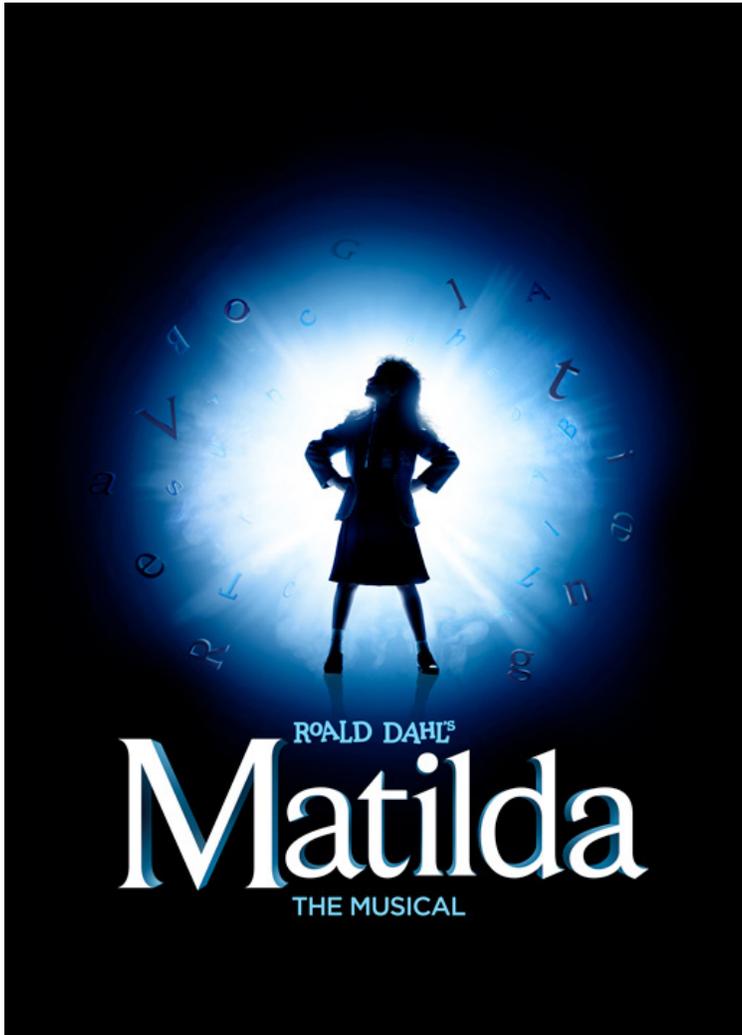


**SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE**



PARENT'S GUIDE

Sunday, October 14 at 6 p.m.



Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical

Book by Dennis Kelly | Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin | 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. www.MTIShows.com

About the show

Based on Roald Dahl's classic children's book, this full-length Tony Award-winning Broadway musical follows Matilda Wormwood, a precocious – and powerful – girl who immerses herself in books. Unfortunately, Matilda's parents don't understand why she'd rather read than watch television. Even worse, the headmistress at her school, Miss Trunchbull, a wicked and outrageous beast of a woman, intends to make Matilda's life miserable. Matilda uses the magical powers she discovers within herself to create a better life for both her and her loving protector and teacher, Miss Honey.

Show sponsors

C.D. Spangler Foundation, Inc., Robinson Bradshaw, SentryOne, Edward & Florence Kim, Patrick Burgess & Joan Martin, John & Suzy Nurkin

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Adventurer series sponsored by: BlackArch Partners

Special thanks



to Julie Higginbotham of Precious Developments. Julie has worked as our consultant in the creation and preparation of our sensory-friendly performances. We're grateful for this valued partnership.

Also to: Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, CPCC Department of Visual and Performing Arts, UNC Charlotte Robotics Club, UNCC Department of Design and Production

What to expect at a sensory-friendly performance

Sensory-friendly theatre is an approach to the audience experience that "softens" the environment. What does that mean exactly? In general, we make the theatre available to everyone, including those who may need more flexibility to help manage all of the sensory experiences that come along with attending a performance. Below are some of the adjustments Children's Theatre of Charlotte is making to create a more sensory-friendly environment tailored to each show:

- Lights in the theatre will stay low during the show, instead of turning all the way off.
- We will lower the sound levels when needed.
- We sell fewer tickets for the sensory-friendly performances so families have more room to move as needed.
- We provide fidgets, headphones and weighted toys to help children feel more organized and settled.
- Someone will be at the front of the stage with glow sticks to help give families a warning when sensory-rich moments are nearing. Raising one light means there's a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting).
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

Support materials for you

We provide several guides to help prepare your family for your visit:

The **visit guide** that walks your family through our facility.

The **child guide** goes with each performance.

The **parent guide** like this one helps parents support their children's learning and experience in the theatre.

We want you to have the opportunity to enjoy the theatre with your family, so with that, please enjoy the show!

Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*



Welcome to the party, everyone! Look how cute these kids are....but are they really?

Sensory-rich moments:

This show opens with mechanical sounds and swirling lights on the floor, followed by a musical number that gets busier with a larger ensemble, lighting changes, and lots of dancing.

The show contains quite a bit of bullying toward the young children, but especially Matilda. Keep an eye out for all of the moments when Matilda shows us just how strong she is!



There's a new baby on the way. Meet Matilda!

How do we welcome new babies into our worlds?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a pretend baby's birth behind a screen with some shouting during and after the baby is born before moving into a song that builds through the end of the scene. Mrs. Wormwood also uses the phrase "bloody hell," and Mr. Wormwood uses a variety of phrases when he is checking the baby's gender. Mr. Wormwood also uses cigarette and cigar props.



What do you think about some of the choices Matilda's parents are making? Matilda certainly doesn't seem too happy about them....

What do we do when we see things happening that are not right?

Sensory-rich moments:

Mr. Wormwood shouts frequently throughout the show, and he *almost* always calls her "boy."



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Matilda is ready to stand up for what's right...even if she has to be a little naughty to get her point across!

How do we help children deal with things that don't seem fair?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a song with lighting changes. It ends with Mr. Wormwood becoming angry with Matilda.

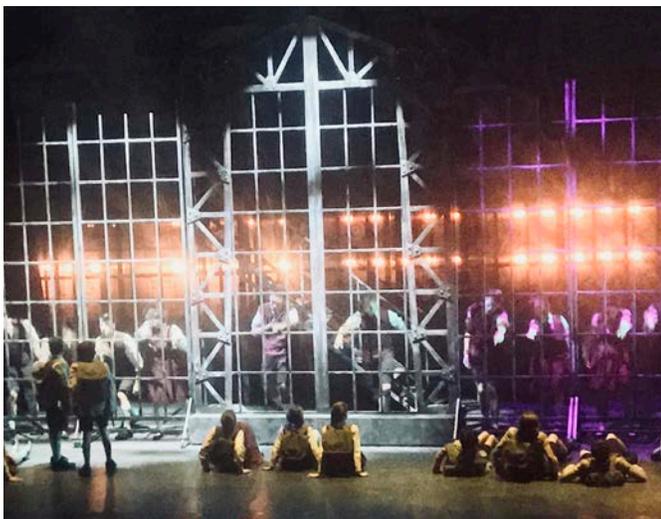


Matilda loves to read so very much, and she really brings stories to life for Mrs. Phelps! But, who's that lady in the library?

Reading can open up a whole new world for all of us!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains movie-like visuals and some light voice effects.



The children get an interesting welcome to their new school....

What can we do to make new people feel welcome around us?

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a very active scene with a louder musical number. There are lots of lighting changes, including lights that aim out into the audience. The older children are also somewhat scary.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Matilda is in her new class. She has a lot of surprises for Miss Honey!

Everyone learns different things at different times, and we can all support each other along the way!



Meet Ms. Trunchbull. She's not as nice as Miss Honey, is she? But Miss Honey is doing her best to stand up to her!

How do we show our children that everyone has their own special strengths?

Sensory-rich moments:

Ms. Trunchbull frequently calls the children unkind names and uses the phrase "like hell." This scene contains a song that builds through lighting changes and a growing ensemble on stage.



Back at home with her family, Matilda is still frustrated with her family's schemes. Why do they keep calling her a boy?

How do we show respect for each other, as well as other's belongings?

Sensory-rich moments:

The Wormwoods continue to be unkind to Matilda, and Mr. Wormwood tears up one of her beloved books.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Everyone needs a friend who will stick by them. Matilda now has Lavender on her side!

Having even one friend can make all the difference in the world! How do we encourage our children to be that friend?

Sensory-rich moments:

In this scene, the older children scare the younger ones in an active song with lighting changes and lots of activity.



Nigel is going to be really happy that he has a friend like Matilda to keep him safe.....

Matilda shows us that it gets easier and easier to stand up for the right thing - we just have to keep practicing!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lights aimed out at the audience, as well as a child actor that comes through the audience to go back on stage and subsequent cheering.



Miss Honey meets Matilda's mother. She's in for quite a surprise!

What happens when we find out that things are very different from what we imagined?

Sensory-rich moments:

In this scene, there is a loud song with lots of lighting changes that builds as the ensemble grows.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Matilda continues telling her story at the library, but is it too much for Ms. Phelps to take?

It's easy to get caught up in a story when the storyteller is so engaging!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains movie-like visuals and light voice effects.



Uh-oh, Ms. Trunchbull does not look happy! Bruce made a sugary mistake with even bigger sugary consequences....

How do we handle real-life consequences when we make mistakes?

Sensory-rich moments:

In this scene, there is a very busy musical number with lots of lighting effects and growing anticipation.



It's time for a quick break! Get ready to settle in for the rest of this story right after a brief intermission.....



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Welcome back for the second half of the show!
Remember Matilda's friend, Lavender? She has some important information for you to get you started.....

It's really hard to hold in a secret, isn't it?



Isn't it nice to sit back and think about what things will be like when you grow up?

How do we help our children see all the amazing possibilities they can find in their futures?

Sensory-rich moments:

In this scene, the ballad builds with more activity as the ensemble grows. They are using swings and scooters on stage as well.



Matilda shares the rest of her story with Mrs. Phelps.
How do you think it ends?

Should all stories have a happy ending?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains movie-like visuals and more vocal effects. It is also somewhat more emotional than the previous story scenes.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Matilda is really speaking up for what's right, and her parents just don't like it at all!

What can we do to support children that are living in difficult situations?

Sensory-rich moments:

The Wormwoods are particularly mean to Matilda in this scene. It transitions into a song with lighting changes as well.



Well, it's time for Phys. Ed. with Ms. Trunchbull. A simple drink of water turns into quite a fiasco.....and a new discovery for Matilda!

How do we show ourselves that we are capable of doing so many things?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a musical number with lots of physical activity, and it transitions into a scene with magical effects and chaos.



Miss Honey shares the tough story of her life, but watch to see what happens as Matilda listens.....

How can we find ways to be grateful for the things we have?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene ends with a shocking moment and more intense emotions.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Ms. Trunchbull is in for a surprise when she tries to challenge the children, but she is prepared for them to misbehave. She is NOT ready, though, for how Matilda decides to stand up to her this time....

Watch what happens when we stand together to do the right thing!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a lot of chaotic shouting and banging, as well as an extremely active dance number with a lot of lighting effects and movement.



Matilda's world is about to change in an amazing way!

How can we encourage our children to step up and bring hope to those around us?

Sensory-rich moments:

This ending scene transitions into the curtain call, which will build to the end of the production.

Thanks for joining us at Children's Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance.

We hope to see you at our other sensory-friendly performances in the future.

For details, visit: ctcharlotte.org/online/article/sensory-friendly-performances.



ctcharlotte.org