

OZARK ACTORS THEATRE
2012 Summer Season
CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Dorothy Gale (female, teens-20s)—Soprano (Range: G to C). Young, innocent girl with a tendency to find trouble.

Zeke /Cowardly Lion (male, 20s-40s)— Baritone/Tenor (Range B flat to F). Farmhand and friend of Dorothy in Kansas who turns into Lion in Oz.

Hickory /Tin Man (male, 20s-40s)— Baritone/Tenor (Range B flat to G). Farmhand and friend of Dorothy who turns into Tin Man in Oz.

Hunk/Scarecrow (male or female, 20s-40s)— Baritone/Tenor (Range B flat to F sharp). Farmhand and friend of Dorothy who turns into Scarecrow in Oz.

Auntie Em/Glinda (female, 30s-50s)— Soprano (Range G to C). Em is Dorothy's Aunt who is hard-working and sturdy and although she is extremely busy, she cares very much about Dorothy. Glinda is the good witch. She is beautiful and the protector of the Munchkins and Dorothy.

Uncle Henry/Emerald City Guard (male, 30s-50s)—(Range B flat to E flat) Henry is Dorothy's Uncle. He is an honest hardworking man who owns a small farm. He is kind and also cares a great deal about Dorothy. The Emerald City Guard guards the entrance to Oz and is a bit arrogant in wielding his power, but is a softy at his core.

Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz (male or female, 40s-60s)—Marvel is a friendly traveling salesman who convinces Dorothy to go back home to her family after she runs away and turns into the powerful ruler of the Emerald City. He appears as the Wizard in Oz. Non-singing role.

Ms. Almira Gulch/Wicked Witch of the West (female, 30s-60s)—A twisted, selfish woman who owns most of the Kansas town where Henry, Em, and Dorothy live. In Oz she is the bad witch, green and mean. Dorothy's enemy. Non-singing role.

Oz Chorus (teens and adults)—this chorus will be used to fill multiple roles, including the three crows, the three trees, Oz beauticians, Oz maintenance men, Oz polishers, Oz manicurists, Winkies (the Wicked Witch's slaves/soldiers, including the Winkie General), and Flying Monkeys (including Nikko, the Fling Monkey General)

Munchkin Chorus (children)—this chorus will be used to fill multiple roles, including Munchkin Mayor, Munchkin Coroner, Munchkin Barrister, Munchkin City Fathers, Munchkin Schoolteachers, Lollypop Guild, Lullaby League, Munchkin Fiddler, Munchkin citizens, Poppies/Snowflakes, and older/taller Munchkins may also be used to fill out the Winkies/Flying Monkeys/Oz Chorus

NOISES OFF

Lloyd Dallas (male, 40s-50s)—high strung and temperamental director; passionate; suave; extremely harried; believes he's surrounded by idiots

Dotty Otley (this role has been cast)

Garry Lejeune (male, 30s)—earnest and sincere but has trouble articulating his thoughts; truly believes in The Theatre; flusters easily and cannot adapt; explosively jealous

Frederick Fellows (male, 40s)—a neurotic actor, bumbling and filled with self-doubt; sweetly dumb; incredibly sensitive

Belinda Blair (this role has been cast)

Poppy Norton-Taylor—assistant stage manager in over her head; overworked and constantly on the verge of tears; frantic

Selsdon Mowbray (male, 60s+)—well-traveled character actor; cheerful; alcoholic

Timothy Allgood (male, 20s-50s)—exhausted jack-of-all-trades company stage manager; long-suffering; sleep-deprived; forced to understudy everyone

Brooke Ashton (female, 20s)—young and sexy; lacks the mental capacity to take direction or deviate from her lines when necessary; blind as a bat without her contacts; oblivious; focused on trying to become a legitimate actress after a few years in sketchier art forms

THE DIVINERS

Note: all of these characters are good and simple folks, with the best of intentions.

Buddy Layman (male, teens-20s)—blessed with the gift of divining or finding water yet is traumatized by water after a near-drowning that left him possibly brain-damaged. Considered an idiot boy, but has a peculiar and uncanny knack for seeing simple truths.

C.C. Showers (male, 20s-30s)—a wanderer, has sworn off his former profession as a preacher. He befriends Buddy and does good works in Zion, yet responds with anger when the townspeople pressure him to become their preacher.

Jennie Mae Layman (female, teens-20s)—Buddy's protective sister. She falls in love with C.C. as the two work to get Buddy to overcome his fear of water.

Ferris Layman (male, 40s-50s)—Buddy's father, a mechanic, cannot bring himself to do what's best for Buddy

Norma Henshaw (female, 30s-50s)—one of the most devout townspeople, strongly pressures the unwilling C.C. to be Zion's preacher; owns the town's dry goods store.

Goldie Short (female, 30s-50s)—another of the townspeople, pressures C.C. to take up preaching again; owns the Dine-Away-Café.

Basil Bennett (male, 40s-50s)—a farmer and Zion's "doctor," prescribes a bath for Buddy's itches.

Luella Bennett (female, 40s-50s)—Basil's wife, a woman of doubtful faith.

Melvin Wilder (male, 20s)—a farmhand working for Basil

Dewey Maples (male, 20s)—a farmhand working for Basil; in love with Darlene.

Darlene Henshaw (female, teens-20s)—the niece of the devout Norma Henshaw; conforms to the strict beliefs of her guardian.