

SLOC MUSICAL THEATER

2023-2024 SEASON



ROALD
DAHL'S

Matilda

THE MUSICAL

BOOK BY
Dennis Kelly

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
Tim Minchin

DIRECTOR
James W. Alexander

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Elizabeth Sterling

CHOREOGRAPHER
Caley Alyce Lacey

PRODUCERS
**MJ Alexander &
Steven Baldwin**

SEPTEMBER 15-24, 2023

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and welcome to the first show of SLOC's 97th season! We are so excited to present this production of *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*. With book by Dennis Kelly and music and lyrics by Tim Minchin, this show reminds us that, "even if you're little, you can do a lot."



We are proud of all we are accomplishing in our small but mighty theater as we make our post-Covid comeback. In July, we produced our first-ever main stage summer show in our Franklin Street home, and it was also our first-ever play. This season, we are bringing back our youth production for the first time since 2019. *Tarzan* rehearsals are underway and the show features students, not only onstage, but helping make the show happen behind the scenes in all production and technical roles. We are continuing to increase the size and scope of our shows with larger casts and orchestras as they, along with audiences, return to our pre-Covid numbers.

We continue making much-needed updates and repairs to our three-building campus. Current projects include work on our building's facade, a project to install new signage to make us a more visible presence in the community, and continued reorganization of our set storage to maximize efficiency. We will also be cleaning up our parking lot area, including leveling the ground and adding in fencing. All of these necessary projects are costly, and we rely on your generous donations to help keep our theater running. If you are able, please visit sloctheater.org/donate to contribute to these necessary repairs and improvements. You can also help by purchasing a 50/50 ticket at this performance, or a signed cast poster, available for \$10.

If you would rather give your time, we welcome volunteers in all areas of our theater, from onstage to behind the scenes. If you would like to get involved with one of our productions, be sure to follow us on social media to stay updated on our audition announcements.

I am honored to begin my second year as the President of SLOC's Board of Directors, alongside our Vice President, John Meglino. We are surrounded by a wonderful team of Board and Leadership members who manage the daily operations of our company. If you would like more information about how to vote for or run for our Board, or have interest in taking on a leadership position, please reach out to our Membership & Volunteers director, Deb Paniccia, at membership@sloctheater.org.

As always, I welcome all questions, concerns, and conversations at president@sloctheater.org. Enjoy the show!

Thomas Coon
President, 2023-2024 Season

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Don't worry about the bits you can't understand. Sit back and allow the words to wash around you, like music. --Roald Dahl, "Matilda"

Have you ever revisited something from childhood and realized it was nothing like you remembered? Everything is like this in some way. We often remember our childhood with rose-colored glasses, we keep the big picture, but we lose so many of the details as time marches on. So much of this process was a reminder of this. Of how so many things aren't the way I remember them, and how much deeper something can be than you realized.



If there's an author that exemplifies this, I suppose it would be Roald Dahl. Famous as a children's author, one would be shocked to find the level of adult themes and concepts within his writing. As I revisited the novel, I was struck by the layers of grief, resentment, abuse, and more that littered the pages of what I remembered as a whimsical tale professing the importance of reading. I think it's important to note that "Matilda" was the last children's book that Dahl would publish in his lifetime. Keeping with his theme of tyrannical adults and heroic children, Matilda is notable in that her obstacles are no longer supernatural witches or man-eating giants, but physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and ignorance. Agatha Trunchbull has long earned her place in the Hall of Villainy, but her list of crimes was far greater than I recalled. Honestly, Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood get too much of a pass.

I wanted this production to exemplify this aspect. To show the brutal reality of what Matilda overcame. How truly remarkable it was that this little girl could stand up against seemingly impossible odds and do the right thing, even when everyone else was telling her how impossible it was. I think this is what has caused Matilda's story to pervade the way it has. It's a story that so many people identify with, for any number of reasons, and celebrates the power of imagination. There is, of course, the simple message of brains over brawn, but more than that, how we overcome the things we can't control to take charge of what we can. This was the most difficult show I've ever directed. Between the large cast and seemingly unending technical challenges we encountered, there were days when we couldn't see the way forward. But I suppose that's what Matilda does. The way she inspires Miss Honey and her classmates to overcome their abuse at the hands of The Trunchbull, so too were we inspired to tell her story. Not the way we remember it, but the way it is.

James W. Alexander
Director, *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*

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MUSIC & LYRICS BY
TIM MINCHIN

ORCHESTRATIONS AND ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY
CHRIS NIGHTENGALE

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 the Cambridge Theatre in the West End of London on 25 October 2021 and received its US premiere at the Schubert Theatre, Broadway, USA on 4 March 2013.

DIRECTOR: **JAMES W. ALEXANDER**
MUSIC DIRECTOR: **ELIZABETH STERLING**
CHOREOGRAPHER: **CALEY ALYCE LACEY**
PRODUCERS: **MJ ALEXANDER & STEVEN BALDWIN**

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Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

CAST

Mrs Wormwood	Brittany Glenn
Mr. Wormwood	David Quiñones Jr.
Matilda Wormwood (<i>September 14, 16, 22, 24</i>)	Ryleigh Goss
Matilda Wormwood (<i>September 15, 17, 21, 23</i>)	Marlena Rowe
Michael Wormwood	Alex LaFargue
Mrs. Phelps	Elizabeth Corey
Miss Honey	Jennifer Lefsyk
The Escapologist	Kevin O'Brien
The Acrobat	Ashley Polidore
Miss Agatha Trunchbull	Nick Contois
Rudolpho	Andrei Bires
Bruce	Evan Buma
Lavender	Amaya Ridley
Nigel	Charlie Palmer
Amanda	Teagan Mann
Eric	Vincent Connell
Alice	Vivienne Hays
Hortensia	Brooke Lam
Tommy	Killian Lemley
Other Parts Played by	Rory Alexa, Hazel Chaudoir, Maggie Córdova, Emily Dawn Lacey & Ashley Schuliger

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	James W. Alexander
Music Director	Elizabeth Sterling
Choreographer	Caley Alyce Lacey
Producers	MJ Alexander & Steven Baldwin
Stage Manager	Molly Waters
Dance Captain	Emily Dawn Lacey
Rehearsal Accompanist	Jessica T. Sisti
Set Designer	Molly Waters
Master Carpenter	Tom Waters
Set Construction	James W. Alexander, Sean Baldwin, Steven Baldwin, Robert C. Farquharson, Gary M. Hoffmann, Alex LaFargue, Jeff Rauhauser & Molly Waters
Set Painting	Rory Alexa, James W. Alexander, MJ Alexander, Steven Baldwin, Peter Fitzgerald, Jessica T. Sisti, Kathi Waters, Molly Waters & Tom Waters
Lighting Designer	Laura Darling
Sound Designer	Katie Fitzmorris
Costume Designer	Rory Alexa
Hair Designer	Jennie Canale
Make-up Designers	Rory Alexa & Jennie Canale
Property Designer	Kathi Waters
Child Guardians	Kim Austin, Sara Fredericks, Yonna Palmer & Jennifer Rowe
Board Liaison	Heather-Liz Copps
I.D.E.A. Liaison	Michaela Torres

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

Miracle	Company
Naughty	Matilda
School Song	Company
Pathetic	Miss Honey
The Hammer	Miss Trunchbull, Miss Honey & Children
The Chokey Chant	Company
Loud	Mrs. Wormwood, Rudolpho & Company
This Little Girl	Miss Honey
Bruce	Children

15 Minute Intermission

Concessions by Ambition Cafe & Bistro available at the rear of the theater

Act Two

All I Know	Mr. Wormwood
When I Grow Up	Bruce, Miss Honey, Matilda & Company
I'm Here	The Escapologist & Miss Honey
The Smell of Rebellion	Miss Trunchbull, Children & Miss Honey
Quiet	Matilda
My House	Miss Honey
Revolting Children	Company

MUSICIANS

Conductor	Elizabeth Sterling
Keyboard 1	Maria Elmer
Keyboard 2	Jessica T. Sisti
Reeds	Joey Van Ullen
Trumpet 1	Peter Fitzgerald
Trumpet 2	Thomas Coon
Trombone	Harmon Tunison
Guitar	Jeff Pennachio
Percussion	Robert Ackerman

The cast and crew of *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* sincerely thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to this production:

❖ Joe Shaver ❖ Julie Phillips ❖
❖ Sarah Kinney ❖ Connie Rauhauser ❖
❖ Ballston Spa High School Drama Club ❖
❖ Habitat for Humanity ReStore ❖

CAST & CREW



Standing: Steven Baldwin, Kevin O'Brien, Ashley Polidore, Emily Dawn Lacey, Hazel Chaudoir, David Quiñones Jr.

Sitting: Jennifer Lefsyk, Jennie Canale, Katie Fitzmorris, Jessica T. Sisti, Elizabeth Sterling

Floor: Vincent Connell, Brooke Lam, Teagan Mann, Marlana Rowe

Missing: Andrei Bires, Evan Buma, Nick Contois, Elizabeth Corey, Killian Lemley



Standing: MJ Alexander, Brittany Glenn, Maggie Córdova, Alex LaFargue, Ashley Schuliger, Jeff Rauhauser

Sitting: James W. Alexander, Molly Waters, Rory Alexa, Kathi Waters, Tom Waters

Floor: Ryleigh Goss, Amaya Ridley, Vivienne Hays, Charlie Palmer



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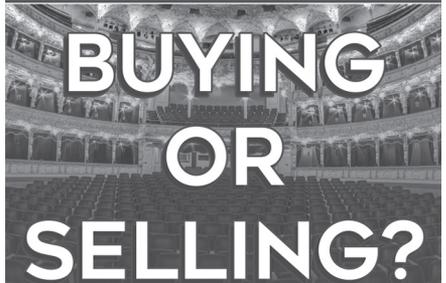
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AUGUST 2023 STEPHEN FOUST

You may recognize Stephen Foust's name as the director of our upcoming production of *Tarzan*, or as the director of last season's hit *The Wedding Singer* and our 2020 production of *9 to 5*. You may have also seen him as an actor on stage. But what you may not know is that Stephen is also SLOC's Facilities Director, in charge of our 3-building downtown campus, as well as our Taurus Road set storage facility. Keeping these buildings maintained is an enormous task, one that requires many hours of tireless work and gets little recognition. We are so grateful that Stephen has been willing to fill this role for us, without complaint, since our 2021-2022 season. He works with the directors and set designers of each show in our season to ensure our sets are safe for cast use, and attends each show's strike to facilitate their cleanup and the next show's load-in to the theater. He also helps oversee and coordinate many of the larger projects on campus, including the clean-out of our set facility and the recent replacement of our sidewalks. Along with Gary Hoffmann, who helps oversee our Education Building, and Mike Deyo, who helps with daily maintenance, Stephen's work keeps our campus safe and our buildings operating.



SEPTEMBER 2023 JEFF RAUHAUSER



Jeff Rauhauser has been part of the SLOC family since 2002, volunteering in a variety of capacities. In 2011, he began helping with our Opening Night Parties, and he worked at almost every party from when we moved to our Franklin Street home until they were forced to pause due to Covid. He has worked on over a dozen set construction teams, including this production of *Matilda*, and helmed the set construction teams as Master Carpenter for last season's closer, *It Shoulda Been You*, and, prior to our shut-down, *9 to 5* and *1776*. Perhaps most importantly, Jeff is one of those people who shows up whenever our less-fun and

thankless jobs are needed. He has volunteered to help clean out our Taurus Road set facility, our old lighting equipment storage, and many annual cleanup days. It is because of people like Jeff, who work behind the scenes, that we are able to put on the productions that you see on stage.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

RORY ALEXA (*Costume Designer, Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back costuming such a powerhouse show and to be on stage again! You may have seen Rory on stage recently in *It Shoulda Been You* (Rebecca Steinberg). Past costuming/scenic art credits include *A Little Night Music*, *First Date*, *Once*, *The Glorious Ones*, *Ordinary Days*, *The Addams Family*, and the mural displayed in SLOC's courtyard. Outside the theater, Rory is a freelance artist, bookbinder, candle hoarder, and parent of two cats. Rory thanks James and Molly for their constant support and love, the whole cast for their energy, and the family who cheers from near and far, always.

JAMES W. ALEXANDER (*Director*) [he/him] has performed extensively in the Capital Region over the last 10 years. He was seen in multiple productions at SLOC including *A Little Night Music* (Carl-Magnus) and *The Glorious Ones* (Flaminio Scala), as well as directing last season's production of *Once*. He has appeared in several theaters in the area including Park Playhouse's *Assassins* (Czolgosz), Albany Civic Theater's *Seminar*, Not So Common Player's *South Pacific* (Emile), and recently with Harbinger Theater in a show whose name can't be written here. Thank you to this incredible group of people who are more talented and hard-working than I could ever hope to be. This cast and crew inspired me every time I stepped into the theater. "Thank you to my sister, MJ, for stepping out of her comfort zone to help her brother, and to Molly, for everything. Always."

MJ ALEXANDER (*Co-Producer*) [she/her] is excited to be involved in a SLOC production for the first time after years of watching her brother, James (yes, the director), perform on this stage. Though she is an avid theater-watcher, this is MJ's first time being involved in a production. It was an absolute pleasure to witness such incredible talent and enthusiasm from the entire cast. She would like to thank Molly, Michaela, Caley, Liz, and Steven for their kindness in helping her along, and most of all her big brother for making her do this.

STEVEN BALDWIN (*Co-Producer*) It takes a village! Thank you to our cast, crew, families, parents, staff, and volunteers who stepped "into the eye of the storm" with us, you've made a big impact. Special appreciation to James, Liz, MJ, Caley, Michaela, Michael, Heather-Liz, Katie, Rory, Molly, Tom, and Laura for all their time, creativity, patience, and care. You should be very proud of your work. Steven lives in Niskayuna, works in education policy, and hates marble cake.

ANDREI BIRES (*Rudolpho*) is delighted to return to SLOC after appearing in last year's production of *Once*. Originally from Romania, Andrei is a professional dancer, choreographer, and actor. He has honorably and successfully represented both Romania and Norway at major national and international ballroom dance tournaments and has been a member of the National Team of both countries. He received his Master's of Performing Arts degree from Hyperion University of Bucharest as well as acted in many theater plays. Currently, he is teaching ballroom at Dance Fire Studio in Niskayuna, New York.

EVAN BUMA (*Bruce*) [he/him] is so excited to be in his first full-length musical. He is thrilled to play Bruce (although he prefers vanilla cake to chocolate). Other recent performances include playing an ancestor in *The Addams Family: Young@Part* (The Albany Academies summer camp) and his recital with Dance Fire Studio (on the SLOC stage!). In addition to dancing and singing, he loves playing the piano, trying different sports, and learning card tricks. Evan is very grateful to his parents for encouraging his musical interests.

JENNIE CANALE (*Hair Designer*) is thrilled to be with SLOC for her first collaboration in *Matilda the Musical*. Jennie is currently a hairstylist in Rotterdam, but still loves to help with local theatre. Past hair and makeup roles include *Beauty and The Beast* (Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons), *The Wizard of Oz* (Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons), *A Funny Thing...Forum* (NSCP), and *Bells Are Ringing* (NSCP). Thank you to all of my friends, family, and my salon family. This has been a wonderful experience.

HAZEL CHAUDOIR (*Ensemble*) [she/her] is 20 years old and currently attends UAlbany as a business major and theater minor, after completing a year as a BFA musical theater major at Viterbo University. Hazel has been in a multitude of productions and is thrilled to check *Matilda* off her list. This is Hazel's first musical after moving to the Capital District from Wisconsin and she couldn't be happier for it to have been with SLOC.

VINCENT CONNELL (*Eric*) [he/him] is excited and grateful to be performing in his first production with SLOC! He has appeared in *The Sound of Music* (Kurt) with Homemade Theater, *School of Rock* (Freddy) with Glens Falls Community Theater, and *Singin' in the Rain Jr.* (Don Lockwood) and *Lion King Kids* (Young Simba) with Saratoga Children's Theater. When not in school or on stage, he is often spotted



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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

playing baseball, soccer, basketball, or rocking out behind a drum set.

NICK CONTOIS (*Miss Agatha Trunchbull*) [he/him] is so excited to return to the SLOC stage after several years of a theatre hiatus. His most recent credits include *RENT* (Homeless Man) at CDAI and *Bells are Ringing* (Ensemble) at Not So Common Players. His last credit at SLOC was Tony in *West Side Story*. He would like to thank his family and his best friend Sammy for always helping him put his best foot forward. Enjoy the show!

MAGGIE CÓRDOVA (*Ensemble*) [she/her] is so excited to be performing at SLOC for the first time! A 2022 graduate of Shenendehowa High School, her past shows include *Mamma Mia!* (Ali), *Charlotte's Web* (Goose), and *The Crucible* (Betty Parris). As a theatre arts student at Hudson Valley Community College, she most recently was in a production of *Macabre: Tales From Edgar Allan Poe* (Ms. Maillard). Maggie would like to extend her gratitude to her family for their unconditional support, as well as to the wonderful cast and crew who made this show possible.

ELIZABETH COREY (*Mrs. Phelps*) [she/her] is grateful to be performing at SLOC, where she always feels right at home! Favorite credits include: *Merrily We Roll Along* (Mary Flynn), *A Little Night Music* (Countess Charlotte), *The Glorious Ones* (Columbina), *The Wild Party* (Madelaine True), *How to Succeed...* (Smitty), and *Urinetown* (Becky Two Shoes). She has loved theater since she was old enough to pretend to be a Jellicle cat. Elizabeth is a proud special education teacher. Huge thanks to James, Liz, Caley, Molly, and this wonderful cast. Lots of love to Kevin!

LAURA DARLING (*Lighting Designer*) [she/her] is back behind the light board for her second SLOC show! Laura is a director, actor, designer, and playwright who practices law to support her theater habit. Recent credits include directing *Bull in a China Shop* (SCP), *MacWreck* (Confetti), and *Seminar* (ACT). Congratulations to the cast and crew for this amazing show!

KATIE FITZMORRIS (*Sound Designer*) [she/her] is so excited to be back at SLOC! She has previously designed or co-designed *Curtains*, *Sister Act*, *Grease*, *The Wild Party*, *The Addams Family*, *9 to 5*, *A Funny Thing...Forum*, *Songs for a New World*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Once*, *First Date*, *The Wedding Singer*, and most recently, *It Shoulda Been You*. She has assisted with others

including *HAIR*, *Urinetown*, *Cabaret*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Additionally, Katie has worked with NSCP, CTG, and Bunbury Players. Katie would like to thank James, Steven, MJ, and the rest of the team for this opportunity.

BRITTANY GLENN (*Mrs. Wormwood*) [she/her] is thrilled to be back on stage at Schenectady Light Opera Company. Favorite past roles include Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* (SLOC, LAGS), Violet in *Violet* (NSCP), and Fiona in *Shrek* (HMT). "Big thanks to the creative team for trusting me with this incredibly fun and LOUD role and to my cast mates for making this experience so much fun."

RYLEIGH GOSS (*Matilda Wormwood*) [she/her] is excited to be making her SLOC debut in *Matilda!* Ryleigh has performed in 7 productions with Debuts Theater, including *Alice in Dorothy Meets Alice* and *Ginger in Zombie Prom*. Ryleigh takes voice and piano lessons with Terri Mewhorter and is part of the Tina Marie Dance Academy. She also performed as part of the Broadway Workshop Showcase in New York City this summer.

VIVIENNE HAYS (Alice) [she/her] is thrilled to be making her SLOC debut in *Matilda!*. While new to SLOC, Vivienne has performed extensively with Drama Kids International. She has played LeFou in *Beauty and the Beast*, Little Fiona in *Shrek*, and the title character in *The Grunch* (*A New Children's Musical*). Most recently, she sang the role of the Little Mushroom in *Press Start! A New 8-Bit Musical*. Vivienne thanks her family, friends, and cast mates for their love and support.

CALEY ALYCE LACEY (*Choreographer*) [she/her] has loved to dance and perform for as long as she can remember. To further her training, she earned her BFA in Dance at SUNY Fredonia. Her past performances include SLOC's productions of *The Wild Party*, *42nd Street*, and *Once*. While at Fredonia, she performed with the Fredonia Dance Ensemble in performances choreographed by Dale Merrill and Paula J. Peters. She is currently working as a dance instructor and choreographer while continuing her own training. Caley would like to thank her family and friends for their support, and God for his guidance.

EMILY DAWN LACEY (*Dance Captain, Ensemble*) is overjoyed to be a part of her first SLOC production. Everyone on the team has been so welcoming and kind. She had so much fun working as the dance captain alongside her sister (and choreographer) Caley. Emily enjoys

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

many styles of dance; she has been dancing for 8 years and is looking forward to her third year on the dance competition team.

ALEX LAFARGUE (Michael Wormwood) [he/they] is a young theater goer, previously a lead in his school's *Peter and The Starcatcher*, and has performed parts provided to him by Saratoga Children's Theater. Alex is so excited to perform for you and can't wait to make you cry of laughter (Mandatory).

BROOKE LAM (*Hortensia*) is thrilled to work with this talented cast. Brooke is a fun-loving, energetic, and caring person. She loves time with family and friends and training on her gymnastics team. Previous roles include Sharpay in *High School Musical Jr.* (school production); Young Anna in *Frozen Jr.*, and Shanti in *Jungle Book Kids* (SSA Musicals); and Molly in *Annie Jr.* (Club House Productions). She thanks Mr. Lotano for introducing her to music and theatre and instilling a passion for it. Brooke wants to thank the staff at SLOC for all their hard work making this show possible.

JENNIFER LEFSYK (*Miss Honey*) [she/her] is so happy to return to the SLOC stage in one of her dream roles! Previous appearances at SLOC include *Young Frankenstein* (Ensemble), *Rocky Horror* (Janet), *HAIR* (Sheila), *Smokey Joe's Café*, and the 90th Anniversary Gala. Most recently, she played Charlotte Corday in SCP's *The Revolutionists*. During the day, she helps others lead healthy & active lifestyles as a Coach at PWR in Albany. Jennifer has loved the character of Miss Honey since she was a little girl. After taking some time away from musical theatre, she is filled with gratitude for this opportunity to find her voice again.

KILLIAN LEMLEY (*Tommy*) [he/him] is so excited that his first musical is on the SLOC stage and he looks forward to being a part of future productions! Killian loves playing Minecraft, Roblox, and his Switch with his sister. "Hi Mom and Dad!"

TEAGAN MANN (*Amanda*) [she/her] is performing at SLOC for the first time! Teagan has been involved in theater since early 2022 and *Matilda* marks her ninth production. Teagan was cast as Jojo in *Seussical Jr* with Debuts Theater Company, which was her first lead role. In addition to theater, she has been involved in dance, where she particularly enjoys ballet. Teagan also takes vocal lessons through Peak Music Studios and has been involved in a halftime show for the Albany Patroons.

KEVIN O'BRIEN (*The Escapologist*) [he/him] returns to SLOC for his fifth show with the company after a four-year hiatus from the stage. Other credits include Lurch in *The Addams Family*, Radames in *Aida*, Orin in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and LeFou in *Beauty and the Beast*. He has also been seen in the ensembles of *Dogfight*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Sister Act*, and *The Wild Party*. He is a filmmaker with a degree from the College of Saint Rose. If you ask him about his upcoming short film after the show, he will launch into an overly detailed explanation of what he is working on. Maybe.

CHARLIE PALMER (*Nigel*) [he/him] is very excited to be performing for the first time with SLOC. Other recent local appearances include: *Frozen Kids* (Hans) with Carpe Diem Theater; *Frozen Jr.* (Pabbie) with Galway Players; *Seussical Kids* (Cat) with Carpe Diem Theater; *Willy Wonka* (Mike Teavee) with Spotlight Theater Troupe. In his spare time, Charlie likes to build with Legos, go hiking, and spend time with friends & family. Charlie would like to thank the production staff, cast, and crew for all their hard work to make this show possible and his family for their love and support.

ASHLEY POLIDORE (*The Acrobat*) [she/her] is so happy to be returning to the SLOC stage! Previous SLOC credits: *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Someday at SLOC*. Other notable credits include: *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet), *Pippin* (Fastrada), *Heathers* (H. Chandler), *Spring Awakening* (Wendla), *Into the Woods* (Little Red), *Mary Poppins* (Mary). Dance training: Freddy Ramirez and Jacki Sweeney. Vocal training: Justin Newkirk. In addition to performing, she is a math teacher and the director of the drama program at Johnstown High School. Thank you to James and the team for bringing her on board to help tell this story! Much love to David.

DAVID QUIÑONES JR. (Mr. Wormwood) [he/him] is elated to make his debut at SLOC in his first ever musical! David has been acting in the Capital Region for 6 years and is a founding member of the Social Justice Artist Collective. A few of David's favorite roles include Jackie in *The Motherf**ker with a Hat* (Harbinger Theatre), Oscar Wilde in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily* (TIS), Jon in *Marjorie Prime* (SCP), and Leslie in *Seascape* (Confetti Stage). David would like to thank his wife and kids for their continued support.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

AMAYA RIDLEY (*Lavender*) has always loved singing and dancing. She recently took a yearlong musical theater class where she was recognized for her advanced dance skills and was invited to be on a competition dance team. She enjoys learning new skills in her acro class and always strives to improve. Amaya appeared in *Dorothy Meets Alice* as Scarecrow at Debuts Theater. She is thrilled to have been cast in *Matilda* because it allows her to do what she loves best. In her free time, she really enjoys being with her friends.

MARLENA ROWE (*Matilda Wormwood*) is thrilled to participate in her first production with SLOC. She caught the acting bug after being cast in the ensemble and as an understudy to Amaryllis in her local high school's production of *The Music Man*. Marlena's love of the stage started when she was just two and she saw *The Radio City Rockettes' Christmas Spectacular!* Marlena would like to thank her Mom, Dad, and Gramma for their continued support. When she's not on stage, Marlena can be found in the dance studio, on the softball field, or curled up with a good book like her character, Matilda! "Nobody but me is gonna change my story."

ASHLEY SCHULIGER (*Ensemble*) [she/her] is delighted to be returning for her second SLOC production! She grew up in Columbus, Ohio where she appeared in *Something Rotten* (Ensemble), *Matilda* (Doctor/Rudolpho), *Charlotte's Web* (Lurvey), and *Anne of Green Gables* (Jane Andrews), before making her Capital District debut in *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble). She recently graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute where she rowed in the 2022 NCAA championship varsity boat. She'd like to thank her family and friends, and especially her dad, for sparking her passion for theater and her mom, whose dedication to fitness has inspired and transformed her into a dancing machine.

JESSICA T. SISTI (*Rehearsal Accompanist*) [she/her] is making her SLOC Accompanist debut in *Matilda*! She made her SLOC stage debut as Jenny in last season's *It Shoulda Been You!* Regardless, Jess has been involved in theater since she was 12 years old. She is the 4-6 Elementary Band Director at Lansingburgh CSD! Additionally, she is the district's pianist and co-music director for a variety of drama club productions and has played in pit orchestras for schools and community theaters all across NY! Jess is ecstatic to be returning to SLOC and

would like to thank the cast, staff, and crew of *Matilda* for being such a fun bunch of musicians to work with!

ELIZABETH STERLING (*Music Director*) [she/her] has been working with SLOC in various capacities since 2014. She was music director for *Once* in 2022, played in the pit orchestra for *It Shoulda Been You* and *A Little Night Music*, and was seen onstage as Ensemble/Violin (*Violet*), Morticia (*The Addams Family*), Martha Jefferson (1776), Rapunzel (*Into the Woods*), and Rona (25th Annual...*Spelling Bee*). Over the past decade, she has been involved in over fifty Capital Region productions as an actor and/or musician. Liz is a Crane School of Music graduate and teacher in the Gloversville Enlarged School District. Thanks to her family, friends, teachers, and students!

MOLLY WATERS (*Stage Manager, Set Designer*) [she/her] is an upstate NY actor and stage combatant specializing in Shakespeare's work. Most recently Molly has been seen onstage as Ella Peterson in *Bells are Ringing* (NSCP) and behind the scenes stage managing and set designing for *Once* at SLOC in 2022. Local professional credits include *Othello* (Desdemona), *Twelfth Night* (Viola), and *The Little Foxes* (Zan). Molly would like to thank her family, friends, and James for everything always.

KATHI WATERS (*Property Designer*) [she/her] is excited to be returning to SLOC in a new off-stage role as Property Designer. She has enjoyed the creative process of crafting some of the more unique props and has been glad for an excuse to keep her crafty machines humming. Break a leg cast and crew!

TOM WATERS (*Master Carpenter*) [he/him] is thrilled to be making his debut as Master Carpenter for *Matilda*. He has previously worked on set builds for *It Shoulda Been You* and *Bells are Ringing*. He's really enjoyed helping to make his daughter Molly's set design come to life and is grateful for this opportunity to make even more sawdust in his basement.

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