

MV Presents 'Seussical the Musical'

by Miranda Knake

A hat. A cat. A Cat in the Hat! That can only mean one thing, "Seussical the Musical," is coming to Maquoketa Valley! The Maquoketa Valley Fine Arts Department is proud to present this new and exciting show for all ages! The show's dates are November 12th at 7:30 P.M., November 13th at 7:30 P.M., and November 14th at 2:00 P.M. in the Maquoketa Valley High School auditorium.

"Seussical the Musical," brings together several of Dr. Seuss' famous characters, but these characters don't always get along. The Cat in the Hat causes trouble wherever he can and the Bird Girls keep the audience up to date on what is happening throughout the show. One day in the Jungle of Nool Horton the Elephant hears a small noise on a dust speck. Yes, a dust speck. He believes there are people living on this dust speck and decides he better take care of them. Well, as sweet as that is, Horton faces trouble, almost everyone in the jungle thinks he's crazy! He meets up with bullies like the Sour Kangaroo, the Wickersham Brothers, and a black-bottomed eagle named Vlad Vladikoff. Only one member of the entire jungle believes in him, a plain bird with a one feathered tail named Gertrude McFuzz. Gertrude goes to great lengths (no pun intended "Seussical" cast members) to make Horton notice her, but Horton is too busy to see that she cares for him. As for the dust speck, are there REALLY people living on it? Try an entire town! The town of Whoville filled with little Whos including the Grinch! The town of Whoville has troubles of it's own, it's at war, and the military is run by the crazy General Gehngas Khan Schmitz! The newly elected mayor of Whoville and his wife are trying to be upstanding community members, but their son Jojo keeps getting into trouble. Jojo isn't your usual type of trouble-maker, he gets in trouble for thinking too much! He has Hunches, thinks, and dreams of strange places like Solla Sollew. Jojo's thinks cause problems at school and his parents send him to the military as a cadet, taking him far away from

home and into the war. In the Jungle of Nool Horton the Elephant loses the dust speck full of Whos he's been protecting. As he searches for the tiny town of Whoville, Mayzie LaBird begs him to sit on her egg. Horton, being the sweet elephant he is, gives in and Mayzie takes a permanent vacation leaving Horton with the egg. Am I going to leave you with unanswered questions? Of course! Will Horton ever find the dust speck full of Whos? Will he ever notice Gertrude? What happens to the egg? Will Jojo get home? There's only one way to find out...go see the show!!!

The cast has been preparing for performance time since September. It is directed by Mr. Devore and Mrs. Mueller. Familiar faces will transform into these lovable characters next Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Neal Johnson plays the mischievous host, the Cat in the Hat. In the jungle, Philip Mueller plays Horton the Elephant. Gertrude McFuzz is played by Miranda Knake and Mayzie LaBird is played by Amy Salow. The Sour Kangaroo is played by Lalaina Rabary and the Wickersham brothers are Mike Salow, Brett Huber, and Brando Hills. The groovy Bird Girls are Jennifer Schooley, Laura Seibert, Sarah Tindell, and Audrey Salow. Kasey Jones plays the bully Vlad Vladikoff. Other citizens of the jungle are: Gwen Offerman, Amber Cummings, Emily Ries, Jacque Sternhagen, Jessica Horstman, and Tyler Willey. Hunters are Amanda Evers and Felicia Harbach.

In the town of Whoville Jojo is played by Megan Besler. Adam Ries and Annie Ehltz play Mr. and Mrs. Mayor. Jake



Neal Johnson as the Cat in the Hat and Megan Besler as Jojo warm up the audience in the opening number.

Norlin takes on the persona of General Gehngas Khan Schmitz and the Grinch is played by Adam Graybill. The Whos include David Dirks, Alex Glew, Tiffany Heitz, Micaela Mesch, Cody Recker, Maggie Seibert, Aaron Dunham, Eric Fonck, Ryan Jay, Jennifer Pins, Megan Sawyer, Alex Seely, Kelly Freiburger, Jenna Salow, Calvin Strum, Jodi Tucker, Marcy Bernardi, and Justine Clark. The cadets are Ryan Coeey, Amanda Paulson, Melissa Schultz, Curtis Wolf, Zack Jones, Casi Orr, and Kim Nurre.

Other characters include the Fish/Circus Folk played by Cathy Allen, Stefanie Brooks, Brian Krogmann, and Adam Koopmann. The Hunches are Andrea Palmersheim, Jackie Melchert, Jody Michels, Samantha Bacon, and Jennifer Nurre. Students involved in the technical work and backstage part of the show are Austin Knake, Brian Wilson, and Josh Ruley. The pit band includes students Amanda Heims, Allison Offerman, Jake Lahr, Kim Nieman, Tiffany Heitz, and Kasey Jones.

Cats, get ready for a show you won't soon forget! Hope to see you there!