

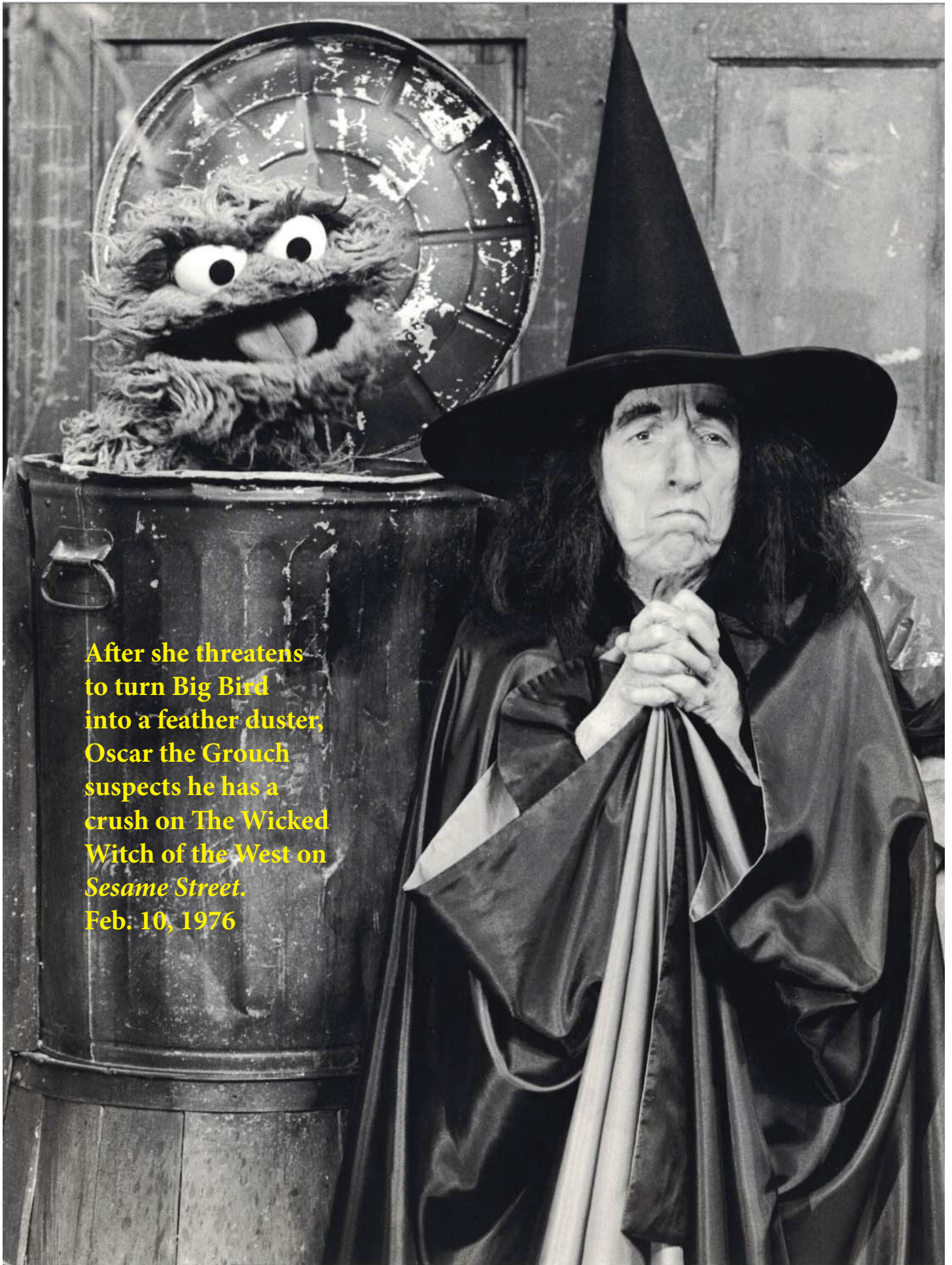
Oz and the Muppets



In 2013 Miss Piggy posed with the Ruby Slippers when the Henson Family gifted a collection to the Smithsonian.

Puppets, Oz, and television merged with the arrival on Sesame Street of the Muppets. The memorable cast of lovable characters were designed with young children in mind by James Maury “Jim” Henson. Born on September 24, 1936, Henson loved the movies and never forgot seeing *The Wizard of Oz* as a child. It had a profound influence on the future puppeteer.

As early as 1970 *Wizard of Oz* references were made by Muppet characters. Margaret Hamilton famously reprised her role as the Wicked Witch of West in 1976 with Oscar the Grouch, and Elton John sang “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road” on the show the following year. In 1978 Alice Cooper was the guest star; Robin the Frog sings “Over the Rainbow” to him in one of the show’s calmer moments. Fun moments in 1981’s “Muppets Go to the Movies” included Miss Piggy, Fozzie, Gonzo, Scooter and Foo-Foo singing a medley of Oz songs. The Cookie Monster searched for The Cookie of Oz in a 2015 parody.



After she threatens to turn Big Bird into a feather duster, Oscar the Grouch suspects he has a crush on The Wicked Witch of the West on *Sesame Street*.
Feb. 10, 1976

Oz Celebrity Muppet Memories

Margaret Hamilton reprised her role of the Wicked Witch of the West on Sesame Street in 1976.

Elton John sung his hit “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road” in 1977.

Alice Cooper guest starred on The Muppet Show in 1978 when Robin the Frog sings “Over the Rainbow.”

Billy Crystal joined a Muppets Tonight episode in 1996 where he says, “We’re not in Kansas anymore?” in a conversation with Clifford.

Rosie O’Donnell is a stylish Good Hope Fairy in the 1994 Muppet special Stars and Street Forever! Her costume is clearly Glinda from the 1939 film.

Jason Bateman is directing WICKED at his daughter’s grade school in a 2015 episode of The Muppets. He recruits Kermit to help.

Memorable Oz Muppet Moments

“The Muppets Go to the Movies” (1981) features Miss Piggy as Dorothy, Foo-Foo as Toto, Scooter as the Scarecrow, Gonzo as the Tin Woodman, and Fozzie Bear as the Cowardly Lion in a medley of songs from the MGM film, including “Over the Rainbow,” “If I Only Had a Brain,” and “We’re Off to See the Wizard.”

A Muppet retelling of “The Pied Piper of Hamelin” includes the Pied Piper (Jean-Pierre Rampal) leading children out of a rat village with “Ease on Down the Road” from THE WIZ.

Kermit appeared in the 1996 TV special “Smithsonian Fantastic Journey” commenting on the museum’s exhibit for Dorothy’s slippers worn by Judy Garland.

In “Muppets from Space,” as Rizzo the Rat cries out from a wind tunnel, “Auntie Em! Auntie Em! It’s a twister!”

Muppet Babies: Classic Children’s Tales cover featured Baby Piggy as Dorothy, Baby Kermit as the Scarecrow, Baby Gonzo as the Tin Woodman, and Baby Fozzie as the Cowardly Lion. The photo was also used in a calendar released the same year.

“Muppet Babies Live!” included two songs “Ease on Down the Road” and “I’m a Mean Ole Lion” from THE WIZ.

Need more?
Check the Muppet Wizard of Oz Wiki page.

In 2005 the Muppets THE WIZARD OF OZ was celebrated at Macy’s Herald Square in New York. Store windows promoted a flower show with the Muppet Oz characters during the annual Tribeca Film Festival.

Check it out.

