

Press Release: November 5, 2019

Matilda

THE MUSICAL

Matilda the Musical Sparks a Revolt on the NWCT Stage

Based on the Book by Roald Dahl, Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin, Book by Dennis Kelly



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*Our mission—
to educate, entertain
and enrich the lives
of young audiences*

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Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Associate Artistic Director
John Ellingson

**Donor & Patron
Relations Director**
Nick Fenster

Education Director
Leigh Mallonee

Release Date
Nov. 5, 2019

End Date
Jan. 5, 2020

Media Contact
To set up interviews
or discuss other
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Northwest Children's Theater's holiday production is all about kids becoming superheroes. Based on the book by beloved children's author Roald Dahl, the smash hit, Tony Award-winning *Matilda the Musical* is a wildly funny, sometimes heartbreaking, and always inspiring tale about the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination, and a girl who won't let being "little" stop her from putting an unjust world right.

All good superhero stories need a despicable villain—and *Matilda* offers a few. Most of the adult characters in *Matilda* are either terrible, cruel, or paralyzed by low self-esteem. The young students of Crunchem Hall must deal with the child-hating, bully headmistress Miss Trunchbull (played by Portland comedian Kevin-Michael Moore), and in true Roald Dahl fashion the circumstances go from bad to worse.

The situation becomes so dire that *Matilda* Wormwood (Ella Carson), an unassuming and brilliant bookworm, has no choice but to start a revolution. "Matilda is strong without apologies," says Carson. "I admire her ferocity and perseverance. She does everything in her power to improve things for the other kids, no matter the cost." *Matilda* becomes a superhero, and she inspires her classmates to stand up for themselves as they sing "Never again will she take away my freedom, and we won't forget the day we fought for the right to be a little bit naughty."

"*Matilda* sends a timely message to kids that they can advocate for themselves," states Sarah Jane Hardy, NWCT's artistic director. "When children hear that they can write their own story, they are empowered to change the world around them. I hope this show motivates families to talk with their kids about their unique perspectives." Hardy also recommends that parents listen to the *Matilda* cast recording prior to attending. The show is recommended for ages six and up, but it is a departure from the more sentimental holiday shows NWCT has previously presented. A Brit herself, Hardy says, "The music is delightful, and the lyrics are hilarious;

but it is a British style of humor, more satirical and dark than many popular American musical-comedies."

NWCT's *Matilda the Musical* features an award-winning cast and creative team. Hardy, a recipient of Drammy and Portland Area Musical Theater (PAMTA) awards for outstanding direction (most recently for *Mary Poppins*) is back at the director's helm.

NWCT's 2019-20 season offers sensory friendly performances for all productions this season, free of charge. Featuring shorter run times, no intermission, reduced or removed lighting and sound cues, and the constant presence of house lights, these performances are specially designed for children on the autism spectrum or with other sensory sensitivities. Each production also includes audio-described and American Sign Language interpreted performances.


Matilda the Musical is produced in part through the support of the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Kafoury McDougal, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, the Oregon Arts Commission, the Oregonian, and NWCT's donor families. More than 2,000 school children will learn that "just because you find that life's not fair, it doesn't mean that you just have to grin and bear it" during five student matinee performances.

SHOW TIMES Noon & 4:30 pm


DEC. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21-23, 26-30

JAN. 1-5

***Noon Shows Only: Jan. 1, 2 & 5**

 **SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW**
DEC. 15 @ 4:30 pm

 **ASL INTERPRETED SHOW**
DEC. 21 @ Noon

 **AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOW**
DEC. 21 @ 4:30 pm

TICKETS & INFORMATION
503-222-2190 • NWCTS.ORG