



STAGE FRIGHT: Annaleigh Ashford as Glinda and Dee Roscioli as Elphaba in *Wicked*.

PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS

# A Wicked Farewell

After 1,500 magical shows, a beloved musical leaves Chicago

BY VICKI CRAIN

On January 25th—three and a half years after we first got a glimpse of the witches from Oz—the Grammy and Tony Award-winning musical *Wicked* will perform its final show at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre. With over \$200 million in ticket sales and 2.9 million attendees representing all seven continents, it's easily the top-grossing and longest-running musical in Chicago theater history. While we're sad to see it go (we just love that Elphaba!), we had fun digging up facts on the electrifying, oh-so entertaining show:

- 60,000 rolls of confetti were shot into the air as the Ozians celebrate the melting of the Wicked Witch of the West.
- 22,440 pounds of liquid nitrogen have evaporated creating Oz's smoke and fog illusions.
- The Costume Shop has washed 13,300 loads of laundry and spent 40,280 hours cleaning, steaming and ironing 350 costumes and shining 140 pairs of shoes.
- The make-up department spent 7,680 hours styling wigs; used 265 pounds of hairpins, 3,600 wig caps and 50 gallons of shampoo.
- Elphaba (the Wicked Witch) has flown 6.8 miles on her broom stick while seemingly defying gravity. ■

**FORD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, ORIENTAL THEATRE**

24 W. RANDOLPH; 312.902.1400, THROUGH JAN. 25; \$25-\$90