

NIKKI YARNELL on developing Mrs. Mayor for “Seussical” at The Gallery Players:

"Our version of Seussical is a very artist-friendly show and thus a true joy to bring to life! In fact, the creative process beautifully mirrors the show's greater message that we must always compassionately embrace our differences. As a result, each actor has enjoyed tremendous freedom to develop the myriad of characters they play throughout the show. As Mrs. Mayor, the mayor of Whoville's wife, my only strict guidelines from the script were that I follow conventional protocol and am the slightly more lenient parent when my son starts to exhibit some truly eccentric behavior. The rest of my choices for Mrs. Mayor were inspired largely by current events, personal experiences, Dr. Seuss, the music and collaborative process with the team. Without giving anything away, I used the more developed Mrs. Mayor as a jumping off point during my process for all of my very different secondary characters: a Brooklyn mom, a camel and a blowfish!"