

THE G.J. Gardner. HOMES SEASON OF



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

NEW PLYMOUTH OPERATIC SOCIETY | 2022

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The **G.J. Gardner.** HOMES season

NEW PLYMOUTH OPERATIC SOCIETY'S
production of

ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

BOOK DENNIS KELLY MUSIC & LYRICS TIM MINCHIN

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

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 2011 and received its US premiere at the Shubert Theatre, Broadway, USA on 4 March 2013.

Orchestrations and Additional Music
CHRIS NIGHTINGALE

Produced by: NEW PLYMOUTH OPERATIC SOCIETY

7-23 July 2022
TSB SHOWPLACE

Director: CAROLYN MURPHY

Musical Director: CHRISTOPHER LUKE

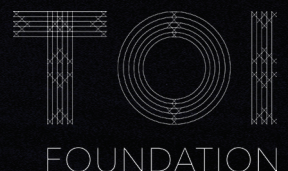
Choreographer: ALANNAH MURPHY

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W E L C O M E

Sometimes you have to be a little bit Naughty!

You are about to witness one of the best comedy musicals of the modern era. 'Sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty' are definitely words to live by!

With the literary genius of Roald Dahl combined with Tim Minchin's comical and musical brilliance, *Matilda* was a smash hit even before it hit the stage for the first time in 2010. If you haven't seen the musical, you may recall the 1996 movie, which made us smile and laugh even without the music - it's just that good.

As New Zealanders, I think we have an affinity with British comedy so for me, the switch to a British setting is all the more authentic, hilarious and closer to home. Outside of the comedy, there's a dark edge to this musical. It may float over our young patrons' heads, but will pull the adult audience closer. A true family show with something to enjoy for everyone.

Staging productions at this level, is an expensive business, and it is just not possible without community support.

A huge thank you to our audience, many of whom come to our shows each year regardless of the title appeal. With a quick check back over our 70 year history, we estimate we have entertained over 1,000,000 people with our productions.

Thank you also to New Plymouth District Council, TOI Foundation, and our funding partners who support us through grants. Our cast sponsors return year after year providing generous support, and at the heart of it, our supremely talented cast & crew, their devoted families, and more than 200 volunteers who give up hundreds of hours to make it all happen.

Finally, thank you to our Season Sponsor, G.J. Gardner Homes Taranaki, for joining the Operatic family this year. Please support this wonderful locally owned business.

Time now to sit back and enjoy local theatre at its best!

Enjoy... Maggots!



Mark Leuthard, President
New Plymouth Operatic Society

Passion for the Province

G.J. Gardner Homes Taranaki is thrilled to be the inaugural season sponsor for NPOS' 2022 production of *Matilda*, a show that will undoubtedly be as spectacular as previous Operatic shows.

NPOS have never had a season sponsor before, so this was uncharted ground, but when they approached us to come on board, our answer was an instant Yes.

At GJ's one of our values is to give back to our community, much like the performances by NPOS. The joy that they bring to the people of our province is something that needs to be supported and that's where we could see our "Role" in the show.

GJ's Taranaki is a locally owned business that has built close to 700 homes in our province since their inception in

2006. Rod and Ben have both had a long association with the Taranaki franchise and have continued to grow the business while still creating high quality and well priced homes.

With their combined passion for the province and strong family history in the area, they are both extremely driven to improve the lives of our local families, a lot of whom will be represented on the stage in front of you during *Matilda*.

Just like building a home, a theatre performance relies on a huge number of people to achieve the finished product. Even though we are the season sponsor, there are also numerous other businesses and volunteers that are supporting NPOS. We would like to acknowledge their contribution, which enables shows like *Matilda* to continue.

On behalf of Ben, Rod and the staff of G.J. Gardner Homes Taranaki, please now sit back and enjoy New Plymouth Operatic Society's performance of *Matilda*.



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G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**

SYNOPSIS

An ensemble of children open the show ("Miracle") as an amateur ballroom dancer, Mrs Wormwood, gives birth to Matilda. The self-obsessed new mother is more concerned with missing a dance competition than her newborn daughter, and her similarly shallow used-car salesman husband, Mr Wormwood, rejects the child when he realises she is a girl.

Time passes and a now 5-year-old bibliophilic and extraordinary Matilda must constantly endure the verbal abuse from her unenlightened family, including her older less-than-average brother, Michael. Matilda retaliates by adding hydrogen peroxide to her father's hair oil, giving him a brand-new, bright green hairdo ("Naughty"). Finding solace at the local library, Matilda distracts herself by telling Mrs Phelps, the librarian, a story about a renowned acrobat and escapologist, who yearned for a child but could not have one ("Acrobat Story I").

The following day is Matilda's first day of school ("School Song"), where her kind and compassionate teacher, Miss Honey, immediately recognises Matilda's exceptional intelligence and recommends she be placed in the top class with the older children ("Pathetic"). Unfortunately, the cruel, child-loathing headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, refuses Miss Honey's suggestion and gives her a reminder on the necessity of following the rules ("The Hammer").

Back home, Mr Wormwood, who just lost a group sale to rich Russians, takes out his failing car sales frustration by destroying one of Matilda's library books. Again, Matilda retaliates by adding glue to his hat ("Naughty Reprise (Superglue)").

Back at school, Matilda discovers the cruel Miss Trunchbull punishes disobedient children by locking them in a small cupboard filled with sharp objects called Chokey ("Chokey Chant"), and also witnesses her swing a girl by her pigtails and throw her across a field.

The caring Miss Honey pays a visit to the Wormwood's house to share her recommendation that Matilda be placed in an advanced class. Mrs Wormwood, busy at rehearsal with her dance partner, Rudolpho, could not care less and mocks both her daughter and Miss Honey ("Loud"). A forlorn Miss Honey feels powerless to help Matilda ("This Little Girl").

In the library, Matilda continues the story of the acrobat and escapologist for Mrs Phelps. The acrobat's sister, a former hammer-thrower who enjoys frightening small children, arranged a performance that was cancelled upon news of the acrobat's pregnancy. The hammer-thrower is furious, and contractually binds them to perform or otherwise go to jail ("Acrobat Story II").

Back at school, a boy in Matilda's class named Bruce Bogtrotter has been caught stealing a slice of Miss Trunchbull's personal cake. As punishment, Bruce is forced to eat the entire cake in front of everyone. The class show unanimous support for him ("Bruce"), and upon finishing Miss Trunchbull drags Bruce away to the Chokey.

Interval



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Mr Wormwood sings television's praises while denigrating the need for reading ("Telly") and Lavender, Matilda's schoolfriend, tells everyone she is going to put a newt in Miss Trunchbull's water jug. The children share their hopes for adulthood ("When I Grow Up") and Matilda vows to put a stop to Miss Trunchbull's cruelty.

In the library, Matilda continues the story of the acrobat and escapologist for Mrs Phelps. The forced show goes well until a fatal injury at the very end where the acrobat dies in childbirth and her sister is invited to live with the newborn and the escapologist. The hammer-thrower is secretly detestable to the little girl, unbeknownst to the escapologist ("Acrobat Story III").

An ecstatic Mr Wormwood returns home, having sold the cars to a group of Russians using dishonest methods - which disappoints Matilda. When she scolds him, he locks her in her bedroom where she finishes the story of the acrobat and escapologist. After years of cruelty from the hammer thrower aunt, the escapologist's father discovers the truth. He vows to always be there for his daughter, and goes to find the aunt, but is never seen again ("Acrobat Story IV - I'm Here").

The following day, Miss Trunchbull puts Miss Honey's students through a rigorous physical education class ("The Smell of Rebellion"). After Miss Trunchbull discovers the newt in her water jug, she begins to punish an innocent student. Matilda discovers she can move things with her mind and tips over the water jug, causing the newt to climb up Miss Trunchbull, scaring her off ("Quiet").

An astounded Miss Honey invites Matilda over for tea, where the two discover they both have less than ideal family

lives. Miss Honey tells Matilda about her terrible aunt, who raised her as a child after her parents died. Miss Honey was legally contracted to pay her aunt back for every expense she procured as a child, and now lives serenely in an old shed ("My House"). Matilda realises that Miss Honey is the real-life child of the acrobat and the escapologist, and her aunt is Miss Trunchbull.

At school, Miss Trunchbull forces Lavender to the Chokey by making up a word she cannot spell during a spelling test. The children rebel by misspelling simple words, believing they can't all be sent to the Chokey. Unknown to the students, Miss Trunchbull has built many Chokeys.

Matilda uses her newfound powers to move the chalk on the chalkboard, terrifying Miss Trunchbull into believing the ghost of her dead brother is out to get her. The children celebrate her screaming exit and their freedom ("Revolting Children"). At the library, Mrs Phelps and Miss Honey reveal that after Miss Trunchbull ran away, Miss Honey's parents' will has been discovered. Everything was bequeathed to Miss Honey after all, and she is also made the new headmistress.

Matilda has lost her powers. Miss Honey feels helpless that this special child is being reared in an unloving household. The Wormwoods arrive at the library in an anguished rush, telling Matilda they are fleeing to Spain after the Russian Mafia discovered they were sold broken cars. Miss Honey asks if Matilda can stay with her, but Sergei of the Russian Mafia arrives before a decision is made. Impressed by Matilda, Sergei agrees to leave the Wormwoods alone as long as they never have to deal with Mr Wormwood ("Priyatna Paznakomitsa / This Little Girl Reprise"). It is agreed that Matilda will now live with Miss Honey ("Bows / When I Grow Up Reprise").



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Agatha TruNChbull

Justin Clinton-Gohdes

With an extensive resume of vocal training and performance in the USA, a performer of Justin's calibre would be welcome at almost any theatre company... we are so lucky that he chose New Plymouth to make his home and raise his recently growing family with wife Amanda and baby son Francis!

Growing up in Missouri, Justin's musical ability was evident at a young age, and he began piano lessons at the age of 9 years old, followed by lead roles in musicals during his High School years and has gone on to appear in musicals, opera, or concert choirs ever since. Since arriving in NZ, Justin continued performing in Auckland from 2014, and here in Taranaki since arriving five years ago.

After his previous performances in New Plymouth Operatic's Les Miserables in 2018, and his memorable performance of the Wizard in Wicked last year, we are delighted to have Justin take on the Trunchbull - the nicest guy, playing the most horrible of women!



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Miss Honey

Jess Stafford-Old

Jess grew up in New Plymouth, and attended Spotswood College where she was lucky enough to land the Sheilah Winn student nomination to study with the Youth Shakespeare group and eventually the opportunity to train and perform under international directors at the Globe Theatre in London.

Having studied Theatre at Victoria University, Jess has involved herself in musical theatre ever since, and highlight roles include performing Sister Mary Robert in WMT's Sister Act, Smiley Virus in Circa Theatre's Pantomime, Wendla in Spring Awakening, and touring NZ for 11 months.

Jess joined the NPOS family in 2012 and returned on stage again as one of the Diva's in Priscilla, before taking on the role as Nessarose in Wicked last year.

Recently married, this year is set to bring a lot of dreams to fruition as Jess takes on the charming Miss Honey.



Jess is sponsored by:

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Indicates number of productions performed for NPOS

Matilda



Bella ROubOs

Ten year old Bella joins our cast as one of our Matilda's. This bubbly, confident year six Oakura School student, known as Bells to her friends, has a love of all things theatre.

Bella has studied dance in Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical and Musical Theatre, and has competed in various dance competitions. She also recently began singing lessons, which will have been put to great use during rehearsals for *Matilda*!

When she's not dancing and performing, Bella loves to do what most girls her age do – spending time with her family and friends, swimming at the beach, playing netball and body boarding.

Bella has loved the movie version of *Matilda* and is super excited to land this role and become part of the cast of *Matilda, the Musical*.

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Leah Gunson



Leah is a year seven student at Sacred Heart Girls' College, and Matilda will be her debut performance for NPOS.

Leah first appeared on stage in the 4th Wall Theatre production of *All Together Now* in 2021, where she got to sing *When I Grow Up* from *Matilda, the Musical* - which surely inspired her to audition for the NPOS production!

She has studied singing for several years, and has competed in a variety of singing competitions including the KH Spear Competition in 2021.

Born and bred in New Plymouth, Leah comes from a big family where she is one of five and much like her character, loves reading. Known as 'Gunner' to her friends, Leah loves playing netball, hip hop dancing and of course, singing!

We welcome Leah to the NPOS family!

Leah is proudly sponsored by:

PAK'nSAVE

Layla O'Brien

Ten year old Layla O'Brien attends Woodleigh School as a year six student, after moving from Auckland four years ago. Layla last appeared on stage singing one of the songs from *Matilda* in *All Together Now* at 4th Wall Theatre, but this will be her first appearance for NPOS.

Layla fondly remembers her older sister reading her Roald Dahl's *Matilda* and never dreamed that one day she'd be playing the title role to audiences in Taranaki.

Learning dance and singing has prepared Layla for the challenge of joining the cast and she's most excited to be singing *Naughty* because she admits it's a trait that she has... sometimes.

With a love of animals, chocolate cake and KFC, Layla is sure to bring her personality to the role of *Matilda*, and we welcome her in her debut performance for the society.

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THE WORMWOODS

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Shaun Murphy > MR HARRY WORMWOOD

Shaun is part of the furniture at NPOS with 16 previous stage credits to his name, including Leo in *The Producers* (2012) and Corny Collins in *Hairspray* (2013) and more recently he appeared on stage in the cast of *Wicked* (2021). However, his biggest production this year was his recent marriage to our *Matilda* Choreographer, Alannah.

By day, Shaun is an Associate and Registered Architect at Boon and is a member of the NPOS Board of Management. His expertise and experience are a huge asset to the board and we just know you'll be as delighted as we are as Shaun takes on the comical role of Matilda's father, the iconic used car salesman, Harry Wormwood.

Shaun is sponsored by:



Krystal Leuthard > MRS ZINNIA WORMWOOD

If Krystal's face looks familiar, it should! She has been a member of NPOS for over twenty years and this year *Matilda, the Musical* is show number 19!

Krystal's roles have been many and varied, but her favourites are Peggy Sawyer in *42nd Street*, for NPOS (2011), and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* for Hawera Repertory Society (2017).

Krystal and her husband Mark, are a popular duo who entertain at private functions around Taranaki, and they have both been vocalists and dancers in the NPOS Christmas shows.

By day, Krystal works as a Trust Account Administrator for Nicholson's, and keeps her evenings free for music! She sends a special thanks to ALL of the family for their continued support.

Krystal is sponsored by:



Keegan Pulman > MICHAEL WORMWOOD

Keegan first joined the NPOS family back in 2013 when he worked as a dresser in *Hairspray* for fellow cast member Jesse. He went on to appear in a variety of productions for other societies before delighting audiences last year in *Wicked* as Boq the Munchkin.

Keegan has a strong theatre background having studied at The John Bolton Theatre School. His training has seen him successfully cast in a variety of roles, including touring with the Ugly Shakespeare Company, who travel and perform to many secondary schools in New Zealand as well as at many arts festivals.

Although still relatively new to musical theatre, Keegan has taken on the challenge this year, playing Matilda's peanut butter and jam sandwich loving brother, Michael.

Keegan is sponsored by:



Act One

MIRACLE	Kids, Parents, Matilda, Ensemble
NAUGHTY	Matilda
ACROBAT STORY	Acrobat, Escapologist
SCHOOL SONG	Kids
PATHETIC	Miss Honey
THE HAMMER	Trunchbull, Kids
NAUGHTY REPRISE (Superglue)	Matilda
CHOKEY CHANT	Kids
LOUD	Mrs Wormwood, Rudolpho, Ensemble
THIS LITTLE GIRL	Miss Honey
BRUCE	Kids

Act Two

ALL I KNOW	Mr Wormwood
WHEN I GROW UP	Kids, Miss Honey, Matilda
I'M SO CLEVER	Mr Wormwood
ACROBAT STORY IV (I'm Here)	Escapologist, Matilda
THE SMELL OF REBELLION ...	Trunchbull, Kids, Matilda, Miss Honey
QUIET	Matilda
MY HOUSE	Miss Honey, Escapologist
REVOLTING CHILDREN	Kids



Miss Agatha Trunchbull Justin Clinton-Gohdes
 Miss Honey Jess Stafford-Old
 Matilda Bella Roubos
 Matilda Layla O'Brien
 Matilda Leah Gunson
 Mr Wormwood Shaun Murphy
 Mrs Wormwood Krystal Leuthard
 Michael Wormwood Keegan Pulman
 Mrs Phelps Donna Yeats
 Rudolpho Jesse Pearson
 Bruce Bogtrotter Tommy Broadmore & Oliver Jull
 Lavender Hannah Armstrong & Olivia Moorhead
 Amanda Indie Pretty-Taylor & Arabella Thomson
 Alice Millie Ireland & Ilsa Moodie
 Hortensia Blakey Stewart-McDonald & Maggie Cleaver
 Eric Milan Bhaskar & Angus O'Sullivan
 Nigel Lucas Jacobson & Luke Shaw
 Tommy Ben McNeil & Benji Tooley

Ensemble

Leanne Bartlett Adrian Whelan
 Mark Leuthard Levi King
 David Liggett Katie-Rose Murphy
 Hannah Liggett Meika Watson-Burrows
 Lauren Luque Makayla Wells

Offstage Ensemble

Debbie Bygate Ian Hutchinson
 Diana Lloyd Stephen Leeks
 Nina Lobb Jeff Poole
 Peter Pritchard

Children's Choir

Max Armstrong Cohen Jacobson
 Paige Casey Emma Jameson
 Czeska Cottam Tula Maclean
 Neive Davison Niamh O'Sullivan
 Bryah Edwin Esme Pease
 Martha-Rose Hagenson Noah Stanley
 Ruth Hagenson Samuel Tippet



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PERFORMANCES: July 2022 - Thurs 7th, Sat 9th (matinee), Sun 10th, Wed 13th, Fri 15th, Sat 16th, Tues 19th, Thurs 21st, Sat 23rd (matinee)



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"Somewhere inside
all of us is the
power to change
the world."

— Roald Dahl, Matilda

ROALD DAHL'S Matilda THE MUSICAL

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Donna Yeats

MRS PHELPS

Donna Yeats is no newcomer to Taranaki audiences, having two previous stage credits with NPOS, and more recently, she delighted as the charming Vicar Geraldine, in New Plymouth Little Theatre's production of *The Vicar of Dibley*. We are excited to have her tread the boards with NPOS again this year.

With an extensive background of theatre credits to her name in the UK, Donna first joined the society as a member of the *Mary Poppins* cast, and went on to help backstage in *Les Misérables* in 2018. She is excited to be playing the role of the librarian Mrs Phelps in this year's production of *Matilda, the Musical*.

Donna is a marketing expert by day, and recently qualified as a celebrant.

Donna is sponsored by:



ADRIAN
WHELAN

Doctor

3

Known for his performances in NPOS Christmas productions, and roles such as 'Bill' in *Mamma Mia*, Adrian is also making a name for himself as part of a successful and popular folk trio 'Turkey the Bird'. Working with so many children in *Matilda* will be a different experience for him, but he is sure it will be loads of fun.



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MARK
LEUTHARD

Entertainer

31

In his 31 years of NPOS membership, Mark has performed in 31 shows. He says he is nervous about the dancing in *Matilda* because "It's fast, and I am old", but we're sure he'll do us proud! Mark is a Commercial Partner at BNZ, and enjoys rehearsals and socialising with old and new friends in the cast and crew.



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JESSE
PEARSON

Rudolpho

9

Jesse loves being part of NPOS so much, that he's been on stage for nine out of our last ten shows - including the role of Chistery the Monkey in *Wicked* last year.



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LEANNE
BARTLETT

Acrobat

10

Leanne met her husband Kellan while part of a NP Little Theatre show many years ago. Both have been regular faces in NPOS productions since then, and in 2002 they shared the stage in Leanne's favourite show, *Les Misérables*. Leanne is mum to two teenagers, and is a teacher at St Joseph's School where she also uses her theatre skills to write and produce school productions.



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Ensemble

LEVI KING

6

With five previous NPOS shows under his belt, Levi is grateful to his boss for being awesome, and understanding how demanding being part of a production like *Matilda* can be. His favourite part of the show is watching Trunchbull get angry, and hopes you will like it too! In his spare time Levi enjoys riding his dirt bike on trail rides.



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DAVID LIGGETT

17

David is Operations Manager at the TSB Showplace during the day and is back in the evenings as a cast member of *Matilda*. This is his 17th NPOS show, with *Wicked's* Dr Dillimond, and *42nd Street's* Andy Lee being his biggest roles to date. David loves the teamwork and family environment of being part of the cast and crew of *Matilda*.



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HANNAH LIGGETT

3

As a student and the youngest cast member last year in *Wicked*, Hannah is now a Dance Teacher for THESPA. *Matilda* is her third show for NPOS, with her favourite role to date being Jane Banks in *Mary Poppins*. Hannah has trained in dance, singing, and musical theatre, and a performing highlight was attending the Hip Hop World Supremacy Battlegrounds in Sydney.



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LAUREN LUQUE

4

Lauren has always loved dance and drama, and has a Diploma in Performing Arts. She owns Hustle & Flow Reformer Pilates where she is also an instructor. Although born in England, Lauren has been living in New Plymouth for 14 years. She lists snowboarding, football, walking and being at the beach as her interests outside of theatre.



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KATIE-ROSE MURPHY

5

NPOS has been very much part of growing up for Katie-Rose. She enjoys being able to share the experience of being part of *Matilda* with her family, and loved the movie as a child. Katie-Rose enjoys crossfit and netball, and describes herself as "very competitive". She spends her days as an Architectural Graduate at Ardern Peters Architects.



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MEIKA WATSON-BURROWS

1

A National Contracts Advisor for The Ministry of Social Development, Meika is enjoying her evenings with the *Matilda* cast and crew. This is her first NPOS show, but she performed in *Cinderella* the Pantomime as a child. Meika's favourite subject at school was drama, and she loved both the book and movie of Roald Dahl's *Matilda*.



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MAKAYLA WELLS

1

After years of acting and singing lessons, and a lead role in the combined NPGHS/NPBHS 2021 musical, Makayla is ready to step onto the Showplace stage for her first production with NPOS. Her favourite song from the show is 'When I Grow Up' because it relates to how she felt as a child. Makayla's other interests include adventure racing and song writing.



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ORCHESTRA

Reed 1: Amelia Luke

Reed 2: Suzanne Scott, Jo Henderson

Trumpets: Bryce Gordon, Stewart Maunder

Trombone: Alan Ramage-Brown

Percussion: Fletcher Gordon, Anne Bovett

Guitar: Julian Raphael

Keyboard 1: Robert Fleming

Keyboard 2: Amanda Henry, Denise Hayes

Violoncello: Barbara Mitchell, Victoria Holder

Bass Guitar: Don Boyd



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THE CREATIVES



Carolyn
Murphy

DIRECTOR & MUSICAL STAGING

Carolyn has been a member of NPOS for a whopping 49 years, and was made a Life Member in 2019. Over the years, Carolyn has involved herself in almost all aspects of the production process, both on stage and backstage. With 15 productions as Choreographer under her belt, directing was a natural progression. *Matilda* is her fifth appointment as Director for NPOS, after the highly successful production of *Wicked* in 2021. Carolyn has loved the opportunity of directing the children in *Matilda*, who she says have been fantastic to work with – most of the time!

When not working for NPOS, Carolyn enjoys working with the junior sector of the community at St Pius X School, Directing and Choreographing Junior Broadway productions and Dance Extravaganzas. Outside of theatre Carolyn enjoys spending time with family and friends and is looking forward to the opportunity to travel overseas with her husband Kevin when circumstances allow.



Christopher
Luke

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Christopher is well known in musical circles throughout Taranaki since his arrival from Australia in 2012. He holds the role of Director of Music to Taranaki Community & Cathedral, and Executive Officer to the Music Innovation Trust of Taranaki. He is Music Director of Ars Nova Choir and the Great Taranaki Steam Band, and Co-Music Director of the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra working alongside Uwe Grodd. He is Chair of the Taranaki Youth Orchestra and the Taranaki Regional Chair of the New Zealand Choral Federation also sitting on the Federation's National Advisory Committee.

Matilda marks Christopher's fourth appointment as Musical Director for NPOS, after successful seasons of *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2014, *Mary Poppins* in 2017, and *Wicked* in 2021.

Christopher thanks his wife, Amelia, and their five children for their constant love and support.



Alannah
Murphy

CHOREOGRAPHER

Dancing since the age of three, Alannah trained throughout her childhood at LGS Dance Studio, and went on to graduate from Whitireia NZ with a Diploma in Commercial Dance. After completing several contracts overseas, Alannah moved home to share her love of performance with Taranaki.

By day Alannah works at Pak'nSave New Plymouth as their Payroll and Compliance Manager and by night teaches Musical Theatre, Jazz and Ballet back at LGS Dance Studio, where her love of dance began!

NPOS has seen Alannah involved since 2003. This will be her 5th appointment as Choreographer for NPOS and she has thoroughly enjoyed creating this production alongside Carolyn and Christopher.

Recently married to Shaun who is also in the cast of *Matilda*, Operatic is a real family affair - one that we hope will continue for many more shows yet!



Steve
Lloyd

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Steve's association with New Plymouth Operatic Society started in the early 1990's when he was helping backstage on shows, and appeared on stage in *Anything Goes* in 1995.

He has participated in numerous musical theatre productions for a large number of companies and societies in Melbourne, London, Sydney, Auckland and Wellington.

After arriving back in New Plymouth in 2018, Steve took on the role of Stage Manager for the NPOS production of *Les Miserables*. This was followed by Production Manager roles for *Priscilla* in 2019, *Wicked* in 2021, he and is back again this year for *Matilda*.

Steve was elected onto the NPOS Board of Management in 2020. He is married to Diana, who is also part of the *Matilda* cast, and in their spare time they enjoy running their own motorcycle race team competing throughout New Zealand.



Colleen
Deegan

COMPANY MANAGER

Colleen was first introduced to NPOS in 1983, when Carolyn and Kevin Murphy asked her to join the Props team for the production of *Annie*, and from then on she was hooked! For the next few years Colleen's involvement was a mixture of performing on stage, working back stage, and she was also a member of the NPOS committee.

While overseas working on cruise ships, Colleen met her husband Joe, and they returned to New Zealand in 2001. Their children, Kieran, Michaela and Cormac have grown up with the theatre around them, and all love being involved too.

Colleen has worked for NZ Media & Entertainment for over 20 years. She is so excited to take on the role of Company Manager for *Matilda* this year, working with the dedicated hard working crew, and the incredibly talented cast - especially the children.

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THE DESIGNERS



Harold Moot

COSTUME DESIGN

Harold has worked in professional theatre for over 34 years. Since 1990 he has been freelancing as a designer, set builder and scenic artist, and has designed extensively for Court Theatre and Showbiz Christchurch, as well as Wellington Musical Theatre, Downstage Circa, The Outwits, Southern Ballet & T&G Productions. Harold designed the set for the NZ premiere of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* for Showbiz Entertainment, and Southern Opera's touring production of *Time Pieces*. Harold has worked in film, television and advertising including work at Weta Workshop. In 2021 Harold received Sir Roger Hall's Out of the Limelight Theatre Award. *Matilda* is his most recent set design in a very long list of credits.



Christy Lassen

PROPS DESIGN

Christy is a Christchurch-based freelancer who owns The Little Red Hen Company, specialising in Props Design, Manufacture and Hire.

Christy spent ten years touring internationally as part of the Stage Management team on shows such as *Blood Brothers*, *Chess*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The New Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Secret Garden* and *Chicago*. More recently, she spent three years at The Court Theatre as Properties Manager.

Christy is very happy to be "back in orange" and is delighted to be working with the NZ Musical Theatre Consortium on their production of *Matilda*.



David Spark

VIDEO DESIGN

Dave is a professional lighting and video designer with over 20 years' experience in the industry. He has designed and production managed an extensive amount of large scale corporate and theatre events all around the country, including an array of shows for many local musical theatre societies as well as fully professional companies. Dave is highly sought after for his creative, innovative high end video and production design and technical solutions. He currently runs his own company, Pixel, which designs and supplies an impressive variety of large, high resolution video displays and visual effects for events and stage productions across New Zealand. See more work from Dave and the team at Pixel at pixel.co.nz.

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THE AUTHORS



Dennis Kelly

MUSICAL BOOK

Dennis Kelly's work for theatre includes *Debris*, *Osama the Hero*, *After the End*, *Love and Money*, *Taking Care of Baby*, *DNA*, *Orphans*, *The Gods Weep*, and *The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge Mastromas*. He wrote the book for the new musical of *Pinocchio* which opened at the National Theatre in 2017, and in 2018 his play *Girls and Boys* opened at the Royal Court. He also wrote the book for the Olivier and Tony Award winning *Matilda the Musical*.

Dennis has had his plays performed worldwide and to date, they have been translated into nearly forty languages.

For television, Dennis co-wrote and co-created *Pulling* and wrote and created *Utopia*. For film he wrote the screenplay for *Black Sea*, which was directed by Kevin MacDonald.

In 2010 his book and short film *DNA* became a set text for the GCSE English Literature syllabus in England, Northern Ireland & Wales.



Tim Minchin

MUSIC & LYRICS

Tim Minchin is a musician, actor, comedian, writer and director. He has toured extensively in the US, UK and Australia, performing solo, with bands, and with symphony orchestras.

Tim has released five DVDs, the most recent of which, was recorded with the Heritage Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall.

His screen acting credits include *Robin Hood Origins* (2018), *Secret River* (2015), and *Californication* (Season 6 - 2013).

Stage acting credits include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Sydney Theatre Company) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (UK/Australia tours).

Tim has written extensively for theatre, and is the composer-lyricist of *Matilda the Musical* (with Dennis Kelly) and *Groundhog Day the Musical* (with Danny Rubin).



Roald Dahl

ORIGINAL STORY

Roald Dahl (1916-1990) was the author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, *The BFG* and many more of the world's best-loved children's stories.

He remains one of the world's greatest storytellers and is celebrated annually by the world's biggest author-based event, *Roald Dahl Day* – which is recognised across the globe on 13th September.

His first children's story, *James and the Giant Peach*, was published in 1961 and was a huge hit, and every subsequent book became a best-seller.

Today, his stories are available in 59 languages and, by a conservative estimate, he has sold more than 250 million books. Many of these stories have also been adapted for stage and screen, including the 1971 film classic *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, Wes Anderson's acclaimed *Fantastic Mr Fox*, and the Royal Shakespeare Company's multi award-winning production of *Matilda The Musical*.

“Stories are best when they're a little bit like rollercoasters. With highs and lows, twists and turns, a good bit of fear, and the significant risk that someone might vomit.”

~ Tim Minchin

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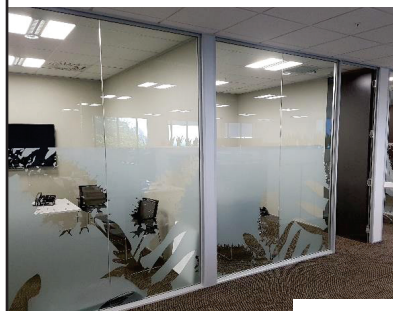
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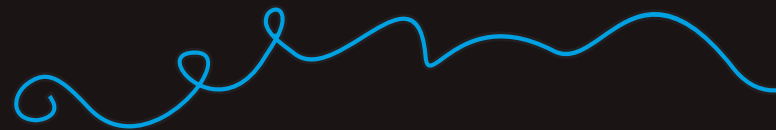
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We thank all other people who have helped in some way with this production of *Matilda* and who, due to printing deadlines, we have not been able to recognise individually. A special thank you to the friends and family of all those involved, who have allowed us all to participate in this production.

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We congratulate the New Plymouth Operatic Society on its latest much-anticipated show, Matilda, sure to be another huge success.

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