

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ
BY
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BASED ON THE NOVEL BY L FRANK BAUM

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Mr Leon – Headmaster /Lion

Dorothy Gale – A schoolgirl

Dame Betty Birdseed – A School cook / Good Witch of the South West

Bertie Birdseed - A schoolboy/ Scarecrow

Charlie Canister – A schoolboy/ Tin Man

Uncle Henry/Wizard

Aunt Em / Good Witch of the South

Miss Gulch – A teacher / Wicked Witch of the West

Toto – a dog!

Portia Henderson-Wilkes – A rich schoolgirl

Tristram Chortle-Minster – A rich schoolboy

Sid – A Munchkin

Lenny – A Munchkin

Lilly – A Munchkin

Gloria – A Munchkin

Wayne – A Munchkin

John – A Flying Monkey

Paul – A Flying Monkey

George – A Flying Monkey

Ringo – A Flying Monkey

Tab – A Crow

Lip – A Crow

Cos – A Crow

Snoz – A Crow

Dob – A Crow

Butch – A Winkie Soldier

Gary - A Winkie Soldier

Chuck – A Winkie Soldier

Calvin – A Winkie Soldier

Daphne – Secretary to the Great Oz

Various Munchkins, Teachers, Animals, Residents of Oz, Poppies etc

PROLOGUE

VOICE OVER **(These words are projected onto gauze as per Star Wars)** Quite a long time ago in a place, not too far away there lived a girl called Chelsea, but, for some reason, everyone called her Dorothy. No idea why!

Anyway, she longed for fun. For freedom from the rather dull life she lead with her Aunt and Uncle in a tiny little village called **(LOCAL VILLAGE)**, just outside a funny little town called **(LOCAL TOWN)** in **(LOCAL COUNTY)**.

Dorothy had dreams. Like we all do. But dreams don't always come true.

Dorothy dreamed about Brad Pitt, holidays in Fuentaventura and a Saturday job in Waitrose.

But these just didn't come true, however she never stopped thinking of adventure. And do you know what? Nor should you! Because you never ever know what might happen when you wish really hard!

OVERTURE

SCENE ONE

A SCHOOL HALL

The hall is empty. MR LEON enters with a large handbell. He rings the bell vigorously as the music begins,

School students come pouring through the auditorium and onto the stage. Joined by a few adults (teachers)

(SONG)

LEON Splendid. Well done. Well done. That really has got the end of term assembly off to a flying start. Now to celebrate the end of term we have a splendid surprise courtesy of own school cook Dame Betty. But has anyone seen her?

Bertie Birdseed have you seen your mother?

BERTIE Is she behind you?

LEON Now this isn't a pantomime Bertie

BERTIE Yes it is, isn't it boys and girls?

AUDIENCE YES!

BERTIE Thanks all of you – my name is Bertie Birdseed. I don't much like school. I try to make people laugh by telling jokes. I always make people laugh. I tell you what, when I come on and say 'Hi boys and girls would you like a joke?' then you say, 'Are you having a laugh?' Then I'll tell you the joke. Let's give it a try. **(he does)**

Cool, well here goes. The other day I got zero for a test and when I complained to my teacher he said 'Sorry, but I couldn't give you a lower mark.' **(he falls about)**

LEON Bertie, if you have finished talking with the audience

BERTIE Sorry Mr Leon

LEON So, where's your Mother?

BERTIE She's the school cook – maybe she is in the kitchen!

LEON Don't be facetious Bertie. Is that the best you can do?

BERTIE No I am sure I can do better.

LEON You really are brainless Bertie.

DOROTHY I think she was doing something interesting with whipped cream.

LEON I don't doubt that Dorothy, but thank you anyway! Well while we are waiting let's find out what you are all doing during the summer holiday. Portia Henderson-Wilkes what will you be doing?

PORTIA Well Mama and Papa are taking me to Hollywood for four weeks, so we can meet up with Benedict Cumberbatch – he is one of Daddy's clients. It should be terribly lovely.

LEON Very nice Portia, What about you Tristram Chortle-Minster?

TRISTRAM Well as you all know, I am 17 tomorrow and my Father has purchased me a rather smart Ferrari worth in excess £300,000. Not sure what Mother will buy me, but I gather she is looking at a 20 bedroom mansion!

LEON Excellent Tristram. You lucky boy. And what about you Charlie Canister?

CHARLIE Well, I hope to spend some time with the girl I love

(Laughter from the other kids)

BOY Who would love you?

GIRL Well it's certainly not me!

CHARLIE She doesn't know I love her.

(More laughter)

LEON Now, now. Give Charlie a fair hearing.

CHARLIE But I expect I'll just work at the recycling centre like I do every Saturday.

LEON Splendid. Bertie?

BERTIE I will be going on adventures to far off lands and fight animals and monsters and come back triumphant!

(Much laughter)

LEON Yes, well. In your dreams! Finally Dorothy Gale. What will you be up to?

DOROTHY I am afraid I don't have much to look forward to. I will spend the holidays with Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. They're mad you know!

LEON Yes, I had heard! Oh well, can't be helped.

DOROTHY At least I will have some loving company.

CHARLIE Really Dorothy, who from?

BERTIE Yes, who from Dorothy?

TRISTRAM Maybe me if you play your cards right.

DOROTHY Yeah, right! From Toto of course!

(Enter TOTO, a real dog)

DOROTHY Oh Toto. You followed me all the way to school.

LEON Now, now Dorothy, you really shouldn't have your doggie here. But he is terribly sweet. He won't bite me will he?

DOROTHY Oh course not! He is so friendly. Look Toto, look at all the girls and boys. Hello everyone out there. I am Dorothy – you may have guessed that already. And this is Toto. I suppose you may have guessed that too!

Say hello to Toto girls and boys **(they do)**

Say hello to the lovely boys and girls Toto **(she bends down to listen to him)**
He says he is a dog and he can't speak. Oh well!

LEON Now this day is getting out of hand. We have to clear up everything before the prom tonight. And where is Dame Betty. Bertie please try and find her for us.

(BERTIE is daydreaming looking at DOROTHY)

LEON Bertie!

BERTIE Sorry Mr Leon

(to AUDIENCE) Dorothy is so pretty. I really love her you know. However, better get my Mum. She is a terrible cook. We play cricket with her doughnuts and use her pancakes as Frisbees. Will you help me call her boys and girls. All you have to do is shout 'Dame Betty, come on down!' Shall we try? After three.

(They try this out and then once more for real)

Big Dame music and DAME BETTY BIRDSEED enters pushing a large cake on wheels

DAME Oh goodness me, what a to-do and a riddle-me-re. Yes indeed. Well hello to you all you lovely people. Oh yes, you are lovely. Well, most of you! Now then, here we are. My name is Dame Betty Birdseed and I am this year's **(LOCAL TOWN NAME)** Pantomime Dame!! Yes, that's me. Well, are you having fun? Thought you were coming to see the Wizard of Oz didn't you? Bears precious little resemblance to it so far – more like the opening scenes from Wicked with all this school malarkey. But be patient. Now I hope that you will be gentle with me this evening. I can't bear a nasty audience – you will be nice won't you? Good. Cos if you're not, I'll lock you in a room with the band for a couple of hours. It won't be their music that'll drive you mad, just their appalling line in jokes!

You see it's tough being a lone mother – with one son. Abandoned by my husband whilst on a naughty weekend at **(LOCAL VENUE)**. I would say that Bertie is the light of my life – but I can't. I didn't really expect him – but he was a bit of a bonus after I gave birth to my first child. However, I lost her in **(LOCAL SHOP)** – I was wandering around in there for days – I am sure you have all done it! Anyway, here's hoping the child has had a happy life. So I ended up with Bertie. Didn't I Bertie?

BERTIE Didn't you what Mum?

DAME I ended up with you.

BERTIE You did. Aren't you lucky!

DAME Lucky is winning the lottery! Lucky is getting to Greggs before they run out of Sausage and Baked Bean Melts. Lucky is finding a parking space in the High Street. Having you is not lucky.

(BERTIE looks sad and gets the sympathies of the audience)

DAME No, don't encourage him. It'll go to his head. Mind you, there's plenty of room – he's got nothing else up there!

LEON Dame Betty. What have you got for us?

DAME A big surprise. Time to cut the cake. Drum roll please.

(big drum roll as everyone crowds around to see Dame Betty cut the cake with an enormous knife. She cuts the cake – reaches in and pulls out a plate of Mr Kipling cakes. Groans all round!)

DAME Sorry the recipe went a little wrong and this is all that had at One Stop.

LEON Oh what a disappointment. There's not even enough to go round. I'll take charge of these!

(uproar ensues – suddenly MISS GULCH appears)

GULCH What is going on here

(All the children boo – and they encourage the audience to join in)

GULCH Oh hello, how lovely of you all to greet me in such a generous way – boo all you like – but just watch out as I will be looking out for you around every corner!

 Headmaster have you lost control of the school again?

LEON Oh no I haven't

GULCH Oh yes you have! YOU HAVE! What is that female doing here?

DAME I will have you know that I am no ordinary female!

GULCH Yes, well I think most of us worked that out some time ago!

DAME I meant that I am a rather special female!

GULCH Yes, that's true as well. But enough. Get all this junk out of here

LEON Have a cream horn Miss Gulch.

GULCH You know only too well that I am allergic to cream Headmaster

LEON I do apologise.

GULCH The slightest bit of cream and I come out in weeping sores.

LEON Indeed.

GULCH Violent convulsions are then followed by nausea and unbearable flatulence as I melt into a gibbering wreck of a puddle on the ground.

LEON Too much information!

GULCH Be that as it may, my nostrils are flaring as I detect a foreign body in the school!

LEON Foreign Miss Gulch?

BOY Mary Eustace-Elworthy comes from **(NEIGHBOURING TOWN)**!

GULCH Enough! You cannot fool me!

LEON Really Miss Gulch. You mustn't worry. Haven't you got some reports to write?

GULCH All done. In plenty of time. Now come to me my pretty!

DOROTHY **(to others)** Oh please help me hide Toto

GULCH Come to me!

BERTIE Miss Gulch we all have to get ready for the school prom now.

CHARLIE Yes, we had better get this place cleared up!

GULCH Come to me!

(Everyone is backed up and Toto is hidden. GULCH pulls out a string of sausages – suddenly TOTO runs out into GULCH's arms)

GULCH Got you!

DOROTHY Oh no!

LEON Now then Miss Gulch!

GULCH Shut up! As deputy head of the school, discipline is my department, my bag, my hobby! Dogs are not allowed on school premises. This is a violation of rule 37b subsection D. It will be confiscated and you never know, it might make a very nice string of sausages!

DOROTHY Oh Miss Gulch!

DAME Don't worry dear. We'll get her back.

DOROTHY Him.

DAME Him who?

DOROTHY Toto

DAME Him Who Toto?

DOROTHY No. Toto is a him. A male dog!

GULCH Mr Leon, this infringement of school rules deserves punishment.

LEON Maybe next term.

GULCH Punish now, repent later.

ALL No Miss Gulch!

GULCH The school prom is cancelled. All singing and dancing is banned forthwith.

ALL NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

LEON Miss Gulch really that's not fair

GULCH You are a coward Leon. It is done. Cancelled. Finished. Finito. Not happening. Nil Happeno!

(GULCH whisks up Toto and leaves)

LEON I really am so very sorry.

DAME That's an awful way to behave. You should have thrown the book at her.

LEON You think that would help?

DAME I do!

LEON **(he picks up book and begins to leave)** Right oh.

DAME Not that book you fool. Goodness me ladies and gentlemen boys and girls. I am surrounded by idiots.

BERTIE You are.

DOROTHY But what about my Toto.

BERTIE Oh, am I standing on it?

LEON Well, Miss Gulch is sort of right, and well, to be honest, I am rather scared of her!

DAME She was right. You are a coward.

BERTIE Don't worry Dorothy, we will help.

CHARLIE Yes, we will rescue Toto

TRISTRAM Oh my hero!! **(laughter)**
(DOROTHY runs off in tears)

LEON Oh Dame Betty, please go and look after Dorothy

DAME **(to audience)** Don't go anywhere – it's just kicking off!!,

CHARLIE **(to audience)** I so wish I could be with Dorothy. She is all I ever think about but I don't know how to love her.

BERTIE **(to audience)** Dorothy is so like me. We instantly connect, but I do silly things all the time because I am so stupid. I wish I could marry her.

CHARLIE Oh I wish I could grow up quicker

BERTIE I wish I could grow up quicker

(SONG)

SCENE TWO

On the way to small village where DOROTHY lives and outside the ramshackle house of UNCLE HENRY and AUNT EM

As DOROTHY arrives at the house, AUNT EM appears at the door – EM and HENRY are very Bohemian and dress accordingly – country eccentric. They continually suddenly break into a dance, seemingly for no reason whatsoever.

EM Oh there you are Dorothy. What's the matter dear?

DOROTHY It's Toto!

HENRY What's that?

EM She says it's Toto!

HENRY Tango?

EM Don't mind if I do!

(They dance – 20 seconds)

DOROTHY No, it's my dog, Toto.

EM What's the matter with him?

DOROTHY It's that horrible Miss Gulch. She took him away because he followed me to school. I hope he is still alive.

HENRY What's that?

EM She says she hopes he is alive.

HENRY Jive?

EM Don't mind if I do!

(They dance – 20 seconds)

DOROTHY But what about Toto?

EM He will come home of course. Why did she confiscate him on the last day of term?

DOROTHY It's because she is so horrible. Isn't she girls and boys? She is nasty and false!

HENRY What's that she says?

EM She says she's false?

HENRY Waltz?

EM Why not?

(They do – 20 seconds)

DOROTHY Oh really this isn't getting me anywhere

(She goes and sits by herself outside the house)

Oh Toto. Please come back soon. I miss you so much. Oh this really is the most dull and boring place for a young girl in the whole world. It makes **(OTHER LOCAL TOWN)** look positively thrilling! Aunt Em and Uncle Henry are very kind but they are getting on a bit and are completely round the twist!

HENRY What was that?

EM Twist

HENRY No, I haven't touched a drop.

DOROTHY Oh for goodness sake. There must be some excitement somewhere!

(SONG)

(Suddenly there is a noise of a rattly old car. Enter LEON, BERTIE & CHARLIE & DAME – they carry a basket with a cloth over it.)

DAME You really must get your car sorted Mr Leon – I am sure your big end has gone.

LEON Well don't worry about my big end. What about yours?

DAME Oh I say! What are you incinerating?

LEON Oh I am so sorry

DAME How very dare you!

BERTIE Dorothy, look what we've got.

(he takes the cloth off the basket to reveal TOTO)

CHARLIE We followed Miss Gulch home and rescued him.

DOROTHY Oh my Toto. Oh thank you Charlie, thank you Bertie

BERTIE We thought it would cheer you up.

CHARLIE You couldn't go on your summer holiday without your Toto.

LEON Well I wasn't going to let that nasty, nasty, nasty, nasty, nasty, nasty Miss Gulch get away with it.

DAME Yes, so you got the boys to climb into her garden and rescue him while you hid in the car – you are such a coward!

LEON Sorry

DOROTHY Oh thank you so much. You are all my best friends!

CHARLIE We will miss you over the summer.

BERTIE We will. Hey boys and girls would you like a joke?

AUDIENCE Are you having a laugh?

BERTIE Mum wants me to help her in her job. I am going to clean the mirrors. It's a job I could really see myself doing!

(Groans all round)

DOROTHY Oh Bertie you are a one.

DAME You're right. He is. A right one!

LEON Maybe this is a good time to say that it's time for home!

ALL It's time for home!

LEON I think the weather looks like it is taking a turn for the worse!

(Huge thunderclap)

DAME Must be summer time!

CHARLIE Typical

BERTIE As long as it's not too windy – I hate the wind!

DAME Just like you after too much veg!

LEON Goodbye Dorothy

DAME Take care my dear. See you soon. Come on Bertie!

BERTIE Goodbye Dorothy and Toto

CHARLIE I'll catch up with you in a moment.

(LEON, DAME and BERTIE leave)

CHARLIE Goodbye Dorothy

DOROTHY Oh don't say that Charlie.

CHARLIE Sorry, it's just that...

DOROTHY What?

CHARLIE It doesn't matter.

DOROTHY Yes it does.

CHARLIE I had better be on my way. Look after Toto. See you soon. I hope.

(CHARLIE leaves)

DOROTHY Well Toto. It looks like it's just you and me all holiday.

AUNT Weather is closing in Dorothy – better get indoors. Henry, turn on that forecast.

(HENRY is seen tuning in a small radio – lots of fuzzy noises until he reaches what he wants)

FORECASTER ... and a lady had just rung in to the Met Office in Exeter to say she had heard there is a cyclone on its way. Well Madam, you really mustn't believe everything you hear. Reports of anything like that happening are wildly exaggerated!

(Wind starts. AUNT and UNCLE disappear into the house as do DOROTHY and TOTO. The house is hit by the wind and starts to spin. And spin and spin. Everything goes dark – suddenly – after a period of time it stops spinning and the noise abates)