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MUSICAL MAYHEM



SARA NEMEC/STAFF PHOTO

The middle school cast of "Seussical" gathers around The Cat In The Hat (Lexie Warren) and Jo Jo (Autumn Hall) during the musical number, "Oh, The Things You Can Think!" The musical is being presented tonight and Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Ashland High School auditorium. Tickets are available at the door.

Ashland Middle School shares wonderful world of Dr. Seuss

BY SARA NEMEC
STAFF WRITER

This weekend, those looking for an imaginative and whimsical evening to beat those wintry blues are in luck — a musical rendition of some beloved children's books is hitting the stage in the Ashland High School auditorium.

A group of stage-savvy Ashland Middle Schoolers will star in the production of "Seussical," a musical featuring an amalgamation of many of Dr. Seuss's most famous works, at 7 p.m. tonight and Saturday.

The scene is set as JoJo (Autumn Hall), the smallest Who in Whoville, comes across The Cat In The Hat's trademark cap. Seuss's rhyming feline (Lexie Warren) appears to retrieve it and help narrate the story. The Cat also encourages JoJo to think — an action which gets the little Who girl in hot water throughout the show, but ends up being Whoville's salvation.

After being introduced to JoJo and The Cat, the audience finds themselves in the Jungle of Nool, where Horton the Elephant (Ethan Eng) finds the speck of dust on which Whoville is founded and promptly hears JoJo's cries. Realizing he's found another tiny civilization, he becomes its caretaker, nestling it on a bed of clover.

But poor Horton receives nothing but trouble for his act of goodwill — though it wins him the affections of a shy bird named Gertrude (Amanda Krueger), who the gentle giant doesn't seem to notice. Instead, he is ridiculed by the other jungle creatures, who cannot hear the Whos of Whoville, and think the kindly elephant has lost his marbles. To add to Horton's woes, he unintentionally adopts an egg, is seized by hunters, and shipped off to a circus.

Horton and the others are supported by an enthusiastic cast of characters, fabulously dressed and ready to rock the catchy and often soulful numbers of this show. They're also backed by a live band of adult volunteers, which makes the numbers really pop.



SARA NEMEC/STAFF PHOTO

Horton (Ethan Eng) and Gertrude (Amanda Krueger) listen for the Whos during Monday's dress rehearsal of "Seussical," a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss.

It's also rumored that some very special guests will be sharing the stage — something fellow peers and community members won't want to miss.

Though the production might be geared more for a younger audience, adults will appreciate all the effort these kids have put in to the show, as well as their professionalism on stage. Of course there's always the nostalgia factor of getting to enjoy those childhood reads once again, too.

Besides, in the words of the author himself, "Adults are just obsolete children."

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