

# Village Theatre

## KIDSTAGE

### Production Preview Guide for

## *Matilda the Musical, Jr.*

April 15-May 1, 2022 at the Cope Gillette Theatre, 2730 Wetmore Avenue, Everett.

*The show will run approximately 90 minutes.*

### **Parent/Guardian Note**

Only parents/guardians are qualified to determine what is appropriate for their children. This Preview Guide and a copy of the script are available at the Everett Performing Arts Center Box Office to help you make the decision that is right for you and your family. Please call (425) 392-2202 to arrange to read a copy at the theatre.

### **The Program and Process**

The KIDSTAGE Spring Show is a fun and challenging experience designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade students with a range of skill levels. The focus is on building community and friendships while developing performance skills and putting on a show. Directed, designed, and produced by theatre professionals, the rehearsal process includes a strong and safe community where students delve into hands-on learning of rehearsal etiquette and performance technique.

The cast will have fun, make friends and develop skills in script analysis, character development, choreography, staging, and vocal technique. The emphasis is on the student and their process as they experience each phase of theatre making through technical rehearsals and performances. The directors are a diverse team of experienced educators with a passion for working with young people and supporting them in building skills for theatre and skills for life.

### **Why *Matilda the Musical, Jr.*?**

Throughout the show, the titular character endures constant challenges and hardships, whether they appear as unloving parents, cruel mentors, or flat-out injustices and unfairness. However, despite those evils and turmoil, Matilda persists and perseveres, solving and overcoming every challenge that comes her way while always staying true to who she is, never giving up on the people around her by showing kindness, love, and empathy to anyone who needs it. This timeless story teaches all of us that the world has more good things and good people than bad, and that whatever challenges or strife we may face, we have the capability to persevere, grow, and discover our untapped potential so long as we lead with love, light, kindness, and empathy.

*Matilda the Musical Jr.* is a perfect show to showcase the skills and talents of students of so many ages. From numerous larger-than-life principal, supporting, and ensemble characters, a

# Village Theatre

## KIDSTAGE

variety of vocal and dance/movement features, to a dash of some theatrical magic tricks and special effects, *Matilda Jr.* provides many opportunities for students to shine after being away from the stage for so long.

### Synopsis

*“Matilda has astonishing wit, intelligence...and special powers! She’s unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey. Matilda’s school life isn’t completely smooth sailing, however – the school’s mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don’t abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts and could be the school pupils’ saving grace.*

*Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, Matilda Jr. Is a joyous girl power romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.” – MTI*

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### Script Content Details

*Please Note: the following contains plot spoilers.*

**Violence:** There are various instances throughout the show where the main antagonist bullies and abuses children at her school. The antagonist threatens violence on the students numerous times in order to remain powerful and influential, ruling her school with an iron fist. Some instances include locking students up in the “chokey,” a prison-like room at school, throwing a young girl by her pig tails because she hates them, forcing a young boy to eat an entire chocolate cake after eating a small slice of it, grabbing another student by the ears, and having a class of Physical Education students work out too hard.

To combat these events, the main character and her friends are sometimes seen playing tricks and pranks on the antagonist, such as creating the illusion the school is haunted with a self-writing chalkboard. Other pranks include the main character switching out her father’s hair tonic with peroxide and adding superglue to his hat, and another friend dumping a newt into the antagonist’s glass of water.

A subplot involves a prominent supporting character and her backstory, where she describes her father killing himself after the death of her mother, although we discover through the events of the show that her aunt, the show’s main antagonist, killed him instead.

**Language:** Various words like “idiot,” “twit,” “stupid,” “goblin,” “loony,” “brat,” “maggot,” “stink worm,” “creep,” “toad,” and “sinner” are used to describe and insult the titular character as well as other supporting characters. The main character’s parents also insult her by calling her names.

# Village Theatre KIDSTAGE

**Other:** The musical's prominent theme explores bullying in all its forms, verbal, physical, and emotional. Over the course of the show, the main character and her friends and teacher stand up for injustices and unfairness and fight for change, combating bullying and abuses for the benefit of their community. The main character constantly declares "that's not right!" when witnessing an abuse of power or an injustice.