00pm +	
Monday 30 December	2.30pm	7.00pm
Tuesday 31 December (New Years Eve)	2.30pm ^	

Key:

^ Premium performance

! Press performance

* Relaxed performance

+ British sign language (BSL) performance