



MEDIA RELEASE

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WICKED FLIES NORTH TO OPEN IN BRISBANE IN JANUARY 2011

Queensland's most anticipated musical theatre extravaganza, *WICKED*, is officially set to fly north of the border to open in all its emerald glory in the Lyric Theatre, QPAC in January 2011.

WICKED Australia Co-Producer John Frost said, "Right from the start this show has been an overwhelming hit so we are absolutely thrilled to be able to bring her, in all her emerald beauty, to Brisbane.

"*WICKED* is a phenomenon, the most successful musical in the world today, and appeals to everyone from 8 to 80. People love it for so many different reasons – some people come to see *WICKED* for the engrossing story inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*, some for the astonishing sets and costumes, some for the soaring ballads, some for the deeper messages, and some to see the life-affirming friendship between the two girls who grow up to be Glinda the Good and the Wicked Witch of the West. Melbourne and Sydney audiences have been blown away by *WICKED* and now it's Brisbane's turn.

"*WICKED* is the winner of 35 major awards including the Grammy Award, three Tony Awards and six Helpmann Awards. It's a musical that enchants audiences around the world and right across the spectrum" he said.

When the Australian production of *WICKED* arrives in Brisbane it will have played over 866 shows and will have been seen by well over 1 million people. *WICKED*'s record-breaking Australian run began in June, 2008 at Melbourne's Regent Theatre, where it broke the city's box office record and ran through August, 2009. The production transferred to Sydney's Capitol Theatre on September 5, 2009 and will conclude its record-breaking run on September 12, 2010.

WICKED relates 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 their remarkable odyssey, how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good.

Currently in its 7th year on Broadway, *WICKED*'s four North American and four international companies have cumulatively grossed \$1.9 billion and have been seen by 24 million people worldwide.



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.

For more information about the show or to waitlist for updates on the Brisbane season of WICKED go to wickedthemusical.com.au.

For further information, interviews and images please contact:

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