



**Stout Theater Company 2020
Informational Packet**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN STOUT THEATER COMPANY'S PRODUCTION OF...



Dear Cast Member,

We are pleased to announce auditions for STC's production of Seussical Jr. Please read these pages very carefully so that you have all of the information regarding auditions, rehearsals and the show. There are important auditions tips here on this page, so read and take note!

Please look over the list of characters within this packet to see details on all featured characters and ensemble members.

Seussical Jr. is an extremely character-driven show; featuring iconic characters we all know and love. Don't be afraid to throw yourself into the character you're auditioning for, you can't go too far! Character voices and dialects are necessary for the creative team to make casting decisions, so make sure you commit to everything you do during your audition!

When you're singing, whether it is for your initial audition or for callbacks, the most important thing to keep in mind is that acting and intentions are everything. There is a reason you don't see pop stars winning Tony Awards on Broadway, it's not about how you sound, it's about why you're singing, what you're singing for and what you're trying to accomplish through the music.

When a musical breaks into song it is because of the actor's heightened emotion. Whether it is good or bad, the actor has reached a point where speaking dialogue is no longer an option, the only thing they can do is sing. Keep that in mind when you're preparing for auditions or callbacks. This is one of the most common mistakes in theatre, even with professional actors at the highest levels!

During your audition, be sure to focus on a point ABOVE the heads of the directors. Sing to your invisible scene partner, not us. This will keep you in the moment and eliminate worry. DO NOT TRY TO READ THE DIRECTOR'S MIND OR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS. This is not helpful and can send you in a panic. Relax and do your thing!

In an effort to increase participation and limit potential conflicts, we are very much casting based on potential conflicts an individual might have. Keep in mind, those cast in large parts **WILL BE REQUIRED TO STAY BACK OR COME IN FOR ADDITIONAL REHARSAL.**

We know schedules are hectic, and you may have conflicts with sports, dance, vacations, family outings, etc. Please take the time to list all conflicts on the audition form. When one cast member is missing from rehearsal it affects the others in the show, the productivity of rehearsals and ultimately, the final product! Conflicts are a huge part when considering roles for cast members.

Make sure you take note of everything in this packet, as it will help to answer any questions you may have. Also, please fill out the forms in this packet and make sure to bring them to rehearsal! Our creative team is so excited to be given the opportunity to help bring this amazing show to life here at Stout! Seussical will prove to be one of the biggest shows in the history of STC and our entire production team is committed to making it an experience that volunteers and audiences won't soon forget. We are so excited to be continuing the tradition of offering all of our youth the chance to collaborate together. We have a strong performing arts program and love the idea of coming together.

Rashid Baydoun- Director
Lisa Cronin- Assistant Director
Vanessa Elzein- Music Director
Zeinab Alhashemi – Production Assistant



About the Show:

PLOT SUMMARY

(from MTI's Broadway Junior website)

A strange and fantastic red-and-white-striped top hat appears on an empty stage, full of possibilities. A **Boy** enters and is drawn toward the magical hat. **The Cat in the Hat** suddenly materializes! "You've got quite a mind for your age," quips the Cat as he/she begins singing about the power of imagination (*Oh the Things You Can Think*). Throughout the song, famous characters are introduced who will figure in the musical: **Horton the Elephant**, **Gertrude McFuzz** (the bird with the one feather tail), the **Whos** of Whoville (including the **Mayor** and his **Wife**), **Mayzie La Bird**, the **Sour Kangaroo** and the **Citizens of the Jungle of Nool**. The Boy and the Cat use their imaginations to transport everyone to the Jungle of Nool as the adventures begin.

Horton is splashing in a pool when he hears a distant cry for help. (*Horton Hears a Who*). He follows the sound to a tiny speck of dust floating through the air and realizes that there are people living here, so small they can't be seen—the tiny citizens of Whoville. Horton vows to help them and places Whoville safely onto a soft clover just as Sour Kangaroo and her baby arrive. The Sour Kangaroo thinks Horton is crazy for talking to a speck of dust and she and the rest of the Jungle Citizens mock him for his delusions. (*Biggest Blame Fool*). The rascally **Wickersham Brothers**—a cool group of bad-boy monkeys—join in the fun of teasing Horton. The Cat in the Hat weaves through the number, taking on the persona of a talk show host who interviews everyone in

the jungle, including Mayzie La Bird and her backup group of **Bird Girls**. The one person who stands up for Horton is his neighbor, Gertrude McFuzz, who is not noticed by anyone, least of all Horton

As Horton is left alone with his inhabited clover, the Cat, who is always around, throws the Boy into the story – he becomes **Jojo**, son to the Mr. Mayor and Mrs. Mayor of Whoville. Horton discovers much more about the Whos and their tiny town of Whoville (*Here on Who*). Mr. and Mrs. Mayor are both very unhappy with Jojo because his "Thinks" have gotten him into trouble at school. (*How to Raise a Child*) They tell him to take his bath and go to bed, but the Cat has another idea, (*Oh, the Thinks You Can Think – Reprise*) and Jojo's imagination gets the better of him. His bathtub becomes McEligott's Pool, full of fantastical fish (*It's Possible*)! The fun is interrupted when Mr. and Mrs. Mayor rush in because Jojo has flooded the house with bathwater.

Horton sits alone, guarding the clover (*Alone in the Universe*). Horton and Jojo hear each other and become friends when they realize their imaginations are so much alike – "one true friend in the universe who believes in me."

In another part of the jungle, Gertrude has just written her 427th love song about Horton (*The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude McFuzz*). She believes Horton doesn't notice her because of her small and uninteresting tail. Mayzie appears with her Bird Girls, and offers advice (*Amazing Mayzie*), which leads Gertrude to Doctor Dake (played by the Cat in the Hat) and his pills for "amazing" feathers. After taking too many pills, Gertrude is very happy as her tail begins to grow (*Amazing Gertrude*).

The Wickersham Brothers are up to no good (*Monkey Around*). They decide to steal the clover with Whoville on it. They ambush Horton, grab the clover, and *Chasing the Whos* begins as the monkeys tease Horton and he huffs and puffs after them all over the Jungle of Nool. The Cat in the Hat plays a helicopter newscaster tracking the chase. The Wickershams eventually hand off the clover to "a black-bottomed eagle named **Vlad Vladikoff**," who flies off with the clover and drops it directly onto an enormous field of clover.

Horton begins looking for the Whos, clover by clover by clover. Gertrude has followed the chase and arrives with her new, incredibly long and unwieldy tail, determined to tell Horton how she truly feels (*Notice Me, Horton*). But Horton is oblivious, looking for the Whos. Gertrude leaves, rejected and sad.

Mayzie La Bird calls to Horton from her nest in a tree. She's bored to death, (*How Lucky You Are – Reprise*) and convinces Horton to sit on the nest for her while she takes a brief vacation (*Horton Sits on the Egg*).

Seasons pass, and Horton is still stuck, sitting on the egg. The Whos are still lost in the clover, and Gertrude still cannot get Horton to notice her and her new long tail. Hunters suddenly arrive, capture Horton and the egg and take him away. (*Egg, Nest and Tree*). After a long, arduous trip, Horton arrives in New York, where he is auctioned off to the circus. The "Seusseby's auctioneer" is played by the Cat, and allows the audience to bid on Horton.

The traveling circus lands in Palm Beach, where we find Mayzie under a palm tree, bemoaning the monotony of vacationing (*Mayzie in Palm Beach*). She decides that she needs a change of scenery and heads to the circus, where she runs into Horton. He begs her to take back her egg, but Mayzie decides Horton would be a better parent for her egg than she could ever be (*Amazing Horton*), so she gives him the egg for good and leaves before he can say no. Horton accepts the responsibility of caring for the egg (*Alone in the Universe – Reprise*), even though he worries about Jojo and the Whos. He sings the egg a lullaby (*Solla Sollew*) that is echoed by Jojo and Mr. and Mrs. Mayor.

Gertrude finds Horton asleep in his cage. She has managed to get rid of her unwieldy tail and has journeyed great distances and through much peril (*All for You*) to find and rescue him. At the end of her number, she mentions one more thing – she also has found the Whos' clover! Horton finally notices that Gertrude is amazing.

But, just as Horton finds the Whos again, the Sour Kangaroo and the Wickersham Brothers show up and make a citizen's arrest. They take Horton back to the Jungle of Nool, where he is put on trial "for talking to a speck and sitting on an egg." The trial begins (*The People versus Horton the Elephant*) and **Judge Yertle the Turtle** sentences Horton to the Nool Asylum for the Criminally Insane. The speck of dust is ordered to be boiled in oil. Horton trumpets his protest and tells the Whos they must yell to be heard. They have to prove they exist, and there's no time to lose!

The Whos scream and make as much noise as they can, but still only Horton can hear them. Suddenly, Jojo comes up with a Think: a new word to shout that will be heard by everyone--YOPP! At the last minute, all the animals of Nool hear Jojo's cry and Whoville is saved. Just then, the egg begins to crack – all gather around as the new baby emerges – and they are astonished to see that it's... an Elephant Bird! Horton looks to Gertrude for help, realizing that she is his "one true friend in the universe," and she agrees: "You teach him earth and I will teach him sky."

As the show ends and all are united, the Cat hints that many more adventures are likely to occur "if you open your mind, oh, the things you will find" (*Oh, the Things You Can Think – Reprise*). All the characters vanish, leaving The Boy alone onstage with the red-and-white-striped hat, the embodiment of his imagination. As he puts it on, it falls over his eyes, putting the stage into BLACKOUT!

We truly want this to be an outstanding auditioning experience for new and seasoned students alike, so for your convenience, we've included some information of how auditions will be conducted and what you will want to prepare.

THE AUDITION:

Singing: We will be working with you to help you find your range and provide you with music for your audition. All you have to do is bring a positive attitude and *sing in the correct key*. Just make sure that you **SHOW OFF** your range and your confidence to perform comfortably in front of an audience!

Reading: In this packet you will find the monologues that will be used for Shrek auditions. You are not required to have these memorized but it will improve your chances drastically if you have a good handle on them. You will also find scenes that will be used for callbacks only. Depending on the number of people at each audition, a cut may be made after the singing & dancing portion of the audition.

ANY QUESTIONS: Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at

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Auditions- What to Bring

1. **Audition Packet** – STC Theatre Contract, Audition Form and ALL Signed Releases

No Contract, No Audition!

2. **Headshot and Resume**

Please bring a picture of yourself to help the Creative Team remember you! Also, if you have a resume of your previous shows, etc. please bring along with you!

3. **Listing of ALL Conflicts!** – **Unexcused absence not listed can result in you being replaced!**

- We can't say it enough!! List your conflicts for us, as this will help us determine roles, etc.
- An 'unexcused' absence is any conflict NOT listed on your initial audition form! (Even if you tell us in advance)

Set Construction

STC strives to have gorgeous sets and a high production value in order to provide the community with top-notch performances. In order to do this we need your help!

If you have parents or adult friends that would be interested in lending a hand to help build please let us know! The more help we have, the better! The more help we have, the more time we can spend on the small details of the set that will really make the show come to life.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

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: Principal. Male or female. A young boy. 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 him into constant trouble. In the end, his Thinks save his planet. Strong singer/actor. Main songs include: *It's Possible, Alone in the Universe, Solla Sollew*

THE CAT IN THE HAT: Principal Male or female. 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: Principal 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: Principal 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 LABIRD: 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 Dad. 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 really 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*

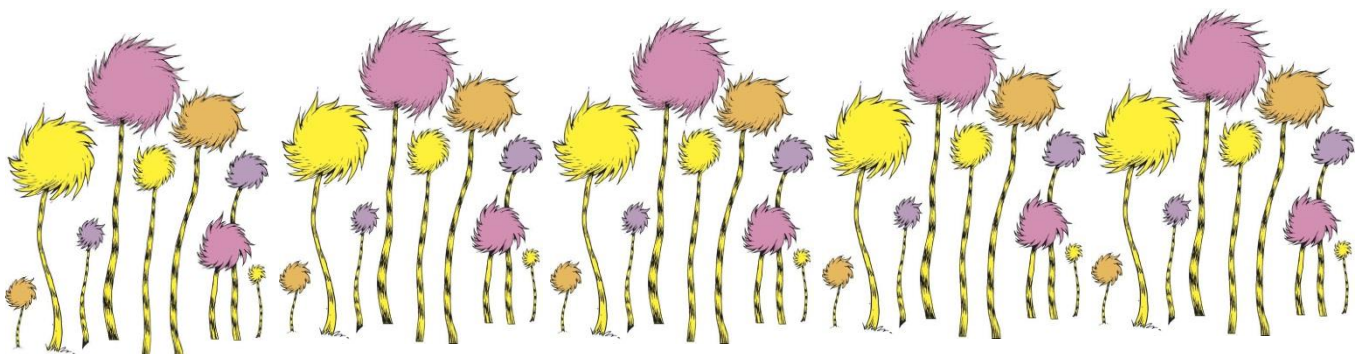
WICKERSHAM BROTHERS: Male or Female. Three (or more) monkey brothers and citizens of the Jungle of Nool. These are not bad guys! They're simply a lot like kids who tease, play pranks and get a kick out of making mischief, although often at others' expense. They side with the Sour Kangaroo in her campaign 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: Male or female. 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): Male and Female. 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: Male and Female. 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*



Audition Packet for Seussical Jr.

Directions: Please choose ONE option below to prepare for auditions. Choose the character you would most like to be and what you feel fits your voice best.

Option #1

“Oh the Thinks You Can Think” measures #1-19

Lines from Script #1

- Cat in the Hat
- Wickersham Brothers
- Mr. Mayor of Whoville

Option #2

**“The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude McFuzz”
measures #10-50**

Lines from Script #2

- Gertrude McFuzz
- Mrs. Mayor of Whoville

Option #4

“Alone in the Universe” measures #30-65

Lines from Script #4

- Horton
- JoJo

Option #5

“Oh the Thinks You Can Think” measures #27-46

Lines from Script #4

- Chorus



SCRIPT #1

THE CAT IN THE HAT

SIDE 1

(Suddenly THE CAT changes character.)

THE CAT: (as Circus Barker, circus ringmaster)
Step right up, ladies and gentlemen, children and creatures!
The smallest of small and the tallest of tall!
Come old and young, come one and all!
To the Circus McGurkus!
The world's greatest show!
On the face of the earth, or wherever you go!

SIDE 2

(THE CAT appears as an auctioneer. NOTE: Another "free" improvisational area for THE CAT—please start with what's here, and improvise with audience a little.)

THE CAT: Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to Seusseby's. Our first item up to bid this evening is lot 39, a pendulous pachyderm on egg, nest and tree. The bidding will begin at ten thousand dollars. Do I hear ten, ten thousand?

(THE CAT improvs with the audience.)

Going once, going twice...

(THE CAT bangs his gavel.)

Sold...to the man with the sideburns and the greasy black moustache - oh, excuse me, Madam! Sold instead, to the man from the circus!

SCRIPT #2

GERTRUDE MCFUZZ

SIDE 1

GERTRUDE: Horton, I bought you a scarf.

HORTON: Thank you, Gertrude. Have you heard from Mayzie?

GERTRUDE: She sent a card from Palm Beach.

HORTON: Palm Beach! Gertrude, what if she never comes back!

GERTRUDE: Don't worry, she will. Um- Horton, notice anything different? (showing off her new tail)

HORTON: Yes, it's g-g-getting colder.

SIDE 2

GERTRUDE:

I'll bet you forgot
about Gertrude McFuzz.
Well, that's nothing new.
I mean, everyone does.
But Gertrude did something
that few birds could do....

(pause)

HORTON: What? Who is it?

GERTRUDE: It's me, Gertrude! Horton! Oh, Horton! I was so worried! Are you all right?

HORTON: Gertrude! How did you find us?

GERTRUDE: Well, it's a long story.

SCRIPT #3

MAYZIE LA BIRD

SIDE 1

HORTON: Two million, nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine. It's hopeless.

(A voice is heard over Horton's head.)

MAYZIE: You said it, kid.

HORTON: Who's there?

MAYZIE: It's me. Mayzie. Up here.

HORTON: Mayzie... Are you on a nest?

MAYZIE: Yeah. You wanna make something of it?

HORTON: No, I just never thought I'd see you on a nest.

MAYZIE: Neither did I, Hort. Neither did I.

SIDE 2

HORTON: Why, Mayzie, I couldn't. Of all silly things! I haven't got feathers. I haven't got wings. And not only that, but I'm here on a search. I just couldn't leave my poor Whos in the lurch!

MAYZIE: I won't be gone long, kid. I give you my word. I'll hurry right back, 'cause I'm that sort of bird! Oh, Horton, I promise! I'll fly back real soon. I'd only be gone for, say, one afternoon!

(A beat, as HORTON considers this.)

HORTON: *(relenting)*

Well...we all need vacations.

All right, go on, take it.

I'll sit on your egg

and I'll try not to break it.

But please come back quickly-

One hour, maybe two.

I need to find JoJo.

I've got to save Who!

MAYZIE: *(ad lib)*

Hit it, Cat! Thanks. Thanks a million! Toodle-oooo!!

(THE CAT strikes up an energetic Latin beat on the piano, accompanying MAYZIE as she flies off, thrilled with her newfound freedom. The BIRD GIRLS watch as HORTON climbs the tree with great trepidation, and gingerly gets into the nest.)

SCRIPT #4

HORTON THE ELEPHANT

SIDE 1

HORTON: Hello...hello?

JOJO: (casually to his clover) Hello?

HORTON: Who's there?

JOJO: It's me, JoJo. The Mayor's son.

HORTON: I'm Horton. The elephant.

JOJO: Are you real, or are you a very large Think?

HORTON: Oh, I'm real all right. I would state that in ink.

JOJO: In my Thinks, I imagine a lot of strange things, and I go to strange places, as if I had wings! I love a good Think!

HORTON: Well, for me that goes double.

JOJO: Sometimes my Thinks are what get me in trouble.

HORTON: When you think, do you dream?

JOJO: In bright colors!

HORTON: Me, too. (pause) And I go to strange places. Like Solla Sollew!

JOJO: When you think, do you think you could fly to the stars?

HORTON: Little friend, no one else could have Thinks such as ours!

SIDE 2

(The clover drops, and the WHOS scream. HORTON tries to catch it, but it's too late. They are lost in a huge field of clover. HORTON stands alone.)

HORTON: That bird let that clover drop somewhere inside
Of a great patch of clovers, a hundred miles wide!
I'll find it. I'll find it! I'll find it or bust!
Well, I shall find my friends on their small speck of dust.
Yes, clover by clover by clover with care
I'll listen and call, are you there? Are you there?

(HORTON begins his search for the WHOS clover by clover. GERTRUDE MCFUZZ enters. Her tail is now magnificent. She sings to HORTON, but he takes no notice because he is searching for his speck of dust.)

SCRIPT #4

HORTON THE ELEPHANT

SIDE 1