



MEDIA RELEASE

September 26, 2010

## SYDNEY SAYS GOODBYE TO WICKED TODAY

**WICKED** will take its final curtain call at the Capitol Theatre today, more than a year after its spectacular Sydney Premiere. Since the first performance in Sydney on September 5, 2009, almost 550,000 people have seen the show during its 433 Sydney performances.

**WICKED** has smashed numerous records during its Australian run. Soon after opening at the Capitol Theatre, **WICKED** smashed the box office record at the theatre in October 2009, grossing \$1,473,775.70 in one week. And on 11 May 2010 the one millionth ticket to the Australian production of **WICKED** was purchased, a very rare honour as few shows in the history of Australian show business have sold over a million tickets.

“It will be 55 weeks since we began at The Capitol Theatre and we’re leaving Sydney, Australia’s very own Emerald city, with memories of a wonderful season,” John Frost, Australian Co-Producer of **WICKED**, said. One of Australia’s leading theatrical producers whose Broadway productions have won two Tony® Awards, John Frost is accustomed to hits, but, he said **WICKED** was something he had never experienced: “**WICKED** is a phenomenon, quite unlike any other musical, one of the most successful shows of all time.

“Right from the beginning this show has been an overwhelming hit. It is an incredible achievement that Sydney has hosted **WICKED** for almost 13 months in one of the largest theatres in town. The show’s success is a testimony to the strength of Sydney’s audiences and tourism base. Australians have taken **WICKED** to their hearts. Audiences have been captivated by the soaring ballads, the spectacular sets, costumes and lighting, and been draw into the emotional richness of this beautiful story. We are so proud of our extraordinarily talented cast, many of whom have been with the show for the whole run. They are arguably the best **WICKED** cast in the world.”

John Frost thanked sponsors who helped make **WICKED** such a huge success: Showbiz International, Qantas Airways, Toga Hospitality, Channel 7, 2GB/2CH, ANZ, Volvo Car Australia, Foxtel, Constellation Wines, Ticketmaster, Events NSW, City of Sydney, Tourism NSW, Sydney Morning Herald, MAC Cosmetics and Fosters.

Graeme Kearns, General Manager of the Capitol Theatre, said, “We have been delighted to host **WICKED**. The Capitol Theatre has been the perfect fit for a large scale show such as **WICKED**, offering audiences an intimacy and up-close experience that has without a doubt contributed greatly to the show’s success here in Sydney. **WICKED** has introduced thousands of new



theatre-goers of all ages to the magic and excitement of musical theatre: we're proud that the Producers of **WICKED** chose to stage this magical show at the Capitol Theatre."

**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.

**WICKED** opens at QPAC in Brisbane in January next year for a strictly limited season, and then at the Festival Theatre in Adelaide in April.

*Media enquiries: Ian Phipps, IP Publicity, on 0419 977 649 or [ian@ippublicity.com.au](mailto:ian@ippublicity.com.au)*