

# PRESS RELEASE



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## WHAT A WONDERFUL WIZ THAT WAS!

Yeovil College students are celebrating after a highly successful run of **'The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical'** at the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil.

Inspired by 'The Wizard of Oz', **'The Wiz'** brings L. Frank Baum's fantastical story into the 21st century with a lively score of Motown, gospel and soul music and a modern, urban setting. The show starred Melissa Wroe (19) of Yeovil as Dorothy, Lucy Warr (18) of Yeovil as the Scarecrow, Zade Milnes (18) of Yeovil and Andy Cannon (16) of Yeovil as the Lion. Toto was played by Stefen Mounter (17) of South Petherton and two canine actors, Dougal, belonging to the Haywards of Yeovil, and Hermia, owned by lecturer Julie Read.

The cast and crew from across the College curriculum spent four months preparing for the colourful show and have been highly praised by guests, staff and the public following the three night run.

Lead actress Melissa Wroe said *"I was lucky enough to be part of last year's production, playing Johanna in Sweeney Todd, so it was good to be back on stage at the Octagon. The whole cast has loved every second – from the auditions, to the rehearsal and the show itself – and we all feel very lucky to be involved in such a fantastic production. We're all very sad that it's over. Our performances are a reflection of all the hard work and support of our lecturers and we're really grateful to them for everything."* Former Gryphon School pupil Mel has applied to the prestigious Guildford School of Acting and has chosen a song from 'The Wiz' to perform during her first audition.

Director and Performing Arts lecturer Ben Woof said *"We're all very pleased with the feedback we've had. It's absolutely fantastic that the students' effort shined through during the show and was recognised by those within and outside the College. This is the third year in a row that ticket sales have increased and Yeovil's reputation as a performance college is deservedly growing. The College production is a fantastic opportunity for our students to get involved in a professionally-run show and cement their reputations in many different areas, including set design, costume and publicity as well as performance. This, combined with our high standards of teaching and policy of encouraging students to take on challenging projects, means that we continue to produce young people of the very highest calibre, well prepared for life beyond Yeovil College."*

Yeovil College principal James Hampton said *"We're very proud of our Performing Arts tradition at Yeovil College and the annual production is very much a highlight of the year with a strong following locally. It's a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and see what our students are capable of. We're delighted to have the continued support of so many friends, family, businesses and sponsors, without whom the show simply couldn't go on. 'The Wiz: A Super Soul Musical' was an absolutely stunning production which showcased some amazing*

*singing and performance talent. We're extremely proud of everyone involved and I'm already looking forward to next year's show."*

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### **Notes to Editors**

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