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OH, THE THINKS YOU CAN THINK!

WCS Celebrates *March is Reading Month* – with *SEUSSICAL JR.* Live On Stage!

Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and many other favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in *Seussical, JR.*--a fantastic musical extravaganza. The Warren Consolidated School of Performing Arts invites you along for this fun, musical adventure brought to life by your favorite Dr. Seuss' characters through song and dance; and brought to WCS Schools through the generous support of our sponsor, Extra Credit Union.

WCSPA's talented cast involves over 50 students from the three WCS high schools (Cousino HS, Warren Mott HS and Sterling Heights HS). The main character (Horton the Elephant) is portrayed by Shawn Marko (Grade 9, SHHS). He describes working with his cast as, "...so fun to be around! It's just great, because after all, 'a person's a person no matter how small!'"

The most iconic of all Seuss characters, The Cat in the Hat, narrates the story of Horton the Elephant as he discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called "Who's". "Playing such a wild and funny cartoon character (The Cat in the Hat) is challenging since I have always played female characters, and the Cat is quite playful and boy-ish," says Delaney Evennou (Grade 9, SHHS) about her role. "Rehearsals are fun because the music is upbeat and the story moves so quickly from one famous Dr. Seuss character to another as young JoJo 'thinks' them onto the stage," she added.

Horton must protect the "Who's" from a world of nay-sayers 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 Getrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. "I can relate to Gertrude because I am also shy but I am a really good friend—the kind that people can rely on for support. Gertrude is always trying to help Horton, and he is also concerned with others more than himself," says Olivia Skierski (Grade 9, Cousino HS). "I am also excited to see and hear the children in the audience react to the lively music, colorful set, and outrageously fun characters! It is going to be a blast to perform *Seussical JR.*"

Horton's journey to protect the "Who's" and "go out on a limb" reinforces the positive messages of *Seussical JR.* Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, and community are challenged but emerge triumphant! Along with fun songs, dances, costumes and lighting, the production is sure to excite audiences with a gigantic cartoon forest that looks like it was pulled right out of one of Dr. Seuss's books. The director Erik Hart explains, "Dr. Seuss uses rhythmic storytelling in combination with a distinctly visual style, drawing the reader into his books through poetic language and imagery. This is why Dr. Seuss books and their illustrations often help children learn to love reading. We certainly hope to inspire many life-long readers with our live musical in celebration of *March is Reading Month.*"

The Warren Consolidated School of Performing Arts (WCSPA) is an award-winning, nationally recognized program specializing in all aspects of theatre. Classes involve a daily, two-hour, in-depth program set in a professional working environment. WCSPA classes are offered to 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders enrolled in any of the three WCS high schools, and auditions for 2017-2018 will be held March 11, 2017 (see website for information).

*Seussical, JR.* is proudly sponsored by Extra Credit Union in connection with *March is Reading Month*, and performances are held at The Warren Consolidated Performing Arts Center (12901 15 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 49312) March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. A portion of Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> proceeds will benefit the local Blessings in a Backpack, with a raffle to be held at intermission. All seating is reserved and all tickets are \$10. Box Office and Lobby doors open one hour prior to show time. To purchase tickets in advance, call 586-825-2525, ext. 1 or visit [www.wcskid.net/wcspa](http://www.wcskid.net/wcspa).

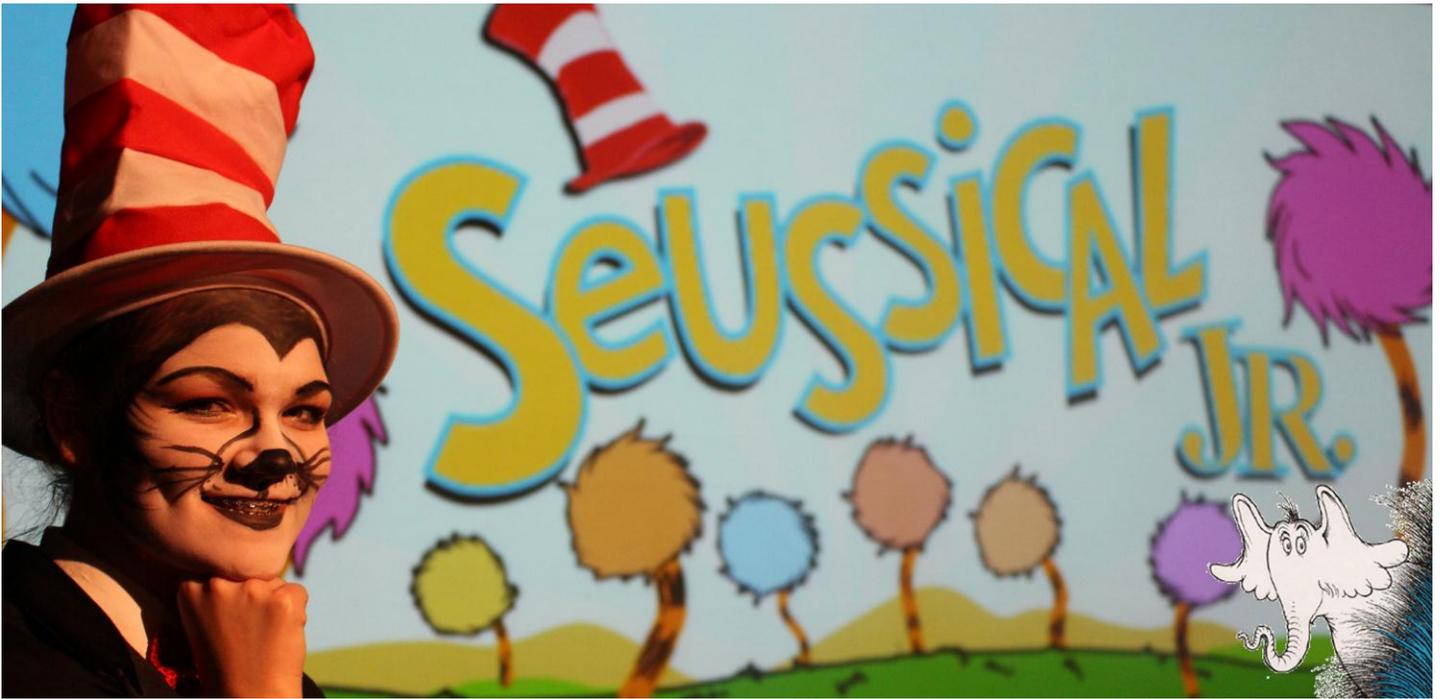


Photo 1 – Delaney Evennou as “The Cat in the Hat” (Grade 9, Sterling HTS HS)



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