



**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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SEUSSICAL

Theatreworks USA's production of *Seussical*, a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss, will be performed at _____ on _____ at _____ o'clock, under the auspices of _____.

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"Oh, the things you can think" when Dr. Seuss's best-loved stories collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical caper! Adapted from the Broadway version, *Seussical* is written by Broadway veterans Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (*Ragtime*, *Once on This Island*, the film *Anastasia*). This production features 12 actors and enhanced production values and is Theatreworks' biggest show ever.

The Cat in the Hat is the host and emcee (and all-around mischief-maker) in this romp through the Seuss classics. When the sweet, good-natured elephant Horton hears a small cry for help coming from a small speck of dust, he promises to rescue and guard it because "a person's a person, no matter how small."

On that small speck of dust lives JoJo, an imaginative young Who. JoJo has astounding "thinks," in which anything's possible, but his parents believe this creativity is inappropriate for the son of the Mayor of Who-Ville.

Meanwhile, the one-feathered bird, Miss Gertrude McFuzz, desperately wants Horton to notice her. Maybe, she thinks, she just needs a more impressive tail. At the same time, the amazingly lazy Mayzie La Bird connives, cajoles and convinces Horton to sit on her egg while she goes off on a spree.

Will the planet of Who survive? Will Horton pay attention to Gertrude? Will Mayzie ever return for her egg? Dr. Seuss's beloved classic characters find themselves intertwined in an incredible crazy-quilt adventure, in which the power of imagination and the most miraculous "think" ever save the day!

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Seussical, with music by **Stephen Flaherty**, lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**, book by Ahrens and Flaherty, and conception by Ahrens, Flaherty and **Eric Idle** (*Monty Python*), and was adapted from the works of **Dr. Seuss**. Ahrens and Flaherty's first professional job together was writing *The Emperor's New Clothes* for Theatreworks USA in the early 80's. The production is directed and choreographed by **Marcia Milgrom Dodge**. The scenic design is by **Narelle Sissons** and the costume design is by **Tracy Christensen**. This production is recommended for audiences age 4 and up.

(continued)

After playing on Broadway in 2000-2001, Ahrens and Flaherty condensed their musical into a one-act version appropriate for young audiences, which premiered at the Coterie Theatre in Kansas City, MO. Theatreworks USA's production of *Seussical* began its national tour in September 2006 and was presented at Off-Broadway's Lucille Lortel Theatre in New York in summer 2007 as Theatreworks USA's annual Free Summer Theatre program. This production received 2008 Lucille Lortel Award nominations for Outstanding Revival, Outstanding Choreography and Outstanding Costumes, in addition to a Drama League Award nomination for Outstanding Musical Revival. An original cast recording of this production is scheduled to be released on Jay Records in 2009. *Seussical* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

Seussical differs from Theatreworks USA's usual format in that it features twice as many actors as other productions, and also has enhanced scenic and costume elements. The twelve actors and stage managers in *Seussical* rehearsed for two weeks in New York City with the director. Once the tour begins, the actors and stage managers typically arrive at the performance venue early in the morning to set up the scenery and to prepare for the performance. Following the show, they pack the set, costumes, and sound equipment into two large vans, and drive to the next city, sleep in a hotel, and begin the whole ritual again the following day.

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Theatreworks USA has a distinguished history of not only providing young audiences with their first taste of the performing arts, but also giving young actors, writers, directors, and designers an early opportunity to work in this field. A list of Theatreworks USA alumni reads like a veritable "who's who" of theatre: four-time Tony-winning director Jerry Zaks, Robert Jess Roth (*Beauty and the Beast*), Michael Mayer (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*); writers Marta Kauffman and David Crane (TV's "Friends"), Lynn Ahrens and Steven Flaherty (*Ragtime*, *Once on This Island*), Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*), Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin (*Legally Blonde*), Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx (*Avenue Q*); and Tony-winning actors John Lloyd Young, Roger Bart, Chuck Cooper, and John Glover. Esteemed performers F. Murray Abraham, Henry Winkler, and Judy Kuhn also got their start with Theatreworks, and other actors have gone on to originate lead roles in such Broadway shows as *Avenue Q*, *Hairspray*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Rent*, *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, and many others. The actors, director, and designers of *Seussical* may also go on to similar success in musical theatre.

Theatreworks USA is America's largest and most prolific professional not-for-profit theatre for young and family audiences. Since 1961, Theatreworks USA has enlightened, entertained, and instructed over 68 million people in 49 states and Canada, now performing for about four million people annually. Every year, the company tours approximately 16 shows from its ever-growing repertoire of 110 plays and musicals. In addition, Theatreworks USA also has an extensive multi-cultural guest artist roster, including storytellers, puppeteers, poets, and magicians. Under the direction of Barbara Pasternack (Artistic Director) and Ken Arthur (Managing Director), Theatreworks USA is also one of the most honored theatres of its kind. It is the only children's theatre to receive both a Drama Desk and a Lucille Lortel Award. In addition, Theatreworks USA was the recipient of a 2001 Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award, and in May 2000, The Actors Fund of America bestowed its Medal of Honor upon its founders, Jay Harnick and Charles Hull.

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