

# The Wizard of Odds



**Murray J. Rivette**

Inspired by the novel by L. Frank Baum

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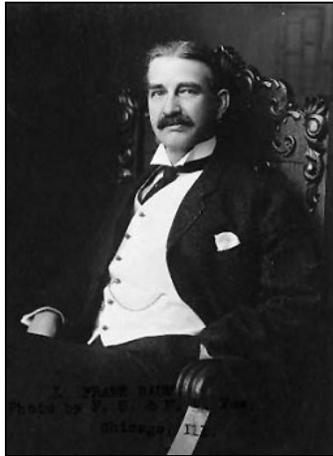
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## The Wizard of Odds

**FARCE/SPOOF.** In this over-the-top spoof, Dorothy refuses to give the Wicked Witch of the West the magical ruby slippers for fear she may be elected to Congress or the White House. After enduring bad Munchkin jokes, Dorothy meets a talking scarecrow who wants a brain so he can write “better” poetry, a Tin Man who would like to have a heart so when his parents reject him he can feel bad, and a Cowardly Lion who would like some courage so he can overcome his fear of zebras. The Wicked Witch tries to stop Dorothy from reaching the Wizard of Odds, but she has ditched her broom for a Dustbuster and her “flying” monkeys have to ride a bus because they get too airsick to fly. When Dorothy and her friends finally meet the Wizard of Odds, they discover he’s just a guy who wears many hats. And then there’s Dorothy’s beloved dog, Toto, who she refuses to believe is deceased. Nonstop laughs!

**Performance Time:** Approximately 45-60 minutes.



L. Frank Baum (1856-1919)

## About the Story

L. Frank Baum was born in Chittenango, NY, and grew up on his family's large estate. Influenced by the Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen, and Lewis Carroll, Baum's best-selling children's novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, was published in 1900 and was the basis for Baum's 1902 musical *The Wizard of Oz* and the 1939 film adaptation featuring Judy Garland. In the novel, Baum's description of Kansas is thought to be based on his experiences living in drought-ridden Aberdeen, SD, where he owned a store. Baum wrote 13 more novels set in the Land of Oz as well as numerous short stories, poems, and novels before he died in 1919.

## Characters

(9 M, 8 F, 2 flexible)

(With doubling: 5 M, 4 F)

**DOROTHY:** Girl who lives on a farm in Kansas; in denial that Toto is dead and drags around a stuffed dog on a leash; female.

**UNCLE HENRY:** Dorothy's uncle; wears overalls; male.

**AUNTIE EM:** Dorothy's aunt; female.

**HUNK:** Farmhand; male.

**HICKORY:** Farmhand; male.

**ZEKE:** Farmhand; male.

**SCARECROW:** Talking scarecrow who wants to be a better poet but can't because he doesn't have a brain; was once human until the Witch of the East turned him into a scarecrow for being stupid; flexible.

**TIN MAN/WOMAN:** Would like to have a heart so when his parents reject him he feels bad; flexible.

**LION:** Cowardly lion who thinks everyone is sneaking up on him and would like some courage so he can overcome his fear of zebras; male.

**GATEKEEPER/WIZARD OF ODDS:** City of Odds gatekeeper who is the only one allowed to open the gate; the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-powerful wonderful Wizard of Odds; male.

**WITCH:** Wicked Witch of the West who has traded her broom for a Dustbuster and drives a Prius; female.

**MONKEY BOY:** Wicked Witch's "flying" monkey minion who gets airsick; male.

**MONKEY GIRL:** Wicked Witch's "flying" monkey minion who gets seasick; female.

**LOUIE:** Munchkin who tells bad jokes; male.

**LOUISE:** Munchkin who refuses to laugh at Louie's bad jokes; female.

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**GLINDA:** Good witch who was friends with the Wicked Witch of the West in high school; female.  
**MISS GULCH:** Dorothy's neighbor; female.  
**JASON:** Miss Gulch's nephew; male.  
**OLIVIA:** Miss Gulch's niece; female.

## Options for doubling

UNCLE HENRY/GATEKEEPER/WIZARD OF ODDS (male)

AUNTIE EM/GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH (female)

HUNK/SCARECROW (male)

HICKORY/TIN MAN (male)

ZEKE/LION (male)

LOUIE/MONKEY BOY/NEPHEW JASON (male)

LOUISE/MONKEY GIRL/NIECE OLIVIA (female)

WICKED WITCH/MISS GULCH (female)

## Setting

Dorothy's house in Kansas and Munchkin Land.

## Sets

**Note:** The sets may be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows.

**Exterior of Dorothy's house.** Partial exterior of the home with a small fence next to it. There is an old wagon or old barrels, crates, or boxes to sit on.

**Munchkin Land.** There is a bright backdrop with many flowers. On one side is a partial view of Dorothy's house.

**Munchkin Land, a field.** There is a backdrop of a field and a low-lying fence. Halfway between upstage and downstage are 1-2 cornstalks. There is a post CS for the Scarecrow to "hang" from.

**Munchkin Land, a forest.** There is a tree stump CS with an axe stuck in it. An oil can is next to the stump.

**Munchkin Land, another part of the forest.** There is a forest backdrop with a small tree.

**The City of Odds.** There is a backdrop of city buildings and a fountain UCS. There is a small gate about 2-3 feet high CS with a latch. A sign on gate reads, "Wizard of Odds."

## Synopsis of Scenes

**Scene 1:** Dorothy's house in Kansas. Background is drab, gray.

**Scene 2:** Munchkin Land.

**Scene 3:** Munchkin Land, a field.

**Scene 4:** Munchkin Land, a forest.

**Scene 5:** Munchkin Land, another area of the forest.

**Scene 6:** City of Odds.

**Scene 7:** Dorothy's house in Kansas. Sky is bright.

## Props

Butter churn	Axe (plastic)
Bottle of Febreze	Flowers
Stuffed dog on leash	Dustbuster
Cell phone	Hat with the sign
Ruby slippers, for Dorothy	“Gatekeeper” on it
Scraggly, worn-out broom	Hat with the sign “Wizard”
Rope to tie Scarecrow to	on it
post	Small mailbox
Magic wand	Mail
Oil can	Small package

## Sound Effects

Lightning  
Sound of wind getting louder and stronger  
Sound of a Dustbuster vacuum

"She hasn't got the broom anymore.  
She traded it in for a Dustbuster."

—Dorothy

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Outside Auntie Em and Uncle Henry's house. There is a small fence next to a partial house. The backdrop is drab, gray. Hunk, Hickory, and Zeke are sitting on an old wagon [or barrels or boxes may be used]. Uncle Henry is standing. Auntie Em is churning butter.)

HENRY: So, fellas, according to the weather reports, we're due for some real torrential rains within the next week, so I thought we might consider getting the rutabaga crop in a day or two earlier than usual.

HUNK: That's a good idea, Henry. Get 'em in early.

HICKORY: Yeah, I wouldn't want to see them get waterlogged.

ZEKE: Too much rain'd ruin them for sure. And that ain't good.

HENRY: *(Sniffs the air.)* I'm smelling a lot of ozone hereabouts. I wonder if a storm is coming in.

HUNK: Well, I ain't too smart, but it looks like twister weather to me.

HICKORY: Ah, what's the difference? We've withstood twisters before.

ZEKE: Oh, boy, I hope there's no twister. I'm scared of them things!

HUNK: You're scared of everything!

HICKORY: *(To Zeke.)* Right. No one cares about your silly, imagined fears.

ZEKE: Hunk, you ain't got the smarts you was born with! And you, Hickory, you ain't got no heart! My fears are real, and nobody cares!

EM: Sure we do, Zeke, but you gotta get over them sometime. No sense going through life being scared of your own shadow.

ALL: *(Except Zeke.)* Right!

HUNK: Grow up, Zeke!

ZEKE: Oh, wise up!

HICKORY: No one cares about your silly, scared notions.

ZEKE: Get a heart, Hickory!

HENRY: *(To Hunk, Hickory, and Zeke.)* Boys, boys, boys!  
Come on, that's enough!

EM: *(To Hunk, Hickory, and Zeke.)* Right, stop your squabbling!  
*(Sniffs the air.)* Henry, I do believe that you're right about  
that ozone...it seems to be getting pretty strong.

*(Lightning.)*

HENRY: Uh-oh! Maybe we'd better head for the storm cellar.  
I think a tornado might be on the way.

HUNK: Actually, Henry, I think it's going to be a twister.

ZEKE: Hunk, a tornado and a twister are the same thing.

HUNK: They are? Then I guess we better head for the storm  
cellar.

OTHERS: Right!

*(All start to exit.)*

EM: *(Realizes.)* Wait a minute! Where's Dorothy? Has  
anyone seen Dorothy?

HICKORY: I think she went off down the road to see a friend.  
She's got Toto with her.

EM: I hope she'll be smart enough to find shelter. When Toto  
died, I'm kinda sorry I decided to have him stuffed. And  
I'm real sorry that I let you do it, Henry. That dog is  
beginning to smell a little gamey, if you know what I mean.

HENRY: I know. I guess I didn't clean him too good. That's  
why I carry a can of Febreze with me, and I bought a whole  
case of it, too. *(Pulls out a bottle of Febreze from a pocket in his  
overalls.)* Whenever Dorothy's not looking, I give Toto a  
little spritz.

EM: Thank goodness for small favors. She drags that poor thing around with her on a leash. Poor Dorothy thinks he's just sleeping. She just hasn't come to grips with reality. She's such a daydreamer.

HICKORY: Em, I don't think you have to worry about Dorothy.

ZEKE: Yeah, unlike Hunk, she's smart!

HUNK: Hey!

HICKORY: That's not nice, Zeke.

ZEKE: It may not be nice, but it sure is true!

HENRY: One last time, boys, stop it!

EM: Let's get to the storm cellar... *(Shouts.)* ...now!

*(They pick up necessary items and exit. Lightning. Talking on a cell phone, Dorothy enters barefoot with Toto on leash.)*

DOROTHY: *(Into cell phone.)* Hi!...Yes, I just got home...I'm okay. I don't see anyone around, so they're all probably inside the house. *(Lightning.)* I better get off the phone. Looks like real bad weather coming in. Bye! *(Hangs up.)* Oh, my! This wind is really strong. *(Struggles against the wind.)* Toto, this is *not* good! I can hardly walk! *(As she struggles against the wind, she puts her hand through the loop in the leash and winds the leash around the fencepost. Wind gets stronger. Lightning. Shouts.)* Uncle Henry! Auntie Em! Anyone, please help me! *(To herself.)* Oh, dear! I don't think I can make it to the storm cellar! Hang on, Toto, hang on!

*(As lights fade to black, the wind gets louder and stronger and lightning flashes.)*

Scene 2

(AT RISE: Munchkin Land. There is a bright backdrop with lots of flowers. The fence has been removed. On one side of the stage a partial view of Dorothy's house is seen. Ruby Slippers are next to the house. Dorothy is lying down near the house with Toto still strapped to her wrist. Louie and Louise enter.)

LOUIE: (Sees ruby slippers.) Say, Louise, aren't those the Witch of the East's ruby slippers?

LOUISE: Sure looks like them. I wonder what they're doing there.

LOUIE: I have a bad feeling that she's under that house.

LOUISE: I think you're right. I remember seeing her earlier and she was setting up her fruit stand.

LOUIE: Right there?

LOUISE: Right there...in that very same spot.

LOUIE: Oh, boy! Now I *know* she's under that house!

LOUISE: Think so?

LOUIE: Oh, yeah. Huh... (Thinks.) ...is this July?

LOUISE: Yes, it is. Why?

LOUIE: I think we've just seen our first *summer squash*.  
(Laughs at his joke.)

LOUISE: Shame on you! That's a terrible thing to say!

LOUIE: That's my warped sense of humor, I guess.

LOUISE: I guess so. (Pause.) But it looks like it's true!

(Louise and Louie laugh. Dorothy awakens.)

DOROTHY: (Rubbing her head.) Oh, my! What happened to me?

LOUIE: (Inspects Dorothy's head.) Looks like you got a bump there.

LOUISE: (Inspects Dorothy's head.) Yep, you got a doozey there.

*(Dorothy stands.)*

DOROTHY: *(Looking around.)* Where am I? Is this [Club Med]?

Who are you? *[Or insert another suitable vacation location.]*

LOUIE: No, it's not [Club Med]. You're in Munchkin Land.

And I'm Louie Munchkin.

LOUISE: *(To Dorothy.)* And I'm his sister, Louise Munchkin.

DOROTHY: I've heard about Munchkins, but I thought they were little people, and you're not little at all.

LOUIE: *(Proudly.)* And we are the world's tallest Munchkins.

LOUISE: *(To Dorothy, sadly.)* We used to be with the Ringling Brothers Circus, but it recently closed down, so we're out of a job.

DOROTHY: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. But, tell me, how did I get here?

LOUIE: I don't exactly know, but you made a great entrance!

LOUISE: *(To Dorothy.)* You sure did. You squashed the Witch of the East when you *dropped* in on us. *(Laughs at her joke.)*

DOROTHY: I squashed someone?!

LOUIE: Yep. Right there... *(Points.)* ...under the house.

LOUISE: *(To Dorothy.)* And you squashed her real good, too!

DOROTHY: Oh, my! I didn't mean to do it!

LOUIE: Maybe not, but her sister's going to be hopping mad.

DOROTHY: Her sister?

LOUISE: Yeah. The Witch of the West.

DOROTHY: Oh, my!

LOUIE: *(Looking at Dorothy's feet.)* Hey, I see that you're barefoot. That's good.

LOUISE: *(To Dorothy.)* Yeah, put on those ruby slippers... *(Looking around nervously.)* ...and hurry.

DOROTHY: Hurry? Why?

LOUIE: Because if the Witch of the West gets them, she will have powers beyond belief!

LOUISE: *(To Dorothy.)* That's right! It's bad enough now 'cause she's so mean, but those slippers will give her even greater power.

DOROTHY: Okay, if you say so. (*Puts on the ruby slippers.*)  
There.

LOUIE: They fit you nicely.

LOUISE: (*To Dorothy.*) And they look kind of spiffy, too!

(*Lightning. Lights blackout for an instant and then come up as the Wicked Witch of the West enters, carrying a scraggly broom.*)

WITCH: (*Evil laugh.*) Heeee-heeee-heeee! What's going on here? What's this house doing right on top of my sister's fruit stand?

LOUIE: (*Sheepishly.*) Actually...it's also right on top of your sister.

LOUISE: (*To Witch.*) It sure is. This young kid just dropped in and—

WITCH: (*Screams.*) What?! My sister is *under* that house, you say?!

DOROTHY: Uh...yes, ma'am. I'm terribly sorry, but—

WITCH: (*Shouts.*) No "buts"! You squashed my sister! (*Sees the ruby slippers.*) And you're wearing her ruby slippers?! Are you a thief?

DOROTHY: No, ma'am, I'm Dorothy, and I'm not a thief, but Louie and Louise said I should put them on.

LOUIE/LOUISE: (*Rolling their eyes.*) Right!

WITCH: Well, it looks like nothing can be done about my sister, but give me those shoes immediately, little girl!

(*Glinda enters.*)

GLINDA: Oh, I don't think so, Elfie!

WITCH: You?! What are you doing here?!

GLINDA: I heard all about the terrible accident, and I figured you'd be here looking for the ruby slippers.

WITCH: Well, you got that right.

GLINDA: Young lady, did I hear you say that your name was Dorothy?

DOROTHY: Yes, ma'am.

GLINDA: I am Glinda, the Good Witch, and do *not* give the slippers to Elfie.

LOUIE: Aren't you supposed to be in a bubble?

GLINDA: I couldn't find one big enough. They only had sub-compact ones at the bubble rental, Bubbles 'R' Us.

DOROTHY: Excuse me, Glinda, but who is Elfie?

WITCH: (*Shouts.*) I am, kid! Pay attention! There'll be a quiz later!

GLINDA: I don't think so. Why don't you just run along, Elfie. There's nothing for you here.

WITCH: (*Shouts.*) I want those slippers!

GLINDA: Sorry, you can't have them. Listen, Dorothy, she can't *take* them from you. They must be freely given to her... (*Shouts.*) ...but do not do it! Don't give her the slippers. The Munchkins are right. Those slippers will give her way too much power, and she could end up in Congress or even in the White House.

DOROTHY: All right. Sorry, Elfie, you can't have them.

WITCH: (*Fuming.*) Ooooooh! All right, Dorothy, but I'll get you for that, and then I'll get the slippers and your little dog, too! (*Looks closer at Toto.*) Never mind the dog. It looks like someone already beat me to it. But *you* are asking for it!

GLINDA: Oh, pooh to you, Elfie. If she doesn't want to give them to you, you can't have them.

WITCH: I thought we were friends, and this is how you treat me?

GLINDA: We were friends in high school, but you took the low road in life.

WITCH: Low road, schmo road...I'll still get those slippers! Mark my words! Mark my words! (*Evil laugh.*) Heee-heee-heee!

**[END OF FREEVIEW]**