

'Wizard of Oz' returns to stage next weekend

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Friday, 11 October 2013 14:08 - Last Updated Friday, 11 October 2013 15:59



Don't assume everyone has seen "The Wizard of Oz."

Gothenburg High School music teacher and musical director Ernie Blecha was surprised when he surveyed classes and discovered that a fourth of high school and elementary students had not seen the legendary production.

"I believe it was an important part of all of our childhoods to watch it on TV when it was aired every year," Blecha said.

As a result, the music director chose "The Wizard of Oz" as this year's high school musical.

The public can revisit Dorothy's adventure to the magical land of Oz on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Oct. 19, 20 and 21, in the performing arts center.

Blecha said the last time the play had been performed on the local stage was the first year of the new high school in April of 2004 under the direction of Leah Purdy.

Former music teacher Lyman Anderson also directed performances of Oz in 1987 and 1995.

Another reason for choosing the musical, he said, was wanting to produce a larger-scale musical than the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" in February of 2013 that had a smaller cast.

"This musical has more than 40 students—all singing and dancing their hearts out for any audience that chooses to attend," he said.

'Wizard of Oz' returns to stage next weekend

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Friday, 11 October 2013 14:08 - Last Updated Friday, 11 October 2013 15:59

Tickets for Oz are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door and are available at First State Bank, Gothenburg State Bank, at the high school office or at the door on the day of the performance.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, and Monday, Oct. 21, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Blecha noted that there are scenes in the show that may be scary for young children and babies.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636

| OZ CAST MEMBERS | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dorothy.....Abbie Mazour | Oz Wicked Witch.....Shaylee Scott | Loustron.....Emily Keiser |
| Aunt Em.....Rachel Rice | Oz Man #1.....Eric Linnemeyer | Kyann LeViner, Jenny Malina, |
| Uncle Henry.....Cody Cooper | Oz Man #2.....Dennis Long | Jessica Rudolph, Courtney |
| Hunk/Scarecrow.....Brett Mann | Nikko.....Trevor Mazour | Mahin, Baiter Richardson, |
| Hickory/Tin Man.....Rhett Lindholm | Winkie General.....Cape Taylor | Ashley Wilkerson, Jessica |
| Zeke Lion.....Drake Langley | Winkies.....Tyler Baker, | Bonnie Kevly Lecher, |
| Miss Gulch.....Satos Potter | Roman Schmidt, Dominic | Holly McPhatters, Holly |
| Wicked Witch.....Kayla Trevino | Long, Mylas Mendell, Chad | Hudson, Madeline Good, Blayr |
| Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz.....Dylan France | Schmitt, Jayden Miller, | McMichael, Taylor Rosell, |
| Ginella, the Good Witch.....Alayna Collins | Patrick Messersmith, Eric | Alyssa Johnson, Kasey |
| Crows.....Joseph Darfino, | Linnemeyer, Joe Darling, Jett | Wallman, Sydney Gruber, |
| Jett Seimer, Marcus Fritton | Seimer, Marcus Fritton, Alex | Kyrtene Russell, Makyla |
| Trees.....Halley Ding, Shelby | Jorgenson, Cole Orsman | Linnemeyer |
| Loustron, Leuten Andrus | Ozma.....Shaylee Scott, Betty Potter, | Spooks.....Kyrtene Russell, |
| Toto....."Snuggles" Volkman | Rachel Rice, Haley Giv, | Bailey Rickertson, Martina |
| | Lauren Andrus, Shelby | Mayers, Ally Johnson, |
| | | Courtney Mevin, Jett Seimer |