

CHARACTER PREFERENCES      Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **TICK** characters you are **MOST** interested in - **CROSS** any you would **NOT** consider

**HORTON THE ELEPHANT:** 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.

*Horton has 19% of the lines, is in over 50% of the scenes, major singing role with solo songs.*

**THE CAT IN THE HAT:** The essence of mischief, fun and imagination. The Cat 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. The Cat often plays up to 10 small parts as well and is comfortable improvising with an audience.

*Main Cat has 12% of the lines, is in almost 40% of the scenes, major singing role with solo songs. Extended has 17% of the lines, is in almost 60% of the scenes, some additional solo songs.*

**GERTRUDE McFUZZ:** 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.

*Gertrude has 12% of the lines, is in over 30% of the scenes, major singing role with solo songs.*

**JOJO:** Jojo 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.'

*Jojo has 9% of the lines, is in almost 50% of the scenes, has some solo songs.*

**MAYZIE LA BIRD:** 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 she does the best thing she can do for the egg.

*Mayzie has 6% of the lines, is in almost 15% of the scenes, has some solo songs.*

**SOUR KANGAROO:** She isn't really sour at all. She's just got a lot of attitude. She's loud, brassy and a lot of fun.

*Kanga has 5% of the lines, is in over 10% of the scenes, has some solo singing.*

**GENERAL GENGUS KHAN SCHMITZ:** *The General 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.*

*Schmitz has 4% of the lines, is in over 10% of the scenes, has some solo singing. **TURN OVER***

## CHARACTER PREFERENCES

MR. AND MRS. MAYOR: 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.

*They share 10% of the lines, are in almost 25% of the scenes, have some solo and joint singing.*

THE WICKERSHAM BROTHERS (Monkeys): 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 has their own Wickersham persona.

*They are in almost 15% of the scenes, singing together and some short solo sections in 6 numbers.*

THE BIRD GIRLS: The popular girls in any school--a clique of pretty, self-centered "back up birds" who do whatever Mayzie does. The group be extended by a range of other jungle characters, male & female.

*They are in over 25% of the scenes, singing as a backing group in 12 numbers.*

## MINOR ROLES:

THE GRINCH  
(some solo singing)

JUDGE YERTLE  
(some solo singing)

CIRCUS McGURKUS  
(some solo singing)

YOUNG KANGAROO

VLAD VLADIMIR

MAX THE DOG

DR DAKE

JAZZ PIANIST

AUCTIONEER

NEWSCASTER

MAX THE DOG

COURT MARSHALL

JOSE / RENEE

ELEPHANT BIRD - (child or infant)

## GROUP ROLES:

THE WHOS: They're a lot like you and me only so small as to be invisible. Don't think of them as cute midgets or weird little aliens. They should be played for inherent humanity. Encourage everyone playing a Who to try and create his or her own, unique character.

*They are in almost 15% of the scenes, singing together in 6 numbers.*

JUNGLE CITIZENS: No matter how these actors are costumed, please ask each one to create a distinct human persona. They are real people at heart, just like us, even though they may be described as animal characters. We discourage masks and literal "animal costumes." Be imaginative. Be Wild. Be simple.

*They are in over 10% of the scenes, singing together in 5 numbers.*

OTHER GROUPS: Cadets, Hunches, Circus performers, Hunches, Hunters, Fish, etc.