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SPECIAL THANKS

TO... THE TEAMS AT THE CONTEMPORARY THEATRE OF OHIO,
THE FRAN RYAN CENTER, AND THE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

ALL OF OUR STUPENDOUS PARENTS AND FAMILIES,
ESPECIALLY...ANGELA HAGLEY, SIERRA KEHN, NIKKI
DONALDSON, MIMI MORAS, STEPHANIE CZARECKIE, ROB
MESSENGER, ALY DEAGEL AND BETH GEORGE!

CRPD LEADERSHIP, ESPECIALLY BERNITA REESE (EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR) & JASON NICHOLSON – (ARTS, RENTALS AND
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THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES
NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025 @ WESTGATE RECREATION CENTER

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER
JUNE 26-29, 2025 @ BICENTENNIAL PARK AMPHITHEATRE

Columbus Performing Arts Players
presents

Bring a lawn chair
or blanket to enjoy
the show!

Seussical

Book by
Lynn Ahrens

Music by
Stephen Flaherty

FRANKLIN PARK
AMPHITHEATRE
1755 E. BROAD ST
ADMISSION IS FREE

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
JUNE 26	JUNE 27	JUNE 28	JUNE 29
7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 P.M.

This play is presented through a special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are supplied by MTI.

Directed by Tyrell Reggins
Stage Management by Palesa Carle
Set Design by Elizabeth Carle
Costume Design by Elizabeth "EJ" Jones
Music Direction by Tirzah Washington
Choreography by Aleecya Sims

columbusrecparks.com

Cast and Crew

Emma Fleming	Cat in the Hat
Avi Swissa	Horton the Elephant
Maisie Streeter	Gertrude McFuzz
Cassandra Kurek	Mayzie La Bird
Mi'Yanna Ferrell	Sour Kangaroo
Curtis Myers	Wickersham 1
Pat Corcoran	Wickersham 2
Leo Messinger	Wickersham 3/JoJo understudy
Miles Gainullin	Wickersham 4/Grinch
Shannon Daly	Bird Girl 1
Sophie Reeder	Bird Girl 2
Sara Huston	Bird Girl 3
Mackenzie Rueber	Bird Girl to-be
Austin Leach	Mr. Mayor
Michelle Treaster	Mrs. Mayor
Caden Trueblood	JoJo
Caliph Scott	General Schmitz/Yurtle the Turtle
Minaugh Sheets	Jungle Cit/Vlad Vladikoff
Amira Donaldson	Young Kangaroo
Angie Lee	Adult Whoville Citizen/Fish
Ariel Godfrey	Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish
Nora Cook	Cadet/Fish/Cindy Lou Who
Isabelle "Izzy" Hagley	Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish
Evan Pieper	Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish
Everett Kehn	Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish
Samantha Czarnecki	Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish
Josephine Fetalaiga	Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish
Eli Gary	Youth Whoville Citize
Nathan Bissou	Stage Crew
Marilyn Staber	Stage Crew
Ariel Wiles	Light Board

Read more
about our cast
and crew
here...



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About the Authors

STEPHEN FLAHERTY is the composer of the Broadway musicals *Ragtime* (Tony, Drama Desk, OCC Awards, two Grammy nominations), *Seussical* (Grammy, Drama Desk nominations), *Once on This Island* (Tony nomination, Olivier Award, Best Musical) and *Rocky*. Additional Broadway includes *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* (original songs) and Neil Simon's *Proposals* (incidental music). Stephen has also written four musicals at Lincoln Center Theatre: *The Glorious Ones* (OCC, Drama Desk nominations), *Dessa Rose* (OCC, Drama Desk nomination), *A Man of No Importance* (OCC, Best Musical, Drama Desk nomination) and *My Favorite Year*. Other theater includes *In Your Arms* (Old Globe), *Little Dancer* (Kennedy Center), *Lucky Stiff* (Playwrights Horizons) and *Loving Repeating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein* (Chicago's Jefferson Award, Best New Musical.) Film includes *Anastasia* (two Academy Award and two Golden Globe nominations), the documentary *After The Storm and Lucky Stiff*. Mr. Flaherty's concert music has premiered at the Hollywood Bowl, Boston's Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Guggenheim Museum and Symphony Space. This year celebrates Stephen's 32-year collaboration with lyricist-librettist Lynn Ahrens. Stephen and Lynn are members of the Dramatists Guild Council and co-founders of the Dramatists Guild Fellows Program. In 2015 they were inducted into the Theater Hall Of Fame.

Lynn Ahrens won Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards and received two Grammy nominations for Broadway's *Ragtime*. For Twentieth Century Fox's animated feature film *Anastasia*, she was nominated for two Academy Awards and two Golden Globes. She and longtime collaborator Stephen Flaherty received the Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement, and in 2015 they were inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame. Broadway: *Anastasia*; *Once On This Island* (Olivier Award, Best Musical; Tony nominations, Best Book and Score); *Seussical* (Grammy nomination); *My Favorite Year*; *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*; *Rocky*; *Madison Square Garden's A Christmas Carol*; *Ragtime* (2010 Broadway revival). Off-Broadway and regional: Lincoln Center Theater's *Dessa Rose*, *The Glorious Ones* (both Drama Desk-nominated) and *A Man of No Importance* (Outer Critics Circle Award, Best Musical); *Lucky Stiff*; *Little Dancer* (Kennedy Center world premiere). Film and television credits include A "Christmas Carol" (NBC-TV); *Camp* (IFC Films); "Schoolhouse Rock" (ABC-TV) and others. (Emmy Award and four Emmy nominations). She is a Council member of the Dramatists Guild of America, a co-founder of the Dramatists Guild Fellows Program, and a Lilly Award winner for Lyrics.

Dr. Seuss, born **Theodor Seuss Geisel** in 1904 to German American immigrants, is a renowned author and illustrator celebrated for his whimsical children's books. He grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, where a close-knit family environment nurtured his interests in art and literature. Despite facing early challenges in his artistic pursuits, including discouragement from a high school art teacher, Geisel found his voice while attending Dartmouth College, where he began using the pen name "Dr. Seuss." His breakthrough came with the publication of "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street" in 1937, which established his unique style of combining playful language and imaginative illustrations. Dr. Seuss's works often carry deeper messages, addressing themes like materialism in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" and environmentalism in "The Lorax." He was also known for his innovative approach to children's literacy, particularly with "The Cat in the Hat," which challenged conventional reading primers. Over his lifetime, Dr. Seuss authored 48 books that sold over 200 million copies, captivating audiences with his creativity and humor. Despite his passing in 1991, his legacy continues, although it is now accompanied by discussions regarding the cultural sensitivity of some of his earlier works. Dr. Seuss remains a beloved figure, inspiring generations of readers to embrace imagination and diversity.

Autobiographies

Emma Fleming (Cat in the Hat) (she/her) is thrilled to step into the stripes for Seussical the Musical! By day, she teaches voice and piano at Music in Me Studio and music directs at Bishop Hartley High School's Theatre department. By night, she puts on tall hats and rhymes at questionable speeds.

Emma is incredibly proud of this amazing cast and crew and beyond grateful to be part of such a whimsical, wonderful production.

Avi Swissa (Horton the Elephant), who recently completed 5th grade at Ecole Kenwood French Immersion, will continue his linguistics pursuits at World Language Middle School. He loves vocal music and theater and has performed in several musicals over the last couple of years. Avi enjoys working in his garden, traveling with family and friends, and playing video games. He also enjoys math and chess. He hopes to continue growing in the arts throughout his academic career and beyond.

Maisie Streeter (Gertrude McFuzz) is so excited to be a part of this quirky and fun show! Her favorite stage credits include Belinda/Young Fan in A Christmas Carol (Short North Stage), and Oliver in Oliver (Worthington Community Theatre). Later this summer, Maisie will perform in Wizard of Oz with New Albany Youth Theatre and Gypsy with Lancaster Playhouse. Like Gertrude, Maisie believes in the importance of staying true to yourself and finding confidence from within. She would like to thank her family, friends and teachers for their support.

Cassandra Kurek (Mayzie La Bird) is a sophomore at Ohio Northern University where she is getting her BFA in Musical Theatre and minor in Dance. When not onstage, serving as VP of New Member Education for the Delta Zeta sorority, or serving as Miss Ohio Teen Volunteer, she can be found cheering for Ohio Northern's football and basketball teams. With over 50 theatrical credits, her favorites include: Ariel (Disney's The Little Mermaid), Cinderella (Rodger & Hammerstein's Cinderella), Sandy Cheeks (SpongeBob). Cassandra hopes you have an a-Mayzie-ng time at the show!

Mi'yanna Ferrell (Sour Kangaroo) is super excited to be apart of this Seussical Production with all the amazing people involved . She started acting, singing, and a dash of dancing when she was in the first grade and has been moving ever since. She is originally from Arkansas and is currently working in childcare which is one of her many passions. Thank

you all for coming to support and being on this journey with JoJo and Horton as they navigate through these challenges!!

This is **Curtis Myers'** (Wickersham 1) fifth production with Columbus Parks and Rec, but he's been in theatre for much longer. From middle school talent shows to his Theatre Degree from OSU, Curtis has been performing for as long as he can remember. He'd like to thank his voice teacher Spencer for keeping him vocally healthy, and his roommate Riley for always keeping spirits up no matter how exhausted either one were.

Pat Corcoran (Wickersham 2) is new to theatre and Seussical is his first production.

He loves his Nintendo Switch, boba, and staying hydrated. Pat says "Big shoutout to my friends, family, and my goated voice teacher Spencer"

Leo Messinger (Wickersham 3/JoJo Understudy) is a rising 7th grader at Bexely Middle School. His favorite credits include playing Young Guido Nine (Short North Stage) and Fregley in Diary of a Wimpy Kid (CCT). He's excited to be working with the company of Seussical and hopes you enjoy the show!

Miles Gainullin (Wickersham 4/Grinch) is 13 years old and is a rising high school freshman. He loves to sing, dance, and act. This is his ninth production. Miles is very excited to perform in Seussical.

Shannon Daly (Bird Girl 1) (she/her) is excited for her second Seussical this year, this time in the Jungle of Nool. Previous credits include Seussical (King Avenue Players) and Spring Awakening (Worthington Community Theatre), along with backstage work with Imagine Productions, Aethereal Jest, Gallery Players, and the Contemporary Theatre of Ohio. In her spare time, she runs a weekly newsletter featuring local shows, auditions, and backstage opportunities at cbustheatrenews.substack.com. Thank you to Ashley. See you at another Seussical probably!

Sophie Reeder (Bird Girl 2), has been in several productions including another here at Franklin Park Amphitheater. She's greatly enjoyed being in Seussical and getting to know everyone. Her favorite part has been working with the choreographer! Her message to the cast, crew, directors, and audience is, "Thanks! I hope you enjoy the show as much as I have!"

Sara Huston (Bird Girl 3) was last seen in CPAC's Sound of Music in the Nun's Chorus. She has performed and choreographed for numerous community theater shows in SE Michigan where she is from. Sara has a

Bachelor's in Dance from Eastern Michigan University and currently does choreography for the Music Theater class at St. Michael's school in Worthington.

Mackenzie Rueber (Bird-Girl-To-Be) is excited to return to the Franklin Park Amphitheater stage for her second show with Columbus Parks & Rec. She has enjoyed representing various named characters in several shows around Columbus such as Junie B Jones the Musical, Jr., Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical, Matilda Jr., The Sound of Music, Frozen Jr. and others. She is thankful for all the friends she has made along the way, and for her family, friends, and teachers who continue to support her. Mackenzie thanks the entire production team for this opportunity and wishes a fantastic run to all the cast and crew for this show where Anything is Possible !!

Austin Leach (Mr. Mayor) is ecstatic to be joining this cast for one of his favorite shows! He's most recently been seen as Teddy in GCP Players' Arsenic and Old Lace. Austin would like to thank the director Tyrell for this incredible opportunity, and his parents for always supporting him, no matter the places he goes. He promises you'll enjoy the show, yes indeed, 98 and three quarter percent guaranteed!

Michelle Treaster (Mrs. Mayor) is a school nurse with Columbus City Schools. She has fond memories of playing oboe and English horn in the pit orchestra for her high school and summer "Theatre Under the Stars" productions in her hometown of Kettering, Ohio, but is enjoying the opportunity to be ON stage now! She is active with Central College Presbyterian Church and The Ohio State University Marching Band Alumni, but her favorite role is that of proud mom to 3 remarkable young men!

Caden Trueblood (JoJo) will be a 4th grade homeschooled student next year, and he LOVES being in musicals! This past year he has been in Aladdin Kids, Seussical (Wickersham Brother), Matilda Jr. (Nigel), and The Wizard of OZ (Nikko/dancer). He loves everything about musical theater, but if he had to choose his favorite part it would be dancing (jazz and tap). It has been his dream for 2 years to play JoJo, and he is thrilled to finally have that opportunity!

This is **Caliph Scott's** (General Schmitz/Yurtle the Turtle) 2nd trip to the Jungle of Nool having played Horton in CCT's 2010 production of Seussical The Musical. Caliph was most recently seen as Caesar in the Trinity Theatre Company's production of Gem of the Ocean and Pastor Reginald Mabry in Chicken and Biscuit with The Actors Theatre. To see

more of his antics please follow this Actor, DJ, comedian and all around great guy @TheCaliphCollective on Instagram and TikTok.

This is **Minaugh Sheets'** (Jungle Citizen/Vladikoff/Hunter) third year working with CPAC in their annual musical. She is in the top theater class at her school and is going into college for acting. Her dream is to continue with musical theater as a career.

Amira Donaldson (Young Kangaroo) is 11 years old and is delighted to be playing Young Kangaroo. This is her 3rd musical. She had previously appeared as Hortensia in Matilda Jr and Young Fiona in Shrek Jr. She enjoys baton twirling and competing in natural beauty pageants. She is the reigning Ohio Cinderella Miss.

Angie (Yi) Lee (Adult Whoville Citizen) is from Michigan—yes, that's where it all started. She has two little cats and a gamer's big heart. She danced as a tot and loves to cook up some fun. Now she's in Seussical—her very first production—soaking up the sun! Columbus is feeling cozy with this cast and crew, with so many events and so much to do! 😊

Ariel Godfrey (Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish/Hunch) is has previously been Annie, The Wiz, Cinderella and the Best Christmas pageant ever at her school. She feels so blessed, excited and honored to be in her first community show. This is a big moment for her. She is grateful for her family who encouraged her to do this. Outside of theater she enjoys drawing and painting as it helps her to relax. Enjoy the show!

Nora Cook (Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish) is a rising sixth grader at Diley Middle School. She has done shows at Rise Up Arts Alliance, Westerville Civic Theatre, and Columbus Parks and Rec. Her favorite role was Brigitta on this stage last summer in The Sound of Music. Nora is a competitive dancer at Passe Dance Center and she plays lacrosse.

This is **Isabelle Hagley's** (Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish) third production. Alice in Wonderland (Flower baton ensemble, Queens court) and Shrek Jr. (Duloc Villager, Rat tap Dancer) She attends Columbus Gifted Academy entering 5th grade. She plans to join Momentum XL and the Newberry book club in the fall.

Evan Pieper (Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish) is a fourth grader at Columbus School for Girls. She previously performed in CCT's Drama Club and as an ensemble member of Columbus Parks and Recreation's production of The Sound of Music. She has loved working with the Seussical cast and crew this summer!

Everett Kehn (Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish/Hunch/Max) is going into second grade at Indianola Informal (Go Knights!). Seussical is Everett's first musical and he is loving every minute. In his free time, Everett likes to draw, build Lego, play flag football and travel to different places.

Samantha Czarnecki (Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish/Hunch) is making her acting debut as a cadet in tonight's performance of Seussical. She is an 8th grader that can be found around central Ohio performing her violin, leading interactive children's puppet shows and representing Making Way for Duckling at Duckling Day, as Baby Waddles.

Josephine Fetalaiga (Cadet/Youth Whoville Citizen/Fish/Hunch) has enjoyed a love for theatre since she saw her first play. Her shows include Matilda Jr (Matilda), Alice and Wonderland (Sassy Flower) and Shrek Jr (Teen Fiona). Josephine holds the title for Talent of the Year for Ohio Cinderella Pageants as she enjoys all performing arts: singing, dancing, instrumental and twirling baton.

Eli Gary (Youth Whoville Citizen/Hunch) is a gender-fluid therian. This is their fourth play. They are twelve and going into seventh grade at ACPA. This is the biggest play they've been in so far. They love writing stories, Murder Drones, ferrets, A Drop of Venom and the musical Wicked.

Production Team

Tyrell J Reggins – Director

Tirzah Washington (Music Director) is a native of Columbus, OH and started singing at a very early age. She loves to perform and has had the opportunity to sing on several stages in the Columbus area. She has music directed for several different theaters and schools including: Short North Stage, Easley Street Productions, Columbus Africentric Early College, and Trinity Theatre Company. Tirzah is so proud of the hard work of the cast and production team of Seussical! She is excited to be working with Columbus Performing Arts Players for the first time.

Aleecya Sims (Choreographer) is a distinguished dancer and choreographer based in Columbus, Ohio, who has trained in several styles under numerous renowned instructors including Daryl Kramer with BalletMet, China White, former principal dancer with the Dance Theatre of

Harlem, Roslyn Dove of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Rachelle Ridley Steward with Judah Performing Arts and Donald Isom at The Ohio State University.

Her education includes a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Dance from The Ohio State University. Since graduating, Aleecya has been a freelance artist, teaching dance across the city of Columbus. She is deeply involved in the local dance community, contributing through her creative work and mentoring. She currently serves as a guest artist at Africentric High School and is a co-owner of “The Dance Kidz” with Nikiera Dance, reflecting her commitment to both education and artistic development in her community.

Palesa Carle (Production Stage Manager) is so extremely grateful to be back for another show. She welcomes each day as a new learning opportunity and embraces each new lesson she has experienced throughout her time with Seussical The Musical. To the cast, crew, and parents thank you for all the love, support, and grace I have felt throughout this process. Break a leg! To everyone please hydrate, relax and enjoy the show.

Elizebth “EJ” Jones (Costume Designer) has been part of Columbus’s community theater scene for several years now. Having taken on many backstage roles including stage manager and costumer, and even a few roles on stage. EJ is very happy to be working with such a wonderful company.

Liz Carle (Set Designer) just completed her 41st year of teaching. She currently teaches at All Saints Academy, where she teaches music, directs 4 vocal groups, directs 2 handbell groups and directs the after-school Drama club which does a Fall play and a Spring musical each year. Enjoy the show!

Marilyn Staber (Stage Crew) has been stage crew for three of the plays at her school. She never thought of doing theater until she did the play Annie because the encouragement of her music teacher Mrs.Carle and her friends. To her the cast is her theater family and is so grateful for all the help and support through this show.

Nathan Bissou (Stage Crew) is an eighth grader at All Saints who enjoys performing and staying active. He’s acted in productions like The Wiz, Cinderella, Last Christmas Wishes, and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. When he's not on stage, he loves gaming, working out, and helping others whenever he can.

