



# Seussical

The Musical

**AUDITION PACK**

Welcome to Western Arts Theatre Inc. We're so excited to stage *SEUSSICAL* as our next production, and just as excited to have you be a part of it. Below you'll find all the information you'll need to prepare for your audition. This pack is designed to make the process as efficient as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at [westernartsproducer@gmail.com](mailto:westernartsproducer@gmail.com)

### **Production Team**

Director/Choreographer: Kai Mann-Robertson

Musical Director: Ben Samuel

Producer: Tim Warren

Assistant Producer: Madonnah Webb

Assistant Director and Stage Manager roles will be advised soon.

### **Performance Venue**

Clocktower Centre, 750 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds

### **The Show**

Now one of the most performed shows in America, *Seussical* is a fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza! Tony winners, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (*Lucky Stiff*, *My Favorite Year*, *Once on This Island*, *Ragtime*), have lovingly brought to life all of our favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, *The Cat in the Hat*, Gertrude McFuzz, lazy Mayzie and a little boy with a big imagination – Jojo. The colorful characters transport us from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus to the invisible world of the Whos.

*The Cat in the Hat* tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust that contains the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child sent off to military school for thinking too many "thinks." Horton faces a double challenge: not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping 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.

### **Audition Dates**

#### ***Solo Vocal Auditions***

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 5:30pm - 9:30pm Solo Vocal Auditions

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm - 10:30pm Solo Vocal Auditions

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am – 2.30pm Solo Vocal Auditions

### ***Dance Auditions***

All auditionees are required to attend at least one of our dance auditions. You will be notified at your solo vocal audition which dance call we require you to attend – though there is always the possibility you will be invited to both.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 3.00pm – 5.00pm Specialist Dance Audition

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 10.00am – 12.00pm General Dance Audition

### ***Call Backs***

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 1.00pm onwards (as required)

Invitation to call backs will be made Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March after solo singing auditions are complete. Any material will be emailed to you to prepare for your call back although this will be kept to a minimum in consideration of the time frame.

### **Audition Venues**

Auditions on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March take place at:

**Essendon Baptist Community Church, 134 Buckley St Essendon**

**(please use the side entrance off Buckley Street not off the car park)**

Auditions on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> will take place at:

**Essendon Masonic Centre, 840 Mt Alexander Road Moonee Ponds. (Entry door is right on Mt Alexander Road)**

### **Solo Vocal Audition**

Bookings for auditions can be made through the trybooking link on the Western Arts Theatre Facebook page.

Please print out and turn in the attached Audition Form when you arrive for your audition. Juniors under the age of 18 will require the signature of a parent/guardian on their Audition Form.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your audition time to be fully prepared, have audition forms filled out and have your casting photo taken.

### ***Vocal Audition Requirements***

Please prepare two (2) contrasting songs in the style of the show. A piano accompanist will be provided. Please prepare the best section of the songs, ie. If there are three verses in the song, please prepare just one verse, the chorus and bridge. We may choose to only hear one song, or both, or a part thereof.

During the audition there may be a vocal range check and auditionees may be asked to repeat a short phrase.

Please ensure that your Sheet Music:

- Is in the **correct key**
- Has any cuts/alterations **clearly marked**
- Is printed and in a **display folder**

Please **DO NOT**:

- **Staple** the pages
- Provide the pdf on your **phone or tablet**

You may be asked to read dialogue for the role you are auditioning for, or for a role the creative team feel you may suit. Script excerpts will be available when you arrive, and you may read through them before being called in.

### **Dance Audition**

As this production of Seussical will take a major focus on choreography and movement, we will be holding multiple dance calls – one being for characters with a more intense choreographic track. Invitations for dance auditions will be offered at your solo singing audition.

Please wear comfortable clothing that's easy to move in and shows your line. Other things that would be helpful to bring include appropriate footwear (no bare-feet please), a water bottle, and a small towel if you think you might need it. Deodorant always handy when trying to be nice to your fellow auditionees.

The dance call will be a fun and supportive environment even for the least confident dancers, and everyone will be encouraged to smile and give it a go!

Don't be nervous. Every one of us on the panel has stood before an audition panel before and knows how you feel. Just do your best and have fun.

### **Character Descriptions**

Dr. Seuss's literary works push the boundaries of imagination and creativity, and likewise we have found it compelling to approach the casting process from a position of colour-blind casting, and gender neutrality. Where appropriate, all roles (bar a few) will be cast on the merit of PERSONALITY and CHARACTER in the audition room – not necessarily on gender – so that we can find the right **person** for the role. Standard character descriptions are listed below for audition preparation purposes, with the full acknowledgement that changes may be made for suitable performers.

## ***Featured characters:***

### ***The Cat in the Hat***

Any Gender – Any Age – Lead - Mezzo-Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone

The playful emcee, narrator and fourth wall breaker of the show. The Cat playfully provokes change in the lives of those around him by creating obstacles and rites of passage. The Cat's main objective is to have fun stirring things up, using some risky tactics, but always to a good end.

Physical attributes and movement abilities: Loose-limbed, fluid mover with some vaudeville skills, and comedic and athletic propensities. The person playing the Cat must be extremely responsible and able to piece together his own uniquely complicated show map – and have great rapport with the audience. Make us laugh.

The Cat In The Hat is the essence of mischief, fun, and imagination. The Cat stirs things up, causes trouble, but always sets things right again, helping Jojo to discover the power of his own imagination as they create the story for the show together. Look for a physically adept actor to play The Cat, one who will be able to play many comic cameos and is comfortable improvising with an audience. The Cat does not need to be your strongest singer, but should still have good rhythm and timing.

### ***Horton the Elephant***

Male – suggested age over 25 years – Lead - Tenor

Horton The Elephant is a gentle giant. Think of him as a big-hearted blue-collar guy who is steadfast, responsible and always tries to do the right thing for his friends. He is imaginative and receptive to the world around him. He is very unselfconscious. Horton's view of the world never changes - he believes in its goodness. By the end of the show, without even realizing it, he is ready to become a parent.

### ***JoJo***

Male (though Females may be considered) – suggested age 8 to 14 - Lead - Tenor

Jojo is a "Thinker", a smart child with a wild imagination. He can be played as being a little bit awkward, a little bit of a loner, or simply a rambunctious kid whose Thinks get him into constant trouble. By the end of the show, he learns what it means to be a responsible member of his world, using the power and possibilities of his own Thinks. He should be one of your stronger singers.

### ***Gertrude McFuzz***

Female – suggested age over 18 years – Lead - Soprano

Gertrude Mcfuzz is very self-conscious and aware that her one-feather tail isn't perfect. Gertrude changes during the show from a neurotic, nervous and shy bird into one with the power to protect and care for a baby elephant bird and commit herself to Horton. In other words, she stops worrying about her looks and grows up.

### **Mayzie La Bird**

Female – suggested age over 25 years – Supporting - Mezzo-Soprano

Mayzie La Bird is self-centered, selfish, and vain. Picture golden age cinema queen. Mayzie will never admit to her own flaws. She manipulates anyone she can into doing what she wants. But Mayzie isn't all bad. In giving up her egg to Horton once and for all, she has a moment of generosity-she realizes she isn't the kind of person who would be a good parent, and she does the best thing she can for the egg. High physicality / choreography role.

### ***The Sour Kangaroo***

Any Gender – suggested age over 20 years – Supporting - Alto

Sour Kangaroo isn't really sour at all. She's just got a lot of attitude. She's loud, brassy, and a lot of fun.

### ***Wickersham Brothers***

Any Gender (Written for Male) – suggested age over 18 years – Featured - Tenor, Baritone, Bass

The Wickersham Brothers 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 enjoy hanging around with one another, making music together on the street corner, and playing off one another. We are looking for actors willing to discover their own Wickersham persona. High physicality / choreography roles.

### ***“Mr. & Mrs.” Mayor***

Any Genders – suggested age over 25 years – Supporting – Written Tenor/Mezzo-Soprano

Mr. and Mrs. Mayor are Whos who are parents trying 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.

### ***General Genghis Kahn Schmitz***

Any Gender – suggested age over 30 years - Featured

General Genghis Khan Schmitz sees the world in simple contrasts: good and evil, weak and strong, boy and man. They believe in values of militaristic regimentation: conformity, rigorous and disciplined physical training, and following orders without questions. There is no place on the battlefield for dreaming.

### ***Bird Girls***

Female – Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto

A trio or quartet of flamboyant, tropical, jungle birds with tight harmonies and a typical “girl group” vibe. They love to tell stories, embellished by their melodious voices and expressive physiques. Whenever there is music, they are “on.” The Bird Girls are powerhouse movers who love to dance in tight synchronicity with each other. Our show’s own all singing “Greek Chorus”.

## ***Grinch / Judge Yertle the Turtle / Vlad Vladikoff***

Any Gender

Three great smaller character roles that can be played by some of our equally great featured ensemble members.

***Grinch*** - The Grinch is a green beastie who lives in Whoville. He is a happy member of the Who community, but this wasn't always the case. He once lived angrily apart and wished to disrupt the pleasantry of the Whos. His story and change of heart are all part of Who culture now, and happily retold every Christmas.

***Judge Yertle the Turtle*** - Yertle believes he has been endowed with some superior gifts not shared by the other animals and deserves a higher stature. He has a sense of entitlement and has a need for order. He likes to be the one who is looked to for decision-making and setting things right.

***Vlad Vladikoff*** – *A menacing eagle* - Vlad Vladikoff does the Wickershams' dirty work. In his full glory, with his large imposing wing spread, he is scary and formidable.

## ***Ensemble***

Any Gender – Ensemble – Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Bass

Responsible for bringing to life...

### ***Citizens of Who***

The Whos are a lot like you and me, only so small as to be invisible. Don't think of them as weird little aliens.

### ***Jungle Creatures***

The Jungle animals are "street-smart" creatures who live by the laws of the jungle. The Jungle Creatures are real people at heart, just like us, even though they may be described as animal characters.

**and a myriad of ensemble roles.**

\*For more details on the featured roles of this show, head to our website to view 'WAT Seussical\_characters'.

\*\*While there are limited roles for children in this production, the majority of the ensemble roles will be offered to a primarily adult/young adult cast.

## **Casting Announcements**

Cast offers will be made by **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April**, via phone. Email notifications will be emailed out to all auditionees after final casting is confirmed which must be confirmed in writing as soon as possible. Public cast announcement will not be made until 15 April

## **Show payments**

All cast members will be expected to pay:

Cast Fee - \$160 (includes costumes, props, commemorative show patch & fundraising box of chocolates)

Membership to Western Arts Theatre - \$30 for individuals/\$80 per family of 4.

The Cast Fee and Membership are due at the first rehearsal, however, we are more than happy to negotiate payment plans. Please contact the Producer once cast.

WAT will provide all cast members with rental material containing the script and the music for the show as required. If these are damaged or lost, the cast member is responsible for covering any replacement or repair costs.

An additional payment to attend the Rehearsal Camp will be required. This fee will be around \$120 for the weekend (food and accommodation inclusive).

## **Important Dates**

### ***Rehearsals***

**Thursday 4 April, 7.30pm - 10.30pm** - Meet and greet - this rehearsal will be for the distribution of materials, meeting the production team and a dry read of the show.

**Sunday 7 April, 12.00pm - 5.00pm** - This is the first official rehearsal of the show.

Rehearsals after these dates will be as follows:

**Sundays 12.00pm - 5.00pm (except Sunday 21 April due to Easter and potentially a late start on Sunday 12 May due to Mother Day - TBA)- Essendon Uniting Church - McNab Hall, cnr Buckley St and Mt Alexander Rd Essendon**

**Mondays and Thursdays 7.30pm - 10.30pm - Essendon Baptist Community Church, 134 Buckley St Essendon**

Please notify us of any unavailabilities on your audition form. If not notified, we expect you will be available for all of rehearsal dates unless in the case of an emergency or upon negotiation with the Production Team.

Not all cast will be required at all rehearsals. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be provided with at least 2 weeks notice in most cases.

\*Please note: All rehearsals will be closed rehearsals.\*

## **Fundraising and Promotion**

Cast members are encouraged to participate in fundraising and promotion for the show. These may include performing at a fundraising event, distributing promotional material, appearing on broadcast radio programs, participating in photo-shoots and/or promotional performances at public venues. The Seussical fundraising event(s) could include the following:

- Trivia night on Saturday (15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> June) or Sunday night (16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> June) **from 7:00pm to 12:00am** (all cast to attend)
- School Visits on a suitable weekday(s) between **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June** (principal roles only)

All cast will receive a box of chocolates at the Meet & Greet. This box will already have been paid for in your show fees and therefore it is the cast member's responsibility to sell their box to get their \$50 recouped bringing the show fees down to \$50.

## **Rehearsal Camp**

A non-negotiable rehearsal camp will take place from **31 May - 2 June**. All cast are required to attend as this is the intense rehearsal weekend for the show. The cost of the camp will be around \$120 and can be paid off in instalments. More information will be given to you about this at the first official rehearsal (15 July).

**Sitz Probe, Production Week & Performances:**

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Sitz Probe	10:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Bump In	9:00am – 9:00pm
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Tech Run	7:00pm – 11:00pm
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Dress Rehearsal	7:00pm – 11:00pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Dress Rehearsal	7:00pm – 11:00pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Opening night!!</b> Performance #1 8pm show	6:00pm – 11:00pm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Performance #2 8pm show	6:00pm – 11:00pm
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Performance #3 & 4 2pm and 8pm show	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Performance #5 12pm show & Bump Out	10:00am – 8:00pm

We are so excited that you have decided to audition for our production of Seussical. It promises to be an exciting show. Should you require any further information or clarification on any details listed above, please contact our Producers at [westernartsproducer@gmail.com](mailto:westernartsproducer@gmail.com) .

Remember to like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram to stay up to date with all our announcements and events.