

SPECIAL THANKS

Pat West, Rejoice Acolatse and the African American Studies Department,
Jackson Smith Family, Pamela E. Brooks, Mark Kolak, Conservatory of Music

Oberlin College Theater and Dance Production Staff

Michael Louis Grube, Managing Director
Alice Iseminger, Assistant Managing Director/Marketing & Publicity Director
Jen Groseth, Lighting/Sound Designer
Damen Mroczek, Scenic Designer/lecturer
Keith Friedlander, Assistant Technical Director/Production
Josh Padgett, Assistant Technical Director
Astrid Jobe, Warner Center Technical Coordinator
Chris Flaharty, Costume Designer
JoEllen Cuthbertson, Costumer/Costume Shop Manager
Barbara Kessler, Central Ticket Service Manager
Patricia West, Program Secretary
Marj Abraham, Bookkeeper

The Wiz Production Staff

Morgan Shelton, Stage Manager
Colin Beske, **Jon Gillam**, Assistant Stage Managers
Mikey Jackson-Smith, **Tommie Jackson-Smith**, Assistant Stage Managers
Caleb Baker, Lighting Board Operator
Eric Murphy, **Melvin Jimenez**, Run Crew
Jeffrey Porter, Sound Board Operator
Damen Mroczek, Poster Designer

Lighting, Scenery & Sound *

Rebecca Ball, **Marlana Carlson**, **Steven Freed**, **Farah Joyner**, **Meg Morley**,
Carolyn Mraz, **Purvi Patel**, **Brandon Phillips**, **Caitlin Roush**, **Staab**

Costumes

Construction — **Krishni Burns***, **Caitlin Goodman***, **Taylor Greeson***, **Pat Krebs**,
Malia Bendi Merad*, **Amber McMillan***, **Lily Magnani Rosenman***
Run Crew — **Caitlin Goodman***, **Taylor Greeson***, **Amber McMillan***

Central Ticket Service & Publicity*

Gene Brion, **Magdalen Dale**, **Michel Dedeo**, **Erin Farrell**, **Matthew Franks**,
Katie Gass, **Lily Matini**, **Katya Mehta**, **Rebecca Popuch**, **Tyler Solomon**,
Gratia Stryker, **Tom Taylor**, **Meredith Webb**

* Student Technical Assistants +199 Students

UPCOMING EVENTS

"OBERLIN SHORTS" NEW ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

8:00pm, Thursday -Sunday, March 6-9; 2:00pm Sunday, March 9; Little Theater

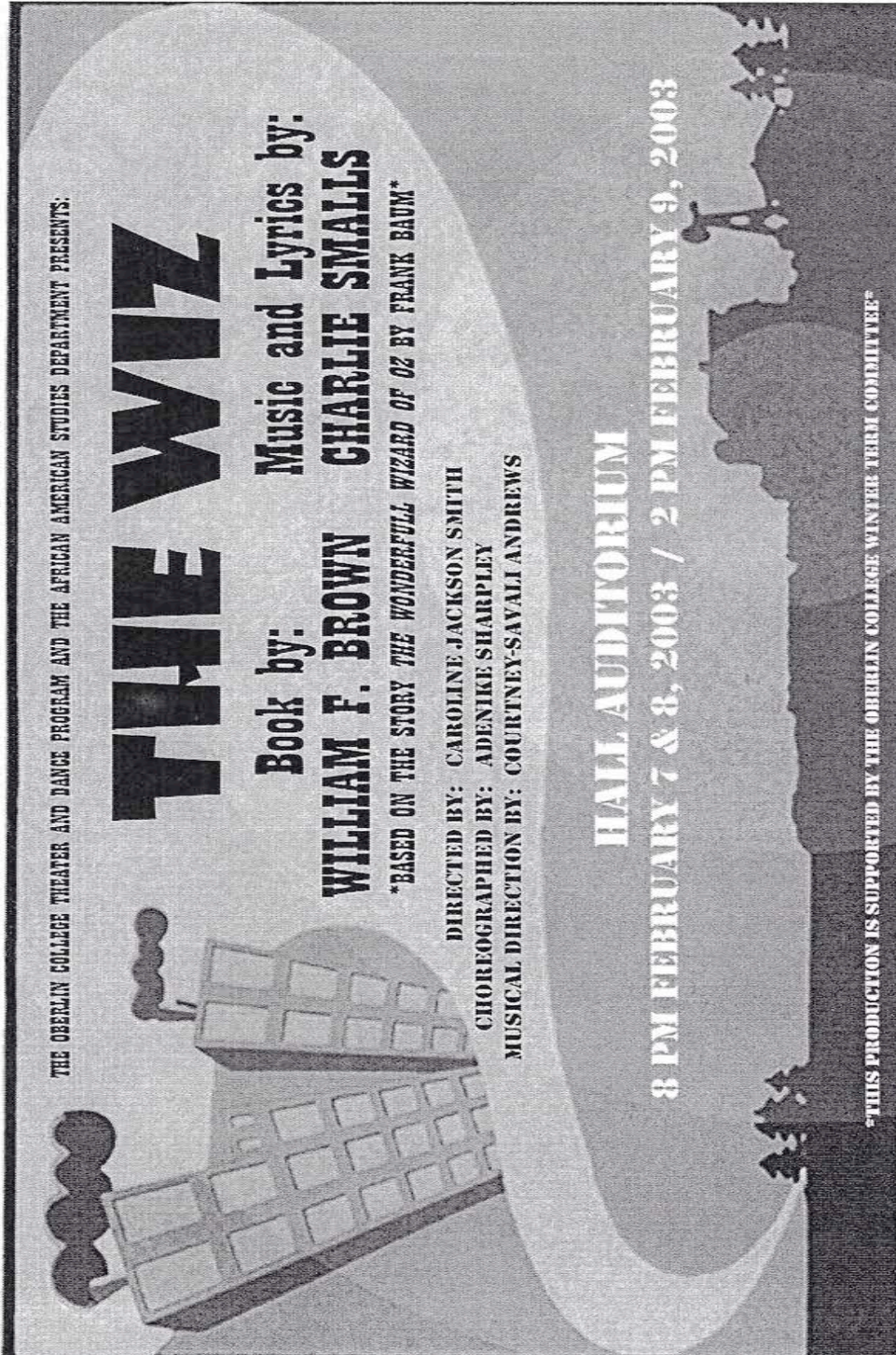
Handel's ALCINA

8:00pm, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, March 12, 14 & 15;
2:00pm Sunday, March 16; Hall Auditorium

CENTRAL TICKET SERVICE: 440-775-8169

Located in the lobby of Hall Auditorium ~ Monday-Friday, 12-5 pm

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT WWW.OBERLIN.EDU/EVENTS



THE OBERLIN COLLEGE THEATER AND DANCE PROGRAM AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

THE WIZ

Book by: **WILLIAM F. BROWN**
Music and Lyrics by: **CHARLIE SMALLS**

BASED ON THE STORY THE WONDERFULL WIZARD OF OZ BY FRANK BAUM

DIRECTED BY: CAROLINE JACKSON SMITH
CHOREOGRAPHED BY: ADENIKE SHARPLEY
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY: COURTNEY-SAVALL ANDREWS

HALL AUDITORIUM
8 PM FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2003 / 2 PM FEBRUARY 9, 2003

THIS PRODUCTION IS SUPPORTED BY THE OBERLIN COLLEGE WINTER TERM COMMITTEE

The Oberlin College Theater and Dance Program, the African American Studies Department,
and the Winter Term Committee are proud to present

THE WIZ

Book by
WILLIAM F. BROWN

Music and Lyrics by
CHARLIE SMALLS

BASED ON THE STORY *THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ*, BY FRANK BAUM

Directed by CAROLINE JACKSON SMITH

ADENIKE SHARPLEY, Choreographer
MICHAEL PREACELY, Chorus Conductor
CHRIS FLAHARTY, Costume Designer
DAMEN MROCZEK, Set Designer
MICHAEL GRUBE, Managing Director/
Technical Director

COURTNEY-SAVALI L. ANDREWS,
Musical Director
JEN GROSETH, Lighting/Sound Designer
CAREN BLACKMORE, Stage Manager
NOAH MCINTYRE, Assistant Director/
Dramaturg

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Dorothy.....JANICE REDDICK
Auntie Em.....ROSA GADSDEN
Uncle Henry/Gatekeeper.....RONNIE GOINES
Addaperle.....DAWN K. BURROUGHS
Scarecrow.....JAMES ANDERSON
Tinman.....DAVID HUGHEY
Lion.....JAMON HOLT
Evillene.....MONICA JACKSON
The Wiz.....ETHAN BALDWIN
Glinda.....MARTI NEWLAND
Ensemble.....SHERECE DONALDS, VERNICIA ELIE, TREVA LINDSEY, JAN-MARGARET LLORENS,
CARTER LOVE*, DAZLYNN PINKSTON*, DIONA REASONOVER, BEATRICE SULLIVAN
Chorus.....MARCUS BOSTON, MARTHA CARGO, JOSEPH COPELAND,
MAGGIE KEENAN-BOLGER, BADERINWA LUMUMBA-UMOJA, BRANDON MOREAU,
EMMA NADEAU, LATOYA ROKER, TATYANA TENENBAUM

MUSICIANS

COURTNEY-SAVALI L. ANDREWS.....Keyboards 1
JERMAINE GARDNER.....Keyboards 2
MALCOLM KARLAN.....Guitar
AIDAN PLANK.....Bass
ADRIAN WILLIAMS.....Drums
MATTHEW HILL.....Percussion

Special Appearance by Ilu Aye featuring Adam Barr, percussion

SETTING

A journey from southern rural Kansas, to a strange and fanciful land, and back again.
The Wiz runs approximately two hours. There will be one intermission.

*Dance Captains

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Frank Baum published *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* on May 15, 1900, his 44th birthday. One of the first American children's books to become a literary classic, *The Wizard of Oz* has since been translated into many other forms and remains central not only to the American national consciousness, but in the global imagination. Baum's theme of exotic travels which lead back to one's home and one's belief in one's self, has been a popular source of stage and film adaptations. Baum was a collaborator on the first musical theater adaptation which opened in Chicago, then in New York in 1902. After several film adaptations, the 1939 film starring Judy Garland pioneered technicolor and remains one of the top films of all time. In 1975 Charlie Smalls and William F. Brown created *The Wiz*, an African American musical version of *The Wizard of Oz*. Following its great success on Broadway, *The Wiz* became a 1978 Quincy Jones-produced Motown film starring Diana Ross, Michael Jackson and Richard Pryor, urbanizing Dorothy's tale and setting it in Harlem.

Now *The Wiz* has arrived in Oberlin. Our production takes a step away from the glamour and spectacle of the Broadway production while punctuating the way Baum's original themes echo the African American experience of a people torn from home into a new land; of a journey through terror and enslavement to freedom and a renewed sense of vision. A 1975 *New York Times* article entitled "Does *The Wiz* Say Something Extra to Blacks?" points out that "*The Wiz* is full of symbols and associations, obvious and obscure, that relate to crucial aspects of the black experience and culture. The main themes running through the show are slavery and emancipation, the black church and religion, the great black migration from rural south to urban north." The idea of freeing the mind and spirit from the chains of physical and metaphysical slavery while "believing in the magic that's inside our hearts" seems particularly relevant at this moment in history.

Our storytelling-style ensemble production also draws inspiration from traditional African culture. Each of the witches in Oz and Dorothy's companions draw characteristics from traditional Yoruba deities, while the animal munchkin spirit guides recall the shamanistic traditions of the Dagara tribe of West Central Africa. Chris Flaharty's costumes, Damen Mroczek's set design, and Jen Groseth's light design all draw from elements of African and African American culture. Choreographer Adenike Sharpley and Music Director Courtney-Savali Andrews with conductor Michael Preacely have adapted the music and dance with these connections in mind. We also welcome back alum Matt Hill on African percussion with other guest musicians. The student performers are some of Oberlin's most talented.

"Believe in the miracle that's inside yourself" as you enter Oz!
Caroline Jackson Smith, director and Noah McIntyre, dramaturg



The Wiz is produced with permission from Samuel French Inc. New York, New York.

No photographic or recording equipment is permitted in Hall Auditorium.
Thank you for your cooperation.