RESOURCE GUIDE FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Pennsylvania Youth Theatre Presents

Seussical™

Music by STEPHEN FLAHERTY
Lyrics by LYNN AHRENS
Book by LYNN AHRENS and STEPHEN FLAHERTY
Co-Conceived by LYNN AHRENS, STEPHEN FLAHERTY, and ERIC IDLE
Based on the Works of DR. SEUSS

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI,
421 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019
Tel: (212) 951-5000 Fax: (212) 951-6000 www.MTIshows.com

May 12-14, 2017
Diamond Theatre • Zoellner Arts Center • Bethlehem

123pyt.org  610-332-1400

pyt PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH THEATRE
It all starts here.
Dear Teachers,

The following resource guide is designed for you and your students to facilitate the integration of the performing arts into core curriculum areas. The activities in this guide support the PA State Educational Standards in several areas, develop critical and creative thinking and enrich the live theatre experience for your students.

Pennsylvania Youth Theatre is proud to present Seussical, performed in the Diamond Theatre at Zoellner Arts Center!

Thank you and enjoy the show!

Dedrea Becker
Marketing/Outreach Coordinator

Pre-Show and Post-Show In-School Workshops

If you would like to schedule a PRE or POST show workshop for your class for this particular production, please contact

Dedrea Becker
education@123pyt.org
(610) 332-1403

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Pennsylvania State Learning Standards: *James and the Giant Peach* Resource Guide covers the following areas:

- **Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening:**
  - 1.1 Learning to Read Independently
  - 1.2 Reading Critically in All Content Areas
  - 1.3 Reading, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature
  - 1.4 Types of Writing
  - 1.5 Quality of Writing
  - 1.6 Speaking and Listening
  - 1.7 Characteristics and Function of the English Language
  - 1.8 Research

- **Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities:**
  - 9.1 Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts
  - 9.2 Historical and Cultural Contexts
  - 9.3 Critical Response
  - 9.4 Aesthetic Response

- **Academic Standards for History:**
  - 8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development
  - 8.2 Pennsylvania History
  - 8.3 United States History
  - 8.4 World History

- **Academic Standards for Civics and Government:**
  - 5.1 Principles and Documents of Government
  - 5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
  - 5.3 How Government Works
  - 5.4 How International Relationships Function

ABOUT PYT

Pennsylvania Youth Theatre (PYT) is a professional, non-profit performing arts organization whose mission is to educate, entertain, and enrich the lives of young people through the art of theatre. By bringing literature to life with theatre, PYT enhances the Language Arts curriculum for 12,000 community school students annually. Founded with the belief that children deserve the very best, PYT’s Mainstage literature-based plays are professionally produced. Professional directors, choreographers, actors, dancers and musicians as well as lighting costume and set designers are hired to achieve the best possible presentation of children’s plays. To keep our Mainstage productions available to all, we continue to offer these professionally staged shows to school groups for approximately $.50 a ticket which is 57% below our break-even cost. PYT is happy to offer plays of this quality to the school children of our community for this reduced cost. We hope you and your class enjoy this performance!

123pyt.org
BEFORE THE SHOW: Synopsis of *Seussical*

*Seussical* - A Musical, an adaptation of the Broadway musical for young audiences, brings together Dr Seuss's much loved books: *The Cat in the Hat*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, *Horton Hatches the Egg*, and *The Story of Gertrude McFuzz.*

It centers on Horton the Elephant’s quest to save the people of Whoville, who live on a tiny speck of dust. The Cat in the Hat narrates the story of Horton and the other characters in the Jungle of Nool. The play begins with Horton splashing in a pool when he hears a faint cry for help. It is coming from a speck of dust and no one else can hear it. The animals of Nool make fun of Horton but he will not ignore the Whos in Whoville, especially little Jojo who becomes his friend. Horton places the speck of dust on a clover but it is stolen by the evil eagle, Vlad Vladikoff and dropped in a huge field of clover. While Horton desperately searches for his clover, Gertrude McFuzz, who has a new tail like showy Mazie’s, tries to get Horton’s attention. Mazie appears and convinces Horton to sit on her egg. Horton stops searching for the Whos and sits and sits. He is captured by hunters and sent to a circus. Finally, Gertrude finds Horton and tells him she has found the speck of dust with Whoville on it. But there is more trouble when the animals of Nool put Horton on trial and threaten to boil the speck of dust. Horton entreats the Whos to make themselves heard, Jojo gives a great yell and the animals of Nool finally hear the Whos. Horton hatches an elephant-bird and he and Gertrude decide to bring it up together.
Theodor Seuss Geisel (better known as Dr. Seuss) was born in Springfield, Massachusetts. He was given the middle name Seuss because it is his mother's maiden name. Dr. Seuss studied English at Oxford University in England, which is where he met his wife, Helen Palmer.

Dr. Seuss worked as a writer and cartoonist at various magazines before being hired to draw ads for a pesticide company. He drew nasty looking bugs for 15 years. It was only when Dr. Seuss was returning to the U.S. from a European vacation, by boat, that he wrote his first children's book. His boredom on the long trip inspired Dr. Seuss to write a poem to the rhythm of the ship's engine. The result was the book *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, which was rejected by the first 27 publishers he sent it to. The book was finally published and became a hit. However, Dr. Seuss didn't become a household name until he wrote *The Cat in the Hat* in 1957.

**Did U Know?**

- Dr. Seuss' wife, Helen Palmer, also wrote children's books under the Seuss label.
- The last book Dr. Seuss' ever wrote was a book for "obsolete children" (old peeps) titled *You're Only Old Once*.
- When Dr. Seuss was a kid, his mother would soothe him to sleep by chanting rhymes from her childhood. Dr. Seuss credited her with his talent for rhyming.

**Dr. Seuss Says...**

"Be who you are and say what you want, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."
Seussical opened on Broadway at the Richard Rodgers Theatre on November 30, 2000. Directed by Frank Galati with choreography by Kathleen Marshall. The original Broadway cast included David Shiner as the Cat in the Hat, Kevin Chamberlin as Horton, and Anthony Blair Hall as Jojo. It also featured Janine LaManna as Gertrude McFuzz and Michele Pawk as Mayzie LaBird, with Stuart Zagnit as Mr. Mayor, Alice Playten as the Mrs. Mayor, Sharon Wilkins as the Sour Kangaroo and Eric Devine as General Genghis Kahn Schmitz. Throughout the run, there were many celebrity Cat in the Hat replacements, including Rosie O'Donnell and Cathy Rigby.

The production received lukewarm reviews, with critics focusing on the huge cast of characters and unsympathetic plotlines. The Broadway production closed on May 20, 2001, after 198 performances and 34 previews.

Following the Broadway production, there were two US National tours. The first, in 2002–03, starred Cathy Rigby, and the second toured in 2003–04.

The script for the first tour was reworked after the poor showing on Broadway. This resulted in the removal or reworking of several songs. The biggest change involves Jojo, who is initially an anonymous boy who thinks up The Cat in the Hat when he finds a strange hat at center stage. The Cat helps the boy create the Seussian universe and the rest of the story. The Cat later shoves the boy into the story, making him play the role of Jojo.

It is this version of the musical that is currently enjoying some success in regional and children's theater companies.
BEFORE THE SHOW: CAST OF CHARACTERS

CAT IN THE HAT
The Cat is the spunky, fun-loving narrator of the show. The Cat leads Jojo into an adventurous world and serves as his guide.

JOJO
A young boy from Whoville whose “thinks” often get him in trouble! He is creative, rebellious, and energetic.

HORTON
A sweet and kind creature who tries to protect all of the Whos. Horton wants to help anyone and everyone, and is so caught up in trying to save the world that he is oblivious to the fact that Gertrude is in love with him.

GERTRUDE McFUZZ
Adorable bird-girl who is in love with Horton. Gertrude is self-conscious of her one-feathered tail and longs to have a more elaborate and showy tail in order to impress Horton.

MAYZIE LA BIRD
Lively and energetic bird-girl who has the biggest tail of them all! She is sassy and bold, and is always on the go.

SOUR KANGAROO
She is loud, boisterous, and sassy! The other animals in the Jungle of Nool always listen to her, and she acts as their leader throughout the show.

GENERAL SCHMITZ
The leader of the Army in Whoville. He is loud, commanding, and sometimes mean.

MR. MAYOR
The mayor of Whoville, and Jojo’s father. He doesn’t know what to do with his son who disobeys him.

MRS. MAYOR
The mayor’s wife, and Jojo’s mother. She is also struggling with what to do with her rebellious son.

YERTLE THE TURTLE
Yertle is a powerful member of the Jungle of Nool and respected by all the other animals. She serves as the judge when Horton is on trial.

VLAD VLADIKOFF
A majestic eagle who is also mischievous and daring.

THE GRINCH
As most people know, the Grinch is a grouch and he stole Christmas!

BIRD GIRLS
Three bird girls who hang out with Mayzie. They are colorful, fun, and energetic.

WICKERSHAM BROTHERS
Three monkeys in the Jungle of Nool. They are mischievous and like to create trouble. Many other animals are afraid of them

YOUNG KANGAROO
The baby joey of the Sour Kangaroo. He often echoes what the Sour Kangaroo sings, and is a copycat.

ENSEMBLE

JUNGLE OF NOOL (Jungle Creatures, Fish, Hunches, Circus Animals, Hunters)

WHOVILLE (Citizens of Who, Cadets)
CREATIVE WRITING (PICK ONE)

The rhymes of Dr. Seuss lend themselves beautifully to musical adaptation. At the same time, creating a tune for well-loved and remembered verses can change the way you say the poems and make you understand the lyrics in a different way.

Be a “Broadway” composer:

1. In small groups (3 or 4 students) choose a favorite rhyme from a Dr. Seuss book and create an original melody to accompany the words.

2. Once the melody has been created, practice singing it out loud in your group and present it to the class or teacher.

Be a “Broadway” lyricist:

1. In small groups, choose a favorite character from Seussical. Using a Dr. Seuss writing style, write an original rhyme that describes him/her.

2. Recite it for the class or teacher.

For the really ambitious…

1. Write an original melody to accompany your lyrics.

2. Practice singing it out loud in your group and present it to the class or teacher.
A) Characters
The Sour Kangaroo and the Wickersham Brothers sing in the Motown style, while Gertrude and Jojo tend to sing ballads. Listen to the songs and identify the character traits that make the song style appropriate to Horton and Mayzie, or the Cat in the Hat.

B) Mood
Play excerpts from the songs and brainstorm emotion words for each one. How does the musical style help to establish a specific feeling? Is it the rhythm or the tempo that decides whether the song is cheerful or melancholy? How does the musical style define place and time?

C) Match the song to the genre:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Songs</th>
<th>Genres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Solla Sollew”</td>
<td>Motown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Monkey Around”</td>
<td>Lullaby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Alone in the Universe”</td>
<td>Latin Pop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Biggest Blame Fool”</td>
<td>Broadway-style Ballad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Amayzing Mayzie”</td>
<td>Hip-Hop/Funk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using the Venn diagram below, compare Horton’s character traits with your own.
How are you alike? How are you different?

ME:

HORTON:

BOTH:
The characters had some creative songs in *Seussical*. Write a song about a scene from the musical. Your song must contain **ten events** that happened in the show.

You can also sing this song to the class for extra credit!
RESEARCH: FIND THE HABITAT

There are many creatures, both real and fictitious, that are seen or mentioned in *Seussical*. From the list of *Seussical* habitats below, try to find the best place for each animal or plant to dwell.

**Dr. Seuss Plants and Animals**

- Cat
- Ga-zat
- Elephant
- Bird
- Kangaroo
- Monkey
- Whales
- Fish
- Bees
- Turles
- Elephant-bird
- Mouse
- Fox
- Clover
- Pillberry Bush

**Seussical Habitats**

- House
- Forest
- Jungle
- Desert of Dreze
- Mountains
- Nest
- Beaches
- The Lake
- The Sea
- River Walloo

1. Once a habitat has been assigned to every plant and animal, discuss what physical and behavioral characteristics have that led to your decisions.

2. Choose one of the habitats from the list. Based on the habitat, draw your own Seuss plant or animal. Explain why the characteristics they gave their plant or animal could help or hurt them in their habitat.

3. Now that you have a plant or animal in a habitat, discuss what people could do to make that habitat better or worse for your creature. How would that change affect creatures living in other habitats?
The Whos in Your World

The theme throughout *Seussical* is about “living well together” and getting along. To do this, we must feel compassion for the people we know and people we don’t know. There are many people we see everyday but don't know anything about. We sometimes wonder about the people we don't know in our communities.

What's important to them?
Where do they come from?
Where are they going to?

1. Identify someone in your school or neighborhood that you do not know.

2. Make a list of questions that you'd like to ask this person, if you had the chance. For example, what’s your favorite color? How many brothers or sisters do you have? What’s your favorite food? What do you like to do?

3. Draw a picture of this person and write the questions you would ask this person on the body of the figure. (Don’t forget to include specific traits like glasses, a scarf, hair color, etc.)

4. Cut out your drawing, including the neck and shoulders, and share your Who with the class.
PYT QUICKTIVITIES

This activity can be done BOTH before and after the show. If you are able to, find a copy of the book or film to show your students before PYT’s production. Compare and contrast those to each other, then to the play you will see at the Ice House!

The ROLE ON THE WALL outline is drawn on a piece of chart paper around an important character. Information and feelings about the character are written into the shape. It can also be enriched by being written from different perspectives, for example, the space outside the outline can contain comments about the character as they are seen from an observer’s viewpoint and the interior space can contain the character’s own thoughts and point of view. This is useful for building a deeper understanding of a character and the play. Use this outline below to record information about each character. This can be done with both older and younger students. With older students, you can assign a different character to groups and they can collaborate and share their work with the class.

HORTON, GERTRUDE, MAYZIE, CAT IN THE HAT, SOUR KANGAROO, JOJO, ETC: How does he/she see himself/herself? (Record these traits on the inside of the Role on the Wall.) How do other people view him/her? (Record these descriptions on the outside of the character.)

You may do this activity before the show, based on your students’ prior knowledge, then compare and add to after the show. Hand out the outline below and have your students begin the process.
WRITE A REVIEW

After the show, write a review and send it to PYT!

I liked *Seussical* because:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

My favorite part was:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

The scene I remember most was:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

The character I liked best was because:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

The character I did not like was because:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

Overall, I think *Seussical* was:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

DRAW A REVIEW! We love seeing your creations!

Teachers, you can mail these reviews to: PYT 25 W 3rd St, Bethlehem, PA 18015
“A person’s a person no matter how small,” so in the spirit of living together, color this picture and give it to someone as a gift and tell them about your experience seeing Seussical!
ATTENTION TEACHERS

When you check in at the Ice House on Sand Island, you will be given a packet with a Performance Evaluation Form. Your feedback is very important to us, and we hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the form and return it to the PYT office. Thank you for bringing your students to this PYT production!

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

The audience is a very important part of any live theatre performance. Without the audience, there would be no one to laugh when the show is funny, to gasp when it is scary or to applaud in the end.

- Enter the theatre quietly. Listen to the directions from the ushers and sit where they direct you.
- There is no intermission, so you may want to use the bathroom before the show begins.
- You will help others enjoy the show when you keep your feet on the floor and your hands to yourself.
- Save your comments or questions for later in class. Do no talk during the show.
- Food and drinks are NOT allowed in the theatre. Enjoy your snacks, gum or candy after the show.
- A live play is different than a movie or a football game. Talking to the actors is not appropriate and can be distracting.
- Please turn off your cell phones, and no texting during the show.
- No photographs or video taping, please. This is for the actor’s safety.
- Show your appreciation by applauding at the end of the show.
- When the show is over, our ushers will give you directions to leave the theatre in an orderly manner.
- Enjoy the show! We’re glad you came to a production by Pennsylvania Youth Theatre!

Thank you for bringing your students to this PYT production!

Check out what’s happening for the rest of the current season!
PYT has a thrilling Summer planned for 2017!
June 12th - August 25th

**ADVENTURE CAMP** is an all-day or half-day camp for children ages 3 through 2nd Grade. These one-week camp opportunities will feature all of the engaging, creative activities our kids love (acting, singing, movement and visual arts), as well as special performance opportunities, organized games and outdoor play-time, not to mention special guests and projects!

**SHOWTIME CAMPS** are all-day performance camps for young performers going into 3rd Grade through 12th Grade. These one OR two-week camps include two different productions and one trip to Broadway in NYC!

---

**Musical Theatre Marathon: Matilda**
June 12 – 16, 2017

**Showtime Production Camp**
June 19– July 1, 2017

**Broadway Bound: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**
July 24 – August 4, 2017

**Showtime Production Camp**
August 7–19, 2017

**Behind the Curtain**
July 10 – 21, 2017
Explore ALL aspects of theatre-making through this intensive and imaginative two-week camp. From set, sound, lighting and costume design, to directing, playwriting, devising, acting and choreography.

**Triple Threat**
August 21 – 25, 2017
Triple Threat gives Campers the opportunity to work on musical numbers from some of the most well-known musicals on Broadway, as well as great songs from the world of musical theatre. Daily classes in acting, singing and dancing, plus master classes on a variety of subjects will help bring the modern American musical to life.

---

123pyt.org • 610-332-1400

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to register, visit our website at 123pyt.org or call the PYT office at (610) 332-1400.