



press release

Nashville Opera presents the iconic *The Wizard of Oz* on July 19th

- Perfect for the whole family - includes plenty of audience participation
- 2 showings: 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM
- Historic Franklin Theatre - 419 Main Street in Downtown Franklin, TN
- Tickets start at \$15
- Call Franklin Theatre (615) 538-2076 or reserve online: <http://bit.ly/1xYmiX6>.
- Sponsored by Jackson National Life Insurance Company

June 12, 2015 (NASHVILLE, TN) - There's no place like... the Franklin Theatre on Sunday, July 19 when Nashville Opera presents a rare theater screening of *The Wizard of Oz*. Dress up as your favorite character from the movie, participate in the experience by singing your favorite songs, and play along with a goody bag filled with props. The screening starts with an onstage costume contest followed by a vocal warm-up with members of the Nashville Opera Ensemble. Two performances: 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM at the historic Franklin Theatre at 419 Main Street in Franklin. VIP Balcony or up-front Cabaret seats are \$20 and reserved Orchestra tickets are \$15. Reservations are available by calling the Franklin Theatre Box Office at (615) 538-2076 or online at <http://bit.ly/1xYmiX6>. Perfect for the whole family!

“There are only a handful of films in history of cinema that are so well known and universally beloved,” said John Hoomes, Nashville Opera’s General and Artistic Director. “Most people, however, have only had the chance to experience *The Wizard of Oz* on the small screen. Seeing this movie as it was intended, on the large screen at the state-of-the-art Franklin Theater, promises to be an awesome and extraordinary experience, especially since there will be tons of audience involvement and participation throughout the screening.”

The Wizard of Oz premiered in 1939 and became one of the most popular films in history. It stars Judy Garland as Dorothy, and a supporting cast which includes Ray Bolger, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Frank Morgan, Billie Burke, and Margaret Hamilton as the Wicked Witch. Notable for its use of Technicolor, the film was MGM’s most expensive production at that time. It was nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture, but lost to another classic film, *Gone with the Wind*.

Nashville Opera, Tennessee’s largest professional opera company, is dedicated to creating legendary productions and programs. Among the most successful regional companies in the US, Nashville Opera has presented three different world premieres since its inception in 1981. Main stage performances are presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the Noah Liff Opera Center, playing to over 13,000 people annually. Nashville Opera’s extensive education and outreach touring program, celebrating its 20th year, reaches over 25,000 students throughout Middle Tennessee. These projects are supported by generous grants from the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Judy and Noah Liff Foundation, the Nashville Opera Guild, and many other corporate and individual supporters.

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