



**Visual Story for the  
Relaxed Performance of**

**ROALD DAHL'S**  
**Matilda**  
**THE MUSICAL**

**EASY READ VERSION**

**Sunday 18 June 2023, 3pm**

**CAMBRIDGE THEATRE**

**Seven Dials, Earlham Street, London WC2H 9HU**

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**This visual story is designed for visitors to the relaxed performance of Matilda The Musical. It will help prepare you if you are feeling curious or anxious about your visit.**

**We hope that you enjoy this relaxed performance of Matilda The Musical**

# Information about the Cambridge Theatre

- The Cambridge Theatre will open at 2pm.
- You'll be asked by a member of the security team if they can look inside your bag. This should only take a few minutes.
- You will then go into the foyer, which can be quite loud and busy.
- If you purchased a wheelchair seat, you will need to enter the theatre by the wheelchair entrance on Earlham Street. 
- In the foyer, you can pick your ticket up from the Box Office.
- You will also see areas where you can buy souvenirs and refreshments. 
- The auditorium (where the musical is being shown) will open at 2.15pm. There will be a pre-show touch tour from 1 - 1.25pm on the 18th.



# Inside the auditorium

- The auditorium is where the audience sit to watch the performance.
- The auditorium has three levels. If you are sitting on the ground floor **please be aware that the actors move up and down the aisles throughout the performance.**
- The stage is where the actors perform.
- There are two balconies at the sides of the auditorium and there is writing on the walls, which is just part of the set design.
- There will be caption screens at the side of the stage which will feature captions for the performance.
- Don't be alarmed if you see a safety curtain. This means that there are still last minute preparations taking place.
- Mobile phones and tablet devices are permitted inside the auditorium. However, no photography is allowed during the performance.
- It is fine to talk during the production and if you need a break, just ask a member of staff to show you where the chill-out areas are.
- See here for our latest Covid protocols [LW Theatres Visitors Guide](#)



## Would you like a familiarisation visit?

If you want to visit the theatre and see your seat before the performance, you can arrange a visit on Tuesday-Friday between 10am-2pm. To organise this please email [Tanya.Dickinson@rsc.org.uk](mailto:Tanya.Dickinson@rsc.org.uk)

## What to say in your email...

Subject line: Relaxed performance familiarisation visit

Message: I'd like to visit the theatre at (pick a time) on (pick a date) to familiarise myself before the relaxed performance. Please could you confirm whether this date is available.



# Characters in the show

The actors in these pictures might be different from the actors playing the characters because there are different 'teams' of actors. There will also be other actors on stage for some scenes.

Some actors change character by wearing different clothes, changing their name and the way they move and talk.



**Matilda**  
Main character



**Mrs Wormwood**  
Mum



**Mr Wormwood**  
Dad



**Michael Wormwood**  
Brother



**Miss Honey**  
Teacher



**Miss Trunchbull**  
Headmistress



**Mrs Phelps**  
Librarian



**Rudolph**  
Dance Teacher



**Doctor**



**Lavender**  
Best friend



**Bruce**  
Classmate



**The Escapologist  
and the Acrobat**

# Information about the production

## About the show

Matilda is a musical based on a book called Matilda by Roald Dahl.

The musical tells the story of Matilda, an extraordinary girl whose family doesn't understand her, and her fight to ensure good triumphs over bad, even if it means being a little bit naughty...

## Chill-out areas

You can visit these at anytime for a break, including during the performance.

## Performance times

Two hours and forty minutes with a twenty minute break in the middle.

## Changes to the show

For this performance the sound and light are changed to reduce anxiety and stress.

## Sound effects

This will be reduced for this show but you are very welcome to wear ear defenders.





## Scary bits

- Matilda tells a story about an escapologist and an acrobat that can be upsetting. Sometimes Matilda talks about them, sometimes you see them played by actors, sometimes they're projected onto a cloth. Matilda also plays a part in one scene.
- Miss Trunchbull punishes children in a room called the 'chokey.' This can be scary but we never see the 'chokey' on stage.
- There are balloons on stage but they're never deliberately popped.
- In one scene a child appears to drop from the ceiling. Don't worry, this is a puppet and not a real child.
- Actors move around the aisles in the performance so you need to be careful when leaving the auditorium.
- After the interval, the actors will come on stage for interval entertainment, so if you arrive and they are there, don't worry, you're not late.
- In the second act, children swing on swings high into the air. Please don't worry, they are safe and have rehearsed many times.
- Towards the end, actors dressed as Bulgarian gangsters come onto the stage with Bulgarian accents and appear quite violent.



# What happens in the story?

## **SPOILER ALERT!**

These pages provide a longer explanation of the musical and plot so please don't read or share these pages if you don't want to know more

Matilda The Musical is a story about a clever girl named Matilda. When she is born her parents don't seem to care about her, and are more interested in watching television.

When she's older, Matilda spends lots of time at the library. She loves to read books and tell stories. She tells the Librarian, Mrs Phelps, a story about an escapologist and an acrobat.

When Matilda goes to school she has a very kind and caring teacher called Miss Honey who realises how clever she is.

The headmistress of the school is Miss Trunchbull who is quite frightening and doesn't like children. She uses a cupboard in her office called 'chokey' to punish children.

One day, while Miss Trunchbull is shouting at Matilda's classmates, Matilda gets very angry and discovers she has a





magic power – she can move things with her eyes!

Miss Honey invites Matilda to tea and we learn that Matilda's story about the escapologist and the acrobat is actually the story of Miss Honey's parents.

Miss Honey tells Matilda that after her father died, she lived with her aunt, who was very mean and now takes all of Miss Honey's salary.

Matilda realises that Miss Honey's aunt is actually Miss Trunchbull.

In class, Matilda plays a trick on Miss Trunchbull. She uses her magic powers to write messages on the blackboard from Miss Honey's father, telling Miss Trunchbull to give back the house.

This scares Miss Trunchbull so much that she runs away and gives Miss Honey back her house. Miss Honey becomes headmistress of the school.

Meanwhile, Matilda's parents get into trouble with Bulgarian gangsters and decide to run away to Spain, leaving Matilda to live with Miss Honey.

