

## **Exploring Walt Disney's *Return to Oz*: Laurence Brenner**

Walt Disney's *Return to Oz* has a curious pedigree, as an adaptation of L. Frank Baum's third Oz book, *Ozma of Oz*, and a sequel (in spirit, if not in fact) to the 1939 MGM movie *The Wizard of Oz*. The film posits that Dorothy's first visit to Oz was a traumatic experience she could not process. As a result of this trauma, Aunt Em brings Dorothy to an asylum for electroshock therapy. Dorothy escapes to Oz, where everything she saw and met in the asylum is reproduced in Oz. In this presentation, Brenner will explore the movie as a treatise on trauma, memory, and mental health.