

# ...and the reviews are Wicked too!

## REVIEW

Reviews have been pouring in for blockbusting brand **Wicked**, at MK Theatre until March 8.

If you've not yet booked for the season highlight, cast your eyes over the words below, and let us persuade you.

'Wicked' is the untold story of the witches from L. Frank Baum's 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' and this witty re-imagining of the unlikely but profound friendship between two sorcery students now has a cult following, writes **Georgina Butler**.

Based on a 1995 novel titled 'Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West' by Gregory Maguire, the magical show has broken box office records around the world since its 2003 debut.

This distinctive, green-hued saga of witchery really is the perfect prequel – and sensational sequel – to the familiar tale of Oz.

There is so much to wonder about in 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' – just why did Dorothy find herself in Oz; how did the Lion come to be so very cowardly; whatever happened to the Tin Man's heart; and, has the Wicked Witch of the West always been wicked? 'Wicked' addresses all these questions – and more – through an all-singing, all-dancing exploration of how adolescent angst, the pursuit of popularity and blinkered narrow-mindedness converge to shape our life choices.

The plot begins before, and continues after, Dorothy's arrival in Oz from Kansas and focuses on how Elphaba (the green-skinned Wicked Witch of the West) and Glinda (the Good Witch of the North) came to be the witches they are today.

Girl power certainly rules in this production.

The two lead characters are iconic female roles and Emily Tierney (as Glinda) and Nikki Davis-Jones (Elphaba) are enchanting (and presumably exhausted after each show as they are barely offstage all evening).

Our leading ladies succeed in creating a warm partnership. Their dynamic, endearing duets leave the audience fully believing that the preening Glinda and her green-faced adversary/best friend forever are the epitome of a real-life, fickle, girly friendship.

Personality clashes, rivalry over a shared love-interest and reactionary responses to the hero-worshipped Wizard's corrupt regime keep the plot lively and entertaining. Time flies, the action is well-paced and scenes shift seamlessly.

>For full review visit [www.miltonkeynes.co.uk](http://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk)  
To book, call 0844 871 7652.



**A WICKED SHOW:** Elphaba and Doctor Dillamond in a scene from the show that is taking Milton Keynes by storm

## Classic Clapton will be wonderful tomorrow night

### THE STABLES

Although funnyman Chris Ramsey and folk fiends Gigs-panner are both at The Stables this evening, tickets are all sold-out, so you'll not be going if you aren't already sorted. How about turning out tomorrow for a tribute to Slow Hands himself, though? Classic Clapton will deliver a two-hour journey through Eric's many slabs of the sensational: From Wonderful Tonight and I Shot The Sheriff to Tears in Heaven and a small-known number called Layla. Mike Hall is the man filling the big shoes, and playing the big tunes.

On Saturday the venue presents a true rock 'n' roll pioneer, according to the brochure, and they aren't exaggerating any – we are talking Marty Wilde here.

Kim's dad will be helped by his clawing band of Wildcats at the musical party.

While marvellous Marty gets to work on the main stage, on Stage 2 Janey Bombshell promises 'a kaleidoscope of power packed excitement' when she cuts loose her 1970s inspired original music for you, everything from Abba-esque pop to beautiful balladry', from 8.45pm.

On Sunday afternoon, Artur Pizarro plays Rachmaninov from 3pm – the first of six concerts that will see the internationally renowned pianist perform Rachmaninov's complete works for piano.

In the evening, Keith Ball &

Kenny's Jazzmen will deliver the music that made Kenny an endearing success for so many years.

Kenny passed away last March, but his son Keith wanted the band to stay together, and to continue his father's legacy he has stepped in as band leader and vocalist.

There's nowt in the diary for Monday, but Horse gallops in on Tuesday evening.

The Scottish singer-songwriter has supported artists including Tina Turner, BB King and Burt Bacharach.

She knows how to deliver the goods and with nine albums in the racks, there are plenty of goods to deliver.

The Reflections comprises re-

cent year members of bands The Moody Blues, The Hollies, The Manfreds, and current lead singer of 10cc Mick Wilson, and they will play the songs from their respective groups on Wednesday evening.

If you go expecting to hear songs including Nights in White Satin, We Don't Talk Any More, Forever Autumn and Do Wah Diddy, you'll return home happy.

Stage 2's performance by Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lake-man is a long time sold-out, so you'll not be able to sneak into that one, but tickets for evening else can be booked by calling the usual number: MK 280800.

## See it, then tweet about it!



'Went to see **Wicked** @MKTheatre brilliant show and my god can the 2 leading actors sing' @chrsgrms

OMG!! smashed it out of Oz! @WickedUK @MKTheatre excellent show! #de-

fynggravity words fail me at the moment #toogoodtomiss @CathyWright17

@WickedUK absolutely stunning performance! Best musical I've seen @MKTheatre (and I've seen a lot) @CrossersN

Fantastic evening seeing Wicked @MKTheatre. Stunning costumes, singing and overall performance #takeabow @Ed\_Lovelock

Amazing show by @WickedUK tonight @MKTheatre! All of the cast were brilliant #wickedontour

## Historical guilt from the get-go

### OU FILM SOCIETY

How about a film slice boasting urban paranoia and historical guilt from the get-go? That's the offer from the OU

Film Society this Wednesday night, when it presents Portuguese movie, Neighbouring Sounds.

Meet many of the inhabitants of high-rise properties where security is priority,

and discover their hang-ups and fears...

Neighbouring Sounds shows at 6.30pm.

For more information pay a visit to [www.openfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.openfilmsociety.co.uk)



**CLASSIC CLAPTON:** Stables show tomorrow night