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BERKSHIRE

THEATRE GROUP

Press Contacts:

Amy Moorby

Press Manager

(413) 448-8084 x15

amy@berkshiretheatre.org

Becky Brighenti

Director of Marketing & Public Relations

(413) 448-8084 x11

becky@berkshiretheatre.org

For Immediate Release, Please: July 2021

Berkshire Theatre Group's Well-Loved Community Production is Back

The Wizard of Oz A Musical Adventure to the Magical Emerald City

Pittsfield, MA – Berkshire Theatre Group's extensive education program is now serving 11,000 school children and this year our well-loved community production is back! *The Wizard of Oz* runs Friday, July 23 through Sunday, August 15 outside under The Big Tent in the parking lot of The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, MA. The production is directed by E. Gray Simons III (BTG: *Christmas Carol, Babes in Arms, Oliver, Aesop's Network, Alice in Wonderland*), with musical direction by Jacob Kerzner and choreography by Isadora Wolfe.

Relive the classic tale of four unlikely friends on the adventure of a lifetime. Join America's original heroine Dorothy as she leads her friends the Cowardly Lion, Tin Man and Scarecrow on a journey down the yellow brick road to the magical Emerald City. Set in Kansas during the 20th century, this brand new, reimagined musical adventure is full of world travelers, festive carnivals and spectacular sideshows and features the classic songs, "Follow the Yellow Brick Road," "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead," and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

BTG's Administrative Director of Education, Allison Rachele Bayles, says, "We are thrilled to be able to bring back theatre for families this summer with the production of *The Wizard of Oz* and

our BTG PLAYS! summertime classes. When thinking about Oz, I am reminded about the fundamentals of what theatre can do for the community and our young people. We are reminded to have heart, support our friendships, have courage.”

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org or by calling (413) 997-4444. Ticket office hours are every day from 12pm–5pm, or on any performance day from 12pm until curtain. BTG is offering a 10% discount on tickets for all front-line workers. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

At The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield Outside Under the Big Tent

The Wizard of Oz

by Frank L. Baum

with music and lyrics of the

MGM motion picture score by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

background music by Herbert Stothart

book adaptation by John Kane from the motion picture screenplay

directed by E. Gray Simons III

music direction by Jacob Kerzner

choreography by Isadora Wolfe

The Colonial Theatre

Outside Under the Big Tent

at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

Preview: Friday, July 23 at 7pm

Opening Night: Saturday, July 24 at 7pm

Closing: Sunday, August 15 at 2pm

Special Note: There is no press night for *The Wizard Of Oz*

Tickets: Adult: \$50, Child (16 and Under): \$25

Safety Measures

BTG has outlined procedures and protocols in a manner that is consistent with state and local mandated health and safety guidelines. Contactless ticket scanning will be done for patrons at their point of entry. Free-standing hand sanitizer stations will be placed at various locations throughout the space. Non-vaccinated patrons are advised to continue to wear face masks and to continue distancing as recommended by the CDC. Patrons will be seated according to party size. Patrons who are not feeling well should contact BTG’s box office to discuss rescheduling options.

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide-ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 11,000 Berkshire County schoolchildren annually. In July 2020, Berkshire Theatre was the first company in the United States to earn approval from Actors' Equity Association to produce a musical (*Godspell*) in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.