

For immediate release:

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## **Dominican Theatre Presents “The Wiz”**

*School to stage eight performances of spring musical from March 5 – 15*

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*Register now for March 7 “Wiz” workshop for kids*

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**WHITEFISH BAY, Wis.** -- Dominican High School will stage “The Wiz” as this year’s spring musical production, with eight performances planned for March 5 - 15.

The play, a soulful telling of “The Wizard of Oz” written by Charlie Smalls and William Brown, was first performed on Broadway in 1975. It features traditional characters from “The Wizard of Oz” as well as an eclectic Wiz and several other unique characters.

“I chose ‘The Wiz’ as this year’s musical because of its universal themes, recognizable story and the attraction it holds for families and young children,” said Dominican Theater Director Jeff Schaetzke. “I also selected it because unlike last year’s production of ‘Les Miserables’ which featured more singing, ‘The Wiz’ is a very dance-heavy show which will showcase the talents of our students in yet another way.”

Schaetzke said nearly 100 Dominican students are involved in the production, which has a 56-member cast and 40-member stage crew. The roles of Aunt Em, Dorothy, Addaperle and Evillene were double-cast. Student performers and respective performance dates for the Emerald Cast and Ruby Cast are noted on the ticket order form.

The elaborate staging includes video screens, a 15-foot high Wiz mask, DJ tower, 1960s-style backlight art and many other special effects.

Cast members are Shawn Avery, Vanessa Benton-Davis, Jamie Beuche, Robert Blumenberg, Taylor Boyd, Erin Brauer, Ana Brondino, Jenna Burr, N’Jameh Camera, Mallie Carroll, Maura Curtis, Erica Earls-Glasl, Wyatt Engl, Lizzie Fons, Ryanna Fore, Madeline Franke, Jessie Galioto-Grebe, Frank Galka, Sofia Gonzalez, Peter Grau, Ann Hagner, Genevieve Huang, Pami Klug, Erika Kopp, Rebecca Lade, David Lancelle, Mary Linn, Michael Linn, Katie Miller, Catherine Moede, Courtney Neale, Marissa Neale, Tim O’Connell, Maggie O’Neil, Katie O’Neil, Karen Oliva, Sophia Outemzabet, Eric Pfeiffer, Leigh Poellmann, Anthony Pollman, Matt Pompe, Teddy Popalisky, Shanetta Prophet, Antoine Ray, Rachel Sandretti, Katy Schuele, Marshall Sims, Ann Spella, Stephanie Thomas, LeAnn Vance, Peter Vartanian, Alexis West, Brittany White, Valerie Whittle, Tori Wirth and Mary Yadgir.

Molly Brauer is the assistant director. Anna Herzfeld is the stage manager; Isabelle Arisso and Maryrose Langoehr are assistant stage managers. Rachel Zembrowski is the deck chief.

## **Performance & Ticket Information**

All performances will take place in the school auditorium, 120 E. Silver Spring Drive, Whitefish Bay. Performance dates and times are as follows:

- \* Thursday, March 5 @ 7 p.m. (free for all students)
- \* Friday, March 6 @ 7:30 p.m.
- \*\*Saturday, March 7 @ 7:30 p.m.
- \* Sunday, March 8 @ 2 p.m.

- \*\*Friday, March 13 @ 7:30 p.m.
- \* Saturday, March 14 @ 7:30 p.m.
- \*\*Sunday, March 15 @ 2 p.m.

- \* - indicates Emerald Cast
- \*\* - indicates Ruby Cast

Advance purchase tickets, priced at \$9 for adults and \$5 for students, are available for all performances. Tickets also will be available one hour prior to performance at a cost of \$10 for adults and \$6 for students. To purchase tickets in advance, call the Dominican Box Office at 414.332.1170, ext. 485, or print the ticket order form from the school's website at: [www.dominicanhighschool.com](http://www.dominicanhighschool.com).

## **The Wiz Workshop – A Super Saturday for Kids!**

Dominican's Theatre Department will host a "Wiz" Workshop for children in grades 4 – 8 at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7. The 90-minute song and dance workshop will include a behind-the-scenes tour, pizza dinner and t-shirt. Participants will give a 15-minute performance in the school auditorium at 6:40 p.m.

Workshop cost is \$10 per child. Tickets for that evening's 7:30 p.m. performance are available at a discounted price for workshop participants and their families. A separate seating area will be reserved for the participants and their families. Visit the school's website for "The Wiz" Super Saturday Workshop Registration form, or call 414.332.1170, ext. 131.

Dominican High School is a leader in secondary education, providing young men and women with a quality, Catholic college-preparatory education in a supportive and nurturing environment. Founded over 50 years ago by the Sinsinawa Dominicans and based in Whitefish Bay, Wis., Dominican's diverse population draws students from more than 50 grade schools and four counties across southeastern Wisconsin.

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**Editor's Note/Photo Opportunity:** Students will be in full dress rehearsals on the following days and times: Saturday, Feb. 28 @ 5 – 8 p.m.; Monday, March 2 @ 6 - 9 p.m. and Tuesday, March 3 @ 6 - 9 p.m.