

Character Descriptions-September, 2023

Audition prep is **Tues Sept. 12**, followed by auditions on **Wed. Sept. 13**. All song lyrics, scripts & specific dances will be on the website by Friday, September 1. **Kids may audition for 1 or 2 roles. GO FOR IT!**

Munchkin Leads: (B group) *Male or Female*. Must sing & dance well. Loud and expressive in a funny Munchkin voice. **Mayor, Barrister, Coroner, and a group of City Fathers**

Munchkin #1 & 2: (3rd gr. male or female) Loud, expressive in funny Munchkin voice. Must sing & dance well.

Lollipop Guild Boys: (A & B Boys) Sing loud & have expressive funny faces while dancing at the same time.

Lullaby League Girls: (A group girls) Need simple ballet training, cute smile, and sing on pitch at the same time.

Rainbow Dancers: (B group) Girls that dance well. Please audition for Munchkin leads. No auditions for this.

Toto: (B group, male or female)- Dorothy's beloved dog; energetic role, and able to bark and whine with expression. We are looking for a mature child who is on the smaller side. Must pay attention well, and take direction well. They will attend ALL rehearsals with Dorothy, and cannot be afraid of heights, as they will be flying during the Tornado Scene.

Flying Monkeys: (B group **Boys**) Excellent behavior, attendance, and are prepared on their songs & dances throughout the rehearsal process. Boys are chosen in mid-November, before tickets go on sale. No auditions needed. See *Flight Disclaimer for additional requirements below*.

Flying Jitterbugs: (2-4th gr. **Girls**) Excellent behavior, attendance, and are prepared on their songs & dances throughout the rehearsal process. Girls are chosen in mid-November, before tickets go on sale. No auditions needed. See *Flight Disclaimer for additional requirements below*.

Gate Keeper: (7-10th gr. female) Loud, assertive, expressive voice; energetic, snappy, sharp character who greets Dorothy and her friends before they enter "the gates of Oz." She must sing and dance well. We would like them to tap, but that is not a deal breaker.

Three Trees: (C group, male or female) Funny, entertaining scene with Tin Man, Dorothy, and Scarecrow. Loud expressive voices, and can display comedic timing.

Nikko & Tikko: (C group, male) They live in the castle with The Wicked Witch, and are the Commanders of all Monkeys. They have scenes with her, but do not speak. They react and respond with "ape-like" noises, and physical gestures. See *Flight Disclaimer for additional requirements below*.

Dorothy Gale: (8-12th gr. female) She needs to play Dorothy as approximately 13-15 years old. She is curious, kind-hearted, naïve, compassionate, determined, expressive, strong-willed, in search of something more. She sings many songs and has many lines to memorize. She needs to be able to hold harmony well. See *Flight Disclaimer for additional requirements below*.

Glinda: (8-12th gr female) She guides Dorothy in her journey in Oz; sweet, full of wisdom and grace. Glinda is "The Good witch". She is everything the Wicked Witch is not. Soprano singer who flies in on a bubble. See *Flight Disclaimer for additional requirements below*.

Wicked Witch: (10-12th gr.) A cruel and evil villain who is spiteful without any kindness in her heart, who is out for revenge for the death of her sister. Must have a wicked cackle, and over the top stage presence. See *Flight Disclaimer for additional requirements below*.

Almira Gultch: (8-12th gr. female). She is the pre-cursor to the Wicked Witch. She is just like her; snippy, rude, cold hearted, and intolerant to others. She feels she is better than everyone around her, and dislikes Toto. See *Flight Disclaimer for additional requirements below*.

- Aunt Em:** (D group, female) A hard-working farmers wife who is firm with a no-nonsense approach to life. She takes care of Dorothy, and does have a warm, motherly side to her. Does NOT sing.
- Scarecrow/Hunk:** (9-12th gr. male) A very energetic, physical, cheerful, comedic actor. He has great body control while portraying a very clumsy character. He must be able to display comedic timing and wisdom. Sings in tenor voice, can hold harmony well, and should move and dance well.
- Tin Man/Hickory:** (9 –12th gr. male) A kind-hearted, compassionate, empathetic romantic. He sings in a high tenor voice, can hold harmony well, and should move and dance well.
- Lion/Zeke:** (D group Male) Cowardly crybaby and cuddly actor with excellent comic timing. He has a mix of swagger and cowardice. Sings in a baritone range, can hold harmony, and moves well.
- Uncle Henry:** (D group, male) Hard working farmer who is gentle, caring, and fatherly. Does not sing.
- Winkie General:** (D group, male) He lives in the castle with the Wicked Witch, and is the Commander of all the Winkie soldiers. Loud voice, has a few lines with WW, and leads “*Ding Dong Witch is Dead*”
- The Wizard/Marvel:** (D group, male) He will play Professor Marvel in Act 1, and The Wizard in Act 2. Fast-talking, falsely powerful, loud character; the older father-figure with an eccentric flair, yet a con-man with a good heart. Professor Marvel befriends Dorothy before the tornado takes her to Oz.
- Four Lead Crows:** (D group, female) Energetic, loud expressive voice, and can display comedic timing. They have a short scene with Dorothy and Scarecrow.
- Dance Troop:** (C & D group, female) Strong dancers that will do advanced choreography in 2-3 dances.
- Flying Crows:** (D group, girls) Have excellent behavior, attendance, and are prepared on their songs & dances throughout the rehearsal process. Girls are chosen in mid-November before tickets go on sale. No auditions needed. See *Flight Disclaimer for additional requirements below.*
- 2 Vultures:** (C group, male or female) Energetic, loud expressive voice, and can display comedic timing. They have a short scene before Dorothy, Scarecrow, and TinMan meet the Lion.

Flight Disclaimer

For the safety of the actors, our Flying Director, and the flight crew, all roles that fly have a weight requirement of *150 pounds or less*. There are many props (Glinda's bubble, a broom, a bike, a balloon) that these characters fly with-- that add additional weight to be lifted, so this requirement is very important for safety. In addition, any child or teen that flies cannot have a fear of heights.

We understand that this weight requirement can be a sensitive subject, and we want to make sure that this requirement is communicated in advance, well before auditions. This is the flying standard for all Flying companies, not something that ESCAPE creates, only something that we legally must enforce.

Due to the nature of this topic, we ask parents to stay involved & aware of their child's eating and exercise habits leading up to the auditions and show. Your child's mental and physical health is our top priority, and we care about them. If you see any signs of behaviors that appear to be unusual or intense around eating/exercise as they prepare for auditions, please reach out to Kayla Burson; one of our Choreographers and a Nutritionist who has been trained in examining these behaviors.

While we are very excited about this upcoming production, we realize that at the end of the day, a role is not worth jeopardizing a performer's relationship with food or their body. Any flying roles will be weighed at Callbacks, on September 27, and will need to be close to the flying requirements.

We are so excited about our upcoming production of ***The Wizard of Oz***, and are thrilled to have your child or teen be a part of the magic!