

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Northwest Youth Theatre presents Seussical JR at Hillsboro High School

Hillsboro, OR – February 23, 2016 – Northwest Youth Theatre is proud to present over 40 local youth ages 7-14 in *Seussical JR*, a fantastical musical journey that brings together all of Dr. Seuss's beloved characters. Performances are Thursday, March 17th at 7:00pm and Saturday, March 19th at 2:00pm and 7:00pm at Hillsboro High School, 3285 SE Rood Bridge Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97123. Tickets are available online at www.NWYouthTheatre.org or at the door, and a portion of proceeds go to Hillsboro High School's Drama Department.

Oh, the people you will see and the thinks you will think! In **Seussical JR** the cherished Dr. Seuss books have been turned into a magical musical extravaganza from Tony winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, featuring memorable Seuss characters, including The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie LaBird, and all of the Whos of Whoville! The imagination runs wild amidst the toe-tapping cornucopia of musical styles, ranging from Latin to pop, swing to gospel, and R&B to funk. For kids and parents who grew up reading Dr. Seuss books, this musical stage show adaption of the classic stories will be fun for the whole family.

The musical – featuring more than 40 local kids and teens 7-14 years old – transports audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, while the Cat in the Hat narrates the story of Horton the Elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos. Horton must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, and 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 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!

"You will love this show!" says Lois Lents, co-director and founder of Northwest Youth Theatre, "Adults will be able to relive a part of their childhood while kids will enjoy the high energy of the show."

"The thing that sets Northwest Youth Theatre apart is our mission," says Karli Winters, co-director, choreographer and President of Northwest Youth Theatre. "We believe that every kid is a star and we work hard to make sure each performer feels like one. Since our founding in 1994 we have striven to provide a place where children can feel safe enough to get outside of their comfort zone, learn about teamwork and just have a lot of fun."

Seussical JR is co-directed by Karli Winters and Lois Lents. Lents is one of the founding members of the organization in 1994. The non-profit organization has been producing musicals with children in Hillsboro since 2009. This summer marks the first year that NWYT is taking a group on current and former students on an educational tour to New York City, as part of their continuing mission to provide educational opportunities to area youth.

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Adrian Duffield as Horton the Elephant



The Cast of Seussical Jr



"Oh the Things You Can Think" L-R: Lucy Bennett, Laura Meeuwsen, Jessica Hailey, Grace Bazzi, Brigit Leon, Ryan Johnson, Hailey Amanna, Samantha Ness, Sydney Campbell, Sidni Kinnee



It's an Elephant Bird! L-R: Ryan Johnson, Savannah Tuttle, Adrian Duffield as Horton the Elephant, Owen Needham, Bella Portillo, Gabriel Russell, Samantha Ness as Gertrude McFuzz, Sidni Kinnee as Thing 1, Jessica Hailey as Thing 2 and Brigit Leon.