

CHARACTERS



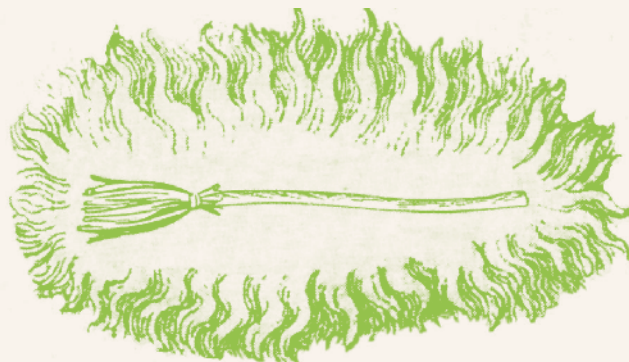
Elphaba

Gregory Maguire created the name "Elphaba" using the first letters of the name of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz's* author: **L. Frank Baum**. The first thing you notice about Elphaba is her skin colour – an unconventional shade of green. Somewhat stubborn, she is a strong character of high moral standing and is not afraid to stand up for what she believes is right and rise above any taunts she may receive. Elphaba is a naturally good judge of character and has a caring nature, revealed through her love of Animals and the support she gives to her sister, Nessarose, who uses a wheelchair. She is a brilliant student with a rather exceptional gift for magic that she tries to hide. Although Elphaba is the eldest daughter of the Governor of Munchkinland, she knows that her green complexion will make it impossible for her to ever take over the role of Governor. That role will be reserved for her father's favourite – her younger sister, Nessarose. Elphaba's origins are shrouded in mystery, but we do know that her mother received a strange visitor before she was born. At Shiz University, Elphaba is a brilliant student with magical gifts that she tries to hide. Because of her green skin, the students, including her roommate Galinda, shun her. Elphaba's momentous meeting with the Wizard in the Emerald City sets her on the fateful path whereby she becomes "wicked".



Galinda / Glinda

Beautiful, popular and privileged, Galinda is a bit of a snob and is used to getting everything she wants. Not always as sugary sweet as her appearance would suggest, she leads the class in making rude remarks about Elphaba and is not afraid to use others to her advantage. She ignores her conscience and is swayed by temptation to join the Wizard's administration and elevate her position in Oz. Galinda couldn't have had a happier upbringing in the Upper Uplands. She is the stereotypical picture of a golden girl – perfectly dressed and poised – to which everyone else aspires. At Shiz University, rooming with Elphaba challenges Galinda's good will. However, the two eventually become friends ... then enemies. Glinda (who changes her name in deference to Doctor Dillamond, who always mispronounces it) joins forces with the Wizard and Madame Morrible, who unilaterally declare Elphaba to be "wicked". Ultimately, Glinda sees the truth about Elphaba.



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The Wizard

Elevated with little qualification or experience to the revered position of 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz', the Wizard craves admiration and glory. Calculating and manipulative, his politics might be more accurately described as 'smoke and mirrors'. He stirs up fear amongst the citizens of Oz, who look to him for security and hold him in higher regard than he deserves. Not a lot is known of the Wizard's life before he came to Oz by hot-air balloon, but once there, he certainly makes an impression. The Wizard adds showbiz panache to the Emerald City and starts restricting Animal rights. Crossing paths with Elphaba was the beginning of the Wizard's downfall. Exploiting *The Grimmerie* and Elphaba's magic powers, he tricks her into giving his monkey servant, Chistery, wings.



Fiyero

Fiyero is a handsome Winkie prince without a care in the world, except for himself and having fun. He's had it easy in life, usually gets what he wants and can get away with anything. On the surface he's very shallow but Elphaba uncovers his much deeper, thoughtful side, allowing him to realise what he truly wants in life. When he comes to Shiz University, Fiyero brings his "scandalacious" reputation for always getting booted out of schools and his view that one should "keep dancing through life". However, his life is changed by a friendship with Elphaba, then his reluctant alliance with the Wizard and tentative engagement to Glinda. Ultimately, when it comes to choosing between Glinda and Elphaba, Fiyero gets serious and makes a risky decision.



Madame Morrible

When we first meet her, Madame Morrible is the Headmistress at Shiz University. There, she's an eccentric but likeable mother-figure to the students. She teaches sorcery to Glinda and Elphaba. However, Madame Morrible makes a startling career move when she becomes the Wizard's press secretary. She amasses great power, which she abuses mightily. Part of Madame Morrible's diabolical propagandising includes labelling Elphaba as "wicked".



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Boq

Boq is a Munchkin. He attends Shiz University, where he falls hopelessly in love with Galinda. Galinda barely knows he exists. As a favour for Galinda, for whom he would do anything, Boq escorts Elphaba's sister, Nessarose, who uses a wheelchair, to the Ozdust Ballroom dance. Nessarose mistakenly thinks Boq is in love with her. When Nessarose becomes the Governor of Munchkinland, she retains Boq as a servant. His life is utterly changed when Elphaba comes back to visit. Boq, along with Fiyero and the lion cub, provide one of the significant links back to the original story of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.



Doctor Dillamond

Doctor Dillamond is *WICKED*'s main Animal representative and its most passionate civil rights defender. Unlike most of the other Animals represented in the production (including an Animal midwife and monkey servants), Doctor Dillamond occupies a position of authority as a respected historian at Shiz University. Yet, even he falls before the repressive policies of the Wizard, who has convinced Ozians that allowing Animals to talk and enjoy social equality is dangerous.



Nessarose

Nessarose Thropp is Elphaba's sister. She is the "tragically beautiful" daughter of the Governor of Munchkinland. Because her older sister, Elphaba, was born green, her mother chewed too many milk flowers to ensure her second child was not born green. As a result, when we meet Nessarose, we see that she uses a wheelchair. Still, Nessarose is her father's favourite; he gives her beautiful silver slippers when she goes to Shiz University. At Shiz, Nessarose becomes convinced that Boq loves her because Galinda tells Boq to pay attention to her. Later in life, when she becomes the cruel and reclusive Governor of Munchkinland, Nessarose crosses paths with her sister, now the Wicked Witch of the West. She learns the power of *The Grimmerie* and becomes "The Wicked Witch of the East" who is killed when Dorothy's house from Kansas falls on her.