

The Wizard of Oz - A Musical Tale Re-imagined by Chris Burgess

Workshop Performance

Upstairs at the Gatehouse

Thursday 15 October 2026

This brand-new musical update of The Wizard of Oz reboots the story with a new setting and quirky twists on the well-loved characters. All performed by just six multi-tasking performers. In a post-apocalyptic world of grey, can Dorothy and her new friends help bring technicolour back to Oz?



Alex Cosgriff, Dora Gee, Sue Kelvin, MacKenzie Mellen, Nigel Richards, Shelley Rivers, Dominic Sullivan

Cast in alphabetical order

Alex Cosgriff

Training: The Oxford School of Drama.

Theatre credits include: *We Will Rock You* (RCCL); *Entertaining Murder* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); *Mallory and the Mountain* (The Lowry); *Their Finest Hour* (Waterloo East Theatre); *Climb Way Up* (Hope Mill Theatre) and *Small* (Soho Theatre).

Film credits include: *April Fool's Day* (Heart/Global) and *Doppelgänger* (JB Productions).

Dora Gee

Training: The MTA.

Theatre credits include: Samantha Brown in *The Mad Ones* (UK Premiere, The Other Palace Studio and The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham); Deb in *Ordinary Days* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham and The Town and Gown Theatre, Cambridge); Maid Marian in *Outlawed* (UK Tour); Ensemble in *Go!* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); Jack in *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Harrogate Theatre); Little Red in *Wolfed: Red*

Riding Hood with Extra Bite (Royal Vauxhall Tavern); Maid Marian in *Robin Hood* and Fairy Oceana in *Treasure Island* (Campus West, Welwyn Garden City); and Ayn Marigold in *Hill Behind the Hill* (Tristan Bates Theatre).

Dora was recently nominated for Best Performance in a Musical at the 2025 The Stage Debut Awards.

Instagram: @dora.gee

X: @dora_geeeee

Sue Kelvin

Theatre credits include: *Wicked* (Apollo Theatre); *Private Lives* (Gielgud Theatre); *Travelling Light* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (National Theatre); *Onassis* (Derby Theatre and Novello Theatre); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Savoy Theatre); *Chicago* (Cambridge Theatre and Adelphi Theatre); *Oliver!* (London Palladium); *Assassins* (Donmar Warehouse); *Les Misérables* (Palace Theatre); *Caroline or Change* (Playhouse Theatre and Hampstead Theatre); *Barmitzvah Boy*, *Jewish Hollywood* and *Entertaining Murder* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); *Bette Midler...And Me* (The Other Palace); *Don't Destroy Me* (Arcola Theatre); *Mumsy* (Hull Truck Theatre); *Hetty Feinstein's Wedding Anniversary* (New End Theatre); *Beau Jest*, *Muck From Three Angles* and *Dick Whittington* (Hackney Empire); *Sit and Shiver* (New End Theatre and Hackney Empire); *Sophie Tucker's One Night Stand* (New End Hampstead and UK Tour); *Rags* (Bridewell Theatre); *Wild Wild Women* (Orange Tree Theatre); *An Evening with Victoria Wood* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); *Tales My Lover Told Me* (Kings Head Theatre); *Hello Dolly!* (Nottingham Playhouse and UK Tour); *Teechers* (Northampton Theatre); and *Annie* (Aberystwyth).

Television includes: *Silent Witness* (BBC); *Doctors* (BBC); *Love Soup* (BBC); *Afterlife* (ITV1); *Brazen Hussies* (BBC); *Casualty* (BBC); *Coupling* (BBC); *Doctor Who* (BBC); *Keen Eddie* (Paramount Pictures); *Love Hurts* (BBC); *Mike Bassett TV* (ITV1); and *Red Dwarf VIII* (BBC).

Film includes: *The Groomsmen Trilogy* (Hallmark Films); *Great Expectations* (dir. Mike Newell); *Anxiety* (dir. Alisdair Ogilvie); *Reuniting The Rubens* (dir. Yoav Factor); *Red Eagle* (dir. Jim Goddard); and *Song of Songs* (dir. Josh Appignanesi).

Radio includes: Co-hosting *The Jenny Eclair Show* (Radio London); *Jack and Millie* (Radio 4); and *Book of Danielle* (Radio 4).

MacKenzie Mellen

Training: Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre credits include: *Twelfth Night* (Illyria); *The Pirates of Penzance* (Illyria); and *Jewish Hollywood* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse).

Credits whilst training include: *Spring Awakening* (Soloist); *Hamlet* (Hamlet); *Sweeney Todd* (Beadle Bamfort); and *Reasons to be Happy* (Carly).

She has performed as a lead vocalist aboard numerous cruise ships and is also a regular performer on the cabaret circuit.

Nigel Richards

A veteran of 8 West End shows and plays, which include playing the Phantom, and over 40 repertory shows and 5 proms, **Nigel** is most at home working on new and experimental works for theatre, including the world tour of Tom Waits' and Robert Wilson's *The Black Rider*, Tim Conor's *The Stationmaster*, and Conor Mitchell's *10 Plagues* (Royal Court).

He originated the lead roles in the European premieres of *Spend! Spend! Spend!*, *Floyd Collins*, *Songs for a New World*, *Baby* and *Hello Again*.

Next year Nigel will appear in the new opera *Dublin Jack*, by Conor Mitchell (Lyric Belfast/Royal Festival Hall), and at the Edinburgh Festival in Tim Conor's song cycle *The Optician of Lampedusa*.

Nigel has an award-winning album, *A Shining Truth*.

Shelley Rivers

Training: Laine Theatre Arts and the Royal Northern College of Music.

Theatre credits include: Carlotta in *The Phantom of the Opera*; Woman in Stephen Sondheim's *Marry Me a Little* at London's Stage Door Theatre; and Adele in Johann Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*, alongside an extensive repertoire of musical theatre performances in the UK and internationally.

Shelley also created and stars in her own one-woman show, *Symphony*, which she tours internationally, performing at prestigious venues both on land and at sea.

Television and film credits include: Judy Garland in ITV's *Starstruck*; *Coronation Street*; and Lucy in the forthcoming feature film *Killing Time*, starring Alan Ford and Simon Callow.

Dominic Sullivan

Training: Yale and LAMDA.

Theatre credits while training include: Josef F in *The Trial* (The Ballroom, Yale).

Theatre credits include: Darryl in *Supersonic Man* (Southwark Playhouse Borough); Freddy Bywaters in *Entertaining Murder* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); Gordon in *Orca* (Waterfront Museum Theatre); Coriolanus in *Coriolanus* (Berkeley Basketball Court); Mr Colon and Christopher Columbus in *The SS Cancelled* (Teatro Latea); and Octavio in *Scapino!* and Protesilaus in *Mercury's Footpath* (Black Box Theatre).

Film credits include: Alessandro in *Pomodoro* (Short Film, Blue Lobster Productions); Peregrine in *Young Sherlock* (MGM and Amazon); and Billy Turner in *NR 24* (Motion Blue Films, Netflix).

Instagram: @domsullivan

Creatives

Chris Burgess

Writer and Director

Chris has written many stage shows. Highlights include: *Supersonic Man* (Southwark Playhouse Borough); *Dishonorable Ladies*, starring Honor Blackman (National Tour and West End); *Tales My Lover Told Me*, *Boys in the Buff* and *Tickle* (King's Head Theatre); *The Last Fattybottypuss in the World* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *Hetty Feinstein's Wedding Anniversary* (New End Theatre); *Lunch With Marlene*, starring Kate O'Mara (New End Theatre and National Tour); and *Sleeping Arrangements*, based on Sophie Kinsella's novel (Landor Theatre).

Other credits include the musical revues *Jewish Legends*, *The Great Jewish-American Songbook*, *The MGM Story*, *That's Jewish Entertainment*, *A Night at the Oscars*, *Elton John: It's a Little Bit Funny* and *Jewish Hollywood* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse), as well as *Sophie Tucker's One Night Stand* (Pleasance Theatre, Edinburgh), *Skin Deep* and *Bette Midler and Me* (Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh).

Television and radio writing credits include *London Bridge* (ITV); *Doctors* (BBC); and *The Invincible Violet*, a five-part BBC Radio drama starring Sylvia Syms.

Future projects include *The MGM Story* (May–June 2026, Hope Mill Theatre). Chris is currently working on a new musical reboot of *The Wizard of Oz* and a country/bluegrass musical called *Kentucky Catfight*.

Richard Lambert

Lighting Designer

Theatre credits include: *SAVAGE* (White Bear Theatre); *Boys in the Buff* (Golden Goose Theatre); *Supersonic Man* (Southwark Playhouse Borough); *The Crumple Zone* (Waterloo East Theatre); *The Story of my Life*, *DM the play*, *Roy's Story*, *The Tailor-Made Man* and *Marry Me*

A Little (Stage Door Theatre); *Boys in the Buff* (Offie Award Nomination, Best Lighting Design); *Twinkle, Tickle, Boys in the Buff* and *Love is Blue* (Drayton Arms Theatre and Edinburgh Fringe 2023); *Soho Boy* (Drayton Arms Theatre and Edinburgh Festival 2022); *Bette Midler & Me* (Garden Theatre, Vauxhall; Edinburgh Festival 2022; Town and Gown Theatre, Cambridge; and Drayton Arms Theatre); *Frostbite*, *Next Thing You Know*, *Pippin* and *Fanny & Stella* (Garden Theatre, Vauxhall); *Undetectable* (Offie Nomination, Best Lighting Design); *The Crumple Zone*, *Margot*, *Dame*, *the Most Famous Ballerina in the World* and *Boys in the Buff* (King's Head Theatre); and *Skin Deep* (Edinburgh Festival 2018 and UK Tour).

Other Landor Theatre credits include *Marry Me A Little*, *Muscles the Musical*, *Alvaro's Balcony*, *Discotivity*, *Stand Tall*, *Vincent River*, *The Hot Mikado*, *Get Aladdin*, *A Class Act*, *Next Thing You Know*, *Nunsense*, *Bakewell Bakeoff*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *No Way to Treat a Lady*, *The Man Inside*, *Damn Yankees* (Offie Award Nomination), *She Loves Me*, *In the Dead of Night*, *The Clockmaker's Daughter*, *Sincerely Yours*, *Personals*, *Romance Romance* and *Devilish! A Musical Comedy*. He also designed *Do You Have A Secret Crush? (Sleeping with Straight Men)* (LOST Theatre).

Other credits include FIFA World Cup 2022 (Luseil Stadium); Erasmus Bridge (Rotterdam); Disney on Ice (7 continents, including Tokyo Budokan, New Orleans Super Dome, Toronto Sky Dome and NYC Radio City Music Hall); Royal Wedding Dress Exhibition (Kensington Palace); *#Hashtag Lightie* (Arcola Theatre); *Cirque Enchantment* (UK Tour); and Jazz Dance Company (UK Tour, 8th year).

Workshop Performance

Directed by Chris Burgess

Musical Director Aaron Clingham

Lighting Operator Richard Lambert

Sound Operator Sam Thornton