

How *Seussical the Musical* at The Phoenix Theatre Captures the Heart of Dr. Seuss

We've all felt small or overlooked at some point. But what happens when imagination commands the stage and shatters doubt? In *Seussical the Musical* at The Phoenix Theatre Company, the answer is anything you can dream. You just need the courage to think it.

Bursting with energy, artistry, and spectacular performances from a seasoned cast, *Seussical* transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary. Directed by Artistic Director Michael Barnard, this vibrant production is a story about believing in yourself, your values, and even the impossible.

"What makes *Seussical* so impactful is that beneath all the whimsy and fun, it's deeply human," Barnard said. "It's a reminder that everyone has worth and that our empathy and kindness can be transformative. This show reaches across generations because its messages are timeless."

Horton the Elephant embodies this as he defends the tiny Whos of Whoville, a microscopic world only he can hear. His mantra, 'a person's a person, no matter how small,' isn't just a line, it's a philosophy partly inspired by Dr. Seuss's own commitment to fairness and equality.

"Horton's strength isn't in his size; it's in his unwavering belief. When the world doubts you, standing firm takes real courage," Barnard said.

First premiering on Broadway in 2000 written by the Tony award-winning duo Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, *Seussical* brings together iconic stories like *Horton Hears a Who!*, *Horton Hatches the Egg*, and *The Cat in the Hat*. The result is a unique theatrical experience that turns the everyday into extraordinary. From transforming a simple bathtub into a submarine to constructing an entire jungle of Nool on stage.

"This show reminds us that creativity isn't just for kids," Barnard notes. "It's a gift we should all hold on to, no matter our age."

Barnard visibly lights up when talking about *Seussical*, his excitement spilling over as he describes the show's inventive lighting effects, props, and bold costumes. From neon palm trees to the entire stage changing color with the flick of Cat in the Hat's hand and JoJos imagination.

"Every element on stage works to draw you into this world. The costumes are bold and playful, the lighting is dynamic and immersive, and the props are characters in their own right," Barnard said. "It's the kind of storytelling that makes theatre unforgettable."

Clearly in his element Barnard spent years crafting dazzling, detail-rich spectacles he helmed at Disney, *Seussical* is a dynamic, punchy celebration of his passion for crafting immersive theatrical worlds. His work shines in every corner of the stage, making this production a perfect reflection of his vibrant energy and expertise.

Whether you're a lifelong Dr. Seuss fan or discovering his world for the first time, *Seussical* promises an unforgettable adventure filled with humor and heart. It also serves as a reminder of the beauty in our differences.

“*Seussical* is a reminder that no matter how chaotic or uncertain life gets, we all have the power to imagine something better, to hold onto hope, and to see each other’s value,” Barnard said. “That’s what this production is about, giving people a space to laugh, to dream, and to walk away feeling a little lighter and a little more inspired.”

Seussical the Musical runs until January 26, 2025. Tickets are on sale now!