

**A/MFA**

PRESENTS



Dr. Seuss's  
**The Cat  
in the Hat**

BASED ON THE BOOK BY  
DR. SEUSS

PLAY ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY  
THE NATIONAL THEATRE  
OF GREAT BRITAIN

ADAPTED AND ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY  
KATIE MITCHELL

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**MARCH 11-29, 2025**





# thank you!

DR. SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT IS SUPPORTED BY



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Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide.

# about the show

Who can transform a rainy day into the adventure of a lifetime? Dr. Seuss's most iconic feline, The Cat in the Hat!

Just in time for National Reading Month, experience the zany fun and timeless charm of Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat live on stage. This high-energy production captures the essence of Dr. Seuss's classic tale, featuring iconic characters, inventive puppetry, and the acrobatic antics of everyone's favorite Cat.

**RUNNING TIME: 50 MINUTES | RECOMMENDED AGE: 5 AND UP**

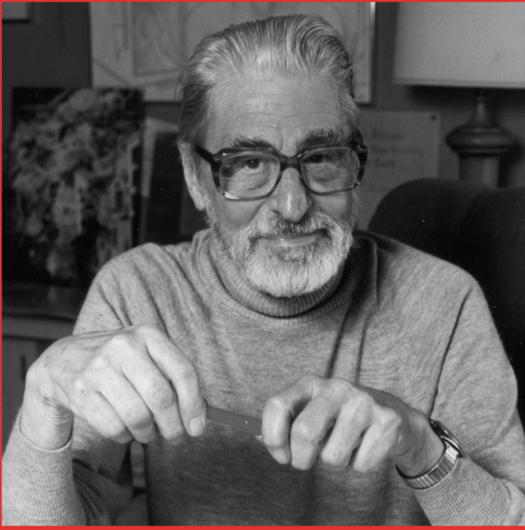
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 22, THE 10:30 A.M. SHOW FEATURES AUDIO DESCRIPTION BY CREATIVE DESCRIPTIONS AND THE 2:00 P.M. SHOW FEATURES ASL INTERPRETATION. BY COMMUNICATIONS PLUS. CATCH A SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 23, AT 2:00 P.M.

“

**I know it is wet  
and the sun is not sunny.  
But we can have  
lots of good fun that is funny.**



**ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**



## meet the author

Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known by his pen name Dr. Seuss, was a writer and cartoonist. The success of *The Cat in the Hat* cemented Geisel's place in children's literature. His rhymes and characters are beloved by generations of fans.

## meet the playwright

Katie Mitchell founded Classics on a Shoestring on the London Fringe in the late 1980s, directing Gorki's *Vassa Zheleznova*, *Arden of Faversham* and Euripides' *Women of Troy* (Gate Theatre, both won Time Out Awards); *Live Like Pigs* (Royal Court Theatre Upstairs), and *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Gate Theatre). Katie has been an Associate Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Court Theatre. She is now an Associate Director at The National Theatre. Katie was awarded an OBE in 2009 for services to drama.



## meet the director

Chad Bradford is a multidisciplinary theater artist who worked Off-Broadway and around the country before coming to AMFA as the Associate Director of Children's Theatre and Performing Arts. Since joining the AMFA team, Chad has directed DRAGONS LOVE TACOS and written and directed all FLURFFY AND FRIENDS productions.

# exploring possibilities

## A LETTER FROM DIRECTOR CHAD BRADFORD

When we pause to reflect on our daily lives, we begin to realize how surrounded we are by marvels that we often take for granted. The internet, cars, and even the often unappreciated "Siri" that lives in our phones and watches are technological wonders that, on the surface, seem like they've always been there. I'd like to add to that list the world of Dr. Seuss. His words, images, and influences have become so ingrained in our culture that it's hard to imagine a time when our collective imaginations weren't filled with 'Whos,' 'Grinches,' and 'Green Eggs and Ham.'

Dr. Seuss had a deep love for his work and for the children who enjoyed it. Through his imagination, we meet a Cat eager to rescue two children from the depths of a dull, rainy day—the emotional purgatory of childhood. With his “tricks” and “games,” the Cat and his friends show the children that even the simplest things can be transformed through imagination, reminding us that life is full of limitless possibilities if we have the courage to explore them.

As Seuss's career progressed, the character of the Cat reappeared in his art, almost as a stand-in for Seuss himself. In *The Cat in the Hat*, we can see glimpses of Seuss's own mischievous nature as the Cat's love and imagination fill the dull room with life and color.

This same impulse has guided our work as we've prepared this production. We often return to the playwright's words as we search for the next possibility:

“However we dress it up, the impulse to do this show is just an act of love from me to my child.”  
— Katie Mitchell, playwright/adaptor

I hope our production brightens up your own “rainy day” and reminds us that anything is possible—even a Cat in a Hat!—when we Explore Possibilities!

# meet the makers



**THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF GREAT BRITAIN'S PRODUCTION OF THE CAT IN THE HAT WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED BY:**

**Director** - Katie Mitchell  
**Designer** - Vicki Mortimer  
**Lighting Designer** - Jon Clark  
**Music** - Paul Clark

**Sound Designer** - Gareth Fry  
**Movement Director** - Joseph Alford  
**Producer** - Pádraig Cusack

## **AMFA CREATIVE TEAM**

**Director** - Chad Bradford  
**Scenic Design** - Miranda Young  
**Costume Design** - Erin Larkin  
**Lighting Design** - Andrew Shelton  
**Stage Manager** - Baleigh Almond

## **AMFA PRODUCTION CREW**

**Technical Direction** - Andrew Shelton  
**Production Manager** - Liz McMath  
**Master Carpenter** - Jon Hatton / Rock City Creative  
**Carpenter** - Aaron Burnside  
**Scenic Charge Artist** - Baleigh Almond  
**Costume Shop Manager** - Verda Davenport  
**Audio Lead** - Luke Mitchell  
**Audio Technician** - Jessi Perren  
**Props Masters** - Max Hodges and Jessi Perren  
**Props Consultant** - Margo Gifford  
**Deck Manager** - Shaina Tippitt  
**Backstage Run Crew** - Chloe Clement

## **CAST**

**Boy** - Anthony McBride  
**Sally** - Lexi Brooks  
**Cat** - Brian C. Earles  
**Fish** - Brandon Nichols  
**Thing 1** - Katie Greer  
**Thing 2** - Brianna East  
**Kittens** - Aaron Burnside  
and Xander Udochi  
**Understudy** - Chloe Clement



**Lexi Brooks (Sally)** is excited to play Sally in DR. SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT! She was recently seen at AMFA in DRAGONS LOVE TACOS. Favorite roles: Olivia (TWELFTH NIGHT), Annelle (STEEL MAGNOLIAS), and Francine Valli (JERSEY BOYS). Lexi is also a dance teacher at Rock City Dance Center. "Enjoy the show!"



**Aaron Burnside (Kitten)** is thrilled to perform in DR. SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT at AMFA! He holds a BA in Theatre from Henderson State and works as an actor and scenic carpenter in Little Rock. Favorite roles include Kenny in AMFA's FLURFFY AND FRIENDS and NEWSIES at Wildwood.



**Chloe Clement (Understudy)** is a Little Rock native and excited to return to AMFA! She holds a degree in musical theatre from Columbia College Chicago and toured with PAW PATROL LIVE! and BABY SHARK'S BIG BROADWAVE TOUR. Local credits include THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR, TUCK EVERLASTING, and THE ADDAMS FAMILY. "Enjoy the show!"





**Brian C. Earles (Cat)** recently assisted on LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (Arkansas Rep) and GYPSY (Marriott Theatre). AMFA credits: CORDUROY (Night Watchman) and DRAGONS LOVE TACOS (Red Dragon). Other credits: GUYS & DOLLS, CHICAGO, GREASE, JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. Choreography: RENT, KINKY BOOTS, THE WIZARD OF OZ, CINDERELLA.



**Brianna East (Thing 2)** holds a BA in Music with a dance minor from UA Little Rock. She has starred in WHITE CHRISTMAS, FOOTLOOSE, GRUMPY OLD MEN THE MUSICAL, and LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. Brianna also performs with local tap group Untapped Inc. “Thanks to family and friends for their love and support!”



**Katie Greer (Thing 1)** holds a BFA in Dance and a BA in Theatre from UA Little Rock. Favorite credits: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Arkansas Shakespeare), MACBETH (Shake on the Lake), SWEET CHARITY, THE SECRET GARDEN, DRAGONS LOVE TACOS (White Dragon), A CHORUS LINE (Val), THE ADDAMS FAMILY (Grandma), and ELF THE MUSICAL (Jovie).





**Stephanie Gunderman (Voice of Mom)** is a Little Rock native. While she has been seen on several stages in town, this voiceover marks her AMFA Children's Theater debut. "Thankful applause to the museum for providing wonderful children's theater to Arkansans. Many thanks to Chad and Jana. "



**Anthony McBride (Boy)** is excited to return to AMFA! Favorite credits: A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD (Toad), BRIGHT STAR (Daryl Ames), ELF THE MUSICAL (Buddy), THE HOBBIT (Bilbo), CHARLOTTE'S WEB (Wilbur), MARY POPPINS (Robertson Ay), and GREASE (Doody). "Grateful for this opportunity to work with such a talented cast!"



**Brandon Nichols (Fish)** is thrilled to be back at AMFA! A Little Rock native now based in Minneapolis, Brandon's past Children's Theatre credits include DRAGONS LOVE TACOS, THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW, and GOOSEBUMPS THE MUSICAL. "Thanks to family and friends for their love and support—enjoy the show!"



**Xander Udochi (Kitten and Understudy)** is a Nigerian-American actor and fight choreographer trained at the University of Central Arkansas. AMFA credits: AN UNLIKELY HERO. Other roles: NEWSIES (Wildwood), BARD AT THE BAR, ACTORS THEATRE OF LITTLE ROCK, and ARKANSAS SHAKESPEARE THEATRE. "Excited to return to AMFA!"

# theatre etiquette

## ARRIVE EARLY

Arriving 15-30 minutes early allows time to locate your tickets, buy concessions, make a final trip to the restroom, and find your seats.

## TURN OFF ELECTRONICS

Lights and sounds from phones and other electronic devices are distracting to other patrons as well as the performers. Photography and videography is not allowed during the performance.

## BE AISLE KIND

Say “pardon me” and “thank you” as you move through the aisle; tuck your belongings under our seat to remove tripping hazards; stand up, when possible, to let others move past you when finding their seats. Be sure to take all your belongings with you when you leave and throw away any rubbish on your way out.

## PLAY YOUR PART

Watch and listen; laugh at funny bits; applaud at the spectacular. Be present and in the moment with the performers.

[CLICK HERE FOR A FUN VIDEO ON THEATRE ETIQUETTE](#)



## **continue the conversation**

The Cat in the Hat knows “a lot of good tricks” to help pass the time on a rainy day. What tricks can you do?

**can you ...**

**pat your head and rub your tummy?**

**curl your tongue?**

**whistle?**

**stick out your tongue and touch your nose?**

**say the alphabet backwards?**

**souch your toes?**

**stand on one foot?**

## **The fun doesn't stop here!**

AMFA is full of exciting events, hands-on activities, and creative programs for the whole family. See what's coming up next—click the link for our full calendar!

**[click here](#)**

**we can't  
wait to see you  
again soon!**

