

Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zilker Theatre Productions Headed Over the Rainbow with *The Wizard of Oz!*

ZTP's Summer Musical is a cherished Austin cultural event, attracting over 45,000 visitors each summer.

Austin, June 14, 2017 --- On July 7, 2017, Zilker Theatre Productions will open the 59th annual Zilker Summer Musical at the historic Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater. Zilker Theatre Productions is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to providing access to provide exceptional performing arts experiences to the entire community.

Lions and tigers and flying monkeys in outdoor theater, oh my! *The Wizard of Oz* is one of the most ambitious shows ever mounted on the Zilker Hillside. The musical, based on the book by L. Frank Baum, has enchanted readers, theatre, and movie-goers alike for more than a century. ZTP is confident that the rainbows, twisters, and yellow brick road will thrill and amaze 45,000 Hillside audience members of all ages during the six-week run.

“We can't imagine a more magical show on The Hillside! While producing *The Wizard of Oz* outdoors is quite an undertaking, we couldn't be more excited to combine the beauty of the Zilker Hillside with the incredible spectacles of Oz” says ZTP's Executive Director, Kate Hix.

Each Year ZTP strives to think of new ways to engage the audience and their community and this year will be no exception. Every Saturday at 7:00 pm, members of the cast of *The Wizard of Oz* will be onstage to invite children of all ages to come on stage for *Munchkin Madness*. Participants will meet cast members, learn a dance from the show, and wave to family and friends in the audience.

As always, these performances are fun, outdoors, family-friendly, and are offered at no cost to the public. As a nonprofit, the Zilker Summer Musical does encourage donations and is in the midst of a \$15,000 fundraising campaign.

Food, drinks and chair rentals are available at the Wells Fargo Hillside Market.

The Wizard of Oz runs July 7 - August 12, 2017. Show time is Thursday – Sunday evenings at 8:15 pm. (The show is free, but come as early as 6 pm to get good seats!) Come early, stay late and donate – See You On The Hillside!

For more information, please visit www.zilker.org.

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