

**MERELY PLAYERS
ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR**

**Roald Dahl's
*MATILDA THE MUSICAL***

Our Annual Spring Musical

Merely Players is excited to offer the opportunity for community members aged fifth grade and older to work together once again to produce this delightful show. Our cast approximation is 25 -30, and there are many great roles for both adults and youth.

Rehearsals begin in March 2022, and performances are in May 2022.

Adult Roles Open:

Miss Honey (must sing and act well) – female role

The big kids ensemble (must dance, sing, and act well) – these roles will be cast, as is typical with young adults and older teens)

The teachers and parents ensemble (must sing and act well); including the Escapologist, the cook, Sergei, the 3 Henchmen, the Acrobat, the Doctor, the Entertainer, and Rudolpho (must also dance well)

Youth Roles:

Matilda Wormwood – must dance, sing, and act well

Lavender – must dance, sing, and act well

Bruce – must dance, sing, and act well

The Young Kids ensemble (must dance, sing, and act well); including Amanda, Nigel, Eric, Alice, Hortensia, and Tommy

The Big Kids ensemble (must dance, sing, and act well)

Michael Wormwood (must act well)

AUDITION DATES:

For Adults: November 2 from 6:00 – 9:00

For Youth (ages 5th grade through high school): November 3 from 5:00 – 8:00

Callbacks by invitation only at a later date as necessary

We are also looking for fun and capable backstage technicians. No experience is necessary – we train. Those interested in tech are welcome to come on either November 2 or 3 for a tech interview.

Everyone must wear a mask to auditions as they await their turn to audition. Singing and acting auditions will be unmasked. IN ORDER TO AUDITION, each person must show a proof of Covid-19 vaccination card OR a copy of a negative Covid test within 72 hours prior to the audition.

AUDITION LOCATION:**MERELY UNDERGROUND – 789 Tech Center Drive**

We have designed our new space with a state-of-the-art ventilation system, so that you can breathe easy. We have a main ventilation system that is rated at 4 tons and have added an Energy Recovery Ventilator system, which is Energy Star rated and conditions 120 cubic feet of air per minute, expelling some of the air and intaking fresh air. Both air streams run through the HEPA filter system, which removes 99% of particles as small as 0.1 microns from the air it filters. We also installed a UV anti-bacteria/virus unit rated to match our space. The UV light can help eliminate many types of fungi, bacteria, mold, germs, viruses, and pathogens. Additionally, we have installed an ionization unit, making it easier for dust, dander, pollen, bacteria and viruses to be filtered out of the air.

SHOW AND AUDITION INFORMATION:**REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE:**

This musical will have a fun and lively 9 week rehearsal period, beginning on February 28, 2022.

Show dates are

MAY 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 2022 at 7:00 pm.

MAY 8, 15, 21, 22 at 1:00 pm.

Before rehearsals begin, all cast and crew members must self-certify that:

1. They are fully vaccinated if they are of an age where vaccines are possible or
2. They had a case of Covid-19 with a positive test result in the past and will take a Covid test each week during the rehearsal period.

Naturally, this protocol could be modified depending upon the pandemic circumstances in March. This is our policy at this point, and everyone auditioning should be aware of this requirement before auditioning.

You must be able to attend all performances.

Rehearsals will typically be Mondays – Thursdays from 6:00-9:30. Rehearsals will last until 10:00 during the last week.

There are no rehearsals from March 21-25 (that's 9R spring break)

There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, April 9, from 10:00- 7:00. The entire cast and crew must be present at this rehearsal.

A rehearsal schedule will be provided to let everyone know specific times once the show has been cast.

Please be sure to write down or discuss any known conflicts with the director – sometimes, it's possible we can work around a conflict or 2 if we know in advance. You will not be considered if you cannot make it to ALL rehearsals in the last two weeks and all performances.

For youth, this show is a production class. The tuition fee is \$300 and includes all rehearsals and shows. For adults, this is a volunteer experience.

The show will be directed by Mona Wood-Patterson, choreographed by Dallas Padoven, musically directed by Tom Kyser, designed and tech directed by Charles Ford, and stage managed by Selena Trujillo.

THE ROLES:

Some of the roles were cast two years ago when we were going to do this show, so they are not available. See our list of available roles above.

See role descriptions here: <https://www.mtishows.com/roald-dahls-matilda-the-musical> Click on Full Cast Info link.

There will be a separate adult ensemble to play older kids, parents, and teachers.

Anyone interested in tech, should show up and fill out a form and interview with our tech director on either day.

THE AUDITION:

Singing

At your audition, you should come prepared with 24- 32 bars of any song from the show. We are reaching for a high level of acting and singing. Choose a selection that shows us what you can do! We will have a live accompanist. You can bring your own sheet music or tell our accompanist what song and section you will be singing.

Acting

Additionally, you will have an acting audition:

Choose 2 of the following monologue sides for your audition. Memorization is required.

EVERYONE, even those who want to be in the singing or dancing ensemble, must complete an acting audition.

Dance

There will also be a movement/dance audition, but you do not need to prepare specifically for that. Just brush up on your dance skills between now and then.

AUDITION SIDES:

Choose up to two sides. Memorization is required. We will be using American, not British, accents.

For adult women:

Doctor: You're going to have a baby, Mrs. Wormwood! A child, the most precious gift that the natural world can bestow upon us, has been handed to you! A brand new human being, a life, a person, a wonderful new person is about to come into your life to bring love and magic and happiness and wonder!

Miss Honey: Matilda, I'm afraid I have not been too successful in getting others to recognize your ... abilities. So, starting tomorrow, I shall bring in a selection of very clever books that will challenge your mind. You may sit and read them while I teach the others and if you have any questions, well, I shall do my best to answer them. How does that sound?

Miss Honey: I'm not strong like you, Matilda. You see, my father died when I was young. He was very kind. But when he was gone, my aunt became my legal guardian. She was mean and cruel like you can hardly imagine. And then, when I got my job as a teacher, she presented me with a bill for looking after me all those years. She'd written everything down; every tea bag, every electricity bill, every tin of beans. And she made me sign a contract to pay her back every penny.

For adult men:

Rudolpho: Who is this, babe? You know what interruptions so to my energy flow. I'm in the zone, doll. I can feel it in my hips. Don't waste this.

Doctor: You're going to have a baby, Mrs. Wormwood! A child, the most precious gift that the natural world can bestow upon us, has been handed to you! A brand new human being, a life, a person, a wonderful new person is about to come into your life to bring love and magic and happiness and wonder!

For male youth:

Nigel: Hide me! Someone poured a whole can of treacle onto Trunchbull's chair! She sat down and when she got up her knickers stayed stuck to the seat! Someone told her I did it but I never and now she's after me!

Bruce: It was the biggest burp I had ever done. It was the biggest burp I had ever heard, the biggest burp I had ever heard about. It was like the entire world went silent for that burp to exist, as a huge cloud of chocolaty gas wafted from my mouth and drifted – across the class—past Lavender – past Alice—past Matilda – and then, my great big beautiful chocolaty burp, which now seemed to have a mind of its own, wafted full into the face of the Trunchbull.

For female youth:

Matilda: You see, unfortunately, Nigel suffers from the rare but chronic sleep disorder, narcolepsy. The condition is characterized by the sufferer experiencing bouts of chronic fatigue and falling suddenly asleep, often without knowing or any warning at all.

Matilda: Suddenly, out came the escapologist, dressed as usual in his tights and spangly costume, but there was no sign of the acrobat and glimpse at all of her shiny white scarf. And instead of the musical fanfare, there was silence as he strode into the ring.

Lavender: *to audience* Hello, I'm Lavender by the way. Matilda's best friend. There's a bit coming up that's all about me. Well, not exactly about me, but I play a big part in it. But I'm not gonna say what happens because I don't want to spoil it for you. *Pause.* Alright, look, what I do is I volunteer to get the Trunchbull a jug of water. And then ---- NO! I don't want to tell you anymore because I don't want to ruin it! *Pause.* Well, on the way back I find a newt. A newt is like a really ugly lizard that lives in the water, so I pick it up and – No! I will not say any more! *Pause.* I'm going to put in the newt in the Trunchbull's jug! It's going to be brilliant!