

alt...the place
to be!



The Amarillo Little Theatre and the ALT Academy

present

ROALD DAHL'S **MATILDA THE MUSICAL**

Book by Dennis Kelly
Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchen



***Nominated for 12 Tony Awards, this dazzling musical
will delight ALT audiences!***

PRODUCTION FUNDING BY

Minnie Venable
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Marcus and Salina Mills
Susie Ware

Finally!!! ALT is just a couple of weeks away from getting this exceptional musical on the stage. Originally scheduled for May of 2020, this show was postponed due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus. Always optimistic, ALT rescheduled the production for September 2020. As the pandemic continued to rage in our world, it became necessary to postpone the production again. Our persistence and the cast's flexibility have made it possible to present this show to our audiences, as it opens on May 13.

Based on Roald Dahl's classic children's book of the same name, **Matilda** follows Matilda Wormwood, a bright little girl who immerses herself in books. Matilda is discarded and belittled by her dimwitted parents—her father insists on calling her a boy and harps on her "stupidity" for preferring reading to watching the telly—and her hostile headmistress, the outrageous and wicked Miss Trunchbull. Reclusive, but with an ever-growing imagination and sharp mind, and with a caring protector in her teacher, Miss Honey, Matilda dreams of a better life, daring to take a stand against unjust forces and to grasp her destiny in her own, tiny hands.

One of the reasons we continued our efforts to produce **Matilda** is because we think the show is going to be spectacular and we have an absolutely phenomenal cast. It stars twelve year old ALT Academy student **Laken Derrington** in the title role. Also starring in the cast is **Nels Bjork** as Miss Trunchbull, **Mikayla Garren** and **Ryce Garren** as Mrs. and Mr. Wormwood, **Anna Bahn** as Miss Honey, and **Kissey Cummings** as Mrs Phelps. The remainder of the cast includes **Beth Alexander**, **Cinda Alexander**, **Brooklyn Cano**, **Mabry Fristoe**, **Dennis Humphrey**, **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**, **Dakota Warren**, **Ellison Wyrick**, and **Jeff Wyrick**.

Allen Shankles is Artistic Director, with **Jennifer Akins** as Music Director and **Shawn Walsh** as Choreographer. **Jamie Humphrey** is Assistant to the Directors and **Chriselda Reyes** is the Production Assistant.

We have waited long enough for this great show! It's time for you to get your entire family to the theatre for an evening of nonstop fun. Get your tickets today!

Please note that ALT will be taking a cautious step forward toward "normal" as we will open up at least 25 percent more seating which should get us up to about 75%. Although we won't be completely full, we will increase our audience size significantly. We hope that this first step will help to propel us ever closer to operating at full speed in the coming season.

Facts at a Glance

{ **NOTE:** All patrons will be required to wear face mask/covering }
while attending a show at ALT. **No exceptions.**

PERFORMANCE DATES:

May 13 and 20 7:30 pm
May 14, 15, 21 and 22 8:00 pm
May 15, 16 and 23 2:30 pm

BOX OFFICE OPENS TO:

Members - Monday, April 26 10:00 AM
Public - Monday, May 3 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

ALT Mainstage
2019 Civic Circle
Box Office - 806-355-9991
Rated - PG

Order online at amarillolittletheatre.org

Director's Notes

So, here we are at the close of another season. This has been a season like none other. I have never experienced such uncertainty and fear. Even in the early years, when ALT was struggling to survive from show to show, I never feared that this wonderful organization would close its doors forever. Truly, if so many of our wonderful patrons had not stepped up in a big way, ALT could have been one of the tragedies of the pandemic.



Allen Shankles

Instead, I am proud to say that we are one of the few theatres anywhere in this country to have performed an entire season of shows. Early in this battle against the virus, we established a comprehensive set of Safety Protocols that we lived by. I am certain that our refusal to negotiate about mask wearing, social distancing and other procedures that helped to mitigate the threat, enabled us to keep our organization running and producing so many great shows.

One of my biggest disappointments of the season is that so few people were able to enjoy what were truly some of our best productions ever! Shows such as ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime***, ***ONCE***, and ***The Wizard of Oz*** were brilliant examples of the great work that was done this season. I am sorry that we couldn't share them with more people.

It's a bit strange to say this, but this will most likely be my last "Director's Notes." After 38 years of working in the BEST JOB in the world, I will be relinquishing my position of **Managing/Artistic Director** to **Jason Crespin**. It is a bittersweet time in my life. I truly love this job more than anyone could ever appreciate. However, I feel like it is time to turn over the keys to a younger generation. My health is becoming an issue and I struggle some times to fulfill my duties. The reality is that I won't be getting better. Ironically, I think I have done some of the finest work of my life in the past few years. Having a chronic disease tends to make one more reflective and focused. I also have a two-year-old grandson that is the light of my life and I want to spend as much time with him as possible.

I am taking a step back at ALT, but I won't be gone. I intend to remain for maybe two more years, depending on my health, mentoring, fundraising, directing and pretty much anything else that I can do to keep ALT functioning at a high level. As I said earlier, I love my job and I love ALT!

We have an exciting slate of shows for next season and I plan to direct 3 or 4 of those. They are shows that have significance to me for various reasons. They include ***Always, Patsy Cline***. This show, which I originally directed in January of 1997, provided me and others with some of the best memories of our lives. APC toured all over the country on behalf of ALT for over 10 years and generated over three quarters of a million dollars in revenue for the theatre. We will be reuniting the original cast of **Cindi Bulla** and **Tammy Hysmith** for this very special show. I know there is a large portion of our patrons who fondly remember this great show. I look forward to sharing it with so many of you who have never experienced its simple, yet very powerful charm. I also expect to direct ***Cabaret*** at the Adventure Space. ***Cabaret*** was the first musical produced at the ALT Adventure Space and it was fantastic! ***Cabaret***, like no other production, proved my vision for what exciting and "in your face" theatre we could produce in this new venue. I believe that ***Cabaret*** has never been more timely than it is today. Finally, I plan to direct a play titled ***ART***. This was the very first play at the Adventure Space. I was lucky to share the stage with great actors **Bobby Schaffer** and **Brad McBride** in the original production. I wouldn't be able to learn the lines for this show if my life depended on it, so I will direct rather than act in it.

My life has been blessed as I have gotten to live my passion every day of my life. Not many people have the privilege of loving to go to work every day. I have worked with some of the best and most talented people in the world and I have enjoyed sharing our love of the arts with so many. My hope is that my legacy may be a source of inspiration and passion for ALT that will be carried on by Jason and the hundreds, no thousands, of great people who love this organization. ALT changes lives! If you don't believe me, just take a look at the faces of every cast member in ***The Wizard of Oz*** and listen to parents who say being in the theatre has been the best thing ever for their children.

I am very proud to tell you that ALT has achieved every goal I have set for it. We have built an organization that is very strong and important in our community. We are introducing the magic of the theatre to hundreds of children each year. We are staging productions of extremely high quality that can measure up to any production anywhere. Our Adventure Space has become a venue in which we can explore theatre literature of all types and styles and in which we have produced some of the finest plays and musicals in the world of theatre. And our community support is exceedingly strong as tens of thousands of people attend our shows each year.

WHY NOT AMARILLO?

For years, I have closed with this phrase. It has never been more meaningful to me than it is as I write it today.

I look forward to seeing you at the theatre(s).

Allen Shankles
Managing/Artistic Director

2021-2022 Season of Shows

Presented by **alt**

Always...Patsy Cline
July/August 2021

The Sound of Music
September 2021

**A Double Wide,
Texas Christmas**
December 2021

**Murder on the
Orient Express**
January 2022

Shrek
May 2022

alt ★
**main
stage**

AD **alt**
VEN **space**
TURE

Adventure #1 TBA
August 2021

Defying Gravity
October 2021

Cabaret
February 2022

ART
April 2022

All titles are subject to availability.

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Perfect for the Adventure Space

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Good Anytime

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Thursday/Sunday Only

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Donating members receive recognition in ALT Playbill, advance reservations & invitations to opening night receptions.

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Sponsor - \$500.00 - 30 Admissions
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Angel - \$350.00 - 20 Admissions
(plus \$50 Tax Deductible Contribution)

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Donors of \$50 or more will be recognized in ALT's Playbill.

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alt 2021-2022 SEASON



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Academy Spotlight

"A heart is not measured by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others." This quote from our production of **The Wizard of Oz** rings so true as I reflect on our time in Oz. The Academy certainly felt the love as we made ALT history in producing an Academy show for a 3 weekend run! I want to congratulate both the Yellow Brick Road cast and the Emerald City cast on bringing this classic musical to life so well. All in all, 94 students and an adorable dog took us on an adventure down the yellow brick road and had us all laughing, crying and teaching us that "there is no place like home."



Jason Crespin

This BIG musical was made possible by the amazing resources and support ALT provides to the Academy as well as our sponsors. I must thank **AAA Electric** for being Production Partners for this huge show. I also want to extend my thanks to **Brandon Bellar** who brought the beautiful music to life as our Music Director, **Beth Alexander** for her brilliant choreography, **Mikayla Garren** who was an amazing Assistant Director, **Noah Lang** and **Velvet Knight** who provided so much help as a Production Assistants, **Jamie Laird**, **Krystal Burns** and their costume team for creating marvelous costumes, **Tana Roberson** for all her work on designing our set, the **ALT staff** and **Board of Directors** who supported this show, and of course all the family members of the cast and crew who did so much! The Academy is not only blessed with amazing kids, but amazing families as well! We could not have pulled off this show without all your amazing help! Thank you!

With our season and classes wrapping up, we can now look forward to Summer! We have put together a fun filled camp schedule that includes both theatre and dance camps. These day camps will provide kids of all ages the chance to be challenged at their talent level and have a whole lot of fun learning more about theatre and dance. Look for camp schedules online as well as audition information for our upcoming production of **Disney's Newsies**. Registration for camp begins on May 17th! **See you all this summer!**

Jason Crespin, Academy Director
jason@amarillolittletheatre.org