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Wicked (2024 film)

Wicked (also known as ***Wicked: Part One***) is an upcoming American musical fantasy film directed by [Jon M. Chu](#) and written by [Winnie Holzman](#). It is the first of a two-part film adaptation of the stage musical of the same name by [Stephen Schwartz](#) and [Holzman](#), which in turn was based on the 1995 novel of the same name by [Gregory Maguire](#). The film stars [Cynthia Erivo](#) and [Ariana Grande](#), with [Michelle Yeoh](#), [Jeff Goldblum](#), [Jonathan Bailey](#), [Ethan Slater](#), [Marissa Bode](#) (in her film debut), [Bowen Yang](#), [Bronwyn James](#), [Keala Settle](#), and [Peter Dinklage](#) in supporting roles. Set in the [Land of Oz](#), largely before [Dorothy Gale](#)'s arrival from [Kansas](#), the plot follows green-skinned [Elphaba](#) and her path to ultimately becoming the [Wicked Witch of the West](#), alongside an unlikely friendship and later rivalry with a classmate who later becomes [Glinda the Good](#).^[1]

[Universal Pictures](#) announced the adaptation in 2012 with [Marc Platt](#) as a producer. After a long development and multiple delays due to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), Chu was hired to direct, with Erivo and Grande cast in their respective roles in 2021. Principal photography began in December 2022 in England, paused in July due to the [2023 SAG-AFTRA strike](#), eventually resuming then concluding in January 2024.

Theatrical release in the United States is scheduled for November 27, 2024, with *[Wicked: Part Two](#)* slated for November 26, 2025.

Cast

- [Cynthia Erivo](#) as [Elphaba Thropp](#), a misunderstood young woman born with green skin who later becomes the [Wicked Witch of the West](#).^{[2][3]}
- [Ariana Grande](#) as [Galinda Upland](#), a popular young woman who later becomes [Glinda the Good](#).^{[2][3]}
- [Jeff Goldblum](#) as the [Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#).^[4]
- [Michelle Yeoh](#) as [Madame Morrible](#), the Headmistress of [Shiz University](#).^[5]
- [Jonathan Bailey](#) as [Fiyero Tigelaar](#), a Winkie prince who meets [Elphaba](#) and [Galinda](#) at school.^[6]
- [Ethan Slater](#) as [Boq](#), a Munchkin in love with [Galinda](#).^[3]

Wicked	
 <div>Teaser poster</div>	
Directed by	Jon M. Chu
Screenplay by	Winnie Holzman
Based on	<i>Wicked</i> by Stephen Schwartz Winnie Holzman <i>Wicked</i> by Gregory Maguire Characters from <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum
Produced by	Marc Platt David Stone
Starring	Cynthia Erivo Ariana Grande Michelle Yeoh Jeff Goldblum Jonathan Bailey Ethan Slater

- Marissa Bode as Nessarose Thropp, Elphaba's paraplegic younger sister who later becomes the Wicked Witch of the East^[7]
- Bowen Yang as Pfannee, one of Galinda's college friends^[7]
- Bronwyn James as ShenShen, another of Galinda's college friends^[7]
- Peter Dinklage as the voice of Doctor Dillamond, a Goat and History professor at Shiz University^[8]
- Keala Settle as Miss Coddle, a new character created for this film
- Aaron Teoh as Averic, Fiyero's friend
- Grecia de la Paz as Gilligan, a new character created for this film
- Colin Michael Carmichael as Professor Nikidik, a professor at Shiz University
- Adam James as Galinda's father, a new character created for this film
- Andy Nyman as Governor Thropp, Elphaba's father and the Governor of Munchkinland
- Karis Musongole as young Elphaba^[9]

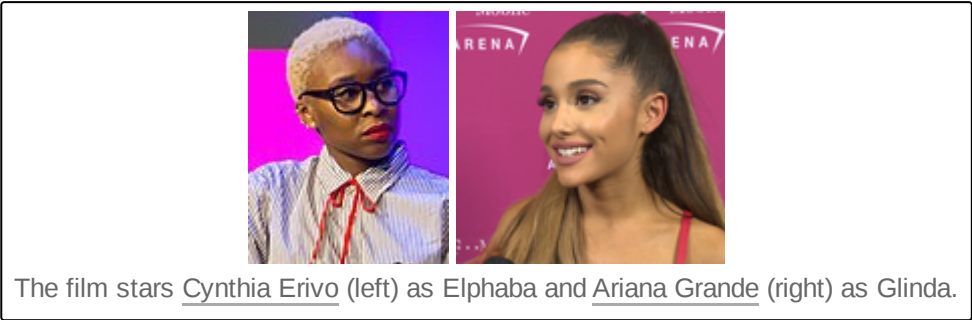
	<u>Marissa Bode</u> <u>Bowen Yang</u> <u>Bronwyn James</u> <u>Keala Settle</u> <u>Peter Dinklage</u>
Cinematography	<u>Alice Brooks</u>
Edited by	<u>Myron Kerstein</u>
Music by	<u>Stephen Schwartz</u>
Production company	<u>Marc Platt Productions</u>
Distributed by	<u>Universal Pictures</u>
Release date	<u>November 27, 2024</u>
Country	<u>United States</u>
Language	<u>English</u>
Budget	<u>\$145 million</u>

Production

Development

In 2003, the Gregory Maguire novel *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, a revisionist exploration of the characters and setting of L. Frank Baum's 1900 novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, was adapted as the Broadway musical *Wicked*. The musical was produced by Universal Pictures' stage division and directed by Joe Mantello, with musical staging by Wayne Cilento. The Broadway production has inspired long-run productions in Chicago, London, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, as well as Germany and Japan. It was nominated for ten Tony Awards, winning three, and is the 4th longest-running Broadway show in history, with over 7,500 performances. The original Broadway production starred Idina Menzel as Elphaba and Kristin Chenoweth as Glinda.

In a 2009 interview, Maguire stated that he had sold the rights to ABC to make an independent non-musical TV adaptation of *Wicked*. It would not be based on Holzman's script.^[10] On January 9, 2011, it was reported by *Entertainment Weekly* that ABC would be teaming up with Salma Hayek and her production

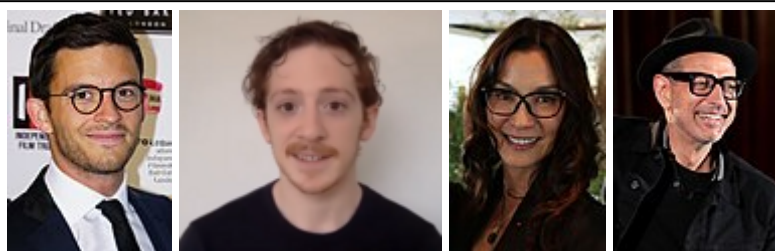


company to create a TV miniseries of *Wicked* based solely on Maguire's novel. No further information, such as casting, had been revealed yet.^[11]

Chenoweth and Menzel were mentioned as possible film leads. Lea Michele and Amy Adams were also rumored to be potential leads. Potential writers included Winnie Holzman and Stephen Schwartz, while J. J. Abrams, Rob Marshall, James Mangold, and Ryan Murphy were mentioned as possible candidates for director.^[12] In December 2012, following the success of *Les Misérables*,^{[13][14]} Marc Platt, also a producer of the stage version, announced the film was going ahead,^[15] later confirming the film was aiming for a 2016 release.^[16] After a long development, Universal announced in 2016 that the film would be released in theatres on December 20, 2019, with Stephen Daldry directing.^[17] By 2024, Holzman was credited as the sole writer.^[18]

Pre-production

In May 2017, Schwartz stated that the film would feature "at least two" new songs.^[19] On August 31, 2018, Universal put the film on hold, due to production scheduling, and gave the film adaptation of *Cats* the release date formerly held by the film.^[20] On February 8, 2019, Universal announced a new release date of December 22, 2021, for the *Wicked* film.^[21] On April 1, 2020, Universal put the film on hold once again due to Universal shifting release dates amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and gave *Sing 2* the 2021 release date.^[22] On October 20, 2020, it was announced that Daldry had left the production due to scheduling conflicts. On February 2, 2021, it was announced that Jon M. Chu will take over as director.^{[23][24]} In August, Alice Brooks was confirmed as the film's cinematographer, after working with Chu before on the film version of *In the Heights*.^[25]



The film's main supporting cast includes Jonathan Bailey, Ethan Slater, Michelle Yeoh and Jeff Goldblum.

In November, Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo were cast as Glinda and Elphaba.^[2] Grande had previously performed "The Wizard and I", a song from the musical, in the NBC special *Wicked 15th Anniversary*. Erivo previously had performed "I Couldn't Be Happier", a song from the musical, in the PBS special *Wicked in Concert*.^[26] In June 2022, Chu confirmed the hiring of Nathan Crowley as production designer.^[27] On September 21, 2022, it was reported that Jonathan Bailey had joined the cast as Fiyero.^[6] In October 2022, it was announced that Jeff Goldblum was in final talks to star as The Wizard.^[28] Goldblum completed talks by December,^[4] when Ethan Slater, Michelle Yeoh, Marissa Bode, Bowen Yang, Bronwyn James, Keala Settle, Aaron Teoh and Colin Michael Carmichael were added to the cast.^{[3][5][7]} In April 2024, it was revealed at the 2024 CinemaCon that Peter Dinklage had been cast as Dr. Dillamond.^[29]

About preparing for the role of Elphaba, Erivo said to *Variety*, while expressing her desire to see the stage version on Broadway again before filming: "I'm relearning everything ... I want to go and see it again. ... When I get to New York at some point I'll pop in and see the show again, that'll be my fifth time." She also

said at that time that discussions were underway on what the film will look like, particularly its production design and visual style, and confirmed the hiring of Paul Tazewell as costume designer. Her request to him for Elphaba's costume when she becomes the Wicked Witch of the West involved "a Jean Paul Gaultier collection with a 'new world, kind of gilded age' feeling".^[30]

Filming

Principal photography was set to commence in June 2022 at the Sky Studios Elstree facilities in the United Kingdom.^[31] In July 2021, Stephen Schwartz indicated there were plans to film in Atlanta that year.^[32] On April 26, 2022, Chu announced the adaptation will be filmed in two parts, *Wicked* and *Wicked Part Two*, saying:^[33]

As we prepared the production over the last year, it became impossible to wrestle the story of 'Wicked' into a single film without doing some real damage to it ... As we tried to cut songs or trim characters, those decisions began to feel like fatal compromises to the source material that has entertained us all for so many years. We decided to give ourselves a bigger canvas and make not just one 'Wicked' movie but two! With more space, we can tell the story of 'Wicked' as it was meant to be told while bringing even more depth and surprise to the journeys for these beloved characters.

In June 2022, Stephen Schwartz confirmed that a new song would be written for one of the two films:^[34]

We found it very difficult to get past 'Defying Gravity' without a break ... That song is written specifically to bring a curtain down, and whatever scene to follow it without a break just seemed hugely anti-climactic ... Even as a very long single movie, it required us cutting or omitting things that we wanted to include and that we think fans of the show and the story will appreciate. What we have discussed is that changes need to be 'additive,' to use (producer) Marc Platt's term. They need to add something to the story or the characters. They can't just be changes to do something different. I feel confident that by the time the movie is made, if we all continue to have the same degree of input, I could have a conversation with anyone who has a question about any of the changes made from the stage show and justify why I think it's better for the movie.

On July 18, it was revealed that with the filming process settled at the newly-built Sky Studios in Elstree, England, rehearsals would begin in August with principal photography beginning in November.^[35] On December 9, Chu confirmed on Twitter that filming had begun.^[36]

On September 23, Planning Statement, in support of a planning application submitted on behalf of Western Sky Limited, indicated that outdoor filming would occur at a site being developed at Ivinghoe Turf^[37] in Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, UK. The original planned shooting dates were between April 6, 2023 and July 14, 2023, with principal photography set to wrap on July 25, 2023,^{[38][39]} before filming was suspended from July 13, 2023 to November 8, 2023 due to the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike.^[40] Filming resumed on January 24, 2024 and concluded on January 26, with Chu then revealing that the vocals of the actors during

the musical numbers were recorded live on set. Academy Award-winning production sound mixer Simon Hayes collaborated with Chu on the recordings of the actors' vocals, using a variation of the same recording techniques that were implemented on *Les Misérables*.^{[41][42][43][44]}

Post-production and visual effects

On February 6, 2024, it was confirmed on Twitter that Industrial Light & Magic and Framestore^[45] will provide the film's visual effects with Pablo Helman serving as production visual effects supervisor, and that post-production work was in progress, with Chu working remotely with editor Myron Kerstein via communication through the newly-released Apple Vision Pro.^{[46][47][48]}

Music

The soundtrack albums for both *Wicked* and *Wicked Part Two* will be released by Republic Records/Verve Label Group, Grande and Erivo's respective record labels.

Marketing

On April 16, 2023, first-look pictures of the film were released through social media, featuring Erivo's Elphaba and Grande's Glinda.^{[49][50]} Exclusive work-in-progress footage from the film, featuring first listens to Grande and Erivo's respective renditions of "Popular" and "Defying Gravity", was then presented at CinemaCon on April 26, 2023, introduced on stage by Universal Pictures chairwoman Donna Langley.^[51] The first trailer for the film, in the form of a 60 second "First Look," premiered during Super Bowl LVIII on February 11, 2024.^{[52][53]} The film returned to CinemaCon on April 10, 2024 to present new footage and marked the first time the cast and crew appeared together in public to promote the film. Costumes and props were also on display in the lobby of the venue during this event.^[54] A featurette featuring behind-the-scenes footage, and interviews with Chu, Erivo and Grande on how much *Wicked* and *Wicked Part Two* mean to them as a cinematic passion project, debuted at the 2024 NBCUniversal Upfront event at Radio City Music Hall on May 13, 2024 and was released online shortly after. The official 3-minute theatrical trailer for the film was released on May 15, 2024.^[55] A behind-the-scenes television special, *Defying Gravity: The Curtain Rises on Wicked*, will air on November 25, 2024 on NBC to promote the film. The network will also host a promotional tie-in for the film during its coverage of the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris throughout the summer.^[56]

On May 20, 2024, it was announced that a wide range of merchandising for the film across toys, apparel, books, beauty products and accessories will be made available from Universal Products & Experiences ahead of the film's release. This will involve retail experiences at the Universal Parks & Resorts and partnerships with brands including Bombas, Cambridge Satchel Company, Swarovski, Crocs, Zaks, Build-A-Bear Workshop, Hallmark, HarperCollins, Fisher-Price, Funko, Insight Editions, Jakks Pacific, Jazwares, Random House, Ravensburger, Spin Master, Amazon, Bloomingdale's, Forever 21, Kohl's, H&M, JCPenney, Target and Walmart. Lego, Hasbro and Mattel will serve as the lead toy sponsors. On the announcement, Vince Klaseu, president of Universal Products & Experiences, remarked: "It has been so fun to develop and expand the beloved story of *Wicked* and bring these incredible characters and worlds to life through magical products and immersive retail experiences; our global merchandise program across

retail and theme parks reflects the film's empowering themes and bold iconography, paving the way for even more excitement in 2025 with *Wicked Part Two* ... *Wicked* is very special to us, and we can't wait for fans to embrace these inspiring characters this holiday season."^[57]^[58]

Release

Originally announced as one film, *Wicked* was split into two films in April 2022. The first half is currently scheduled for theatrical release by Universal Pictures on November 27, 2024, with engagements in RealD 3D, IMAX, and Dolby Cinema, alongside *Moana 2*. The release date was revised from previous announcements for December 20, 2019, December 22, 2021, and December 25, 2024,^[33] with the current November release date avoiding competition with *Avatar 3* and *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*, the former of which was later delayed to 2025 after *Thunderbolts**, and later *Mufasa: The Lion King* took its date.^[59]

Continuation

The sequel film *Wicked Part Two* is scheduled to be released November 26, 2025, after previously being announced for December 25, 2025.^[60]

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External links

- [Official website \(<https://www.wickedmovie.com/>\)](https://www.wickedmovie.com/) 
 - *Wicked* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1262426/>) at *IMDb*
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