



AUDITION MATERIALS

AGES 5-18

Thank you for your interest in our upcoming production of
“SEUSSICAL, JR!”

Registration for auditions, audition materials (including music), and audition
signup sheet is available at: www.wildhorsetheater.com click “Seussical, Jr.
Auditions”

Audition Registration Google Link is: <https://forms.gle/mGijHhHeoAKX21s78>

(You must register before signing up for your audition date and time!)

Audition Date and Time Reservations link is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4BAAAF2EABF58-seussical>

(Do not use this link unless you have registered first!)

Welcome to the Wild Horse family! Wild Horse Children’s Theater is so excited to present
“SEUSSICAL, JR!” and we are glad that you're interested in being part of the magic of live theater!

1. We will be holding two days of auditions at the Brewery Arts Center Performance Hall in Carson City:
 - a. **Wednesday, January 18**, 4:30-7:00 pm (4:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm)
 - b. **Thursday, January 19**, 4:30-7:00 pm (4:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm)
 - c. Callbacks will be held on **Saturday, January 21**, 1-4:00 pm

2. You **MUST** fill out the audition registration form AND schedule an audition time slot online. *NOTE: IF THE TIME SLOT YOU WANT IS FILLED, CONTACT EMAIL BELOW. WE MAY BE ABLE TO ADD A FEW SLOTS TO EACH SECTION.*
Click this link to begin registration:

3. Audition materials are below.

4. Questions? Contact Producerwhct@gmail.com or Director@wildhorsetheater.com

DESCRIPTION

"Oh, the thinks you can think" when Dr. Seuss' best-loved characters collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical caper!

Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all your favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in *Seussical JR.*, a fantastical musical extravaganza from Tony-winners, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty.

Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, the Cat in the Hat narrates the story of Horton the Elephant, who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos. Horton must protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, and he must also guard an abandoned egg that's been left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family, and community are challenged and emerge triumphant!

Please review the information in this packet closely so you can come prepared to audition!

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Our Policy for Actors Rehearsing Multiple Shows

Go for it! If you have the time, energy, and drive to rehearse multiple shows at the same time, we will support you! Theater should be fun, and you should be getting experience from different directors, choreographers, musical directors, etc.....and making new friends along the way! No one should tell you not to work at another theater company. Our local community theaters work together to ensure you have a positive theater experience. If you commit to more than one show during the same rehearsal period, make sure you put your conflicts down so we can schedule accordingly. We will work with you! The rule of thumb for tech weeks is that the show going up first takes precedence, so you do not miss any rehearsals on tech week.

If you are in *Beauty & the Beast*, we know you have a matinee on Saturday, January 21st. Please make sure that is on your conflict sheet, and we will work around this if you receive a callback.

WHAT HAPPENS AT AUDITIONS?

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE AUDITION PROCESS IS TO HAVE FUN!

1. Auditions will be spread out in ½ hour slots with 12 auditioners at a time.
2. Auditioners and parents will enter through the main entrance of the Performance Hall to check in and get audition number.
3. Auditioners will be seated in theater.
4. Each auditioner will be called up one by one to perform their audition song selection.
5. After everyone has sung the dance portion will be taught and small groups will perform.
6. Auditioners will exit through side door of the Performance Hall theater for parent pickup.

Parents need to know...

- Siblings should audition in the same time slot
- Auditioners should arrive 15 minutes before their allotted time. Make sure you have filled out your audition form online before you arrive.
- Parents may accompany their child through registration and can stay to watch auditions **IF YOUR CHILD WANTS YOU THERE!**
- Kids will wait for pickup outside the Performance Hall
- Audition forms need to be filled out online before arrival.
- Callbacks slips will be given after each group auditions. If you do not get a call back it does not mean you didn't get a principal part. There are MANY wonderful parts in this show, and we cannot possibly see everyone for every part at callbacks. Our casting committee has gotten very proficient through the years at casting on the spot!

Some tips on your audition to stand out and be your best!

- Be fully memorized! Nerves can make lyrics and dialogue fly right out of your brain if they aren't locked in there well.
- Make sure you are acting out your music selections in character! How do you think that character stands? Sounds? What is it they want from the audience? Are they trying to scare them? Get help from them? Persuade them? Make a choice!
- And again... Make a choice! Make a BIG choice! Just go for it :) Your job in an audition is NOT to guess what we want to see...your job is to show us the BEST you've got so that we can make a good decision.
- Come to auditions dressed comfortably so that you can move. Close toed shoes please- no slide-ons.

Remember: Leads aren't just the most talented people. The best voice doesn't equal the best role! At auditions we look for how you interact with others, follow instructions, show independence and resilience as well as talent and availability/commitment. Don't be discouraged if you don't think you're *perfect* for a role – it is possible for us to help a committed and diligent person grow throughout the rehearsal process – practice makes perfect!

VOCAL AUDITION TIPS

- 1) A musical theater vocal audition is NOT "American Idol". This is an audition, not a "sing-off". It's all about storytelling. The directors aren't so much listening to voices as looking for who can tell a story with their voice, face, and body.
- 2) The directors have a problem. They need to put together a big puzzle and find just the right pieces to put it together best. They are not there to "judge" you – they are really hoping that you'll be the right fit for one of the puzzle pieces. Your job is to help the directors solve their problem. So, there's no need for you to be nervous!
- 3) If you're nervous anyway, "hide" behind the character. Remember that it's not "you" up there; it's your character. Tell your character's story the entire time when you audition. Get involved in telling the story and don't spend time thinking about how your voice sounds when you sing. Make a strong, active choice for your character, and play it fully. We can't tell anything about your character if you don't show us an active personality.
- 4) Try to be aware of what your face and body are doing when you sing. Regardless of how your song sounds, if your face doesn't tell the story of the song, the audience isn't going to understand the story. Our brains process pictures before they process words, so if your hands are busy doing something unrelated to the song (for instance: tugging at the bottom of your shirt) the audience is going to think your song is about something else (a shirt), no matter what words you're singing!
- 5) Use clear diction. We need to understand every word that you sing. Stand in the center of the stage and sing loudly enough to be heard from way across the room, but don't scream.
- 7) When you are singing, you shouldn't look at anyone in the room -- especially not the director. You should look past the director at a spot on the wall that is at your eye level. Pretend that spot is a close friend to whom you are telling your story.
- 8) The directors may give you advice about how to read a certain line, or how to read the whole scene. If that happens, try to incorporate the suggestions into your performance, even if it seems odd or wrong. Everyone will notice how well you take direction, and that has a huge impact on whether you get that part.

CAST/AVAILABLE ROLES (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

The characters in Seussical are fantastic and imaginary creations based on characters featured in the Dr. Seuss collection of stories. They speak in Seussian verse, very rhythmic with incredible rhymes, even when not singing.

The majority of the show is accompanied by music and involves all the characters. In the individual character breakdown, only the main songs each character is featured in are listed, however, each character may be involved in many other songs.

JOJO: JoJo is a Who and is the only child of the mayor and his wife. A "Thinker"--a smart child with a wild imagination. A little bit awkward, a little bit of a loner, or simply a rambunctious kid whose 'Thinks' get them into constant trouble. In the end, their Thinks save his planet. Strong singer/actor.

Main songs include: *It's Possible, Alone in the Universe, Solla Sollew*

THE CAT IN THE HAT: The essence of mischief, fun and imagination. The Cat stirs things up, causes trouble, but always sets things right again. Is the host and emcee of the evening, playing many comic minor parts throughout the story, sometimes improvising with the audience, and a presence in almost every scene. Strong singer with strong movement skills and comic ability.

Main songs include: *Oh, The Thinks You Can Think, A Day for the Cat in the Hat, How Lucky You Are*

HORTON THE ELEPHANT: Male. An elephant and a citizen of the Jungle of Nool. Gentle, big-hearted, appealing. He is very imaginative and believes in the world's goodness. He is responsible and always tries to do the right thing for his friends. He is responsible for saving the planet Who and in doing so befriends JoJo. Strong singer/actor with good comic timing.

Main songs include: *Horton Hears a Who, Alone in the Universe, Notice Me Horton, Solla Sollew*

GERTRUDE McFUZZ: Female. A bird and a citizen of the Jungle of Nool. Very self-conscious, shy, and nervous at first, she grows into a kind and caring protector. Is in love with Horton and does what she can to get his attention, including foolishly growing an enormous, feathered tail. She is a bit naïve at times, but always is a voice of reason. Strong singer/actor with good movement skills and comic timing.

Main songs include: *One Feathered Tale, Amazing Gertrude, Notice Me Horton, All For You*

MAYZIE LA BIRD: Female. A bird and a citizen of the Jungle of Nool. Self-centered, selfish, and vain. She manipulates anyone she can (especially Horton) into doing what she wants, but she isn't all bad. Strong singer/actor with strong movement skills. Very comic.

Main songs include: *Amazing Mayzie, How Lucky You Are, Amazing Horton*

MR. MAYOR & MRS. MAYOR: The Mayor and Mrs. Mayor of Whoville and JoJo's parents. They try hard to raise a difficult child in a difficult world. They may get aggravated with JoJo, but they love him dearly and try to do the right thing, even if it turns out to be a mistake. Strong singer/actor.

Main songs include: *Here on Who, How to Raise a Child, Solla Sollew*

SOUR KANGAROO: Female. A kangaroo and a citizen of the Jungle of Nool. She isn't sour at all. She's just got a lot of attitude. She's loud, brassy and a lot of fun. Is the main antagonist and the cause of all Horton's trouble. A strong singer/actor with good comic ability and soulful singing. Think Patti LaBelle meets a Desperate Housewife.

Main songs include: *Biggest Blame Fool, Chasing the Whos, Egg, Nest, and Tree, The Trial of the People vs. Horton the*

WICKERSHAM BROTHERS: Male or Female. Three (or more) monkey brothers and citizens of the Jungle of Nool. These are not bad guys! They're simply a lot like kids who tease, play pranks, and get a kick out of making mischief, although often at others' expense. They side with the Sour Kangaroo in her campaign against Horton and cause more trouble for poor Horton. Strong singer/movers with lots of soulful singing, much like a hip hop group.

Main songs include: *Biggest Blame Fool, Monkeying Around, Chasing the Whos, Egg, Nest, and Tree*

BIRD GIRLS: Female. Three (or more) sassy birds and citizens of the Jungle of Nool. The popular girls in any school--a clique of pretty, self-centered "back up birds" who do whatever Mayzie does. They often act as storytellers, picking up where The Cat left off. A big presence throughout the evening. Good singer/movers with lots of soulful, sassy singing. Think Destiny's Child.

Main songs include: *Horton Hears a Who. Amazing Mayzie, Amazing Gertrude, All For You*

YERTLE THE TURTLE: A turtle and citizen of the Jungle of Nool. He is the King of the Pond and thinks he is more important than what he really is. Presides as the Judge at Horton's trial. Strong singer/actor.

Main songs include: *The Trial of the People vs. Horton the Elephant*

CITIZENS OF NOOL (ENSEMBLE): Jungle animals and other characters that live in the Jungle of Nool. They all side with the Sour Kangaroo on her campaign against Horton. Strong singer/movers. This group will also be part of McGelligot's Pool.

Main songs include: *Biggest Blame Fool, It's Possible, Chasing the Whos, Egg, Nest, and Tree, The Trial of the People vs. Horton the Elephant*

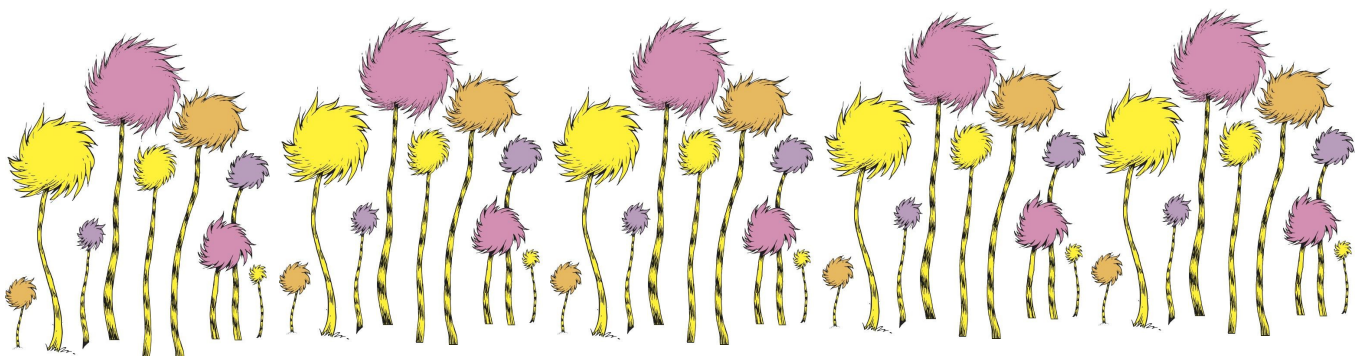
THE WHOS: (ENSEMBLE): Citizens of Whoville on the Planet of Who. They're a lot like you and me only so small as to be invisible. They live in fear that their planet is in trouble. Strong singer/actors. This group will also be part of the Circus McGurkus.

Main songs include: *Here on Who, Circus McGurkus, Solla Sollew*

What makes a great Ensemble member?

At auditions we will be looking for Ensemble members who work well with others, demonstrate energy when dancing and passion when singing. You do not need to be skilled at either singing or dancing to get in – show that you can follow instructions, be independent (this includes things like bringing the correct materials, being on time etc.) and are committed to attend lots of rehearsals to perfect your part. The hardest part in any show is the Ensemble – they have to all work together to create a great show.

“There are no small parts, only small actors.” – Constantin Stanislavski



SONG SELECTIONS AND LYRICS

You should prepare ONE of the following songs for the audition. You will sing individually (a solo). Though auditioners will only perform one song, it's a good idea to become familiar with the other songs in case you are asked to sing another role.

This link is to the MTI "Seussical, JR" page. If you click on "audition central" on the right-hand side under "Show Essentials", it will take you to the breakdown of each character with sides and their written music score and lyrics. <https://www.mtishows.com/seussical-jr>

You can also visit the following link for the "Seussical, Jr." soundtrack on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drY9t5EO_XE&list=PLAFC62DB9C8B66FB3

IMPORTANT NOTE ON CASTING: We believe that our production will benefit from a variety of races, genders, abilities, body types, and sizes, and we will spread diversity as best we can across all roles in the production. There are many roles that can be cast beyond the male/female binary, and we will be thoughtful and inclusive in our casting choices. "Who is the best actor to play this role?" will be our casting criterion. Unless you note that you will only take a specific role on your audition form, you will be considered for all parts regardless of the character that you read at auditions.

Most roles can be played by either gender. Please pick the song that you feel most comfortable with and add whatever characteristics you like.

These song cuts are posted on drop box. Here is the link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1bohuk9ga505zs1/AAB8CZjhvGNKv-HCWGRoJWhFa?dl=0>

Each cut has two versions: One cut with the vocals and is labeled "with words" and one cut with the instrumental only and no words. The "with words" versions are there for learning purposes, but you will be singing along to the instrumental version, so MAKE SURE THAT YOU PRACTICE WITH THE INSTRUMENTAL VERSION for you audition. Pay attention to tempo (how fast/slow the song goes) and "entrances" (knowing when in the music you should begin singing). Don't try to imitate the vocal quality of the person singing on the vocal version!! Sing the way you think the character would express him/herself!

Please prepare ONE song from this packet. You will be taught a short dance/movement piece at the audition.

Selections below. Performers can select any of the song selections below.

JOJO: "IT'S POSSIBLE" (Start at Beginning of song to 1:00)

*This might be a pool,
Like I've read of in books,
Connected to one of those underground brooks!
An underground river
That starts here and flows
Right under this bathtub!
And then-*

Who knows!

*It's possible!
Anything's possible!*

*It's possible!
Anything's possible!*

*It might go along,
Down where no one can see
Right under state highway
Two hundred and three!
Right under the wagons!
Right under the toes
Of Mrs. Umbroso! ...
Who's hanging out clothes!*

*It's possible!
Anything's possible.*

*It's possible!
Anything's possible!*

*This might be a river
Now mightn't it be,
Connecting McElligot's Pool with the sea!
Then maybe some fish might be swimming...
Swimming toward me!*

CAT IN THE HAT OR ANY OTHER CHARACTER: "OH, THE THINKS YOU CAN THINK!"

((Start at Beginning of song to :56))

(spoken)

*I can see that you've got quite a mind for your age!
Why, one Think and you dragged me right onto the stage!
Now, I'm here, there is no telling what may ensue
With a Cat such as me, and a Thinker like you!*

(Singing)

*Oh, the thinks you can think!
Oh, the thinks you can think
If you're willing to try...*

*Think invisible ink!
Or a gink with a stink!
Or a stair to the sky...
If you open your mind,
Oh, the thinks you will find
Lining up to get loose...
Oh, the thinks you can think
When you think about...*

Seuss! Seuss!
Seuss! Seuss!
Seuss! Seuss! Seuss! Seuss!
Seuss!

HORTON: "ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE" (Start at :56 to 2:05)

*I'm alone in the universe.
So alone in the universe.
I've found magic but they won't see it*

*They all call me a lunatic.
Ok, call me a lunatic.
If I stand on my own, so be it.*

*'Cause I have wings.
Yes, I can fly
Around the moon
And far beyond the sky
And one day soon
I know there you'll be
One small voice in the universe
One true friend in the universe
Who believes in me...*

MAYZIE OR GERTRUDE: "NOTICE ME HORTON" (Start at :10 to 1:23)

*It's taken all my courage to approach you
Not to mention all my stamina to follow you
Across the hills and deserts.
But I feel as if I'm ready
To confess to you the feelings
That I've hidden with great diligence and labor...
Behind the facade
Of your odd little next-door neighbor.*

*My eyes are too small.
I have very large feet.
And I'm not very proud of my pitiful tweet
But I've now got a tail
That is something to see...*

*(HORTON
One hundred and two. One hundred and three)*

*GERTRUDE
Oh, notice me, Horton, feather by feather.
This is your next-door neighbor calling!
Notice me, Horton.
Horton, together*

*We could be great
Oh, notice me, Horton
Put down the clover!
This is your next-door neighbor calling.
There's a new leaf
Your neighbor's turned over*

ANY OTHER CHARACTERS: "HERE ON WHO" (Start at :05 to 1:05)

*Well,
We're who's here.
We are Whos here.
Smaller than the eye can see.
It's true, sir.
We're who's who, sir.
I'm a Who and so is she.*

*We're tiny little people
Blowing by in the air,
Wondering how and why
We're on Who,
The ti-iniest
Planet in the sky!*

*A-ladela-deladela who who
A-ladela-deladela who*

Who!

*A-ladela-deladela who who
A-ladela-dela...*

*We're Whos here,
Win or lose here,
Struggling to stay alive.*

*Each gust pro-
Pels our dust. Oh,
How the heck
Do Whos survive?*

*At any given moment
We could crash or be drowned,
Hitting the ground, oh my!
Here on who,
The ti-iniest
Planet in the sky*

DANCE/MOVEMENT AUDITION TIPS

The choreographer will teach you a small routine that you will learn in groups.

Do your best with the dance steps, but ultimately choreographers are most interested in who looks energized and exciting while moving in time with music.

Don't panic if you mess up the steps, put your feet in the wrong place, or forget what to do with your hands. Even very polished dancers mess up sometimes. No one expects you to be perfect. However, when you miss something, it is important that you keep smiling and keep going (again -- staying in character is vital in an audition)! A big smile and an air of confidence can hide a multitude of mistakes with your feet. Even if you do the steps perfectly, if you are not expressive, or if you look like you're really concentrating hard instead of portraying the mood of the character, the role might go to someone with slightly less dancing ability, who dances as a believable character.

As a general note, make sure that you are standing in a place where you can see when the choreographer is teaching the steps. Frequently, people uncomfortable with dance try to hide in the back. It doesn't work. The point is not to hide, but to show what you can do!

CASTING

Casting a show is like assembling a large jigsaw puzzle. If you are not cast in the part that you wanted in this show, that DOES NOT mean that your audition performance was not of a good quality. It simply means that that character wasn't a good fit for you in this particular show. The "fit" decision usually has little to do with anything under your control. You may be too tall, too short, too old, too young, too high voice, too low voice, etc. etc. -- you get the picture!

Similarly, if you auditioned hoping to be given a certain role and you are cast with a different role, that means that the directors needed you most in the role in which you were cast. Again, remember that the ENSEMBLE is considered a role. Being in a show is being on a team. Every single player on the team is vital to the success of the whole piece. NO ONE ACTOR is more important than any other actor onstage. "There are no small parts...only small actors!"



"Why fit in when
you were born to
stand out?"
-Dr. Seuss