

Childsplay's *Seussical* Press Release

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CHILDSPLAY NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release 11/2/07

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An unusual story will soon be unfurled
Of an elephant trying to save a small world...
-*Seussical*

**Childsplay Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of
Dr. Seuss's Cat in the Hat this December!**

Tempe, AZ -- Childsplay's 2005 and 2006 smash hit, *Seussical*, is back by popular demand!

Based on several books by the ever-popular Dr. Seuss and originally produced as *Seussical: The Musical*, this shorter adaptation for young audiences focuses on the witty and whimsical Horton stories. Performed at the brand-new Tempe Center for the Arts, this energetic musical works brilliantly for little ones who know and love the Seuss stories and for the rest of us who will delight in the sheer spectacle of the show.

Performances of *Seussical* are December 1 through 23 at the Tempe Center for the Arts Mainstage with Saturday and Sunday shows at 1 pm and 4 pm. The Target Storybook Preview Performance will be held on Sunday, November 25 at 4 pm with tickets discounted at \$12 (plus applicable box office fees). Tickets for all other performances are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students, seniors, and children (plus applicable box office fees). Tickets are on sale through the Tempe Center for the Arts Box Office 480-350-2822 or online at www.childsplayaz.org/tca.

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Synopsis

Horton the elephant is bathing in the Jungle of Nool when he hears sounds coming from a speck of dust. He discovers young JoJo and the other Whos of Whoville living on the speck and in danger of being blown away by the wind. Horton vows to protect them but his jungle neighbors think he's crazy. They aren't as sensitive as Horton and can't hear the Whos. Horton's neighbors create trouble and the dust speck ends up being lost in a field of clover. Then there's Gertrude, a bird with low self-esteem who is fond of Horton. She longs to be as glamorous as the full-feathered Mayzie LaBird. Mayzie sends Gertrude to Dr. Dake who helps her grow more tail feathers in an effort to make Horton notice her. Meanwhile Horton commits to egg-sit for the flighty Mayzie and gets into all kinds of trouble because he won't desert his post. Will Horton be able to save the Whos? Will Gertrude ever catch Horton's eye? This energetic musical takes the audience on a whirlwind adventure through the world of Dr. Seuss.

About *Seussical*

The Tony Award-winning team of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty originally created "Seussical" in honor of the 100th anniversary of Dr. Seuss's birth. Many of Dr. Seuss's most famous stories and characters are woven together in unexpected ways. Horton must take care of lazy Mayzie's egg, while at the same time try to protect the tiny citizens of Whoville. Meanwhile, poor Gertrude McFuzz just wants a bigger tail. The whole thing is brought together by the Cat in the Hat who pops in and out of the stories as the narrator. The musical score, played by a five-piece orchestra right on stage, includes pop, gospel, blues and R & B.

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Seussical FACT SHEET

Directed by Dwayne Hartford
Musical Direction: Alan Ruch
Choreography: Michael Barnard
Scenic Design: Edie Whitsett
Costume Design: Kish Finnegan
Lighting Design: Nykol Degru
Sound Design: David Temby
Wig Design: Katie Peck
Stage Manager: Abigail S. Hartmann

THE COMPANY (in alphabetical order):

Maxx Carlisle-King* – JoJo
David Cottrell* -- JoJo
Jon Gentry -- Cat in the Hat
Amanda Kuchinski -- Sour Kangaroo
Paul Kukes -- Wickersham Brother
Molly Lajoie -- Bird Girl
Yolanda London -- Bird Girl/Mrs. Mayor
Katie McFadzen -- Mayzie LaBird
Edgar Andrew Torrens -- Wickersham Brother
Laurie Trygg -- Bird Girl
Jodie L. Weiss -- Gertrude McFuzz
D. Scott Withers – Horton
Toby Yatso -- Wickersham Brother/Mr. Mayor

**Max Carlisle-King and David Cottrell will alternate the role of JoJo*

Childsplay also provides educational field trip performances Tuesday through Friday mornings. For more information about Field Trips contact Beth Olson at bolson@childsplayaz.org or 480-350-8107.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Seussical* are on sale through Tempe Center for the Arts box office at 480-350-2822 or online at www.childsplayaz.org/tca.

Target Storybook Preview Performance (Sunday November 25th at 4 pm): \$12 (plus applicable box office fees)

All other performances: \$25 Adults; \$20 Children**, Students & Seniors (plus applicable box office fees)
**Recommended for ages 4 and older.



PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES

Sunday, Nov. 25 – 4 p.m. (Preview)
Saturday, Dec. 1 — 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (Opening)
Sunday, Dec. 2 – 1 p.m. (ASL*) and 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8 – 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9 – 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 15 – 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16 – 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 22 – 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 23 – 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

*American Sign Language Interpretation.

LOCATION

Tempe Center for the Arts-Mainstage
700 West Rio Salado Parkway
Tempe, Arizona 85281
Box office: 480-350-2822 or online at
www.childsplayaz.org/tca

Childsplay's 2007-08 Media Sponsor is KTVK and My Sweet Connection.com

Childsplay, Inc. is a nonprofit theatre company of professional, adult artists who perform for and teach young audiences and their families. The mission of Childsplay is “to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood which are keys to the future.” For information on Childsplay performances, classes or educational presentations please call 480-350-8101 or visit our website at www.childsplayaz.org.

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