

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE NATIONAL TOUR OF
THE WIZARD OF OZ ANNOUNCES FEB . 20
LOCAL MUNCHKIN AUDITIONS FOR ITS MARCH
MINNEAPOLIS ENGAGEMENT**

12 Local Children Will Perform In The Show

To Register to Audition Visit www.wizardofozontour.com

The National Tour of *The Wizard of Oz*, touching down in Minneapolis for five performances **March 26-28, 2010**, is sounding the alarm and calling for **12 local children to perform the roles of “munchkins”** as part of their performing arts education program while this beloved classic is live on stage in their hometown! The auditions will be hosted by **Hennepin Theatre Trust** and take place at **Hennepin Stages** (2nd Floor), 824 Hennepin Ave., Mpls., 55403 on **Saturday, February 20 at 10:00 a.m.** with check in starting at 9:30 a.m. **To register or for additional details, requirements and restrictions, please visit www.wizardofozontour.com and select the Munchkinland tab.**

The Wizard of Oz is looking for a group of 12 skilled dancers and singers engaged in an ongoing study of acting, music and/or dance to perform timeless classics such as “Ding Dong the Witch is Dead,” and help bring this national treasure to Hennepin Theatre Trust’s Orpheum Theatre. The selected children **will be from an existing group** and will be based on the best overall group talent. **No individual children and/or partial group will be selected nor allowed to audition.**

This opportunity will provide the children with real-life touring theatre experience. They will discover what it’s like to be part of a professional company, learn choreography by Leigh Constantine and be outfitted in the costume designs of Tim McQuillen-Wright. It’s truly a unique experience and incredible opportunity for aspiring actors/actresses to follow their yellow brick road!

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CASTING CALL INFORMATION

DATE: February 20, 2010
CHECK IN BEGINS AT: 9:30 AM
LOCATION: Hennepin Stages (2nd Floor)
824 Hennepin Avenue, Mpls., 55403
MORE INFORMATION: For complete requirements and restrictions please visit
www.wizardofozontour.com

AUDITION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Groups **MUST** be pre-registered to participate. There will be no registration the day of the audition. No individual children and/or partial group will be selected nor allowed to audition.
- The selected group will be announced at the end of the audition day.
- Press is encouraged to attend and photograph/film the event.
- Children **MUST** be eight to 13 years of age, can be no taller than five feet and weigh no more than 100 pounds due to costume restrictions. No exceptions please. A variety of shapes and sizes within these parameters is encouraged.
- The audition will consist of singing and dancing.
 - Singing: Each group should prepare 'Ding Dong the Witch is Dead' prior to the audition. The music is available for download at www.wizardofozontour.com.
 - Dancing: The groups will learn a section of Munckinland together the day of the audition and then will perform in their individual groups in front of the judges.

NETworks Presentations, LLC (Producer) Founded in 1995 by Kenneth Gentry, Seth Wenig and Scott Jackson, NETworks has produced and managed over 70 national and international touring productions. Previous productions include *Oliver!*, *Little Women* starring Maureen McGovern, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, *Cinderella* starring Eartha Kitt and Deborah Gibson, *Fosse* starring Ben Vereen and Ruthie Henshaw, *The Light in the Piazza*, *My Fair Lady* co-produced with Cameron Mackintosh, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma*, *Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, among many others. Joining returning hits *Annie*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Hairspray* and *The Wizard of Oz* this season are *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Young Frankenstein*, and the Lincoln Center's production of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific*. Future titles include Joyful Noise's production of *Handel's Messiah Rocks*, *Spring Awakening* and *Les Misérables*.

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