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Portland Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

Jefferson High Presents "The Wiz"

Dorothy, Toto and The Wiz will once again sing and dance their way across Jefferson's stage in this fall's production of the William F. Brown Charlie Small's musical adaptation of the beloved Wonderful Wizard of Oz, by Frank L. Baum. The show will open Nov. 29, and continues its run Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Starring local, well-known gospel soloist, Goldie Irby, as "the Wiz" and Shalanda Brown, Jefferson student body president, as "Dorothy", this play combines the talents of all four of Jefferson's performing arts departments: theatre, music, dance and television. Several members of the Jefferson Dancers, the Jefferson Acting Ensemble and the Jeffersound Jazz Band are participating in the production under the direction of David Smith-English, with music direction by David Bryan.



Every aspect of this show is calculated to delight, surprise and engage the audience in a fanciful, mysterious and toe-tapping exhibition of talent. Musical numbers like "Ease on Down the Road" and "Believe in Yourself", together with jazz and African choreography by Bruce Smith, founder and artistic director of the Northwest African American Ballet, and Felice Bean, jazz dance instructor at Jefferson, are sure to draw the audience into the magic of The Wiz. Casting began last spring at a two-day audition and was completed this fall after a second round of call-backs. Dancers, football players, wrestlers, acting students, musicians all put themselves on the line, exposing their talents and strengths for evaluation by directors and choreographers. Recommendations were made, roles filled and refilled, until finally, everyone clicked with their char-

acter and rehearsals could begin in earnest. Other cast members include Damon McPherson, State Wrestling Champion, as the "Scarecrow", Kristin Warren as the "Cowardly Lion", Trent Berry as the "Tinman", Salinda Parks as "Glina", Antonia Hill as "Addaperle" and Christie Blackmon as "Evillene."

Dozens of other Demo students will appear as munchkins, crows, strangers, poppies, monkeys, Emerald City citizens, field mice and winkies. The yellow

brick road, in this version, comes to life along with the famous Kansas tornado manned by a clutch of dancers. Other special effects are being created and orchestrated by Brian M. Biggs, with assistance from television department head Lennie Edwards, who also stars as the "Gatekeeper", and who will design special video effects. Technical director Glen Jacobs will oversee the work of lighting designer Howard Waldron and sound designer Jeff Moore, both of whom have extensive experience in local theatre, and property manager Jim Cowing. Sets and costumes have been designed by professional designer Francisco Reynders. Reynders is the founder of the Oregon Mime Theater and has enchanted audiences for many years with his productions for such companies as the Portland Opera and the Pacific Ballet

Theater whose "Nutcracker" set is a Reynders creation. He has worked for the American Dance Theater, the Portland Repertory Theater, the Ballet West, the Jefferson Dancers, the Hawaii Ballet among others.

His set designs are being constructed by Jefferson's stagecraft class under the direction of Glen Jacobs, with costume construction under the capable and experienced hands of JHS resident costumer Kristin Jager with help from seamstress Rosemary Cornely.

Makeup designs and masks are the responsibility of Diane Trapp, professional makeup artist and owner/operator of Illusionary Designs. She has worked as resident make up and wig designer for the Eugene Opera for five years and has produced designs for the Arizona Ballet, the Pennsylvania Children's Theatre, the Boise Ballet and the Musical Company among others.

Music for the show will be supplied by Jefferson's own Jazz Band under the direction of David Bryan, and with the assistance of percussionist Dee Wiggins, both of whom are well-known in the local music scene, having performed with numerous professional groups in classical, jazz and commercial styles. Several professional string-players will accompany the band.

The Wiz was last produced here in 1982 and sold out for five audience-wowing performances. This version promises all the color and excitement of its predecessor. Don't miss it!

Tickets may be purchased at Jefferson High School: General Admission \$6 for adults, \$5 for students with ID and seniors. Reserved seats are \$8 and may be purchased at GI JOES Ticket Masters outlets or at Jefferson.

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Program Discourages Youth Gang Participation

"Gangs Are No Good" is the strong message Marysville Elementary students will hear at a 9:30 assembly Friday (Nov. 16) designed to show children how to pick good friends and positive activities. Ventriloquist dummy "Rudy O'Riley" joins students in Grades K-5 in learning to say "No," "Go" and "Tell" when confronted with possible gang involvement. Magic, ventriloquism and audience participation help drive home the messages that friends influence who you will become and that there are ways to choose the right friends and activities.

The gang-prevention program, designed by Portland School District's Student Discipline Programs in conjunction with the Portland Gang Task Force, is part of a strategy developed to target young children who are increasingly exposed to gang mentality and behavior.

"Gangs Are No good" assemblies and "Theft Talk," a theft-prevention program, are two examples of Portland Public Schools' efforts to build decision-making and friendship-building skills in young students.



THE WIZ
 A JEFFERSON PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION
 Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1, 6-7-8
 JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
 5210 North Kerby Street
 8:00 p.m.
 Tickets: General Admission \$6.00 Adults, \$5.00 Students/Seniors
 Reserved Seats \$8.00 at GI JOES Ticket Masters
 For further information, call 280-5180

Upcoming Concert Features New Artists

Nastvans recording artist and local sensation has been added to the best dance party of the year. Snap the U. Know and K&L's members will perform in concert at the Alford Ballroom on December 1, 1990.

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B.U.F. Offers Saturday School

The Black United Front Saturday School Program opened recently, offering children the opportunity to learn about African American culture as well as receiving assistance with reading, math skills, and homework. Open to children in grades 1-6, the classes are two hours long and take place on Saturdays, beginning at 10 a.m. at St. Andrew's Community Center, YWCA in Northeast, and Columbia Villa. Parents or guardians should register children at any of these locations. Saturday School is free of charge.