

No Place Like Home

Stolen Wizard of Oz Ruby Slippers Found

By Lottie Green

The famous ruby slippers from ‘The Wizard of Oz’ have been found! The shoes, worn by actor Judy Garland in the film, were stolen 13 years ago from a museum.

The FBI, who had been investigating the theft, announced the recovery of the ruby slippers on Tuesday. They had been hunting them for over a year after they received a tip-off in 2017.



The shoes were stolen in 2005 from a museum in Minnesota, USA. The glass case they were kept in was smashed and the shoes were grabbed.

Initially, the police were completely stuck. The thief left no clues behind: there were no footprints or fingerprints and the museum’s camera wasn’t working!

The shoes are a famous part of film history and fans were desperate to find them again. One anonymous donor offered \$1 million (the same as £775,000) for their return.

The FBI managed to seize the stolen slippers in an undercover operation. They haven’t said much about how they made the recovery as they are still hunting the thief.

Judy Garland’s ruby slippers are one of the most famous and valuable film props in the world. They were insured for about £775,000 but are now probably worth double that.

‘The Wizard of Oz’ was filmed in 1939 and it was one of the first films made in colour. In it, a girl called Dorothy finds herself swept away in a tornado to a magical land. She meets a talking scarecrow, a tin man and a cowardly lion, who all help her to find her way home.

In the film, the shoes are magical. They allow her to go home at the end when she clicks her heels and says, “There’s no place like home.”

At least three other pairs of ruby slippers exist but there might be as many as seven. Lots were made for the film in case some were damaged during the filming.