



AUDITION MATERIALS

DIRECTORS

Emily Leonard - Director
Andrea Figueroa - Music Director
Nina Davalos - Choreographer

Auditions

August 29, 2022

One 15-minute group time slot (first time slot is 5:30 pm)

Callbacks

August 30 & 31, 6 pm - 9 pm

Auditioners may be asked to attend all or part of either or both days of callbacks

ECT's production of Seussical is an audition-based program. Our professional, outside directors choose cast members and cast the roles. Cast size is limited, and it is possible that **not all children who audition will be cast in the production**. We encourage all children interested in ECT to explore ECT classes, continue to audition for productions, and attend summer camps regardless of casting decisions.

See ectshows.com for rehearsal and show dates and details.

Please review [Behind the Scenes](#) for ECT's attendance policy and parent commitment requirements.

Thank you for your interest in being a part of Elmhurst Children's Theatre!

Questions? Contact:

pc@elmhurstchildrenstheatre.com

Break a leg!

ECT elmhurst children's theatre

Seussical Audition Information

WHAT TO PREPARE

Because Seussical is thru-sung (has almost no spoken dialogue), we are not asking for monologues for this audition. Rather we would like you to **come prepared to sing your audition song twice.**

1. First you will sing the song in your natural singing voice, showing us your best breath support, pitch, and vocal tone.
2. The second time, you will sing the song as a character of your choice.
 - a. The character may be from Seussical, but it does not have to be.
 - b. We do not want you to tell us your character, we just want to see you perform it.
 - c. We want you to show us a unique & specific character with your body and voice.
3. The director/music director might ask you to sing it a third time with some direction, or to sing notes or scales along with the piano. Whether or not you are asked to sing more is not an indicator of how well you're doing, it just means we need to hear your voice some more.
4. Although you will be given a place on stage to start, when it is your turn you are welcome to move around the stage, as long as you are respectful of the other performers' personal space.

FAQs

How should I pick a song?:

- The most important thing is to pick a song you know well & feel very comfortable singing. Don't try to learn a new song the day before the audition!
- Remember, you only need to sing **one verse** or **one chorus** of your song. You don't have to start at the beginning of the song, so pick the "best" part! (That's the part *you* like to sing the most.)

Do I have to sing a song from *Seussical*?

- Nope! We are happy to hear a verse or chorus from *any* song for your first audition.
- *If you have time to prepare something from the show*, we suggest "Alone in the Universe" or "It's Possible," both of which will give us an opportunity to hear you sustain a note.

How do I decide what character to be for my second version of the song?

- Choose something you find really fun and interesting to perform.
- If you're not sure what to do, choose a common character archetype like: Clown, Pirate, Royalty, Boss, Old Person, Adorable Kid, Alien, etc.
- HAVE FUN performing the character with your whole body as well as your voice.

Seussical Audition Information

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Seussical takes us into the world of Dr. Seuss, where we visit The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Mayzie, and JoJo. The Cat in the Hat guides us into The Jungle of Nool where we meet Horton, the kind-hearted elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing Whoville. He meets JoJo, a Who child sent to military school for thinking too many “thinks.” Horton decides he must protect the speck of dust on a nearby clover, while at the same time protecting an abandoned egg left to his care by the lazy Mayzie la Bird. Horton tries to convince the other animals in The Jungle of the existence of the Whos, but he is ridiculed and put on trial for insanity. Only his loyal neighbor, Gertrude McFuzz, never loses faith in him. Despite all odds, Horton and Gertrude band together to save the Whos, free Horton, and restore peace and unity to the Jungle of Nool.

ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

The Cat in the Hat: *Any gender, sings solo, dances*

The Cat in the Hat is the instigator and sometimes the narrator of the show. (S)he delights in starting trouble and then sneaking away, but behind his or her mischief is a kind heart and a clever plan. The performer in this role must be physically agile and able to create a fun “show host” character.

Jojo: *Any gender, sings solo, some dance*

Jojo is the child of the Mayor of Whoville. An imaginative dreamer, Jojo is often in trouble for “thinking strange thinks.” The performer who plays Jojo must be able to portray a character that is inquisitive, excitable, and resilient.

Horton the Elephant: *Male, sings solo, character dance*

Horton is a gentle dreamer who spends his show protecting the Whos and Mayzie’s egg. The actor who plays this role must be able to portray sincerity and honesty.

Gertrude McFuzz: *Female, sings solo, character dance*

Gertrude is Horton’s next-door neighbor. She has a huge crush on Horton but thinks he doesn’t notice her because her tail is too small. The actress who plays this role must be able to be sweet and sincere.

Mayzie La Bird: *Female, sings solo, dances solo*

Mayzie is a wild diva bird with fabulous plumage. She wants everything to be all about her, all the time. The actress who plays this role must be able to be over-the-top and extravagant in her performance.

The Sour Kangaroo: *Female, sings solo, character dance*

The Sour Kangaroo is sassy and cruel. She is the queen of the jungle social scene and keeps herself up by putting others down. The actress in this role must be able to portray power and self importance. The Sour Kangaroo traditionally also serves as the puppeteer of her child, Roo.

Seussical Audition Information

Bird Girls: *Female, sing solo and harmony, dance feature*

The Bird Girls are Mayzie's "Supremes" as well as narrators of much of the show's action. In addition to being fabulous singers and dancers, the performers in these roles must be exceptionally responsible and attentive performers in order to keep track of the complex blocking and choreography the Bird Girls perform throughout the show.

Wickersham Brothers: *Any gender playing Male, Sing solo and trio, dance feature*

The Wickersham Brothers are the pranksters and bullies of the jungle. Often there to support The Sour Kangaroo in her teasing, the Wickershams are three monkeys with one mind. The performers in these roles must be able to portray monkey movement as well as extreme characters

Mr. Mayor: *Male, sings solo, some dance*

Mr. Mayor is very proud of his role as Mayor, and wants Jojo to live up to the family's reputation. He is an upright but exhausted leader who tries to do what is best for everyone but doesn't always succeed. The actor in this role must be able to portray an adult who is serious about his child's education.

Mrs. Mayor: *Female, sings solo, some dance*

The Mayor's Wife is very proud of her family and their reputation. She is concerned about her child, who is always in trouble at school. Although her decision to send Jojo to military school seems mean, she really thinks she is doing what's best for her child. The actress in this role must be able to portray an adult woman who is strict but concerned.

General Genghis Khan Schmitz: *Male, sings solo, character dance*

The General is a former war hero turned military academy instructor. He is strict, relentless, and hilariously puffed up on his own accomplishments. The actor in this role must be able to portray a character who is extreme in both voice and action.

Yertle the Turtle: *Male, Sings solo, character dance*

Yertle is the judge in the Trial of Horton, as well as being present in other Jungle scenes. He is a ponderous and pompous judge who speaks slowly and with great weight. The actor in this role must be able to create a clear character with movement as well as voice.

Vlad Vladikoff: *Male, featured performer, character dance.*

Vlad is a daredevil fighter-pilot type who is a friend of the Wickershams. The actor in this role must be able to embody the nobility and power of an Eagle.

The Grinch: *Any gender, small solo, character dance*

The reformed Grinch is now a kind beast who lives in Whoville and re-enacts his own story every Christmas with all of the Whoville children. The performer in this role must be able to speak/sing with a Grinchy character voice and move in a cartoony way.

Thing 1 and Thing 2: *Any gender, sing ensemble, physical performance feature.*

The Things are on stage any time the Cat is, and are responsible for emphasizing what the Cat is saying through movement, creating a physically large performance, and moving many of the show's set pieces and props on and off the stage. In addition to being excellent physical performers, the Things must also be responsible performers who take excellent notes in order to keep track of their complex responsibilities.

Seussical Audition Information

ENSEMBLES

All cast members will be included in one or more ensembles.

Additional solos and small roles will be cast from these ensembles during the rehearsal process.

Jungle Animals: *Female and Male, sing ensemble, character dance*

The Jungle Animals are the everyday citizens of the jungle, and include butterflies, lizards, jungle cats, sneeches, and more. Performers in these roles must be able to create unique and interesting characters using both body and voice.

Whovians: *Any gender, sing ensemble with select solos, dance*

The citizens of Who love their lives, but are in a panic as their whole planet is drifting through space and their city is at war with the Butter-Side-Downers. Performers in these roles must be able to create distinct character movement and clear character motivations and relationships. Additional solos and feature roles will be cast from the Whovian ensemble.

Cadets: *Any gender playing “boys”, sing ensemble, dance feature*

When Jojo is sent to a military academy, the Cadets perform a drill demonstrating the power of the military to “make a boy a man.” Performers in this role must be strong dancers capable of performing precision choreography.

Hunches: *Any gender, sing ensemble, dance feature*

The Hunches follow and torment Jojo as (s)he attempts to find his or her way home. Hunches must be strong dancers as well as strong singers.

Fish/Sea Creatures: *Any gender, sing ensemble, puppeteers and feature dancers*

This ensemble group is featured in the song “It’s Possible” and either operate puppets or perform as a featured dancer. Must be able to create an “undersea” character with movement.

Hat Puppeteers: *Any gender, puppeteering*

The Hat Puppeteers kick off the show with an exciting “dance of the hats,” during which Jojo pursues, then eventually catches the Cat’s hat. The Hat Puppeteers must be strong movers and character performers.

Circus Performers: *Any gender, sing ensemble, perform amazing feats*

When Horton joins the circus we get to see a parade of amazing, talented performers, each of whom take a moment in the spotlight to show off their skill. We are looking for students with unique skills (juggling, magic, gymnastics, hand-walking, contortion, clown, balancing, and whatever other interesting things you can do). If you have a talent you think might be “circus-worthy,” remember to tell us on your audition form!

ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE (PART 2)

A Tempo (with Wonder)

1 HORTON: 2 3 6

9 HORTON: wavy...
I'm a - lone in the u - ni - verse. So a -

12 lone in the u - ni - verse. I've found ma - gic, but they won't

15 see it. They all call me a lu - na - tic.

19 O - kay. Call me a lu - na - tic. If I

22 stand on ny own, so be it. 'Cause

25 I have wings. Yes, I can fly a -

29 (HORTON:) 30 31 32
round the moon and far be - yond the sky. And

33 34 35
one day soon I know there you'll be

36 37 38
One small voice in the u - ni verse...

39 won't
40 41
One true friend in the u - ni - verse...

42 43 44
na - tic. who be - lieves in me.

45 (HORTON:) 46 47

JOJO:

(JOJO:)

20 un - der State High - way Two - Hun - dred - and - Three! Right

22 un - der the wa - gons! Right 23 un - der the toes of 24 Mis - sus Um - bro - so who's

25 hang - ing out clothes! It's 26 pos - si - ble! 27 A - ny - thing's

28 pos - si - ble. 29 JOJO + CAT: 30 It's pos - si - ble!

31 (JOJO + CAT:) A - ny - thing's 32 pos - si - ble. 33 JOJO: This

34 (JOJO:) 35 might be a ri - ver, now 36 might - n't it be, con - nec - ting Mc - El - li - got's pool -

37 - with the sea! 38 Then may - be some fish - might be -

39 swim - ming, 40 swim - ming toward 41 me!

V.S. SEGUE AS ONE