

I. Production Policies

- A. Students must be enrolled in the **Spring** Session before you can be scheduled for an audition time
- Once you have auditioned, you will not be eligible for a refund or credit for your class tuition.
- B. You must be age 8-18 by April 26th, 2019 to be eligible to audition or crew the show.
- C. You must have an appropriate crew credit.
- After two consecutive shows as a cast member, you must crew a show before you can audition again.
- D. You may not miss any performances or tech week rehearsals.
- Tech Week: Apr 20th 12-6p, Apr 22nd-24th 5-10p, Apr 25th 6-10p
 - Performances:

<i>Friday Apr 26 at 7p</i>	<i>Saturday Apr 27 at 2p</i>	<i>Sunday Apr 28 at 2p</i>
<i>Friday May 3 at 7p</i>	<i>Saturday May 4 at 2p</i>	<i>Sunday May 5 at 2p</i>
<i>Friday May 10 at 7p</i>	<i>Saturday May 11 at 2p</i>	<i>Sunday May 12 at 2p</i>
 - School Day shows:

<i>Wednesday May 1 at 9:00a & 11:30a</i>	<i>Tuesday May 7 at 9:00a & 11:30a</i>
--	--
- E. There is a \$95 Production Fee for cast members and a \$50 fee for Crew Members. This goes towards production and lobby photos, memory books, parties and receptions, director's gifts, etc. Fee is due by close of production.
- F. Parent volunteer requirements.
- This will include backstage monitoring, concessions selling, pick-up supervision, as well as opportunities to serve on or chair production committees.

II. Audition Process

- A. Audition workshops are available prior to the week of auditions. Each workshop is a 20 minute, one on one session with a Junior Theatre teaching artist who will listen to your prepared audition piece and offer suggestions for improvement. The cost for this workshop is \$25. Please call the office to schedule a workshop.
- B. Audition Dates
- Auditions are by appointment only, and are held in one-half hour increments. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to check in at Room 208, and finish the necessary paperwork.

<i>Friday February 8th 6-8p</i>	<i>Saturday February 9th 9a-12p</i>
---------------------------------	-------------------------------------
- C. What to prepare for auditions
- Come to auditions with the audition form filled out completely. Attach a headshot to the rear of the form. Be honest about any conflicts! Conflicts that come up after casting may disqualify students from participation.
 - Students should prepare a 1 minute song cut for their auditions. Approximately 16-32 bars. Please bring sheet music in the correct key, a pianist will be provided. No acappella singing or singing to tracks will be allowed
- D. Call Backs Date
- Saturday February 16th 10a-2p*

III. Rehearsals

- A. First rehearsal will be held Monday March 4th from 6-8p. Everyone is called to the first rehearsal.
- B. Rehearsals will generally be Monday-Friday from 6-8p.
- C. All actors will not be called to every rehearsal. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be handed out at first rehearsal.

IV. Questions**V. Director's Notes**



Note From The Director: Susan DeLeon

Seussical is a fantastic compilation of some of Dr. Seuss' greatest stories and characters brilliantly rolled into one heartfelt and hilarious musical. The story begins as young boy enters reading "Horton Hears A Who" and almost trips over a strange looking hat. As he attempts to pick up the hat it begins to move around all on its own. A chase ensues and just when the child thinks he has caught the hat...the hat (or rather The Cat in the Hat) catches him. The cat invites the child to use his "thinks" and "open his mind" and together they bring to life the wild vibrant Jungle of Nool and the story unfolds.

As a director I love to take a dual approach to all my projects through text analysis (the script) and physical exploration connecting the mind and body. I like to first introduce students to "Viewpoints" through various warm up exercises that are designed to help free the students from their mind and explore the physical character allowing them to be as silly as they can be in a safe judgment free environment. This is *Seussical* after all. Then we analyze the text and see how the physical characters we have begun to create blend with those described in the text. Every rehearsal begins with a warm up geared to help the young artists to free themselves creatively, collectively help us focus on the work ahead, and begin to bond as a cast.

In regards to the cast and casting, there are no small parts in this production. Every character in this story is integral to the plot and will have plenty of stage time. I am looking for great storytellers that love to have fun and are not afraid to make big bold ridiculous choices! Chose a song that best shows your personality or is similar to the character that you are interested in. Although there are some ballads in this show I encourage you to stick with an up-tempo song that shows character and tells a great story. I make it my goal to cast non-traditionally as much as possible and to allow myself to be inspired by the talent that auditions. So have fun and I cannot wait to see you all!

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Act I

The show opens on a bare stage, save for an odd red-and-white-striped hat in the center. A small boy wanders into view and notices the hat. Then the Cat in the Hat, appears before the Boy and tells him he has been brought to life by the Boy's "Thinks". The Cat creates the "Seussian" world and characters around himself and the Boy. To begin the story, the Cat encourages the Boy to Think up the Jungle of Nool, where Horton the Elephant is bathing. Horton hears a strange noise coming from a nearby speck of dust, and reasons that there must be someone on it, calling out for help. He carefully places the speck on a soft clover and decides to guard it, but is mocked mercilessly by the Sour Kangaroo and the other animals of the jungle, who do not believe him. The only exceptions are Horton's bird neighbors, Gertrude McFuzz, who admires his compassion, and Mayzie LaBird, who is more concerned about herself. Horton soon discovers that the speck is actually a microscopic planet populated by creatures called Whos. The citizens of Who-ville introduce themselves, but also reveal that in addition to being unable to control where the speck flies, they are on the brink of war. The Whos thank Horton and ask for his protection, and he agrees to guard their planet.

At this point, the Cat pushes the Boy into the story; he becomes Jojo, the son of the Mayor of Who-ville and his wife. Jojo has been getting into trouble at school for having Thinks. Jojo blames the Cat for getting him into trouble and tries to send him away. The Cat refuses and persuades Jojo to imagine the tub is McElligot's Pool. Jojo inadvertently floods the house, leading the Mayor and his wife to contemplate what to do with their son. They decide to send Jojo to a military school run by General Genghis Khan Schmitz. While there, Jojo meets Horton, and finds a mutual friend in him.

Gertrude, meanwhile, has fallen in love with Horton, but is afraid he does not notice her because of her own tail, which consists of only "one droopy-droop feather". At the advice of Mayzie, whose tail is enormous and dazzling, she consumes pills which make her tail grow new feathers. Gertrude is so excited that she overdoses, causing her tail to grow long and unwieldy. Horton is ambushed by the Wickersham Brothers, a gang of delinquent monkeys, who steal the clover and make off with it. Horton gives chase until the Wickershams hand the clover to an eagle named Vlad Vladikoff, who drops it into a large patch of identical clovers. Horton searches millions of clovers but begins to lose hope. Mayzie, sitting in a nearby tree, offers to help him forget about the Whos by hatching an egg that she is too lazy to care for. Horton reluctantly agrees, and Mayzie leaves for a vacation. Horton sits through months of harsh weather as he tries to decide between the egg and the Whos before he is captured by hunters, who take him away along with the entire tree. Gertrude tries to stop the hunters, but cannot fly due to her heavy tail.

Act II

Horton, still hatching the egg, is auctioned off to the traveling Circus McGurkus. Horton mourns the loss of the Whos and Jojo, but vows just as surely to protect the egg as it too is alone without its mother. Jojo is with General Schmitz and his platoon as the Butter Battle commences. Jojo deserts Schmitz, but is lost with no idea of where to turn. The Cat appears to him with a band of Hunches, encouraging him to use his Thinks to find his way home. Jojo does so and happily reunites with his parents, who forgive him for his Thinks.

Gertrude sneaks into the circus to free Horton, explaining she plucked out all but one of her tail feathers to fly there, and confesses her love for him. She also reveals she has found his clover. However, the Sour Kangaroo and the Wickersham Brothers arrive to take Horton back to the jungle where he is put on trial for the crimes of "talking to a speck, disturbing the peace, and loitering... on an egg". Aided by Gertrude, Horton makes his best case, but Judge Yertle the Turtle finds him guilty. He orders Horton remanded to the "Nool Asylum for the Criminally Insane" and the clover destroyed. Desperate, Horton encourages the Whos to make as much noise as possible to prove their existence, but the animals do not hear them. Jojo finally uses his Thinks to conjure a new word, "Yopp", which he shouts loudly enough to reach the animals' ears. Finally convinced, the animals repent and promise to help protect the Whos, and Horton is acquitted. Jojo is accepted by his parents and the rest of Who-ville as "Thinker Non-Stop" for saving their planet. Horton's egg hatches into a tiny flying "Elephant-Bird", amazing everyone but dismaying Horton, who panics at the thought of flying progeny. Gertrude reassures him that they can raise the child together, and they agree to do so.

With the story finished, the Cat returns to close the show, then vanishes along with the scenery, leaving his hat and Jojo, who is now the Boy again. The Boy picks the hat up, dons it, and says, "Seuss!"

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

The Cat in the Hat – the narrator of the story and the Boy's guide.

Jojo/the Boy – an imaginative and misunderstood young boy.

Horton the Elephant – a compassionate and determined elephant.

Gertrude McFuzz – a shy bird who falls in love with Horton and endeavors to help him.

Sour Kangaroo – the ill-mannered governor of the Jungle of Nool; she carries a Young Kangaroo with her that is often represented by a puppet.

Mayzie LaBird – Horton's vivacious yet lazy and self-centered bird neighbor.

The Bird Girls - Mayzie's friends, who act as a Greek chorus.

The Wickersham Brothers – a group of delinquent monkeys who serve as the Sour Kangaroo's henchmen.

General Genghis Khan Schmitz – a warmonger Who during the Butter Battle.

Mr. Mayor - the newly-elected mayor of Who-ville and Jojo's father.

Mrs. Mayor - the Mayor's wife and Jojo's mother.

Yertle the Turtle - the judge who presides over the Jungle of Nool's court.

Vlad Vladikoff - a sinister "black-bottomed" eagle

Ensemble- will take on multiple roles throughout show