

AMARILLO LITTLE THEATRE
in collaboration with the ALT Academy
proudly presents

Roald Dahl's
MATILDA
the Musical

Book by
Dennis Kelly

Music and Lyrics by
Tim Minchin

Starring

Laken Derington
as Matilda Wormwood

Nels Bjork
as Miss Agatha Trunchbull

Featuring

Mikayla Garren **Ryce Garren** **Anna Bahn**
Kissey Cummings **Dennis Humphrey** **Dakota Warren**
and
Beth Alexander **Cinda Alexander** **Brooklyn Cano**
Mabry Fristoe **Hanson Irving** **Emerson Johnston**
Darby Laird **Sawyer Laird** **Phoebe Laur** **Piper Laur**
Tiffany Laur **Caroline Nite** **Maddox Nite**
John Nite **Jace Norris** **Bodi Parks** **Zoë Parrish**
Laken Reyes **Ellison Wyrick** **Jeff Wyrick**

Allen Shankles
Artistic Director

Jennifer Akins
Music Director

Shawn Walsh
Choreographer

Gregg Dunlap
Technical Director

Brandon Khamphoumy
Asst. Technical Director

Jamie Humphrey
Asst. to the Directors

Chriselda Reyes
Production Assistant

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 Cambridge Theatre in the West End of London on 25 October 2011 and received its US premiere at the Shubert Theatre, USA on March 4, 2013.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Matilda Wormwood.....	Laken Derington
Miss Agatha Trunchbull.....	Nels Bjork
Mrs. Wormwood.....	Mikayla Garren
Mr. Wormwood.....	Ryce Garren
Michael Wormwood.....	Laken Reyes
Miss Honey.....	Anna Bahn
Mrs. Phelps	Kissey Cummings
The Escapologist.....	Dennis Humphrey
Rudolpho.....	Dakota Warren
Doctor, Ensemble	Dennis Humphrey
Sergei, Ensemble.....	Jeff Wyrick
Bruce, Ensemble	Jace Norris
Acrobat, Ensemble	Beth Alexander
Lavender, Ensemble.....	Piper Laur
Ensemble.....	Cinda Alexander, Brooklyn Cano, Mabry Fristoe, Hanson Irving, Emerson Johnston, Darby Laird, Sawyer Laird, Phoebe Laur, Tiffany Laur, John Nite, Caroline Nite, Maddox Nite, Bodi Parks, Zoë Parrish, Ellison Wyrick

Sponsored by

Bob Murray - AimBank

B.A. Donelson - Donelson Land & Cattle Company

Pam Deeds - 4 D Construction

Kathie Altman Family Coby and Aimee Pritchard

Melody and Chuck Alexander

Jason and Jamie Laird

James and Rebecca Young - House Repairs and Much More

Marcus and Salina Mills

Christie Word and Daniel Velasquez Susie Ware

There will be one 15 minute intermission between Acts

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director Allen Shankles
Music Director..... Jennifer Akins
Choreographer..... Shawn Walsh
Assistant to the Directors..... Jamie Humphrey
Production Assistant Chriselda Reyes
Technical Director Gregg Dunlap
Set Design David Walsh
Costume Design Kaleena Nite
Assistant Technical Director Brandon Khamphoumy
Technical Assistant..... Noah Lang
Sound and Microphones..... Andrew Hawkins
Costume Assistants Carla Fristoe,
Dakota Warren
Dance Captain..... Macy Martin
Wigs Jeff Jarnagin
Performance Track Technician Ricardo Cruz
Video Design..... Dennis Humphrey
Music Director's Assistant Kristen Loyd
Spotlights Will Henderson,
Nathaniel Moshier
Light Operator..... Chriselda Reyes
Backstage Crew Kiara Tennille,
Travis Tidmore

Special Thanks

WTAMU Theatre Andrew Hawkins

George Cumming Tana Roberson

South Georgia Elementary

Christy Corder

David Gay & Shaie Williams - Amarillo Globe News

Parents and Guardians of our ALT Academy Students

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Beth Alexander (*Acrobat*) was last seen in *Rock of Ages* (ensemble) and is a dance instructor for the ALT Academy. Beth holds a Bachelors and Masters in Education from WTAMU and is a teacher at Western Plateau Elementary. With over 30 years dance experience, she has performed with *TEXAS! The Outdoor Musical* as well as *Mamma Mia!*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Mary Poppins* at ALT. Beth has choreographed for the ALT Academy (*The Wizard of Oz*, *Honk!* and *Frozen Jr.*) and the ALT Mainstage (*Legally Blonde*). “Thank you to my husband, Dubb, and daughter, Cinda, for all your love and support.”

Cinda Alexander (*Little Kid Ensemble*) is a 4th grader at Western Plateau and was last seen on the ALT Mainstage in *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Kids Chorus). Her ALT Academy productions include *Seussical* (Fish and Circus Animal), *Honk!*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (Baby Penguin), *Frozen Jr.* (Little Anna) and *The Wizard of Oz*. Cinda's goal is to be an actress on Broadway and have a bakery. “Thank you to God for giving me my talent, ALT for letting me be a part and mom and dad for letting me do this.”

Anna Bahn (*Miss Honey*), recognized for her role as Johanna in ALT's recent production of *Sweeney Todd*, is celebrating the 10th anniversary of her ALT debut. Some of her favorite roles have included: *Seussical the Musical* (Gertrude McFuzz), *The Secret Garden* (Lily), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts). Anna is 21 and recently graduated with a degree in vocal arts. She plans to move to Oklahoma City next Fall to attend school and continue pursuing a career in musical theatre. Anna would like to thank her mom for her never-ending support, patience, and guidance.

Nels Bjork (*Miss Trunchbull*) was last seen in ALT's *Rock of Ages* (Joey Primo). Prior ALT productions include *Legally Blonde*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He has also been seen in the Amarillo Opera's productions of *Joshua's Boots* and *Man of La Mancha*. His hobby is performing at ALT. Nels would like to thank Zeke Lewis for inviting him to come and be a part of ALT.

Brooklyn Cano (*Little Kid Ensemble*) was most recently seen in Borger Community Theatre's production of *Seussical* (Jojo). She has been a part of the ALT Academy for 3 years and Camp Broadway for 2 years. Brooklyn is a 7th grade student at Borger Middle School where she is involved in theater and was recently cast in their One Act Play *The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza* (Hades & Medea). She loves both sports and the arts. Brooklyn plays volleyball, basketball, soccer, tennis and runs track. She is an amazing singer, plays piano and in her free time she enjoys painting and sketching.

Kissey Cummings (*Mrs. Phelps*) was last seen in ALT's *Sweat* (Cynthia) in which she won an ALTA for Leading Actress in a Play. As founder and owner of Noah's Art/Love Train Productions she has written, directed, and produced productions dealing with the different realities of life: *Counting Up The Cost*, *Daddies Home*, *When A Woman's Fed Up*, and many more. While *Matilda* will be her second production onstage with ALT, she has been keeping herself busy backstage during *Baskerville*, *Peter...Starcatcher* and *Always a Bridesmaid* and helping with concessions. She thanks Mr. Allen Shankles and ALT's family for giving her a chance. Theatre isn't a hobby, it's a lifestyle.

Laken Derington (*Matilda*) is a twelve-year old homeschool student who has been in the ALT Academy for eight years. Her first production was *Aladdin Jr.* and her most recent performance was in *The Wizard of Oz*. Her favorite role (before Matilda) was “Molly” in *Annie* which cemented her love of acting. She has also performed for the Amarillo Opera, Amarillo College Conservatory and Lubbock's Moonlight Musicals. Laken has been dancing for eight years, has had vocal training for four years and acting since she was five. In her free time, Laken enjoys playing piano, playing with her dog and cats, and crafting. Laken would like to thank Allen Shankles for giving her the opportunity to portray this amazing character as well as the production team for their love and

support. She would like to give special thanks to Jason Crespin for encouraging a shy little girl to stand up and sing. Lastly, Laken would like to thank her family, friends and all of her instructors who have been instrumental to her training.

Mabry Fristoe (*Big Kid Ensemble*) is a Freshman at Amarillo High and has been in many productions on the ALT stage. Some of her favorites include *Annie* (Tessie) and the Mainstage production of *Joseph....Dreamcoat*. She was most recently in *The Wizard of Oz* (Twister/Poppy/Jitterbug). In addition to theatre, Mabry enjoys singing, playing ukulele, drawing and making videos for her YouTube channel. She hopes to continue performing on the ALT stage and perfecting her craft. She'd like to thank Jason, Mikayla, Allen and all her Academy instructors for helping her find her passion and getting her to where she is today.

Mikayla Garren (*Mrs. Wormwood*) was most recently seen on the ALT stage in *The Winter Wonderettes* (Cindy Lou) and in *Rock of Ages* (Sherrie). After graduating from Abilene Christian University with a Bachelor in Fine Arts, Mikayla moved to New York to pursue a career in musical theatre. Since returning to Amarillo, she has enjoyed teaching at the ALT Academy. Mikayla is so excited to play married with her real-life husband Ryce on the same stage where they met and were engaged. She would like to thank the cast and production team for their dedication to not only make *Matilda* happen, but to also make it the joyful experience it has been.

Ryce Garren (*Mr. Wormwood*) was last seen performing with his amazing wife Mikayla in ALT's *Rock of Ages* (Franz). Ryce is a Service Manager at Cultivate IT with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Abilene Christian University. He's an Amarillo native, an alumni of the ALT Academy (6 years), performing in many Academy shows including *Seussical The Musical!* (Cat in the Hat) and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Albert Peterson) while also performing in the Summer Youth Musical Program shows *Big River* (Huck Finn) and *Oklahoma* (Curly). At ACU, he performed in *Big Fish* (Amos Calloway) and *Les Misérables* (Thenardier). Ryce is blessed to have the opportunity to perform with his partner again, thanks his family for always encouraging him, and gives God all the glory.

Dennis Humphrey (*Doctor & Escapologist*) is the College & Young Adult Pastor at Paramount Baptist Church and the "On-Field Emcee" for the Amarillo Sod Poodles. After a two-year hiatus from being on stage, he is thrilled to once again be part of an amazing cast that brings magic, laughter and sense of normalcy back to the patrons of ALT...It is truly a privilege! Some of his favorite past shows include *Mamma Mia* (Bill), *Boeing, Boeing* (Robert), *The Addams Family* (Mal Bieneke) and *Joseph....Dreamcoat* (Rueben). Dennis thanks his wife (the most beautiful Assistant Director ever) for her unending love...his kids for being awesome...and Allen Shankles and Jason Crespin for making ALT such a special place to be!

Emerson Johnston (*Amanda Thripp/Little Kid Ensemble*) is a 6th grader at Lorenzo De Zavala Middle School. She was most recently seen on the ALT Mainstage in *Joseph....Dreamcoat* in addition to the ALT Academy's productions of *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Honk!* and *Frozen Jr.* Emerson has performed in dance recitals and as part of an honor choir at her school. Some of her hobbies include singing, dancing, acting, playing basketball, volleyball, golf, tennis and pickleball. Emerson's goals are to pursue acting and singing – maybe be on a Broadway stage some day!

Hanson Irving (*Little Kid Ensemble*) is a 7th grader at Bonham Middle School. He has been acting for 4 years and was most recently seen in the ALT Academy's *The Wizard of Oz* (Nikko/Monkey), *Anne of Green Gables*, *Honk!*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *Huckleberry Finn* (Tommy) and *The Nutcracker*. When Hanson is not in a show, he likes to play his guitar and watch old movies. He would like to "Thank my Mom and Shelly Stapp for always supporting and believing in me."

Darby Laird (*Big Kid Ensemble*) is a 7th grader at Austin Middle School and was most recently seen in the ALT Mainstage productions of *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Kid Ensemble) and the ALT Academy's *The Wizard of Oz* (Ozian), *Frozen Jr.* (Middle Age Elsa) and *A Christmas Carol* (Caroler). Darby has been in theatre for 3 and a half years and when she is not acting, she enjoys drawing, singing, and playing all of the sports at her school. One of her goals is to get the lead in a show and to make it into all the shows she auditions for at ALT!

Sawyer Laird (*Little Kid Ensemble*) is a 5th grader at Bivins and was most recently seen on the ALT Mainstage in *Joseph...Dreamcoat*. She was also in the ALT Academy's *The Wizard of Oz* (Barrister/Monkey), *Frozen, Jr.* (Little Elsa), *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (baby penguin) and *Honk!* (ensemble). Sawyer loves ALT, Battle of the Books and hanging with friends. She wants to be either an author, actress or a teacher when she grows up. She hopes to one day buy Texas and name it Perivia with her friend Molly.

Phoebe Laur (*Big Kid Ensemble*) is a Sophomore at Ascension Academy and was last seen on the ALT Mainstage in *Joseph...Dreamcoat*. She is no stranger to the ALT stage, having performed in several ALT Academy productions, including: *Little Mermaid Jr.*, *Shrek*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *Ramona Quimby*, *Aladdin Jr.*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Seussical*, and *Annie*. Phoebe also worked spotlights for *The Wizard of Oz* and *Christmas Carol* and has taken dance at ALT since she was 3 years old. She would like to thank Jason Crespin and Brandon Bellar.

Piper Laur (*Lavender*) is a 7th grader at Ascension Academy and was most recently on the ALT Mainstage in *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, in addition to several ALT Academy productions - *Stuart Little*, *Aladdin Jr.*, *Little Women* (Minnie), *Seussical* (Cindy Lou Who), and *Annie* (Kate). Piper has also performed with Amarillo Opera in *Ballad of Baby Doe* (Little Silver Dollar). When not playing musical instruments (piano & viola) or dancing (ballet, jazz and lyrical) she loves to draw, sing, act and read. Her goals are receiving her pointe shoes in ballet and having at least one leading role in a show by her Senior year. Piper's life goals are to go to Harvard and study journalism during college.

Tiffany Laur (*Adult Ensemble*) is an active "theatre mom" for the eight years that her two daughters have performed at ALT. She has created many a costume for the ALT stage, but this will be her first time performing in this capacity. Tiffany holds a Bachelor in Music and Master of Arts in Counseling from WTAMU and is currently a Licensed Professional Counselor and Music Therapist in private practice and at 24:00 in the Canyon Cancer Survivorship Center along with being a part time instructor at WTAMU. She is a current member of the ALT Board of Directors as well as President-Elect of the Southwest Region of the American Music Therapy Association. For fun, Tiffany enjoys yoga, barre, pilates, sewing and crafting, music, gardening and providing taxi service for her children.

Caroline Nite (*Little Kid Ensemble*) is making her ALT Mainstage debut. She was most recently seen in the ALT Academy production of *Frozen Jr.* Caroline is currently a 5th grader at Greenways Intermediate and loves shopping, playing games and playing outside. One day, Caroline hopes to work at NASA.

John Nite (*Adult Ensemble*) is making his theatre and ALT Mainstage debut. He is the proud parent of ALT Academy students Maddox and CC Nite. John's hobbies include spending time with his beautiful wife Kaleena and the kids, going on breakfast/bike cruises and tinkering in the garage. "Big thank you to my kids and wife for encouraging me to audition. So excited the whole family is part of this show!"

Maddox Nite (*Big Kid Ensemble*) is currently a Sophomore in high school and was most recently seen on the ALT Academy stage in *Anne of Green Gables*. He was also involved in the Academy productions of *Winnie the Pooh*, *Ramona Quimby*, *Aladdin Jr*, *Huck Finn*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Maddox enjoys writing on his school paper, reading and video games.

Jace Norris (*Bruce*) is currently a 4th grader at Windsor Elementary and was most recently seen on the ALT Academy stage in *The Wizard of Oz* (Tough Guy). Other Academy credits include *Seussical the Musical*, *Honk!* and *Frozen Jr.* Jace is currently unemployed, but his hobbies include reading, playing soccer, spending time with his Sheepadoodle Sherman, going to the lake and hanging out with friends and family. His goals are to be the best actor he can be so lots of people can laugh and smile and to be the world's best soccer goalie.

Bodi Parks (*Big Kid Ensemble*) is a 7th grader at Crockett Middle School and was most recently on the ALT Mainstage in *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Kids Chorus). Her previous productions with the ALT Academy include *The Wizard of Oz*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Aladdin Jr.*, *Seussical*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *Not Your Average Joe*, and *Judge Julie Truly*. When not on stage, Bodi enjoys travelling to new places, hiking with her family and bossing her big sisters around. She looks forward to each new season and the opportunity to learn and bond with a new cast.

Zoë Parrish (*Adult/Big Kid Ensemble*) was last seen on the ALT Mainstage in *Little Women* (Amy March) and the ALT Academy productions of *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), *Annie* (Annie), and *10,000 Problems of a Teenage Girl* (Ana). She previously was in *Peter Pan* (Wendy) at the Georgetown Palace Theatre. Zoë is a 17 year old graduating Junior and will be attending the Institute of American Musical Theatre in NYC in the Fall to pursue a career in Musical Theatre. Whenever she is not in rehearsal or class, she spends her time songwriting and painting. Zoë wants to thank her parents and brother for the endless love and support along with all her instructors for "inspiring me to pursue my dreams."

Laken Reyes (*Michael*) is a Sophomore at Amarillo High School and has been a part of ALT since he was 11 months old – this is his second home both on stage and behind the scenes. His ALT Academy credits include *James and the Giant Peach*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Peter Pan*, *Ramona Quimby*, *Adventures of Huck Finn*, *Seussical the Musical* and backstage crew for *Annie the Musical*, *Honk!*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Legally Blonde*. Laken hopes to graduate high school and go to college to become an automotive designer. He enjoys playing computer games and learning about cars.

Dakota Warren (*Rudolpho*) is a recent graduate of WTAMU with a degree in Theatre Performance and a minor in Dance. He was last seen in the ALT Mainstage production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Prentiss). Recent credits include *Legally Blonde*, *Mamma Mia!*, *9 to 5* and *Texas! The Outdoor Musical*.

Ellison Wyrick (*Little Kid Ensemble*) is a 4th grader at Olsen Park Elementary and founder of "Curly Girls Lemonade". Her recent ALT Academy credits include *The Wizard of Oz*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Honk!* and *A Christmas Carol* (Christina). Ellison's hobbies include acting, singing, dancing, sewing and baking and she hopes to one day be a teacher and a Broadway star.

Jeff Wyrick (*Adult Ensemble*) is making his ALT Mainstage debut. His previous theatre experience was *Fiddler on the Roof* (Peasant Boy) when he was 9 years old. Jeff holds a BA from Texas Tech University and is currently the Production Planner for Caviness Beef. He enjoys running, music, writing and supporting community events like Amarillo Little Theatre. Jeff wants "to make my daughter Ellison proud of my efforts at ALT."

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Allen Shankles (*Artistic/Managing Director*) has been creating theatre “magic” at ALT for 36 years. He has directed hundreds of shows at ALT and has managed the growth of this organization as it has become one of the finest, most successful and highly respected theatres in the country. During his tenure at ALT, Allen has taken ALT from a struggling organization with a \$50,000 annual budget to its current budget of over \$1,200,000 annually. Allen is a visionary who has developed the ALT Academy, the ALT Adventure Space and the construction of the beautiful Terk Lobby at the Mainstage facility. He also coordinated the construction of the aforementioned Terk Lobby including making decisions about every facet of the project from paint colors to carpet choices. Allen also conceived and implemented installations of state of the art lighting and sound upgrades in the Mainstage auditorium. He has always believed that there was no reason why great theatre could not exist in Amarillo, Texas. Now it does. Allen wishes to thank the ALT staff, both current and past, for its dedication, commitment and passion for creating the finest in theatre, art and entertainment.

Jamie Humphrey (*Assistant Director*) is excited to be back at the Mainstage as Assistant Director for a show that has been a year in the making! Even though she does not ever want to be on stage, she continues to love being involved behind the scenes at ALT and being a part of the magic that comes with it. Jamie has loved watching this cast continue to show their resolve after having been postponed so many times and is excited for you to see the finished project. She would like to thank Allen Shankles for trusting her with such an important role at ALT. She would also like to thank the cute Escapologist for his encouragement and her kids, Jordan & Kaycee, for their love and support!

Jennifer Akins (*Music Director*) is a veteran of ALT and has served as Music Director, Assistant Music Director and pianist for over a decade. She is a graduate of WTAMU with a degree in Music Education. When not directing musicals, she plays piano at First Christian Church. She enjoys being married to her husband, Mike and is very proud of her daughter Kate and her three bonus kids Emily, Andrew and Aaron. Her absolute favorite thing is taking care of her grandson, Zander. The next grandbaby is on the way in May!!!

Shawn Walsh (*Choreographer*) entertains ALT audiences, both on and off stage. Some of his acting highlights include: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Dracula*, *Sordid Lives*, *Woman in Black* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. His Choreography work with ALT includes some fan favorites, such as *Winter Wonderettes*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Mary Poppins*, *Sister Act*, *Anything Goes*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Hello Dolly*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *White Christmas* and *La Cage Aux Folles*. Shawn is a realtor with Realty Central, as well as a tap instructor. He enjoys when he gets to spend time with Jeff and their three dogs – Earl, Sissy, Currie and new kitten - Willie.

Chriselda Reyes (*Production Assistant*) is active, both on and off stage with ALT. On stage, she's performed in multiple productions, and has been the Assistant to the Director on several ALT and ALT Academy productions - *Always a Bridesmaid*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Legally Blonde*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Children of Eden*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Little Mermaid*, *High School Musical*, *Aladdin Jr.*, *Beauty and the Beast* (production assistant), *Annie*, *Honk!* and *Hunchback*. Chriselda is a photographer and is also the ALT Photographer.