



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations! Your child has been cast in ***Matilda The Musical Jr!*** Please see the separate Cast List for a full breakdown of the roles and ensemble.

Performing in a musical is an experience that young people will remember for the rest of their lives, and it is truly our pleasure to work with your child on this exciting first production with our first cohort of Roses Young Creatives. We want everyone involved to understand both the benefits and responsibilities that go along with being in a musical, so we have detailed some of the basics here.

First off, there are a number of great benefits to being in a musical, including:

**Active Participation in the Arts:** Participating in the arts provides young people with a chance to explore their creativity and imagination in a structured and safe environment. Musical theatre is specifically remarkable because it is the only art form that combines all areas of the fine arts: acting, singing, dancing, music, and visual arts.

**Improving Literacy Skills:** From reading scripts to memorising lines to learning to tell a story, young people continually improve their literacy skills while rehearsing and performing in a musical.

**Becoming a Confident Public Speaker:** It takes a lot of guts to stand up and sing or dance in front of your family, peers, and what may seem like the entire community. Experience with public speaking at a young age gives students confidence that will be important to them for the rest of their lives.

**Gaining Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving Skills:** Putting on a musical is a group effort, and every member of the team must work together to make it happen. Throughout the rehearsal process, the students will learn to solve challenges as they arise. Students will learn to trust and depend on themselves and their castmates.

Secondly, as with any group activity, every participant has responsibilities. Please look over the following items to make sure you and your child feel you can honour the commitment to being a part of a show:

**Attendance:** Attached to this letter is an overview of the schedule for this term. Please look it over closely to make sure your child has no conflicts with the rehearsals or show dates. If there are conflicts, please let the RYC team know as soon as possible by emailing Georgia at [getcreative@rosetheatre.org](mailto:getcreative@rosetheatre.org). Participants are expected to attend all rehearsals they are called for unless prior approval has been given.

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## The Roses Theatre

Registered in England No: 3133142 • Registered Charity Number: 1051708 • VAT Reg. No: 670 617728  
Registered Office: Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 5NX • Box Office: 01684 295074



**Rehearsals:** Rehearsals will typically take place during their regular Wednesday sessions during term time. Please see the separate overview for details. Please note that we also have two all day rehearsals taking place on the **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**, plus technical and dress rehearsals on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of July** at The Roses. We will send a full breakdown of these days closer to the time to ensure you know when your participant is needed for these rehearsals. Students should always bring their scripts, a pencil, and a drink (packed lunch or dinner for all day rehearsals where applicable) and they should wear appropriate shoes (trainers or dance shoes) and clothes for movement. Also, please make sure you have arranged for your child to be picked up on time from each rehearsal.

**Homework:** Students will have some homework for the show, including memorising lines and songs, rehearsing their dances, researching their character, etc. Work with your child to create a schedule so they have time to finish both their school homework and their homework from the musical.

**Attitude:** The rehearsal room and theatre are safe spaces where young people can take positive risks and be themselves without the fear of being laughed at or alienated. This principle is essential to artistic growth and exploration. Participants are expected to respect these ideas and are encouraged to remember it themselves when trying new things.

**Volunteering:** The most important thing you can do to help us with the musical is make sure your child commits to everything listed in this letter. If you want to volunteer additional time or resources to the production, simply drop us a note with your name, and we will contact you when assistance is needed. We are still in the process of compiling a list of everything that needs to be done, but don't worry, when we have tasks that need to be done, we will let you know. Later this term we will be asking for parents to support us backstage by chaperoning the participants – please let us know if you would like to help us. Parent must hold a Basic DBS certificate.

Finally, please remember that a musical is a living, breathing entity. Things don't always go exactly as planned, so changes to the plan will most likely be made throughout the rehearsal process. We promise to give you as much advance notice as possible on all changes that arise.

We can't wait for you to see the hard work and dedication your participant(s) have put into Matilda Jr on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2/7pm at The Roses!

If you have questions or concerns at any time throughout the process, please feel free to contact Georgia or Megan at [getcreative@rosetheatre.org](mailto:getcreative@rosetheatre.org) and we will be happy to help you.

Best wishes,

**Georgia Shire (she/her)**

**Get Creative Coordinator**

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