



177 State Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tickets: 866-811-4111 • Information: (203) 333-3666 • [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org)

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**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: April 2009

**PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN'S PRODUCTION OF  
TONY AWARD® WINNING MUSICAL  
*THE WIZ*  
EXTENDS FOR EXTRA WEEKEND, MAY 15-17, 2009.**

**Show is reset in Bridgeport by special permission; performances begin April 24.**

Bridgeport, CT— Due to popular demand, Playhouse on the Green, Bridgeport's not-for-profit community theater, has **extended the run** of its production of the Tony Award® winning musical ***THE WIZ*** for **three additional performances: Friday, May 15 at 8PM; Saturday, May 16 at 8PM; and Sunday, May 17 at 3PM**. The show, which opens Friday, April 24, already has had an overwhelming response at the box office. The 1975 contemporary re-telling of *The Wizard of Oz* has music and lyrics by Charlie Smalls and book by William F. Brown, who, for this production only, granted permission for the story to be set in Bridgeport.

Producing Artistic Director, Matt Schicker, said of the extension: "We are so excited that the Greater Bridgeport area has embraced this production in such a big way. It is wonderful that a Bridgeport-themed version of this feel-good musical is bringing the community out to support the Playhouse."

A cast of more than 30 actors, singers, and dancers from the area portray the familiar characters of Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tin Man, the Lion, the Wicked Witch of the West, and the rest in this version of L. Frank Baum's classic American tale featuring gospel, soul, and r&b styled music.

**Matt Schicker**, Producing Artistic Director for Playhouse on the Green, co-directs with **Beth Fauerbach**, who also choreographs. **Eli Newsom** and **Christy McIntosh** are Associate Producers; **Kelly Martin** is Musical Director; **Edward Morris** is Set Designer; **Michael Jarett** is Lighting Designer; **David Withrow** is Costume Designer; **Jim DeVivo** is Sound Designer; **Natalie Inzero** is Production Stage Manager.

MORE

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The principal cast includes: 13-year-old **Rajane' Katurah Brown** of Bridgeport as Dorothy, **LaWanda Black** of Bridgeport as Glinda, **Brian Michael Riley** of Bridgeport as Lord High Underling, **Kitty Robertson** of Fairfield as Addaperle, **Cameron Phillips** of Fairfield as the Scarecrow, **Kevin Thompson** of Stamford as the Tin Man, **Andrew Kepka** of Bridgeport as the Lion, **Sampson Denny** of Bridgeport as The Wiz, and **Jessica Ferraday** of Milford as Evillene.

The Ensemble includes: Melissa Chambers of New Haven, Aaliyma Davis of Bridgeport, Toya Jean-Gilles of Bridgeport, Margaret Meghie of Bridgeport, Mavina Moore Jr. of Stamford, Jason Parry of Stratford, Jessica Rahrig of Shelton, Shantal Rhodes of Bridgeport, Gina LeVon Simpson of Bridgeport, Candice Sisbarro of Stratford, Bryna Washer of West Haven. The Youth Ensemble includes: Caitlin Brown of Fairfield, Colleen Brown of Fairfield, Jaelle Cassara of Weston, Matthew Nardozi of Trumbull, Kayla Patrick of Milford, Emily Pisarra of Milford, Jessica Reynolds of Stratford, Juliana Rivera of Milford, Olivia Rivera of Milford, Kristina Rizzardi of Shelton, Jailyn Rogers of Bridgeport.

**People's United Bank** and the **Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District** are co-sponsors of *The Wiz*.

Adult single tickets are \$32. Senior Citizens tickets (65 and older) are \$29. Tickets for those 21 years and younger are \$18. **Tickets can be purchased 24/7 on-line at [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org) or by calling TheaterMania at (866) 811-4111 (phone hours 9-9 weekdays, 10-6 weekends).**

Playhouse on the Green is located at 177 State Street between Main Street and Markle Court in downtown Bridgeport. Free, secure parking one block from the theater is available. For more information visit [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org) or call 203-333-3666.

**The Wiz**

Book by William F. Brown

Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls

**Performances Schedule:**

Friday, April 24 at 8PM – Opening Night

Saturday, April 25 at 8PM

Sunday, April 26 at 3PM – special Q&A with William F. Brown, author of *The Wiz*, following performance

Friday, May 1 at 8PM

Saturday, May 2 at 8PM

Sunday, May 3 at 3PM

Friday, May 8 at 8PM

Saturday, May 9 at 3PM

Saturday, May 9 at 8PM

Sunday, May 10 at 3PM

ADDED PERFORMANCE: Friday, May 15 at 8PM

ADDED PERFORMANCE: Saturday, May 16 at 8PM

ADDED PERFORMANCE: Sunday, May 17 at 3PM

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