

The WIZARD of OZ™ Fun Facts!

- Filming took place from **October 13, 1938** to March 1939 on the MGM Studio lot in Culver City, California.
- **Shirley Temple** was considered for the role of Dorothy.
- Judy Garland played a 12 year old girl when she was 16 years old.
- Frank Morgan discovered the name **L. Frank Baum**, the author of the Oz Books, sewn into the lining of the jacket he wore while playing "Professor Marvel". The jacket was purchased from a used clothing store – Baum's widow confirmed the jacket belonged to the author.
- The number of costumes made for The Wizard of OZ: **3,210**.
- The Cowardly Lion's costume weighed **100 pounds**.
- Ray Bolger who portrayed "The Scarecrow" spent **2 hours** each morning in the make-up room.
- In 1939, The Wizard of OZ was **nominated** for Best Picture Oscar. Nominees included: Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, Of Mice and Men, Wuthering Heights, Stagecoach, Dark Victory, Ninotchka, and Goodbye, Mr. Chips. The Oscar went to Gone with the Wind.
- The **silver slippers** that Dorothy wore in the book series were changed to ruby to take advantage of the new Technicolor process.
- The Wicked Witch's **skywriting message** originally said "Surrender Dorothy or Die! WWW" but was cut to "Surrender Dorothy".



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- The Wizard of Oz had **4 directors**: Richard Thorpe (fired after 2 weeks), George Cukor (temporary director who designed Dorothy's final costume & make-up), Victor Fleming (primary) and King Vidor (Kansas scenes).
- The Emerald City horses were dyed with color flavored **gelatin** – make-up was consistently reapplied because the horses kept licking it off.
- The number of actors portraying Munchkins: **124**
- The film was MGM's **most expensive** production up to that time. Although it received largely positive reviews, it was initially a box office failure.
- The Wizard of OZ first aired on television **November 3, 1956**, re-introducing the film to the public and eventually becoming an annual tradition, making it one of the most famous and beloved films ever made.
- The average cost of a movie ticket in 1939 was **23 cents**; a bag of popcorn at the movie theater was **10 cents**.
- It took **12 takes** to have Dorothy's dog Toto run along side the actors as they skipped down the yellow brick road.
- The Hollywood premiere was on **August 15, 1939**, at Grauman's Chinese Theatre.
- Buddy Ebsen was originally cast as the **Tin Man** but had to relinquish the role to Jack Haley because of an allergic reaction to the silver dust make-up. Buddy is best known in his role as Jed Clampett from "The Beverly Hillbillies".



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