

Village Theatre

KIDSTAGE

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KIDSTAGE ENSEMBLE BRINGS BEAUTIFUL COLOR TO EVERETT WITH *SEUSSICAL, JR.*

WITH DIRECTION BY LEAD IN MAINSTAGE'S 42ND STREET

Everett, Wash. — Village Theatre KIDSTAGE Ensemble produces *Seussical, Jr.*, running April 15-18, 2010 at Everett Performing Arts Center in downtown Everett.

There are 47 kids from

Oh, the people you will see and the things you will do! From the same writing team behind *Ragtime*, the cherished Dr. Seuss books have been turned into a fantastical and magical musical extravaganza, 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.

With direction and choreography by soon-to-be-lead in Village Theatre's Mainstage production of *42nd Street*, Krystle Armstrong (*Little Women, Once Upon A Time in New Jersey*) has taught many classes for KIDSTAGE over the years. "This is the first time I've directed for KIDSTAGE and it has been a wonderful experience. With *Seussical*, almost every scene is a song and dance. There are no book scenes, so the kids have had to learn more music and choreography than most shows. With the short rehearsal process, the music director, Jon Lutyens, and I really use every second we can singing and dancing and I think the students are really having fun with all the musical numbers, learning how to move in many different ways," Armstrong commented.

This KIDSTAGE production boasts a very active group of seven students in the Teen Access to Professionals program (T.A.P.). T.A.P. provides hands-on experiential learning, mentored by professionals, in a wide variety of theatre disciplines. For *Seussical, Jr.* there are three students in stage management, two in choreography, one in costumes, and one in production management. Like members of the cast have opportunities to grow as performers, these T.A.P. students are being given the opportunity to learn theatre industry vocational skills in their personal area of interest.

KIDSTAGE Ensemble production of *Seussical, Jr.* gives 47 young performers the opportunity to experience the power of working as a team in a theatre ensemble. Singing, dancing, acting, and character work are part of the rehearsal process. Strong friendships are formed, and actors practice the values of cooperation, teamwork, and problem solving. The cast works with adult theatre professionals who direct, design, and produce the show.

Seussical Jr. is a full-scale musical with scenic design by Elizabeth Stam; musical direction by John Lutyens; lighting design by Marc King; costume design by Nancy Horner; and sound design by Johnny Baca. The cast members are from: Arlington, Edmonds, Everett, Lake Forest Park, Lake Sammamish, Lynnwood, Marysville, Mill Creek, Monroe, Mukilteo, Snohomish, Stanwood, and Woodinville.

For more information or to schedule individual interviews, please contact Michelle Sanders, Communications Manager at (425) 392-1942 x124 or msanders@villagetheatre.org. Pre-production photos are available online here: http://www.villagetheatre.org/photos_ks_seussical.php.

- What:** *Seussical, Jr.*
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 works by Dr. Seuss
Music Supervised, Adapted, and Produced by Bryan Louiselle
- Where:** Everett Performing Arts Center
2710 Wetmore Avenue
Everett
- When:** April 15-18, 2010
Thursday - Saturday 7:30 PM
Saturday - Sunday 2:00 PM
- Tickets:** \$10-\$12 – **ON SALE NOW**
Box Office: (425) 257-8600 or
www.villagetheatre.org

About Village Theatre KIDSTAGE:

Designed to encourage teamwork, personal integrity, self-esteem, and a life-long appreciation for live theatre, KIDSTAGE is a year-round performing arts training program in Issaquah and Everett for young people ages 3-20. KIDSTAGE students participate in classes, workshops and full-scale KIDSTAGE productions. All performances are by KIDSTAGE students and classes are taught by professional theatrical instructors.

KIDSTAGE is made possible, in part, by City of Issaquah, Everett Cultural Commission, Fluke, Kobe Foundation, Snohomish County Tourism, Tulalip Tribes, US Bancorp, and Washington State Arts Commission.