



MEDIA RELEASE

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## WICKED CELEBRATES 1000 PERFORMANCES

The multi-award winning smash hit musical **WICKED** marks yet another milestone tomorrow when it celebrates its 1000<sup>th</sup> performance in Australia. Recently opened at the Festival Centre in Adelaide, **WICKED** has had phenomenally successful seasons in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, and moves to Perth's Burswood Theatre in June.

"It is almost three years to the day since it began rehearsals, and from the very first performance we knew **WICKED** was something special," said John Frost, Australian Co-Producer of **WICKED**. "I am thrilled that this wonderful show has reached the rare milestone of 1000 shows, and has been enjoyed by 1.4 million people in Australia. Right from the start this show has been an overwhelming hit. Audiences have been captivated by the soaring ballads, the spectacular sets, costumes and lighting, and been drawn into the emotional richness of this beautiful story."

Eleven of the original cast members are still performing in **WICKED**, including Lucy Durack (as Glinda), Jemma Rix (initially standby and now playing the role of Elphaba) and Maggie Kirkpatrick (Madam Morrible). There are also 11 original crew members who have been with the show since the beginning. Lucy Durack can't quite believe she has been with **WICKED** for 1000 shows, "I feel very proud to be an original cast member. I also feel an enormous sense of gratitude to be a part of **WICKED** and humbled to belong to something that Australia has taken to its heart and supported with such fervour. Audiences have really embraced musical theatre in the past few years and I feel lucky to have experienced that first hand."

**WICKED** has broken numerous records since it first opened at Melbourne's Regent Theatre in June, 2008. It concluded its record-breaking Melbourne run in August 2009, then opened at Sydney's Capitol Theatre on 5 September, 2009. The Sydney season finished on 26 September 2010, another record-breaking run of over one year.

**WICKED** has grossed over \$125 million in ticket sales in Australia. It broke the Melbourne box office record taking a phenomenal \$1.5 million in ticket sales in just one day after it opened in Melbourne on 12 July 2008. It secured an economic impact of 126 million for the Victorian economy during its 13 month season in Melbourne, making it arguably the most successful musical ever staged in Melbourne. In October 2009 **WICKED** smashed the box office record at Sydney's Capitol Theatre grossing \$1,473,775.70 in one week. And the Brisbane season closed on 2 April 2011 having been seen by more than 155,000 people in just 10 weeks.



Internationally, WICKED is unique, a phenomenon, the winner of 35 major awards including the Grammy® Award, three Tony® Awards and six Helpmann® Awards. Currently in its 8<sup>th</sup> year on Broadway, WICKED's North American and international companies have cumulatively grossed over \$2.2 billion and have been seen by nearly 28 million people worldwide. Over 5.5 million people have seen WICKED on Broadway since it began performances October 2003.

WICKED is the untold story of the witches of Oz. Long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. One, born with emerald green skin, is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. WICKED tells the enchanting story of how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.

WICKED, with (music and lyrics) by Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, Academy Award-winner for *Pocahontas* and *The Prince of Egypt*) and book by Winnie Holzman (*My So Called Life*, *Once And Again* and *thirtysomething*), is produced by Marc Platt, Universal Pictures, The Araca Group, Jon B Platt and David Stone, with John Frost as Australian Co-Producer.

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