

- ⇒ Many of The Wicked Witch of the West's scenes were either trimmed or deleted entirely, as Margaret Hamilton's performance was thought to be too frightening for audiences.
- ⇒ When the wardrobe department was looking for a coat for Frank Morgan (Prof. Marvel / The Wizard), it decided it wanted one that looked like it had once been elegant but had since "gone to seed." They visited a second-hand store and purchased an entire rack of coats, from which Morgan, the head of the wardrobe department and director Victor Fleming chose one they felt gave off the perfect appearance of "shabby gentility." One day, while he was on set in the coat, Morgan idly turned out one of the pockets and discovered a label indicating that the coat had been made for L. Frank Baum. Mary Mayer, a unit publicist for the film, contacted the tailor and Baum's widow, who both verified that the coat had at one time been owned by the author of the original "Wizard of Oz" books. After the filming was completed, the coat was presented to Mrs. Baum.
- ⇒ Judy Garland found it difficult to be afraid of Margaret Hamilton, because she was such a nice lady off-camera.
- ⇒ Margaret Hamilton, a lifelong fan of the "Oz" books, was ecstatic when she learned the producers were considering her for a part in the film. When she phoned her agent to find out what role she was up for, her agent simply replied, "The witch, who else?"
- ⇒ Margaret Hamilton, a single mother, got into an argument with the studio over guaranteed time to work, only agreeing to take the role of the Wicked Witch three days before filming. Ironically, although she finally got an agreement for five weeks of work, she ended up working on the film for three months.
- ⇒ A recent study claimed that this is the most watched movie in film history, largely due to the number of television screenings each year as well as the various video/DVD/Blu-ray/4K releases, which have enabled children of every and all generations to see it.
- ⇒ The Munchkins are portrayed by The Singer Midgets, named not for their musical abilities but for Leo Singer, their manager. The troupe came from Europe, many of them were Jewish and a number of them took advantage of the trip to stay in the US in order to escape the Nazis. Professional singers dubbed most of their voices, as many of the Midgets couldn't speak English and/or sing well. Only two are heard speaking with their real-life voices--the ones who give Dorothy flowers after she has climbed into the carriage.
- ⇒ The only location footage in the entire film is the clouds over the opening titles.
- ⇒ The iconic ruby slippers are now at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, and so popular that the carpet in front of them has had to be replaced numerous times due to wear and tear.
- ⇒ Judy Garland had to wear a painful corset-style device around her torso so that she would appear younger and flat-chested, as she was 16 years old at the time of filming, playing the role of a pre-adolescent child.

- ⇒ The famous "Surrender Dorothy" sky writing scene was done using a tank of water and a tiny model which attached to the end of a long hypodermic needle. The syringe was filled with milk, the tip of the needle was put into the tank and the words were written in reverse while being filmed from below. There was an added phrase to "Surrender Dorothy" which was "...or die!" It was cut before the movie premiered.
- ⇒ The horses in Emerald City palace were colored with Jell-O crystals. The relevant scenes had to be shot quickly, before the horses started to lick it off.
- ⇒ "Over the Rainbow" was nearly cut from the film; MGM felt that it made the Kansas sequence too long, as well as being too far over the heads of the children for whom it was intended. The studio also thought that it was degrading for Judy Garland to sing in a barnyard. A reprise of the song was cut Dorothy sang it to remember Kansas while imprisoned in the Witch's castle. Garland began to cry, along with the crew, because the song was so sad.
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- ⇒ When filming first started, Judy Garland wore a blonde wig and heavy, "baby-doll" makeup. When George Cukor assumed the role of intermediate director (after MGM fired original director Richard Thorpe and before it found a replacement), he got rid of the wig and most of the makeup and told her to just be herself.
- ⇒ Terry was stepped on by one of the witch's castles guards, and had a double for two weeks. A second one was obtained, because it resembled Toto more closely. Judy Garland wanted to adopt Terry after they spent so much time together shooting the film. Unfortunately, her owner, Carl Spitz, wouldn't give her up, and she went on to a long career in films. She died in 1945 and was buried in Spitz's yard.
- ⇒ In 1898 Dorothy Louise Gage was born to the brother and sister-in-law of Maud Gage Baum, wife of author L. Frank Baum. When little Dorothy died exactly five months later Maud was heartbroken. Baum was just finishing "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" and, to comfort his wife, named his heroine after Dorothy, changing her last name to Gale in his second book. Dorothy Gage was buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington, IL, where her grave was forgotten until 1996 when it was rediscovered. When Mickey Carroll, one of the last existing Munchkins from the movie, learned of the discovery, he was eager to replace her deteriorated grave marker with a new one created by his own monument company. The new stone was dedicated in 1997 and the children's section of the cemetery renamed the Dorothy L. Gage Memorial Garden, in the hope that bereaved families would be comforted in thinking of their lost children as being with Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz."
- ⇒ The "tornado" was a 35-foot-long muslin stocking, spun around among miniatures of a Kansas farm and fields in a dusty atmosphere.

- ⇒ Over 35 years after the release of this film, Margaret Hamilton revealed her approach to the character of the Wicked Witch in an interview with Fred Rogers for Mister Rogers' Neighborhood (1968). Hamilton saw the Witch as a person who relished everything she did, but who ultimately was a sad, lonely figure - a woman who lived in constant frustration, as she never got what she wanted (this is, in fact, the basis of the novel and musical "Wicked," in which the Wicked Witch of the West is portrayed as an unfortunate protagonist). In the same interview, Hamilton also famously donned the original Witch costume to explain that the witches were only make-believe, and that children shouldn't be afraid of them.
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- ⇒ Ray Bolger was originally cast as the Tin Man. However, he insisted that he would rather play the Scarecrow--his childhood idol Fred Stone had originated that role on stage in 1902. Buddy Ebsen had been cast as the Scarecrow, and now switched roles with Bolger. Unbeknownst to him, however, the make-up for the Tin Man contained aluminum dust, which ended up coating Ebsen's lungs. He also had an allergic reaction to it. One day he was physically unable to breathe and had to be rushed to hospital. The part was immediately recast and MGM gave no public reason why Ebsen was being replaced. The actor considered this the biggest humiliation he ever endured and a personal affront. When Jack Haley took over the part of the Tin Man, he wasn't told why Ebsen had dropped out (and in the meantime, the Tin Man make-up was changed from aluminum dust to aluminum paste as one of its key components). However, his vocals remain whenever the song "We're off to see the Wizard" is played. Jack Haley's vocals were never used during the song but were used for "If I Only Had a Heart" and "If I Only Had the Nerve." Ebsen's vocals are also heard in the extended version of "If I were King of the Forest," though the spoken segment has Jack Haley. Although Ebsen didn't appear in the film, surviving still photos show him taking part in the Wicked Witch's castle sequence.
- ⇒ The Scarecrow face makeup that Ray Bolger wore consisted, in part, of a rubber prosthetic with a woven pattern to suggest burlap cloth. By the time the film was finished the prosthetic had left a pattern of lines on his face that took more than a year to vanish.
- ⇒ In the famous "Poppy Field" scene (in which Dorothy fell asleep) the "snow" used in those camera shots was made from 100% industrial-grade chrysotile asbestos--despite the fact that the health hazards of asbestos had been known for several years.
- ⇒ A reference to something in the book not included in the script can be seen in the movie. It is the kiss Glinda gives Dorothy on the forehead that protects her from the Wicked Witch, as none dare harm someone who bears the kiss of the Good Witch.
- ⇒ In the song "If I Only Had a Heart," the girl who says "wherefore art thou, Romeo?" is Adriana Caselotti, the voice of Snow White in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937). She was also paid \$1000 for her only line in the film.

- ⇒ During the Haunted Forest scene, several actors playing the Winged Monkeys were injured when the piano wires suspending them snapped, dropping them several feet to the floor of the sound stage.
- ⇒ L. Frank Baum's novel is considerably more gruesome than MGM's rendition. For example, "Kalidahs" (tiger-bear hybrids) are dashed to pieces in a crevasse, the Tin Man uses his axe to chop off the heads of a wildcat and forty wolves, bumblebees sting themselves to death against the Scarecrow, and the Wizard orders the four to actually kill the Wicked Witch of the West, not simply to retrieve her broomstick. Bert Lahr's costume weighed 90 pounds. It was made from a real lion skin and very hot. The arc lights used to light the set often raised the temperature to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Lahr would sweat so profusely that the costume would be soaked by the end of the day. There were two people whose only job was to spend the night drying it for the next day. It was dry cleaned occasionally but usually, in the words of one of the crew members, "it reeked".
- ⇒ In the book "The Making of the Wizard of Oz" the author mentions that following the accident in which Margaret Hamilton was burned they had to remove the green makeup from the burned area. To do so they used the strong solvent acetone which, when rubbed on the burned areas, caused agonizing pain.
- ⇒ In the first take of the scene when the Wicked Witch of the West leaves Munchkinland, the smoke that was supposed to go up around her came early and started forming before she stepped on the platform she was supposed to be on. On the second take, part of Margaret Hamilton's cape became caught in the platform when the burst of fire appeared. Her make-up heated up, causing second- and third-degree burns on her hands and face, and it was later discovered that one of the key components in her make-up was copper. The producers used the first take. You'll notice the early appearance of the red smoke.
- ⇒ To compensate for the extreme make-up demands on this film, MGM recruited extra help from the studio mail room and courier service. As most of the Oz extras required prosthetic devices (false ears, noses, etc.), and since application of prosthetics requires extensive training, the recruited make-up artists were each instructed in one area of prosthetic application and then formed an assembly line. Each extra would then move from one station to another to complete make-up application each morning.
- ⇒ The color of the yellow brick road first showed up as green in early Technicolor tests. It was adjusted so that it would read properly as yellow in the early three-strip Technicolor process, which in 1938-39 was still in its experimental stage.
- ⇒ In 1939 Montreal, Canada, lifted its law restricting minors under 16 from admission to theaters, presumably without an accompanying adult. This was done exclusively for this film and apparently sent a rush of children to theaters, according to a 1939 issue of "Variety". Earlier that year, Disney had unsuccessfully attempted to have the ban lifted for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937).

- ⇒ Contrary to popular belief, the film was anything but a box-office failure on its initial release. Although it did modestly well in the US, returns during the initial 1939-40 release in Great Britain, Scandinavia, Mexico, Brazil and Australia were exceptional.
- ⇒ A minor hiccup occurred while filming the scenes in The Tin Man's Forest. After three days of footage had been shot, it was realized that The Tin Man's costume was in the shiny pristine condition it was for the post-"Wash and Brush Up Company" scenes (which had already been filmed), rather than in a state of rust and disrepair. The costume was sent back for appropriate "rusting" and the scenes were reshot.
- ⇒ Judy Garland's feet hurt so much while wearing the ruby slippers that she could only do so for shots when they were on camera. A brief glimpse of her wearing her rehearsal soft shoes is briefly visible in the scene where the Tin Man is dancing and then falls backward.
- ⇒ Judy Garland could only do 4 hours on set as she was at school at the time and did 3 hours being educated when she was not playing Dorothy.
- ⇒ Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr and Jack Haley had to eat their meals in their dressing rooms, as the make-up they wore frightened the other diners in the MGM cafeteria. Bolger commented in an interview on the reactions that other MGM actors had upon seeing these "weird-looking characters" in the cafeteria.
- ⇒ Despite the fact she played an adversary to Judy Garland's Dorothy, Margaret Hamilton and Garland got along well on set. Garland showed off a dress to Hamilton that Garland was going to wear on stage for her graduation. However, Louis B. Mayer sent Garland on a tour with Mickey Rooney and Garland never got a chance to wear her dress on stage with her classmates. Hamilton was so angry she called Mayer and yelled at him.
- ⇒ Nikko, the name of the head winged monkey, is the name of the Japanese town which houses the shrine featuring the famous Hear No Evil/See No Evil/Speak No Evil monkeys.
- ⇒ MGM paid \$75,000 for the film rights to L. Frank Baum's book, a towering sum at the time.
- ⇒ Margaret Hamilton was reluctant to do the scenes where Miss Gulch attempted to take Toto away to be put down, and when, as the Wicked Witch of the West, she ordered Toto to be drowned when Dorothy refuses to give her the ruby slippers. Hamilton was very fond of animals. Like Judy Garland, she had a bond with Terry who played Toto.
- ⇒ Margaret Hamilton said that whenever she saw the scene in which Frank Morgan as the Wizard is giving Dorothy's friends gifts from his "black bag" (a diploma for the Scarecrow, a ticking heart for the Tin Man and a medal for the Cowardly Lion), she got teary-eyed, because "Frank Morgan was just like that in real life--very generous."
- ⇒ Forty-four million people tuned into its first television broadcast on November 3, 1956.

- ⇒ The Wicked Witch that Miss Gulch transformed into while Dorothy looks out her bedroom window during the tornado has shimmering shoes as if she is wearing the Ruby Slippers. This suggests that she is the Wicked Witch of the East. Margaret Hamilton has never been credited for playing this role, since it is only a few seconds long. This shimmer from her shoes is even more noticeable when watching a better-quality copy of the film, such as the 1989 50th anniversary laserdisc version or the 1999 60th anniversary Warner Bros. DVD restored version.
- ⇒ A small sign to the left of the door of Professor Marvel's wagon lists "Exhibition Balloonist" as one of his talents.
- ⇒ MGM had originally planned to incorporate a "stencil printing" process when Dorothy runs to open the farmhouse door before the film switches to Technicolor; each frame was to be hand-tinted to keep the inside of the door in sepia tone. This process--cumbersome, expensive and ineffective--was abandoned in favor of a simpler and cleverer alternative (a variation of this process was used, however, in 1939 release prints of *The Women* (1939)). The inside of the farmhouse was painted sepia, and the Dorothy who opens the door from the inside is not Judy Garland but her stand-in wearing a sepia-rinsed version of the famous gingham dress. Once the door is opened and the camera advances through it, Garland (wearing her bright blue dress) walks through the door and the audience is none the wiser. This effect does not work on older video/TV prints where the Kansas scenes appear in true black and white, as the changeover to color is all too apparent. With the Kansas scenes returned to their original sepia tints, however, they closely match the magical opening door, and the effect is powerful.
- ⇒ Frank Morgan was a heavy drinker and often would hide liquor discreetly in his dressing room. Despite his drinking habits, he remained friendly and professional throughout his career. One of the few times he was ever noticeably drunk was the Oz guardhouse sequence, where, it was said, he would have fallen over if not for the guardhouse. He attracted attention when he began singing a ribald song. This sort of behavior was atypical, though, for the usually affable actor.
- ⇒ Rick Polito of the "Marin Independent Journal" in Northern California is locally famous for his droll, single-sentence summations of television programs and movies which the newspaper reports will be broadcast. For this film he wrote, "Transported to a surreal landscape, a young girl kills the first person she meets and then teams up with three strangers to kill again."
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- ⇒ Jack Haley did not use his normal speaking voice when playing the Tin Man, only when playing Hickory, one of the farm hands in Kansas. His normal speaking voice contained none of the almost falsetto-like quality that the Tin Man's did. This was Haley's own idea, and he himself said that this was the tone of voice that he used when relating bedtime stories to his then-small son, Jack Haley Jr.. The effete voice also contributed to the whole "Friends of Dorothy" mythology.
- ⇒ Originally contracted for six weeks, Margaret Hamilton ended up working for 23.

- ⇒ It took upwards of 12 takes to have Toto run alongside the actors as they skipped down the yellow brick road.
- ⇒ The shot of Dorothy's house falling from the sky was achieved by filming a miniature house being dropped onto a sky painting on the stage floor, then reversing the film to make the house appear to fall towards the camera.
- ⇒ The Tin Woodsman costume worn by Jack Haley was reportedly so stiff that he had to lean against a board to rest. Thirty-eight years later Anthony Daniels (who played C-3PO in the "Star Wars" movie series) had the same problem with his costume.
- ⇒ When Dorothy and her friends are in the Haunted Forest, the Lion has a spray pump with "Witch Remover" printed on it. In the next shot, it's gone. The reason is because there is a deleted scene in which the lion says that "the Witch Remover doesn't work but it's wonderful for threatening with." Disgusted, the Scarecrow takes the spray pump and throws it away. There is a close shot in which the spray pump hits the ground and vanishes.
- ⇒ The original concept for the Wicked Witch of the West was to have her resemble a strikingly beautiful woman much in the same way the Evil Queen in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937) was conceived. Producer Mervyn LeRoy originally cast MGM beauty Gale Sondergaard in the role as a sleek, sexy Wicked Witch of the West. However, the presence of a sexy Wicked Witch left a large plot hole within the script, for it played against the idea that bad witches were ugly. Convinced that the point was important, LeRoy retested Sondergaard as an ugly witch. Looking hideous in the make-up, she immediately declined the role and was replaced with Margaret Hamilton.
- ⇒ The green-shirted member of the Lollipop Guild became the center of a cult of celebrity based on this film. Although his career spanned over 70 years, no film gained him recognition like his one brief scene in this one. With Ruth Duccini's death on January 16, 2014, he was the only surviving actor to have played a Munchkin until his death on May 24, 2018.
- ⇒ None of the Kansas scenes (or the tornado scene) were shown in the original trailer, or in any of the re-release trailers through 1955, in order to give the impression that the whole film was in full Technicolor. This meant that one never saw or heard Judy Garland singing "Over the Rainbow" in one of these trailers. It was not until the 1998 re-release, after millions had already seen the film on television, that clips of the Kansas scenes were shown in a trailer for the film.
- ⇒ The film started shooting on 13 October 1938 and was completed on 16 March 1939 at a then-unheard-of cost of \$2,777,000 (approx. \$48 million in 2016 dollars, adjusted for inflation). It earned only \$3,000,000 (\$51.8 million in 2016) on its initial release.

- ⇒ There are many alleged lyrics to the "Winkie Chant" performed by the Witch's castle guards, including "All we own, we owe her", "Oh we love the old one", and "Oh we loathe the old one". In the surviving scripts of the movie, it only says, "ELS [Extra Long Shot] - the guards marching about in the courtyard". The book makes no mention of a chant.
- ⇒ The gray circle and zig-zag pattern interrupting the yellow brick road outside the main entrance of Emerald City spell out OZ.
- ⇒ Besides "The Jitterbug" being completely cut, other songs were trimmed. "Lions and tigers and bears (oh my!)" were a song rather than just a chant. The lion's "If I Only Had the Nerve" was longer, and the Scarecrow had a long dance sequence in "If I Only Had a Brain."
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- ⇒ The title role was written with W.C. Fields in mind. Producer Mervyn LeRoy wanted Ed Wynn, who turned down the role. MGM executive Arthur Freed wanted Fields and offered him \$75,000. Fields supposedly wanted \$100,000. According to a letter from Fields' agent (which he claimed was written by Fields), Fields turned down the role to devote his time to writing the script for *You Can't Cheat an Honest Man* (1939). Since the role was perceived as being too small, additional roles were written for the actor in hopes of balancing the screen time for the actor playing the Wizard with that of the rest of the cast. Thus, Frank Morgan plays the roles of the Wizard, Professor Marvel, the Gatekeeper, the cab driver with the "horse of a different color" who performs a musical number and the Wizard's Guard. It is also possible that Morgan was made up for the spooky projected image of the Wizard's face transposed on the billowing steam in his Throne Room.
- ⇒ Judy Garland's portrayal of Dorothy was the main inspiration for the character of Mary Ann on *Gilligan's Island* (1964).
- ⇒ The Wicked Witch's crystal ball was previously used as a prop in *The Mask of Fu Manchu* (1932) and *Chandu the Magician* (1932). The 25-inch-diameter ball sold at auction for \$126,500 in May of 2011.
- ⇒ Professor Marvel never returns Dorothy's picture of her and Aunt Em.
- ⇒ The woods where the Tin Man is first discovered is inhabited by a number of exotic birds. Look for a small toucan in the tree (where the Witch is hiding) at the opening of this scene; and at least one (perhaps more) large, crane-like birds in the background of where the Tin Man stands for most of the scene.
- ⇒ Ultimately it took 14 writers and five directors to bring L. Frank Baum's story to the screen.
- ⇒ The Munchkins were awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in November 2007. Eight of them attended the ceremony: Jerry Maren, Mickey Carroll, Ruth Duccini, Margaret Pellegrini, Meinhardt Raabe, Karl 'Karchy' Kosiczky and August Clarence Swenson.
- ⇒ The "steam" that shoots out of the Tin Man's hat is actually talcum powder. This is obvious because it falls rather than just disappearing.

- ⇒ The Cowardly Lion's facial makeup included a brown paper bag. Bert Lahr couldn't eat without ruining his makeup. Tired of eating soup and milkshakes, he decided to eat lunch and have his makeup redone.
- ⇒ The paint that was finally used on the bricks for the "Yellow Brick Road" was standard industrial yellow paint bought from a hardware store several blocks away from the studio.
- ⇒ The House of Winston made a pair of real ruby slippers to celebrate the film's 50th anniversary in 1989. These are valued at \$3 million.
- ⇒ Multiple styles of ruby slippers were tested by the MGM wardrobe department before it settled on the low schoolgirl-style pumps with bows. One proposed style had curled-up toes, known as "Arabian" slippers (created by designer Adrian), which now belong to Debbie Reynolds. Another proposed style, the "Bugle Bead" shoes, are without bows and have yet to publicly surface. An entire book was published with trivia and history of the numerous test styles: "The Ruby Slippers of Oz" by Rhys Thomas (Tale Weaver Publishers, 1989). Thomas speculates that there were seven pairs, and the whereabouts of five are known. Each has an estimated value of \$1.5 million, making them the most expensive Hollywood memorabilia. They have been dubbed by some as "The Holy Grail" of all Hollywood nostalgia. One pair was sold to Hollywood memorabilia collector David Elkouby for \$666,000 in a May 2000 auction. The pair in the Smithsonian are mismatched.
- ⇒ The slippers were silver (like in the book) until MGM chief Louis B. Mayer realized that the Technicolor production would benefit from them being colored.
- ⇒ The name for Oz was thought up when its writer, L. Frank Baum, looked at his filing cabinet and saw A-N and O-Z, hence OZ. There is also another much simpler explanation for the name Oz: the Ozark Plains in Kansas, Dorothy Gale's home state.
- ⇒ The movie's line "I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too!" was voted as the #99 movie quote by the American Film Institute (out of 100). "Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore" was #4. "There's no place like home." was #23.
- ⇒ The scarecrow is completely inaccurate with the Pythagorean Theorem. In reality, it is the sum of the squares of both legs of a right triangle that is equal to the square of the hypotenuse, or $A^2+B^2=C^2$. Isosceles triangles have no such relationship (unless they are also right triangles).
- ⇒ There was originally meant to be a reprise of "Over the Rainbow" when Dorothy is trapped in the Witch's castle. As Judy Garland would have had to incorporate a lot of acting into the song, it had to be recorded live during the take. Reportedly it reduced the entire crew to tears.
- ⇒ The Wicked Witch of the West is named Elphaba in Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West," which tells much of the story and back-story from "The Wizard of Oz" from the Witch's perspective and portrays her as a sympathetic victim of circumstances. The name "Elphaba" was derived from "Oz" writer L. Frank Baum's initials, L-F-B.

- ⇒ Meinhardt Raabe, who played the Coroner of Munchkinland, was at one time the shortest licensed pilot in the U.S. During WWII he volunteered for military service but was turned down. He was accepted as a volunteer instructor in the Civil Air Patrol.
- ⇒ When the film proved popular with audiences, MGM considered re-uniting the original cast for a sequel. Plans never got past the development stage, however, when Judy Garland became a major star, having great success in subsequent movies. Also, Margaret Hamilton expressed hesitation at reprising her role, feeling that the character of the Wicked Witch was already too scary for children. Further, extreme budget overruns and production delays MGM encountered making the original film deterred the studio from moving forward with an official sequel.
- ⇒ The gown that Glinda the Good Witch wears was originally worn by Jeanette MacDonald in San Francisco (1936).
- ⇒ Farmhand "Zeke" makes a reference to courage by saying "have a little courage, that's all" (he then plays the Cowardly Lion) while "Hunk" says "you think you don't have any brains at all" and then plays the "Scarecrow." Jack Haley, who plays Hickory who then later became the Tin Man, mentions about a town turning him into or making a statue out of him.
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- ⇒ The original Cowardly Lion costume that Bert Lahr wore sold for £167,500 in 1998 and then for \$3.1 million in November 2014 to a collector.
- ⇒ The steam shooting from the Tin Man's cap startles Toto, who runs out of the shot.
- ⇒ A heart-shaped leaf can be seen over the Tin Man's left shoulder as he begins singing "If I Only Had A Heart."
- ⇒ MGM talent scouts searched the country to come up with over 100 little people who would make up the citizens of Munchkinland; this meant that most of the film's Oz sequences would have to already be shot before work on the Munchkinland sequence could begin. According to Munchkin actor Jerry Maren, each little person was paid over \$125 a week for their performances. Munchkin Meinhardt Raabe, who played the coroner, revealed in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz: 50 Years of Magic* (1990) that the MGM costume and wardrobe department, under the direction of designer Adrian, had to design over 100 costumes for the Munchkin sequences. They then had to photograph and catalog each Munchkin in his or her costume so that they could correctly apply the same costume and makeup each day of shooting.
- ⇒ The Cowardly Lion's speech about courage contains the line "What makes the dawn come up like thunder?" This is a reference to a line in the poem "Mandalay" by Rudyard Kipling: "An' the dawn comes up like thunder outer China 'crosst the Bay!"

- ⇒ The Wizard only has one close-up; when he is revealed behind the curtain and declares himself to be a good man but a bad wizard. All of his other shots are medium close-ups or two-shots. Similarly, Professor Marvel is never shown in a close-up, but rather in medium close-up or two-shots.
- ⇒ The film, while run on network television, used to be packaged as a special event and, as such, was initially introduced by on-camera hosts (including Red Skelton, Dick Van Dyke and Danny Kaye). This practice ended after CBS' first contract with the film ended in 1967. From 1968 on the film was aired host-less, save the 1970 broadcast which was the first to air following the death of star Judy Garland. Gregory Peck gave a short tribute to her before the film aired that year on NBC. Ironically, when the film went into the Turner vault and began airing on Turner Classic Movies, it returned to hosted introductions, usually by TCM's Robert Osborne. The same is true for recent airings on the Cartoon Network--it is one of the few live-action films to be shown on that channel--but whenever it is shown on Turner Network Television or the CW network, it is not hosted.
- ⇒ Because Clara Blandick's voice was inaudible during the tornado sequence, one of the Munchkin actors Mickey Carroll dubbed her cries telling Dorothy to get in the house.
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- ⇒ Producer Mervyn LeRoy considered having a human play Toto.
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- ⇒ Dorothy's hair changes lengths throughout the course of the film, most noticeably in the Scarecrow cornfield sequence, which was the first sequence to be shot. As production progressed, refinements were made to Judy Garland's hair and makeup. At the end of filming, reshoots were done of the cornfield sequence and, thus, the shots do not match. The reshoots are believed to have been done by King Vidor, who also directed the Kansas sequences, including "Over the Rainbow", after director Victor Fleming left the production to direct *Gone with the Wind* (1939).
- ⇒ All the Oz sequences were filmed in three-strip Technicolor. The opening and closing credits, as well as the Kansas sequences, were filmed in black and white and colored in a sepia-toned process. Sepia-toned film was also used in the scene where Aunt Em appears in the Wicked Witch's crystal ball.
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- ⇒ When the Wizard awards the ticking heart to the Tin Man, the word he struggles on and replaces with "Good-Deed-Doers" was "Philanthropist". In real life, Jack Haley was well renowned and recognized as a Philanthropist for his tireless works to raise money for various charities.
- ⇒ Dorothy says, "Jiminy Crickets!" at one point in the Wizard's throne room. That was an early 20th century euphemism for Jesus Christ before Walt Disney appropriated it for his cartoon show host character.

- ⇒ The basket Judy Garland carried was reused by Elizabeth Taylor in *Little Women* (1949). And the sets were reused in the 1970s by the *Little House on the Prairie* (1974) studio. NBC acquired them and Michael Landon was tearing up the flooring on one of them and they found the Yellow Brick Road, much to Melissa Gilbert's delight.
- ⇒ Judy Garland said the following about Margaret Hamilton: "What a wonderful woman! And what a performance she gave!"
- ⇒ During the "Wash and Brush Up Co." scene, the lyrics "We can make a dimpled smile out of a frown/Can you even dye my eyes to match my gown" are sung in counterpoint to the orchestra playing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."
- ⇒ Margaret Hamilton played three characters in this movie: Miss Gulch, the Wicked Witch of the West, and the Wicked Witch of the East. (Those are her legs appearing underneath the house and that's her flying around on the broom in the tornado after transforming from Miss Gulch. And if you look closely, she appears to be wearing what looks like the ruby slippers! That would make her the Witch of the East, not the West!)
- ⇒ The transition from black and white to color as Dorothy opens the door in the Land of Oz is handled very simply. The whole scene is filmed in Technicolor. It's just that the house's interior is painted in shades of gray to simulate black and white photography. A double for Dorothy (carrying Toto) wearing a dress in shades of gray to match the colored patterns on Judy Garland's dress is shot from behind. The double hands Garland Toto just before she walks into frame to create the seamless illusion from black and white to color.
- ⇒ The Tin Man is frequently being paralyzed by rust, but tin in the real world does not rust. Foreign translators of *The Wizard of Oz* (whether book or movie) occasionally correct this by changing the Tin Man into a different kind of material. E.g., one popular Russian/Soviet book translation renames this character as the Iron Woodman.
- ⇒ George Cukor not only changed Judy Garland's physical appearance in the film to the way it looks in the finished version, but also modified the Scarecrow's makeup. Later, when Victor Fleming had been assigned to direct, Jack Haley began filming his first scene as the Tin Man, the scene in which Dorothy and the Scarecrow first discover him. Buddy Ebsen, who had been playing the Tin Man, had to back out because of an allergic reaction to his makeup, and never filmed this scene; he had only filmed scenes that take place in the second half of the film, after the four travelers have been to the Wash and Brush Up Co. at the Emerald City. Haley had been filming his first scene for three days before anyone realized that he had no "rust" on his "tin" costume, even though in the story he was supposed to have been standing rusted for an entire year. The rust was immediately applied to it.
- ⇒ During the rescue scene in the Witch's castle, Modest Mussorgsky's "A Night on Bald Mountain" plays as the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion follow Toto up the stairs to the room where Dorothy is being held.

- ⇒ Ironically, in 1938, Billie Burke would play Judy Garland's mother in Everybody Sing.
- ⇒ L Frank Baum was a sickly, daydreaming child born to wealthy parents living on a large estate in upstate New York, which Baum describes in his memoirs as a "Paradise". Later, in adulthood, he moved with his family to the rural Dakota territory; not yet a state in 1888; where Baum ran a store called Baum's Bazaar. It was this time living on his small farm in what would soon be rural South Dakota that informed Baum's later descriptions of Kansas in The Wizard of Oz. Later, Baum and his family travelled around the U.S. to many places; including Lawrence, Kansas; which also informed his descriptions of Kansas in the book. (The Kansas Dorothy hails from is mostly Lawrence; of all the places Baum lived and visited it most resembles Dorothy's small farm-town home in the Oz novels).
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- ⇒ The first hour of this movie is a musical and the last thirty minutes are a straight adventure movie, no songs.
- ⇒ The set was a major safety hazard. The Tin Man, who was to originally be played by Buddy Ebsen, who had to quit when aluminum dust from his makeup put him in an iron lung. Margaret Hamilton suffered burns from a faulty trap door and missed 6 weeks of filming while her stand in spent 11 days in the hospital suffering permanent burns to her legs when the broom exploded. Hamilton's makeup was also so toxic (copper based) that she could only consume liquids through a straw during filming and her green skin lasted for months after production wrapped.
- ⇒ Munchkin Mickey Carroll's agent was able to negotiate the actor's salary so that he was getting paid per week nearly the same amount as Judy Garland. The agent in question was none other than former stage/film comedian Zeppo Marx, who at the time ran one of the most successful theatrical agencies in Hollywood.
- ⇒ It is never clearly stated what period the Kansas scenes takes place. For example, Dorothy wears a gingham dress while Miss Gulch and Aunt Em wear dresses that date back to the late 19th century and early 20th century. It is most likely the Kansas scenes take place in the late 1930s when this film was released, and the elder ladies simply stayed true to the fashion of their youth.
- ⇒ Billie Burke, who played the Good Witch of the North, was 18 years older than Margaret Hamilton, who played the Wicked Witch of the West.
- ⇒ Oprah Winfrey has said in interviews that The Wizard of Oz "is my favorite movie". She talks about Glinda telling Dorothy she wouldn't have believed it about the shoes, she had to learn it for herself. "'You always had the power'" she says, repeating Glinda. "That never left me".
- ⇒ Celebrated author/illustrator Maurice ("Where the Wild Things Are") Sendak said in an interview once that "The Wizard of Oz is that rare example when the movie exceeds the book.". Many people agree with him.
- ⇒ "Over The Rainbow" was inspired by a 1915 Children's Operetta with the same name. Written by "Stormy Weather" bandleader Harold Arlen it would eventually be voted the Song of the Century in 2000 by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Judy Garland called it her signature song, the Holy Grail of her career, and "sacred". Just as the film was MGM's answer to Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the song was the answer to "Someday My Prince Will Come". And "We're Off to See the Wizard!" was the answer to "Heigh Ho!"

- ⇒ Judy Garland was originally given a blonde wig and heavy makeup in early costume tests. Interim director George Cukor scaled back the "glam," look, as he wanted her to look more like a regular farm girl from Kansas.
- ⇒ Both Judy Garland and her daughter, Liza Minnelli, played Dorothy Gale in 'The Wizard of Oz' series. Judy played her in 'The Wizard of Oz'; and Liza played her in 'Journey Back to Oz'. Mickey Rooney, Judy's BFF and costar in the Andy Hardy series, attended 'The Wizard of Oz' premiere with her at Grauman's Chinese Theater in 1939. He would go on to play the Scarecrow in 'Journey Back to Oz'.
- ⇒ Dorothy's house plops down into Munchkinland at precisely 4:53 in Oz. It is seven minutes from this point to the moment she meets the mayor, whose waist clock reads 5:00.
- ⇒ The Wicked Witch of the West never directly speaks to, threatens, or even acknowledges the Cowardly Lion except obliquely, as when she says "the last to go will see the first three go before her" and when watching him say "I do believe in spooks, I do believe in spooks, I do I do I do," to which she replies "you'll believe in more than that before I'm finished with you." Similarly, Miss Gulch never speaks directly to Dorothy, and the Wizard never acknowledges Toto except when he mumbles "somebody get that dog." Although Miss Gulch tells Uncle Henry she's "there to talk about Dorothy" at the beginning, so she does directly reference her.
- ⇒ Everyone on set called Margaret Hamilton (The Wicked Witch Of the West) "Maggie". That was her nickname.
- ⇒ Dorothy's blue gingham dress and white blouse is just a variation on Alice in Wonderland's blue gingham dress and white apron.
- ⇒ Dorothy crying after the Wizard's guard told her and her friends the Wizard wanted them to go away was not really acting but genuine. Apparently, Judy Garland was informed her pet dog had died and it broke her heart so much she broke down in tears to make the scene much more realistic.
- ⇒ In the scene before where Dorothy meets the Tinman, outside of the munchkin tinsmith Klu-Klip's cottage after the three-go skipping down yellow brick road, it is a common misconception that you can see a munchkin, an actual actor had hung himself in the back of the set. Not true. There are numerous large exotic birds milling about in the background during this scene. You can very clearly see that as the trio skips down the road, it is a bird in the background opening its wings that gives this illusion.
- ⇒ Judy Garland was not the studio's first or even second choice for the role of Dorothy although she ended up winning an Oscar for her role the studio didn't think she was right for the part even though she had already had a massive career with MGM previous to The Wizard Of Oz.

- ⇒ Dorothy's last name is Gale, which means "a very strong wind". A tornado is a very destructive vortex of violently rotating winds, thus her last name. Miss Gulch comes from another word for a very dry desert. So both have "G" names, and they are the opposites: Gale is a storm which can be very wet whereas a gulch is very dry.
- ⇒ There were 4 directors who oversaw the production from its start in 1938 until late in 1939 when it was finally released. They were Norman Taurog, Richard Thorpe, Victor Fleming and King Vidor. Victor Fleming who got final theatrical credit actually was not the last director to work on it; as is commonly thought; that was King Vidor. Fleming got final director's credit in the studio's marketing because he spent the most time on the project though; roughly 7 months; whereas the other directors only did about 2 or 3 months each. Besides these 4 there were other directors who contributed; like George Cukor; who only spent a few days on the project. His chief contribution was to insist that Dorothy be a brunette girl with braids and a blue gingham dress; as opposed to the mop topped blond cherub they were trying to turn her into. Ironically at the same time they were working on this, staff directors Cukor and Fleming were also doing the rounds on another troubled MGM production; *Gone With the Wind*. Also ironically Fleming wound up getting final director's credit on both; even though both directors worked on both movies.
- ⇒ Whenever Ray Bolger was asked whether he received residuals or other compensation for all of the showings of this movie on television, he replied, "No. Just immortality."
- ⇒ No one says the word "twister" in the book, including the author. He and Dorothy both call it a "cyclone".
- ⇒ The famous line "There's no place like home" was said by Dorothy in the book. Although it was not to Auntie Em it was said to the Scarecrow at the beginning when he said "I can't imagine anyone wanting to go back to gray place like Kansas."
- ⇒ Fanny Brice and Billie Burke were both up for the role of Glinda in the *Wizard of Oz*. Ironically both would appear in *Everybody Sing* together the year before with Judy Garland.
- ⇒ The original copyright expiration date of *The Wizard of Oz* was set to December 31, 1995, 56 years after its first release in theaters. However, it was extended to December 31, 2014, when the Copyright Act of 1976 was signed into law. To this day, it is now set to fall into the public domain on December 31, 2034, which is 36 years after Warner Bros. re-released the film in 1998.

- ⇒ "Munchkin" was one of the words Baum made up in this story which became a national catch phrase. Dunkin Donuts, for example, owes a debt of gratitude to Baum for naming their Donut Holes. "Friends of Dorothy" was another phrase invented by this movie. Other catch phrases invented by this movie: "were off to see the wizard!". Also "Toto! We're not in Kansas anymore!" And "I'll get you my pretty! You and your little dog too!" Also "Somewhere over the rainbow!" Also just "Over the Rainbow". Also "The Emerald City!" Also "Ding Dong the Witch is dead!" Also "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!" Also "Surrender Dorothy!" Also "Follow the Yellow Brick Road", and just "Yellow brick Road". Also "Auntie Em! Auntie Em! It's a Twister! It's a Twister!" And "And you were there! And you were there! And you were there!" Also "the merry old Land of Oz". Also "Are you a good witch? Or a bad witch?". Also "the Wonderful Wizard of Oz".
- ⇒ Dorothy enters Oz almost 20 minutes into the film.
- ⇒ "Over The Rainbow" became the quintessential and iconic Wish Fulfillment song and directly influenced such classics as "Never Never Land", "The Rainbow Connection", and "A Whole New World". Even rock classics like Styx's "Come Sail Away" were influenced by it.
- ⇒ "Over The Rainbow" not only barely survived being completely deleted from the film but also eventually became Judy Garland's theme in her concerts as a singer; in addition, it won an Academy Award for Best Original Song.
- ⇒ Four separate horses were used to create the effect of an animal that changes color from moment to moment; the filmmakers found that multiple color changes on a single horse were too time-consuming. The ASPCA refused to allow the horses to be dyed; instead, technicians tinted them with lemon, cherry, and grape flavored powdered gelatin to create a spectrum of white, yellow, red, and purple. They had to be prevented from licking the colored powder off themselves between takes. This is why the scenes were cast as quickly as possible, as the horses, like any animal, would lick the sweet powder off, but this would discolor the horses, thus making the scenes including the horses very quick.
- ⇒ The wizard's farewell speech includes the Latin phrase "per adua ad alta" ("Through hardship, great heights are reached"). This is a variant of "ad astra per aspera" ("to the stars through difficulties"), which is the motto of his (and Dorothy's) home state of Kansas.
- ⇒ The lion mentions "Hottentots" in his song "If I Were King of the Forest". ("What makes the Hottentots so hot?") Urban dictionary defines Hottentots as people of African descent.
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- ⇒ Both Dorothy and Miss Gulch have a picnic basket. Miss Gulch uses hers to carry off Toto at the beginning, and Dorothy used hers to carry food off to Oz on her voyage to the Emerald City.
- ⇒ Professor Marvel's horse's name is Sylvester.