

Village Theatre

Production Preview Guide



Roald Dahl's beloved magical misfit comes to Village Theatre's stage in the hit musical that swept up five Tony Awards, eleven Olivier Awards, and was named *Time Magazine's* #1 Show of the Year. *Matilda* is the story of an extraordinary girl genius armed with a sharp mind and a vivid imagination who dares to take a stand and change her destiny. With the help of her kindly teacher (and a little magic), this miraculous girl proves that everyone has the power to change their story – and that sometimes, you have to be a little bit naughty.

THE PURPOSE OF A PRODUCTION PREVIEW GUIDE:

Many people have different ideas about what material is appropriate, both for themselves and their families. This production preview guide is provided to give you the necessary information to determine if the content of our production is suitable for you and your loved ones. Please be aware that this document is provided with the intent of full disclosure, and therefore contains plot spoilers. Also, because all of our productions are locally produced, there may be cases where minor changes occur as the director prepares the show for the stage. In such cases, this guide will be updated accordingly. Once the show is open and on stage, there will be no further changes.

A MESSAGE FROM JERRY DIXON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

A master of words, Dahl's *Matilda*, is the smartest, and most righteous and splendid character ever written for a Broadway musical! Now, if we could just get the grown-ups to clean up their act, Matilda's world could be a better place.

SCRIPT CONTENT DETAILS:

Language

There is limited use of strong language. There are a few instances of "hell," and several instances of adults calling children names such as "brat" and "stink worm." In the opening scene depicting Matilda's birth, Mr. Wormwood wonders where the baby's "thingy" is.

Violence

There are cartoonish depictions of violence throughout, mostly involving the verbal and physical abuse of children by Miss Trunchbull. These moments include: a discussion of Trunchbull throwing a child out a window; Trunchbull hammer-throwing a child across the playground; Trunchbull yelling at Matilda saying "I shall crush you! I shall pound you!"; Trunchbull leading an overly intense gym class; Trunchbull grabbing a child by the ears and stretching them; Trunchbull forcing a child to eat an entire cake; Trunchbull threatening to lock children in the chokey, a cupboard in her office lined with nails, spikes, and broken glass; Trunchbull dragging children offstage to take them to the chokey; and Trunchbull revealing a collection of chokeys intended for Matilda and her classmates.

Throughout the show, Matilda tells the story of a husband-and-wife acrobatic team who perform a dangerous stunt that leads to the wife breaking all her bones and dying after giving birth to a baby girl. After her father disappears, the girl is raised mostly by her aunt, who frequently beats her and locks her in a cellar. It is later revealed that the story reflects the true events of Miss Honey's upbringing, and that Miss Trunchbull murdered Miss Honey's father.

In the opening song, a child sings: "One day when I'm older I can be a soldier and shoot you in the face." In the scene where a boy is forced to eat an entire cake, the children encourage him and say he is figuratively "tightening the noose" on Trunchbull. There is a scene where Mr. Wormwood grabs Matilda's arm and pulls her into her room.

Drugs/Alcohol

Mr. Wormwood is occasionally seen with a cigarette, and pulls a cigar out of his coat pocket in an early scene at the hospital.

PRODUCTION EFFECTS:

- A fog/haze effect is used in this production.
- A strobe-like lighting effect is used in this production.
- This production contains loud sound effects, including a claxon school bell, sirens, and a baby crying.