

## **The Cat In The Hat is back on track**

### **Jamie First**

As the sun did not shine and it was too wet to play, *The Cat In The Hat* decided to travel a very long way.

To Melbourne ... where Dr Seuss' world famous feline prankster will appear on stage, reproducing the classic story that was first published in 1957.

Artistic co-director Garry Ginivan said it is as if the book has come to life through music, sound effects and colourful costumes.

"Everything is identical. Everything you read, you see here," Mr Ginivan said.

The tale focuses on Cat, who brings chaos to the lives of two kids and a fish on a rainy afternoon.

It includes acrobatic tricks from Thing One and Thing Two.

The production features a six-member, all-Australian cast and showcases the characteristic rhyming dialogue Dr Seuss is known for.

Alongside the fun, there are lessons in grammar, syntax, morality, ethics and the human spirit.

James Stafford, who plays Cat, said it is great entertainment for littlies and those young at heart.

"You become so absorbed in the show," he said.

"A lot of older people have a connection with it, so it is good to watch how it brings them back to their childhood."

Produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain, it will play at the Whitehorse Centre in Nunawading and Moonee Ponds Clocktower Centre from September 24.

The Arts Centre will host the performance in January 2014.

Tickets start at \$39.