



AUSTRALIA'S ELPHABA AND GLINDA ANNOUNCED

On behalf of his co-producers Marc Platt, Universal Pictures, The Araca Group, Jon B. Platt and David Stone, John Frost for Crossroads Live today announced the two young actresses who have secured the coveted roles of Elphaba and Glinda in **WICKED**, which flies into Australia's Emerald City at the Sydney Lyric from 25 August.

Sheridan Adams will play Elphaba, the girl born with emerald-green skin who grows up to become the "Wicked Witch of the West", while **Courtney Monsma** will play Glinda, the bubbly, popular girl who becomes "Glinda the Good".

A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, **Sheridan Adams** has performed in the ensemble of *Tick, Tick... Boom!* (Storeyboard Entertainment) and *Cruel Intentions: The 90's Musical* (David Venn Enterprises). Elphaba is Sheridan's first leading role.

Since graduating from the Queensland Conservatorium, **Courtney Monsma** has quickly become an artist in demand, performing in *Six The Musical*, *Mamma Mia!* and the Australasian tour of *Aladdin*. She is best known for starring as Princess Anna in the recent Australian tour of Disney's *Frozen*, and is currently filming the new Australian drama series *Paper Dolls*, in which she plays one of five aspiring singers who are thrust into the spotlight in pursuit of pop-stardom and fame.

The producers are thrilled to have been able to cast such strong leading performers. "When Sheridan auditioned for an ensemble role and we heard her sing *Defying Gravity*, we were mesmerised. When she sang *Defying Gravity* four times in a row, getting stronger each time, we immediately knew we had found our Elphaba," said John Frost. "Courtney has proven to be an exciting performer in *Frozen*, *Six* and *Aladdin*, but we didn't know how funny she could be until she blew us away during the auditions. We are so excited to have Australia's two most electrifying new leading ladies play *Elphaba and Glinda*."

"We're delighted also that Sydney has embraced **WICKED** and tickets are flying out the door. The show is loved by Australians and over the past 19 years it has certainly become one of the most loved musicals of all time. We can't wait for it to open in Sydney in August and for audiences to fall in love with Sheridan Adams and Courtney Monsma – don't miss out!".

Sheridan Adams is elated to be playing the role of Elphaba. "WICKED is a very special show for so many people, including me. Elphaba has been my dream role since I was young. My first experience was on YouTube, watching Idina Menzel sing *Defying Gravity*, and I sang it all the time. Then my

Mum bought me The Grimmerie, and I finally got to see the show when I was 16. This is a dream come true."

Courtney Monsma agreed. *"WICKED was one of the first professional shows I ever saw. I remember getting a ticket through my high school, and I was absolutely mesmerised. As a kid I was obsessed by The Wizard of Oz so having that connection it blew my mind. I'm so excited to be in WICKED; this is a dream come true. I've always loved the role of Glinda. The sparkle and the gowns drew me to her, but I think Glinda has a beautiful heart and I love the journey she gets to go on throughout the show."*

Almost 20 years since its premiere on Broadway, **WICKED** remains one of the most successful and popular musicals in the world. Winner of over 100 major awards including the Grammy Award, the Olivier Award, six Helpmann Awards, three Tony Awards® and six Drama Desk Awards, **WICKED** is *"A Complete Triumph! An original musical that will make you laugh, cry and think"* (USA Today).

The musical has played in 16 countries around the world including Japan, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, The Philippines, New Zealand, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, and has been translated into six languages. By the time of its first performance in Sydney, **WICKED** will have become the 4th longest running show in Broadway history (surpassing CATS).

The novel *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire, published in 1995, has sold 5.5 million copies, with 5 million of those sold since 2003 when the musical opened. Buoyed by the musical's success, the novel has appeared on bestseller lists for close to two decades since its initial publication.

Long before Dorothy dropped in, two other young women meet in the land of Oz. One born with emerald-green skin is smart, fiery, misunderstood and possessing an extraordinary talent. The other is bubbly, blonde, ambitious and exceptionally popular. They become rivals, then friends...until the world decides to call one "good" and the other one "wicked."

"A magical Broadway musical with BRAINS, HEART and COURAGE" - Time Magazine

"WICKED's production values are exceptional. A POWERFUL PIECE OF THEATRE" - The Australian

"A SPECTACULAR ENTERTAINMENT with deep emotions and a serious message" - The Tokyo

"If every musical had the brains, heart and courage of WICKED, Broadway really would be a magical place" - Time Magazine

"WICKED is splendiferous as ever! The show works because it explores the complexity of moral choices and the prices we have to pay for making them. It's a reminder of how musicals can support complex stories when you have a book writer of the quality of Winnie Holzman, great songs by Stephen Schwartz and a rich, visually splendiferous production, as directed by Joe Mantello. And, of course, the green girl and the blonde girl, as they refer to each other, are everyperson figures. We're all either one or the other." – Chicago Tribune

Based on the novel by Gregory Maguire, **WICKED** has music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, and a book by Winnie Holzman. The production features musical staging by Wayne Cilento with original direction by Joe Mantello. **WICKED** is produced by in Australia by John Frost for Crossroads Live Australia, Marc Platt, Universal Pictures, The Araca Group, Jon B. Platt and David Stone.

WICKED is proudly supported by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.

Experience the unforgettable, award-winning musical **WICKED** in Sydney this year.

Wickedthemusical.com.au
@WickedInOz **#WickedInOz**

SEASON DETAILS

Venue Sydney Lyric Theatre, The Star
Season From 25 August 2023
Performance Times Wed-Sat 7.30pm, Matinees Wed 1pm, Sat 2pm, Sun 1pm & 6:30pm
Prices: From \$79.00 (Transaction fees apply)
Bookings: ticketmaster.com.au or 136 100

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BIOGRAPHIES

SHERIDAN ADAMS (*Elphaba*)

Sheridan is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts where she completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre). Whilst studying, Sheridan performed the role of Charlotte in *Flora the Red Menace* and was in the Ensemble in *On the Town*.

Since graduating, Sheridan appeared in the Australian premiere of *Cruel Intentions* (David Venn Enterprises). She is currently touring in the Australian premiere of *Tick, Tick... Boom!* (Storeyboard Entertainment). Sheridan has featured as a vocalist on Lindenfelzer and Newman's *Scarlet: The Concept Recording*.

COURTNEY MONSMA (*Glinda*)

Courtney Monsma is most well-known for starring as Princess Anna in the recent Australian tour of Disney's *Frozen the Musical*. She is currently filming the new Australian drama series *Paper Dolls* for Helium Pictures which is coming soon to Network 10 and 10 Play.

Other theatre highlights include the role of Katherine Howard in *SIX The Musical* presented by Michael Coppel, Louise Withers and Linda Bewick at the Sydney Opera House in 2020, the Australasian tour of Disney's *Aladdin* covering the role of Princess Jasmine, the Australian 2017/2018 tour of *Mamma Mia!* presented by Michael Coppel, Louise Withers and Linda Bewick covering the role of Sophie, and Opera Queensland's *Kiss Me Kate*.

Hailing from Queensland's Gold Coast, Courtney has performed in concerts and live events across the local area from a young age and graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre in 2017. At the Conservatorium, under the direction of Associate Professor Paul Sabey, Courtney appeared as Charity in *Sweet Charity*, Carmen in *The Life* and Maria in *West Side Story*. She also toured with the production of *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change*.

On screen Courtney has appeared in numerous short films including playing the title role in award winning short *Dorothy*, as well as appearances on *Toasted TV* for Network 10 and *The Strip* for Nine Network. Courtney released her debut album *In The Light* in 2022 which features some of her favourite and career moment songs as well as her original track *The Light That You Are*.