

Kelsey Theatre & MPOnStage Present

BRIGHT STAR

Inspired By A True Story

Music, Book, and Story by
STEVE MARTIN

Music, Lyrics, and Story by
EDIE BRICKELL

Directed by
Judi Parrish

Music Direction
Sue den Outer

Choreography
Haley Schmalbach



1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550 U.S.A.

www.kelseytheatre.org

May 31, 2024 at 8pm
June 1, 7, 8, 2024 at 8pm
June 2, 9, 2024 at 2pm

Bright Star is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by
Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com

Kelsey Theatre & MPOnStage Present



ROALD DAHL'S

Matilda

THE MUSICAL

Book by
DENNIS KELLY

Music and Lyrics by
TIM MINCHIN

Directed by
Laurie Gougher

Music Direction
Sue den Outer

Choreography
Haley Schmalbach



1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550 U.S.A.

October 6, 7, 13, 14, 2023 at 8pm
October 8, 15, 2023 at 2pm

www.kelseytheatre.org

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.
www.mtishows.com

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Miracle KIDS, PARENTS, MATILDA, ENSEMBLE
NaughtyMATILDA
Acrobat Story I.....ACROBAT, ESCAPOLOGIST
School SongKIDS
PatheticMISS HONEY
The HammerTRUNCBULL, KIDS
Naughty Reprise (Superglue)MATILDA
Chokey ChantKIDS
Loud MRS WORMWOOD, RUDOLPHO, ENSEMBLE
This Little Girl.....MISS HONEY
Acrobat Story II
BruceKIDS

ACT 2

All I KnowMR WORMWOOD
When I Grow UpKIDS, MISS HONEY, MATILDA
Acrobat Story III
I'm So Clever.....MR WORMWOOD
Acrobat Story IV (I'm Here)ESCAPOLOGIST, MATILDA
The Smell of RebellionTRUNCBULL, KIDS,
.....MATILDA, MISS HONEY
Quiet.....MATILDA
My HouseMISS HONEY, ESCAPOLOGIST
Revolting Children.....KIDS
Priyatna PaznakomitsaSERGEI
Bows.....COMPANY

Running Time: 2 hours, 30 minutes
Including Intermission

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

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www.MTIShows.com*

LAURIE GOUGHER (Director) is really excited to be working on another MPO show. Her last project was *Something Rotten!*, for which she was nominated for a Perry Award. Laurie has worn many hats at Kelsey Theatre, from director to MD to performer. She is really looking forward to her next big challenge as a founding member of Thank You 5 Productions. This new company will be debuting at Kelsey Theatre with *School of Rock* in July 2024. Laurie would like to thank her family and the awesome production team for helping to bring her quirky sense of humor to the stage. She is very proud of this talented cast and hopes to work with them again in the future!

MIRANDA HORN (Props Master) is thrilled to be joining MPOnStage in her recurring role as Props Master. Since participating as a crew member in high school and college shows, she's loved set design, costuming, prop creation and coordination, and production in general. For the past couple of years, she has enjoyed the prop-porutnity to contribute back stage in several community theater productions. It has been such a fun ride to opening night! Miranda wants to thank the cast and crew for being so welcoming and knows they will be amazing at every showing!

BEVERLY KUO-HAMILTON (Stage Manager) is happy to be a part of another MPOnstage production! Last seen on the Kelsey stage in MPOnstage's *Something Rotten!*. Most recent production credits include *MTI's Pure Imagination* (Kelsey Theatre), *The Antipodes* (Shakespeare '70), *MTI's Raise Your Voice* (Kelsey Theatre). Her next project is *School of Rock* with Thank You 5 Productions in 2024! She would like to thank the production team and her fabulous crew!!! and of course, her partner in crime, Laurie. Thank you to the cast for all their hard work and patience, and as always, to the bees in her life for their constant love and support!

ANNA MOSER (Costume Design/Costuming) awoke to the thrills (and chills) of costuming while sewing an endless number of white satin pants for *Aladdin Jr.* at Pennwood Middle School in 2019. Unable to turn away from a challenge, she has continued to costume for middle and high schools in Bucks County, PA. She is excited to expand her experiences and collaborate on *Matilda* with such amazing MPO team. Thanks to all of the staff and actors for such an amazing experience!!

EVAN PAINE (Sound Designer) is always happy to be working with MPO. He has worked on multiple Kelsey shows with the most recent being *Beautiful*, *the Carole King Story* with Playful Productions. He is one of the founding members of Thank You 5 Productions and will be the Tech Supervisor for their show *School of Rock* in 2024.

JUDI PARRISH (Lighting Design) is a Senior Board Member with MPOnStage. With over 50 years in community theatre, Judi has credits as a director, musical director, producer, stage manager, set designer, lighting designer, sound designer, and actress. Judi has two NJACT Perry awards with MPOnStage, one for acting (*The Drowsy Chaperone*), and one for scenic design (*NOISES OFF!*). She also has an NJACT Perry Award for sound design for *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* (Villagers Theatre). Other lighting credits with MPO include *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *Something Rotten!*, *Scenery*, *Popcorn Falls*, *Fiddler On the Roof*, *City of Angels*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*. Judi has also directed *The Glass Menagerie* and *Scenery* for MPO. Judi has a degree in Music Education, taught entertainment technology at Mercer County Community College, and is a member of the US Institute of Theatre Technology.

HALEY SCHMALBACH (Choreographer/ Scenic Charge) has been making rounds through the New Jersey community theatre scene for quite a few years for groups around Mercer and Monmouth Counties. Favorite credits: *Cabaret* (Choreographer/Scenic Charge), *Seussical* (Haddonfield; Choreographer/Scenic Charge), *Disney's Newsies* (Phoenix; Scenic Charge Artist, NJACT Perry Nomination for Outstanding Set Design) and *American Idiot* (Pennington Players; NJACT Perry Award Nomination for Outstanding Set Design). She and her husband "Sergei" are looking forward to their own "miracle" this January 2024!

🌿 SPECIAL THANK YOUS 🌿

Danielle Miller-Winrow, Sprout University, Abby Oliver, Louisa Murey, Tiana Smith, and Donna of Donna's Hair Salon

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

JOHN M. MAURER (Director/Producer/Marketing/Set Design) founded MPO with his wife, Diana, and his brother, Dan, in 2004. John has directed over 20 plays and musicals, including last fall's hit *Something Rotten!*, *Around the World in 80 Days* (Perry Award for Outstanding Production of a Play), and *City of Angels*. He is an accomplished set designer, costume designer, make-up artist, and prop master. He holds 25 of the company's 68 NJACT Perry Award nominations, having won seven times. John started in theater at the age of 10 and ever since then has been an actor, magician, clown, juggler, balloon sculptor, stilt-walker, and mime and has specialized in comedy and improvisational theater. John and Diana are internationally produced playwrights, having written three interactive plays that have been produced in England, New Zealand, and US.

DIANA GILMAN MAURER (Producer) Diana is a producer, director, and actress. She co-founded Maurer Productions OnStage together with her husband, John, and brother-in-law, Dan. MPO has won numerous Perry Awards including Production of a Musical (*AIDA*), Outstanding Costumes (*AIDA*), Production of a Play (*Driving Miss Daisy* and *Around the World in 80 Days*). Diana was nominated for a Kelsey Award for Directing *A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody* and *Jake's Women*, and received the award for Direction of a Play (*Sleuth*). She was last seen on the Kelsey Stage in *Sordid Lives*. Diana is looking forward to directing *The Further Adventures of Nick Tickle* in February!

JEFF CANTOR (Master Carpenter) Jeff's recent theater work began in 2006 when he was asked to join the Board of Directors of Maurer Productions OnStage as Master Carpenter. Since that time, he has had the privilege to interpret John Maurer's award-winning set designs by leading the set building efforts for every MPO show including *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Avenue Q* and *Spamalot*. In addition, Jeff has served as Master Carpenter for other companies at Kelsey, and even returned to the role of Stage Manager for MPO's presentation of *A Few Good Men* and *Aida*. Jeff wishes to thank John Maurer for the opportunity and his continued mentoring. When not building sets, Jeff can be found tinkering with his '56 Imperial or chasing trains. To fund all this fun, Jeff works for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, attempting to improve air quality.

SUE den OUTER (Music Director) is a graduate of Cornell University and an actuary with WTW. She has been active in musical theater ... for a long, wonderful time! Favorite music director credits: *Ain't Misbehavin'* (MMT, 2023), *Head Over Heels* (MMT, 2021), *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (MMT, 2019) and *Secret Garden* (NAC, 2018). Favorite on stage credits: pianist in *33 Variations* (Kelsey, 2021), *The Last 5 Years* (MMT, 2021) and Olga in *Stage Door* (NAC, 2016). Sue is thrilled to be part of this production and to work with such an amazingly talented production team, cast, crew and pit. When I grow up, I want to be TALL enough, or at least taller than I am now.

ANDREW DEVLIN (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with this team! Previous works include *Disney's Frozen, Jr.* (ASM, Tomato Patch), *Calendar Girls* (ASM, Pennington Players) *Scrooge!* (Stage Manager, M&M), the Perry Award winning production of *Tartuffe* (Stage Manager, PinnWorth, Perry Award nomination for Outstanding Properties of a Play), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (ASM, Pennington Players), the Perry Award winning productions of *Noises Off* (ASM, MPO) and *Newsies* (ASM, PinnWorth). Thanks to the production staff and cast for a wonderful experience!

MELISSA GAYNOR (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of this production! Favorite past shows include *Something Rotten!*, *Noises Off* (Perry Awards for Stage Management and Props), *Spelling Bee* (Perry and Kelsey Award nomination for Stage Management), *Frozen, Jr.*, *American Idiot*, *Leading Ladies*, *Popcorn Falls*, and *White Christmas* (Perry nomination for Stage Management). She is a member of the Stage Manager's Association (SMA) and a board member for MPO. Outside of theatre, Melissa works for TCNJ and is an avid Phillies fan. Thanks to the company for a fun experience. Much love to Emmy and the Idiots.

CAST

MATILDA.....Kai-Li Pine (10/6, 10/8, 10/14)
 MATILDA.....Julia Mueller (10/7, 10/13, 10/15)
 MISS HONEY.....Sally Graham Bethmann
 AGATHA TRUNCBULL.....Jenny Weiner
 MRS. WORMWOOD.....Rachel Fingles
 MR. WORMWOOD.....Michael Hall
 MICHAEL WORMWOOD.....Drew Wiggins
 MRS. PHELPS.....Jessica Braynor
 ESCAPOLOGIST/CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER.....Pat Rounds
 ACROBAT.....Nicole Perri
 RODOLPHO.....Shan Williams
 DOCTOR/ENSEMBLE.....Amanda Peterson
 LAVENDER.....Zara Nagabhushana
 BRUCE.....Ezra Cayton-Hodges
 NIGEL.....Tristan Monaghan
 AMANDA THRIPP.....Hope Ghaffoor
 ALICE.....Vaani Jain
 ERIC.....Frankie Pendleton
 HORTENSIA.....Zendaya Holliman
 SERGEI/ENSEMBLE.....Chris Schmalbach
 TEACHER/ENSEMBLE.....Jennifer Boutros
 COOK/ENSEMBLE.....Dan Mucha-
 TEEN ENSEMBLE: Lillian Irene, Siena Kassa, Xavier Knowles, Aaron Mason, Peter Piccini, Kelsey Schreibersdorf, Alex Search, Sam Silva, Collin Wiggins

PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER..... John M. Maurer
 PRODUCER..... Diana Maurer
 DIRECTOR.....Laurie Gougher
 CHOREOGRAPHER./ SCENIC CHARGE..... Haley Schmalbach
 MUSIC DIRECTOR..... Sue den Outer
 STAGE MANAGER.....Beverly Kuo-Hamilton
 ASST STAGE MANAGER..... Andrew Devlin
 ASST STAGE MANAGER..... Melissa Gaynor
 COSTUMER..... Anna Moser
 COSTUME ASSISTANTS..... Brianna Seeley, Addison Blumberg
 MASTER BUILDER.....Jeff Cantor
 PROPS MASTER..... Miranda Horn
 SOUND DESIGNER..... Evan Paine
 ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER..... Tiernan Stover
 LIGHTING DESIGNER..... Judi Parrish
 LIGHTING ASSISTANT..... Riley Wood
 DANCE CAPTAIN.....Siena Kassa
 DANCE ASSISTANT.....Abby Oliver
 BULGARIAN COACH.....Pat Rounds
 BACKSTAGE CREW: , Bien-Aimé, Jeff Cantor, Andrew Devlin, Miranda Horn, Edward Liu, Jay Moschella, Nathan Bergren
 CONSTRUCTION CREW: Jeff Cantor, John M. Maurer, Edward Liu, Fred Walker, Larry Murey, Melissa Gaynor, Andrew Devlin, Chris Schmalbach, and Shan Williams

🎵 ORCHESTRA 🎵

Conductor/ Keyboard 1.....	Sue den Outer
Keyboard 2.....	Paul Bezner (10/6, 7, 8), Joe Nappi (10/13, 10/14), Lee Milhous (10/15)
Reed 1.....	Sophia Isnardi
Reed 2.....	Jarod Mellus
Trumpet.....	Marty Weisberg
Trombone.....	Terry Chesnovitz
Percussion.....	Aaron Allen
Guitar.....	Emily Case
Bass.....	Thomas Lewis

🎭 THE CAST 🎭

JENNIFER BOUTROS (Teacher/Adult Ensemble) is beyond thrilled to be performing in *Matilda* with Maurer Productions OnStage. After far too long of a hiatus, Jennifer returned to the theater in the winter of 2019 and performed in *Journey Into Broadway*, as Mrs. Blair in *Inherit the Wind*, and as a nun in *The Sound of Music*. Eager to participate behind the scenes, Jennifer served as stage manager for *12 Angry Men* and *Scenery*, backstage crew for *Cabaret*, lighting assistant for *Nick Tickle*, and lighting for *Frozen Jr.* and *Popcorn Falls*. Itching to perform once more, Jennifer returned to the stage for Kelsey Theatre's 2022-2023 season and performed in *Something Rotten!*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Jennifer would like to thank MPO and a truly remarkable cast and crew for working to bring this inspirational and creative musical to the Kelsey stage, and she very much looks forward to joining them again—both on stage and behind the scenes

JESSICA BRAYNOR (Mrs. Phelps) is thrilled to be performing with MPO again! She was last seen as Audrey in *Leading Ladies*. Favorite past roles include Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*, Catherine in *Pippin*, Rosie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Rosalind in *As You Like It*. When not on stage, she is busy performing as Principal in the Flemington-Raritan School District and as Mommy to her two amazing daughters. She would like to thank her family for their tremendous support.

EZRA CAYTON-HODGES (Bruce) is thrilled to be making his third appearance on the Kelsey Theatre stage. Former productions include *Oliver!* and *Pure Imagination*. Ezra has also appeared in several children's productions at Music Mountain Theater, most recently starring as Jasper in *101 Dalmations Kids*. This summer, Ezra played the title role in *The Lion King* at the French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts Summer Camp. When not on stage, Ezra studies magic, tap dances, fences, and plays the drums and saxophone. He is currently a fifth grader at Littlebrook Elementary School in Princeton and does enjoy a good chocolate cake.

ALEX SEARCH (Teen Ensemble) is ecstatic to perform with Kelsey Theatre again!! He has performed at Kelsey in *MTI's Pure Imagination* and in school shows, including *The Jungle Book Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, and *School House Rock Jr.* A freshman in high school, when Alex is not on stage, he likes to listen to music and draw. He would like to thank his parents and his twin sister Sarah for all their love and support. Alex had a wonderful time working with Kelsey Theatre again and had so much fun meeting new people. Enjoy!!

SAMUEL SILVA (Teen Ensemble) currently lives in Robbinsville and is a freshman at Robbinsville High School. This is his first show at Kelsey and he is so happy to be here. Although this is his first show at Kelsey, it's not his first time under the spotlight. He made his acting debut as Agatha Trunchbull in *Matilda* at Pond Road Middle school. This November, you can find him in *Clue* at Robbinsville High School. He wants to thank all the people who made this show possible as, if it wasn't for their unwavering support, this wouldn't be possible. He would also like to thank his family for the support throughout the show.

JENNY WEINER (Agatha Trunchbull) is impressed with herself for being able to stand the smell of revolting maggots for the entirety of this rehearsal process. Really, that deserves applause before one musical note is uttered. Before deciding to endure this olfactory torture, Jenny has played Helena Landless in *Edwin Drood*, Snoopy in *Charlie Brown*, Elizabeth Benning in *Young Frankenstein*, Rona Lisa Peretti in *Spelling Bee*, and Nurse/Harriet in *Sunday in the Park with George*. She also was heard playing ukulele in the lobby of McCarter Theater as part of *A Christmas Carol* and has a BM in Musical Theater from Westminster Choir College. When not on stage suffocating through the stench of rebellion, Jenny writes, knits, paints, and cuddles the only maggots on the entire planet she adores the smell of—Melody and Hazel. Thank you, Steve, for support, great hugs, and sticky-outy-ears.

COLLIN WIGGINS (Teen Ensemble) is 13 years old and currently lives in Yardley, PA. He attends William Penn Middle school and is in the eighth grade. He has performed in multiple productions including *Legally Blonde* and *Frozen*. He has a high level of proficiency in piano and clarinet and competes in many sports. He looks forward to performing in more Kelsey Theatre Productions.

DREW WIGGINS (Michael Wormwood) is 11 years old and currently lives in Yardley, PA. He attends William Penn Middle school and is in the sixth grade. His past performances include Donkey in *Shrek, Jr* and Olaf in *Pure Imagination*. When he's not pursuing his love for acting, you can find him competing in the pool, playing trombone, or playing with his friends. He looks forward to many more performances and working with the great production teams at Kelsey Theatre!

SHAN WILLIAMS (Rodolpho) is happy to make his return back to Kelsey Theatre!! Favorite shows include *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Music Mountain Theatre), *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Holmdel Theatre Company), and *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Somerset Valley Players). I'm so proud of this cast and production staff for the hard work they've put into this production. Thank you to my family for the never ending support!! Enjoy!

PETER PICCINI (Teen Ensemble) is thrilled to return to Kelsey Theatre! He was last seen here prior to the pandemic in *Scrooge* and *Frozen Jr.* Peter has performed throughout New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in theatre, film, video and voiceover. Favorite theatre credits include: *The Last Boy...A New Play With Music* (Broadway's Town Hall), Colin in *The Secret Garden* (Music Mountain Theatre), Flick in *A Christmas Story*, Young Simba in *The Lion King Kids*, Mowgli in *The Jungle Book Kids*, *The Music Man* (Count Basie Theatre) and in the opening of *The Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall*. He was a vocalist in 2021's Hess Truck Commercial (thanks Liz Rzasala!) When not performing, Peter is a Boy Scout. He enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends. Thanks to his family for their support. Thanks to the amazing cast, production team, and crew of *Matilda!* You better enjoy the show or we'll be put in Chokey!

KAI-LI PINE (Matilda) is thrilled to be involved in this Maurer Productions OnStage presentation of *Matilda* with such an amazing cast and crew. She previously performed at the Kelsey Theatre in the production of *MTI's Pure Imagination*, which sparked her curiosity and enjoyment for performing on stage with others. Kai-Li would like to thank her mentors, fellow castmates, family, and friends for their continued support, and wishes the entire crew a wonderful show!

PAT ROUNDS (Escapologist/ Entertainer) enjoys escaping things, whether chains or responsibilities. No stranger to the Kelsey stage, having performed as Player King in *Hamlet*, Stevens in *Dogfight*, Trevor Graydon in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Mike in *33 Variations*, Max in *Dial M for Murder*, Knifegrinder in *Oliver!*, Ensemble in *Something Rotten*, Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet*, and Fred/Future in *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*. Other favorite past roles include Pavlo Hummel in *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, The Creature in *Frankenstein*, and Williams in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. He enjoys hanging out with his puppy, Marcel, and stopping him from eating all of the toilet paper in his house.

CHRIS SCHMALBACH (Sergei/ Adult Ensemble) is excited to be joining Maurer Productions OnStage once more. Some of Chris's favorite roles include The Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, General Genghis Kahn Schmitz in *Seussical*, Dr. Ted Schieder in *Disaster the Musical*, Mr. Wiesel in *Newsies*, Bill Sikes in *Oliver!*, Fist in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, Charles Cheswick in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Chris thanks his beautiful wife Haley for introducing him to this wonderful world of community theater. Chris would like to dedicate this performance to his and Haley's little Miracle Elora making her debut in January of 2024.

KELSEY SCHREIBERSDORF (Teen Ensemble) is so excited for her first show outside of school. She has a love for music, art and theater. She lives in Lawrence with her mom and goes to Lawrence Middle School. She has been in two shows at her previous school, Lawrence Intermediate School: *Aladdin* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She can't wait to see what other shows she can participate in at Kelsey Theatre in the future. She is so thankful for the support from all her friends and family and thanks them for coming to see her. Thank you to the very talented cast and crew of *Matilda* for being so welcoming. Thank you to my mom for driving me to and from every rehearsal. Thank you to Laurie, Haley, Sue, and Beverly for giving me such an amazing opportunity to see what the world of theater is all about.

SALLY GRAHAM BETHMANN (Miss Honey) is excited to return to the Kelsey stage in such a fantastic production. Some of her recent favorite roles include Phoebe in *A Gentleman's Guide* and Maria in *The Sound of Music*. When not onstage, she goes by "Miss Sally" and can be found running her business "The Little Music Corner," a platform dedicated to high quality music education for early childhood. Sally also actively teaches dance and theatre classes in the area sharing her love for fine arts with the next generation of stars. She is so excited to share the stage with some of her very own students in this production. Outside of teaching, Sally can be found performing and singing in concerts alongside her husband Ian. She would like to thank the MPO production staff for their incredible work and her husband, Ian, for his endless support. Enjoy!

RACHEL FINGLES (Mrs. Wormwood) is thrilled to be making her Kelsey debut with her very own maggots, Julia and Lillian! Some of Rachel's favorite roles include Nancy in *Oliver*, Deb in *Elf*, Mrs. Schwartz in *A Christmas Story*, and a featured performer in the *Vagina Monologues*. Many thanks to Laurie, Bev, Sue, Haley, and everyone at MPO for this fantastic opportunity, and to everyone who made this experience extra special for Jules!!!

HOPE GHAFLOOR (Amanda Thripp) is so excited to be a part of *Matilda the Musical!* She has had so much fun putting the show together with the cast and crew. Hope is in the fifth grade and is in the band. She is a proud big sister. Hope began dancing when she was 2 and is on her studio's competition team. This is her 8th musical at Kelsey Theatre which include *Oliver!*, *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*, and *Frozen Jr.* Hope's favorite part about performing is making people in the audience happy. In her spare time, she enjoys going to amusement parks, baking, and hanging with her friends. She would like to thank the awesome production team for this incredible opportunity. Many thanks to her family and friends for their love and support, and she wishes the cast and crew the best of luck!

MICHAEL HALL (Mr. Wormwood) is a paraprofessional at The Quaker School at Horsham. He is the assistant director of TQS Drama and a volunteer at the Harmony Theater. This is his second show with Maurer Productions, and he's over the moon to be a part of this iconic story! Previous roles include Dean Hyde in *All Shook Up* (MMT), Inspector Pinkney in *Gentleman's Guide* (MPO), Miles in *She Kills Monsters* (VPH), Moose in *Crazy For You* (MMT), and Hero in *...Forum* (NAC)

ZENDAYA HOLLIMAN (Hortensia) is thrilled to be performing in MPO's production of *Matilda!* A Princeton native, Zendaya is 7 years old and in fourth grade. She attends Sprout U - School of the Arts in Trenton and her favorite subject is math. She loves to read, sing and dance and especially make people laugh with her silliness. For the past two years, Zendaya has performed and entertained in different events throughout NJ and PA through her school. She has also performed in *A Christmas Carol* at McCarter Theatre and participated in Tomato Patch here at Kelsey. Zendaya would like to thank her parents for always supporting and encouraging her to pursue her dreams and would also like to thank the production team and her castmates. She has enjoyed all of you very much!

LILLIAN IRENE (Teen Ensemble) is excited to step into the shoes of a big kid in one of her favorite shows! Lillian's favorite roles include Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden*, Matilda in *Matilda*, Marta and Gretl in *The Sound of Music*, and Molly in *Annie*. Lillian is proud to share the stage with her little sister and is embarrassed by her mother, but understands it's her plight in life. Thank you to Laurie, Bev, Sue, and Haley for this experience and to everyone who has supported her!

VAANI JAIN (Alice) is very excited to be making her Kelsey Theatre debut in the enchanting world of Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* alongside an extraordinary cast and production team. She is a fifth grade student at Saint Helena School in Edison, NJ. Vaani has been training in dance since she was 5 years old and in vocals and piano since she was 7 years old. She has participated in two other plays, *Aladdin Jr.* at St. Helena School and *Shrek, Jr.* at Villagers Theater.

SIENA KASSA (Dance Captain/ Teen Ensemble) loves the stage and performing. She has been dancing for 15 years. Some of her credits include Genie in *Aladdin Jr.*, Potiphar's Wife in *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, featured Dancer in *Sweeney Todd* and Cheryl Ann/Dance Captain in *Catch Me if You Can* at Allentown High School. She is also the captain of Allentown High School's Dance Team. Siena has had the honor of being Assistant Choreographer in *MTI's Raise Your Voice* and *Pure Imagination* at Kelsey Theatre. With many years of competitive dance experience she has had the opportunity to perform in Walt Disney World, halftime shows for the New York Jets and Harlem Globetrotters, and in New York City workshops. She is also a proud student of New Jersey Center of Dance. She thanks all her mentors and family for their amazing support!

XAVIER KNOWLES (Teen Ensemble) is very excited to be a part of this show. In the past, Xavier has been in many other productions with roles such as Scar and Young Simba in *Lion King*, Corny Collins in *Hairspray*, etc. Outside of the stage when the mask is off, he is just a normal 12-year old. Xavier likes to play video games, go on walks and sleep. He would like to thank not only his family, but also his cast members and friends for the support along the way.

AARON MASON (Teen Ensemble) is now a junior in high school and has enjoyed being a part of *Matilda the Musical* as an ensemble member at Kelsey Theatre. In school you can catch Aaron being a part of musicals at Lawrence High School, outside playing basketball and on the Lawrence High School track team!

DANIEL MUCHA (Cook/ Adult Ensemble) is thrilled to be finally set free from "Chokey," and working with MPOnStage! Recent Credits: *Seussical The Musical!* (Town & Country Players), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Villagers Theatre), *The Secret Garden* (Music Mountain Theatre), *Once: A New Musical* (Playful Theatre Productions), *The Two Gentlemen Of Verona* (Shakespeare 70), *The Wedding Singer* (Newtown Arts Company), *Elf, The Musical* (Count Basie Theatre), *RENT* (Algonquin Arts Theatre), *Two Point Oh* (Burlington County Footlighters), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (M&M Stage Productions), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Midnight Productions), *The Music Man* (Yardley Players). He currently works as an "on-call" staff member of the Kelsey Theatre and is a member of The Kelsey Theatre Forward Initiative and the Kelsey Theatre Advisory Board. Shoutout to Laurie, Sue, Bev, Haley, Judi, John, Diana and everybody at MPOnStage for this awesome opportunity!

TRISTAN MONAGHAN (Nigel) is thrilled to be performing again at Kelsey Theatre with such an amazing cast and crew! Tristan most recently appeared in *MTI's Broadway Junior Revue Pure Imagination* here at Kelsey. Tristan loves the stage and his favorite role to date is Randy from *A Christmas Story*. Tristan thanks his family for their love and support and to Miss Sally for always believing in him. He also wishes the cast and crew an awesome show!

JULIA MUELLER (Matilda) has never had more fun being Naughty than with her fellow Matilda, Kai-Li, and the rest of this amazing cast! Some of Julia's favorite roles thus far include JoJo in *Seussical*, Gretl in *The Sound of Music*, and fun roles in *A Christmas Story* and *Carousel!* Julia has a lot of people to thank for helping her take on this part, and they include Laurie, Bev, Sue, Haley, Jess, Sally, Mrs. Hentz, Louis, Jordan, and her sister, Lily. She couldn't do this without you all! Thank you to everyone who took the time to see her in this incredibly special part, and to everyone who opened the door for her to perform.

ZARA NAGABHUSHANA (Lavender) is an 8th grader at Rutgers Preparatory School. This is Zara's second appearance on the Kelsey Theatre stage. She was recently seen in *MTI's Pure Imagination*. Zara enjoys singing, playing tennis and softball, reading, and checking out Broadway shows. Zara would like to thank MPOnStage and their entire production team and her cast for a fun and memorable experience!
PS: "Just so you all know, she's my best friend!"

FRANKIE PENDLETON (Eric) is making his theatrical debut in one of his most favorite musicals, *Matilda the Musical*. Frankie, 8 years old, enjoys taking dance lessons at Simone Dance Studio, and voice lessons with Fiddle & Fern School of Music. For fun, Frankie loves mixing up slime, making movies with his brothers and cousins, and choreographing dance and singing routines. He loves all animals, and hopes to have a bunny one day. He would like to thank all his family and friends for coming to Kelsey Theatre today, and supporting him in his first, of hopefully many, theatrical performances!

NICOLE PERRI (Acrobat) is excited to be making her debut at the Kelsey Theatre and bringing the role of The Acrobat to life. Some of her favorite credits include: Heather Chandler in *Heathers*, Campbell in *Bring It On*, Vanessa in *In The Heights*, and Miss Scarlet in *Clue*. You can follow Nicole @nicolebperri for all future shows and postings. She wants to thank her friends and family for always supporting her.

AMANDA PETERSON (Doctor/ Adult Ensemble) is so excited to be back on the Kelsey stage with MPO! Her past Kelsey credits include *Something Rotten!*, *Guys & Dolls*, and *Anything Goes!* Amanda is a graduate of the American Musical And Dramatic Academy where she studied Musical Theatre and Film in the City. Since graduating, she has had the opportunity of originating two roles in the productions *Midnight Madness* and *They Call It Gravy, WE Call It Sauce!* She is also currently appearing in her first movie, *Love Lives On!* Amanda is beyond excited to be back performing with this wonderful cast, crew, & pit! Thank you to my friends and family for always being so supportive of my crazy adventures!