



# THE BROADWAY MUSICAL WICKED

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

John Frost, the Australian Co-Producer of the world's hottest musical, **WICKED**, is flying to Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and London for meetings with his co-producers and the creative team before auditions for the Australian production begin in December.

**WICKED**, described by The Washington Post as 'a breathtaking success story of a magnitude not witnessed since the peak years of The Phantom of the Opera,' opens in Melbourne's Regent Theatre in July 2008.

John Frost will meet Academy Award – winner Stephen Schwartz (music and lyrics) to discuss a visit to Australia in January 2008 after the December auditions and before the release in Australia of the million- seller Grammy Award winning cast recording.


With combined box office sales of \$US 1/2 billion, and 15 major awards including the Grammy Award and three Tony Awards, **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 story of how these two become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.

Gregory Maguire's best selling 1995 novel **WICKED** on which the musical is based, has sold more than three million copies – two and a half million since **WICKED** opened on Broadway in 2003. Harper Collins will release a new Australian edition in the New Year.


John Frost said today, '**WICKED** spans the demographic. It brings in people who've never been to the theatre, and it grows by word of mouth in a way and to a degree unlike any show I know.'

He said the December auditions would be seeking, 'Thirty-four cast members who need to be strong actors, strong dancers and superior singers.'

Mr Frost said:




The U.S. creative team of the Director, the Musical Supervisor, the Choreographer and the Assistant Choreographer will hold auditions in Auckland, Melbourne and Sydney between 2 December and 17 December.



They will be casting eight principals (four women and four men) and 26 ensemble members and understudies - 14 female and 12 men of all ages, all ethnicity and all vocal types.



**WICKED** opened on Broadway in October 2003. Since then two and a half million have seen **WICKED** in New York and another two million have seen the North American touring production.



The smash-hit musical 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.

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