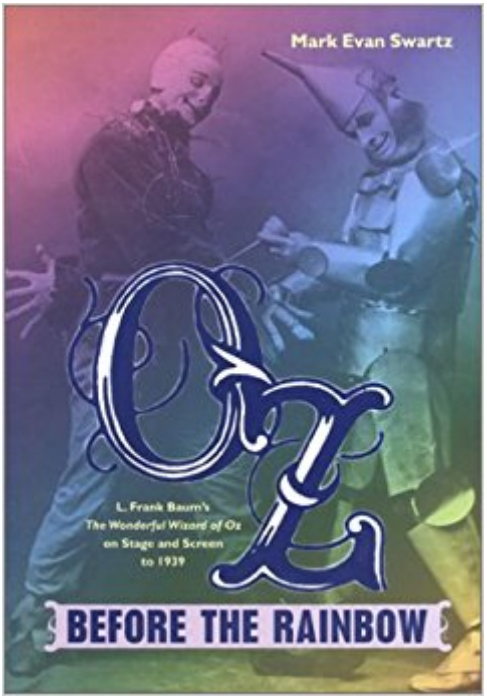
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Oz Before The Rainbow: L. Frank Baum's The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz On Stage And Screen To 1939



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Synopsis

Swartz reminds us in that various stage and screen dramatizations of Baum’s story preceded and influenced the 1939 film. This richly illustrated book contains many rare photographs, film stills, sketches, theater programs, and movie advertisements from the different productions.Piecing together the Chicago and Broadway stage productions (1902-3) from contemporary reviews, surviving script pages, and published song lyrics, Swartz shows how Baum and his many collaborators worked to transform the book into a popular theatrical attractionÃ¢â ¬â ¢often requiring significant alterations to the original story.

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Customer Reviews

Swartz artfully achieves his purpose of showing "that the infiltration of the Wizard of Oz story into our cultural bloodstream was not an overnight process" by tracking the influences and popularity of the many stage and screen productions of the story that preceded the 1939 Judy Garland film. And a big body of work those productions are. There were many Oz musicals staged between 1902 and 1918, and a raft of silent Oz films produced between 1908 and 1925. Swartz briefly profiles Oz creator L. Frank Baum but focuses his spirited account on the variety of those stage and film adaptations. He vividly describes specific performances, compares and contrasts them with others, and shows how each influenced the ones that followed, up to the 1939 movie and beyond to contemporary stage adaptations. Swartz’s scholarship is evident in his many citations of primary source material, which, together with the book’s profuse illustration in both black-and-white and

color, makes the book irresistible to dedicated Oz buffs. Sally EstesCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Invaluable. It is well illustrated and is the first major book to show how much of our favorite American fairyland was informed by the early Oz stage shows and films... This book is essential for any Baum scholar's shelf and, indeed, should be informative and enjoyable for those interested in the MGM film, too. (David Maxine The Baum Bugle)Swartz artfully achieves his purpose of showing 'that the infiltration of the Wizard of Oz story into our cultural bloodstream was not an overnight process' by tracking the influences and popularity of the many stage and screen productions of the story that preceded the 1939 Judy Garland film. Swartz's scholarship is evident in his many citations of primary source material, which, together with the book's profuse illustrations in both black-and-white and color, makes this book irresistible to dedicated Oz buffs. (Booklist)Like Walt Disney, Baum was ahead of his time with his interest in imaginative visual productions, and this book revisits them in detail, proving that his impact on popular culture is almost unequaled. (Anne Morris Austin American-Statesman)A pleasantly scholarly account of the various stage and screen versions that were made of Baum's story before Judy Garland came along. (Herbert Kupferberg Parade Magazine)Attractively produced, this book fills a gap in the literature. (Choice)Fascinating and timely..Swartz has compiled early stage show photographs, posters, movie stills, actors' costume shots and artists' impressions of the story generously enough to make Oz Before the Rainbowa book of lustrous appeal. (The Age (Melbourne))Swartz has painstakingly researched the history of L. Frank Baum's 1900 best seller, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, from publication to the ultimate film version, the MGM 1939 Technicolor musical... The author examines the nature of popular culture and mass media while showing how changes made in the stage and film versions that followed the initial productions affected later versions and the 1939 film... This unique study is highly recommended. (Library Journal)Thorough and fascinating... A significant achievement and addition to Oz scholarship. It provides interesting and new directions for other researchers to follow, and adds to the cultural, mythical, and historical richness that the Oz tradition encompasses for so many people... Scholars and researchersÃ¢â ¬â ¢and perhaps those readers who are more than casual fans of the books and/or the 1939 filmÃ¢â ¬â ¢will find themselves returning to this book repeatedly. It is a worthy addition to an Oz lover's library. (Diana Dominguez Cercles: Revue pluridisciplinaire du monde anglophone)Swartz has discovered a fresh topic of importance and of interest to theater historians, to students of children's literature, and of course, to readers and

viewers of The Wizard of Oz. His study of the 1902 stage musical fills in an important gap, providing a comprehensive account of its creation, staging, performance, and critical reception. (Russell Merrittco, author of Walt in Wonderland)Swartz reminds us that Oz, from the turn of the 20th century on, has continued to live in America's consciousness. (Andrew Karp Utopian Studies)The book reprints a wealth of rare illustrationsÃ¢â ¬â ¢photos from the various productions, advertisements and posters, program covers, photos and drawings of Baum's collaborators, sheet music, etc. (Ruth Berman Science Fiction Studies)

After a few years I finally have this book, and it was an absolute pleasure in reading about the many editions of "the Wizard of Oz and others" that I knew about but never really could find any info about. In this book, Mark Evan Swartz gives a detailed synopsis of L. Frank Baum's original story on 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' book, his first draft for the Musical (which closely followed his book but with a few little changes), the 1902 Musical Stage Productions of "the Wizard of Oz" - along with the many changes it went through in later years and countries for tours, along with the other "Oz" Musicals on Stage (like "the Woggle-Bug", based on L. Frank Baum's 2nd Oz book 'the Marvelous Land of Oz" and "the Tik-Tok Man of Oz", based on the 3rd 'Ozma of Oz' book), the 1908 "Fairy-Logue and Radio Plays", the 1910 Selig film of "the Wonderful Wizard of Oz" (which was the first film and debut of - what most people would believe - the Witch of the West, named Momba), the 1925 "Larry Semon in the Wizard of Oz" movie, the 1933 animated short "Wizard of Oz" and finally the 1939 "MGM's the Wizard of Oz", while also mentioning the remakes of the Musical MGM, along with mentioning "the Wiz". It also tells us about a few other Oz films that aren't very well-known today.The colourful pictures are in the middle of the book (like a Movie Novel) and the black-and-white pictures/photographs are throughout the book. However, it forgets to mention a few things:* the name for the Good Witch of the North in the Stage Musical was Locasta (found in 'Annotated Wizard of Oz').* the synopsis for performances such as "the Woggle-Bug" and "the Tik-Tok Man of Oz" Stage shows, the 1910 films of "Dorothy and the Scarecrow in Oz", "the Land of Oz" and "John Dough and the Cherub" (I'm sure that if the '1910 Wizard' can be found, then maybe the 2 '1910 Oz' films + 'John Dough' and hopefully the '1908 Fairy-Logue and Radio Plays' can be found/restored soon and put on DVD too), a 1931 "the Scarecrow of Oz" short and the 1933 "Wizard of Oz" animated short.I love having this book and I agree that those of you who wish to know a lot about 'Oz on stage and Screen' should have this book.Thanks to this book, it helped me to realize why, compared to the previous 'Wizard of Oz' films of 1910 and 1925, why the MGM Musical is very popular with the older people, seeing how it was the first film based on the Original

L. Frank Baum Story (Remember, when compared to the previous versions) to be feature-length with colour and taking up many parts of the story; it even helped me to point out/remember a few more bits of MGM that was from the book, but I still prefer the more closely-followed-animated-adaptaions (of 1982, 1987 and maybe 1991 and 1973-4).

While "The Wizard of Oz" immediately brings to mind the timeless 1939 film, the story had been adapted for stage and screen long before then, on numerous occasions, by original author L. Frank Baum and others...Swartz does a fine job detailing them and their influence on the classic MGM film, including:- The 1902 musical extravaganza (which gets the most print, recalling its initial development as a fairly faithful adaptation of Baum’s original book, only to be almost completely reworked by producer Fred Hamlin and director Julian Mitchell, its major success and the fame it brought to stars Fred Stone and Dave Montgomery, lyrics to its countless musical numbers, recounting of newspaper articles about the show, and lots more!)- Baum’s less successful follow-up stage shows, The Woggle Bug and The Tik-Tok Man of Oz- His popular, but financially unsuccessful attempt at combining live action and film for the stage, the "Fairylogue and Radio-Play"- William Selig’s 1910 silent film adaptation, as well as later efforts released by Baum’s "Oz Film Company"- The 1925 Chadwick Pictures adaptation, noteworthy for featuring an early performance by Oliver Hardy, just a year before he first teamed up w/Stan LaurelThe book also includes numerous photos of the various stage/screen adaptations, as well as those responsible for them...all told, it’s a great read for anyone who truly wants to know more about Oz!

Prior to reading this wonderful book, I was somewhat of a newbie to the works of L. Frank Baum. I was familiar with the Wizard of Oz movie, but had never bothered to read the book from whence it came. Reading Mark Evan Swartz’s "Oz Before the Rainbow" opened my eyes to Baum’s additional works as well as the 1903 stage extravaganza based on "The Wizard of Oz".Before the 1939 Judy Garland film, the 1903 stage adaptation was THE definitive version of Baum’s first book. David Montgomery and Fred Stone were the definitive Tin Man and Scarecrow. In fact, the play made the team of Montgomery and Stone household names for several years after the play’s successful run. While the storyline of the musical did differ from Baum’s original work, you’ll be surprised to find out how much of it translated over to the ’39 movie.Several adjustments were made to the story in order to get it to the stage, rendering the story vaguely recognizible, but way off from Baum’s originial work. While wary of the many differences, Baum and songwriting partner Paul Tietjens composed several tunes for the show -- none of which carried over to the film versions. But through extensive

research, Swartz provides the words to many of these forgotton melodies -- a real find for any Oz fan.There are also many other interesting revelations concerning the 1903 play as well as the other film versions that followed. For instance, did you know Oliver Hardy (of Laurel & Hardy fame) played a part in one of the early versions of Oz?This is a great book for any fan of the Oz books or movies. It's all beautifully arranged between text, documents and pictures. It'll make a wonderful addition to your Oz colletion and make you want to discover more about Oz prior to 1939. Highly recommended reading!

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