

Dr Seuss' The Cat in the Hat: Pre-show Notes

Prepared by Seren Chen and Shalni Doshi for Singapore Repertory Theatre

Introduction

Welcome to this introduction to *Dr Seuss' The Cat in the Hat*. Originally developed by Britain's National Theatre, this magically witty play is presented by Singapore Repertory Theatre.

This audio described performance is at 2pm on Sunday, 26 November, and runs for about 45 minutes with no interval. The touch tour will begin at 12.45pm. Your audio describers will be Seren Chen and Shalni Doshi.

Synopsis

Sally and her brother get a surprise visit from the Cat in the Hat. With his endless tricks, crazy ideas, and the twin mischief-makers Thing 1 and Thing 2, he certainly turns the dull rainy afternoon into one amazing adventure.

Every Dr. Seuss story is a lesson in grammar, syntax, scansion, phonics, morality, ethics, tolerance and the human spirit. *The Cat in the Hat* promises to be a purr-fect day out for both children and parents alike!

Creative Credits

This adaptation of Dr Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat* was originally created by the National Theatre of the UK.

Daniel Jenkins is the Associate Director.

James Tan is the Lighting Designer.

Ctrl Fre@k, pronounced Control Freak, also known as Jeffrey Yue, is the Sound Designer.

Tan Yi Kai is the Associate Lighting Designer.

Daniel Wong is the Associate Sound Designer.

Cast, Characters, and Costumes

The Cat is played by Irsyad Dawood. He stands upright and very tall, looking even taller because of his tall, red-and-white striped tophat. With long whiskers and a mischievous grin, he walks around with a swagger in his step. He is mostly black and white, with a round white belly and black fur that runs across the top of his chest, over the top of his shoulders and arms, the back of his legs and all over his feet. Aside from the red-and-white striped tophat, he also wears a big red bow on his chest.

The Boy, whose voice you will also hear narrating the story to us, is played by Marcus Cheong. He has short, wavy dark hair and pink cheeks. He wears an off-white long-sleeved jumper, with black squiggles like cartoon wrinkles stitched onto one side of his chest, over black pants with white cartoon squiggles on the inner sides of his legs.

The Boy's sister, Sally, is played by Rebecca Ashley Dass. She has short, curly blonde hair that's as bright as gold, and wears a dark blue sleeveless dress with white stitches like grass on the bottom over a white puff-sleeved top. A massive red bow sits on top of her head.

Dennis Sofian plays Fish! Fish swims around his fishbowl as a hand puppet. He is pink, with a big white mouth, googley eyes, and floppy pink fins. His puppeteer moves Fish around with one hand, and holds his round transparent fish bowl using a handle in the other hand. The puppeteer has big round pink and black glasses, a thick moustache, and a pink tail just like Fish.

Alex Kong and Seah Janice are small and quick figures who sometimes run around as little kitten miniatures of the Cat, moving furniture and other items around. Other times, they play Thing 1 and Thing 2 - two bright red creatures with electric blue hair who only speak nonsense! On the centre of each of their red chests, they have a white circle with black text that reads Thing 1 or Thing 2.

Set and Setting

The play moves through a wet boring afternoon in the lives of Boy, his sister Sally and their pet, Fish. Most of the action takes place in the living room or their Mother's room.

The whole stage is light blue in colour. When the curtains open, there is a small red house with big windows in the middle. A big bird rests on the roof. The Boy and Sally are looking very sadly out of their home window. It is raining and they cannot go out to play. As the story goes on, new items are brought in, moved around or taken away

by the stage hands and actors themselves. The windows, tables and doors all sit on wheels to be swung in and out when needed.

The living room has two tall red chairs and a lamp on a table on the left. Fish is napping in his bowl on the right.

Before Cat enters, the furniture is moved to the front and a big sign reading "BUMP" drops from the ceiling and a white door frame is brought in on the right. This same furniture is placed at the back of stage when Thing 1 and Thing 2 enter stage from the left where their big red box has been placed.

Most of the time, the stage is clear except for fish's bowl and stand as Cat entertains the children with new games. It is also clear Thing 1 and Thing 2 are playing in the house.

The door is brought in again and placed on the left when Cat leaves. When the play closes, the door is on the right and the furniture is arranged the same as it was in the beginning - a window, 2 red chairs in front of it and Fish in his bowl on the stand.

Access Information

SRT aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.

For accessible booking options, please contact us at 6733 8166 from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

The nearest parking options are Robertson Quay Hotel, located at 15 Merbau Road, Singapore 239032, opposite the theatre's front door, or the Robertson Walk Carpark at 11 Unity Street, Singapore 237995.

For Public Transport options, the nearest Bus Stop is B13211.

The nearest MRT stations are Clarke Quay (NE5), on the Northeast Line and Fort Canning (DT20) on the Downtown Line.

The touch tour will commence at 12.45pm, and the show starts at 2pm. Please inform the staff at the front door that you are there for the Touch Tour and they will bring you to the assembly point.

Please have your mobile device and headset with you. The Box Office will have headphones and devices on standby if needed.

KC Arts Centre, the home of SRT, is assistance dog friendly. It is also accessible for wheelchair use from both the front and rear entrances. There is currently 1 wheelchair space on row Q in the theatre stalls.

If you require a wheelchair space, or would like to understand more about transferring options, please contact our venue team via email at boxoffice@srt.com.sg or call 6733 8166.

We at SRT look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!

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