

NEW PLYMOUTH OPERATIC SOCIETY
presents



Seussical JR.

A family musical based on
the characters of Dr Seuss!

27 Sept - 1 Oct

TSB SHOWPLACE



We're in pretty good shape, for the shape we are in!



Our Junior Broadway journey is about to begin,
We know Seussical Jr. will get the audience in a spin!
When talking Dr Seuss, I've heard rhyming is the law,
With a 48 strong talented cast,
You're bound to go home wanting more!
To you our audience, our sponsors, family and friends,
Thank you, thank you, it is you I commend.
So sit back, relax and enjoy the show,
And please don't forget, to turn off your gizmo!

Shaun Murphy - NPOS President

Centre City is thrilled to join New Plymouth
Operatic Society as Major Sponsor for the
2023 production of Seussical Jr.
We're proud to do our part to support their vision
of enriching our community through musical theatre.
We know this show will be one that the people of
Taranaki will love and will encourage everyone to
embrace the arts and our creative community.
To quote Dr Seuss, "It's not about what it is,
It's about what it can become."

Shawn McKenzie - Centre City Manager

Music by Stephen Flaherty Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Book by LYNN AHRENS and STEPHEN FLAHERTY
Co-conceived by LYNN AHRENS, STEPHEN FLAHERTY
& ERIC IDLE, Based on the works of DR. SEUSS

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia



The Story...

Seussical JR. begins with a young boy named JoJo who conjures up the Cat in the Hat with his powerful imagination and is whisked to the Jungle of Nool for a fantastical adventure. There JoJo learns of the plight of the tiny citizens of Whoville, who live on a planet the size of a speck of dust. Their sole protector is Horton the Elephant, who is the only one with large and sensitive enough ears to hear them bipping and beeping and playing their oompahs. The small world is threatened by Sour Kangaroo and the Wickersham Brothers, who in disbelief that a world could be so small, try to steal the dust-speck so they can cast it into a vat of Beezle-Nut oil.

During all of this drama, Horton has not noticed that he has an admirer, Gertrude McFuzz. She blames his indifference on her one-feather short tail and endeavors to find a way to change her looks. Meanwhile, Horton's friend, Mayzie La Bird, is bored of perching on her nest, and convinces the watchful elephant to sit on her egg so she can take a vacation. The Cat follows all of these storylines and finally casts the boy into his own as the irresponsible son of Mr. and Mrs. Mayor of Whoville, JoJo, who ultimately saves his whole tiny world with one big, imaginative "think".

"Oh the thinks you can
think up, if only you try"

Dr. Seuss



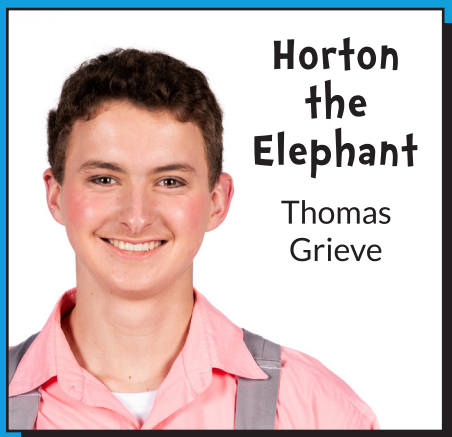
Cat in the Hat

Charlie
Betts



Jojo Boy

Caleb
Asi



Horton the Elephant

Thomas
Grieve



Mayzie la Bird

Amélie
Tippet



Mr Mayor

Benjamin
Bartlett



Mrs Mayor

Sofia
Asi



**Sour
Kangaroo**

Jana
Tauwhare
-George



**Gertrude
McFuzz**

Bryah
Edwin



**Young
Kangaroo**

Penny
Maton

BIRD GIRLS

Bianca Kowalewski
Indi Pretty-Taylor, Keira Taylor
Leah Gunson, Mizaan Turner
Martha-Rose Hagenson

WICKERSHAM BROTHERS

Alejandro Bellringer, Ben McNeil
Felix Pease, Lucas Jacobson
Luke Shaw, Tommy Broadmore

ENSEMBLE

Abbie Ireland, Abigail Munro
Aiden Hocking, Amelie Francis
Angus O'Sullivan, Chloe Adair
Blakey Stewart-McDonald
Charlotte Williamson
Cynan Huirama-Glennie
Daisy Youngman, Freya Fabish
Dillon McCullough
Eleanor Bridgehouse,
Genevieve Kerr, Isabelle Fisher
Jamie Grieve, Layla O'Brien
Macy Stuck, Maggie Cleaver
Millie Ireland, Olivia Moorhead
Paige Liggett, Ruth Hagenson
Sarah Anglesey, Sienna Asi
Sophie Davison, Venetia Ngeru




Seussical
JR.

A person's a



person, no matter how small

CREATIVE BRAINS



Ryan Jacobs: Director

Ryan has an extensive directing background, including being Creative Director for the New Zealand Music Theatre Company and the Artistic Director of Suitcase Theatre (Toronto).

Having also completed 13 summers at the French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts in New York, Ryan is no stranger to junior productions with over 40 productions to his credit. Seussical Jr however, will be his debut for New Plymouth Operatic Society.

Philippa Drinkwater: Musical Director

Having been cast not once, but twice in productions of The Sound of Music (1985 and 2008), Philippa is certainly no newcomer to New Plymouth Operatic Society. She was also Vocal Director for Les Misérables (2018), and has led the KH Spear vocal competitions in recent years. When Philippa isn't teaching singing, she is a leader of junior theatre here in Taranaki having directed Fiddler on the Roof Jr and Frozen Jr for New Plymouth Repertory Society and was Musical Director for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr with Sacred Heart Girls' College.



Helena Harvey: Choreographer

Helena has been part of the NPOS family for many years. Her first involvement was The Sound of Music in 2008, and later included Mamma Mia and she was back on stage in this year's We Will Rock You. As a NASDA graduate, her choreography credits include NASDA's 'Earthquakes in London' and 4th Wall's 'All Together Now' and 'Curtains'. Helena has recently opened THESPA Performing Arts Space with fiancé Cameron and loves sharing her passion of musical theatre with Taranaki youth.



"You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself in any direction you choose" - Dr. Seuss



Ann Stewart:
Assistant Director

Ann is one of New Plymouth Operatic's most active and engaged members. Having first joined NPOS in 1983, she has an extensive list of credits including the role of Eponine in *Les Mis* (1994), Miss Hannigan in *Annie* (2003), and Shirley in *Priscilla* (2019). Whether it's in the cast or in the crew backstage, Ann's involvement is highly valued and she was recently recognized with an MTNZ Merit Award for her outstanding contribution to musical theatre in Taranaki.

Natasha Foster:
Production Manager

Natasha has been part of many New Plymouth Operatic productions, including *Joseph* (1999) and *Annie* (2003) as a child. She also held stage roles in *Cats* (2007), *Phantom of the Opera* (2014), *Sister Act* (2016), and was Stage Manager for *Wicked* (2021) and *Matilda* (2022). Natasha is part of the NPOS Board of Management and is a passionate advocate for junior theatre around the board table. Natasha was instrumental in bringing junior theatre to New Plymouth Operatic Society.



Huw Griffiths:
Company Manager

When Huw was home alone while his family performed in NPOS shows, he thought 'if you can't beat them, join them'. He began as crew for *Les Miserables* (2018) and *Wicked* (2021), progressing to Assistant Stage Manager for *Matilda* (2022) and then Stage Manager for *We Will Rock You* (2023). Taking the role of Company Manager for *Seussical Jnr* expanded his 'NPOS family' and offered yet another distraction from his longstanding VW Kombi restoration project!



Understudies

Jojo: Layla O'Brien

Horton: Benjamin Bartlett

Gertrude: Sarah Anglesey

Mayzie: Keira Taylor

Mr Mayor: Jamie Grieve

Mrs Mayor: Ruth Hagenson

Sour Kangaroo: Sienna Asi

Lil Kangaroo: Freya Fabish

Bird Girl: Macy Stuck

Our Understudies will
perform the above roles
on Friday 29th
September

Production CREDITS

Producer: New Plymouth Operatic Society

Licensed by: Music Theatre International

Production Materials Supplied by:

Hal Leonard Australia

Director: Ryan Jacobs

Musical Director: Philippa Drinkwater

Choreographer: Helena Harvey

Assistant Director: Ann Stewart

Production Manager: Natasha Foster

Company Manager: Huw Griffiths

FOH/Ticketing Manager: Maree Watson

Graphic Designer: Amanda Bollond

Photography: Monique Matthews



Stage Manager: David Liggett

Assistant Stage Managers:

Katelin Gallagher , Riley McGregor

Stage Crew: Carli Culpin, Cormac Deegan,

Kaleb Green, Hamish Gunson, Levi King,

Callum Stuart

Set/Props Design and Construction:

Natasha Foster, Shay Foster, Dean Clark,

Kristen Kiefer, Howard Rozon

Props Team Leader: Karen Smylie

Props Team: Briar Cooper, Cormac Deegan,

Lyla Endean, Jayden Foster, Toby Hawke,

Ryann Windley

Sound Designer: Brett Carter

Sound Operators: Dean Clark, Brett Carter

Sound Team: Raewyn Greig, Caitlyn Hobin,

Maddison Shepherd,

Lighting Designer: Brad Flannagan

Lighting Operator: Jen Bovaird

Lighting Team: Hannah Fromings,

Will McNeil, Olly Neale

Wardrobe Manager: Libby Needs

Dressing Team Lead: Kristen Sarten-Turner

Dressing Team: Hana Barton, Esther Batten

Amber Baxter, Mazz Corrigan, Kenzie Gray,

Selina Greive, Chloe Gunson

Sewing Team: Ariana Millar, Sheryl Murray,

Sharon Needs, Robyn Tate

Makeup Team Lead: Jacqui Stevenson

Makeup Team: Faye Allcock, Erin Coombe,

Janelle Ferries, Jan Goss, Sandie MacDiarmid

Joanne Pierce, Lorraine Smith

Hair Team: Kim Cleaver, Rebecca McCullough

Mel O'Brien, Kayla Pretty-Taylor

Programme Sales Team: Maree Watson,

Sharron Betts, Karena Carter, Kim Carr,

Cathryn Martin, Jared Musinamy

Stage Door Manager: Diane Bovaird

Stage Door Team: Grant Bovaird, James

Bovaird, Linda Cloke

Chaperone: Michaela Deegan

Acknowledgements

We are so grateful to all those that have supported our production of **Seussical Jr.** Special thanks to: Scenic Solutions, Scafit Ltd, Centre City, Annex Group, Graphix, Monique Matthews Photography, Mad Media, Stuff, The Hits, iStudios Multimedia, THESPA: The Space of Performing Arts, 4th Wall Theatre, Heather Armstrong, Jess Stafford-Old, Cameron McHugh, Loren Armstrong, Jo Hills, Taryn Utiger, Elicia-May Hitchcock.



CENTRE
CITY

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proudly supporting



Seussical JR.

 **npos**
junior

27 Sept - 1 Oct

Proud to support making
Taranaki more vibrant with
entertainment that further
enriches our community
and brings creative
opportunities for our
young performers.

centre-city.co.nz



Seussical JR.

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