



The Hemmens Cultural Center  
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**June 20, 2019**

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For immediate release

## **SUESSICAL at The Hemmens: UAC Theater Company moves to Elgin for a whimsical new partnership with Elgin Summer Theatre**

BroadwayWorld Chicago Award winning company moves to Elgin

**ELGIN, Ill. (June 20, 2019)** - Up and Coming Theatre Company (UAC) and Elgin Summer Theatre (EST) partner to produce *Seussical*.

Performances will take place at 7:30pm on July 12, 13, 19, and 20 with 3:00pm matinees on July 14 and 21. All performances will take place at The Hemmens Cultural Center; 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120. Tickets are \$20 reserved seating in advance, \$25 at the door. Students, seniors and kids \$15 with valid student/school I.D. Group rates are also available. Tickets may be purchased at The Hemmens Box Office, by phone at 847-931-5900 or by going to [www.hemmens.org](http://www.hemmens.org).

*Seussical* is a fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza based on the books of Dr. Seuss! Tony award winners, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, have brought to life all of our favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz and a kid with a big imagination – Jojo. Travel with us from the Jungle of Nool, to the Circus McGurkus, to the invisible world of the Whos. *Seussical* is fun for the whole family!

*Seussical* is the first show that Up and Coming Theatre Company is producing in collaboration with Elgin Summer Theatre. “Everyone in Elgin has been incredibly welcoming!” says producer Lindsey Weiss. “We want to introduce ourselves to the Elgin Community and welcome everyone into our theatre family with this spectacular, heartwarming show.”

*Seussical* is directed by Jess Fiene. Jess graduated from Columbia College Chicago and currently works as a director with Northbrook Theatre. Jess was the assistant director for Up and Coming Theatre’s 2018 summer production of *School of Rock*.

“Imagination and movement are what drives this production, and this wonderful cast is going to sweep people out of their seats and into the immersive world of Seuss.” Says director Jess Fiene. “*Seussical* is a totally wild ride with lots of extravagance, but also surprisingly human characters. At its core, there’s a heartwarming story that any audience member can relate to.”

*Seussical* stars Nathan Ancheta (Finalist for best actor in a musical with IHSMTA) as the Cat in the Hat, Emily Nakian and Sadie Nelson sharing the role of Jojo, Niall Casserly as Horton the Elephant, Linda Andrews as the Sour Kangaroo, Korinne Yonan as Gertrude McFuzz, and Julie Lange as Mayzie LaBird. The Bird Girls are played by: Lauren Henriques, McKenna Sharkey, and Amanda Wilt with the Wickershams being played by: Kayla Bates, Kally Kibitlewski, and Teagan Sharkey. Mr. and Mrs. Mayor are played by Michael and Shelley Ancheta and General Gengis Khan Schmitz is played by Kai Edgar. The ensemble of Whos and Jungle Citizens consists of: Nicholas Ancheta, Karli Cooper, Kalea Edgar, Tiffanie Ericksen, Harper Funkhouser, Bob Gabella, Toni Higgins-Thrash, Nora Hubert, Carson Kelley, Russell Levin, Dominic Mokry, Sydney Smith, Alexa Snyder, Carmen True, and Julia Willems.

For tickets or more information, visit [www.hemmens.org](http://www.hemmens.org).

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### **About Up and Coming Theatre Company**

For more than 20 years, Up and Coming Theatre Company has aimed to present professional quality productions while providing aspiring artists with opportunities to grow in their work. UAC has received the Illinois Theatre Association's Award of Excellence, Community Theatre Division, in 2009, five BroadwayWorld Chicago Awards for their production of "American Idiot", and four BroadwayWorld Chicago Awards for their production of "Heathers: the Musical". For more information, visit [www.uactheatre.org](http://www.uactheatre.org).

### **About Elgin Summer Theatre**

Elgin Summer Theatre is a showcase for regional talent and is funded through a grant from the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission and the City of Elgin. Past Elgin Summer Theatre performances include *Hair*, *Grease*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Annie*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Rent*, BroadwayWorld Chicago Award Nominee *Next to Normal*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Sister Act*.

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