

SEUSSICAL CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

A number of performers play several characters (circus performers, Whos, creatures, and more) The descriptions below are based on the primary characters and do not address the multiple roles. The character descriptions are just a springboard, and once the show is cast further character work and development will be explored.

THE CAT IN THE HAT (male or female) (tenor/baritone)

He/she is the host and emcee. The Cat is the essence of mischief, fun and imagination. He stirs things up, causes trouble, but always sets things right again, helping JoJo to discover the power of his imagination as they create the story for the show together. Loose-limbed and physically adept actor to play the Cat, one who will be able to play many comic cameos (Dr. Dake, helicopter reporter, TV interviewer, auctioneer, Mr. McGurkus, etc.) and is comfortable improvising with an audience.

GENERAL GENGUS KHAN SCHMITZ (baritone)

is bursting with pride at the military academy he runs, and the boys he turns out. He is not sadistic, mean or abusive. He is proud! He is doing the right thing for his boys! He is making the world a better place! This makes him a comic character, because it's clear he's so misguided. Please don't play him as a villain or bully. By the end of the show, he's discovered that making war may not be the right thing to do, and that adults can learn from children as well.

GERTRUDE McFUZZ (soprano)

Very self-conscious and aware that her one-feather tail isn't perfect. Gertrude changes during the show from a vain, neurotic, nervous and shy bird into one with the power to protect and care for a baby elephant bird and commit herself to Horton. In other words, she stops worrying about her looks and grows up.

HORTON THE ELEPHANT (tenor/baritone)

Gentle, rotund and appealing. Think of him as a big-hearted blue collar guy who is steadfast and responsible and always tries to do the right thing for his friends. He is imaginative and receptive to the world around him. He is very "un"-self-conscious. Horton's view of the world never changes--he believes in its goodness. But by the end of the show, without even realizing it, he is ready to become a parent.

JOJO (small boy with high vocal range)

is a "Thinker"--a smart child with a wild imagination. He can be played as being a little bit awkward, a little bit of a loner, or simply a rambunctious kid whose 'Thinks' get him into constant trouble. By the end of the show, he learns what it means to be a responsible member of his world, using the power and possibilities of his own 'Thinks.'

MAYZIE LA BIRD (soprano/alto)

Self-centered, selfish and vain, Mayzie will never admit to her own flaws. She manipulates anyone she can (especially Horton) into doing what she wants. But Mayzie isn't all bad. In giving up her egg to Horton once and for all, she has a moment of generosity--she realizes she isn't the kind of person who'd be a good parent, and he does the best thing she can do for the egg.

MR. MAYOR (tenor/baritone)

Wants to be a good leader and a father. He is a recently-elected official who is proud of his new role and eager to prove his abilities. He and Mrs. Mayor are parents trying hard to raise a difficult child in a difficult world. They may get aggravated with Jojo, but they love him dearly and try to do the right thing, even if it turns out to be a mistake.

MRS. MAYOR (soprano)

Wants, above all else, to be a good wife and mother. She is proud to be the mayor's wife, and wishes to uphold the values they share and she strives to present their family as an exemplary, well-put-together unit. Tries hard to raise their child in a difficult world.

JUNGLE CREATURES (mixed vocal ranges)

No matter how these actors are costumed, each one is to create a distinct human persona. They are real people at heart, just like us, even though they may be described as animal characters. Without masks, they must be able to create their own individual personality.

BIRD GIRLS (different vocal ranges)

The flamboyant "girl group". Individually, each is gorgeous, tropically decked-out, fun energetic jungle birds. As a trio they live to sing, dance and perform. The Bird Girls serve as "back-up" performers to the exquisite talents of Mayzie La Bird.

THE WICKERSHAM BROTHERS (mixed vocal ranges)

These are not bad guys! They're simply a lot like kids who tease, play pranks and get a kick out of making mischief, although often at others' expense. They enjoy hanging around with one another, making music together on the street corner, and playing off one another. Each brother has his own individual persona.

SOUR KANGAROO (soprano/alto)

She isn't really sour at all. She's just got a lot of attitude. She is the Diva Queen of the jungle. She's loud, brassy and a lot of fun. Sour Kangaroo does have a change of heart. When she realizes she is wrong, she is quick to acknowledge it and correct her mistakes.

ROO

A baby Sour Kangaroo. Loves to emulate her mother.

THING 1 AND THING 2 (athletic gymnasts)

Classic mischief making twins who help The Cat in the Hat with his antics. They have white faces, blue hair, and red numbered outfits.

THE GRINCH

Tall and lanky, green-faced with a touch of Grinch hair on his head and hands.

WHOS CITIZENS (mixed vocal ranges)

The citizens of WHO are innocent, slightly quirky people, who value conformity and clean living.

OTHER ROLES Cadets, Hunches, circus animals, interviewees, etc.