DINNER IN OZ

Adapted from the novel,
"The Wizard of Oz," by L. Frank Baum

By Kandie S. Kelley

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Trapped in Kansas and longing for a mall, Dorothy and Toto are suddenly whirled off stage, right into the audience, where a yellow brick road weaves in and out of the tables and munchkins are serving food.

In this outrageous version of L. Frank. Baum's lovable book, the Tin Man has frozen in front of a computer, and the Cowardly Lion stands on a guest's chair to escape a mouse. As the plot unfolds, we eventually meet the great Wizard of Oz, a bumbling baffoon, and a witch who speaks in rhymes and commands a cabal of talking creatures.

A few surprise guests also attend this humorous and heartwarming adaptation, which promises to involve, entertain, and delight any audience. As Dorothy clicks her silver shoes and happily returns home, all will be smiling and laughing as they scrape their dessert dishes clean.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 m, 7 w, 15 flexible. Much doubling possible. The cast can vary by the number of munchkins and winged monkeys.)

AUNTIE EM
UNCLE HENRY
DOROTHY
TOTO
GOOD WITCH OF THE NORTH
MUNCHKIN #1
MUNCHKIN #2
MUNCHKIN #3
MUNCHKIN #4
MUNCHKIN #5
MUNCHKIN WAITER / WAITRESS
SCARECROW
TIN MAN
WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST
THE COWARDLY LION
WILDCAT
QUEEN MOUSE
MOUSE #1
MOUSE #2
MRS. HIGGS
MR. HIGGS
GUARDIAN
SOLDIER
WOLF
CROW
WIZARD OF OZ
WINGED MONKEY #1
WINGED MONKEY #2
GLINDA, THE GOOD WITCH OF THE SOUTH

Doubling possibilities: Em and Henry as Mr. and Mrs. Higgs; Good Witch of the North as Witch of the South; Munchkins as Winged Monekys, Wolf, and Crow.

SETTING

In this production, the stage is set, and so is the auditorium. The yellow brick road weaves in and around the tables, and the munchkins serve food in between scenes. In one corner are haystacks and a post for the scarecrow, in another trees and flowers.

PROPS

Dust rag, newspaper, silver shoes on stuffed "legs", haystacks, pole for Scarecrow, computer, oil can, poppies, keys, lipstick, camera, plate of food, sunglasses for all, Walkman, golden cap, glass of water, bag, orange, plastic heart on a necklace chain, bottle of elixir, apron, and signs that read, “Glinda - this way” or “Take a right to Glinda’s” etc. Optional fog machine.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: A drab room with a bed, a cupboard, and a rocking chair. DOROTHY sits on the edge of the stage with TOTO by her side. AUNTIE EM dusts. UNCLE HENRY sits in the rocking chair, reading a newspaper. Stage LIGHTS low. Auditorium LIGHTS out.)

DOROTHY: Look at this! Nothing for miles! Just the great gray prairie! No malls! No movie theater! *(Turning to EM.)* No friends!
EM: Now, dear ...
DOROTHY: Auntie Em, I am so bored. Beyond bored!
EM: Read a book.
HENRY: Only boring people get bored.
DOROTHY: What do you think, Toto? Do you want some new friends, too? *(TOTO barks.)* One of these days we are going to get out of Kansas for good. No more prairies. No more doing nothing -

(The WIND picks up, and HENRY puts down his newspaper and comes to the edge of the stage to look at the sky. More WIND.)

HENRY: There's a cyclone coming, Em.
EM: Oh, dear.
HENRY: Maybe now you won't be so bored, Dorothy. This wind oughta blow the boredom right out of you!
DOROTHY: You've seen one cyclone, you've seen them all.

(The WIND begins to HOWL loudly.)

HENRY: This looks like a nasty one, Em. I'll go tie up the horses and tend to the cows. You and Dorothy get on down to the cellar where you'll be safe.

(HE runs offstage. EM looks off the edge of the stage. The WIND HOWLS even louder.)

EM: Quick, Dorothy! Run for the cellar!

(EM runs offstage in the opposite direction of HENRY. DOROTHY begins to follow, but TOTO leaps offstage and runs in between the tables in the audience. Dorothy chases Toto as the WIND picks up. Finally, Dorothy catches Toto and brings him to the bed on stage. The storm is now raging! CURTAIN.)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: SOUND effects of storm stop immediately when CURTAIN opens to beautiful flowers, trees, and bird songs. Stage LIGHTS on high, and auditorium LIGHTS are on as well. DOROTHY is on her bed, terrified, clutching TOTO. FIVE MUNCHKINS and the GOOD WITCH OF THE NORTH come from the back of the auditorium. The Munchkins are as afraid as Dorothy. They cower behind various chairs in the audience. A pair of legs wearing silver shoes juts out from the bottom of the stage. Haystacks in the back left corner of the auditorium are propped next to the SCARECROW, who should be inanimate and unlit.)

DOROTHY: *(Standing and looking around in awe before venturing offstage.)* Where are we, Toto?

(TOTO barks and the MUNCHKINS whisper among themselves. The WITCH OF THE NORTH approaches DOROTHY.)

WITCH OF THE NORTH: *(Bowing.)* Welcome, most dignified sorceress, to the land of the Munchkins! We are so grateful to you for having killed the Wicked Witch of the East, and for setting our people free.

End of Freeview

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