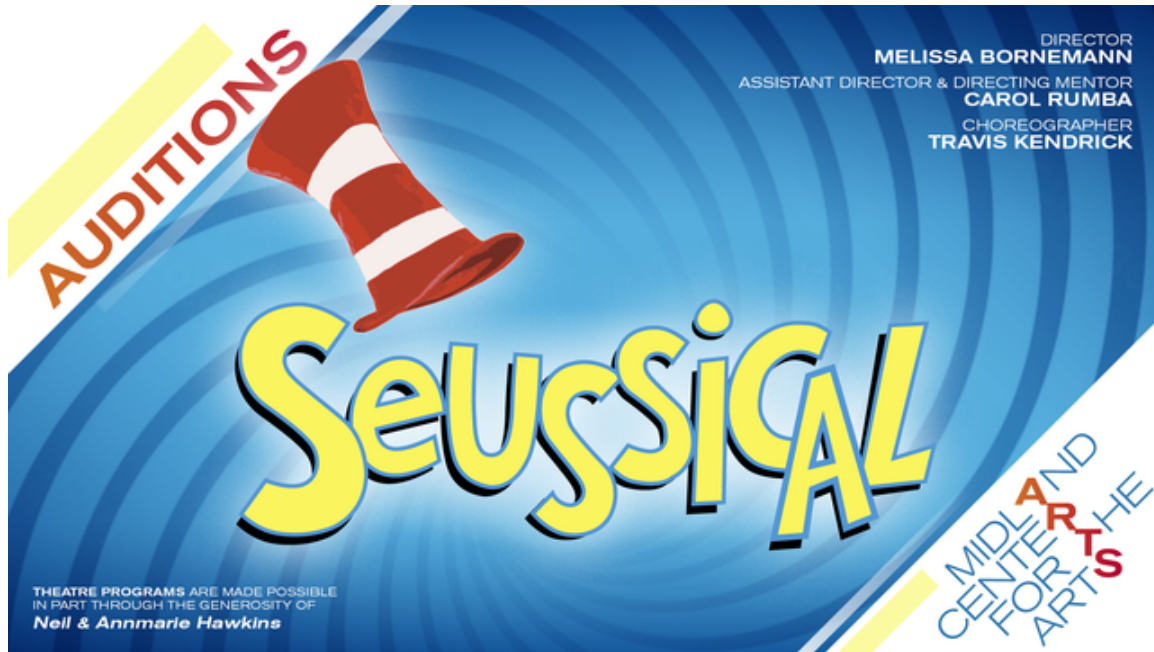


Midland Center For The Arts' Youth Theatre Presents:



Director: Melissa Bornemann
Assistant Director & Directing Mentor: Carol Rumba
Choreographer: Travis Kendrick

Auditions:

Wednesday February 2, 2022 from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Thursday February 3, 2022 from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Callbacks:

Saturday February 5, 2022 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Auditions and Callbacks will be held in Rehearsal Room B

Thank you for your interest in Youth Theatre's production of **SEUSSICAL**

"Oh, the thinks you can think" when Dr. Seuss' best-loved characters collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical caper! We are delighted that your young person is interested in our Youth Theatre production of SEUSSICAL TYA.

Now one of the most performed shows in America, *Seussical TYA* 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 containing Whos, including Jojo, a Who child with 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 to 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.

Youth Theatre provides a learning experience for those who enjoy performing onstage as well as for those who enjoy working backstage with makeup, props, scenery, and costumes. The *SEUSSICAL* rehearsal process is structured to also include education opportunities for youth to develop and build skills in acting, singing, dancing, and technical theatre through special workshops, activities, and exercises.

Beginning Stages (BeSt) is an exciting educational opportunity for young people to develop theatre skills through experiential learning. This program meets once per week during the rehearsal process in tandem with the *Seussical* cast. BeSt participants can expect to develop knowledge and skills in technical theatre as well as performing during the program; participants choose to focus on either the Performance Track or Technical Theatre Track to learn about in more depth. Anyone can participate in BeSt without auditioning.

TUITION: Tuition for those cast in Youth Theatre productions is \$75. Included in that fee are 6 complimentary tickets for the production. The tuition for BeSt participants is \$40. For those needing financial assistance, please complete a scholarship form for Art From the Heart, which can help defer your costs. This application can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions to Director Of Education, Jennifer Kanyo: kanyo@midlandcenter.org

Before the Audition:

Complete the **Audition Form** [HERE](#) before attending auditions, have a parent or guardian sign it, and submit it online.

Please look over the [Rehearsal Schedule](#) and list **ALL conflicts you have with the scheduled rehearsal time (Listing conflicts will not necessarily prohibit a child from being cast, but will help the Creative Team prepare for rehearsals).*

At the Audition:

Each audition day will be broken up into 3 sections: Singing, Dancing, & Acting

SINGING: During the first hour, you will learn/review a musical selection from the show. We will learn the musical selection all together, then sing in smaller groups. Next, each young person will be asked to sing the musical selection by themselves.

*Click [HERE](#) to access the music selection for the audition (sheet music with words).

DANCING: In the second hour of auditions, everyone auditioning will learn a short, fun dance combination all together. Then, we will practice the dance in smaller groups so there is enough room to spread out and dance full out. Auditionees will then perform the short dance in small groups. Please wear clothing you can move in and closed-toe shoes. This dance component is all about showing your personality, expressing yourself, and having fun!

ACTING: During the third hour of auditions, auditionees will read an audition side (short audition scene from the script). You do not need to memorize the cuttings prior to auditions, but you will want to be very familiar with the words. At the audition, the directors will assign each student to read a certain character in the audition side. If time, students will have an opportunity to read another for another character as well.

Please note: You may not read for a character that you'd like to be considered for, but that doesn't mean the Directors aren't considering you for that character! When reading an audition side, aim to make big, bold choices with your full body and voice.

*Click [HERE](#) for the audition side with which to be familiar.

Callbacks:

Some auditionees may be asked to attend callbacks on Saturday, February 5 from 1:00-4:00pm. Being called back or not being called back does not correlate with being cast; callbacks are simply an opportunity for the Directors to see something more from you that they haven't yet seen.

BREAK A LEG!

Rehearsals:

Rehearsal / Performance schedule: Weekly rehearsals will be Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 5:30-8:30pm and Saturdays from 1:00-4:00pm. All actors should be available for all rehearsals, but may not be called to every rehearsal. A detailed weekly rehearsal schedule will go out prior to each week. As always, the rehearsal schedule is subject to change.

Please Note: There is no rehearsal from Friday March 25 through Thursday March 31 to accommodate for Spring Break; Tech rehearsals begin the following day, Friday April 1st, and continue through that weekend.

The Full Rehearsal Schedule can be found [HERE](#)
The Tentative BeSt Schedule can be found [HERE](#)

Family and Parent Participation:

Parental/family participation and support is an integral piece of the preparation and execution of the show. Participation details will be explained at the parent meeting held at the first rehearsal. Typical commitment is approximately six hours per family. Parents are asked to help in one or more of a variety of areas, such as helping with painting, set building, making props, makeup, helping with lighting and sound, organizing show T-shirts and cast parties, and more. We do ask each family to help with chaperoning rehearsals and striking the set after the final performance.

Characters:

All roles are open to all ages and genders

The Cat in the Hat – The essence of mischief, fun and imagination. Stirs things up and causes trouble but always sets things right again. This actor should be physically adept and able to play many comic cameos (Dr. Dake, helicopter reporter, TV interviewer, auctioneer, Mr. McGurkus, etc.) and is comfortable interacting with an audience.

Jojo/Kid – A smart child with a wild imagination, whose “Thinks” get them into constant trouble. By the end of the show, Jojo learns what it means to be a responsible member of his world, using the power and possibilities of their own 'Thinks.'

Horton the Elephant – A gentle giant, who is responsible and always tries to do the right thing for his friends, sympathetic, imaginative, believes in the inherent goodness of the world. By the end of the show, without even realizing it, he is ready to become a parent.

Gertrude McFuzz – Very self-conscious about her one-feather tail, she gains confidence throughout the show, changing from anxious and nervous into someone whose self-worth doesn't rest on her appearance.

Mayzie La Bird – Self-centered and vain, she will never admit to her own flaws. She manipulates anyone into doing what she wants. 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'd be a good parent, and she does the best thing she can do for the egg.

Sour Kangaroo – Loud, brassy, and a lot of fun, very confident and not afraid to tell it as it is. A force to be reckoned with.

The Wickersham Brothers – These 3 tease, play pranks, and get a kick out of making mischief. They enjoy hanging around with one another, making music together and playing off each other.

Mr. Mayor – Along with Mrs. Mayor, trying hard to raise a child with a big imagination, doing their best to make the right choices as parents, even if JoJo doesn't understand them.

Mrs. Mayor – Along with Mr. Mayor, trying hard to raise a child with a big imagination, doing their best to make the right choices as parents, even if JoJo doesn't understand them.

Bird Girls – They are like the popular girls in any school – a clique of pretty, self-centered “back up birds” who follow Mayzie in whatever does. These actors must have experience singing harmonies.

Ensemble – This group will play a variety of characters including The Whos, Jungle Citizens, and Circus Performers.