



BACKSTAGE AT OZ

By Bernard J Taylor

A SMITH SCRIPT

This script is protected by copyright laws.
No performance of this script – IN ANY MEDIA – may be undertaken without payment of the
appropriate fee and obtaining a licence.

For further information, please contact SMITH SCRIPTS at info@smithscripts.co.uk

a musical comedy

BACKSTAGE
AT  **OZ**

by Bernard J Taylor

BACKSTAGE AT OZ

**A comedy musical by
Bernard J. Taylor**

CAST

THE CAST CONSISTS MAINLY OF ACTORS
PLAYING THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS
FROM THE WIZARD OF OZ:

VERITY/GLINDA
AGNES/THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST (WWW)
LARRY/THE WIZARD OF OZ (OZ)
BOB/THE COWARDLY LION (CL)
MELISSA/DOROTHY
DOUG/TIN MAN
Plus
BARRY,
the director of the show they are in

ACT ONE

STAGE IS DIVIDED INTO THREE AREAS: A WOMEN'S DRESSING ROOM (STAGE RIGHT), A MEN'S DRESSING ROOM (STAGE LEFT) WITH A LARGE SPACE IN BETWEEN THAT HAS SOME PROPS AND FURNISHINGS. EACH DRESSING ROOM HAS RACKS WITH THE COSTUMES FOR THE PLAY, PLUS BACKLESS SEATING IN FRONT OF THE DRESSING MIRRORS.

BOB, THE ACTOR PLAYING THE COWARDLY LION, APPEARS, CARRYING A SMALL SUITCASE. HE GOES TO THE MEN'S DRESSING ROOM, ENTERS AND SWITCHES ON THE LIGHTS IN THE DRESSING ROOM. HE SEEMS JITTERY. HE PUTS DOWN THE SUITCASE, HOLDS OUT A SHAKY HAND AND EXAMINES IT. HE SIGHS.

HE OPENS THE SUITCASE AND TAKES OUT A HALF-PINT BOTTLE OF DARK LIQUOR AND DRINKS FROM IT. HE TAKES A DEEP BREATH, WIPES HIS MOUTH AND PUTS THE BOTTLE BACK. HE TAKES OUT A SMALL PERFUME SPRAY BOTTLE – PERHAPS AN OLD FASHIONED ONE WITH BULB ATTACHED BY AN AIR LINE, BUT ANY WILL DO PROVIDED IT HAS A DETACHABLE TOP TO ALLOW FOR REFILLS – AND SPRAYS HIS MOUTH AND THROAT.

HE PUTS THE SPRAY BOTTLE BACK IN THE SUITCASE, TAKES THE COWARDLY LION COSTUME OFF THE RACK AND BEGINS TO CHANGE INTO IT.

LIGHTS DIM IN THE MENS DRESSING ROOM AS THE ACTORS PLAYING GLINDA AND THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS WWW) APPEAR AND ENTER THE WOMEN'S DRESSING ROOM, SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS, AND BEGIN TO CHANGE INTO THEIR COSTUMES. THEY ARE QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY MELISSA (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS DOROTHY.) DOROTHY IS A LARGE BREASTED GIRL IN HER LATE TEENS OR EARLY TWENTIES. SHE HAS A CONVNTIONAL MAKE-UP CASE, WHILE WWW HAS A LARGE FISHERMAN'S TACKLE BOX AND GLINDA HAS A COMPARTMENTALIZED SQUARE BLACK CANVAS BAG.

DOROTHY IS HOLDING A STUFFED DOG.

DOROTHY: Hello good ladies. Isn't it a lovely evening?

GLINDA AND WWW GRUNT IN RESPONSE.

DOROTHY PLACES THE STUFFED DOG ON THE DRESSING TABLE IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR.

DOROTHY: Well, Toto, here are again in the wonderful world of Oz.

GLINDA: You act like that stuffed mutt is a real animal.

DOROTHY: Well he *is* a real animal. At least to me. I've become very fond of Toto. Just because he's stuffed doesn't mean he isn't real or doesn't have a soul.

GLINDA: Really. Imagine that. Stuffed animals have souls. And here I was thinking I was too old to learn anything new.

DOROTHY: How can I interact with him on stage if I didn't think he was real?

WWW: Toto wouldn't be the first stuffed actor I've worked with.

GLINDA: Are you referring to Larry, our wonderful Wizard of Oz? He's the biggest stuffed shirt I've ever met, with all those airs and graces and the way he looks down on the rest of us actors.

DOROTHY: I wasn't necessarily thinking of Larry, though I guess he does fit the bill.

GLINDA: You bet he does. (TO DOROTHY:) I just hope Toto has an Equity card. I don't like sharing the stage with actors who aren't union, whether they're stuffed or not.

DOROTHY: Oh Glinda – sorry, Verity – you're such a tease.

WWW: I'd call her something else. Bitch, maybe.

DOROTHY: Did you two get out of bed on the wrong side this morning?

WWW: No, we're just being our normal selves.

DOROTHY: Well, I just want you to know we love you both, don't we Toto? Toto says yes, of course we do.

GLINDA: (DRILY) Well that's a comfort to know.

DOROTHY: Tell me, have you ever wondered why he's called Toto?

GLINDA: Heavens no. That's a far too deeply philosophical question for the likes of me. As a young girl I was trained to leave such weighty questions to the men in our lives,

while we womenfolk went about our business of keeping house and making ourselves look pretty.

DOROTHY: Oh Glinda, you're such a tease.

GLINDA: So you said.

DOROTHY: (TO TOTO) Isn't she a terrible tease, Toto? (TO GLINDA) Toto agrees.

GLINDA: Such a clever dog. So perceptive. I wonder where he was educated? Yale, maybe?

DOROTHY BEGINS TO CHANGE INTO HER COSTUME

DOROTHY: Oh he's a dog of the world. Been everywhere, seen everything.

WWW: Just like Johnny Cash.

DOROTHY: Who?

WWW: Never mind. Before your time.

DOROTHY: Anyway, I was just wondering if the name Toto might have a Native American origin. It sounds a little Native American, don't you think?

GLINDA: Maybe the author intended Toto to be a symbolic statement of the plight of the Native Americans as pawns of the white invaders, as symbolically represented by Dorothy and her associates.

DOROTHY: I don't really think so. You're just teasing again.

GLINDA: Clever of you to notice.

WWW RUMMAGES IN HER TACKLE BOX.

WWW: Where's my nose? I can't find my nose. I can't go on without my nose.

GLINDA: Do you think anyone will notice the difference?

WWW: Very funny.

DOROTHY: Where do you think you might have left it?

GLINDA: Maybe she left it under her bed for the nose fairy.

DOROTHY: (TO GLINDA) Didn't you keep it in a plastic box designed for storing fishing bait?

WWW: Unfortunately I dropped it last night and then stood on it by mistake. So I put it... Okay, everyone stop panicking. Here it is. It was hidden under the lube tube. Oh no! Start panicking again. It's all bent out of shape.

WWW TAKES OUT A LARGE, BENT PROSTHETIC NOSE AND PUTS IT ON.

GLINDA: I think it's an improvement.

WWW: I'm sure you do. Anything to make me look uglier so you can shine by comparison.

GLINDA: I don't need help with that. I always shine in comparison with you.

WWW: Even your delusions have delusions.

GLINDA: I'm sure you know all about delusions.

WWW: Of course I do. After being around delusional people for so long. Mentioning no names, but just follow my eyes.

WWW SWIVELS HER HEAD IN A SLOW, MECHANICAL WAY (LIKE A ROBOT) AND FIXES HER GAZE ON GLINDA. THEN SHE REMOVES NOSE, STRAIGHTENS IT, PUTS IT ON AND LOOKS IN THE MIRROR.

WWW: That's better.

GLINDA: Glad you think so.

GLINDA TURNS TO DOROTHY.

GLINDA: So tell me Melissa...

DOROTHY: Please, call me Dorothy. It helps me stay in character.

GLINDA: I didn't think you'd need any help in that respect. But okay, Dorothy, tell me more about your relationship with Toto.

DOROTHY: What do you want to know?

GLINDA: Is it just friendship, or is there something more to it than that?

DOROTHY: How can there be anything more to it than that?

GLINDA: Didn't you say you loved Toto?

DOROTHY: Yes, but not in that way.

GLINDA: What way?

DOROTHY: The way you seem to be suggesting.

GLINDA: I wasn't suggesting anything. I was just wanting to know if it was simply a platonic relationship or if you had future plans together.

DOROTHY: How can I have future plans with a stuffed dog?

GLINDA: You mean you're just going to abandon him when the show's over?

DOROTHY: No of course not. I'll take him home with me. Why? Did you want him?

GLINDA: No, I have enough responsibilities at home.

GLINDA LOOKS POINTEDLY AT WWW, THEN TURNS BACK TO DOROTHY

GLINDA: I would find it difficult to give Toto the kind of love and care you could give him. I find it difficult enough to take care of my pet goldfish. The last one I had died of my neglect. I woke up one morning and found him belly up with this sad expression on his face. His dead eye looked very accusingly at me. It was quite upsetting. It almost had me in tears.

WWW: Don't be fooled, Dorothy. She's trying to make you believe that she has feelings, but it's all a front. Just like her bad acting.

DOROTHY: (TO GLINDA:) So why do you keep asking these question about Toto? Just teasing again?

GLINDA: No, I'm really interested to know what kind of relationship you have with him. After you telling us how much you loved him and after singing his praises about what a dog of the world he was, I was just wondering if you had plans to take it to the next level. It wouldn't be the first unusual relationship I've come across. In the theatre world you find all sorts.

DOROTHY: Well, Toto and I have no marriage plans, but if the situation changes I'll let you know.

WWW: Well said, Dorothy. (TO GLINDA:) See, I told you she had a sense of humor.

GLINDA: Good to know. (TO DOROTHY) I have to say, Dorothy, I admire the way you put up with my teasing.

DOROTHY: We've become used to your warped sense of humor, Toto and I. Haven't we Toto?

GLINDA: Warped?

WWW: (TO GLINDA:) Well that put you in your place.

GLINDA: Who would have thought our Dorothy had it in her?

DOROTHY: Talking about relationships, I think I may have found the perfect guy for me.

GLINDA: There's no such thing as a perfect guy. All men are deeply flawed.

DOROTHY: I'm not saying he's without flaws. Nobody's perfect.

GLINDA: I thought you were perfect.

WWW: (TO GLINDA) Shut up evil witch.

GLINDA: You're the one who's supposed to be the evil witch.

WWW: I'm talking real life here. (TO DOROTHY) So tell us about this guy you've found.

DOROTHY IS PUTTING ON A BODICE.

DOROTHY: Of course it's early days yet and I don't want to tempt fate by talking about it too early, but I just can't contain myself.

GLINDA: So we've noticed. That bodice of yours is going to burst under the pressure of containing those two volcanoes you're trying to hide underneath.

WWW: Pay her no mind. She's just jealous because she's flat as a pancake without her falsies and she hates anyone who is naturally endowed. Anyway, about this guy you've found...

SONG: THE GUY I FOUND

DOROTHY:
 He's not like other guys;
 He seems so different
 He's unlike any other guy I've ever found
 A man without pretences: that's how I see him;
 A guy I like to be around

So many others seem so shallow
 So many lack sincerity
 So many seem so rude and callow
 They just do not appeal to me
 Most guys are so pretentious and so aggressive
 Or should I say it's just the way it seems to me
 So full of jealousy and so possessive
 So full of animosity
 I like a guy who's kind and gentle
 A gentleman in ev'ry sense
 Who doesn't feel he has to act tough all the time
 A man who's free of all pretence
 He won't stand any nonsense
 Yet he's so caring as gentle
 As a kitten and yet so tough
 I've never met a boy so brave and daring
 He's someone special sure enough
 I like a guy who's kind and gentle
 A gentleman in ev'ry sense
 Who doesn't feel he has to act tough all the time
 A guy who's free of all pretense

GLINDA: Dorothy, darling, the only men I've ever met who fit that description have always turned out to be gay.

DOROTHY: Maybe it's because most of the men you know are actors.

WWW: What does this guy do?

DOROTHY: He's an accountant.

GLINDA: An accountant? Wow. How exciting. You obviously like to live on the wild side.

DOROTHY: Just because he's an accountant doesn't mean he's dull.

GLINDA: Of course it doesn't. I'm sure he's a tiger in the sack.

DOROTHY: I wouldn't know. We haven't gone that far yet.

GLINDA: Of course you haven't. It would be out of character. Dorothy is far too young and innocent for that.

DOROTHY: No she isn't. It's just a matter of timing.