

Alex David's Inspiration

WICKED raked in earnings of \$114 million dollars in just the opening weekend. So far, the movie has made a whopping \$359.3 million and only debuted less than two weeks ago. It has made more money in that time than any other movie based on a musical.

The movie tells the origin story of the Wicked Witch of the West. Why her skin is green, how she meets Ariana Grande's Glinda the Good Witch at University in the Land of Oz and together they travel to the Emerald City to meet the wizard, played by Jeff Goldblum. The title sequence has a beautiful homage to the original 1939 film using the same font from the original *The Wizard of Oz*.

The movie starts as we see Dorothy, the tin man, the cowardly lion and the scarecrow all returning to the Emerald City to present the Wizard with the Wicked Witch's broomstick after melting her with water. Our Heroes are in hopes to collect from the Wizard their hearts desires now that they have killed the Wicked Witch of the West and completed the task of bringing the broomstick to him.

Can't you give me brains? Asked the scarecrow.

You don't need them." Said the wizard. You are learning something every day. A baby has brains, but it doesn't know much. Experience is the only thing that brings knowledge, and the longer you are on earth the more experience you are sure to get. Why, anybody can have a brain. That's a very mediocre commodity. Every pusillanimous (pew-Saul -and -emus) creature that crawls on the Earth or slinks through slimy seas has a brain. Back where I come from, we have universities, seats of great learning, where men go to become great thinkers. And when they come out, they think deep thoughts and with no more brains than you have. But they have one thing you haven't got: a diploma.

The scarecrow gets his diploma, the cowardly lion gets his medal of courage and gains his confidence. All you need is confidence in yourself. There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. The true courage is in facing danger when you are afraid, and that kind of courage you have in plenty.

And the tin man, crying as he always does risking getting rusted, takes his heart. "for a heart does not make one happy, but happiness is the best thing in the world."

The Wizard emphasizes that they all had these gifts and talents all along.

As we welcome our District Governor, Sharon Johnson and Marcel D'Auteuil, we unfortunately don't have a broomstick or a dead witch to present to you. Glinda gave the shoes away to that "wretched little farm girl" but anyway the point is that we too as Rotarians share our gifts and talents and Rotary has taught us that just by wanting to "do good" we can use those talents and strengths that each of us already possess to make

quite an impression. We will continue to lead our community in service above self because that makes you “Pop-u-lar.”

But there was one thing that was missing. There was nothing in the bag for Dorothy. She wanted to be back with her family. We all remember the Wizard being blown away in his carnival balloon and Dorothy was left with no hope of getting back home.

The pink bubble comes floating down. Glinda asks Dorothy what she has learned. If she answers correctly, the power to go home will be granted to her. The silver shoes she has been gifted by Glinda will transport her home simply by clicking her



heels together.

The Tin Man leans forward and asks, "What have you learned, Dorothy?"

Dorothy without hesitation:

Is it the truth.

Is it fair to all concerned...

Just kidding.

"Well, I . . . I think that is . . . that it wasn't enough just to want to see Uncle Henry and Auntie Em . . . and that if I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own backyard; because if it isn't here, I never really lost it to begin with."

And there's "No Place Like Home".