

Press Release: Sept. 2, 2016



DR. SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT

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*Our mission—
to educate, entertain
and enrich the lives
of young audiences*

Managing Director
Judy Kafoury

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Associate Artistic Director
John Ellingson

Education Director
Leigh Mallonee

Good Fun That is Funny!

NWCT's 24th Season kicks off with a playful rampage through the limitless imagination of Dr. Seuss! Based on the children's book by the same name, *The Cat in the Hat* leaps from the page, with mayhem, mischief, and an epic balancing act, courtesy of the world's favorite Cat.

Perfect for first-time theater-goers and theater veterans alike, *The Cat in the Hat* features John Ellingson in the title role (his third time playing the character, including two runs of *Seussical*). His exuberant and enthusiastic Cat bursts onstage on a cold, cold wet day to bring fun, games, and bit of mischief to Conrad (Harper Lea) and Sally (Gracie Jacobson) while their mother is away. He's even brought a pair of friends, Thing 1 (Snigdha Malladi) and Thing 2 (Hallie Bartell), to share in the fun, much to the chagrin of the family's goldfish (Jenny Bunce). Chaos and comedy ensue as The Cat runs amuck throughout the house, leading the children through a series of games, gags, and tricks.

The Cat in the Hat is a feat of creative staging. Every chair, boat, and birthday cake is meticulously recreated from the original illustrations through props designed by Seattle Children's Theater. The set, also by John Ellingson, brings Dr. Seuss's iconic visual style to life. Drawing on both *The Cat in the Hat* and *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*, award-winning Director Sarah Jane Hardy creates a world of playful chaos in this highly physical and fast-paced production. *The Cat in the Hat* was originally conceived and produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain.

NWCT's 2016-17 season follows an award-winning 23rd season, with Portland Area Musical Theater Awards (PAMTAs) for the productions of *Shrek* (Best Ensemble, Outstanding Costume Design) and *Snow White* (Outstanding Visual Design). NWCT's 24th season features unforgettable classics, the return of a beloved NWCT original adaptation, and the Mainstage debut of a new crew of bird puppets, *The Starlings*, sprung from the mind of Associate Artistic Director John Ellingson.

The Cat in the Hat also features the first of four Sensory Friendly Performances for this season. Featuring shorter run-times, no intermission, reduced or removed lighting and sound cues, and the constant presence of house lights, these performances are specially designed for children on the autism spectrum or with other sensory sensitivities. NWCT's 2016-17 Season offers four Sensory Friendly Performances free of charge (one each for *The Cat in the Hat*, *Rock the Presidents*, *The Tail of Sleeping Beauty with Puppets*, and *Robin Hood*). Sign-interpreted and Audio-described performances will be offered for all five of this season's productions.

The Cat in the Hat is produced in part through the support of the Collins Foundation, Regional Arts and Culture Council and Work for Art, Kafoury & McDougal, Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt, Zipcar, Oregon Arts Commission, and NWCT Donor Circle Members. More than 5,000 school children will have good fun that is funny with the Cat during twelve student matinee performances.

10am & 1pm Sat & Sun Shows:
Sept. 24, 25 Oct. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23

OCT 8 at 10am:
ASL Interpreted Show

OCT 9 at 1pm:
Sensory Friendly Show

OCT 15 at 1pm:
Audio Described Show

TICKETS & INFORMATION
503-222-4480 • NWCTS.ORG
SEASON SUBSCRIBER DISCOUNTS

Release Date
Sept 2, 2016

End Date
Oct 23, 2016

Media Contact
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