

PRESS RELEASE



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DATE OF ISSUE: MONDAY 30 JANUARY 2012

JUST ONE WEEK TO THE WIZ!

There is just one week left before the curtain goes up on Yeovil College's much anticipated production of 'The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical'.

There were rave reviews following last year's highly praised production of 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street', so expectations are already high.

Inspired by 'The Wizard of Oz', 'The Wiz' brings L. Frank Baum's fantastical story into the 21st century with a lively score of Motown, gospel and soul music and a modern, urban setting.

It tells the story of Dorothy (Melissa Wroe), who feels trapped by life in rural Kansas and dreams of places beyond the horizon. Swept away during a tornado, she finds herself in the weird and wonderful land of Oz. On the advice of the Addaperle, the Good Witch of the North (Amy Batty), she puts on the Wicked Witch of the East's magical silver shoes and takes to the Road of Yellow Brick. With the Scarecrow (Lucy Warr), Tin Man (Zade Milnes), Lion (Andy Cannon) and her faithful dog Toto (Stefen Mounter), she finds dazzles and danger in the fantastical land. But will she learn to believe and find her way home?

Former Gryphon School pupil Melissa Wroe (19) of Yeovil won the part of Dorothy last year despite being on crutches at the time. She said *"I'd broken my ankle before the auditions, so originally I wasn't even going to try out for the show. My best friend Lucy [the Scarecrow] really wanted to audition, though, and she was really nervous, so I ended up going along to boost her confidence. I did my best but didn't think I was in with a chance, so I was delighted when I got the part, especially because I'd be performing alongside Lucy! Singing soul music has been challenging, but the songs sound absolutely amazing. We performed at the Further Education awards at the start of January and got a fantastic reaction from the audience. I'm really excited about going on stage next week, but also nervous and kind of sad that it's all coming to an end. I was lucky enough to be part of last year's production, playing Johanna in Sweeney Todd, so I feel privileged to be back at the Octagon."*



Director and Performing Arts lecturer Ben Woof said *"After four months of very hard work, the cast and crew have reached a peak in their performance and are more than ready to take to the stage with this fantastic show. Despite a tiring schedule, the students have put a phenomenal amount of effort into the rehearsals and it shows in their*

performances. Their energy levels seem boundless and we're sure that the audiences will be thrilled by what they see at the Octagon next week."

'The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical' is on at the Octagon Theatre, Yeovil, from Wednesday 8 February to Friday 10 February 2012, starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions). Call 01935 422884 or visit www.octagon-theatre.co.uk to book your tickets now!



... ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Photographs – Reproduced courtesy of the Western Gazette

Photo 1 – The stars of the show. (Clockwise, from top left) Melissa Wroe (19) of Yeovil (Dorothy), Zade Milnes (18) of Yeovil (Tin Man), Lucy Warr (18) of Yeovil (Scarecrow), Stefen Mounter (17) of South Petherton (Toto) and Andy Cannon (16) of Yeovil (Lion).

Photo 2 – The cast of 'The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical'