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# News Release

**For immediate release: June 15, 2007**

**Contact: David Tucker, Media Relations, (206) 252-0203**

## **Rainier Beach High School granted permission to perform the musical, *The Wiz***

Seattle Public Schools announced today that Charles M. Smalls and William Brown, the authors of the book, lyrics and music of *The Wiz*, have generously given Rainier Beach High School their permission to perform their work without having to pay any royalty fees. The district is grateful to Susan Gurman of the Susan Gurman Theatrical Agency, which represents Mr. Smalls and Mr. Brown, for expediting this process and assisting the district in securing the appropriate permissions. The district, in partnership with passionate community members, has been working with Ms. Gurman since becoming aware of the issue regarding performance rights.

Rainier Beach High School will stage this popular musical on Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Paul Robeson Auditorium at the school. Adapted from L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and featuring such well-known tunes as "Ease on Down the Road," and "If You Believe," this stage version will be performed by over 40 Rainier Beach students with both recorded and live musical accompaniment. All ticket proceeds help fund Rainier Beach High School performing arts.

Director Makela Steward said, "A huge thank you to Mr. Smalls, Mr. Brown and their agent Susan Gurman for making this happen. This has been a long and engaging rehearsal process. We are just glad that our students have the chance to perform this wonderful show and are able to showcase their incredible talents to the entire community. So we invite everyone to come see this show and celebrate Rainier Beach High School's performing arts."

***Dates, times and location:***

7:00 p.m., Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23  
Rainier Beach High School's Paul Robeson Auditorium  
8815 Seward Park Avenue S.  
Ticket cost: \$7 for adults and \$5 for ages 18 and under.  
Tickets are available at the door, which opens at 6:00 p.m.

***Contact:***

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