

## *The Wizard of Oz*

We're happy that you have decided to tryout for *Oz* and become part of what we consider the Opera House Players family. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into each and every one of these productions, but we hesitate to call it work, since we place a great deal of emphasis on making every part of it enjoyable.

The first bit of information that we want to pass along is the importance of commitment to the show. We can't enjoy ourselves if preparation for the show is progressing slower than what we would expect. Part of what makes these shows enjoyable for all is the feeling of accomplishment we get from putting on a professional show. To that end, trying to bring people who miss practices back up to speed hurts us all. We've heard all the excuses in the past... "There's a party I decided I want to go to so I won't be at rehearsal", or "I know all my part so it won't hurt if I skip tonight" Even if you know your part, if you aren't there, you are hurting others.

Because of the nature of this show, we will endeavor to schedule practices so that all people will not need to attend every night of practice. The show lends itself to "sectional" practices very well. For this reason, it becomes that much more important that you attend all practices for which you are scheduled.

As we near production time, it will become necessary for all cast members to attend each practice. Because of the age level of students involved, we will work to keep practices as early as possible, and should end most practices by 9:30pm. However, the final two weeks of rehearsal will certainly run somewhat longer if there are any details that require extra work. It would be rare to expect any rehearsal to extend past 10:30pm.

As enjoyable as it is, this type of schedule does place extra stress on the students, and adults, involved. Scheduling time for homework and at home chores is something better worked out in advance, instead of letting it become a problem later. While there is often time for homework during rehearsals, as well as people willing to help, it can't always be counted on. It is often helpful to let their teachers know of their involvement in the show. Not only is this good advertising <grin> but often the teacher can give you advanced warning of special projects that may require additional time for the student.

Now on to some important information for the adults. With the size of the cast involved in this show there will be a need for more help in show preparation on all fronts. As much as the Director and production crew enjoy this, we can't do it all! Even though your ability to help out will not in any way affect our decisions on who to cast (We only ask people to do what they enjoy.. That's what makes it fun!) any help you can give us is greatly appreciated. Don't feel like you have to be an expert in any particular area. If you can hold a board while someone else measures and puts things together, or do some searching for that perfect prop among family and friends, you're right for the task! Here's the short lowdown on what we need for the crews:

**Set Construction** - The actual building of set pieces. We have people who can dream what they want it to look like, and people who can figure out how to make it happen, we need people to help put it all together on the occasional weekend. The sooner the set is together, the sooner the show comes together!

**Set Detailing** - Once things are together, we need to add the magic that makes things look like they should. This is part painting, part sewing, and part standing back and giving things a critical eye.

**Show Promotion** - Just what it sounds like. How can we get the word out about the show. Articles for papers, putting up posters, and finding other areas where we can promote the show.

**Costumes** - With this many people in the cast, there will always be a need for anyone who can hold a needle or run a sewing machine. Costumes will need to be altered to fit the various characters, made from scratch, or found.

**Props** - There are a few items that will be needed for this show that we will need help in locating. It's amazing what people have in their attic if you're willing to look or ask. Then someone needs to be in charge of where they will be kept, and make sure that they are there and ready for every show.

**Show Production** - We will need some additional help making sure that things go smoothly during rehearsals and back stage during the show. This will be those select few that can be there and make things go smoothly. This show has LOTS of technical details that will require some additional backstage help.

**Ushering** - We hope to have some (if not ALL!) sellout shows for this production. There is a great deal of interest out there. It helps ease our mind if we know from the beginning that we can count on some people to be there early to help people to their seat for any or all of the nights.

**Youth Supervision (Rehearsal)** - Kids will be kids, and Directing or acting does not allow time for babysitting. Someone to keep them where they need to be, somewhat quiet, and out of general mischief would be appreciated.

**Lights** - We have people who handle various lighting and special effects during the shows, but we always use help in setting things up correctly. Anyone with interest in the technical end is strongly encouraged to let us know of their skills.

**House Preparation** - The Opera House is a wonderful building with a great history and a wonderful new renovation. Before each show, especially when we expect large crowds, we need people to putter around with cleaning supplies and clean up the place so we can be proud when that sellout crowd arrives.

**Pit Orchestra** - If you've got that special musical talent that could make you part of our Pit Orchestra, this is a show that will let you really shine. We'd love to get to the place where we need tryouts for the Pit!

**Make-Up** - With this many cast members, getting everyone in make-up for each production will require some help. Anyone who already knows how to put on eyeliner (I salute you...) is qualified.

**Advertising** - We need to get posters to all surrounding communities. A hand delivered article and/or poster gets more attention than one in the mail. Some communities have free advertising available on cable channels, or community notices, including church bulletins. Finding out where it is best to get the word out is a job for all of us.

**Programs** - This is more than what that theater patron holds in their hand, although that is a big part of it. Each cast member will need to turn in a Bio (biography) and many will need help in how things should be phrased. The program also needs sponsors. Each fall we talk to the surrounding community businesses to get their financial help in producing the show. Every donation counts. A personal visit from a frequent patron is the best way for us to gain their support. We have expended almost all of our funds helping the renovation. This year more than ever we will need the support of our patrons.