

PLAYBILL®

**Musical Theatre East
Proudly Presents**



**Vida Church
May 1st-3rd, 2025**

Musical Theatre East

PRESENTS

SEUSSICAL

Music by
Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by
Lynn Ahrens

Book by
Lynn Ahrens & Stephen
Flaherty

Based on the works of DR. SEUSS

SEUSSICAL

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com



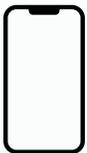
There will be one 20 minute intermission.



Concessions are available for purchase before the show and during intermission.



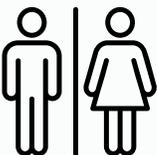
Send your favorite cast or crew member a candy gram! Choose a treat, write a message and it will be delivered to them.



Please silence all electronic devices.



PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEOTAPING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.



Restrooms are located in the lobby.

Director's Note

Welcome to Musical Theatre East's production of *Seussical!*

This show holds such a special place in my heart. As a kid, I had the joy of being in *Seussical* not once, but three times! Now, having the opportunity to direct it feels like coming full circle. I get to rediscover the magic of this story through fresh eyes, alongside this incredible cast.

Seussical is a story of love, faith, and perseverance. It's about believing in something bigger than yourself, holding on to hope, and being willing to sacrifice for the people you care about.

Horton's unwavering belief that "a person's a person, no matter how small" reminds me of how God sees each of us—valuable, known, and loved beyond measure. It's a beautiful reflection of faithfulness and the strength found in standing firm, even when the world doubts you.

My prayer is that you leave this show reminded that you are never too small to make a difference and that love, kindness, and faith will always win in the end. Thank you for joining us on this journey to the imaginative world of Dr. Seuss. Sit back, relax, and let this story take you on a ride full of laughter, heart, and just a little bit of **thinks!**

With gratitude,

Jorie Davis

Founder/Artistic Director, Musical Theatre East

ACT 1

"Oh The Thinks You Can Think!"
"Horton Hears a Who"
"Biggest Blame Fool"
"Here On Who"
"Oh The Thinks You Can Think" (Reprise)
"It's Possible"
"How To Raise a Child"
"The Military"
"Alone In The Universe"
*"The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude
Mcfuzz"*
"Amazing Mayzie"
"Amazing Gertrude"
"Chasing The Who's"
"How Lucky You Are"
"Notice Me Horton"
"How Lucky You Are" (Reprise)
Act 1 Finale

ACT 2

"Entr'acte"
"Egg, Nest & Tree"
"The Circus McGurkus"
"Circus On Tour/How Lucky You Are (Reprise)"
"Mayzie In Palm Beach"
"Amazing Horton"
"Alone In The Universe (Reprise)"
"Solla Sollew"
"Green Eggs & Ham II"
*"A Message From The Front/Solla Sollew
(Reprise)"*
"Jojo Alone In The Universe"
"Havin' a Hunch"
"All For You"
"The People VS. Horton The Elephant"
"Yopp!/Alone In The Universe (Reprise)"
"Notice Me Horton"
"Oh The Thinks You Can Think! (Finale Act 2)"
"Green Eggs & Ham/Bows"

The Cast

The Cat In The Hat..... **Micah McDonald**
Horton..... **Gideon Monk**
Jojo..... **Olivia Berryman**
Gertrude..... **Joy Varadin**
Mayzie La Bird..... **Hope Varadin**
Sour Kangaroo..... **Abigail Osyczka**
Young Kangaroo..... **Sola Brookman**
Mr. Mayor..... **Jace Brookman**
Mrs. Mayor..... **Kaylin Hamelwright**
The General..... **Cooper Hakes**
Bird Girls..... **Freedom Abrenica, Eliana Broyles,
Tabitha Davis, Kassy Hakes**
Wickersham Brothers..... **Jedidiah Delaney,
Benjamin Diaz, Evan Guzman, Gabe Watz**
The Grinch..... **Joseph Menough**
Cindy Lou Who..... **Izzy Sasser**
Yertle The Turtle..... **Ellie Roeth**
Vlad Vladikoff..... **David Watz**
Elephant Bird..... **Gabriel Hines**

Dance Ensemble..... **Erin Abril, Abigail Bedenkop,
Grace Brown, Ivy Casteel, DeIan Descheenie,
Happy Descheenie, Yenbaah Descheenie,
Charlee McDonald, Maddie Roeth, Vivian Schroeder**

Whoville Ensemble..... **Lexie Derickson,
Lily Downer, Aveline Sampson, Brielle Sampson,
Hope Studer, Palin Watz, Verity Watz**

The Crew

Director..... **Jorie Davis**

Choreographer..... **Stephanie Sliker**

Music Director..... **Kathy Chick**

Costumers..... **Rebecca McNeace, Cindra Monk,
Valerie Monk**

Hair/Makeup Design..... **Cindra Monk**

Set/Prop Designers..... **Michael Abrenica,
Freedom Abrenica, Jorie Davis, Jason Lemon**

Stage Crew..... **Abigail Delaney, Hannah Diaz,
James Jenckes, Sage Jenckes, Skylar Jenckes**

Lights/Sound..... **David Monk, Juli Monk**

House Manager..... **Tiffany Davis**

Photography..... **Valerie Monk**

Special Thanks

Arizona Christian Arts Ministries

Boulder Mountain Community Church

DanceUp Performing Arts

Vida Church

Who's Who



Freedom Abrenica (*Bird Girl*)

Freedom is 16 years old and currently a sophomore at San Tan Charter School. Some of her favorite productions she's been in are Freaky Friday (Musical Theatre East) as Laurel and Bye Bye Birdie (Musical Theatre East) as Deborah Sue. In her free time, Freedom enjoys drawing and spending time with her friends. She would like to thank her friends and family for everything they've done to support her.



Erin Abril (*Dance Ensemble*)

Erin is a homeschooled 14-year-old. Seussical marks her 2nd production with MTE. Her favorite role was Gloria/dance captain (Bye Bye Birdie). When not doing musicals, she is frequently on stage dancing; she dances at Ballet Etudes Academy. Her favorite dance styles include Jazz, Contemporary, and Ballroom. She would like MTE for helping her pursue her theater dreams.



Abigail Bedenkop (*Dance Ensemble*)

Abbi loves living life on the farm with her cousins, besties and ALL the animals. She blasts music and creates unique upbeat dances. An encourager at heart, Abbi stands up for anyone. Abbi hopes to change the lives of countless animals, big and small. She is thankful for her first show with MTE and is looking forward to many more.



Olivia Berryman (*Jojo*)

Olivia is a 14 year old homeschooler. Seussical marks her 2nd musical production with MTE! Her favorite roles include Sweet Apple Teen (Bye Bye Birdie) and JoJo (Seussical). When not performing she enjoys reading, drawing, and crocheting. She would like to thank God for giving her the opportunity to participate in theatre. She would also like to thank her director, friends and family for always supporting her.



Jace Brookman (*Mr. Mayor*)

Jace Brookman, age 15, is performing his 4th show with MTE, and his 7th theatrical production. Some of Jace's favorite roles include The Cat (Honk), Fletcher (Freaky Friday), and Lefou (Beauty and the Beast). Jace is a freshman who attends San Tan Charter School. Outside of theater, Jace works hard on schoolwork and enjoys playing video games in his free time. Jace wants to thank his parents for always supporting him, and Ms. Jorie, who makes these wonderful productions a reality.



Sola Brookman (*Young Kangaroo*)

Sola Brookman, age 12, started with Musical Theatre East last spring, singing "The Greatest Show" in the Triple Threat showcase. She also recently played Rachel Macafee (Bye Bye Birdie). Prior to that, she played the coroner and a magic tree in The Wizard of Oz. She is a seventh grader at San Tan Charter. In her free time, Sola enjoys sewing, cheerleading, and crafting. Sola thanks her parents for all their support and Ms. Jorie for taking a chance on her!



Grace Brown (*Dance Ensemble*)

Grace is a 16 year old Sophomore at Life Homeschool Academy. Seussical marks her 7th production! Her favorite roles include Gladys Herdman (The Best Christmas Pageant Ever) Penelope Ann (Bye Bye Birdie) and Anastasia (Cinderella Jr). In her free time she enjoys going on walks, photography, and hanging out with friends. She would like to thank all her family and friends for supporting her.



Eliana Broyles (*Bird Girl*)

Elly is a seventeen year old highschool senior. Seussical is her sixth production; her third with MTE. Her favorite roles include Ensemble (Beauty and the Beast), Fifi the Maid (Cactus Pass Jamboree), and her dream role as Rosie Alvarez in last semester's production of Bye-Bye Birdie. When she isn't studying, Elly likes to read, listen to music, and write. She would like to thank Ms. Jorie, Ms. Stephanie, and Her Majesty (Ms. Kathy) for all their love, patience, and support throughout the years.

Who's Who



Ivy Casteel (*Dance Ensemble*)

Ivy is a 15-year-old homeschooler, and *Seussical* marks her second production with MTE, following her role in *Beauty and the Beast*. Some of her favorite roles include Imogene Herdsman (*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*) and ensemble/dancer (*Seussical*). Outside of the stage, Ivy enjoys participating in track and volleyball, singing, and spending time with her friends. She would like to thank her parents for driving her to and from rehearsals every week, as well as all her friends and family for their support and for attending her shows. Most of all, she would like to thank Jorie, Stephanie, and Her Majesty (Mrs. Chick) for all their hard work and patience.



Tabitha Davis (*Bird Girl*)

Tabitha is 19, and she is so happy to be a part of MET! In previous performances, Tabitha has played the role of Kim (*Bye Bye Birdie*), Babette (*Beauty and the Beast*), Katherine (*Freaky Friday*), and many wonderful ensemble roles. She is thrilled to be apart of another wonderful production with MTE. She is thankful for her friends and family's support in her life! A favorite bible verse is 1 Corinthians 16:14: "Do everything in love."



Jedidiah Delaney (*Wickersham Brother*)

Jedidiah is a 13 year old homeschooler. He started singing with Gilbert Youth Choir at the age of seven and more recently Ragazzi Boys Choir. The following year he started clogging with the Maricopa 4-H Cloggers (which is a type of tap dance) and since then has kept with it. He has performed *Back To The 80's* (Queen Creek Performing Arts Center) and *Bye Bye Birdie*, as Harvey Johnson (MTE). After last show he has discovered a love for acting, and is excited for this show.



Lexie Derickson (*Whoville Ensemble*)

Lexie is a 14 year old freshman at Willams Field High School. *Seussical* is her first musical with MTE, however she has previously preformed under Jorie and loves it! She was so excited to join them as a Who in this performance and has had a blast. Outside of theater she enjoys art, music, and baking. This has been such a unique experience for her and would like to thank her director, crew, and cast members for making it all possible and her family and friends for supporting her.



DeIan Descheenie (*Dance Ensemble*)

DeIan is a 17-year-old who embraces new experiences and feels thankful to have *Seussical* be his introduction into the world of music theatre performance. He is happy that he got to share his love for Native American hoop dance during the Circus scene. Aside from dancing, DeIan continues to compete in piano competitions and playing guitar for his younger siblings.



Happy Descheenie (*Dance Ensemble*)

Happy is 12 years old and new to the world of musical theatre. *Seussical* is the first production she's participated in and she's greatly enjoying her experience. She hopes to, one day, play Gertrude in a future production. Outside of theatre, Happy plays the cello and jumps at any chance to shoot hoops on the basketball court.



Yenbaah Descheenie (*Dance Ensemble*)

Yenbaah is a 15 year old music fanatic. She has true appreciation for anything music related. She's loved watching musicals over the years, but is excited to get to participate in *Seussical* with MTE. Aside from playing the violin, Yenbaah likes attending concerts and sharing her style of Native American hoop dancing whenever she can.



Benjamin Diaz (*Wickersham Brother*)

Benjamin Diaz is 11 years told. He loves performing and has been apart of several productions and musicals in the past. In his spare time, he loves to flip, tumble, play football, and hang out with friends.

Who's Who



Lily Downer (*Whoville Ensemble*)

Lily is 13 years old and this is her first semester in musical theater! She has deepened her love for music, singing, and acting this year. She is part of Mesa West Classical Conversations. She also enjoys playing the violin, drawing, illustration, swimming and ice skating.



Evan Guzman (*Wickersham Brother*)

Evan is a 17-year-old senior homeschooler. Seussical marks his 9th production. His favorite roles include Adam (Freaky Friday), Beast (Beauty and the Beast), Sherlock Holmes (Enchanted Bookshop), and Luke Ludlow (Cactus Pass Jamboree). When not performing, he enjoys playing games, skating, and hanging out with friends. Evan would like to thank God for giving him the ability to act on stage, his girlfriend for being so supportive, his family for watching and encouraging him, and his directors for helping him grow in his talent.



Cooper Hakes (*The General*)

Cooper is a 16-year-old homeschooled sophomore in high school. Seussical is his 21st production. His favorite roles have been PUNCHINELLO (The Wemmicks), SENOR O BRIEN (Freaky Friday), and HUGO PEABODY (Bye Bye Birdie). Some of his interests other than acting are taking care of his chickens, building legos, and learning carpentry.



Kassy Hakes (*Bird Girl*)

Kassy Hakes has been doing musical theater since she was 8 years old and Seussical is her 20th production. Her favorite roles include Silly Girl (Beauty and the Beast), Ursula Merkle (Bye Bye Birdie), and Gladys Herdman (The Best Christmas Pageant Ever). In addition to theater, she enjoys playing guitar, riding horses, and reading.



Kaylin Hamelwright (*Mrs. Mayor*)

Kaylin is excited to be playing Mrs. Mayor in this semester's Seussical. Her previous roles include Nancy (Bye Bye Birdie), Teen Ensemble (Freaky Friday) at MTE, Mrs. Puff (SpongeBob Youth Edition), Teen Ensemble (Footloose) at AYT, and Goober Addams (Addams Family) at Places! Productions. Kaylin is a Senior at Desert Ridge High and is in her second year of the Veterinary Assistant Program at EVIT. When she is not acting, she enjoys Aerial Arts & hanging out with friends and family.



Charlee McDonald (*Dance Ensemble*)

Charlee is a 13 year old homeschooler. Seussical will be her 6th live production. She has also participated in 2 indie films. Her favorite roles include Bagheerah the Panther (Jungle Book) and Story Teller (Snow Queen). When not performing, Charlee loves to play piano and wants to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston.



Micah McDonald (*Cat In The Hat*)

Micah is a fourteen year old boy who has been doing theatre for three years. Some of his favorite roles include Reindeer (Snow Queen), Mowgli (Jungle Book), and Cluney (The Legend of Redwall Abby). Outside of theater, Micah enjoys his training in martial arts. One of his favorite quotes would have to be: "This moment is your's, so savor it." -Ritz, The Cracker Co. >:3



Joseph Menough (*The Grinch*)

Joseph hails to us from Richmond, Texas where he fell in love with theatre while attending school and has never looked back. When his family moved to Phoenix in 2023, he immediately began looking for opportunities to continue pursuing his passion for acting. He found Musical Theatre East through a Facebook group and has played Maurice (Beauty & The Beast) and The Mayor (Bye Bye Birdie). He is thrilled to return for another show with MTE.

Who's Who



Gideon Monk (*Horton*)

At 15, Gideon Monk is thrilled to be part of another MTE production! Recent performances include Ugly (Honk!), Lumière (Beauty and the Beast), Mike (Freaky Friday), Mr. Harry Macafee (Bye Bye Birdie), and Jesus (Godspell Jr.). Gideon loves all things music and theatre. He would like to thank his parents for their constant support. All glory to God, 1 Peter 4:8



Abigail Osyczka (*Sour Kangaroo*)

Abigail is extremely excited to be playing Sour Kangaroo in Musical Theatre East's production of Seussical. Having been doing theatre for around six years now, some of her favorite roles would be: Mae Peterson (Bye Bye Birdie), Old Women (The Snow Queen), and Martha Fogerty (Cactus Pass). Outside of theatre, Abigail enjoys writing and hanging out with friends. Currently homeschooled, she's in her junior year of high school. Abigail can't wait to see how much MTE is going to grow.



Addie Patten (*Dance Ensemble*)

Addie Patten is thrilled to be returning to the stage for her third production! She first showcased her talents as a silly girl in Beauty and the Beast, followed by her role as an ensemble character in Bye Bye Birdie. Now, Addie takes on the exciting challenge of portraying multiple roles in Seussical, including a Who, Cadet, a Circus Performer, and a Clover.



Ellie Roeth (*Yertle the Turtle*)

Ellie is a 18 year old senior and this marks her 4th show with MTE and has been doing theater since she was 8! Her favorite roles she's been in are Bullfrog (Honk!), Ensemble (Freaky Friday), and The Wardrobe (Beauty and the Beast). In her freetime she takes voice lessons, doodles, and teaches MTEs younger kids the joys of theater. She'll love to thank her directors (past and present) and fellow castmates for their time and support!



Maddie Roeth (*Dance Ensemble*)

Maddie is 18 and has been doing theater for 7 years, some of her favorite roles include Gracie (Elves and the Shoemaker), ensemble (Bye Bye Birdie), Claude Herdmen (The Best Christmas Pageant Ever). When she is not acting she is listening to music, horseback riding, and reading. She would like to thank the directing team for helping her grow.



Aveline Sampson (*Whoville Ensemble*)

Aveline, 14, is a passionate writer who loves creating her own stories. This is her second production, having previously played in the Teen Ensemble in Bye Bye Birdie. She's thrilled to be part of this new show and is excited to bring her creativity and energy to the stage. Aveline's dedication to musical theater and her enthusiasm for the craft make her an exciting addition to the cast. She's grateful for the opportunity to continue pursuing her dreams!



Brielle Sampson (*Whoville Ensemble*)

Brielle is a 12-year-old homeschooler, finishing 7th grade. Seussical marks her first-ever production, and she is thrilled to be part of this show! When not on stage, she enjoys singing, crocheting, researching animals, and playing video games. She would like to thank her director and castmates for making this an incredible experience and her family for their endless support. Brielle is excited to help bring the world of Seuss to life and hopes you enjoy the show!



Izzy Sasser (*Cindy Lou Who*)

Izzy is 12 years old and is a 6th grader at Zaharis Elementary School. She previously performed in MTE's Triple Threat Showcase, but this is her very first full-length production. Outside of theater, she loves cooking and playing her clarinet. She would like to thank her Grandma for always supporting her. She is excited to be a part of Seussical and hopes you enjoy the show!

Who's Who



Vivian Schroeder (*Dance Ensemble*)

Vivian, a 14 year old in her last year of middle school, is beyond excited to be in this production of Seussical! This marks her eighth show. Some of her favorite roles were Gerda (The Snow queen) and Ensemble (Freaky Friday). When not in theatre, Vivian enjoys drawing and reading.



Hope Studer (*Whoville Ensemble*)

Hope is a 13 year old budding actress, and Seussical is her debut theatre performance! Outside of theatre, she loves being active outdoors and creative at home. Having 2 sisters, she always has someone to make a mess with in the kitchen or craft room. Her friends know her to be funny and friendly with a shining smile! She is thankful to the MTE friends for support and fun while helping her grow in this new interest.



Hope Varadin (*Mayzie La Bird*)

Hope Varadin is 14 years old and is thrilled to be a part of Seussical. Hope has performed in over 15 shows and some of her favorite roles include Tori (Freaky Friday), Silly Girl (Beauty and the Beast) and Ensemble (School House Rock). When she is not on stage performing, she loves playing with her dog, reading and hanging with her friends. She would like to thank her family for their support.



Joy Varadin (*Gertrude Mcfuzz*)

Joy, a sixteen-year-old sophomore, is thrilled to be a part of Seussical. She performed her first show when she was nine and has been in fourteen shows since then. Some of her favorite roles include Ellie Blake (Freaky Friday) Ensemble (Beauty and the Beast) and Beth (The Best Christmas Pageant Ever). When she is not performing she loves reading, baking, and hanging out with friends. She would like to thank her family for all their support.



David Watz (*Vlad Vladikoff*)

David is 20 years old and is tired but happy to be here. He wrote this on two hours of sleep. He has been in a handful of shows as the Crow from The Snow Queen, five separate roles in Big Rock at Candies mountain, and Doctor Dolittle in Doctor Dolittle although this is his first time with MTE and (sadly) his last. When not on stage he enjoys reading and writing fantasy novels, drawing, and playing videogames whenever he isn't working. He is grateful to his family and friends for their support.



Gabe Watz (*Wickersham Brother*)

Gabe is 18 and is currently homeschooling. This is his first production performing with Musical Theater East! Some of his favorite roles he has played include Pirate Captain Pirate (The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle) Adam Garrison (Big Rock at Candy's Mountain) and Frug (Big Rock at Candy's Mountain) Gabe enjoys playing guitar and is an avid sword collector. He would like to thank her parents and her friends for there constant support and to all the directors he's had for pushing his to reach his full potential.



Palin Watz (*Whoville Ensemble*)

Palin is a 16 year old girl who is currently homeschooling. This is her first production performing with Musical Theater East! Some of her favorite roles she has played include Peggy (big rock at Candy's mountain) Cinderella (67 Cinderellas) and chu-chu (doctor Doolittle) Palin loves to bake, draw, write, and hang out with her friends. She would like to thank her parents and her friends for there constant support and to all the directors she's had for pushing her to reach her full potential.



Verity Watz (*Whoville Ensemble*)

Verity is an 18 year old girl who is homeschooled. This is her first semester with MTE and her 6th theatre performance. Her favorite roles she has played is Myra Mobile from Big Rock at Candy's mountain and the queen in 67 Cinderellas. She loves to write and all creative endeavors. She is so grateful to be apart of Seussical.

Summer 2025



Vida Church

July 31st, 7:00PM

August 1st, 7:00PM

August 2nd, 7:00PM

