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**YOUTH PRODUCTION
OF
THE WIZARD OF OZ
AT GEAUGA
THEATER**



An original youth adaptation of Frank L. Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* is being presented this week at the Geauga Theater in Chardon. This will be the middle production in the Geauga Lyric Theater Guild's 2010 Summer Youth Workshop Series, following the success of *Once Upon A Mattress* last weekend.

This Oz production featuring a cast of 36 local children between the ages of 6 and 12 is a brand new play penned by local writer and theater instructor Angela Miloro, who is also directing the show. Upon researching potential scripts, Ms. Miloro was struck by the surprising lack of satisfying options, so she wrote her own. While MGM songs are missing, there are plenty of other fun features in this non-musical which draws heavily from the Baum book, uniting it with some elements inspired by the movie, and adding some new twists for audience enjoyment.

The kids have been having fun with the traditional characters, as well as several new ones. In addition to the usual Munchkins, flying monkeys and poppies, audience members will also be treated to a dancing tornado, two additional witches, and a stop in a land where every living thing is made of fragile china.

Eight year old Anna Disanto plays the role of Dorothy, and is joined in her quest to "see the Wizard" by Ona Martini, age 11, as The Scarecrow, Olivia Halter, age 11, as The Tin Man, Noah Wohlever, age 11, as the Cowardly Lion, and Kelly Maskaro, age 7, as Toto. The Wicked Witch of the West is played by eight year old Casey Wilcox, while yet another eight year old, Aidan Macaskill, plays the Wizard of Oz. The show is produced by Sheri Martini, with assistant direction by Sarah Wyatt. They are joined by a small army of teen interns and local

volunteers who give the kids all they need to present an enjoyable theatrical experience.

Following *The Wizard of Oz*, the GLTG will wrap up its summer youth shows the following weekend with *The Emperor's New Clothes*, a humorous fairy tale musical based on Hans Christian Anderson's well known tale.

The Wizard of Oz shows are Thursday and Friday July 29th and 30th at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday July 31st at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults, \$6.00 for students/seniors. The historic Geauga Theater is located on beautiful Chardon Square at 101 Water Street, in Chardon, Ohio. For information or to purchase tickets in advance, go to www.geaugatheater.org or visit the box office Monday or Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or call 440-286-2255.

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PHOTO DETAIL: L to R, Casey Wilcox, Noah Wohlever, Ona Martini, Anna Disanto, Olivia Halter

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Geauga Lyric
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