

Seussical Kids

Cast size: Large 21 & Up
Cast Type: Children
Dance requirement: Standard to None
Casting notes: 25 roles + ensemble

Plot Summary "Oh, the thinks you can think" when Dr. Seuss' best-loved characters collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical caper!

Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in Seussical KIDS, a fantastical musical extravaganza from Tony-winners, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (Lucky Stiff, My Favorite Year, Once on This Island, Ragtime).

Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, the Cat in the Hat, our narrator, tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child, who gets in trouble for thinking too many "thinks." Horton's challenge is twofold – not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must also guard an abandoned egg that's been left in 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!

Seussical KIDS is great fun for the whole family. Young performers will be excited to portray the characters from the popular Dr. Seuss books. This musical provides wonderful creative opportunities in terms of set design, lighting and costuming and can easily accommodate a large cast.

Character Breakdown

ENSEMBLE The Whos, Jungle Citizens (1-5), Fish, the Wickershams, the Talk Show Host and Marshal are all essential roles for creating the vivid and imaginative world of Seuss. Each creature or person should embody the characters with bold choices and a strong connection to the rest of the players.

GERTRUDE MCFUZZ
Supporting Character Gertrude McFuzz is a bird with tail envy! Cast a great performer who can sing, act and is a perfect match for Horton. G3 – C5

HORTON
Lead Character * Horton is a loveable elephant with a heart of gold. Cast a young performer who can sing well and convey great loyalty and conviction to the Whos. Ab3 – E5
*Auditions will begin with campers entering 4th – 6th Grade. Younger grades should speak with the Show Director if they would like to audition for this character.

JOJO
Lead Character * JoJo is the audience's link to the story. The audience follows the narrative through his eyes (he's also referred to as Child), so it's most important to cast a young man with an earnest and open disposition. He should be a great singer and actor. B3 – Db5
*Auditions will begin with campers entering 4th – 6th Grade. Younger grades should speak with the Show Director if they would like to audition for this character.

JUDGE YERTLE
Supporting Character Judge Yertle the turtle presides over Horton's court proceedings. This is a fun role for a performer who can make strong acting choices.

MAYZIE LABIRD
Supporting Character Mayzie LaBird is a sneaky bird who tricks Horton into helping her take care of her egg. Cast a young woman who can express a fun, jovial and careless spirit. Bb3 – D4

MR. MAYOR
Supporting Character Mr. Mayor is the mayor of Whoville and the perfect picture of patriarchy. He tries to keep the town happy and secure, which is quite a job since the tiny Whos are always in danger of being swept away and lost. Cast a young man who can portray an older age and a sense of authority. Mr. Mayor has a few featured lines sung with Mrs. Mayor, so it's great if the two actors' voices work well together.

MRS. MAYOR
Supporting Character Mrs. Mayor is the mayor's wife and is most concerned with trying to make sure her son, JoJo, stays in line. Cast a fine singer and actor complementary of Mr. Mayor and JoJo, whose voice blends well with Mr. Mayor.

SOUR KANGAROO
Lead Character * Sour Kangaroo is as sour as a kangaroo can be. Cast a young woman who can sing and act well and can serve up a good deal of attitude. Feel free to cast a younger performer in the role of Young Kangaroo, who could be played by a boy or girl. They should function well as a pair.
*Auditions will begin with campers entering 4th – 6th Grade. Younger grades should speak with the Show Director if they would like to audition for this character. C4 – Db5

THE CATS Lead Characters *	<p>The Cats (Cat 1, Cat 2, Cat 3) are mischievous, spirited creatures who take JoJo and the audience on quite an adventure. Cast three actors, male or female, with great singing chops and who can move well. Since the Cats take on different roles throughout the play, these actors should be bold, versatile and able to switch roles at the drop of a dime. Bb3 – D5</p> <p>*Auditions will begin with campers entering 4th – 6th Grade. Younger grades should speak with the Show Director if they would like to audition for this character.</p>
VLAD VLADIKOFF Supporting Character	Vlad Vladikoff is an eagle who drops Whoville into a field of clovers! Cast a young performer who has a great sense of comedy and can make strong acting choices in this fun cameo role.
WICKERSHAM BROTHERS Supporting Characters	<p>The Wickersham Brothers (Wickersham 1, Wickersham 2, Wickersham 3) are a trio of trouble-making monkeys! Cast three boys or girls who can make strong physical choices, complement one another well and bring a strong, diverse energy to their mischief. Wickersham 3 has mostly solos that aren't sung, so make sure that actor has great diction and a strong sense of rhythm.</p>
YOUNG KANGAROO Supporting Character	Sour Kangaroo is as sour as a kangaroo can be. Cast a young woman who can sing and act well and can serve up a good deal of attitude. Feel free to cast a younger performer in the role of Young Kangaroo, who could be played by a boy or girl. They should function well as a pair. A4 - A4
FULL SYNOPSIS	<p>As a child stumbles upon a lone red-and-white-striped hat, its curious owners, the Cats in the Hats (Cat 1, 2, and 3) appear and introduce the boy to the wondrous world of Seuss ("Oh, The Things You Can Think!"). The Cats begin their tales with the story of Horton the elephant who lives in the Jungle of Nool with Jungle Citizens (1, 2, 3 and 4) and several other unique creatures.</p> <p>One day, Horton is enjoying his bath when he hears a voice on a speck of dust asking for help ("Horton Hears A Who"). Though puzzled, Horton delicately places the speck onto a clover just as Sour Kangaroo and Young Kangaroo bounce along to inform Horton that there couldn't possibly be a person on that speck. The Wickersham Brothers (1, 2, and 3), a trio of monkeys, join in on teasing Horton for believing such nonsense. A Talk Show Host interviews two neighbor birds named Gertrude McFuzz and Mayzie LaBird about Horton hearing things that don't exist. The cries of help return, and this time Mr. Mayor and Mrs. Mayor reveal themselves to Horton as citizens of a tiny place called Whoville, along with the rest of the Whos ("Here On Who").</p> <p>At this point, the boy from the beginning becomes JoJo, their son, and is blamed for what are actually the Cats' mischievous ways. JoJo is left to take his bath, but the Cats aren't done leading the boy into greater adventures ("Oh, The Things You Can Think! – Reprise"). The Cats and JoJo are swept underwater with Fish all around in McElligot's Pool ("It's Possible – Part 1 and Part 2").</p> <p>Meanwhile, Horton still guards the clover and believes in the Whos despite the other animals' judgments ("Alone In The Universe"). Horton and JoJo bond in their imaginations, and just as JoJo begins to fall asleep, the Cats wake him to tell him the story of Gertrude McFuzz ("The One Feather Tail Of Miss Gertrude McFuzz"). Gertrude tries everything to impress Horton, self-conscious of her small, plain tail. He never notices, and as she concludes her sad tale, the Wickersham Brothers return to steal the clover away ("Monkey Around/Chasing The Whos"). Horton chases them through great stretches of jungles, beaches and sand, but the monkeys hand over the clover to Vlad Vladikoff, a black-bottomed eagle who drops the Whos into a field of clovers.</p> <p>Mayzie reappears and asks Horton if he would consider sitting on her egg. Horton agrees ("Horton Sits On The Egg/Dilemma") and finally, after fifty-one weeks, Mayzie returns. Horton pleads with Mayzie to take her egg back, but Mayzie relinquishes her responsibility. Horton tells the egg that he'll protect it and sings the egg a lullaby ("Solla Sollew"). Just as things seem hopeless, Gertrude McFuzz appears with the clover and the Whos intact ("The Whos Return").</p> <p>As Horton is reunited with the Whos, everyone returns to take Horton to court for "talking with a speck, disturbing the peace, and loitering... on an egg." Judge Yertle remands Horton to the Nool Asylum and decides that the dust speck be boiled in a kettle of beezlenut oil. JoJo saves the day (Yopp!), and the Whos are saved! JoJo is honored as "Thinker Nonstop," and the egg hatches into an Elephant Bird. As the adventure comes to an end ("Oh, The Things You Can Think – Finale"), JoJo reappears with the Cats' hat and pulls it over his eyes, ending this story with one last reprise ("Green Eggs And Ham – Bows").</p>