

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK  
**BERKSHIRE**  
THEATRE GROUP

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**For Immediate Release, Please Monday, July 28, 2014**

***Seussical* the Musical, BTG's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Production, Features Over 100 Berkshire County Youth and Flies Actors Overhead in The Colonial Theatre**

**Pittsfield, MA**— Berkshire Theatre Group presents *Seussical*, Berkshire Theatre Group's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Theatre Production at the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield. The production opens August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and closes on August 17 at 7pm.

Dr. Seuss' most-beloved stories all spring to life in one magical musical with all of his classic characters: Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, the Whos of Whoville, Gertrude McFuzz, Jojo and more featuring over 100 talent Berkshire County youth as young as six years old!

This production literally leaps off the stage and into the audience as Cat in the Hat (Cody Lee Miller), Mayzie LaBird (Allie Seibold), Vlad Vladikoff (Noah Pott), and Jojo (Ali Bourzgui) are flown through the Colonial and characters interact with audience members in the aisles and throughout the house for a truly fun and highly interactive show. At intermission, the action doesn't stop! Patrons are treated to a mini cabaret-style performance of tunes based on Seuss' tales which includes songs penned by the musical's lyric and book writer Lynn Ahrens.

*Seussical* is an unforgettable tale of friendship, love, family, and community, The Cat in the Hat narrates a whimsical story of Horton the Elephant who must guard a lonely abandoned egg and protect the Whos from all danger! With flying stunts by the actors, unforgettably fun songs and dance, the musical dives into a fantastic and incredible crazy-quilt adventure exploring the wonderful power of imagination, determination and positive thinking!

"I am thrilled to bring this beautiful project to life with over 100 local community members of all ages," said director Travis Daly. "This story shows us how the power of imagination can transport us to magical world's where 'anything is possible.' In these world's we meet iconic characters who have the courage and heart to show us how believing in someone's voice can strengthen friendship, family and community. 'A person's a person no matter how small.'"

Proceeds from this production benefit many children in Berkshire county beyond those who participate in and enjoy *Seussical*! Ticket proceeds benefit BTG PLAYS!, Berkshire Theatre Group's Year-Round Education Program. At the heart of BTG PLAYS! is a passionate commitment to bring live theatre and all its inherent excitement and creativity to children throughout the region with hopes this experience will stimulate a life-long love of theatre and help produce the next generation of playgoers, actors and other theatre professionals.

Last year's community production *Peter Pan* was a successful production with a cast of 103 local talented young actors, "The memory [of *Peter Pan*] will linger as a sterling example of the important mission of our

area's performing-arts companies...touching the hearts of thousands of Berkshire youngsters through the irreplaceable joy of live theater, music and dance," said Clarence Fanto of *The Berkshire Eagle*.

## **SEUSSICAL**

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 the works of Dr. Seuss

directed by Travis G. Daly

music direction by Mark Gionfriddo

choreography by Kathy Jo Grover

*Seussical* Sponsors include: Big Y, Canyon Ranch, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Greylock Insurance Group Laurin Publishing Company and Lyon Aviation.

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Theatre Production

at The Colonial Theatre, Pittsfield

Opens August 7; Closes August 17

Special Note: As a community production, there is no press night for *Seussical*

Tickets: Adult A: \$30, Child A: \$20, Adult B: \$25, Child B: \$15

Sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union

### Performance Dates:

Thursday, August 7 at 7pm (Opening Night)

Friday, August 8 at 7pm

Saturday, August 9 at 2pm & 7pm

Sunday, August 10 at 2pm

Monday, August 11 at 7pm

Thursday, August 14 at 10am & 7pm

Friday, August 15 at 7pm

Saturday, August 16 at 2pm & 7pm

Sunday, August 17 at 2pm (Closing)

Please consider that this production is BTG's community production, there will be no official press opening.

### Artistic Staff Bios

**Travis G. Daly** (Director) BTG directing credits: *A Christmas Carol*, *Pinocchio*, *Oliver!*, *Way Out West*, *The Wizard Of Oz*, *History's Mysteries Revealed*, *Annie*, *The Great Beyond*, *Hansel & Gretel's Grimm Tale*, and *Peter Pan*.

**Mark Gionfriddo** (Musical Director) was musical director for last summer's production of *Peter Pan* and 2012's *A Class Act* at the Unicorn Theatre as well as off Broadway at the Robert Moss Theatre. Mark was introduced to BTG audiences as musical director and pianist for the first Ellenoff "Musical Mondays" Series at the Colonial in 2011. He has also served as pianist for recent BTG productions of *The Who's Tommy*, *In The Mood* and *Babes In Arms*. Mark's regional musical directing credits include *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* [Capitol Rep/Albany], *Some Enchanted Evening* and *Beehive* [CityStage/Springfield], *Always Patsy Cline* [Theatre Project], *Cabaret* and *Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well* [Rooke Theatre]. Garrison Keillor, Mitzi Gaynor, Al Martino, and the Young@Heart Chorus are just a few of the many artists whom he has accompanied. Mark's choral and instrumental compositions and arrangements have been premiered in Boston, NYC, New Orleans, Nashville, DC, and also on NPR's "Performance Today" and "Says You!" Mark is on the faculty of the Music Department at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA and is producer & director of the college's annual 1940's radio variety show "The Big Broadcast!" He thanks Travis, K-Jo, Kate, Eric, Liz, our fabulous cast and crew, and the mighty *Seussical* Orchestra for their support!

## **About Berkshire Theatre Group**

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. Having united in November of 2010 under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, these two institutions are providing the Berkshires and beyond with the finest in live theatre, music, dance and the visual arts on five stages in Stockbridge, MA and Pittsfield, MA. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (400 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats) is a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. The Colonial in Pittsfield (780 seats) re-opened in August of 2006, following a \$21 million restoration, and boasts pristine acoustics, classic gilded age architecture and state-of-the-art technical systems. BTG also performs at the outdoor Neil Ellenoff stage, located on the grounds of BTF in Stockbridge, and at The Garage, a music venue located in the lobby of The Colonial. BTG serves over 100,000 patrons per year and reaches over 17,000 students through its educational and outreach programs. For more information on BTG call (413) 448-8084. To purchase tickets, call (413) 997-4444 or go online to [www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org](http://www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org).

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