

ACT ONE — SCENE 13

Poppies.

As DOROTHY, SCARECROW, TINMAN and LION dance off, a great white cloth descends. They reappear as giant figures silhouetted against the cloth, then dance away from the light source and so seem to grow smaller and smaller. When THE FOUR FRIENDS are close behind the cloth, a projection of the WICKED WITCH looms above them, looking down at their little dancing figures. Music segues.

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Poppies

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(Glinda, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion
and Chorus: Girls/Poppikins, Boys/Snowmen)

Music continues under dialogue.

WEST WITCH. There is nothing so depressing as boundless optimism. Happily it is totally misplaced. Now, shall I squash them out like the interfering bugs they are, or shall I be witty and creative? The bug alternative is attractive but messy. So witty and creative wins the day. A-hah! Something with poison in it, I think. With poison in it, but attractive to the eye — and soothing to the smell! Poppies! Poppies! Poppies!

The screen begins to fill with huge red poppies and soothing siren music is heard.

WEST WITCH. This lethal lullaby will put them to sleep forever. And then the Ruby Slippers will be ... *(The Witch suddenly leans forward so her mouth and eyes fill the whole screen. She screams the last word.)*
... MINE!!!!

Blackout as the cloth is whisked away.

When the lights come up the stage is covered with POPPIKINS.

Suggested staging for Poppies: A dozen actors wear cloaks which are in fact circular; on the outside green and covered with poppies but inside white and covered with snowflake designs. When first seen they are stretched face down on stage forming a human carpet of Poppies. When snow begins to fall they will turn the cloaks inside out and reveal the white sparkling innards.

DOROTHY and OTHERS enter.

DOROTHY. This Yellow Brick Road seems to go on forever.

SCARECROW. If you're tired Dorothy, we can take a short-cut.

TINMAN. The road curves round this Poppy field.
We can cut through and pick up on the other side.

SCARECROW. Let's go.

The FRIENDS start to wade through the Poppies.