



▶ LYRIC BRINGS DR. SEUSS'S STORIES TO LIFE IN *SEUSSICAL*..... 1



▶ CAST SPOTLIGHT: KELLAN ZIFFLE AS THE CAT IN THE HAT ..... 2



▶ CAST SPOTLIGHT: CHRIS HENNINK AS HORTON THE ELEPHANT..... 2

○ 31st SEASON | ○ MAY | ○ 2008

# Lyric *notes*

REGINA LYRIC LIGHT OPERA SOCIETY  
WWW.REGINALYRIC.COM

*Lyric's major production this year promises to be a dazzling, vibrant show full of colour, light and glorious singing...a wonderful musical that can be enjoyed by people of all ages.*

## Dr. Seuss's beloved books come to life in *Seussical*

“Glorious-sounding...filled with colour and light...childlike and lovely...”

Those are some of the glowing terms director Robert Ursan uses to describe *Seussical*, Lyric's major production coming up later this month.

The show is, of course, based on the beloved books of Dr. Seuss...books that Rob loved like everyone else when he was a child. “Dr. Seuss books were some of the first that I was lucky enough to be given,” he recalls. “*Hop*

*on Pop, Fox in Socks* and, of course, *The Cat in the Hat* were all books that started my love of reading and the sound of the English language. Brilliant books - meant to be read aloud.”

In fact, he says, “I still use them to teach diction.”

*Seussical* features music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, an experienced team most famous for *Ragtime*, which ran on Broadway for two years in the late 1990s. “That was

*(Continued on page 4)*

“Oh, the thinks you can think!”

# Seussical

Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty - Co-Concepted by Eric Idle  
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens - Music by Stephen Flaherty

Directed by Robert Ursan  
May 21 - 25, 2008

University Theatre, Riddell Centre  
2100 Ave. Med. Tower, 8 Ave. SW, Sask., S4N 0A6

Tickets \$20 Adults \$35, Students Available at Book & Record Shops or direct and on www.reginalyric.com (book only available in Saskatoon)

Visit www.reginalyric.com and order to see a show for less!

Global LEADER-POST BACH and beyond SaskTel

LYRIC Musical Theatre Production  
www.reginalyric.com



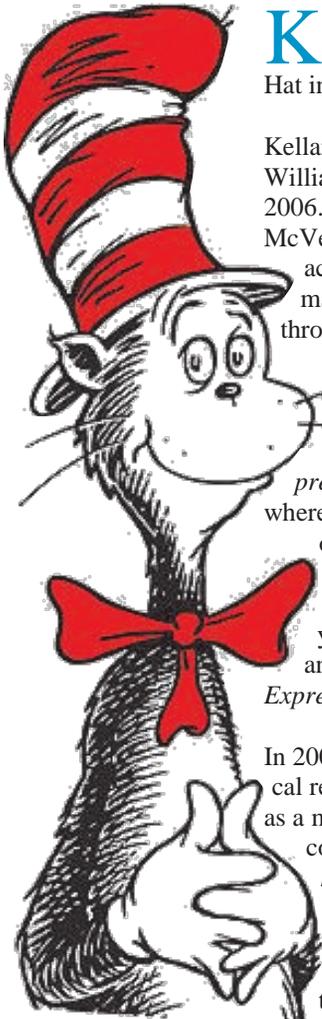
*Guys and Dolls*  
May, 2001

## LYRIC NOTES

Editor: Edward Willett

Regina Lyric Light Opera Society  
P.O. Box 3754, Regina, SK, Canada S4P 3N8  
(306) 522-RLLO (7556)  
lyric@reginalyric.com www.reginalyric.com

# Cast Spotlight: Kellan Ziffle, the Cat in the Hat

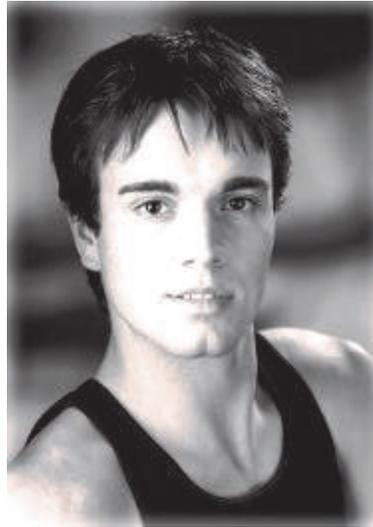


**K**ellan Ziffle will be playing the role of the the Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*.

Kellan graduated from Sheldon-Williams Collegiate in June of 2006. He received the Marion McVeety Award for academic achievement in 2002 and remained on the Honour Role throughout high school.

In 1997, he began taking classes at the *Saskatchewan Express Musical Theatre Studio* where he was an original member of the junior performing group, *The Mini Express*. He performed with them for four years and continued on for another four years with, *The Expressions*.

In 2003, he joined the touring musical revue, *Saskatchewan Express*, as a male vocalist understudy. He continued touring with *Saskatchewan Express* as a principal vocalist until the summer of 2007, completing five summer tours and one winter tour with the company.



Through the dance program at the *Saskatchewan Express Musical Theatre Studio*, under the direction of Megan Alfano, he has studied jazz, tap, ballet, hip hop, and competitive musical theatre and production.

Film and television credits include: *The Unsaid*, *Weenie Wars*, *Myth Quest*, *renegadeexpress.com*, *Walled In*, *45 RPM*, SaskTel and Houston Pizza commercials, along with numerous voiceovers. Kellan was also

a dancer/model in the 2005 *Sophia House Fashion Show Fundraiser*.

High school performing highlights include annual dance tributes to STOMP! in *Poco Loco*, playing the Mayor of Whoville in *Seussical*, and Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes*. Behind the scenes he has worked as a lighting and sound technician and as a stagehand. Through the Sheldon-Williams area music program, Kellan played percussion for six years and participated in the choir program for all four years of high school. This past January, he performed in the PrairieStar Productions revue, *One Night Only*.

Kellan also received dance training at *Applause Dance Academy* under the direction of Barbara Miller, and many years of private voice through his voice teacher, Karen Frandsen.

Kellan recently auditioned for the *Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts* in Toronto, and hopes to continue his training there this upcoming September.

# Cast Spotlight: Christopher Hennink, Horton the Elephant

**C**hristopher Hennink will play the role of Horton the Elephant in Lyric's production of *Seussical*.



Christopher was born in Cape Town South Africa and lived there until he moved to Regina in 2001. Throughout high school, he was involved in sports and the arts.

In grade 11, Christopher participated in Sheldon-Williams' production of *Seussical*, when he played the role of a Wickersham brother. That experience got Christopher hooked on musical theatre.

Christopher is looking forward to joining Kellan Ziffle on stage, once again. Kellan and Christopher played leading roles in the musical *Anything Goes*.

After Grade 12, Christopher joined Do it With Class musical theatre group and has performed in *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Jacques Brel is alive and well and living in Paris*, *Urinetown* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Currently, Christopher is studying in the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina; he

is also the youngest member of Lyric's board of directors!





Rehearsal scenes from *Thoroughly Modern Broadway* our 2008 musical brunch



## Who's Who in *Seussical*

- The Cat in the Hat ..... Kellan Ziffle
- Jojo ..... Braeden Woods
- Horton the Elephant ..... Chris Hennink
- Mayzie La Bird..... Leah Constable
- Gertrude McFuzz..... Aubree Erickson
- Sour Kangaroo..... Adrienne Vermeulen
- General Schmitz ..... Paul Chomos
- Mayor ..... Jeff Tonita
- Mrs. Mayor..... Andorlie Hillstrom
- Grinch..... Michael W. Hamann
- Hatchling ..... Rylee Silzer
- Cadets ..... Gary Chartier, Edward Heinrichs, Elijah Syvestre, Ruaridh MacDonald, Aidan Andrews, Michael Saigeon
- Bird Girls..... Jessica Scheuer, Stacy Allan, Talasi Chimene, Jamie Lemmerick, Madison DeWalt, Tara Federko
- Wickersham Brothers ..... Deacon Yathon, Zane Buchanan, Jeff Sawatsky, Lucas Popwich, Taylor Buchko,
- Whos/Jungle Denizens ..... Alexandra Wagner-Powers, Madison Wagner-Powers, Sarah Hognestad, Amanda Dancsok, Alyssa Mitchell, Elizabeth Popowich, Naomi Weir, Linda Weir, Janelle Bennett, Hilary Wirachowsky, Owen Ricker, Jon Herriot, Denique Leblanc, Colby Richardson, Tawnee Hedley

## New risers for brunch thanks to city grant

In March, Lyric received news that its application for a City of Regina Community Capital Partnership Grant was successful.

Thanks to recent changes in the program, this was the first time that Lyric was able to apply for the matching grant.

The \$1,900 awarded will be matched by Lyric to purchase a state-of-the-art riser system that will be used in staging Lyric's annual brunch. (For the past few years, Lyric has borrowed risers from Juventus.)

The versatile risers will also be used in theatrical productions.

## ...Seussical "filled with colour and light"

(Continued from page 1)  
the production that cost Garth Drabinsky \$11 million and his company," Rob notes. Flaherty and Ahren's most recent musicals have all played off-Broadway, with their newest, *The Glorious Ones*, opening just a few weeks ago.

They outdid themselves in *Seussical*. "The music in the show is incredibly tuneful - filled with exciting rhythm and touching harmony," Rob says. "The first time I heard the score I was instantly smitten. It's all rousing Broadway music that you'll be humming for weeks after you've seen the show."

The show primarily takes place in the Jungle of Nool. Gerry Weir is building a typically off-kilter group of Dr.-Seussish trees for the set. The cartoonish costumes are being designed and built by Donna Rumpel and Marie

McCracken. "It should have a dazzling look," Rob says.

**"It's all rousing Broadway music that you'll be humming for weeks after you've seen the show."**

The cast ranges in age from seven to...um, older. Almost fifty people are involved, bringing with them a wide range of skills and backgrounds.

Rob hopes the audience, too, will be filled with everyone from small children to great-grandparents. "This is truly an "All ages" show," he says. "Children will love the musicalization of famous stories and characters, the fun and antics of the cast. Adults will revel in the score and emotional depth of the story."

"The moral - actually given to the audience very early on in the show - is that, 'A person's a person - no matter how small.' Even the so-called bad guys in the show turn out to be just misguided and easily behave well when they are shown the truth. It's an extremely childlike and lovely view of the world."

"This is going to be a vibrant show filled with colour and light," Rob promises. "And with so many fabulous voices in the same show, it's going to sound glorious."



**REMINDER**  
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM WEARING PERFUME OR COLOGNE TO LYRIC SHOWS: SOME AUDIENCE MEMBERS AND SOME PERFORMERS ARE SENSITIVE TO SCENTS.  
**THANK YOU!**

**VISIT**  
[reginalyric.com](http://reginalyric.com)  
and enter to win a dinner for two at



**ZEST**  
**Restaurant!**

Lyric performer runs in Boston Marathon

Elizabeth Popowich, who has performed in several Lyric shows, including brunches, *Broadway Divas* and *Oklahoma!*, ran in the 112<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon on April 21.

Elizabeth completed the 26.2-mile (42.2-kilometer) race in four hours, 12 minutes, and 38 seconds. Elizabeth finished 397<sup>th</sup> in her age range--not bad in a total field of 25,000 runners!

You can see Elizabeth perform in *Seussical* later this month.

## Member Survey: Proposed Corporate Name Change

Lyric's board is considering a name change for the organization, and we would like your opinion.

Our registered name is **Regina Lyric Light Opera Society**, which has served our organization well for over three decades; however, there are two problems with this name.

First, it's long! Second, potential audience members are sometimes scared off by the word "opera."

We are proposing a shorter name, removing the reference to "light opera," and maintaining continuity. Our proposal: **Lyric Musical Theatre**. Our acronym changes from RLLOS to the more manageable LMT.

What are your thoughts? Please let us know if you approve or have other suggestions. Taking your thoughts into consideration, we will put the new name to our membership for a vote at our annual general meeting in the fall of 2008.

You can reach us by e-mail at [lyric@reginalyric.com](mailto:lyric@reginalyric.com), by voicemail at **522-7556**, or by regular mail at **Box 3754, Regina, S4P 3N8**.