

JOURNEY TO MUNCHKINLAND

SALISBURY ACADEMY JOINS CATAWBA'S PRODUCTION OF *THE WIZARD OF OZ*

OFF TO CATAWBA COLLEGE!

In *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy Gale arrives in Munchkinland after the whirlwind twister transports her house to the magical land of Oz. The munchkins welcome Dorothy to Oz and tell her to "follow the yellow brick road." In Catawba's production of *The Wizard of Oz*, student performers from the local school, Salisbury Academy, make up the munchkin cast. Founded in 1993, Salisbury Academy is a 3K-12 private school located in Salisbury, North Carolina, which has a mission of "preparing passionate leaders through discovery, stewardship, community, and faith." Due to its proximity to Catawba, the two schools frequently collaborate; however, this specific collaboration is novel for the two schools.



A MERRY OLD OPPORTUNITY!

For the students of Salisbury Academy, *The Wizard of Oz* has proven to be a one-of-a-kind experience. Working with college professors, acting with college students, and performing in a wide auditorium such as Keppel are all novel experiences for the Salisbury Academy cast. Eighth grader Larkyn McNeely notes that she's felt more confident during this production. "Whenever we first started doing it in fifth grade, we weren't super introduced to the arts; we were very new to it. Now that I've gained interest in it, I've been more comfortable performing on a stage." While sixth grader Noah Partridge commented on the amount of musical numbers. "The *Wizard of Oz* is different because there are more musical numbers in it, and it's harder because there are more dance moves in it."



COLLABORATION IN OZ!

Several Catawba students and professors have been commuting to Salisbury Academy's main campus to assist with rehearsals. The team includes director David Pulliam, choreographer Kristin Kavanagh, assistant choreographer Jess Slapnik, dance captain Jovey McFarland, ensemble member Aslyn Goodwin, and marketing coordinator Grayce Pittman. Chelby Shay, SA art teacher and theatre coordinator, is positive about how rehearsals have been working, stating, "These Catawba students and Professors have been exceptional! Each day, it is exciting to see the students' faces light up and to see them be excited to see which people are coming in to lead dance, or to lead direction with them." While this collaboration has been exciting for the students, it has been equally exciting for the professors involved. Kristin Kavanagh discusses how this opportunity has made her feel more connected to the Salisbury community. "I'm new to Salisbury this academic year, and this project has been a wonderful way to feel more connected and integrated into the community. The students bring so much energy and enthusiasm to the process. It has been really enjoyable to be around their infectious excitement and to watch their interest and confidence in dance and the arts continue to grow."

TICKETS FOR *THE WIZARD OF OZ* CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTPS://CATAWBA.EDU/THEATRETIX/](https://catawba.edu/theatretix/)