

The background of the poster features a large, light blue silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. Overlaid on this are several vibrant, swirling ribbons in red, yellow, and purple. In the lower half, there is a purple rectangular area containing white text and silhouettes of children. The children's silhouettes are in various poses, some pointing upwards. The overall theme is celebratory and artistic.

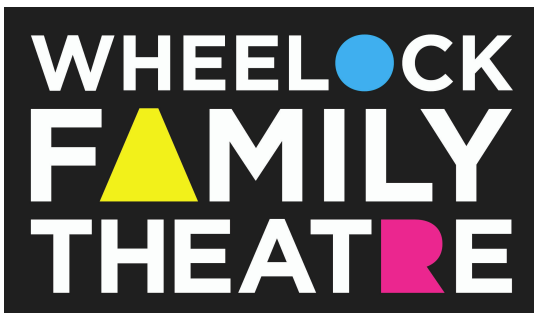
Matilda

Get ready to see Roald Dahl's

MATILDA the Musical

at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University

A social story to help families prepare for a visit to the theater

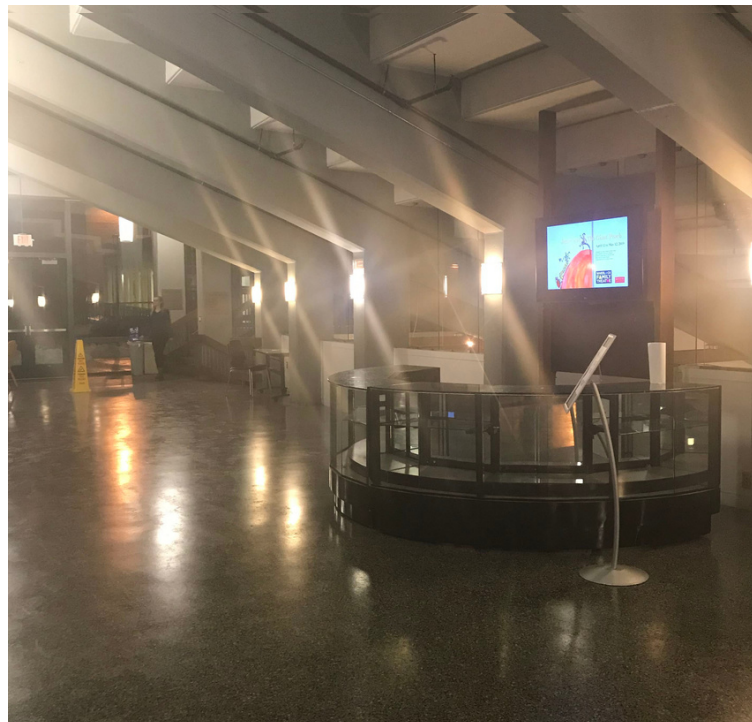
The Boston University logo consists of a red rectangular border. Inside the border, the words "BOSTON" and "UNIVERSITY" are written in white, serif, all-caps font, stacked one above the other.

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

I am going to see a play called
MATILDA at Wheelock Family Theatre at
Boston University.



When I get to the theater, we will walk
through the lobby.



It might be crowded.

I can take deep breaths and be patient
as we move through the crowd.



In a play, people on stage tell a story -
right in front of us!

These people are called actors.



When I sit down in the theater I will see
the set. A set is an imaginary place,
built on the stage, to show where the
story happens.



The set for this play is made of
chalkboards and books!

This set can be many different places!
Sometimes it's a school, or Matilda's
house, or a library, or even an
acrobatics act!



This play starts with the birth of a little girl. Her name is Matilda. We will learn all about her and watch her journey into starting school. Matilda loves books and learns that not only is she very smart, but she may have special talents, too...



The story of this play is told through songs and dancing, not just speaking.



The music in this play is done right on stage!

I can watch the musicians do their work while the actors sing!



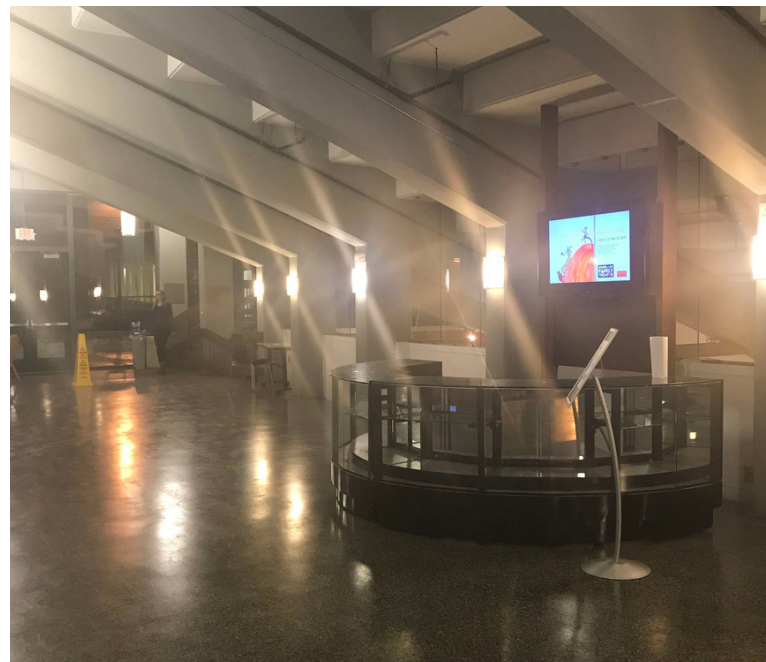
Sometimes the sounds and music can get loud. If it is too loud for me I can always cover my ears...



...I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad, or with someone else who came with me to the theater.



If I need a break I can go into the lobby...



...or to a quiet, cozy space nearby.



If I need something to hold onto I can ask an usher for a squishy toy.



I will know that the play is about to start when the lights in the room get darker and the lights on the stage get brighter.

The audience will get very quiet. It is important that I try to be quiet during the show so the play can be heard.



Now, let's meet some of the characters in this play!

This is the main character, Matilda. She is a very smart and special little girl. She has to fight for her right to be around people who love and support her.



This is Matilda's family. Her dad and mom, Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood, are not very kind to her. They tell her it is silly to read books. Her brother Michael loves to watch TV, which they call "telly".



This is Mrs. Phelps. She is a librarian that Matilda tells stories to. Her favorite story is of the Acrobat and the Escapologist. At first we think the story is not true, but then something changes!



This is Miss Honey. She is Matilda's new teacher. She is very kind and wants to encourage Matilda's brilliant mind.

Matilda helps Miss Honey to stand up for herself.



This is Miss Trunchbull. She is the headmistress of Matilda's school. She is not very nice. She does very bad things to other people in the story. In real life, everyone on stage is very safe and none of her mean actions are real.



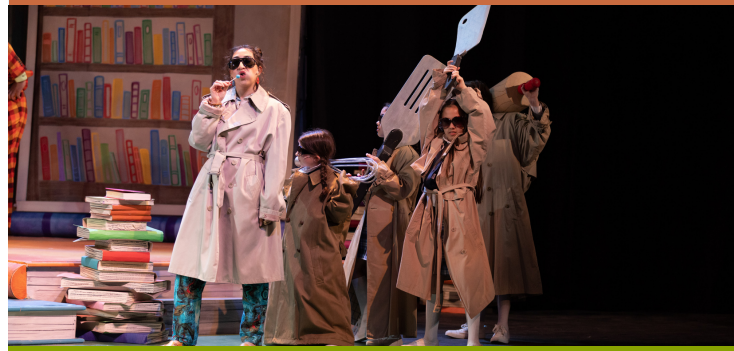
Miss Trunchbull is played by an actor named Johanna Carlisle-Zepeda. She is very kind and is just playing a role.



These are Matilda's friends from school.
They will help her to revolt against Miss Trunchbull.



There are other characters we will meet
along the way, too! Like Rudolpho, the
dancer, Big Kids at the school, and
Sergei, the Russian.



In this play, the actors will play more
than one character!

One actor, Krystal, plays a doctor,
Sergei, and Mrs. Phelps!



Sometimes in the play, I will see things that might look scary.

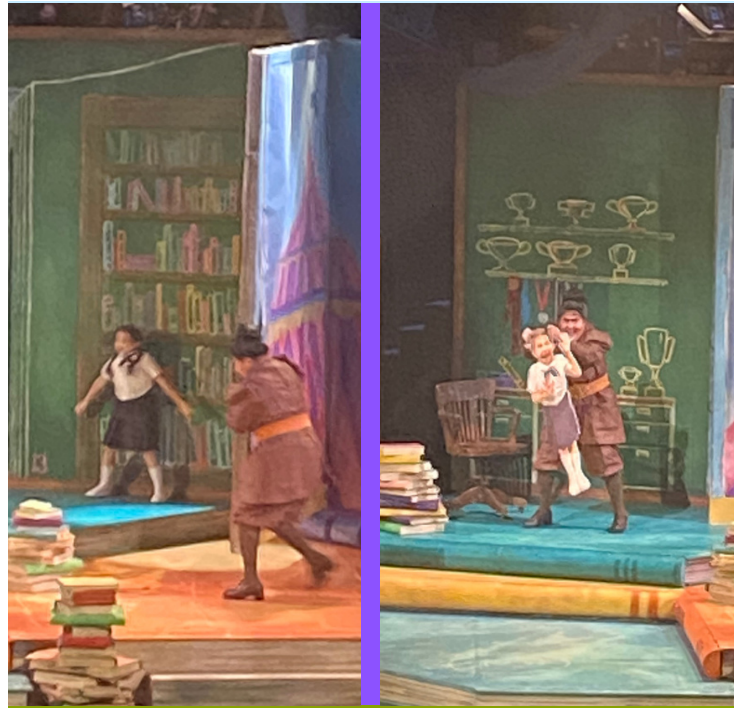
Miss Trunchbull might look like she is hurting a student by throwing them or pulling their ears.

I know that this is all pretend and everyone is okay.

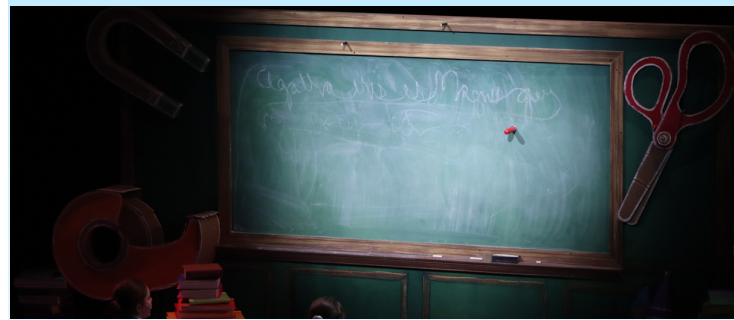


One student, Amanda, gets flattened by Miss Trunchbull during the play. The actor playing Amanda is not really hurt. This is all pretend.

The actors use some theatre magic to make this look real. The flattened Amanda is really just a piece of cardboard.



In this story, Matilda and Miss Honey say that Miss Trunchbull used to hurt Miss Honey and did something very bad to Miss Honey's father.



All of this is made up for the story. No one was hurt in real life.



Miss Trunchbull also says she will put students somewhere called The Chokey.

The Big Kids say this is a very scary place. I know that this place isn't actually real. No one is put in danger.



Sometimes in this play, there is smoke on stage. The Chokey, especially, uses this smoke.

I know this is a special kind of smoke called haze that is used in plays. It is made backstage by a device called a haze machine. Everything is safe.



In this play, the lights on stage will change very quickly in some scenes. It will even go completely dark in the theatre sometimes.

There is a person controlling the lights and everything is safe. If I don't like the lights changing or it hurts my eyes, I can close them.



If I feel scared, know that this is just a story and everyone is safe and only pretending.



At the end of a scene or song some people will clap. Clapping tells the actors that I liked their performance.



If I want to clap I can.
If I don't want to clap I don't have to.

This play is performed with an intermission. This is a break in the play where I can leave the theater to walk around the lobby, use the restroom,



get a drink of water, or have a snack.



At the very end of the play all of the actors will come out on stage and bow.
This is called a curtain call.



I can clap. Clapping tells the actors I liked the show.

If I really like the show I can stand up and clap. This is called a standing ovation.



After I move through the lobby I will leave Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University.



Going to the theater is very exciting!

I hope I will have a great time when I go to see *MATILDA*.



For more information about access and inclusion at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University please contact Jeri Hammond, Director of Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement, at JeriH@bu.edu or 617-353-1459.

