



# Greenlight Screenplay - Wicked

## Logline

When a misunderstood young woman discovers the Wizard of Oz is a fraud, she embraces her newfound powers and becomes the infamous Wicked Witch of the West.

## Genre

Fantasy, Musical, Drama

## Top Keywords

witchcraft, magic, wizard, broomstick, flying, defying gravity, transformation, green skin, witch, wicked, oz, emerald city, munchkinland, shiz university, galinda, elphaba, glinda, fiyero

## Location Setting

Oz

## Script Score

### 1. Character Development: 9/10

The screenplay excellently develops its characters, particularly Elphaba and Glinda. We see clear character arcs, complex motivations, and deep emotional journeys. The transformation of their relationship from enemies to friends is especially well crafted.

### 2. Plot Construction: 8/10

The story is well-structured with clear acts and escalating stakes. The progression from Shiz University to the confrontation with the Wizard feels organic and compelling. Some transitions could be smoother, but overall the narrative flows well.

### 3. Dialogue: 9/10

The dialogue is sharp, witty, and reveals character effectively. Each character has a distinct voice, and the exchanges between characters feel natural while advancing both plot and character development.

### 4. Originality: 8/10

While based on existing source material, the screenplay brings fresh perspectives to familiar elements. The political themes and character relationships are handled in innovative ways.

## 5. Emotional Engagement: 9/10

The script creates strong emotional connections through its character relationships and themes of friendship, betrayal, and standing up for one's beliefs. The emotional peaks are well-earned.

## 6. Theme and Message: 9/10

The themes of discrimination, power corruption, friendship, and staying true to one's principles are woven throughout the story effectively. The political commentary feels relevant and meaningful.

Overall Rating: 8.7/10

The screenplay successfully adapts the musical to the screen format while maintaining its core emotional impact and thematic depth. It particularly excels in character development and dialogue, creating compelling arcs for both leads while exploring complex themes about good, evil, and the nature of power.

Based on the Script Score, this screenplay ranks at 99th percentile and received a Recommend

## Synopsis

The screenplay tells the story of Elphaba, a young girl born with green skin who possesses magical powers she struggles to control. She attends university where she befriends Galinda and later falls in with the Wizard of Oz, who promises to help her but secretly plans to use Elphaba's powers for his own purposes. When Elphaba discovers the truth, she defies the Wizard and becomes a fugitive, finding her destiny by flying off on a broomstick and embracing her new identity as the Wicked Witch of the West. The story traces her journey from a vulnerable outcast to a powerful woman who defiantly claims her place in Oz.

## Comprehensive Synopsis

The story begins by introducing Elphaba, who is born with green skin. Her father is the Governor of Munchkinland and blames Elphaba for her mother's death in childbirth. Elphaba grows up alongside her younger sister Nessarose, who uses a wheelchair. As children, Elphaba is bullied for her skin but finds solace in her dreams of meeting the Wizard of Oz, who she hopes will help her de-greenify.

Years later, Elphaba attends Shiz University with Nessarose. On their first day, Elphaba causes a scene when she tries to help Nessarose, revealing her magical powers. The sorcery teacher Madame Morrible notices and offers to tutor Elphaba privately, believing she could work for the Wizard. Elphaba is thrilled at the chance to meet him. She also rooms with popular student Galinda, and though they initially clash, they soon become best friends.

When Dr. Dillamond, a Goat professor, is fired for being an Animal, Elphaba realizes the Wizard is responsible for the growing discrimination against Animals in Oz. She intends to ask him to stop this when she meets him. Madame Morrible and the Wizard ask Elphaba to prove her powers by casting a levitation spell from the ancient book of magic called the Grimmerie. This gives monkeys wings to serve as the Wizard's spies. When Elphaba realizes the truth, that the Wizard has no real magic and only wants to use her powers against the Animals, she defies him and escapes the palace on a broomstick.

The Wizard and Madame Morrible declare Elphaba a Wicked Witch to turn public opinion against her. Elphaba decides to fight the Wizard's regime and flees with the Grimmerie. Her best friend Glinda is torn between staying within the system or joining Elphaba's cause. Though Elphaba asks Glinda to join her, Glinda refuses, unable to give up her privileged life. Their friendship ends and Elphaba disappears as Glinda remains to become the people's champion by default.

So in summary - The story follows Elphaba's life from birth to becoming the notorious Wicked Witch, driven by her desire to meet the Wizard and later stand up to his oppressive regime against the Animals. Her complicated relationship with Glinda is central, ultimately driving them apart despite their deep friendship.

## **Plot Assessment and Enhancement**

What's Working Well:

- Strong, compelling protagonist in Elphaba/The Wicked Witch. Her character arc from insecure girl to empowered, defiant witch is clear and impactful.
- The friendship between Elphaba and Glinda. Seeing their relationship develop from enemies to best friends gives the story heart.
- Musical numbers are well integrated into the plot, advancing the story and character arcs. Songs like "Defying Gravity" and "Popular" are especially powerful.
- Wizard of Oz connections. Nodding to the classic Wizard of Oz story while putting a new spin on things with the Wicked Witch backstory.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- Flesh out the romantic subplot more. The connection between Elphaba and Fiyero feels underdeveloped. Give this more screen time to make their attraction clearer and deepen the love triangle with Glinda.
- Streamline the second act. The plot loses some momentum when Elphaba gets to the Emerald City. Tighten this section up.
- Motivation for the Wizard's deception could be stronger. His reasons for turning the people against the Animals are a bit vague. Clarify this to give it more emotional resonance.
- Payoff for some supporting characters. Boq, Nessa, and the Animals sort of disappear in the second half. Give them a stronger presence going forward or tie up their storylines.

Overall the core story is very compelling and the lead character is beautifully realized. With some tweaking to tighten the plot and bolster character motivations in the second half, this could be a very powerful screenplay. The musical numbers are pretty seamlessly integrated so the bones for an excellent movie musical are solidly there.

## **Character Profiling**

### Elphaba Thropp

Elphaba is the protagonist. She starts out as an outcast, bullied for her green skin. She discovers she has magical powers and goes to the Wizard hoping he will help the Animals. However, she realizes the Wizard is corrupt and behind the Animal oppression. Elphaba defies the Wizard and becomes the Wicked Witch, embracing her powers and her role as an outcast at the end.

Archetype: The Rebel

### Glinda

Initially named Galinda, she starts out vain and popular. She becomes friends with Elphaba and realizes there is more to life than status and appearances. Though she cares for Elphaba, she is not willing to defy the Wizard. She stays behind as Elphaba flies off, conflicted about losing her friend.

Archetype: The Innocent

### The Wizard

He first appears to be a benevolent, eccentric leader. However, he turns out to be a fraud without real magical powers. He is the one responsible for the Animal oppression. He tries to use Elphaba's powers for his own agenda. When she defies him, he turns the public against her.

Archetype: The Ruler

### Madame Morrible

The headmistress of the school, she recognizes Elphaba's powers and brings her to the Wizard. Like him, she tries to harness Elphaba's powers for her own benefit without revealing her true motives. She aids the Wizard in turning the public against Elphaba.

Archetype: The Shadow

### Fiyero

A prince who comes across initially as carefree and oblivious. He helps rescue the lion cub with Elphaba. He comes to admire her passion and integrity, which causes him to re-examine his own life. His arc is just beginning as he rides away, conflicted, at the end.

Archetype: The Lover

## **Main Character Casting**

### Elphaba

- Cynthia Erivo: Cynthia Erivo has a powerful presence and vocal ability, making her an ideal choice for the role of

Elphaba. Her experience in musical theater, particularly her acclaimed performance in 'The Color Purple,' showcases her ability to convey deep emotion and strength, aligning perfectly with Elphaba's character.

- Lupita Nyong'o: Lupita Nyong'o's versatility and depth as an actress make her a strong candidate for Elphaba. Her ability to portray complex characters with grace and intensity would bring a unique dimension to the role, capturing Elphaba's struggle and resilience.

- Amandla Stenberg: Amandla Stenberg's youthful energy and talent for portraying outcast characters make her a fitting choice for Elphaba. Her performances in films like 'The Hate U Give' demonstrate her ability to convey vulnerability and strength, essential for Elphaba's journey.

- Zendaya: Zendaya's experience in both drama and musical genres, along with her strong screen presence, make her a great fit for Elphaba. Her ability to connect with audiences and portray characters with depth and nuance would enhance Elphaba's story.

- Janelle Monáe: Janelle Monáe's unique style and musical talent align well with the character of Elphaba. Her ability to blend music and acting, as seen in 'Hidden Figures' and 'Moonlight,' would bring a fresh and dynamic interpretation to the role.

- Keke Palmer: Keke Palmer's charisma and experience in musical theater make her a strong contender for Elphaba. Her ability to portray determined and passionate characters would resonate with Elphaba's journey of self-discovery and empowerment.

- Sonequa Martin-Green: Sonequa Martin-Green's commanding presence and experience in dramatic roles make her a suitable choice for Elphaba. Her ability to convey strength and vulnerability would bring depth to Elphaba's character arc.

- Tessa Thompson: Tessa Thompson's versatility and experience in both fantasy and drama genres make her a compelling choice for Elphaba. Her ability to portray complex characters with nuance would enhance Elphaba's story of transformation and defiance.

- Gugu Mbatha-Raw: Gugu Mbatha-Raw's elegance and emotional depth make her a strong candidate for Elphaba. Her performances in films like 'Belle' and 'Beyond the Lights' showcase her ability to convey inner conflict and strength, aligning with Elphaba's character.

- Naomi Scott: Naomi Scott's experience in musical roles, such as her performance in 'Aladdin,' and her ability to portray strong-willed characters make her a fitting choice for Elphaba. Her vocal talent and screen presence would bring Elphaba's journey to life.

## Glinda

- Amanda Seyfried: Amanda Seyfried has a strong background in musical films, such as 'Mamma Mia!', and her fair complexion and age align well with the character of Glinda. Her ability to portray both charm and depth makes her an excellent fit for the role.

- Elle Fanning: Elle Fanning's youthful appearance and fair skin match Glinda's description. She has experience in fantasy films like 'Maleficent' and can convey the character's transformation from superficial to sincere.

- Saoirse Ronan: Saoirse Ronan is known for her versatile acting skills and has a fair complexion that suits Glinda. Her ability to portray complex characters would bring depth to Glinda's internal struggle.

- Lily James: Lily James has experience in both fantasy and musical genres, such as 'Cinderella' and 'Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again'. Her fair skin and age make her a suitable choice for Glinda.

- Anya Taylor-Joy: Anya Taylor-Joy's unique look and strong acting skills make her a compelling choice for Glinda. She can capture the character's initial vanity and eventual growth.

- Emma Roberts: Emma Roberts has the right age and appearance for Glinda. Her experience in both drama and light-hearted roles would allow her to navigate Glinda's character arc effectively.

- Chlo Grace Moretz: Chlo Grace Moretz's fair skin and youthful appearance align with Glinda's character. Her experience in diverse roles would help her portray Glinda's complexity.

- Florence Pugh: Florence Pugh is a talented actress capable of delivering a nuanced performance. Her fair complexion and age make her a good fit for Glinda, and she can handle the character's emotional journey.

- Kiernan Shipka: Kiernan Shipka's youthful look and fair skin match Glinda's description. Her experience in both dramatic and fantasy roles makes her a suitable candidate for the character.

- Sophie Turner: Sophie Turner's experience in fantasy series like 'Game of Thrones' and her fair complexion make her a strong contender for Glinda. She can portray the character's evolution convincingly.

## Fiyero

- Ben Barnes: Ben Barnes has the perfect blend of charm and depth, having played complex characters in fantasy settings like 'The Chronicles of Narnia' and 'Shadow and Bone'. His age and olive skin tone align well with Fiyero's character.

- Avan Jogia: Avan Jogia's charismatic presence and experience in musical and dramatic roles make him a great fit for Fiyero. His age and ethnic background suit the character's description.

- Rami Malek: Rami Malek's ability to portray layered characters with integrity and depth, as seen in 'Mr. Robot', makes him an excellent choice for Fiyero. His unique look and acting skills align with the character's complexity.

- Dev Patel: Dev Patel's experience in both drama and fantasy genres, along with his ability to convey sincerity and charm, make him a strong candidate for Fiyero. His age and ethnicity are a good match for the role.

- Oscar Isaac: Oscar Isaac's versatility and experience in fantasy and dramatic roles, such as in 'Star Wars' and 'Ex Machina', make him a compelling choice for Fiyero. His olive skin tone and acting prowess align with the character.

- Diego Luna: Diego Luna's charismatic screen presence and experience in both drama and fantasy genres make him a suitable choice for Fiyero. His age and ethnic background fit the character's description.

- Gael Garcia Bernal: Gael Garcia Bernal's ability to portray complex characters with depth and charm, as seen in 'Mozart in the Jungle', makes him a great fit for Fiyero. His age and ethnicity align well with the character.

- Zayn Malik: Zayn Malik's musical background and charismatic presence make him an interesting choice for Fiyero, especially in a musical setting. His age and ethnic background suit the character's description.

- Ezra Miller: Ezra Miller's unique look and experience in fantasy and dramatic roles, such as in 'Fantastic Beasts', make them a suitable choice for Fiyero. Their age and acting skills align with the character's complexity.

- Richard Madden: Richard Madden's experience in fantasy and drama, along with his ability to portray charming yet complex characters, make him a good fit for Fiyero. His age and olive skin tone align with the character's description.

## Main Character Casting Limited Budget

## Elphaba

- Cynthia Erivo: Cynthia Erivo has a powerful presence and vocal ability, making her an excellent fit for the role of Elphaba. Her experience in musical theater, particularly in 'The Color Purple,' showcases her ability to handle complex characters with depth and emotion.

- Samantha Barks: Samantha Barks is known for her strong performances in musical theater, including her role as ponine in 'Les Misérables.' Her vocal range and acting skills make her a great choice for portraying Elphaba's emotional journey.

- Sierra Boggess: Sierra Boggess has a rich background in musical theater, with roles in 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Little Mermaid.' Her ability to convey vulnerability and strength aligns well with Elphaba's character.

- Rachel Tucker: Rachel Tucker has played Elphaba in the West End production of 'Wicked,' bringing authenticity and experience to the role. Her understanding of the character's nuances makes her a strong contender.

- Lindsay Mendez: Lindsay Mendez has portrayed Elphaba on Broadway, demonstrating her capability to capture the character's complexity and emotional depth. Her experience in the role ensures a compelling performance.

- Alexia Khadime: Alexia Khadime has experience playing Elphaba in the West End, bringing a unique interpretation to the character. Her vocal prowess and stage presence make her a suitable choice.

- Jessica Vosk: Jessica Vosk has received acclaim for her portrayal of Elphaba on Broadway. Her powerful voice and ability to convey the character's inner turmoil make her a fitting option.

- Teal Wicks: Teal Wicks has played Elphaba in various productions, showcasing her understanding of the character's journey. Her experience and vocal talent make her a viable candidate.

- Kerry Ellis: Kerry Ellis is known for her role as Elphaba in the West End and Broadway productions of 'Wicked.' Her strong vocal ability and familiarity with the character make her a solid choice.

- Idina Menzel: Idina Menzel originated the role of Elphaba on Broadway, bringing a definitive portrayal to the character. While she may be a higher-budget option, her iconic performance and vocal talent are unmatched.

## Glinda

- Saoirse Ronan: Saoirse Ronan has a strong background in drama and fantasy films, with roles in 'The Lovely Bones' and 'Atonement.' Her fair complexion and ability to portray complex characters make her an excellent fit for Glinda. Additionally, her Irish nationality aligns with the Ozian setting, and her age is suitable for the character.

- Elle Fanning: Elle Fanning has experience in fantasy and drama genres, notably in 'Maleficent' and 'The Neon Demon.' Her fair skin and youthful appearance match Glinda's description, and her American nationality can be adapted to the Ozian context. Her ability to convey both innocence and depth suits Glinda's character arc.

- Anya Taylor-Joy: Anya Taylor-Joy is known for her roles in 'The Witch' and 'Emma,' showcasing her versatility in fantasy and drama. Her fair skin and ethereal presence align with Glinda's character, and her American-British background can be adapted to the Ozian nationality. Her age and acting skills make her a strong candidate.

- Florence Pugh: Florence Pugh has demonstrated her acting prowess in films like 'Little Women' and 'Midsommar.' Her fair complexion and ability to portray complex emotions align with Glinda's character. Her British nationality can be adapted to the Ozian setting, and her age is appropriate for the role.

- Lily James: Lily James has experience in fantasy and drama, with roles in 'Cinderella' and 'Rebecca.' Her fair skin and charming presence suit Glinda's character, and her British nationality can be adapted to the Ozian context.

Her age and acting range make her a suitable choice.

- Emma Mackey: Emma Mackey, known for her role in 'Sex Education,' has the acting skills to portray Glinda's transformation. Her fair skin and youthful appearance match the character's description, and her French-British background can be adapted to the Ozian nationality. Her age is fitting for the role.

- Kaitlyn Dever: Kaitlyn Dever has shown her talent in 'Booksmart' and 'Unbelievable,' making her a strong contender for Glinda. Her fair complexion and ability to convey both humor and depth align with the character. Her American nationality can be adapted to the Ozian setting, and her age is suitable.

- Thomasin McKenzie: Thomasin McKenzie has experience in fantasy and drama, with roles in 'Jojo Rabbit' and 'Leave No Trace.' Her fair skin and ability to portray nuanced characters make her a good fit for Glinda. Her New Zealand nationality can be adapted to the Ozian context, and her age is appropriate.

- Olivia Cooke: Olivia Cooke has demonstrated her acting range in 'Ready Player One' and 'Sound of Metal.' Her fair complexion and ability to portray both vulnerability and strength align with Glinda's character. Her British nationality can be adapted to the Ozian setting, and her age is fitting for the role.

- Sophie Turner: Sophie Turner, known for her role in 'Game of Thrones,' has the experience in fantasy and drama needed for Glinda. Her fair skin and ability to convey complex emotions suit the character. Her British nationality can be adapted to the Ozian context, and her age is suitable for the role.

Fiyero

- Diego Boneta: Diego Boneta has the charisma and charm needed for Fiyero, with experience in musical roles like 'Rock of Ages.' His age and olive skin tone align well with the character's description.

- Avan Jogia: Avan Jogia's mixed heritage and experience in fantasy and drama genres make him a strong fit for Fiyero. His age and look match the character's requirements.

- Tony Revolori: Known for his role in 'The Grand Budapest Hotel,' Tony Revolori brings depth and a unique presence that suits Fiyero's character arc. His ethnicity and age are appropriate for the role.

- Eliot Sumner: Eliot Sumner's androgynous appeal and musical background provide an interesting take on Fiyero, aligning with the character's evolving depth and integrity.

- Rami Malek: Rami Malek's ability to portray complex characters and his experience in musical roles make him a compelling choice for Fiyero, despite being slightly older than the character's age range.

- Ben Barnes: Ben Barnes has a history of playing princely roles in fantasy settings, and his age and appearance are suitable for Fiyero, though he may be on the higher end of the age range.

- Dev Patel: Dev Patel's versatility and experience in both drama and fantasy genres make him a strong candidate for Fiyero, with a look that can be adapted to fit the character's description.

- Alfred Enoch: Alfred Enoch's experience in fantasy series and his youthful appearance make him a good fit for Fiyero, though his skin tone may require some adaptation.

- Darren Criss: Darren Criss's musical background and ability to portray charming yet complex characters align well with Fiyero's role, though he may be slightly older than the character's intended age.

- Ezra Miller: Ezra Miller's unique look and experience in fantasy and drama genres make them an intriguing choice for Fiyero, offering a fresh take on the character.

## Comparative Film Analysis

This screenplay appears to be a mash-up of several existing movies, combining elements of fantasy, musical, and character-driven narratives. Here are ten movies that could describe this screenplay as a mash-up, along with their box office earnings:

1. \*\*\*"The Wizard of Oz" (1939)\*\* - This classic film is an obvious influence, given the setting in Oz, the presence of witches, and the themes of self-discovery and friendship.

\*Box Office: \$29.7 million (adjusted for inflation, it's much higher)\*

2. \*\*\*"Wicked" (upcoming film adaptation)\*\* - Based on the popular Broadway musical, this film shares the same source material as the screenplay, focusing on the backstory of the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda.

\*Box Office: TBD (as it is an upcoming release)\*

3. \*\*\*"Maleficent" (2014)\*\* - This film offers a reimagined perspective of a classic villain, similar to how the screenplay explores the Wicked Witch's backstory.

\*Box Office: \$758.5 million\*

4. \*\*\*"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (2001)\*\* - The magical school setting and themes of friendship and self-discovery are reminiscent of the Harry Potter series.

\*Box Office: \$1.017 billion\*

5. \*\*\*"Frozen" (2013)\*\* - The themes of sisterhood, magical powers, and self-acceptance parallel the relationship between Elphaba and Nessa.

\*Box Office: \$1.280 billion\*

6. \*\*\*"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" (2005)\*\* - The fantasy setting, magical creatures, and battle between good and evil are similar to the screenplay's elements.

\*Box Office: \$745 million\*

7. \*\*\*"The Greatest Showman" (2017)\*\* - The musical elements and themes of embracing one's uniqueness align with the screenplay's narrative.

\*Box Office: \$435 million\*

8. \*\*\*"Into the Woods" (2014)\*\* - This film combines fairy tale characters and explores their backstories, much like the screenplay delves into the origins of well-known characters.

\*Box Office: \$213.1 million\*

9. **"Alice in Wonderland" (2010)** - The whimsical and fantastical elements, along with a strong female protagonist, are similar to the screenplay's tone.

\*Box Office: \$1.025 billion\*

10. **"Enchanted" (2007)** - The blend of fantasy and musical elements, along with a character navigating a new world, mirrors aspects of the screenplay.

\*Box Office: \$340.5 million\*

These films collectively capture the essence of the screenplay's blend of fantasy, musical storytelling, and character exploration.