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Wicked: The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz

Crisis Committee

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Disclaimer:

* This committee is following the timeline of events of the original Broadway Wicked (2003), the Wizard of Oz (1939) **, and the Wicked Movie (2024-25)

**Except the burning of the Wicked Witch of the West

***The committee and background guide will contain spoilers for both the musical and the movie

Topic 1: Balancing Power in The Land of Oz

Introduction

Somewhere over the rainbow lies a magical and wonderful land—Oz. The Wizard of Oz governs the realm through strict propaganda, deception, and surveillance. The magical creatures of Oz possess rich histories, extraordinary abilities, and generations of knowledge. The Wizard's policies have sought to undermine magical practices, favouring the non-magical and mechanical world, which has led to the marginalization and oppression of Oz's magical beings. In an ever-evolving Oz, the once fantastical magic that flourished throughout society is being pushed backstage, shifting focus to mechanics and innovations such as the high-speed train, Wiz-o-mania, and the various inventions highlighted in the Emerald City. With the future of sorcery uncertain and the Wizard continuously amassing influence and power, the likelihood of a stable distribution of power is minimal. The balance of power in Oz has tipped, descending into a chaotic mix of green, glamour, and governance.

Real-Life History

While on vacation in 1995, Stephen Schwartz stumbled across the book “Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West” by Gregory Maguire and saw its potential to be a musical. But Maguire had sold its rights to Universal Pictures, and they were planning on a live-action film for the book (which was later finalized by Jon M. Chu in 2024-2025 starring Ariana Grande-Butera and Cynthia Erivo). Schwartz enticed Maguire and Universal producer Marc Platt to release the rights and allow him to write a musical. Platt and David Stone later joined Schwartz in his journey of writing Wicked.



Figure 1: Glinda and Elphaba in the Emerald City¹

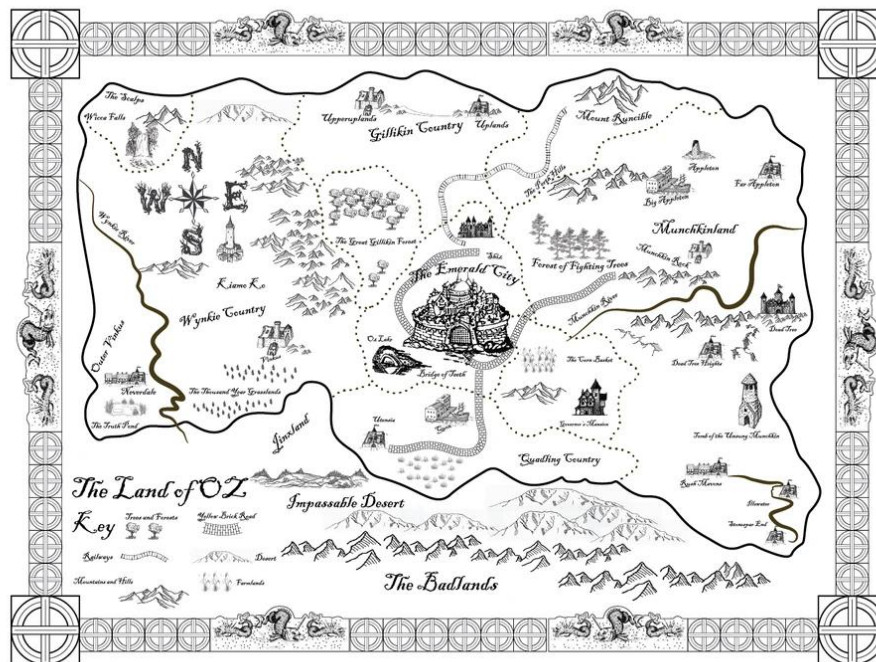
Wicked officially opened in San Francisco on June 10, 2003. The cast included Idina Menzel (Elphaba Thropp), Kristen Chenoweth (Galinda Upland), Robert Morze (The Wizard of Oz), Norbert Leo Butz (Fiyero Tigelaar), Michelle Federer (Nessarose Thropp), Carole Shelly

¹ Universal Pictures. (2003). Glinda and Elphaba in the Emerald City – One Short Day [Photograph]. In *Wicked Broadway*. https://assets.playbill.com/editorial/_articleLeadImage/Wicked1294.jpg

(Madame Morrible), John Horton (Dr. Dillamond), and Kirk McDonald (Boq Woodsman). The show now runs on Broadway until further notice, with occasional international shows.²

The Wizard of Oz

In the Wizomania performance, the players tell the story of the Wizard and its descent into Oz, it states that “Long long ago, before we can recall. There lived here in Oz the magical Wise Ones—the wisest of them all. ... We will not live forever, that I can foresee. So let us set down all our magic in a strange and secret language. In a book, the Grimmerie!”... Look! A man in a balloon arriving from the sky? Maybe he is here to fulfill the prophecy. but can he read the Grimmerie?” That he is the Wizard.³ The Wizard of Oz was originally a conman from Omaha, Nebraska. Omaha is Nebraska's largest city and is on the west bank of the Missouri River.⁴



²Wikipedia Contributors. (2019, May 10). *Wicked: The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz*. Wikipedia; Wikimedia Foundation. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicked_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicked_(musical))

³Grande, A., Erivo, C., Chenoweth, K., & Menzel, I. (2024). *One Short Day – From “Wicked” 2024*. In S. Schwartz (Ed.), *Genius*. <https://genius.com/Cynthia-erivo-ariana-grande-kristin-chenoweth-and-idina-menzel-one-short-day-lyrics>

⁴Dalstrom, H. A., & Naugle, R. C. (n.d.). *Omaha – Nebraska*. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Omaha-city-Nebraska>

Figure 2: Map of Oz used in the Broadway Musical⁵

In L. Frank Baum's original book, the Wizard's birth name was Oscar Zoroaster Phadrig Isaac Norman Henkle Emmannuel Ambroise Diggs (his initials are O.Z.P.I.N.H.E.A.D.). He was a conman and circus magician. His parents were outstanding politicians in the city, and their statuses remain unclear in the book and film adaptations.

The Wizard landed in Oz by hot-air balloon, presumed to have come from the Omaha State Fair several years before the birth of Galinda Upland, Dorothy Gale, and Elphaba Thropp. Due to the prophecy delivered by the Wise Ones, the Ozians believed that he fulfilled it and appointed him as their new leader. After rising to power, the Wizard cultivated a cult of personality centred around himself and became the totalitarian ruler of Oz. During his reign, he initiated the rapid urbanization of Oz, introducing technologies from Omaha, including the locomotive, lightbulb and electricity, kitchen appliances, and much more. He constructed the Yellow Brick Road, which connects Oz and its four regions: Gilikin, Winkie Country, Munchkinland, and Quadling Country. Finally, the Wizard renamed the Emerald City, which was formerly known as Ozmatown.⁶

Recent News

Recently, there have been numerous amounts of Animal disappearances all over Oz, and the abduction of a distinguished professor from Shiz University – Doctor Dillamond – has rattled students, Animals, and Ozians everywhere.

Due to the Wizard's propaganda campaign and policies, police officers, soldiers, and government (or lack thereof) officials have started abducting and imprisoning Animals in high

⁵ Universal Pictures. (2003). Map of Oz [Projection/Image]. In *Wicked Broadway*. <https://static.wikia.nocookie.net/wicked/images/f/fc/OzMapMusical.png/revision/latest/scale-to-width-down/1000?cb=20240921162947>

⁶ Anon. (2020, June 10). *The Wizard of Oz*. Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wizard_of_Oz_\(character\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wizard_of_Oz_(character))

positions, such as activists, professors, and public figures. Animals have been fleeing Oz in light of recent events and actively hiding to prevent capture.

The abduction of Doctor Dillamond happened in class, and all students were present at the time of his capture. Afterwards, their new history professor was summoned along with a caged baby lion cub. Eyewitness reports state that one student cast a sleeping spell on the class, causing everyone to fall asleep. Once everyone woke up again, two students were absent from the classroom along with the baby lion cub.⁷

The Wizard's goal of alienating Animals and creating a "common enemy" has succeeded. Day after day, the rights of animals are being peeled back, and policies obstructing the use of magic and sorcery limit the power that animals once held. The few born with magical abilities are forced to hide their magic and are rarely lucky enough to have the privilege of attending one of the pricey sorcery schools of Oz. Even the Shiz President stated, "In today's Oz, a real sorceress, one who possesses true magic, has become all too rare,"⁸

Topic 2: Redefining the Government of Oz Amidst a Revolutionary Change

Introduction

After the robbery of the Grimmerie, the destruction of Oz's power grid, and the beginning of a nationwide revolution, the people's trust in the Wizard is wavering. New revolutionary movements are springing up throughout Oz, and one person is at the forefront of the fight – The Wicked Witch of the West. The Wicked Witch is a revolutionary leader fighting for equality, Animal rights, justice, and the removal of the Wizard. Her message resonates with

⁷ Holzman, W., Fox, D., Schwartz, S., & Maguire, G. (2022). *Wicked (2024)* (pp. 73–76). <https://universalpicturesawards.com/wicked/screenplay/Wicked.pdf>

⁸ Holzman, W., Fox, D., Schwartz, S., & Maguire, G. (2022b). *Wicked (2024)* (p. 19). <https://universalpicturesawards.com/wicked/screenplay/Wicked.pdf>

the oppressed Animals of Oz and inspires the common people of Oz to pick up a pitchfork and rebel.

With the Wizard's influence weakening by the day, Ozians face a divided country with new parties and blocs springing up throughout the provinces. Furthermore, Ozians are divided between those who want the Wizard to stay (Loyalists) and those who want him removed (Revolutionaries).

The balance of power in Oz is falling apart, and only those with diplomatic power or influence can impact the political landscape of Oz. It is up to governors, members of the Wizard's Council, reformers, and professors to appoint a new leader and lay out the future of Oz.

Elphaba Thropp

“Are people born Wicked? Or do they have Wickedness thrust upon them? After all, she had a childhood.”⁹ Though we may not have the answer to such a question, we should at least know who our villain is. And like most villains, we do not know their story.



⁹ Holzman, W., Fox, D., Schwartz, S., & Maguire, G. (2022). *Wicked* (2024) (p. 5). <https://universalpicturesawards.com/wicked/screenplay/Wicked.pdf>

Figure 3: The Birth of Elphaba Thropp¹⁰

Elphaba Thropp was born to Melena Thropp and Frexspar the Godly in Rush Margins, Munchkinland. Although she was a Munchkinlander at birth, she shared no phenotypic traits; instead, she was born with emerald-green skin. The other townspeople often bullied her for her skin colour and background. When she was young, her family was rushed out of their home in Rush Margins and forced to live in Colwen Grounds, Mrs. Thropp's childhood home.

When she was three years old, her mother gave birth to her sister – Nessarose. Nessarose is a person with a congenital disability and was also mistreated by other children. Afraid of another green child, her mother chewed milk flowers to ensure that she would be an “acceptable” colour for society.

Elphaba grew up during a period when Oz was experiencing a severe economic downturn, prevalent racism, and segregation, and increasing distrust in the Wizard's authority. Because she was green, she faced discrimination and was perpetually regarded as a social outcast.

Oz the Great and Terrible

Oz the Great and Terrible is one of the Wizard's many pseudonyms – “The Wizard of Oz” is a pseudonym itself anyway. But one may ask why the Wizard is always concealing identity. The reason is that the Wizard is a figurehead at heart; he was a conman in Nebraska and a puppethead ruler in Oz.

When the Wizard was carried away in a hot-air balloon the Omaha State Fair, he was transported to the Land of Oz. Due to the power vacuum, the Ozians appointed the Wizard their

¹⁰ Universal Pictures. (2003). The Birth of Elphaba Thropp [Photograph]. In *Wicked Broadway*. https://static.wikia.nocookie.net/wicked/images/8/8a/941916_10151395823161053_630060923_n.jpg/revision/latest?cb=20130512225041

new leader – partly due to the prophecy the Wise Ones uttered. The Wizard kept his act of “Oz the Great and Terrible” for decades. He was seen as almighty and magical, and people even believed that was a real sorcerer. The Wizard ruled with an iron fist, he implemented policies and guidelines to keep Ozians and Animals in check and to keep all of Oz under a fake assumption of wonder. The puppet was becoming the puppeteer, he was pulling the strings of Oz. Every single political decision, natural disaster, infrastructure project, and event in Oz was carefully orchestrated by the Wizard.¹¹

Animal Rights

Due to the Wizard’s oppression, Animals in Oz have become a marginalized community. After rising to power, the Wizard had a way to unify the populace, so he looked to the United States and how they managed to unify people – creating a “common enemy”.¹² The Wizard was scapegoating, he needed to find another topic to allow Ozians to forget about the real problems of Oz such as the socioeconomic divide.¹³ Secondly, the Wizard is using propaganda, manipulation, and possible magic to silence and control the Animals of Oz. The Wizard believes that by stripping the Animals of the ability to speak and reason they would be easier to control as they would be easily to command. By marginalizing the animals, the Wizard is consolidating

¹¹ Anon. (2020, June 10). *The Wizard of Oz*. Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wizard_of_Oz_\(character\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wizard_of_Oz_(character))

¹² Holzman, W., Fox, D., Schwartz, S., & Maguire, G. (2022). *Wicked (2024)* (p. 111). <https://universalpicturesawards.com/wicked/screenplay/Wicked.pdf>

¹³ Robenalt, J. (2015, June). *What Can the Wizard of Oz Teach Us About Inequality in the 21st Century?* TIME; Time. <https://time.com/3903299/wizard-of-oz-inequality/>

control and power over Oz. He eliminates a group that could potentially challenge his authority, and he creates a new society where he can easily manipulate the public.

Figure 4: Depiction of the Original Animal Professors of Shiz¹⁴

Animals were the original inhabitants of Oz. There are many folktales and stories online about the creation of the Animal Society in Oz. The most widely accepted is the story of Fairy Queen Lady Lurline, who descended from the heavens to Oz. At the time, Oz was a dry and barren desert, but despite the climate, Lady Lurline called forth water using magical abilities from underground springs to quench her thirst. Afterwards, she slept for millennia atop Mount Runcible. After reawakening, she created a large flood that eventually created what would become the Gilikin River. The animals living in Oz at the time believed it was a flood that was



sent to drown them. And the braver few decided to jump into the deluge and attempt to swim while the rest of the animals decided to stay on land. Those who continued swimming and reached the other shore gained the ability to speak and reason. This was seen as a gift from Lady Lurline. These few became the first Animals of Oz and were gifted the gift of sentience and thought.¹⁵

¹⁴ Universal Pictures. (2024). *Depiction of Animal Professors at Shiz* (themuse4595 on Threads, Ed.) [Movie Screenshot]. https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTL-7reWcyGj1cprA4msgaGF7zYN8ZGBxL7_w&s

¹⁵ Anon. (2025). *Animals of Oz*. Wicked Wiki; Fandom, Inc. <https://wicked.fandom.com/wiki/Animals>

Recent News

Recently, a little girl in a blue gingham dress and her dog crashed into Oz. The girl crashed into the town centre of Munchkinland and the residence of the Wicked Witch of the East – the tyrannical ruler of Munchkinland and the sister of the Wicked Witch of the West. Reporters have identified that the little girl's name is Dorothy Gale, the daughter of a farming family in Kansas. She stated that her farmhouse was swept up in a tornado and flew to Oz.

During this whole conundrum, the Wicked Witch of the West appears to question the Munchkins about the passing of her sister and the whereabouts of her Red Ruby Slippers which held magical properties. Suddenly, Glinda the Good Witch floated down by bubble to aid our girl in blue. She threatens the Wicked Witch and commands her to leave. Afterwards, Dorothy tells Glinda her current predicament and in response, she tells Dorothy to follow the Yellow Brick Road, and she will find herself in the Emerald City. There, the Wizard of Oz will help her return home. Heeding her advice, Dorothy and her dog set off for the City of Emeralds along with the friends she found along the way – the Scarecrow, the Tinman, and the Cowardly Lion. During her journey, the evil Wicked Witch attempted to sabotage their trip to the Emerald City by trying to burn the Scarecrow using fire and casting a sleeping spell while the group was walking through a field of poppies outside the gates of the Emerald City.

Once Dorothy and her friends arrive at the Emerald City, the Wizard gives Dorothy one last task – bring him the broomstick of the Wicked Witch of the West. In return, the Wizard would bestow upon them their wishes and desires. Dorothy, wishing to return to Kansas, journeyed to the Witch's lair with her friends. Once Dorothy and her friends arrived at her lair, she and her friends were captured by the Wicked Witch and her minions – the flying monkeys. With the aid of her dog and her friends, she managed to escape her lair.

Finally, she defeated the Wicked Witch of the West by melting her with a bucket of water. Dorothy and her friends returned to Emerald City to celebrate their new triumph over the Witch.

After returning to the City, Dorothy realizes that the Wizard has been a conman all along and that his magical abilities are fake. The Wizard then reveals his true identity: a conman and circus magician from Nebraska who lives in Kansas.

Dorothy and the Wizard plan to leave Oz in the hot air balloon that he acquired during his job as a circus magician. But the Wizard departed earlier than Dorothy to prevent her from being able to return to Kansas.

With the help of Glinda the Good Witch, Dorothy informs the citizens of Oz about the true identity of the Wizard. They reveal all of his lies, tricks, and schemes. And finally, Glinda aids Dorothy in returning home with the power of the Red Ruby Slippers. But now that Oz was finally at peace and the Wicked Witch was dead, something seemed off about our favourite bubble lady. She seems to be absentminded; she may be trying to process everything that has happened. But some speculate that she is mourning the loss of someone or something. But it could not be that green witch, could it? After all, no one mourns the Wicked.¹⁶

Thank you for coming to ACMUN XX! On behalf of the Wicked Dias, I would like to thank you for choosing Wicked as your committee this year! I hope you have a wonderful time debating. <3

Guiding Questions

Topic 1: Balancing Power in The Land of Oz:

1. How can delegates find a way to reestablish a balance of power in Oz while including Animals?

¹⁶ Langley, N. (1939). *The Wizard of Oz (1939 film)*. Warner Bros. Entertainment Wiki. [https://warnerbros.fandom.com/wiki/The_Wizard_of_Oz_\(1939_film\)/Transcript](https://warnerbros.fandom.com/wiki/The_Wizard_of_Oz_(1939_film)/Transcript)

2. How can delegates destigmatize Animals?
3. How can delegates prevent another authoritarian government from happening in Oz?

Topic 2: Redefining the Government of Oz Amidst a Revolutionary Change

1. After the departure of the Wizard, who will fill the power vacuum to prevent Oz from descending into chaos?
2. Should Oz be governed by humans, Animals, or by other means?
3. How would Oz be able to reintroduce Animals as a key part of Ozian society?

Definitions

1. Oz – A fictional country where the Wizard of Oz franchise and spin-offs take place.
2. The Wizard (of Oz) – The ruler of Oz
3. Wizomania – A show that tells the story of the Wizard and how he came to Oz.
4. Grimmerie – A magical book that contains all of the Wise Ones' spells and incantations.
 - a. Written in a lost language.
5. Wise Ones – A group of sorcerers
 - a. The original sorcerers of Oz
6. Animals (With a capital A) – Sentient animals
7. Ozmatown – Former name of the Emerald City
8. Yellow Brick Road – A road that connects Oz.
 - a. Made of Yellow Brick
9. Gilikin – The northernmost province of Oz
 - a. Home of Glinda Upland and her family
10. Munchkinland/Munchkin Country – The easternmost province of Oz
 - a. Home of the Throppes, and Boq Woodsman

11. Winkie Country – The western-most province
 - a. Home of Fiyo Tigelaar
 - i. This province has frequent rebellions.
12. Quadling Country – The southernmost province
13. Emerald City
 - a. The socioeconomic hub of Oz
 - b. The residency of the Wizard
 - c. Capital of Oz
14. Omaha – City in Nebraska
15. Nebraska – State in the United States
16. Ozian – Resident of Oz
17. Milk Flower – Native flower of Oz.

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