

# POPULAR WICKED

- MUSIC AND LYRICS: Stephen Schwartz and Winnie Holzman.
- TYPE: Modern Musical Theatre
- YEAR:2003
- CHARACTER: Glinda

## SYNOPSIS:

Glinda tells the citizens of Oz the news of Elphaba's death (NO ONE MOURNS THE WICKED). Elphaba's was born the illegitimate daughter of a travelling salesman. Her skin was green because of a drink her mother purchased from her lover, who rejected the child because of her unusual complexion. Glinda then takes us back in time where she first she met Elphaba. Glinda is completely carefree, while Elphaba takes care of her crippled sister, Nessarose. Elphaba is a particularly unpopular student, mainly because of her green skin but Elphaba has an amazing natural talent for magic. To start with Elphaba and Glinda who truly loathe each other but end up as roommates (WHAT IS THIS FEELING?). Elphaba befriends a teacher Dr. Dillamond, and discover there is animal oppression. As this teacher (a goat) is losing his speaking voice. Glinda has managed to find herself a boyfriend, Fiyero (DANCING THROUGH LIFE). **Gradually Glinda has a new affection for Elphaba, and chats to her telling her that she is going to marry Fiyero, even though he doesn't know it yet. Elphaba sadly admits that her father hates her and that she was blamed for her mother's death. Glinda, touched, decides to make Elphaba her new "project" (POPULAR)**

Elphaba then invites Glinda along to the Emerald City (ONE SHORT DAY). There, they meet the Wizard of Oz, who says he wants to make Elphaba his assistant. She opens up a powerful sorcery book and proceeds to chant out a spell. To their amazement, Chistery a monkey, grows wings. The wizard then shows Elphaba her power by opening a curtain and showing her a cage full of monkeys with wings Elphaba now realizes that she's been duped into helping the Wizard exploit and harm animals, including Dr. Dillamond. She also understands that he has no power at all and needs someone with power, like her, to do things for him, using the Grimmerly. She steals the Grimmerly and escapes. Elphaba says goodbye to Glinda, vowing that she will fulfil her destiny - to fight the wizard with every last ounce of strength (DEFYING GRAVITY).

Nessa has become mean and bitter is angry with Elphaba for abandoning her and demands to know why Elphaba hasn't given her the ability to walk. Elphaba casts a spell on Nessa's slippers, which become ruby colored, so that she can walk. Nessa is overjoyed and Elphaba is happy that she has finally done something good with her powers. Boq thinks that this turn of events frees him of his obligations to Nessa, but she has other plans. In a rage she casts a spell on him from the Grimmerly despite Elphaba's efforts to stop her. Boq's heart starts to shrink and Elphaba, desperate to save his life, turns him into tin. He's lost his heart though, and Nessa blames Elphaba for the disaster.

Elphaba decides to return to the Emerald City, so she can free the flying monkeys. The Wizard stops her. (WONDERFUL). Elphaba tries to leave. The Wizard wants to imprison her, but Fiyero bursts to her rescue. Glinda is filled with hatred when Fiyero runs off with Elphaba (I'm NOT THAT GIRL - REPRISE). Glinda maliciously suggests to Madame Morrible and the Wizard that they use Nessarose as bait to capture Elphaba. They take the plan one step further and have her killed. She is crushed by a house. Elphaba discovers the death of her sister and the arrival of Dorothy, a young girl from Kansas. Elphaba and Glinda fight, and Fiyero arrives to save Elphaba. This time, he is sentenced to death unless he will reveal where Elphaba is hidden. He refuses to betray her and taken to a field, where he is placed on a stick and left to die. Back at the castle, Elphaba, desperately tries to cast a spell to save Fiyero's life. Thinking that she has failed once more, she realises it is time to embrace the full implications of her powers (NO GOOD DEED).

Elphaba has captured Dorothy. Glinda tries to persuade her to let Dorothy go. Elphaba breaks down, and admits her failures in spite of all her good intentions. She begs. Glinda to take over - achieve all the good things that Elphaba feels in her heart - and to let her die in peace. She also makes Glinda promise never to exonerate her. This will give her protection against the evil corruption of the Wizard, and all of Oz. Finally, Elphaba gives Glinda the Grimmerly, telling her that is how she learns how to use the book, it will give her all the power she needs. The two friends say their final goodbyes, affirming their friendship for the last time (FOR GOOD). After Elphaba has melted, Glinda leaves. Glinda realises that the Wizard was Elphaba's father and as a child of both Earth and Oz, she had great powers. The Wizard is sent away from Oz in his hot air balloon and Glinda takes over. At the Witch's castle, a scarecrow arrives to examine Elphaba's hat - the only apparent remainder of her legacy. He kicks it aside and taps on the floor. A secret trapdoor in the ground opens to reveal Elphaba - safe and sound. The scarecrow turns out to be Fiyero, who was indeed saved by Elphaba's spell by being turned to straw. Elphaba realises that, for her safety, they must leave Oz forever. As she makes her departure, we return to the opening moments of the play. Glinda - with a happy face and a

heavy heart - prepares to relate the news of Elphaba's death to the citizens of Oz (FINALE).