RHYMES ITS WAY TO WCA

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish.

Of course, Dr. Seuss would have it no other way.

Between the Cat in the Hat and the beloved Horton the Elephant, Dr. Seuss' stories have run the gamut of childhood favorites and adult nostalgia for decades.

The all-encompassing cast of fictional funnies is coming to Walhalla under the auspices of the Walhalla Civic Players), as the talented cast presents "Seussical the Musical" this weekend.



According to Doug Lucas of the WCP, the show has generated lots of interest and that opening weekend was a major success.

A special school performance on Thursday was a total sell-out, and Lucas hopes for the same during the weekend performances.

"They've worked so hard on this show as they do with every other one, but this is going to be a lot of fun," Lucas said. "It's great because almost everyone is familiar with Dr. Seuss and the well-known characters that round out each story. It makes it a popular choice."

According to Lucas, "Seussical the Musical" follows the adventures of Horton the Elephant who one day hears voices coming from a speck of dust. He soon discovers that within this tiny speck exists the smallest planet in the universe, home to a tiny race of creatures known as Whos. Although ridiculed by the other animals in the Jungle of Nool for believing in something he cannot see, Horton stubbornly persists in his belief that the Whos exist.

"In spite of many obstacles, Horton attempts to get the other animals of the jungle to understand, as Horton has always known, that "a person's a person, no matter how small," Lucas said.

After opening on Broadway in 2000, the show had its ups and downs, but now remains a successful staple in the arts as the production tours all over the nation.

"Seussical the Musical" was written by Tony award-winning songwriters Lynn Aherns and Stephen Flaherty, who previously wrote "Ragtime" and "Once On This Island."

Those who love Dr. Seuss' most popular characters will be thrilled to know that "Seussical ..." is a combination of a variety of Dr. Seuss works including "Horton Hears a Who!," "McElligot's Pool" and "Yertle the Turtle."

"We saw this show on Broadway before it closed in 2001 and became a touring company," said Mandy Harris, Seneca resident. "We had a 13-year-old and a 6-year-old at the time. It was appropriate for both age groups and contained material that the whole family could appreciate. We were very impressed and plan on going again this weekend."

"Seussical the Musical" runs April 8, 9, & 15 at 8 p.m., and April 10 & 17 at 2 p.m. at Walhalla Civic Auditorium. Tickets are $12 adults, $8 students, 3 and under free. They can be purchased at 864-280-3538, Wine Emporium in Salem, Learning Safari in Seneca, at the door, or on the website: www.walhallacivicplayers.org.

"It's going to be a great final weekend to wrap up a wonderfully entertaining show," Lucas added. "We hope that the rest of the community who hasn't gotten a chance to enjoy it yet will come out and have a great time. The Walhalla Civic Players always work so hard on presenting the best show possible. This show is full of laughs, twists and familiar characters whom the entire family will love."

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Horton the Elephant knows that in those tiny specks of dust exists the smallest planet in the universe, home to a tiny race of creatures known as Whos. However, convincing others of his find is another thing.



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There's a cat in a hat and a whole lot of other magical characters in "Seussical the Musical," which debuts this weekend and continues through the following weekend at the Walhalla Civic Auditorium.

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL