

## **AUDITION INFORMATION Hanover Community Player's MATILDA**

WELCOME TO HANOVER COMMUNITY PLAYERS AUDITIONS.

Auditions make everyone—newcomers and “old pros” alike—nervous. We try to make the process go as smoothly as possible. After reading this sheet, if you have any questions prior to audition dates, please check the Hanover Community Players website to see if the information you need is posted there: [www.hanovercommunityplayers.ca](http://www.hanovercommunityplayers.ca)

If you still have questions about the audition process, contact Tim Eaton, Director, or Jenn Hillier, Producer by emailing [hcpmatilda@gmail.com](mailto:hcpmatilda@gmail.com), or by calling Jenn at 519 901 0544 or Tim at 519 477 5553.

Once at auditions, feel free to ask someone with a staff badge to help you. If they don't know the answer, they will find out for you.

### **MATILDA THE MUSICAL**

Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical is the captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. With book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, Matilda has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages around the world.

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey. Over the course of her first term at school, Matilda and Miss Honey have a profound effect on each other's lives, as Miss Honey begins not only to recognize but also appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. 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, catchy songs and an unforgettable star turn for a young actress, Matilda 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.

### **ADULT, YOUTH AND PARENT MEETING: at 7:00pm March 7**

The information meeting and all auditions will not be at the theatre. They will be held at St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hanover. This church is located at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> St and 11<sup>th</sup> Ave in Hanover. There is plenty of parking in the lot between the church and the Library/Town Hall.

This meeting is for any youth or adult auditioning, as well as the parents of any youth who will be auditioning for the production. It is strongly advised that all parents attend this meeting, including parents of cast members in past productions. We will be discussing the audition requirements, rehearsal expectations, and parent/youth expectations for participation in this production.

### **AUDITION DATES**

**April 11 and 13 (Tuesday and Thursday) 6:00pm-9:00pm** Vocal, Reading, and Dance audition

\*\* please plan to arrive at 6pm, and stay until dismissed

## NOTES ABOUT CASTING:

- 1) NONE of the roles in this production have been pre-cast.
- 2) While there are children in this production, Matilda is NOT a children's show.
- 3) Any child being considered for the role of Matilda, may be asked to participate in the adult auditions.
- 4) Callbacks are TBD You will be notified if required for a callback.

### **CALLBACKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, APRIL 17 AT 6:30 PM**

- 5) **If you are unable to attend** these scheduled auditions, please send an email to: [hcpmatilda@gmail.com](mailto:hcpmatilda@gmail.com) to see if an alternate date/time may be arranged. Please read this entire packet and then, complete the Audition Form and Conflict Sheet which are included at the end of this packet. If you are unable to complete the Audition Form and return it online then bring it with you to auditions. Bring the Conflict Sheet with you to the auditions, as well as the release form if you are under the age of 18.

## PREPARING FOR AUDITIONS AND WHAT TO EXPECT AT AUDITIONS

**Audition Form:** Complete the audition form online or bring a completed copy to the audition. If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign your completed audition form. Make sure you answer all questions.

**Photo:** If you have a recent photo or headshot, please attach it to your audition form. Professional photos are not required. If you do not have a photo, we will take a photo when you check-in for the auditions.

**Conflicts:** Please circle all conflicts on the attached rehearsal schedule. We are able to plan around some conflicts. However, depending on the number of conflicts and when they occur, those conflicts may prevent casting in some roles, and possibly the production. We CANNOT plan around conflicts which are NOT listed at the time of auditions.

**Music:** Prepare the song selection posted for the role (s) that you are interested in.

**Monologue:** Please prepare the suggested monologue for the role(s). Prepare it in a way that demonstrates your acting ability. Don't just read it. You will not be required to memorize the monologue.

**Dance:** If you do not own dance shoes, please wear a pair of athletic shoes. We do NOT allow bare feet, slip-on shoes or sock feet in the dance room at any time.

**Audition Rooms:** the audition rooms are closed to spectators. Only people auditioning for the show will be allowed in the audition rooms.

Vocal and Reading Auditions: will take place in front of a panel who will be seated at a table. The panel will consist of various members of the production team.

Things to Remember While You are Auditioning:

- We want you to succeed, so relax and have fun
- You are "auditioning" from the moment you walk into the building, until the minute you leave
- If you make a mistake, don't worry. Everyone makes mistakes. What's more important, is how you handle the mistake.

**HANOVER COMMUNITY PLAYERS AUDITION FORM**

Audition Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTOR INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Age Range: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocal Range (check one):  Soprano  Mezzo  Alto  Tenor  Baritone  Bass

Can you read music (check one):  Yes  No

Are you willing to cut or colour your hair (check one):  Yes  No

**AUDITION INFORMATION:**

Role(s) Auditioning For: \_\_\_\_\_

Will You Accept A Different Role, including ensemble (circle answer): Y / N

**Date Conflicts: please circle all conflicts on the conflict sheet found in the audition packet.**

PAST PERFORMANCE INFORMATION:(attach resume, if available)

SHOW ROLE LOCATION/GROUP YEAR

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DANCE TRAINING: (please list styles):

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: (if under age 18): \_\_\_\_\_

## **MATILDA - GENERAL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE/CONFLICT SHEET**

A more detailed schedule will be provided in the first weeks of rehearsals. Cast members may not be called for the entire rehearsal time and may not be called at all on certain dates.

Please **CIRCLE** any date you will you **NOT** be available for a rehearsal. Also, if you will be late or leave early on any rehearsal date, please note that information as well. Too many conflicts and conflicts on consecutive weeks may prevent casting in certain roles.

### **SUNDAY REHEARSAL DATES:**

September 10, 17, 24

October 1, 15, 22, 29

November 5. 12. 19. 26

December 3

### **TUESDAY AND THURSDAY REHEARSAL DATES:**

September 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

October 10, 12, 17, 19, 23, 25,

November 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28

**MODAY OCTOBER 9 AT 6:45 PM THANKSGIVING MONDAY REHEARSAL**

### **MANDATORY DATES, no conflicts allowed:**

#### **\*TECH/DRESS REHEARSAL DATES/TIMES:**

\*OCTOBER 1, 10

\*NOVEMBER 2, 5, 9, 16, 19, 23, 26

### **PERFORMANCE DATES:**

\*NOVEMBER 29: 8 AM CALL TWO SCHOOL MATINEES UNTIL 4 PM

\*DECEMBER1 : 5:30 pm call time for cast members, 7:30 pm performance

\*DECEMBER 2: 12:00 pm call time for cast members, 2 pm performance

\* DECEMBER 3: 12:00 pm call time for cast members, 2 pm performance

\* DECEMBER7: 5:30 pm call time for cast members, 7:30 pm performance

\*DECEMBER8: 5:30 pm call time for cast members, 7:30 pm performance

\*DECEMBER 9: 12:00 pm call time for cast members, 2 pm performance

\*DECEMBER 10: 12:00 pm call time for cast members, 2 pm performance

**NOTE FOR PARENTS:** Please understand that rehearsals during Tech/Dress and Performance Weeks will run until a late hour on school nights. We do not run past 10pm. However, child cast members may NOT be excused early from these rehearsals.

## CAST MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

**.If you are not already a paid member of HCP, you will have to take out a membership when you are cast in a role, payable at the first rehearsal.** Membership gives you voting rights and a voice in our organization. It also helps to defray costs as we are a non-profit, charitable group. Membership runs from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. **\$20.00** single; **\$30.00** family.

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

An attendance record is kept at each rehearsal. Everyone must be signed in and **present 15 min. prior to the scheduled rehearsal time.** **\*\*Persistent lateness and/or missing too many rehearsals will mean that the director will have to drop you from the production.** We operate as a team and a team cannot function when some of its members are missing! We do not tend to double-cast roles.

**Dance Shoes:** all cast members will be required to wear dance shoes in the production. The style of shoe will be determined by the role in which you are cast. You will be expected to purchase the required shoes to wear in rehearsals, and during the performance.

**Costuming:** cast members will be expected to provide some minimal costuming pieces which are more personalized in nature, such as: tights, socks, undergarments, etc. However, the majority of the costuming will be provided by the production.

**Rehearsal Attire:** cast members will be expected to wear clothing suitable for dance and movement to all rehearsals. Your show shoes must be worn at all times in rehearsal. Bare feet, sock feet, and slip-on/flip-flop style street shoes are not allowed at any time.

**Script/Score:** cast members will be provided with a copy of both the script and score. Cast members will be expected to bring it to each rehearsal.

**Volunteers:** Cast members, and parents of youth cast members, are welcome to volunteer their time in working on production related tasks, such as: set construction, props, etc. We need everyone's help to make this production a success.

**Parents:** in addition to volunteering for production tasks, we will need a Parent Monitor present at every rehearsal attended by youth cast members. The Parent Monitor's role is to sit in the hallway and be available to any youth cast

member who may need to step out of the rehearsal room. The Parent Monitor will be responsible for any youth who are not in the rehearsal room.

**Background Check: required for adult actors and adults who are involved in supervision. See the information provided.**

**(MORE DETAILED CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS ARE AT THE END PAGES)**

**ADULT ROLES AVAILABLE IN MATILDA:** must be able to look the age indicated  
If NO Audition Song is listed for a role, please prepare: “Miracle”

Miss Agatha Trunchbull: The tyrannical headmistress at Matilda's school who despises children.

Gender: male or female

Age: 40 to 70+

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: A2

Audition song: “The Hammer” Beginning to end of Section D

Miss Honey: Matilda's kindhearted teacher. She is tired of living in fear under Miss Trunchbull.

Gender: female

Age: 25 to 40

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Audition song: “This Little Girl”,or “My House”

Mr. Wormwood: Matilda's uncaring father. A slimy, greedy used-car salesman.

Gender: male

Age: 30 to 45

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: D3

Audition Song: “All I Know” Section A and B

Mrs. Wormwood: Matilda's self-absorbed, negligent mother and an amateur ballroom dancer.

Gender: female

Age: 30 to 45

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Audition Song: "Loud" Beginning to end of Section C

Mrs. Phelps: A nice librarian. This is a non-singing role.

Gender: female

Age: 25 to 55

The Escapologist: A character in a story Matilda tells to Mrs. Phelps who comes to life in their imagination.

Gender: male

Age: any

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: C3

Audition song: "I'm Here"

The Acrobat: A character in a story that Matilda tells to Mrs. Phelps, who comes to life in their imagination.

Gender: female

Age: any

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: D4

Audition song: "Acrobat Story 1"

Rudolpho: Mrs. Wormwood's ballroom dance partner.

Gender: male

Age: any

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: D#3

Audition Song: "Loud" Section B

Doctor: Mrs. Wormwood's Doctor when she goes into labour with Matilda.

Gender: male or female

Age: any

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: C3

Audition song: "Miracle" Sections K and L

Children's Entertainer: A party entertainer at the start of the show.

Gender: male

Age: any  
Vocal range top: Eb4  
Vocal range bottom: F#3  
Audition song: "Miracle" Section C

Michael Wormwood: Matilda's older brother. He is not very bright and favoured by their parents. This is a non-singing role.

Gender: male

Age: 14-18

Ensemble

Cook, Sergei, Henchman 1, Henchman 2, Henchman 3, Doctors, Nurses, Mechanic, Parents, Older Students

**YOUTH ROLES AVAILABLE IN MATILDA:** must be able to look the age indicated.  
**All Youth Roles (except Michael) require strong singing, dancing, and acting capability.**

**Youth Roles (unless noted)** Sing: "When I Grow Up-Bows" To end of Section A

Matilda Wormwood: An imaginative girl who is clever and wise far beyond her years. She has a thirst for learning that cannot be quenched.

Gender: female

Age: 9-11

Audition Song "Quiet" Beginning to end of Section C

Michael Wormwood: Matilda's older brother. He is not bright and favoured by their parents. Non-singing role.

Gender: male

Age: 14-18

Bruce: Matilda's classmate. He is subject to punishment by Miss Trunchbull.

Gender: male

Age: 10-14

Audition Song "Revolting Children" Beginning to measure 28.

Lavender: Matilda's best friend who is loud and kooky. She likes to have fun and has a big personality.

Gender: female

Age: 9-12

Amanda: a student at Crunchem Hall. She is spun around by Trunchbull by her braids.

Gender: female

Age: 9-12

Nigel: Matilda's classmate. He is a bright boy who is confident and full of energy. He may be nerdy.

Gender: male

Age: 9-14

Tommy: Matilda's classmate.

Gender: male

Age: 9-12

Eric: Matilda's classmate. He is tiny, cute, and Trunchbull lifts him up by his ear, and stretches it.

Gender: male

Age: 9-12

Hortensia: a student at Crunchem Hall. She is a feisty, older girl, and a veteran of battles with the Trunchbull.

Gender: female

Age: 10-14

Alice: a student at Crunchem Hall.

Gender: female

Age: 9-12

Student Ensemble: other students at Crunchem Hall.

Gender: male and female

Age: 9-14

For some roles, opposite gender may be entertained if we feel that a convincing portrayal can be achieved.

ACTING the songs is just as important as singing the notes. Understanding and knowing the lyrics will help you make decisions about the character's wants and needs, what obstacles the character faces, and what tactics the character will use to get what he or she wants. **It is also HIGHLY recommended that you familiarize yourself with the**

## **CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS which are posted at the end of this file.**

### **ROLES YOU AUDITION FOR**

On the audition form, there is a section to indicate all roles for which you would like to be considered. If you honestly feel that being cast in any role is desirable, please check the appropriate box on the audition form. If you are only willing to accept certain roles, please list those clearly. The MATILDA team will ONLY consider you for the roles you list. Likewise, if there are any restrictions on your acceptance of a role such as you will only accept a role if your parent or friend is offered a role, list that as well but keep in mind, you will not be offered a part if that other person is not cast.

It is absolutely critical to the audition and casting process that you be honest about what roles you will and will not accept.

If you list that you'll accept any role, we expect you to accept any role, even if it's not the most desirable role to you. It severely compromises our casting process to have someone change his or her mind when we make the casting calls - or worse yet - later on.

### **ALL AUDITIONEES**

**REMINDERS.** You are auditioning every moment of the evening. In addition to discovering whether your talents are a fit for our production, we will watch for positive attitudes, your ability to follow directions, and your willingness to try new things. These are all qualities and traits we desire in the performers chosen for this production. All of these elements will be strongly considered in making our casting decisions.

**COMMITMENT:** If you are cast, your commitment to this production includes all of the following:

**REHEARSALS:** Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:45—9:00pm), and Sunday afternoons (1:00 – 4:30 pm).

Rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 5. You may not have to attend every rehearsal initially, but we ask that you be prepared to make that commitment. Most rehearsals will be at the Hanover Civic Theatre.

**STRESS WEEKS:** All cast members must be available for the orchestra, technical, and dress rehearsals and shows from November 23 until Dec, 11

or 4/25).

**OTHER COMMITMENTS:** We may also ask that you be available for promotional appearances. One is the Hanover Home and Garden Show May 6 and 7. (Other dates to

be determined) and costume fittings.

AGAIN, WELCOME — AND ABOVE ALL, TRY TO RELAX AND HAVE FUN!

BREAK A LEG!

## **Character Breakdown**

### **ROLES FOR KIDS:**

#### **Matilda Wormwood**

The hero of the show. She's brilliant, resilient, creative, and kind, despite growing up in difficult circumstances. Her parents treat her poorly, but Matilda escapes into a world of books, which puts her reading level far above the other children in her class, and she develops a bit of magical power in an effort to defeat Trunchbull. This role needs a strong singer and actress who can embody both Matilda's cleverness and her kindness.

#### **Eric**

A student at school with Matilda. He has the very first solo line of the entire show, so he should be a strong singer. He also has some featured moments as one of Matilda's schoolmates, so it's helpful if Eric is also an expressive actor.

#### **Amanda**

A student at school with Matilda. She has a few solos and lines, but her most featured moments when Trunchbull "throws her through the air" using her pigtails. She should be a strong singer and mover in this role.

#### **Bruce**

One of Matilda's schoolmates. He has the bad luck to get caught after eating Trunchbull's cake.

Bruce goes through quite a transformation throughout the show and has some important solos, so he should be an excellent singer and actor.

#### **Lavender**

One of the kids at school with Matilda. She is kind and bright (though not as brilliant as Matilda) and quickly decides that Matilda is her best friend. Needs an actress in this role who can portray Lavender's likeability and friendliness.

Nigel

One of the kids at school with Matilda. He is enthusiastic, sweet, and always in a bit of a panic. Nigel has a few solos and some great featured moments in the show, so he should be a strong actor and singer in this great supporting role.

Hortensia, Alice, & Tommy

Alice, Hortensia, and Tommy are classmates of Matilda who each sing solos, and Hortensia has a few lines. These roles are great for good singers and movers who may be newer to the stage.

Michael

Matilda's brother. He is not very bright, though he is the apple of his father's eye. This is a hilarious supporting role for a younger actor with comedic timing, as Michael's contributions to the scene usually function as deadpan one-liners.

**Ensemble roles** include: Little Kids, Big Kids

#### **ROLES TO BE PLAYED BY ADULTS:**

**Mums & Dads in the opening scene. Latin Dancers in the LOUD scene. Russians, the Cook, and the Mechanic.**

Miss Honey

A teacher at Matilda's school. She is kind, is generous, and really cares about the children despite her own desperate circumstances. Should be an excellent actress and singer who can portray Miss Honey's sweetness and her strength.

Agatha Trunchbull

The quintessential terrifying tyrant. As headmistress, she runs her school like a dictator, making up arbitrary rules to suit her every whim and dreaming up creative punishments. The Trunchbull can be played by a male or female (though the character is female). It's helpful if Trunchbull is physically larger than the actors playing children. Cast a fantastic character actor and singer who can command the stage and embody Trunchbull's larger-than-life villainy.

Mr. Wormwood

Matilda's father. He is egotistical, rude, and not very bright, not to mention a liar. Though Mr. Wormwood is not a good person and he is mean to Matilda, his harebrained schemes can be hilariously funny, so cast a fantastic character actor in this role who can really land the comedy and isn't afraid to play an unlikable character. It's helpful if Mr.

Wormwood makes a dynamic pair with Mrs. Wormwood.

#### Mrs. Wormwood

Matilda's mother. Like her husband, she dislikes Matilda and does not understand why her daughter loves to read. Mrs. Wormwood is selfish, obsessed with her own appearance, and believes everything she sees on TV. Her dancing lessons with Rudolpho are the most important part of her day. Cast a great actress who can portray Mrs. Wormwood's nastiness but also play up her ridiculousness and lean into the comedy.

#### Mrs. Phelps

The kindly librarian who loves hearing Matilda's stories. This is a great featured role for a stronger actress.

#### Escapologist

A character of Matilda's creation. Everything this character does is grand and exaggerated – he's performing for the cheap seats! Cast a solid actor and mover in this fun featured role.

#### Acrobat

A product of Matilda's imagination. Cast an actor in this featured role that can give their all!

#### Rudolpho

Mrs. Wormwood's self-obsessed dance teacher. This is a hilarious featured role for a comedic performer who moves well.

#### Sergei

A customer swindled by Mr. Wormwood. Though he shows up looking for payback, Matilda has had quite enough of revenge, and Sergei lets the Wormwoods escape. This is a great featured role for an actor who can embody Sergei's intimidating presence.