



AMANDA HARRISON

flies

AT CARNEGIE HALL

Eight shows a week, brandishing her broomstick, Amanda Harrison as Elphaba brings Act One of **WICKED** to a spectacular end. 'Defying Gravity,' Elphaba's triumphant song, sung high above the actors below, is a high point of the musical in more ways than one.

'It's always an exhilarating moment way up there,' Amanda says, 'an adrenaline rush that gets me every time. But singing at Carnegie Hall on the day Barack Obama becomes President: well, I'll be flying; that's got to be one of the highlights of my career!'

On 20 January, the Presidential inauguration day, Amanda, along with other Australian stars such as Gabriella Climi, Jimmy Barnes, Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, Simon Tedeschi, David Campbell and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, will perform at Carnegie Hall in *Australia Plays Broadway*, part of the **G'Day USA: Australia Week 2009** promotion.

The *Australia Plays Broadway* concert is part of the two-week long **G'Day USA: Australia Week 2009** celebrations to be held across Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York from 13 to 24 January.



At Carnegie Hall Amanda will perform *The Wizard and I* from **WICKED**. 'Carnegie Hall holds a special place in every performer's dreams,' she says. 'It's where Frank Sinatra won his fame with the Bobbysoxers. It's where the great jazz musicians have staged memorable concerts. Pavarotti, Bowie, Elton John, the superstars love to perform at Carnegie Hall. Now I'm going to be standing on that famous stage. It will be an unforgettable night in my career.'

'No one in music theatre in this country can give a role edge and attitude like Amanda,' **WICKED** Producer John Frost has said. 'She was the spitfire wild child Oz, in *We Will Rock You* - she took out the Helpmann for Best Supporting Actor in the role - and in

the original London cast, in the West End, she played the Teen Queen, Madonna.

'The following year she was nominated for two Green Room awards, for Ellie in *Leader of the Pack* and Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*' So she can act, but she also has a powerful voice with a great range, and the ability to emotionally move an audience. The two don't always go together.

'Above all she has star quality. She can mix it with the best.'

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