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L. Frank Baum was born in Chittenango, New York, in 1856, the seventh of nine children.

He was a sickly, bashful child given to playing with imaginary friends and reading books. His parents might have thought that he needed toughening up, because at the age of 12 he was sent to a military academy, where he spent two miserable years before being allowed to return home.

Baum started writing in his teens. He also had a lifelong fascination with the theatre. In 1880, his father built him a theatre, and Baum started writing plays and gathering a company to act in them.

This, his best-known story, was written in 1900 when he was already successful from earlier works. Baum wrote 13 "Oz" sequels, and a host of other fantasy novels, short stories, poems and scripts.

He died in 1919, aged 62. He was survived by his wife, Maud Gage and their four sons. This story went on to become one of the most-loved in American popular culture, thanks mainly to the 1939 movie, starring Judy Garland.



THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ	
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Total running time: 4 hours, 06 minutes

Narrated and produced by Shane Sody, featuring:

- Holly Rate as Dorothy;
- Elizabeth Pellinkhof as the good witch of the north; &
- Sonya Matthews as Glinda, the good witch of the south

Additional voices by: Benjamin Rate, Victor Sody, Kathleen Finch

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