



Seussical

Lyrics by
**Lyn
Ahrens**

Music by
**Stephen
Flaherty**

Book by **Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty**

Co-conceived by **Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty
& Eric Idle**

Based on the works by Dr. SEUSS

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Music Theatre Internations (Australasia).

All performance materials supplied by

Hal Leonard Australia

Cast!

Jen O'Donnell - The Cat in the Hat

Orvokki Britton - Jojo

Michael Isbister - Horton

Judy Dixon - Gertrude McFuzz

Jess Saladin - Bird Girl

Simone Reeder - Bird Girl

Bernadette Gifford - Bird Girl

Bec Bolwell - Mayzie La Bird

Maria Lieberth - Sour Kangaroo

Jane Herbert - Mrs Mayor

Charli Cooper - The Grinch

Liam Wilson - The Hunch

Mike Fischer - Vlad Vladikoff

Jayden Harper - The Lorax

Rolf Koren - Wickersham Brother

Leigh Johnstone - Mr Mayor, Wickersham

Daryl Hunt - Wickersham, General Ghingis Khan Schmidt, Yertle the Turtle

Ensemble!

Rose Hanratty - Understudy

Sam Bell

Ruby Ersvaer-Gorje

Danae Avgerinou

Beth Chamberlain

Alex Saladin

Angelina Bell - Understudy

Hayley Robinson

Lily Houston

Ivy Heron

Abigail Heron

William Arrowsmith - Understudy

Jamie Fischer

Luka Valente

Briella Valente

Johanna Valente

Tweetle Beetle Band!

Alastair Pirie - Musical Director, Bass

Carey Meadows - Drums

Serena Moring - Piano

Rolf Koren - Percussion

Stephen Wallace - Guitar

Oh the Thinks!

Act One!

The show opens on a bare stage, save for an odd red-and-white-striped hat in the centre. A small boy wanders into view and notices the hat, wondering to whom it might belong. He wonders who would wear a hat such as that and suddenly 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 then creates a "Seussian" world.

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 someone must be 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 exception is Horton's bird neighbour, Gertrude McFuzz, who admires Horton's compassion.

At this point, the Cat weaves 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, so his parents order him to "take a bath and go to bed, and think some normal Thinks, instead. 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. The Mayor and his wife begin to contemplate what to do with their son. They decide to send Jojo to a military school run by General Genghis Khan Schmitz, who is preparing to go to war with those who eat their bread with the butter side down. While there, Jojo 'meets' Horton, and discovers a mutual friend in him. Horton soon discovers that the speck is actually a microscopic planet populated by creatures called Whos. The citizens of Who-ville introduce themselves while celebrating their yearly Christmas pageant directed by their friend the Grinch. They reveal that in addition to being unable to control their speck of dust, they are on the brink of war and that their entire population of Truffula Trees has been cut down. The Whos thank Horton and ask for his protection, and he agrees to guard their planet.

Gertrude, meanwhile, has fallen in love with Horton, but is afraid he does not notice her because of her tail, which consists of only "one droopy-droop feather". On 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. Here, the Cat joins the action to remind the audience how lucky they are to not be Horton. Undeterred, Horton begins to look for the clover, hoping the Whos are still alive. When Gertrude catches up with him and tries to get him to notice her new tail Horton is too busy, so she leaves to take more pills.

Horton is about to search his three millionth clover when he loses hope. Mayzie, sitting in a nearby tree, offers to help him forget about the Whos by enlisting his help to hatch an egg that she is too lazy to care for. Horton reluctantly agrees to sit on the egg, and Mayzie leaves for a vacation. Horton sits through months of harsh weather as he tries to decide between his dual responsibilities for the egg and the Whos, but he is captured by hunters, who take him away. Gertrude tries to stop the hunters, but cannot due to her heavy tail.

Act Two!

Horton, still sitting on the egg, is auctioned off to the traveling Circus McGurkus. At a show in Palm Beach, he meets up with Mayzie, who insists that he should keep the egg for himself. 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 and Horton sings it a lullaby about a magical place called Solla Sollew. At the same time, the Mayor and his wife begin to miss Horton and Jojo, and also dream of Solla Sollew.

Jojo is with General Schmitz and his platoon as the Butter Battle commences. Jojo deserts Schmitz, but sprints into dangerous territory and vanishes in an explosion. Schmitz assumes the worst and heads to Who-ville to tell Jojo's parents that their son has died. The Cat returns to perform a re-enactment of the dramatic scene. In reality, Jojo has survived, but is lost with no idea where to turn. The Cat appears to him with a Hunch, encouraging him to use his Thinks to work out how to get 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 that she plucked out all but one of her tail feathers, and confesses her love for him. She also reveals that she has found his clover, delighting Horton that the Whos are alive and well. However, the Sour Kangaroo arrives to take Horton back to the jungle.

In the jungle, Horton 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 sentences him as guilty. He orders that Horton be remanded to the "Nool Asylum for the Criminally Insane" and that the clover be destroyed in a kettle of hot "Beezle-Nut" oil. Desperate, Horton encourages the Whos to make as much noise as possible to prove their existence, but the animals do not hear them. Jojo uses his Thinks to conjure a new word, "Yopp", which he shouts loudly enough to reach the animals' ears.

Convinced at last, the animals repent and promise to help protect the Whos, and Horton is acquitted. Jojo is reunited with his parents and the rest of Who-ville and acclaimed as "Thinker Non-Stop" for saving their planet. Horton's egg hatches into a tiny 'Elephant-Bird', amazing everyone, but dismaying Horton, who panics at the thought of being a parent. Gertrude reassures him that they can raise the child together.

With the story ended, 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!"

Dedicated to the memory of Kay Harris



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Production crew!

Director - Karen Pirie
Musical Director - Alastair Pirie
Vocal Director - Caitlin Todd
Producer - Laurel Lawrie
Choreographer - Lyn Saville
Stage Manager - Scott Ersvaer
Sound Operator - Caitlin Todd, Ian Todd
Lighting Operator - Camille Murphy
Follow-spot Operator - Tim Morgan
Sound Set-up - Rolf Koren, Michael Isbister
Sound Effects Operator - Mitch Clarke
Assistant to Choreographer - Cecelia Walker
Stage Crew - Adam Pimlot, Amalie Pimlot, Dustin Ersvaer-Gotje
Set Design - Barry Mills, Karen Pirie, Scott Ersvaer
Costumes - Karen Pirie
Wigs - Andy Dolling
Set Construction - Scott Ersvaer, Douglas Galbraith, Rick Lindsay
Trevor Thompson

Lighting Advisor - Garry Boast
Lighting Setup - Jarrah Pitt, Josh Jenkins, Tim Morgan, Ron Ahl
Props Makers - Ian Ribbons, Roger Nolan, Karen Pirie, Laurel Lawrie,
St Mary's Primary School, Camille Murphy
Photography - Kelli-Ann Gotje, Kym Stubbs
Back-room & Makeup Manager - Laurel Lawrie
Backstage Crew - Anna Houston, Cathie Smith,
Maja Valente, Joanne Arrowsmith, Shannen Andrews, Alannah Harper
Microphones & Stage Communications - Lynne Taylor
Documentary Maker - Kelli-Ann Gotje
Journalist - Allison Walker
Banner Designer & Signage - Daniel Belle
Front of House Manager - Suzie Roberts
Front of House Crew - Erica Morgan, Cat Wilson, James Wilson,
Wendy Lindbom, Dallas Daniel, Lyndal Jenkins, Alyssa Lamont, Jackie Cesnik,
Anne Todd, Ian Todd, Cathie Smith, Christine Zerbst, Rebecca Flemming,
Rory Jenkins



'The Kastle'

Expression of Interest/Information Session for
Cast & Crew
Sunday 24 November at 3pm in the Mansfield
PAC.

Auditions are on the following two Tuesdays:
26 November for CHILDREN
3 December for ADULTS
starting at 6pm

(Audition times will be allotted).

Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday 4 February
2020. Performances May 2020.

Visit www.mmuds.org.au to find out more on how
to register your interest in a cast or crew position
or come to the
Information Session on Sunday 24 November
at the Mansfield PAC.

The MMuDS Committee hopes that you will enjoy Seussical
which has involved over 70 people.

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing
opportunities for people to participate in performing
arts activities such as musicals, plays, choirs, youth
theatre, playreading nights and orchestras, we also have a
commitment to the environment and put extra effort into
recycling and repurposing materials for our productions.
Check out our honour boards in the foyer to get a taste
of what we are about.

For biographies on the Seussical principal characters visit
our website www.mmuds.org.au

"This production is being judged for the 46th Annual
Georgy Awards, to be presented in 2020".

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