

PLAYS FOR
New Audiences

A Division of Children's Theatre Company

***Oz: The Land That
Time Forgot***

by Anne Negri and Dr. Craig Kosnik

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CAST

Clea

Principal Crow / Demented Dodo

Reggie/ Ruggedo

Maria / Mombi

Ms. Grace / Glinda

Scarlet / Scraps

Piper / Polychrome

Jenny / General Jinjur

Wally / Professor Wogglebug

Evan / Prince Evardo

Fighting Ferret or Ferret-o

**Ferret-o is portrayed as a puppet in the real world scenes and an actor in Oz*

ENSEMBLE: (4-6 ACTORS)

Audah / Jinjur's Army

Aujah / Jinjur's Army

Aurah / Jinjur's Army

Ozma

Guard of the Citrine City

Jellia Jamb

Kalidahs

Royal Academy of Oz College Students

Oz: The Land that Time Forgot premiered at Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix, Arizona, on June 21, 2019. The original production was directed by Dr. Craig Kosnik.

CAST

Clea.....	Arielle Leiser
Principal Crow / Demented Dodo.....	Ric Alpers
Reggie / Ruggedo.....	Jeremy Neiss
Maria / Mombi.....	Jazlee Fenn
Ms. Grace / Glinda.....	Skye Ayers
Scarlet / Scraps.....	Rachel Sage
Piper / Polychrome.....	Danielle Register
Jenny / General Jinjur.....	Rylee Hoil
Wally / Professor Wogglebug.....	Connor Fleming
Evan / Prince Evardo.....	Alejandro Rueda
Ferret-o.....	Kelly Jones
Audah.....	Anwen Maynard
Aujah.....	Adrienne Saunders
Aurah.....	Ashlynn Carter
Ozma.....	Anwen Maynard
Guard of the Citrine City.....	Kareem Soldana
Jellia Jamb.....	Rosemary Dann
Kalidahs.....	Jazlee Fenn, Anwen Maynard, Kareem Soldana
Royal Academy Students.....	Ashlynn Carter, Anwen Maynard, Kareem Soldana
Jinjur's Army.....	Ashlynn Carter, Adrienne Saunders
Oz Citizens.....	Ashlynn Carter, Anwen Maynard, Adrienne Saunders, Kareem Soldana

PRODUCTION / DESIGN

Producer.....	Andrea Robertson
Stage Manager.....	MJ Beckett
Fight Choreographer.....	Andrea Robertson
Scenic and Lighting Designer.....	Erik H. Reid
Costume Designers.....	Jessica Florez, Emily Wood
Sound Designer.....	Seth Wilbur
Prop Designer.....	William M. Deihl II
Hair and Make-up Designer.....	Haley Larsen

SCENE ONE

Lights up on a classroom of students, CLEA, REGGIE, MARIA, SCARLET, PIPER, JENNY, WALLY, and EVAN.

CLEA is quietly writing in a notebook.

REGGIE and MARIA are huddled together whispering, laughing, and talking conspiratorially.

PIPER is showing SCARLET some dance/yoga/stretch moves. SCARLET's movement attempts are purposefully different, not awkward, but her own unique moves.

WALLY is reading aloud words from the dictionary and their definitions. EVAN sits near WALLY.

JENNY sits alone, arms crossed. She is an observant outsider.

The teacher, MS. GRACE is sorting through a stack of papers.

The bell rings. MS. GRACE bangs a gavel.

MS. GRACE

All right, everyone. Gather around!

REGGIE and MARIA come forward. PIPER stops movement, but SCARLET is in her own little world.

PIPER

Um...Scarlet?

MS. GRACE

It's OK. Oh Scarlet!

SCARLET is still dancing and humming loudly to herself.

MARIA

Earth to freak...shut up and sit down!

EVAN

Don't talk to her like that.

MARIA

Aw, does Evan have a girlfriend?!

MS. GRACE

Maria. Please. You're the leaders of this school. As the Student Council we should act with peace, positivity, and professionalism. (beat; Scarlet is still dancing) Scarlet! Are you ready?

SCARLET

Ready?! Ready?! (hurries over to the group) Of course, Ms. Grace. Ready for anything, any time, always!

REGGIE

What about the bookworm? (points to CLEA)

CLEA

(stops writing and looks up) Me?

WALLY

Actually, I believe he was talking about me. (holds out dictionary he's been reading) As a proud bookworm, I love the dictionary! I study it all the time.

MS. GRACE

I'm so glad, Wally. But we need to start.

WALLY

(slams the dictionary shut) Proceed!

MS. GRACE

As always, we start every Student Council meeting with our school cheer.

JENNY

Do we have to?

MS. GRACE

Yes, Jenny. In Student Council we show school spirit and a positive attitude...but, of course, it's always your choice.

JENNY remains seated.

MS. GRACE (CONT'D)

Scarlet, can you lead us in our cheer?

SCARLET

Righty-rooney, Ms. Grace!

MARIA/REGGIE

Ugh.

SCARLET

Ready, Ferrets?

Yeah! ALL

FIGHTING FERRETS! SCARLET

FULL OF FIRE! ALL

FIGHTING FERRETS! SCARLET

FOR OUR HEART'S DESIRE! ALL

FIGHTING FERRETS! SCARLET

DO WHAT'S RIGHT! ALL

FIGHTING FERRETS! SCARLET

WITH ALL OUR MIGHT! ALL

FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! ALL WITH SCARLET

YAY, FERRETS! (Scarlet starts to do cartwheels and other gymnastic moves) SCARLET

(to MARIA) She smells like a stinky ferret too! REGGIE

Reggie...peace, positivity, and professionalism. MS. GRACE

SCARLET rushes over to the ferret cage. FERRET-O is portrayed as a puppet manipulated by the actor holding him.

I love Ferret-o! (she tries to communicate with ferret sounds) SCARLET

CLEA and PIPER approach the cage too.

Ferret-o is so sweet! (picks up Ferret-o) Why don't you hold him? PIPER

CLEA

I-I don't know. I've never held a ferret before.

MS. GRACE

Girls! We all love Ferret-o, but now is not the time. We have some important business to attend to.

PIPER reluctantly puts the ferret back.

REGGIE

That thing has bit me three times. (beat) Not like it really hurt or anything.

MARIA

Yeah, it bit me too! That'll be worst thing about being President...

REGGIE

Seriously.

MARIA

...having to feed that nasty rat every day.

REGGIE

Yeah, I know.

EVAN

Maybe you two deserved to be bitten.

MARIA and REGGIE glare at him. JENNY snickers.

WALLY

(to MARIA) Uh, Maria, I overheard you call Ferret-o a rat. In fact, ferrets belong to the weasel family and they are known for being playful, loyal, and affectionate.

MARIA

Thanks, brainiac.

WALLY

(unaware of her sarcasm) You're welcome, milady!

MARIA rolls her eyes and sighs. MS. GRACE bangs her gavel again.

MS. GRACE

All right everyone, I have an important announcement to make

MARIA

Are you going to tell us who the new Student Council president is?

MS. GRACE

Why, yes, Maria. I can't wait to announce the results.

REGGIE

No need, Ms. Grace, we know I am the only one smart enough to do it.

MARIA

I'm sure Ms. Grace selected a smart girl to be the president.

EVAN

Yeah, that's why she probably chose Clea.

CLEA gives EVAN a look of thanks.

MARIA/REGGIE

Doubtful!

MS. GRACE gives them a look.

MS. GRACE

Could I have Reggie, Maria, and Clea all come to the front of the class? (They do.) All three of you wrote wonderful essays on why you think that you should be our school's next president, and all three of you should be very proud of yourselves. Can we give them all a round of applause? (The others applaud.) After much thought and consideration, and based upon her essay...

MARIA

Yes! I knew it, I knew I...

MS. GRACE

Clea, you're the new class president!

There are varied responses from her classmates.

MARIA/REGGIE

What?!?

PIPER

(rushes to CLEA) Congratulations! I'm so happy for you, Ms. President.

WALLY

Frankly, I would have been the best choice, but I didn't have time to write an essay.

MS. GRACE

Reggie and Maria, there are still important roles for you on the Student Council.

MARIA

There are?

REGGIE

Like what?!

MS. GRACE

Let's give a round of applause for our newest vice president, Reggie. (there is a brief smattering of applause) And for our newest Secretary, Maria. (another brief smattering of applause)

MARIA

Secretary? Secretary?! Are you serious?!

REGGIE

(snickers to Maria) Girl's job!

JENNY

Watch it, Reggie.

REGGIE

Oh, yeah? I'm so scared of you.

JENNY stands up. REGGIE scurries behind MARIA.

MS. GRACE

Clea, would you like to say a few words?

CLEA

You want me to...make a speech?

SCARLET, PIPER, EVAN, AND WALLY

Speech! Speech! Speech! Speech!

CLEA (CONT'D)

Well, uh...I don't really know what I'm supposed to say. I--uh...

MS. GRACE

Tell them what you wrote in your paper.

CLEA

Well, I know I always seem a little bit quiet...

MARIA

Speak up!

REGGIE

We can't hear you!

CLEA

I actually wrote about our school chant...not the "fight, fight, fight" part, but the words in-between. If our student council can lead with our hearts, full of fire, and do what's right with all our might...then, then I think we can truly make an awesome place that people want to come to everyday!

SCARLET, PIPER, EVAN, and WALLY clap.

REGGIE
(to MARIA) I like the “fight, fight, fight” part.

EVAN
Yeah, you would.

MS. GRACE
Thank you, Clea. I’m excited to see how you lead us this year.

MARIA
Me too.

MS. GRACE
Some of your duties as President include: leading the meetings, helping create a new student handbook, planning service projects for school improvement, and, of course, feeding our school mascot, Ferret-o, The Fighting Ferret.

REGGIE
Better buy some gloves!

A loud knock at the door. PRINCIPAL CROW pops his head into the room.

PRINCIPAL CROW
Is this the student council meeting?

MS. GRACE
It sure is!

PRINCIPAL CROW barges into the room with a stack of bound manuals.

MS. GRACE (CONT'D)
Students, I’d like to introduce you to our new principal this year, Principal Crow.

PRINCIPAL CROW slams the manuals down on a desk.

PRINCIPAL CROW
I’m here to recruit a few good council members for a special job.

JENNY
What’s the job?

PRINCIPAL CROW
I have the new student handbook and I need some volunteers to help share the new rules with the school.

EVAN
New student handbook? (looks around at the others) Who wrote it?

I did!

PRINCIPAL CROW

Stunned silence. The students all look to MS. GRACE.

MS. GRACE

Well, Principal Crow, traditionally the student council writes the first draft of the handbook and then submits it to the principal for edits and final approval.

PRINCIPAL CROW

Hmmm...traditionally...tradition. Ms...what's your name again?

MS. GRACE

Grace.

PRINCIPAL CROW

Ms. Grace, I've heard about the great traditions of this school's past. But I was hired to shake this school up, to breathe fresh, new life into it. So, tradition, is out. The new way, is my way. Understood?

MS. GRACE

Understood.

CLEA

Can we...can we look at it?

PRINCIPAL CROW

Of course! That's why I brought extra copies. I'm nothing, if not completely transparent. Enjoy!

All of the students scramble forward to grab a copy.

PIPER

How long do we have to review it?

PRINCIPAL CROW

(looks down at his watch) Oh, plenty of time. Approximately...sixty seconds.

JENNY

Sixty seconds?!

EVAN

What?! How could anyone read this whole thing in sixty seconds?

PRINCIPAL CROW

You're the best of the best. I'm sure you're up for the challenge. Don't waste time.

They all begin quickly paging through the manual, with expressions of consternation and shock.

REGGIE and MARIA look to each other, nod, and smile. They close the manuals without reading them.

PRINCIPAL CROW (CONT'D)

Time's up!

WALLY

That was not sixty seconds! I was timing it. We have exactly fifteen seconds left.

PRINCIPAL CROW

(taps watch) Principal Time! (beat) Now, who is the leader of this group?

They all turn to look at CLEA.

CLEA

Uh, I guess it's me. I'm the President.

PRINCIPAL CROW

Well then, are you going to help me share the new handbook with the rest of the school?

CLEA

I--uh (picks up the handbook) I actually have some questions. Maybe a few edits to suggest.

REGGIE and MARIA jump out of their seats.

MARIA

We'll help!

REGGIE

I volunteer.

They rush over to PRINCIPAL CROW.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

(shakes PRINCIPAL CROW's hand) I'm Reggie. Vice President.

MARIA

Maria. Secret--Administrative Assistant.

PRINCIPAL CROW

Excellent! Reggie and Maria. Let's go! I have a whole cart of these in the hallway.

As they reach the door, PRINCIPAL CROW stops suddenly.

PRINCIPAL CROW (CONT'D)

Ms...uh (snaps his finger repeatedly)

MS. GRACE

Grace.

PRINCIPAL CROW

Yes. Do I detect a strange odor in the air?

MS. GRACE

(sniffs) I'm not sure.

SCARLET

Perhaps he means the pungent aroma of our dearest friend, Ferret-o?

PRINCIPAL CROW

(makes a face) Pungent indeed.

WALLY

Pungent is not necessarily a bad thing, it's simply a strong smell or taste.

PRINCIPAL CROW

In this case...it's decidedly negative. (beat) What is Ferret-O?

MS. GRACE

It's our school mascot. (she picks up Ferret-o and crosses to Principal Crow)
Meet Ferret-o the Fighting Ferret!

PRINCIPAL CROW

A ferret?!

PIPER

The best, sweetest, and most unique mascot a school could ever ask for.

FERRET-O arches his back and hisses at Principal Crow. He flinches away.

PRINCIPAL CROW

Oh! I see. Another tradition I may need to re-consider.

PRINCIPAL CROW, REGGIE, and MARIA turn swiftly and exit.

CLEA

Wait! What about...our input?

CLEA's words fade. Long beat.

MS. GRACE

So, what do you think of these rules?

ALL start to speak over each other. CLEA is dumbfounded. MS. GRACE bangs her gavel once again.

MS. GRACE (CONT'D)

But, one at a time. Student council is based upon order. Who would like to go first?

SCARLET

"For everyone's safety, students must traverse the hallways silently. No exceptions will be made." But how can anyone be quiet while walking? I'll fail, fail, fail like Jack and Jill with their pail, pail, pail.

CLEA

On page 22-

WALLY

"Students bring backpacks to office safety for measures." What does that mean? He didn't even proofread! And all the spelling errors too! This is pure rubbish!

CLEA

I think-

PIPER

"For their safety, students must stay indoors at all times. Lunches, breaks, and PE will no longer be permitted to transpire outside." But...I love seeing the sky, especially when there are pretty rainbows!

CLEA

I really do think-

EVAN

"All male students must join one sports team throughout the course of the year. Good sportsmanship creates strong men." But I'd rather do theatre or yearbook...

CLEA

As president-

JENNY

You think the boys have it bad? Listen to this. "All female students, and teachers, must wear dresses that are of ankle length, and without distracting patterns." (stands up) This is ridiculous. What gives him the right to decide what we wear?

The bell rings and the students start to pack up.

MS. GRACE

Students thank you for your feedback. I know that we all have a lot to think about. We can continue this discussion later during our after school meeting. I'm off to teach Social Studies.

MS. GRACE rushes out.

SCARLET

(sighs) I'd better enjoy making sounds in the hallway while I can. (sings into the hallway)

EVAN

I need to speak to Principal Crow...some would argue that improv is a sport!

EVAN exits.

WALLY

I wonder if I can catch them with that cart of manuals! (flips frantically through the manual) so many errors! So many TYPOS!!!!

WALLY exits.

PIPER

Clea? Don't forget to feed Ferret-o. (beat) I'm going to get one last look at the azure sky!

PIPER leaves.

JENNY

(turns to CLEA) What was that?

CLEA

What was what?

JENNY

That wasn't very Presidential.

CLEA

I tried.

JENNY

Not hard enough.

CLEA

What should I have done?

JENNY

I know what I would have done. I would have jumped up and ripped all of those manuals to bits!

CLEA

And he would've just printed them again.

JENNY

You said in your speech that we "fight with all our might." (beat) How are you gonna stand up to Crow?

CLEA

I don't know...

JENNY

Well, you better figure it out, Madame Prez.

JENNY exits.

Crestfallen CLEA grabs her bag to go. She remembers FERRET-O.

She approaches the cage hesitantly.

CLEA

Ferret-o?! (peeks into the cage) Hello lil' guy. You hungry?

CLEA scoops some food pellets, opens the cage and lowly bring her hand inside.

CLEA (CONT'D)

Please don't bite me.

CLEA places the food in the feeder cup. FERRET-O begins to make friendly noises.

CLEA (CONT'D)

Do you wanna come out?

CLEA reaches inside and brings FERRET-O out of the cage. He nuzzles and snuggles her.

CLEA (CONT'D)

You're so sweet...you don't know how much I need that right now.

Suddenly a crack of lighting and rain and thunder are heard outside.

CLEA and FERRET-O are startled.

CLEA (CONT'D)

That does not sound good.

A voice comes over the P.A. system.

PRINCIPAL CROW

Traditionally, during a severe weather alert, the Fighting Ferrets have proceeded to shelter zones in quiet lines. But when there's a real emergency, you just have to get there as fast as you can. So, on the count of three...everybody RUN! 1, 2, 3!

A loud alarm/klaxon sounds.

CLEA

(looks down at FERRET-O) I can't leave you here. You're coming with me!

CLEA rushes into the hallway, shielding FERRET-O.

The hallways are pure chaos, with students running and rushing loudly in all directions.

Some students brush past and bump into CLEA and FERRET-O, knocking her in all directions: a human storm.

We see the student council in the mix with other students. SCARLET is noticeably enjoying the melee.

CLEA is center stage with shoulders hunched and eyes shut tight as everything comes to a crescendo.

BLACK OUT / SILENCE. The grand curtain falls.

PURCHASE PERUSAL FOR FULL SCRIPT