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COMMUNITY THEATER
presents



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

December 2, 3, 4, 2021 - 7:30 pm
December 4, 5, 2021 - 2:30 pm

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31st Season, 158th Show



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The Verona Area Community Theater
Production of

ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

Book by **DENNIS KELLY** Music & Lyrics by **TIM MINCHIN**

MATILDA was first commissioned and produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company and premiered at The Courtyard Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, England on 9 November 2010. It transferred to the Cambridge Theatre in the West End of London on 25 October 2011 and received its US premiere at the Shubert Theatre, Broadway, USA on 4 March 2013.

Orchestrations and Additional Music by
CHRIS NIGHTINGALE

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019
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Per agreement with the Verona Area School District, and for the health and safety of everyone, all attendees are required to wear face masks at all times inside the Performing Arts Center, both in the lobby and in the theater.

# Acknowledgements

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Karen Smith

Yuliya Henes

Phil Ward

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# the production staff

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|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Directors . . . . .           | Kenzie Merucci, Sara Ward-Cassady                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Producer . . . . .            | Sara Ward-Cassady                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Assistant Producer . . . . .  | Chris Kiefert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Music Director . . . . .      | Brett Wagner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Choreographers . . . . .      | Cassie Derfus, Kenzie Merucci                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Costume Design . . . . .      | Gail Gomach                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Stage Manager . . . . .       | Tom Arnol                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Asst. Stage Manager . . . . . | Dusty Smith                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Lighting Design . . . . .     | Steve Nickels                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Sound Design. . . . .         | Dale Nickels                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Set Design. . . . .           | Matthew Grzybowski                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Scenic Painter. . . . .       | Gina Hamon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Prop Master. . . . .          | Marie Kyle                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Dance Captain . . . . .       | Alexa Schaefer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Ropes . . . . .               | Alex Kiefert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Orchestra Manager. . . . .    | Tom Blankenheim                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Marketing. . . . .            | Shannon Seip                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Wig Designer. . . . .         | Stefanie Merucci                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Program. . . . .              | Sara Pfantz                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| Tickets. . . . .              | Lynn Vilker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Website . . . . .             | Sara Ward-Cassady                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Costume Assistants . . . . .  | Amy Broadbridge, Paula Blankenheim, Kari Faber,<br>Missy Holcomb, Claire Johnson, Chris Kiefert,<br>Jennifer Lawrence, Pam Ziemlewicz                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Set Building. . . . .         | Nicole Anderson-Weiss, Morty Arnol, Tom Arnol,<br>Alyssa Ayen, Tonya Benz, Logan Borgmeyer, Kari Borgmeyer,<br>Austin Brummett, Paul Carlson, Riley Custer, Cassie Derfus,<br>Maddie Dooher, Lauren Dunn, Julia Fure, Erin Hammes,<br>Kiera Hammes, Matt Hammes, Jillian Heppinstall, Brie Kiefert,<br>Chris Kiefert, Kevin Kiefert, Dan La Croix, Deanna McKillips,<br>Ellie McKillips, Jodi Moll, Maddi Moll, Bill Owens, Danielle Slusser,<br>Dusty Smith, Willa Treichel, Gary True, Hannah True, Anne Veit,<br>Brian Veit, Nadia Veit, Emma Vogel, Sydney Weiss, Victor Weiss,<br>Lauren Welch, Brian Wochenske, Jolene Wochenske, Lia Wochenske, Sage Yort, |
| Special Effects . . . . .     | Colin Cassidy, Maddie Dooher, Gina Hamon,<br>Steve Nickels, Dusty Smith                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

Thank you to everyone that helped with costumes, props, sets,  
backstage, ushering and everything else that makes this production possible!

# the orchestra

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Conductor: PATTY SCHLAFER  
Bass: JOHN DOWLING  
Cello: JAMES WESSON  
Guitar: JOE HARRIS  
Keyboard 1: NICK NYDEREK  
Keyboard 2: SUSIE KITTEL MOORE  
Percussion: GAIL SMITH  
Percussion: DAVE WHITFORD  
Reeds 1: JERRY HROVAT  
Reeds 2: SHERRI SWARTZ  
Reeds 3: TOM BLANKENHEIM  
Trombone: KATIE KRETSCHMAN  
Trumpet 1: ANDY SGRIGNOLI  
Trumpet 2: GREG GILLESPIE

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# the cast

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|                                                       |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Matilda Wormwood . . . . .                            | Sydney Weiss      |
| Miss Agatha Trunchbull . . . . .                      | Lauren Welch      |
| Miss Honey . . . . .                                  | Emma Vogel        |
| Mr. Wormwood . . . . .                                | Riley Custer      |
| Mrs. Wormwood . . . . .                               | Shannon Seip      |
| Michael Wormwood/Big Kid . . . . .                    | Morty Arnol       |
| Mrs. Phelps . . . . .                                 | Sara Ward-Cassady |
| Rudolpho/Parent . . . . .                             | Marcus Wisniewski |
| The Escapologist/Parent/Dad 3/Loud Dancer . . . . .   | Mike Brady        |
| Acrobat/Big Kid . . . . .                             | Alexa Schaefer    |
| Doctor/Parent/Henchman 2 . . . . .                    | Bill Owens        |
| Sergei/Party Entertainer/Parent/Loud Dancer . . . . . | Austin Brummett   |
| Henchman 1/Parent/Loud Dancer/Dad 1 . . . . .         | Travis Volmer     |
| Henchman 3/Dad 2/Parent . . . . .                     | Paul Carlson      |
|                                                       |                   |
| Bruce (Kid) . . . . .                                 | Logan Borgmeyer   |
| Lavender (Kid) . . . . .                              | Lia Wochenske     |
| Nigel (Kid) . . . . .                                 | Maddie Dahlen     |
| Eric (Kid) . . . . .                                  | Erin Cassady      |
| Tommy (Kid) . . . . .                                 | Ellie McKillips   |
| Amanda (Kid) . . . . .                                | Keira Hammes      |
| Big Kid Tamika . . . . .                              | Kayla Wagner      |
| Alice (Kid) . . . . .                                 | Brie Kiefert      |
| Hortensia (Kid) . . . . .                             | Maddy Romanowich  |
| Big Kid Ben . . . . .                                 | Matthew Powell    |
| Big Kid . . . . .                                     | Emma Collins      |
| Big Kid Taylor . . . . .                              | Aria Johnson      |





# the cast

|                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Big Kid . . . . .                   | Maizy Auger        |
| Big Kid . . . . .                   | Dominic Jacobson   |
| Kid . . . . .                       | Maddi Moll         |
| Kid . . . . .                       | Eleanor Steger     |
| Kid . . . . .                       | Willa Treichel     |
| Big Kid . . . . .                   | Hannah True        |
| Kid/School Hall Monitor . . . . .   | Lizzie Owens       |
| Kid/School Hall Monitor . . . . .   | Nadia Veit         |
| Parent /Mum 1/Loud Dancer . . . . . | Alyssa Ayen        |
| Parent /Loud Dancer/Nurse . . . . . | Tonya Benz         |
| Parent/Loud Dancer . . . . .        | Cassie Derfus      |
| Parent /Loud Dancer/Nurse . . . . . | Madeline Dooher    |
| Parent/Loud Dancer/Nurse . . . . .  | Lauren Dunn        |
| Parent /Mum 4/Loud Dancer . . . . . | Julia Fure         |
| Parent/Mum 2/Loud Dancer . . . . .  | Jillian Hepinstall |
| Parent/Loud Dancer . . . . .        | Kenzie Merucci     |
| Parent/Loud Dancer . . . . .        | Stefanie Merucci   |
| Parent/Nurse . . . . .              | Hannah Ray         |
| Parent /Dad 4/Loud Dancer . . . . . | Danielle Slusser   |

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# notes from the director

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Matilda the Musical is based on the 1988 children's novel of the same name by Roald Dahl. It debuted in London in 2011, winning many awards, and duplicated that success when it moved to Broadway in 2013. It has since toured the world multiple times and has become a beloved musical to many. The musical explores many themes, but one of the themes that we thought was particularly relevant for this production was the idea of a group of people banding together to overcome adversity. In Matilda, that teamwork is shown through the children working together to defeat the Trunchbull. For VACT, that teamwork was shown by our cast and staff, as we created VACT's first full length production since the pandemic began, and overcame the unforeseen bumps of returning to "normal." It is difficult to put into words the emotions that we feel in returning to live theater, but we simply could not have done it without the dedication of this cast and staff.

Special thanks to Co-choreographer Cassie Derfus, whose creativity really brought this show to life, and to Music Director Brett Wagner, who brought his usual passion, talent, and professionalism to teaching this difficult music. Thank you also to Set Designer Matt Gryzbowski, whose set perfectly balanced the whimsy and intensity of this show, to Gina Hamon, whose incredible painting skills further amplified that design, and to Costume Designer Gail Gomach's artistry and careful attention to detail, which completed that picture. Steve Nickels' light design was beautiful and creative, as usual, in addition to his extra talent in creating some of our special effects. Thank you to Marie Kyle on props, and to Dale Nickels on sound, whose amazing skills are always integral to our productions, and also to Tom Blankenheim for recruiting, and to Patty Schlafer for conducting, our talented orchestra. Further thanks to Dusty Smith as our Assistant Stage Manager, who also doubled as special effects creator, and to Tom Arnol as Stage Manager, whose even keeled demeanor and thoughtfulness was a needed stabilizer in what was sometimes a tumultuous production! Thank you also to Alexa Schaefer who served as our dance captain, to Shannon Seip who took on marketing, and to Chris Kiefert who jumped in as Assistant Producer.

In what may seem a little odd, we'd also like to thank each other! While the cast and staff exemplified the theme of working together to overcome obstacles, so too did we, as we took on the role of co-directors, having never worked together as staff before. Our collaboration was unexpected, but turned out to be stupendous and we are so glad to have been able to work together to bring this production to life.

Additionally, our deepest thanks to this cast, who came out for this production when things in the world were still a little wonky and were asked to incorporate lots of changes throughout the production. They (and their families) handled every change with kindness, creativity, and passion. Finally, thank you to our audiences who returned to support live theater. We missed you.

Enjoy the show!

Kenzie Merucci & Sara Ward-Cassady

# the musical numbers

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## ACT ONE

|                            |                                                                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Miracle . . . . .          | Kids, Big Kids, Parents, Matilda                                   |
| Naughty . . . . .          | Matilda                                                            |
| Acrobat Story I . . . . .  | Matilda, Mrs. Phelps,<br>Acrobat, Escapologist                     |
| School Song . . . . .      | Kids, Big Kids, Adult Ensemble                                     |
| Pathetic . . . . .         | Miss Honey                                                         |
| The Hammer . . . . .       | Trunchbull, Kids, Big Kids,<br>Adult Ensemble (Teachers)           |
| Naughty Reprise . . . . .  | Matilda                                                            |
| Chokey Chant . . . . .     | Big Kids                                                           |
| Loud . . . . .             | Mrs. Wormwood, Rudolpho,<br>Adult Ensemble                         |
| This Little Girl . . . . . | Miss Honey                                                         |
| Acrobat Story II . . . . . | Matilda, Mrs. Phelps,<br>Acrobat, Escapologist                     |
| Bruce . . . . .            | Trunchbull, Kids, Big Kids, Matilda,<br>Miss Honey, Adult Ensemble |

*There will be one 15 minute intermission*

## ACT TWO

|                                       |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| All I Know . . . . .                  | Mr. Wormwood, Michael Wormwood                         |
| When I Grow Up . . . . .              | Kids, Big Kids, Miss Honey, Matilda,<br>Adult Ensemble |
| Acrobat Story III . . . . .           | Matilda, Mrs. Phelps,<br>Acrobat, Escapologist         |
| I'm So Clever . . . . .               | Mr. Wormwood                                           |
| Acrobat Story IV (I'm Here) . . . . . | Matilda, Escapologist, Adult Ensemble                  |
| The Smell of Rebellion . . . . .      | Trunchbull, Kids, Big Kids,<br>Matilda, Miss Honey     |
| Quiet . . . . .                       | Matilda                                                |
| My House . . . . .                    | Miss Honey, Escapologist                               |
| Revoltng Children . . . . .           | Bruce, Kids, Big Kids, Adult Ensemble                  |
| Priyatna Paznakomitsa . . . . .       | Sergei                                                 |
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# the cast

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**MORTY  
ARNOL**



**LOGAN  
BORGMEYER**



**MIKE  
BRADY**



**RILEY  
CUSTER**



**SHANNON  
SEIP**



**EMMA  
VOGEL**



**SYDNEY  
WEISS**



**LAUREN  
WELCH**



**MARCUS  
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## who's who in the cast

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**MORTY ARNOL** (Micheal/Big Kid) is delighted to have the opportunity to work with VACT once again in *Matilda the Musical*. Morty made his theatre debut nine years ago, at just five years old in VACT's *Winnie the Pooh KIDS* as Tigger. In his over thirty plays and musicals, some of his favorite roles include Linus van Pelt in *You're a Good Charlie Brown* (Verona Area Middle Schools) and Cosmo Brown in *Singin' in the Rain Jr.* (VACT) Morty is so thankful to his friends and his family for their love and support as well as everyone involved in VACT's production of *Matilda the Musical*. He would also like to thank everybody in the audience for supporting him, the cast, and VACT, in this performance of *Matilda the Musical*.

**LOGAN BORGMAYER** (Bruce) is excited to be performing in this year's production of *Matilda*! Logan (14) became involved in the performing arts ten years ago in dance, and by age 8, was dancing competitively across disciplines, including hip hop and musical theater. He has also performed in the Verona Area Community Theater's 2019 production of *Frozen Junior*. He continues to elevate his craft and has received vocal training for the past two years. Logan would like to thank his parents for always supporting his endeavors and his mentors for continually helping him reach new heights.

**MIKE BRADY** (Escapologist) is excited to be back for his sixth production with VACT! Favorite prior roles include The Monster (*Young Frankenstein*), Mushnik (*Little Shop of Horrors*), and Bill Austin (*Mamma Mia*). When not performing death-defying stunts on stage, Mike's bag of tricks includes teaching software development classes at Epic. He is also an eight-time state champion in taekwondo, and a martial arts instructor at ATA Madison West. He thanks all of these people (and especially his family) for their patience when he randomly breaks out into song.

**RILEY CUSTER** (Mr. Wormwood) is excited to begin his 7th year with VACT as Mr. Wormwood in *Matilda the Musical*. Some of his favorite roles include Igor in *Young Frankenstein*, Sir Brinsley Catamount in *The Radio Play Disaster*, and the Baron in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. He would like to thank his friends and family for their eternal support

**EMMA VOGEL** (Ms. Honey) is so excited to be singing on stage again in another VACT musical! She's been on the VACT stage before as Truly Scrumptious in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, the ensemble of *Mamma Mia* and Tonya in *The Radio Play Disaster*. As a teacher herself, playing Miss Honey - a teacher who deeply cares about her students and who also gets to sing on stage - is definitely a dream come true. A huge thank you to the production team and incredible cast who have all worked so hard to make this show possible. To Michael: Thank you for always cheering me on - I love you.



## who's who in the cast

**SHANNON SEIP** (Mrs. Wormwood) has been performing in musical theater around the country since she was 9 years old. Instead of listing her credits, she'd like to take this space to appreciate her mom and dad, who were her biggest supporters, came to nearly every production, and drove her to countless rehearsals. Shannon lost both of them in 2020, and is bringing extra spark to the stage tonight in their honor. This night is also for the Seip boys, who have done hard work and stayed strong. I promise to never get all Mrs. Wormwood on you.

**SYDNEY WEISS** (Matilda), an 8th grader at Kromrey Middle School, is thrilled to play her dream role of Matilda after seeing it on Broadway 5 years ago. She started her theater career at VACT in 2016 when she played Natty in *Dinosaurs Before Dark*. Her favorite role prior to Matilda was Bagherra in *Jungle Book*. When Sydney is not acting, she is on the ski slopes doing her favorite sport of Alpine Ski Racing. She is thankful for her siblings, parents, and grandparents for their love and support. She is beyond grateful to be a part of the VACT community and to everyone involved in this production for this fun and exciting opportunity.

**LAUREN WELCH** (Trunchbull) is very excited to once again perform with VACT! Some of her favorite roles include Baroness Bomburst in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Gianetta in *The Gondoliers*, and Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act*. When she is not on stage, Lauren enjoys horseback riding and making up songs about her pets. Lauren would like to thank her parents and Jon for all of their support throughout this process. Enjoy the show!

**MARCUS WISNIEWSKI** (Rudolpho) can feel the excitement at being a part of this production all the way to his hips! Recent shows of note with VACT include *The Radio Play Disaster* (Harlan Bean), *Mamma Mia!* (Pepper), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin Scrivello D.D.S.), and *Willy Wonka* (Willy Wonka). A veterinarian, Marcus enjoys spending time with his dogs, going to the gym, badger/snake shenanigans, and having random dance parties. He would like to thank his best friend Macarey, Jeff, and his parents for their never-ending love and support. To JMC, this one (and every one), is for you.

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# who's who in the crew

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**KENZIE MERUCCI** (Co-Director/Co-Choreographer) is excited to be staging her first show with VACT! You may have seen her on stage in previous VACT shows such as; *Mamma Mia*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Willy Wonka* and *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), as well as various productions with Edgewood College and Middleton Players Theater. She would like to thank her co-director, Sara, and her co-choreographer, Cassie, for all of their hard work throughout this production. Kenzie would also like to thank her mother (who is also in the show), fiancé, and best friends for always supporting her throughout her theatrical journey.

**SARA WARD-CASSADY** (Co-Director) is honored to be co-directing *Matilda the Musical* with Kenzie Merucci, and has also enjoyed playing the role of Mrs. Phelps in this production. Sara enjoys working both onstage and offstage, with favorite onstage roles at VACT including Sandy in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, Mother, in *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, and favorite off-stage roles including directing VACT's *The Radio Play Disaster*, directing *Frozen Jr.*, and stage managing many productions. Special thanks to Kenzie, Cassie, Gail, Tom, Matt and Brett for their quick pivots and coming together to support this production, and to her amazing husband, Colin, and daughter, Erin, for their never ending love and support.

**CASSIE DERFUS** (Co-Choreographer) is thrilled to be back on the VACT stage performing and working on her first show as a choreographer! Previous onstage works include *Mamma Mia!*, *Young Frankenstein!*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at VACT as well as *Cabaret* and *American Idiot* at the Bartell. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their continued support. She hopes you enjoy this wild wacky show and treat yourself to some chocolate cake after!

**GAIL GOMACH** (Costume Director) has primarily been on stage for several VACT shows since 2015, this is her second time tackling a show as Costume Director. Though the challenge was great, she has enjoyed working with this miraculous and revolting cast.

**BRETT WAGNER** (Music Director) Brett is thrilled to be music directing *Matilda the Musical* after a long intermission in the theater world! Brett has performed a variety of roles with VACT as well as many other theaters around the Madison area. From playing in the pit to music directing the cast, conducting the orchestra to performing on stage, he enjoys watching the music on the page come to life through musical connection and collaboration. Brett holds a degree in Piano Performance from UW-Madison under the direction of Professor Christopher Taylor. Having performed across the U.S, in Europe and South America, Brett always enjoys coming home to make music with his childhood community.

**MATTHEW GRZYBOWSKI** (Set Designer) graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh with a BA in Communications-Theater. He went on to an acting/directing internship at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater during their 1999-2000 season. Matthew has been an active member of the Madison theater community over the years with various organizations in many different roles both on and off stage. He is excited to have had the opportunity to be a part of a number of VACT productions over the last several years.

**MARIE KYLE** (Prop Master) has been the elementary music teacher at Sugar Creek Elementary School in Verona for over 25 years. She has worked as the music director, and appeared on stage for many VACT shows, as well as directing the teen productions of *Grease*, *Legally Blonde*, *Bye, Bye Birdie* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Favorite roles include Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*, Betty Haynes in *White Christmas* and most recently Mother Superior in *Sister Act*. Marie loves being in shows with her husband Jim and playing the role of mom to sons Joe and Tom. What an honor to work props for this show with such a great cast and crew. Thanks to Sara, Kenzie and Brett.



# who's who in the crew

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**TOM ARNOL** (Stage Manager) is excited to serve as the stage manager for *Matilda the Musical*. He has been involved in many shows the past several years with VACT, both on the stage and behind the scenes. He is especially looking forward to directing this February's play, *Don't Dress for Dinner*. He would like to thank his son Morty, his original inspiration for getting involved in theater, and his wife Tammy who supports them endlessly and is their biggest fan. Even their dog Rosie has appeared on stage in VACT's production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

**GINA HAMON** (Scenic Painter) is thrilled to be taking part in her ninth VACT production! It has been a pleasure getting back to the theater after a very long eighteen months away! Gina has previously been the scenic painter for other VACT productions such as *Mamma Mia* and *Young Frankenstein!* as well as taking part in many other productions as a cast member. Gina wants to thank Matt for once again including her in the amazing set design team. Another huge thank you to Terry, Sara and Kenzie - It is always wonderful to work with you all!

**STEVE NICKELS** (Lighting Designer) has been designing lights for VACT shows for over 15 years, and can usually be found up in the lighting booth. He has also worked backstage as a stage manager, ropes operator, spotlight operator, and producer, and occasionally can even be found on stage, but always manages to be involved with the lights. "May the Light shine on you!"

**DALE NICKELS** (Sound) has produced or directed several VACT shows and designed the sound for nearly every show since *The Wizard of Oz* in 1996. From time to time he shows up on stage. Most of the time he lives behind the sound board, dealing with an increasing number of wireless microphones. His most recent directorial outing was *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. "Thanks to my lovely wife, Deb, for letting me play.

**CHRIS KIEFERT** (Assistant Producer) has thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to help out on this production and see it come to life. She has been involved offstage with numerous VACT productions throughout the years as she watched her kids, Alex and Brie, develop their love for performing. She is so grateful to VACT for providing so many wonderful opportunities for children to be exposed to and participate in the theater and to Sara for allowing her the opportunity to be her shadow on this production.

**ALEXA SCHAEFER** (Dance Captain) is beyond excited to finally be back on stage, performing with VACT. She is currently a Senior at Memorial High School and has been performing and working on shows at VACT since she was five years old. Some of Alexa's favorite roles have been Tina Harmer in *Billy Elliot*, a Newsie in *Newsies* and an Oompa Loompa in *Willy Wonka*. Alexa has also enjoyed working as staff for many VACT productions (starting when she was nine years old!), most recently as Dance Captain for *Seussical KIDS* and Assistant Stage Manager for *Frozen Jr*. Special thanks to my Mom and Dad for always supporting me in everything I do! Hope you enjoy the show!

**DUSTY SMITH** (Asst. Stage Manager) is so very excited to be finally back in the theater as the assistant stage manager for *Matilda the Musical*. During the recent unpleasantness he wandered the wasteland trying to find the meaning of life, mostly looking under rocks. Some of his recent theater highlights, from the before time, include; *Mamma Mia!* (Stage Manager), Mel Brook's *Young Frankenstein!* (Director), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Odd Couple - Female Version* (Director). "Thank you to my family and friends for their love and support!"

# who's who in the crew

**DENNIS KELLY** (*Book*) Work for theatre includes *Debris*, *Osama the Hero*, *After the End*, *Love and Money*, *Taking Care of Baby*, *DNA*, *Orphans*, *The Gods Weep*, and *The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge Mastromas*. He has written the book for the new musical of *Pinocchio* which opens at the National Theatre at the end of 2017, and in 2018 his new play *Girls and Boys* opens at the Royal Court. His plays have been performed worldwide and to date have been translated into nearly forty languages. For television he co-wrote and co-created "Pulling" and wrote and created "Utopia", and for film he wrote the screenplay for "Black Sea", directed by Kevin MacDonald. He also wrote the book for the Olivier and Tony winning *Matilda the Musical*. In 2010 *DNA* became a set text on the GCSE English Literature syllabus.

**TIM MINCHIN** (*Music and Lyrics*) Tim is a musician, actor, comedian, writer and director. He's toured extensively in the US, UK and Australia, performing solo, with bands, and with symphony orchestras. He's released five DVDs, the most recent recorded with the Heritage Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. Screen acting credits include "Robin Hood Origins" (2018), "Secret River" (2015), and "Californication" (Season 6 - 2013). Stage acting credits include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Sydney Theatre Company) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (UK/Australia tours). Tim has written extensively for theatre, and is the composer-lyricist of *Matilda the Musical* (with Dennis Kelly) and *Groundhog Day the Musical* (with Danny Rubin).

**ROALD DAHL** (*Original Author*) Roald Dahl (1916-1990) was the author of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", "Matilda", "The BFG" and many more of the world's best-loved children's stories. He remains one of the world's greatest storytellers and is celebrated annually by the world's biggest author-based event, Roald Dahl Day – which is recognised across the globe on 13th September. His first children's story, "James and the Giant Peach", published in 1961 and was a huge hit. Every subsequent book became a best-seller. Today, his stories are available in 59 languages and, by a conservative estimate, he has sold more than 250 million books. Many of these stories have also been adapted for stage and screen, including the 1971 film classic "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory", Wes Anderson's acclaimed "Fantastic Mr Fox", and the Royal Shakespeare Company's multi-award winning production of *Matilda The Musical*.

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# recent VACT Productions

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- 2011 Guys and Dolls; Stone Soup; Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.; Footloose; The Wizard of Oz; Undertow: The Musical
- 2012 Noises Off; Welcome to the Jungle; Seussical Jr.; Grease; Encore! 2012: Celebrating 20 Years; High Society; The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
- 2013 The Producers; Disney's Winnie The Pooh KIDS; Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.; Legally Blonde, The Musical; Peter Pan; Seven Brides for Seven Brothers; The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
- 2014 Heaven Can Wait; Disney's 101 Dalmatians, KIDS; Encore Jr.; Bye Bye Birdie; The Music Man; How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying; Getting to Know The Sound of Music; White Christmas
- 2015 Singin' In The Rain; Aladdin, KIDS; Hairspray Jr.; The Drowsy Chaperone; Shrek The Musical; Forever Plaid; Elf The Musical Jr.; A Very Merry Hometown Christmas
- 2016 Brighton Beach Memoirs; Dinosaurs Before Dark, KIDS; High School Musical Jr.; Bring It On the Musical; Mary Poppins; Billy Elliot the Musical; A Seussified Christmas Carol; It's A Wonderful Life the Musical
- 2017 South Pacific; The Lion King, KIDS; Guys and Dolls Jr.; West Side Story; The Little Mermaid; Sister Act the Musical; Stone Soup; Godspell Jr.
- 2018 The Hunchback of Notre Dame; Bus Stop; A Race To The Finish; The Jungle Book KIDS; Bye Bye Birdie YPE; Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka; Little Shop of Horrors; Annie KIDS; Legally Blonde Jr.; A Christmas Story
- 2019 The Odd Couple; Three Nanny Goats Gruff; The Aristocats KIDS; 42nd Street YPE; Disney's Newsies; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang; Young Frankenstein; We Are Monsters; Disney's Frozen Jr.
- 2020 Mamma Mia!; 4 Weddings and An Elvis; Chicago High School Edition\*; Getting To Know Footloose The Musical\*; Seussical KIDS\*; Pajama Party\*; VACT Virtual Youth Theater Fall 2020; A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday (\*cancelled due to COVID)
- 2021 The Importance of Being Earnest In a Pandemic; VACT Virtual Youth Theater Spring 2021; The Radio Play Disaster; Seussical KIDS; Singin' In The Rain Jr.

For a complete list of VACT's past productions since 1992, please visit  
[www.vact.org/page-pp](http://www.vact.org/page-pp)

## Verona Area Community Theater, Inc

VACT, Inc. originated in the summer of 1992 and is now producing ten shows a year. From the beginning, our goal has been to offer the people in the Verona Area community opportunities to utilize their talents in all facets of the arts. Our primary goal is to have fun! If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact one of the board members listed below:

### VACT INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Officers

President: Dale Nickels  
Vice President: Sara Ward-Cassady  
Secretary: Elizabeth Kraemer  
Treasurer: Brian Johnson

#### Additional Members

Tom Arnol, Dee Baldock, Kim Eckmayer, Matthew Grzybowski,  
K.B. Kendricks, Marie Kyle, Sarah Lederer, Lynn Vilker



Thank you so much for attending *Matilda the Musical*. Like many arts organizations, COVID-19 caused a great deal of change for VACT. We are so grateful for all of the support we received. Every kind message, donation, and show of support meant the world to us as we navigated time without live theater and figured out how to adapt. While there is a light at the end of the tunnel, your support will help us return to live theater and come back stronger than ever. If you're a theater lover who is in a position to help, please consider making a donation to VACT. Donations can be made through our website by going to [www.vact.org](http://www.vact.org) and clicking on the "donate now" link at the top of the page.

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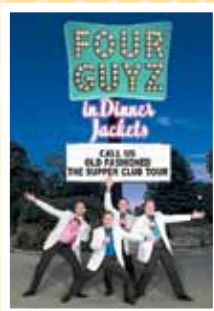
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