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For immediate release

Ouachita to present “Seussical” as spring musical April 19-22

By Jessica Williamson

April 6, 2018

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University's School of Fine Arts will present one of the most performed shows in America, *Seussical*, where Dr. Seuss' best-known characters collide in an unforgettable musical. The book is by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, with music by Flaherty and lyrics by Ahrens.

The show's opening performance will be held on Thursday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Performing Arts Center. Performances will continue April 20-21 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee Sunday, April 22, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased from the OBU Box Office for \$12 each. Ouachita students may get one free ticket with their student ID.

Seussical tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust that contains the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child sent off to military school for “thinking too many thinks.” Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, but the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. His struggles highlight the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community.

“I'm super excited for *Seussical*. It's my senior year and last time performing at Ouachita, so this show will be really special to me,” said Hannah Hines, a senior musical theatre and mass communications double major from Russellville, Ark., who plays JoJo. “*Seussical* is a fun show! We're having a lot of fun rehearsing it and we hope it'll be just as much fun for the audience to watch.”

“The cast has been working incredibly hard to put together this fun and heartwarming musical,” said Will Stotts, a senior musical theatre major from Jonesboro, Ark., who plays Horton. “My character, Horton the Elephant, is like nothing I've played before, which is sweet and innocent. But it's so fun to step into his shoes! (Actually, he doesn't wear shoes. They're figurative shoes). I think the audience should be prepared to have a ton of fun, but should also be prepared to learn a valuable lesson!”

“It's a fun show without a doubt. It's colorful and silly, but under the surface, the writers have crafted a very touching story that deals with meaningful themes, including connection and the power of imagination,” said Drew Hampton, assistant professor of theatre arts and director of the musical. “Similarly, I believe there is a tremendous amount of power and poignancy in Horton's repeated lines ‘a person's a person no matter how small’ and ‘I meant what I said, and I said what I meant. An elephant's faithful 100 percent.’”

A musical such as this requires many moving parts and many hours from dedicated faculty, staff and students.

In addition to Hampton, other lead production team members include: Music Director Dr. Jon Secrest, professor of music; Choreographer Grace Hampton, Ouachita alumnus; Assistant Stage Director Andrew Martin, a senior theatre arts major from Hot Springs Village, Ark.; Stage Manager Nadalie Gill, a senior theatre major from Price, Texas, who will be assisted by Ashton Spence, a sophomore theatre arts major from Marion, Ark.; and Accompanist Susan Monroe. Co-Dance Captains are Lauren Terry, a senior musical theatre major from Evansville, Ind.; Dylan Blackwood, a junior musical theatre major from Walnut Ridge, Ark.; and Bonnie Gentry, a sophomore musical theatre major from Arlington, Texas.

Tickets may be purchased at the OBU Box Office in Jones Performing Arts Center on weekdays from 1-5 p.m. or online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice. For more information, call the box office during business hours at (870) 245-5555 or email boxoffice@obu.edu.

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