

I. Production Policies

- A. Students must be enrolled in the **SPRING** Session before you can be scheduled for an audition time
- Once you have auditioned, you will not be eligible for a refund or credit for your class tuition.
- B. You must be age 8-18 by April 24th, 2020 to be eligible to audition or crew the show.
- C. You must have an appropriate crew credit.
- After two consecutive shows as a cast member, you must crew a show before you can audition again.
- D. You may not miss any performances or tech week rehearsals.
- Tech Week: April 19th 12-6p, April 20th-22nd 5-10p, April 23rd 6-9p
 - Performances:

<i>Friday April 24 at 7p</i>	<i>Saturday April 25 at 2p</i>	<i>Sunday April 26 at 2p</i>
<i>Friday May 1 at 7p</i>	<i>Saturday May 2 at 2p</i>	<i>Sunday May 3 at 2p</i>
<i>Friday May 8 at 7p</i>	<i>Saturday May 9 at 2p</i>	<i>Sunday May 10 at 2p</i>
 - School Day shows:

<i>Wednesday April 29 at 9:00a & 11:30a</i>	<i>Tuesday May 5 at 9:00a & 11:30a</i>	<i>Wednesday May 6 at 9:00a & 11:30a</i>
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- E. There is a \$95 Production Fee for cast members and a \$50 fee for Crew Members. This goes towards production and lobby photos, memory books, parties and receptions, director's gifts, etc. Fee is due by close of production.
- F. Parent volunteer requirements.
- This will include backstage monitoring, concessions selling, pick-up supervision, as well as opportunities to serve on or chair production committees.

II. Audition Process

- A. Audition workshops are available prior to the week of auditions. Each workshop is a 20 minute, one on one session with a Junior Theatre teaching artist who will listen to your prepared audition piece and offer suggestions for improvement. The cost for this workshop is \$25. Please call the office to schedule a workshop.
- B. Audition Dates
- Auditions are by appointment only, and are held in one-half hour increments. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to check in at Room 208, and finish the necessary paperwork.

<i>Monday February 10th 4-6p</i>	<i>Tuesday February 11th 4-6p</i>
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- C. What to prepare for auditions
- Come to auditions with the audition form filled out completely. Attach a headshot to the rear of the form. Be honest about any conflicts! Conflicts that come up after casting may disqualify students from participation.
 - Students should prepare a 1 minute song cut for their auditions. Please bring sheet music in the correct key, a pianist will be provided. No acapella singing or singing to tracks will be allowed.
- D. Call Backs Date
- Thursday February 13th 4-8p*

III. Rehearsals

- A. First rehearsal will be held Tuesday March 3rd from 4:30-7:30p. Everyone is called to the first rehearsal.
- B. Rehearsals will generally be Monday-Friday from 4:30-7:30p until April 7th when rehearsals move to 5:00-8:00p
- C. All actors will not be called to every rehearsal. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be handed out at first rehearsal.

IV. Questions**V. Director's Notes**



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR: Kevin Hafso-Koppman

Matilda is an incredibly exciting and unique story about children. Their potential and their strength. The play exists in a wacky, twisted world where we are witness to the dangers of power and bullying. The world around Matilda is one where angry, rude adults rule with an iron fist and kind hearted children and adults are pushed to the side, held down and held back. But through Matilda we learn that big change can come from the smallest of places. We see in Miss Honey that kindness and acceptance goes farther than obedience and discipline.

Matilda has quickly become one of my favorite musicals of all time. The music and storytelling is some of the most unique and interesting. It's fun and poignant. It's unexpected and identifiable. I like to think of it as an unbelievably charming riot.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

The story starts with a chorus of children boasting they are miracles. Then we see a pregnant Mrs Wormwood come to the hospital and gives birth to a girl. She calls her Matilda. The baby appears to be very beautiful, and the doctor considers her to be the prettiest one, he's ever seen. However, the mother is not interested in her and only thinks about the dancing competition. Mr Wormwood had hoped for a son, so he is disappointed and thinks the girl is ugly.

Five years pass and Matilda is unhappily living with her abusive family. When she finds out that her father wants to do an unfair deal with some wealthy Russians, she says that it isn't fair and goes to her room to read. In her book, she finds a funny idea and decides to add hydrogen peroxide to the hair tonic which her father uses. As a result, his hair turns green. Matilda goes to the library and starts the story of a couple of acrobats, who want to have baby, but cannot. To distract themselves from their sadness they announce to the world's press that they will perform an exciting and dangerous new act. Matilda promises to continue her story next time and goes to school. On the first day, her teacher, Ms Honey, notices her smartness and abilities & asks the principle to move her to the next class. Nevertheless, the headmistress, Ms Trunchbull, hates children and rejects the suggestion. After coming home, Matilda meets her father, who is very angry that his deal hasn't worked. It makes him destroys one of his daughter's books. In her turn, Matilda puts superglue around the rim of his hat and fixes it to his head.

At school, Matilda is told of Miss Trunchbull's cruel punishments, including Chokey: a tiny cupboard lined with sharp objects in which she locks disobedient children for hours. Ms. Honey comes to talk to Matilda's parents, but finds out that they do not care of their daughter's abilities and talents. She feels powerless. Meanwhile Matilda returns to library and tells another part of her story. The acrobat's sister, a former world champion hammer-thrower who loves to scare small children, has arranged their performance. The escapologist announces that the performance has been cancelled because the acrobat is pregnant. The crowd is thrilled but the acrobat's sister is furious at the prospect of refunding the crowd's money and produces a contract binding them to perform the act or go to jail. Bound by their contract, they perform their feat, which goes well until the last moment when the acrobat is fatally injured, living just long enough to give birth to a girl. The escapologist invites the acrobat's sister to move in with him to help look after his daughter. Unknown to the escapologist, the girl's aunt is secretly cruel to her, forcing her to perform menial tasks and abusing her verbally and physically.

She comes home and sees that her father has successfully deceived his clients. She is angry, and they quarrel. After this, she is sent to her room. There Matilda finishes the story. "After years of cruelty, the aunt's rage has grown; one day she beats the child, locks her in the cellar and goes out. That evening, the escapologist returns home early and discovers the extent of the aunt's cruelty. As he comforts his daughter, he promises her he will always be there for her. Filled with rage, he runs out to find the aunt but is never seen again" Then we see Matilda at school, where Ms Trunchbull is going to punish an innocent boy. This angers Matilda and she discovers her ability to move objects with her mind. Miss Honey invites Matilda to visit her home. There, Ms Honey tells the story of her childhood, and Matilda understands that she is the girl from her story story she has been telling.

At school, Ms Trunchbull tries to punish the kids again. However, Matilda uses her powers to write on the blackboard and convinces Miss Trunchbull that it is the ghost of Miss Honey's father and the superstitious woman runs away. Miss Honey becomes the new headmistress and finds her parents' will. Matilda realizes she cannot use her powers anymore, as there is no reason now. Her family shows up and announces they have to run away from the Russian Mafia the Mr. Wormwood sold the defective cars to, but Matilda wants to stay with Ms Honey. The Russians arrive to punish her father, but she convinces them not to touch her family. Her family then agrees to leave Matilda to live happily with Ms Honey.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

CHILDREN

Matilda Wormwood - Smart, inventive, mature. She is a strong hero in all her own ways. A very special girl.

Micheal Wormwood - The opposite of Matilda. His brain has been fried by TV and he says little more than his own name.

Bruce - Fellow Student. Eats cake.

Lavender - Matilda's best friend. She has a vibrant confidence.

Amanda, Nigel, Eric, Alice, Hortensia, Tommy - Friends and Classmates to Matilda.

ADULTS

Miss Agatha Trunchbull - Headmaster of the school. Tyrannical, bitter. Hates children and finds any excuse to punish them.

Miss Honey - Bright, kind teacher to the younger children. She has a hard time finding her confidence and often feels pathetic.

Mr. Wormwood - Matilda's father. A greedy, selfish used car salesman who cares nothing for Matilda. He's mean to most everyone around him.

Mrs. Wormwood - Matilda's loud mother. She's offended and terrified of Matilda's intellect. Mostly focused on her ballroom dancing.

Mrs. Phelps - The Librarian. She listens to Matilda's stories, everyday.

The Escapologist- Character in Matilda's story. A cross between a ringmaster and Harry Houdini.

The Acrobat - An acrobat in Matilda's story.

Children's Entertainer - A balloon maker, or clown of sorts.

Doctor - Mrs. Wormwoods Doctor. Believes in the hope that children bring to the world.

Rudolpho - Mrs. Wormwoods dance partner.

Cook - Assistant to Trunchbull.

Sergei - Head of the Russian gang that comes to collect from Mr. Wormwood. Intimidating figure.

Adult Ensemble - To play Parents, Older Children, Henchmen and others.