



177 State Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

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

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 2009

**A CAST OF 30 FILLS PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN FOR
THE WIZ
TONY AWARD® WINNING MUSICAL
BY WILLIAM F. BROWN AND CHARLIE SMALLS
APRIL 24-MAY 10, 2009**

Production sets Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion in Bridgeport.

Bridgeport, CT— Playhouse on the Green, Bridgeport's not-for-profit community theater, presents the Tony Award® winning musical *THE WIZ* for 10 performances only **April 24 through May 10, 2009**. 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.

A cast of more than 30 actors, singers, and dancers from the area will 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.

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.

MORE

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The Ensemble includes: Melissa Chambers of New Haven, Aaliyma Davis of Bridgeport, Toya Jean-Gilles of Bridgeport, Margaret Meghie of Bridgeport, Mavina Moore of Bridgeport, 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 Nardoizzi 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.

The **Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District** is a sponsor of *The Wiz*. Visit them at <http://www.doitdowntown.net>.

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 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 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
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

Playhouse on the Green is a 54-year-old 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theater company in residence at a beautiful 228-seat jewel-box theater in the heart of downtown Bridgeport, Connecticut. Playhouse on the Green's mission is to enrich Bridgeport's cultural life by providing an eclectic variety of live stage entertainment and arts education programs at an affordable cost, as well as providing opportunities for area artists. Among these programs are its mainstage season of plays and musicals; "Playhouse Greenhouse" and "Project Broadway", it's arts education programs for kids and teens; a Sunday evening series of music and comedy; and the "Page to Stage New Play Reading Series", which brings the new work of Connecticut playwrights to the stage.

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