**CAT IN THE HAT**

The *Cat in the Hat* is a children's book written and illustrated by Theodor Geisel under the pen name Dr. Seuss and first published in 1957.

**Activity Packet**

May/June 2017

A note for students (teachers – please read this to students and discuss appropriate theatre behavior)...

In a few days you will be attending a production of *CAT IN THE HAT* at Playhouse on Park. Some of you may have attended performances of live theatre before, and for others, this may be a new experience.

When you arrive at the theatre, you will walk through the lobby and into the theatre, where you will each be assigned a seat in the audience. Soon after that, the lights will get dark, and the show will begin!

Although this show is a play and not a musical, you will see live actors singing, acting, and dancing. Please be quiet and focused throughout the production so you do not disturb others in the audience or the performers onstage. Please only ask to go to the bathroom if it is an emergency, and try to leave between songs or scenes if possible. You may quietly return when an usher or a teacher says that it is a good time. We do not allow photography, texting, ringing cell phones, or any noisy distractions, so students, please remind your teachers to please make sure that all electronic devices are silenced and put away before entering the theatre at the start of the show!

Now that we've gotten what you can't do out of the way, there are many things that we hope you will do! We would love to hear applause at the end of the show, and after a song. We hope to hear you laugh if something is funny, and participate when the actors ask for your help. At the end of the show the actors will bow. Just as you thank the actors by clapping, bows are the actors’ way of thanking you for watching. If you really love the show, feel free to stand up while you are clapping during the bows to give the actors an extra special thank you! This is called a standing ovation.
ABOUT THE SHOW:

The story begins as a girl named Sally and her unnamed brother, who serves as the narrator of the book, sit alone in their house on a cold, rainy day, staring wistfully out the window. Then they hear a loud bump which is quickly followed by the arrival of the Cat in the Hat, a tall anthropomorphic cat in a red and white striped hat and a red bow tie. The Cat proposes to entertain the children with some tricks that he knows. The children's pet fish refuses, insisting that the Cat leave. The Cat responds by balancing the fish on the tip of his umbrella. The game quickly becomes more complicated, as the Cat balances himself on a ball and tries to balance lots of household items on his limbs until he falls on his head, dropping everything he was holding. The fish admonishes him again, but the Cat in the Hat just proposes another game.

The Cat brings in a big red box from outside, from which he releases two identical creatures with blue hair and red suits called Thing One and Thing Two. The Things cause more trouble, such as flying kites in the house, knocking pictures off the wall and picking up the children's mother's new polka-dotted gown. All this comes to an end when the fish spots the children's mother out the window. In response, Sally's brother catches the Things in a net, and the Cat, apparently ashamed, stores them back in the big red box. He takes it out the front door as the fish and the children survey the mess he has made. But the Cat soon returns, riding a machine that picks everything up and cleans the house, delighting the fish and the children. The Cat leaves just before their mother arrives, and the fish and the children are back where they started at the beginning of the story. As she steps in, the mother asks the children what they did while she was out, but the children are hesitant and do not answer. The story ends with the question, "What would you do if your mother asked you?"

Enjoy the show!

Kyle Reynolds
Director of Education, Playhouse on Park
CAT IN THE HAT CHARACTERS:

THE CAT IN THE HAT: an energetic cat who visits the home of Sally and the Boy to cause mischievous fun.

SALLY: A little girl who is intrigued by the CAT IN THE HAT. She loves how the Cat spruces up her rainy day!

BOY: A little boy who is intrigued by the CAT IN THE HAT. He loves how the Cat spruces up his rainy day!

FISH: The household pet. He is wise and full of wisdom. The Cat scares him! He is nervous of what mother will say when she returns home!

Thing 1 and Thing 2: These crazy creatures are introduced to the story to have FUN! They do not follow rules! They are crazy creatures who are created by the CAT IN THE HAT.
Decorate the Playhouse on Park Lobby

Teachers: have students decorate the following coloring page, found on the next page of this packet, and bring completed pages to the show. We will display the students’ artwork in the lobby for all to see! (We will hang them during the show so students can see their artwork as they leave the theatre.)
DRAW YOUR OWN FISH!

COLOR THIS PAGE AND BRING IT TO THE PERFORMANCE!

DR. SEUSS’s: THE CAT IN THE HAT. JUNE 3rd – JUNE 11th

Based on the book by Dr. Seuss
Play originally produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain