



Media Release

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Windmill over the rainbow with *Wiz* nominations

In an unprecedented achievement, Windmill Theatre has secured six Helpmann Award nominations for its 2009 production of *The Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum.

The nominations include:

- Best Musical: *The Wizard of Oz*, Windmill Theatre
- Best Direction of Musical: Rosemary Myers
- Best Female Actor in a Musical: Ursula Yovich
- Best Female Supporting Actor in a Musical: Jude Henshall
- Best Male Supporting Actor in a Musical: Geoff Revell
- Best Presentation for Children: *The Wizard of Oz*, Windmill Theatre

Windmill Theatre's Executive Producer/General Manager, Teena Munn today said, "This is certainly a first and we couldn't be happier that it is for this fabulous show that we are all so proud of.

"We were thrilled to see *The Wizard of Oz* voted as Adelaide's favourite production by the general public but to have this level of national industry recognition is a huge credit to our company."

Artistic Director of Windmill, and director of *The Wizard of Oz*, Rose Myers, said, "What an amazing honour to receive so many nominations amongst such high caliber Australian artists.

"I am delighted for the whole team behind the show and in particular Ursula, Jude and Geoff who have been recognized for their outstanding performances," she said.

The nomination announcement comes on the day of the opening of the company's next offering: the world premiere of *Fugitive (Robin Hood Retold)* by Matthew Whittet, directed by Rosemary Myers.

A full list of Helpmann Nominations can be viewed at www.helpmannawards.com.au

For more information: Kaye Weeks, Windmill Theatre, 0413 625 479

***The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum**

Company: Windmill Theatre

SYNOPSIS

Exactly 70 years on from the iconic MGM film, Windmill retells the much-loved tale of Dorothy's quest to find herself and her way back home.

Full of imagination, and invigorated with some surprising twists, this is a celebration of the yellow brick road we all travel to find out just what we're made of.

A visually spectacular and musically sumptuous explosion, this is a bold retelling for another Land of Oz in a brand new century.



REVIEWS & QUOTES:

A contemporary triumph. **The Sunday Mail**

Modern take on a timeless tale sure to bring the house down. **The Australian**

Winner – Best Theatre Show 2009 with 47.5% of public vote. Box Office Awards, **The Advertiser**

Its vitality, irreverence, fine performances and frequent belly laughs sustain throughout. **Sydney Morning Herald**

Earthy Australian humour, contemporary references...connect with adult and child alike. **Sydney Morning Herald**

It takes guts to tinker with a much-adored classic such as *The Wizard of Oz*, and the team at Windmill do a great job of updating the story for a contemporary theatre audience. **Daily Telegraph**.

It is a fun and colourful show performed by a strong cast – and is also a trip down a renovated memory lane. **Daily Telegraph**

No one could resist Yovich's soulful version of *Over the Rainbow*. **The Australian**

Funny, offbeat, and very much where you might place the show in 2009. **The Advertiser**

Abounds in joyful anachronisms and contradictions... rips through the plot very efficiently. **The Advertiser**

State-of-art graphics astound. **The Independent Weekly**

Yet another Windmill show that will have a big future around the nation. **The Sunday Mail**

Tugs at the heart strings... with a passion and soul that stirs up a cyclone. **The Sunday Mail**

Reminisce and marvel at the witty take on the tale. **The Independent Weekly**

Bouncing toddlers, teens leaning forward in their seats, and twenty-somethings applauding and laughing raucously. **Lowdown Magazine**

It can be very dangerous to take a well loved story and mess around with it... unless you are the creative team at Windmill. **Adelaide Theatre Guide** "If theatre is going to prove itself culturally relevant to the youth audience it needs to embrace the kind of daring imagination, inventiveness, light and shadow, modern aesthetic and sheer boldness of productions like this one. **Lowdown Magazine**

As we left the theatre I overheard a woman say to her companion 'I'm so glad we came'... I couldn't agree with her more. **Fringe Benefits**

Acknowledgements

The Wizard of Oz

By L. Frank Baum

With music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

Background music by Herbert Stothart

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard

Orchestration by Larry Wilcox

Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by

Turner Entertainment Co and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.