



THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
WICKED
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

PRESENTED BY **ANE**

**WICKED SMASHES
ONE-DAY BOX
OFFICE RECORD**

WICKED has taken a phenomenal \$1.5 million in ticket sales in just one day.

The Monday after opening at Melbourne's Regent Theatre on 12 July, the rush for tickets set a new one-day box office record for any Melbourne theatre. **WICKED** now holds \$13 million in advance sales and this week released a further 60,000 seats with tickets now on sale through to September 21.

John Frost, the musical's Australian co-producer says, "The fantastic critical reaction and overwhelming audience excitement for **WICKED** in Melbourne has exceeded our wildest expectations. We always felt there was a huge audience for **WICKED** in Australia and we're thrilled that Melbourne has embraced this spectacular musical as its own.

We're proud to join the list of international 'Emerald Cities' which **WICKED** can call home for a long and healthy run and we thank the Broadway producers, Marc Platt and David Stone, for choosing to mount this spectacular production with us here in Melbourne."

The production at the Regent Theatre stars Amanda Harrison as Elphaba and Lucy Durack as Glinda. Cameron Woodhead of The Age raved, "This dazzling entertainment more than justifies the hype. **WICKED** has it all – the glitz and glamour and smiles, the anthemic tunes and mind-boggling sets. It also has a brain." And Kate Herbert in the Herald Sun proclaims, "**WICKED** opened to a blaze of green glory and standing ovations. The show is a winner, a spectacle as only Broadway can create it."

Winner of 20 major awards including a 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 their remarkable odyssey, how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.

WICKED is one of the most successful shows in theatre history with productions in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, a North American tour, London's West End, Tokyo, Stuttgart and now Melbourne.

John Frost says **WICKED** is "a phenomenon, quite unlike any other musical. It comes with all the blockbuster bells and whistles, certainly. But three things set this show apart.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
SUZIE HOWIE
HOWIE & TAYLOR PUBLICITY 0416 066 507
suzie@howietaylor.com.au

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Music theatre lovers adore **WICKED**. It's musical entertainment with wit and warmth and spectacle and a wonderful score, but it also has other, surprising dimensions. And it brings in people who've never been to the theatre, people who never thought they would go. They come out of the theatre spellbound and wanting to see the show again.

They all spread the **WICKED** word. **WICKED** grows by word of mouth in a way and to a degree unlike any show I know.

And **WICKED**, unlike almost all shows, maintains and builds on its advance sales. At the moment we're holding \$13 million in advance sales and this week we've put another 60,000 seats on sale. They're selling fast."

Based on the novel by Gregory Maguire, the smash-hit musical has 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*). **WICKED** is produced by Marc Platt, Universal Pictures, The Araca Group, Jon B Platt and David Stone.

- **WICKED** tickets are on sale at Ticketek www.ticketek.com.au or by phone on 1300 795 012 or at any Ticketek outlet

- Qantas Holidays on 1300 HOLIDAY

- ShowBiz on 1300 **WICKED** or visit <http://www.showbiz.com.au/wicked/>

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