



Production of

Seussical™ JR.

Music by
**STEPHEN
FLAHERTY**

Lyrics by
**LYNN
AHRENS**

Book by
**LYNN AHRENS &
STEPHEN FLAHERTY**

*Co-Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Eric Idle
Based on the works of Dr. Seuss*

Music Supervised, Adapted and Produced by Bryan Louiselle

August 8–10, 2025

Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in *Seussical JR.*, a fantastical musical extravaganza from Tony-winners, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, 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 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!

FRI, AUG 8 | 7:00PM

SAT, AUG 9 | 2:00PM & 5:00PM

SUN, AUG 10 | 2:00PM

Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Co-Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty, and Eric Idle

Based on the works of Dr. Seuss

Music Supervised, Adapted and Produced by Bryan Louiselle

Seussical JR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis and COCA are once again teaming up for a fully inclusive Performing Arts program! This initiative unites kids and teens with and without disabilities, giving every child the chance to shine on stage. Participants develop new skills, such as singing, acting, and dancing, while building friendships and boosting their confidence. The production will feature both COCA Kids and Variety Kids, coming together to bring this fantastical story to life!

Run time: 60 minutes, no intermission

Creative Team

Director	Drew Humphrey
Music Director/Conductor	Khalid McGhee
Choreographer	Dawn Gilbertson
Producers – COCA	Will Bonfiglio & Shawna Flanigan
Producers – Variety	Robin Diehl
Production Manager	Carolyn Carter
Assistant Stage Manager	Ginny Pisoni
Technical Director	Cameron Tesson
Scenic and Props Designer	Kareem Deanes
Props Assistant	Ambrish McEvilly
Lighting Designer	Morgan Brennan
Costume Designer	Carly Uding
Sound Engineer	Justin Foster
Sound Board Operator	Justin Foster
Spot Operator	Ehsan Bey
Artistic Project Manager	Grace Austin
Backstage Crew	Raina Bentley & Marley Gill
Lead Wrangler	Janette Coleman

Child Wranglers

Luke Brubaker	Child Wrangler	Luke Hartweger	Child Wrangler
Addison Brune	Child Wrangler	Kyleigh Hatcher	Child Wrangler
Kelley Brune	Child Wrangler	Olivia Hellin	Child Wrangler
AnMei Deck	Child Wrangler	Natalie McAtee	Child Wrangler
Madeline Dustin	Child Wrangler	Sophia Reeves	Child Wrangler
Moiria Dustin	Child Wrangler	Micah Smith	Child Wrangler
Julia Gardner	Child Wrangler	Jordan Thompson	Child Wrangler
Gisella Greulich	Child Wrangler	Kendall Turner	Child Wrangler

Cast

Abby Hixenbaugh	Mayzie La Bird
Abigail Rapp	Fish / Circus Animal
Alice Finn	Bird Girl
Anna Klevorn	Who Ensemble
Annie Meyer	Jungle Citizen
Artie Bremerkamp	Jungle Citizen
Ava Feig	Fish / Circus Animal
Avi Welch	Wickersham Brother
Beatrice Niedringhaus	Who Ensemble
Beatrix Voss	Who Ensemble
Ben Smith	Young Kangaroo
Braylee Peyman	Gertrude McFuzz
Bryce Allen	Who Ensemble
Calum Knight	Who Ensemble
Cameron Hadley	The Cat in the Hat
Cassidy Koenig	Thing 2
Cecelia Anzalone	Thing 1
Cora Mulligan	Jungle Citizen
Cricket Abounader	Jungle Citizen
Darla Chatman	Mrs. Mayor
Dominic Berra	Wickersham Brother
Dominic Herrera	Mr. Mayor
Elijah Sutherland	Who Ensemble
Emma Burkey	Fish / Circus Animal
Evie Walker	Fish / Circus Animal
Faith Willis	Who Ensemble

Cast (continued)

Hanya Levy	Who Ensemble
Harrison McClure	Wickersham Brother
Hudson Thies	Pilot and Jungle
Jaron Bentley	Wickersham Brother
Kaitlyn Nolda	Jungle Citizen
Karajana Caplinger	Sour Kangaroo
Kimani Pacheco	Who Ensemble
Kisa Phillips	Who Ensemble
Lia Ghio	Who Ensemble
Liam Williamson	The Grinch
Lillian Talley	Who Ensemble
Lilly Barban	Fish / Circus Animal
London Thomas	Fish / Circus Animal
Maddie Ulett	Bird Girl
Margo Chibnall	Bird Girl
Maya Purnell	Bird Girl
Mayleigh Alsop	Who Ensemble
Melahni Miller	Bird Girl
Noelia Cortes	Who Ensemble
Olive Kauffman	Vlad/Jungle Citizen
Olivia Kallaos	Who Ensemble
Oscar Romero	Wickersham Brother
Owen Meier	Wickersham Brother
Paislee Kern	Who Ensemble
Polina Marchenko	Who Ensemble
Raquel Wilson	Bird Girl
Rian Page	Who Ensemble
Sarah Bentley	Fish / Circus Animal
Sarah Lai	Fish / Circus Animal
Simon Romero	Wickersham Brother
Skylar Gilbertson-Claunch	JoJo
Taylor Smith	Fish / Circus Animal
Tre Carter	Yertle the Turtle
Zane Pfeil	Horton the Elephant

Musical Numbers

Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!

Horton Hears a Who

Biggest Blame Fool

Gertrude McFuzz

Here on Who

How to Raise a Child

Oh, The Thinks You Can Think! (Reprise)

It's Possible

Alone in the Universe

The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude McFuzz/
Amazing Mayzie

Amazing Gertrude

Monkey Around/Chasing the Whos

Notice Me, Horton

Musical Numbers

How Lucky You Are

Horton Sits on the Egg

Egg, Nest and Tree

Mayzie in Palm Beach

Mayzie At the Circus

Amazing Horton

Alone in the Universe (Reprise)

Solla Sollew

All For You

The People Versus Horton the Elephant

Alone in the Universe (Reprise)

Oh, the Thinks You Can Think! (Finale)

Green Eggs and Ham

Creative Team Biographies

Drew Humphrey (Director)

After two decades of directing, choreographing, performing, and teaching in New York City—including on Broadway, National Tours, Off-Broadway, and at regional theatres and concert venues across the country—Drew Humphrey is thrilled to return to St. Louis and contribute to the vibrant, inclusive arts community that has welcomed him through organizations like Variety, STAGES St. Louis, and The Muny. Career highlights include the original Broadway cast of *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* (cast recording), performing with Tommy Tune in Encores' *Lady Be Good* (cast recording), the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and directing productions of Disney's *Mary Poppins*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Singin' in the Rain*. A dedicated advocate for inclusive arts education, Drew leads master classes nationwide and is a founder of Saguaro City Music Theatre in Tucson, AZ—offering tuition-free training to students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Dawn Gilbertson (Choreographer)

Choreographer and teacher at Variety, Stages, COCA, Promise, Lifetime and First Dance StL. Saint Louis Dance Theatre board member. Dance education comes from Monona, Wisconsin, Boston Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Point Park College. Degrees in Finance, French, and Dance; University of Iowa. The Muny: *Bye Bye Birdie*, *King and I*, *100th anniversary*. The Big Muddy Dance Company; Variety Theatre: *Peter Pan*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Wizard of Oz*. Starting as adjunct professor of dance at Lindenwood in the fall.

Khalid McGhee (Music Director)

Khalid is a Paris-based multidisciplinary artist and current Artist-in-Residence at the Fondation des États-Unis. He has performed throughout Europe and the U.S. as a pianist, vocal coach, language coach, and music director. He completed his undergraduate and graduate piano studies at Northern Arizona University, the Institut für Musik der Hochschule Osnabrück, and the École Normale de Musique de Paris – Alfred Cortot. He has been honored to receive awards such as the Deutschlandstipendium, the Harriet Hale Woolley Award, and the U.S. Fulbright Grant. Passionate about arts education and inclusion, he has worked extensively in musical direction and accessibility-focused education across a wide range of cultural and community settings. He is excited to return to Variety-COCA for a second year as music director for *Seussical JR.*!

Carolyn Carter (Production Manager)

Carolyn is so grateful to be here at COCA on *Seussical JR.* with such an incredible team. She is passionate about working with this community. Some of her credits: Production Manager at COCA! Stage Manager at The Rep STL (Athena), Production Manager at Music as the Message, Stage Manager at OTSL (New Works Collective), Stage Manager at Shakespeare Festival St. Louis (Shakespeare in the Streets). BFA Stage Management from The Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. Mom to Joy-Anna and Piper. Rev 7:12

Ginny Pisoni (Assistant Stage Manager)

Ginny is excited to be back with COCA and Variety for her second summer. She is currently pursuing her BFA in Stage Management at Webster University's Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts. Some of her stage management credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Judas Iscariot*, *Great Comet*, *Our Town*, and *Cinderella* (WebCo), *The Color Purple*, *Finding Nemo JR.* (COCA), *Anything Goes* (The Muny). She is continually grateful for spaces that expose the beauty of live theatre to all.

Creative Team Biographies

Shawna Flanigan (Senior Director of Artistic Strategy and Programs, COCA)

Shawna is Senior Director of Artistic Strategy & Programs. She has worked at COCA for over 20 years and previously served at COCA as Artistic Director of Theatre, Director of Arts Education, and Urban Arts Director. She is also currently on the adjunct faculty at East Central College. Shawna earned a BA in Theatre Studies from Knox College and an MFA in Directing from DePaul University. She was the 2024 recipient of the Visionary Award for Outstanding Teaching Artist.

Robin Diehl (Director of Programs, Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis)

As the Director of Programs at Variety, Robin has spent eight years creating and managing youth programs that build confidence, foster teamwork, and strengthen community. Her passion for theatre began as a child wrangler at Variety, where she witnessed the transformative power of inclusive productions. Most recently, she co-produced, *Finding Nemo JR.*, in partnership with COCA, uniting youth with and without disabilities in a single cast and celebrating community over categories.

Will Bonfiglio (Artistic Director of Theatre, COCA)

Will is a theatre artist and scholar with a background in acting, directing, playwriting, and producing. His work has been featured on stages across the country, and he is the proud recipient of three St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards. He directed COCA's 2024 production of *SIX: Teen Edition* and continues to serve on COCA's Theatre faculty. Will earned an MA in Theatre and Performance Studies and an MA in Nonprofit Management from Washington University in St. Louis.

Janette Coleman (Senior Coordinator of Enrichment Programs, Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis)

Janette has over 12 years of experience working with Variety and brings a passion for inclusive arts and education. She earned a BS in Early Childhood Education and spent three years teaching kindergarten. Janette began her theatre journey in high school, with hands-on experience in lighting and sound. Most recently, she has led the Variety Chorus, Dance and Adaptive Dance programs, creating spaces where all performers can thrive. Her work reflects commitment to accessibility, expression, and performing arts.

Grace Austin (Artistic Project Manager, COCA)

Grace is an Assistant Professor and the Head of the Theatre Department at East Central College. She has over a decade of directing experience at COCA and serves as the Artistic Project Manager on staff. Grace also works in Wardrobe at the MUNY and The Fox and is a proud member of IATSE Local 805. gracemaustin.com

VARIETY'S IMPACT



EQUIPMENT \$1.15 MILLION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Variety provided a record 463 pieces of physician-prescribed medical equipment to 364 children last year.

THERHAPPY KIDS

3,591 THERAPY SESSIONS PROVIDED

94% of the 200+ Variety Kids receiving therapy improved in their independence at home and in the community as a result of speech, occupational, and physical therapy services.



RECREATION

13,350 HOURS OF ADVENTURE CAMP

Variety welcomed 315 Variety Kids and Teens to Adventure Camp during six fun-filled, week-long summer sessions that improved their socialization and peer relationships.



PERFORMING ARTS

3,596 HOURS OF PERFORMING ARTS

93% of program participants increased their self-esteem, demonstrating belief in themselves and their abilities through the power of performance.



EMPOWERING THE FUTURE WITH VARIETY ST. LOUIS

Since 1933, Variety St. Louis has provided local kids and teens with special needs with the tools to develop skills, form friendships, and gain independence. Our innovative programs ensure no child is left behind, empowering them to reach their full potential.

Today, as we face unprecedented demand and break records in the number of children we serve, we invite you to join our mission. Your support honors our legacy and helps build a brighter future for generations to come.

Partner with us to enhance the health, well-being, and independence of Variety Kids. No matter the size of your gift, the impact you will be making is immeasurable.

SCAN TO GIVE



To learn more about ways to give, contact us at 314-720-7700



About COCA

About COCA

COCA's mission is to enrich lives and build community through the arts. As an innovative model for arts education and nationally accredited for artistic and educational excellence, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages and skill levels. One of the most celebrated cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves nearly 60,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from over 220 zip codes across the St. Louis region every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of over 200 artists at the heart of its work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and onsite at its campus in University City.


Land Acknowledgements

Land acknowledgements help us honor a place's Indigenous people—past and present—and recognize the history that brought us to where we are today and the fact that our communities are in stolen lands. Here is COCA's Land Acknowledgement:

In alignment with our mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA chooses to learn about, come to terms with, and share the truth of Westward Expansion. COCA acknowledges its community spaces, studios, and theatre rest on the traditional lands of Native People, including the Illini Confederacy, Osage Nation and Missouri tribe. We acknowledge this land is stolen land and acquired through a history of violence. We honor these tribes now and the other tribes who made their homes in St. Louis before us. We encourage you to learn more about native communities and land where you live.

Stay in Touch!

 COCA Website: cocastl.org

 Instagram: [@COCAstl](https://www.instagram.com/COCAstl)

 Facebook: [facebook.com/COCAstl](https://www.facebook.com/COCAstl)

 LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/cocastl](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cocastl)


**Rebuilding TODAY
for the ARTISTS of
TOMORROW.**



Donate Today

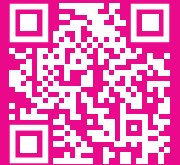


Fall Into Creativity!

**Early Childhood Classes
Now Enrolling**



**Registration for Fall 2025
& Winter/Spring 2026
is now open!**



**Browse and
register for a class!**

COCA inspires art experiences for students of all ages and skill levels. Early childhood classes for ages 3-5 provide an introduction to the arts and help little ones develop motor skills, coordination, rhythm, musicality, and more—all while letting their creativity and imaginations soar.

Don't let cost be a barrier. COCA offers a sliding scale tuition program for qualifying students.

C O C A

Presenting Show Sponsor



Presenting Sponsors



**The Hornsby
Family**

Leading Sponsor



Supporting Sponsors



**William S.
Kallaos Family
Foundation**



**Terry & Sally
Schnuck**

COCApresents 2025-2026 SEASON

COCA Members Get More!

Become a member and heighten your COCA experience. COCA Members at the Designer Level and above receive \$5 off COCApresents tickets.



TICKETS ON SALE NOW



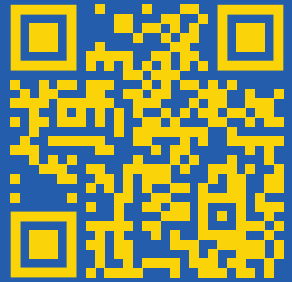
CENTER OF CREATIVE ARTS

cocastl.org





**Tell us about
your COCA
experience!**



Your feedback helps us continue to improve our productions and processes. We would greatly appreciate if you would fill out this survey and let us know how we did. **The survey will close on August 17.** Thank you for your support!