

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZ!

Get ready for a once-in-a-lifetime LIVE experience when **The Wiz LIVE!** kicks off the holiday season with an epic night of spectacular Cirque du Soleil® acrobatics and show-stopping hit songs, Thursday, December 3rd at 8/7c on NBC.

The Wiz made Broadway history in 1975 when it transformed *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* into a celebration of African American culture. Without changing the main characters, plot, or themes, *The Wiz* reimagined the story from an African American perspective, adding soul music, style, and a fresh, funky twist to the beloved classic.

Now, **The Wiz LIVE!** continues this tradition for today's generation, bringing together an all-star cast of multi-talented African American performers that includes Queen Latifah, Mary J. Blige, David Alan Grier, Ne-Yo, Elijah Kelley, Uzo Aduba, Amber Riley, Common, and Stephanie Mills, plus newly-discovered teenage rising star Shanice Williams as Dorothy.

TO OZ! **The Wiz LIVE!** tells the story of four friends who "ease on down" the Yellow Brick Road to ask a great wizard for help. Get to know these main characters by matching them to their descriptions and filling in the blanks with what each character wants from the Wiz.



1. Dorothy _____

a. Sensitive and caring, he feels hollow inside. He wants the Wiz to give him a _____.



2. Scarecrow _____

b. A show-off who backs down when he's challenged. He wants the Wiz to give him _____.



3. Tin Man _____

c. A quick-witted fast-talker who thinks he's empty-headed. He wants the Wiz to give him a _____.



4. Lion _____

d. A Midwesterner stranded in a world of fantasy who needs the Wiz's help to get _____.

Now imagine that you are part of the story!

What kind of character would you be? What would you want from the Wiz? Use the back of this sheet to describe your character and your wish. Share which character you would like as a friend and why. Discuss your ideas in class.



KEEPING THE TRADITION ALIVE

Take this sheet home, and talk to your parents, grandparents, and/or other family members about *The Wiz*. Don't be surprised if they start singing the songs and teaching you the moves they remember from when they first saw the show. If they have never seen it, ask them what they most want to see — which character? which song? which scene? Tell your family about the character you imagine yourself playing in the story and what you would want the Wiz to give you. Find out what they would ask for, then make sure everyone will be there for **The Wiz LIVE!** at 8/7c on NBC.

The
WIZ
LIVE!

THURS DEC 3 • 8/7c  NBC
Special Acrobatic Effects by CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.