



ROALD DAHL'S

# Matilda

THE MUSICAL

**MAINSTAGE**

★ **YOUNG** ★  
COMPANY

# Enjoy the play!



**Justin T Liptak**

Financial Advisor

513 S Union Street  
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# Where Creativity Is Worship & ...?



*At Central United Methodist Church, we believe creativity is a sacred gift and stories help us see God's love at work in the world. We're honored to cheer on our youth and the entire Matilda the Musical cast and crew. Thank you, Old Town Playhouse, for nurturing courage, imagination, and belonging on and off the stage.*



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ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

**Book**  
**DENNIS KELLY**

**Music & Lyrics**  
**TIM MINCHIN**

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**

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

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

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**Melissa May** Director  
**Matt Archibald** Vocal Director  
**Samantha Fewins** Choreographer  
**Quinn Curtis** Assistant Choreographer  
**Ava Demorow / Audrey Demorow** Stage Manager  
**Terésa Hirt Jones** Youth Coordinator  
**Annie Moeser** Set Designer  
**Kathy Verstraete** Costumer Designer  
**Bernadette Groppuso** Props Lead  
**Bill Fishburn** Lighting Designer  
**Gary Bolton** Sound Designer

# Musical Numbers

## ACT I

Miracle  
Naughty  
Acrobat Story I  
School Song  
Pathetic  
The Hammer  
Naughty Reprise (Superglue)  
Chokey Chant  
Loud  
This Little Girl  
Acrobat Story II  
Bruce

## ACT II

All I Know  
When I Grow Up  
Acrobat Story III  
Acrobat Story IV (I'm Here)  
The Smell of Rebellion  
Quiet  
My House  
Revolting Children  
Priyatna Paznakomitsa  
They Had Found Each Other

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# A Note from the Director...

When Old Town Playhouse decided to produce a Young Company/Mainstage crossover production, I was thrilled with the prospect of bringing a show like Roald Dahl's *Matilda* the Musical to life on our stage. I knew this show would present me with challenges I've yet to face as an educator, choreographer, and director – and boy was I right! The challenge of creating literal magic onstage, working with a cast of nearly 40 actors with a wide range of ages and stage experience, and staying true to the heart of the story while putting my own spin on it meant that things didn't always go as planned... but most times it became something better! Roald Dahl was a formative author of my youth and growing up with the books and movie adaptations of *Matilda*, *The Witches*, *James and Giant Peach*, and *The BFG* shaped the way I move through the world – with compassion, empathy, and a drive to ensure equity and justice. I have felt incredibly privileged to bring my own point of view to this story of the meaning of family, the importance of education, fighting injustices in the world, and embracing the power within yourself with a touch of magic that ties it all together.

Please take a moment to return to your younger days of innocence and remember how we once viewed the world – wide eyed with wonder and hope of what the future can bring. And remember, sometimes we have to be a little bit Naughty to make things right.

Melissa May  
Director



Traditional Family Favorite  
January 16 - 24, 2026



Thought Provoking Drama  
March 26 - 28, 2026



Comedic Fairy Tale  
June 5- 13, 2026

**SPRING CLASSES OPEN JANUARY !!**

# Cast

Matilda Wormwood .....	Lilith Shomin
<i>(Performing 12/5, 7, 11, 13 &amp; 19)</i>	
Matilda Wormwood .....	Reese Raymond
<i>(Performing 12/6, 12, 14, 18 &amp; 20)</i>	
Miss Agatha Trunchbull .....	Heather Spooner
Miss Honey .....	Jessie Presswood
Mr. Wormwood .....	Joshua Davis
Mrs. Wormwood .....	Meaghan Kenny
Michael Wormwood .....	Beni Velek
Mrs. Phelps .....	Robbin Flask
Bruce .....	Libby Knowlton
Lavender .....	Elyvia Butts
Acrobat .....	Ella Ulbrich
Escapologist .....	Liam Curtis
<i>(Performing 12/5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 &amp; 14)</i>	
Escapologist .....	Tanner Presswood
<i>(Performing 12/18, 19 &amp; 20)</i>	
Eric .....	Theo Davis
Nigel .....	Cam LaFond
Amanda .....	Nina Wheeler
Alice .....	Maria Morgan
Hortensia .....	Ryan Raymond
Tommy .....	Lyla Bryant

## **Bottom Class Ensemble**

Elizabeth McGurn, Molly Morgan

## **Top Class Ensemble**

Brexten Butts, Adi Fri, Hayden Henbest, Jaden Jones  
Penelope Lawrence, Elliott Mulder, Willa Stewart, Alex Truelove

## **Adult Ensemble**

Peyton Brown, Tessa Eppler, Kate Fries, Oliver James Kohl,  
Bobbi Jo Lawrence, Breanna McGurn, Jim Morgan,  
Missy Morgan, Laura Schluentz, Jessa Shortridge, Ella Ulbrich





Peyton  
Brown



Lyla  
Bryant



Brexten  
Butts



Elyvia  
Butts



Liam  
Curtis



Joshua  
Davis



Theo  
Davis



Tessa  
Eppler



Robbin  
Flask



Adi  
Fri



Kate  
Fries



Hayden  
Henbest



Jaden  
Jones



Meaghan  
Kenny



Libby  
Knowlton



Oliver James  
Kohl



Cam  
LaFond



Bobbi Jo  
Lawrence



Penelope  
Lawrence



Breanna  
McGurn



Elizabeth  
McGurn



Maria  
Morgan



Jim  
Morgan



Missy  
Morgan



Molly  
Morgan



Elliott  
Mulder



Jessie  
Presswood



Tanner  
Presswood



Reese  
Raymond



Ryan  
Raymond



Laura  
Schluentz



Lilith  
Shomin



Jessa  
Shortridge



Heather  
Spooner



Willa  
Stewart



Alex  
Truelove



Ella  
Ulbrich



Beni  
Velek



Nina  
Wheeler





# Cast Biographies

**Peyton Brown** *she/her* (Ensemble) Occupation: Student at NMC / Server at Olive Garden. OTP Debut!

Peyton is very excited to be a part of this show! She will be transferring to Western Michigan University next fall where she plans to major in Musical Theater. "It has been a dream of mine to be an actress on the stage or on the screen. I want to thank my family and friends for helping push me out of my shell to audition here."

**Lyla Bryant** (Tommy) Fifth Grader, Central Grade School. Previously at OTP: *Pirates of Penzance Jr.* (Ensemble), *Winnie the Pooh KIDS* (Pooh), *Shrek Jr.* (Ensemble), *Newsies Jr.* (Ensemble). Lyla Bryant is a fifth grader at Central Grade School in Traverse City. She's a dedicated dancer at Dance Arts Academy, where she trains in several styles and performs in recitals and local events. Lyla also plays guitar and loves expressing herself through music and theater. Her favorite performance so far was playing the lead role in Winnie the Pooh, and she hopes to continue performing in musical theater as she grows. In addition to the stage, Lyla enjoys creating art through painting, sketching, and multimedia projects. She loves visiting museums and watching live dance and theater performances for inspiration. Her favorite musicals are *The Outsiders* and *Beetlejuice*, both of which fuel her love for storytelling through performance.

**Brexten Butts** *he/him* (Top Class) Eighth Grader at West Middle School. Previously at OTP: *The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition* (The Wizard), *The Man She Was* (Simpson), *Beetlejuice Jr.* (Mover), *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* (Edmond). Brex enjoys wrestling and choir and loves performing at OTP. He's excited to help bring Matilda to life.

**Elyvia Butts** *she/her* (Lavender) Seventh Grader at West Middle School. Previously at OTP: *The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition* (Munchkin), *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Centaur), *Finding Nemo JR* (Bubbles), *Annie KIDS* (Annie). Lyla loves to perform at OTP, sing in choir, and cheer. She's grateful for the opportunity to be in Matilda.

**Liam Curtis** *he/him* (Escapologist) Occupation: Community Living Support. Previously at OTP: *The Addams Family* (Ensemble), *The SpongeBob Musical* (SpongeBob), *The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors* (Rock), *The Wedding Singer* (Sammy).

# Cast Biographies

**Joshua Davis** *he/him* (Mr. Wormwood) Occupation: Performing songwriter and popular music director at Interlochen Center for the Arts. OTP Debut!

Despite holding a BA in Theatre, Josh is acting on stage for the first time in over two decades! He's thrilled to be sharing his OTP debut with his wildly talented son Theo, who's patiently schooled him in cockney and all things musical theatre. Josh has had a blast stepping outside of his performing comfort zone as singer-songwriter and into the shoes (ok, hair) of Mr. Wormwood – who would insist on mentioning that Josh also once won a brand-new car on a singing telly show! Josh is grateful to his family, who always enthusiastically roll with each fish-out-of-water experience he finds himself in. Josh urges you to read banned/subversive authors like Roald Dahl, support independent bookstores and libraries, and audition for community theatre!

**Theo Davis** *he/they* (Eric) Fifth Grader at Leland Public Schools. OTP Debut!

Theatre-kid-to-his-core, Theo never passes up an opportunity to sing and act!! He recently wrapped up Leland Public School's performances of The Sound of Music as Kurt, which meant sometimes rehearsing for 6+ hours after school! Also at LPS, he played the title role in Oliver! and Bruce in Matilda. He's performed in City Opera House Christmas Gala, TC Horse Show, GTPFLAG Benefit, and frequently joins his dad on stage. Theo sends heartfelt gratitude to his family, friends, voice/acting teachers Rick Church and Mary Newman, and to everyone at OTP who have welcomed him with open arms. Not to worry, Theo's ears were not harmed in the making of this production.

**Tessa Eppler** (Ensemble) Occupation: Ophthalmic Technician. OTP Debut!

Tessa is ecstatic to be making her OTP debut, and to be back on the stage for the first time since high school. She took a sizeable break to pursue other dreams of becoming a wife, mother of three (with number four on the way!), and pursue a career in Ophthalmology. Tessa would like to give a shout out to her brother, Ian, for not only encouraging her to audition for this show, but for also being her on call nanny during the rehearsals and run of the show. To Bella, Maisie, Jasper, and forthcoming baby boy, Tessa would like to say "I can't wait to see the four of you pursue your passions and do what you love just like your mama. You mustn't let a little thing like little stop you!"

# Cast Biographies

**Robbin Flask** (Ms. Phelps) Occupation: Kids Department Manager, Blue Vase Books. Previously at OTP: *Sister Act* (Ensemble).

Robbin has always had a passion for musical theatre and working with kids. When she saw that OTP was producing *Matilda*, she simply couldn't resist! Robbin has been in over a dozen shows throughout her life and is excited to continue her theatre journey at OTP. She wants to give a special thank you to her husband, Isaac, for constantly supporting her and being her biggest fan.

**Adi Fri** she/her (Top Class Ensemble) Freshmen at Central High School. Previously at OTP: *Frozen KIDS* (Anna), *The Pirates of Penzance Jr.* (Pirate), *The Wizard of Oz* Youth Edition (Glinda/Auntie Em), *Shrek Jr.* (Dancer).

Adi has been involved with theater for nine years, she has six years of dance experience and is currently a vocal student of Rick and Lynne Church.

**Kate Fries** she/her (Adult Ensemble) Occupation: Fifth Grade Teacher. OTP Debut!

Kate is excited to make her return to theater and her debut at OTP. It has been a goal of hers to join a community theater in Traverse City and she could not imagine a better show to be part of. As a teacher, Kate is thrilled to combine her love for musical theater and working with children by taking part in this show. She is a Northern Michigan native from Elk Rapids and currently teaches fifth grade!

**Hayden Henbest** she/her (Top Class Ensemble) Seventh Grader, West Middle School. Previously at OTP: *Frozen KIDS* (Elsa), *The Pirates of Penzance JR* (Major General), *The Wizard of Oz* Youth Edition (Ensemble), *Beauty and the Beast* (Youth Ensemble/ Chip swing).

When she's not on stage, Hayden loves playing volleyball, singing, and hanging out with friends. *Matilda* marks her 24th Old Town Playhouse production—and she can't wait for the next one!

**Jaden Jones** (Top Class Ensemble) Traverse City West High School. OTP Debut

# Cast Biographies

**Meaghan Kenny** *she/her* (Mrs. Wormwood) Occupation: Wedding Planner. Previously at OTP: *[title of show]* (Susan), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Company* (Amy), *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby).

After a four-year hiatus, Meaghan is excited to be back on the OTP stage, especially in such a fun, LOUD role. She would like to thank her kids, James and Emerson, for singing along in the car with her while she practiced her songs and her husband Dan for running lines with her and being the best.

**Libby Knowlton** (Bruce) Fifth Grader, Old Mission Peninsula School. OTP Debut!

Born in Denver, Colorado, Libby is excited to be in her OTP debut role as Bruce. With lots of singing, dancing and producing of family shows in her basement during COVID, Libby graduated to roles in Cruella and Encanto in a local Denver theatre program. She is an avid skier, plays soccer for LSC United and loves spending time with her friends.

**Oliver James Kohl** *he/him* (Rudolpho) Occupation: Door Dasher. OTP Debut!

Oliver attended college at Hanover College as a theatre major and has taken part in various modeling and theatre projects in Iowa over the last decade. He relocated to Michigan this summer and is honored to continue his creative journey with Old Town Playhouse.

**Cam LaFond** *he/they* (Nigel) Fifth Third Grader, Old Mission Peninsula School. OTP Debut!

A born performer, Cam is thrilled to take the stage in his very first theater production! Before discovering the magic of acting, he spent his free time as a competitive dancer, earning numerous awards at regional and national competitions. His favorite dance styles include musical theater, tap, hip hop, lyrical, and contemporary – each one gives him a new way to tell a story. When he's not rehearsing or making up choreography, Cam loves listening to 80s music, traveling, reading, and creating video edits. He's also fascinated by science, especially anything involving animals. Cam is excited to combine his love of movement, creativity, and storytelling on stage!

**Bobbi Jo Lawrence** (Acrobat's Sister/Ensemble) Occupation: TCAPS LEAP & Middle School Athletic Dept Administrative Assistant. OTP Debut!

"After a glorious two-decade-long intermission spent mastering the real-life roles of 'grown-up' and 'Uber driver to my children', I am dusting off my theater shoes! My previous acts included  
(continued)



# Cast Biographies

(continued) leading roles in Alpena in Little Shop of Horrors and Annie, The Mouse Trap and supporting turns in classics like Blythe Spirit, and Bye Bye Birdie. I've basically done every job possible, from Alpena and beyond: stage manager, light tech, assistant director, you name it, I've wrangled it. Think of me as a Swiss army knife, only slightly more dramatic. Now I'm thrilled to be on the OTP stage, not just for the spotlight, but to share it with my magnificent daughter, Penelope, in her stage debut! I promise I won't try to cue her from the Wings! Enjoy the show!"

**Penelope Lawrence** (Top Class Ensemble) Sixth Grader at Kingsley Middle School. OTP Debut!

Please welcome Penelope, a child whose dramatic flair was previously often showcased when demanding a second dessert or negotiating bedtime. After years of composing soundtracks for her unsuspecting family (mostly featuring show tunes), she has finally found more appropriate venue for her talents: the OTP stage! When not constantly singing, Penelope is busy being a dedicated Girl Scout, practicing piano, learning clarinet and harmonizing in her school choir. Her biggest fan, co-conspirator, and best friend is her little sister Julia. Penelope is an admitted reading addict – a condition she hopes is contagious! She is absolutely thrilled to be making her debut and feels she has finally found where she truly belongs!

**Breanna McGurn** (Ensemble) Occupation: Elementary Special Education Teacher. Previously at OTP: Oliver! (Ensemble).

Breanna is thrilled to be back on the OTP stage after several years! It has been a wonderful experience balancing her passion for performance with her bustling home life as a mom to three incredible daughters and her career as a teacher. Getting to perform again is a deep joy, and this show is especially meaningful as she gets to share the stage with her daughter Elizabeth. Watching her daughter shine alongside her has been a true highlight! The family support doesn't end there: her husband and two other daughters, Addi and Nora, are contributing their talents behind the scenes, running lights for the production. Breanna extends her heartfelt thanks to her family for making this return to the stage possible, and to the audience for sharing the magic of live theater!

# Cast Biographies

**Elizabeth McGurn** (Bottom Class Ensemble) Seventh Grader at West Middle School. Previously at OTP: *The Jungle Book* (Ensemble).

Elizabeth is delighted to appear in *Matilda*! A lifelong lover of music, Elizabeth enjoys every chance to sing- whether on stage, in Madrigals or anywhere music happens. When not singing, you can usually find her running track, exploring the outdoors or spending time with friends and family. Being part of *Matilda* is especially meaningful because she gets to share the stage with her mom. Performing together in such a magical show is a dream come true, and she is grateful for the opportunity to create memories that will last forever. Elizabeth would like to thank her family, friends and teachers for their constant encouragement and support!

**Jim Morgan** (Adult Ensemble) Occupation: Certified Public Accountant. OTP Debut!

Jim is happily married (Melissa "Missy") with four children (Ethan 20, Mia 16, Maria 10, Molly 8) and is excited to be in this production. Melissa and Jim have also had the honor of participating in Dance Arts Academy's *The Nutcracker* with their three dance enthusiast daughters. But this will be his first foray into the world of singing and talking on stage. During the rare moments that Jim is not diligently rehearsing his lines and dance moves, he enjoys following sports and reading for pleasure. He is also a big fan of spending time at the beach with his family during the beautiful Northern Michigan Summers.

**Maria Morgan** (Alice) Fourth Grader at Immaculate Conception Elementary. Previously at OTP: *Frozen KIDS* (Young Elsa/Ensemble) *Annie KIDS* (Maid).

Maria has been dancing at Dance Arts Academy since she was 18 months old and joined Company Dance Traverse at the age of eight, where she has been training in ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, musical theatre, Celtic and Cecchetti. She has performed on stage as a dancer since 2018 and as a theatre performer since 2024. She has been participating in her school choir for three years. In addition to theatre and dance, Maria loves drawing and is a fabulous artist. She also enjoys reading, crafting, playing softball, spending time with her friends, family and her dog Buddy. Maria would like to thank OTP and her parents for allowing her the opportunity to perform in *Matilda*. She would also like to thank all of her dance, music and theatre teachers for the extraordinary training in the arts programs. Maria also says "Thank You" to all her supporters who came out to watch the show!

# Cast Biographies

**Elliott Mulder** *he/him* (Upper Class Ensemble) Freshmen, West Senior High. Previously at OTP: *Bad Auditions by Bad Actors* (Roger), *The Man She Was* (Ensemble), *The Magic Tree House: The Knight Before Dawn* KIDS (Jack).

Elliott is a Freshman at West Senior High, where he takes several honors and one advanced placement class. He studies German as an elective and hopes to study abroad through the GAPP foreign exchange program. He has traveled to many places on vacation including the UK, Mexico, and Iceland. "I have been interested in theater since sixth grade, when I was put into a theater class to fill a gap in my schedule. I fell in love with the stage, and it has been an integral part of my life ever since." Other interests of Elliott's include politics and military technology, (especially planes). He has joined model United Nations Club at his school and hopes to pursue a career in international affairs when he grows up.

**Jessie Presswood** *she/her* (Miss Honey) Occupation: Proficiency Testing Specialist. Previously at OTP: *The Rocky Horror Show* (Phantom), *Waitress* (Jenna Understudy/Ensemble), *Black and White Gala* 2007, 2006.

Jessie is thrilled to be playing the role of Miss Honey in *Matilda*! Her very first OTP role was in the mixed company show of *Peter Pan* in 2001, and it feels very full circle to be part of another mixed company show now as an adult! When Jessie isn't on stage (typically alongside her husband, Tanner) she loves to cook, visit open mic nights with her family, and spoil her dog, Nellie.

**Tanner Presswood** *he/him* (Escapologist) Occupation: Video Editor. Previously at OTP: *The Rocky Horror Show* (Rocky), *The Prince of Egypt* (Moses), *Waitress* (Ensemble / Dr. Pomatter Understudy).

Tanner Presswood is overjoyed to have the opportunity to inhabit the magical world of Roald Dahl's *Matilda*! He feels very fortunate to have gotten to participate in two shows with his wife Jessie this season, the first being the *Rocky Horror Show*, and he couldn't be more proud to see her performing as Miss Honey. When they're not making epic memories at Old Town Playhouse, you can find the pair enjoying a delicious home-cooked meal together, racing each other in Mario Kart, or taking their dog Nellie for a long walk through the snow. Enjoy the show, maggots!

# Cast Biographies

**Reese Raymond** *she/her* (Matilda) Sixth Grader, East Middle School. Previously at OTP: *The Wizard of Oz* Youth Edition (Munchkin), *Frozen KIDS* (Anna), *Annie KIDS* (Annie), *Seussical KIDS* (Ensemble), *The Jungle Book KIDS* (King Louie). Reese is excited that this is her first MainStage production at Old Town Playhouse. She loves spending time at OTP, making friends and advancing her skills. Outside of OTP, Reese plays volleyball, sings in the school choir, and plays cello. She enjoys all things arts and crafts, and spending time with her little sister (who is also in the show).

**Ryan Raymond** *she/her* (Hortensia) Third Grader, Eastern Elementary. Previously at OTP: *Frozen KIDS* (Young Anna), *Annie KIDS* (Sandy), *Seussical KIDS* (Wickersham), *The Jungle Book KIDS* (Sassy Monkey). Ryan enjoys her time at OTP, growing her singing, acting, and dancing abilities. She feels incredibly lucky to be in the show and sharing the experience with her big sister. Outside of OTP, she plays basketball, sings in the NMC Children's Choir, and is earning badges as a Brownie.

**Laura Schluentz** *she/her* (Adult Ensemble) Occupation: Kindergarten Teacher, Long Lake Elementary. OTP Debut! Laura is so excited to be back on stage as hasn't been in a musical since high school! Laura is a recent Western Michigan University graduate and is new to Traverse City. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Lilith Shomin** (Matilda Wormwood) Sixth Grader, West Middle School. Previously at OTP: *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Gurgle), *Folk Tails* (Cat, Dog, Storyteller), *Pan* (Mr. Smee), *Newsies Jr.* (Dorothy). Lilith is a bright young woman who lives to make others laugh. She is a passionate and empathetic singer capable of touching the soul. Her emotions run deep, and despite her innocent childlike qualities, run deep enough to rise to any occasion.

**Jessa Shortridge** *she/her* (Ensemble) Occupation: German Teacher. OTP Debut! Jessa is thrilled to rejoin the theatre world after way too long apart! She graduated from Northwestern University with a double major in Theatre and German but followed that second passion abroad and into a teaching career. She is honored to return to the stage with the incredible, welcoming people at OTP. Matilda holds a special place in her heart as the only musical she's seen on Broadway in NYC. In her free time she enjoys climbing trees, eating sweets every day, fighting  
(continued)



# Cast Biographies

(continued) creatures under her bed, and lying in the sun. Unfortunately, she does get sunburnt, so she must not be grown up quite yet.

**Heather Spooner** (Agatha Trunchbull) Occupation: Event Coordinator/Artist. OTP Debut!

Formerly a kind, reasonable human being – now fully transformed into a hammer-throwing, chokey-building, child-intimidating legend. “Thank you to everyone who encouraged me to audition for my first show! C thank you for making sure I nailed every whiff and pong. I love all of you maggots.”

**Willa Stewart** *she/her* (Top Class Ensemble) Eighth Grader, Glen Lake. The Lion King KIDS (Shenzi), Aristocats KIDS (Roquefort), Aladdin KIDS (ensemble).

Willa is thrilled to be making her OTP Mainstage debut with such an amazing cast. She has been in theatre since she was a preschooler, and her parents caught her singing into a broomstick pretending to be Elphaba. An active member of her school's theatre department, Willa most recently played Gingy/Sugar Plum in their production of Shrek. Willa is also involved in the school choir and cross-country team, but is happiest on stage under the lights, lost in the world of a story. She wants to thank her family for all the support as well as Mr. Stow, Mr. Evans, and her voice teachers Rick and Lynne for encouraging and pushing her to be her best.

**Alex Truelove** (Top Class Ensemble) Sixth Grader, Traverse City East Middle School. Previously at OTP: Finding Nemo JR (Sheldon), Seussical KIDS (Horton), The Jungle Book KIDS (Ensemble), The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition (Tech Crew).

Alex is thrilled to make his MainStage debut at Old Town Playhouse. This is his fourth production with OTP Young Company. Alex is a 6th grade honor student at TC East Middle School, a member of the YMCA Breakers Swim Team, plays the clarinet in his school band, and participates in the school choir. Alex loves the theater and is hoping to someday see his favorite musical brought to life - EPIC: The Musical. “Thank you to everyone at OTP for giving the children in our community a place to belong and the chance to shine.”

# Cast Biographies

**Ella Ulbrich** she/her (Acrobat) Esthetician Student at Epiphany Advanced Academy. Previously at OTP: *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble).

“As a kid I used theater to show people that I was more than the quiet girl at the back of the class. Now as a young adult, I have realized that I belong to a very supportive community of talented and loving individuals who have shaped who I am. I want to thank my mom and dad for being my #1 fans, and who have endlessly supported my path after high school. I love you!!”

**Beni Velek** (Michael Wormwood) Fifth Grader, hybrid homeschool. Previously at OTP: *School House Rock JR* (Ensemble), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Youth Ensemble), *The Wizard of Oz* Youth Edition (Ensemble).

Beni finds great joy bringing the characters he plays to life on stage. This is his fourth production at OTP and he enjoys spending time with his cast mates and OTP staff. He especially wants to thank Melissa May for all the support and guidance!

**Nina Wheeler** she/her (Amanda) Fifth Grader, TCAPS Montessori. OTP Debut!

Nina Wheeler is thrilled to make her on-stage debut as the spirited, defiant, and pig-tailed Amanda. She loves singing and music and is in her fourth season with the Northwestern Michigan College Children's Choir. Nina is also learning to play the clarinet in her school band at TCAPS Montessori. An avid reader, Nina is usually reading a few books at once and is eagerly awaiting the next season of Battle of the Books. She's a proud Girl Scout and is grateful to her troop leaders for creating fun adventures and memorable experiences. At home, Nina is a fun big sister to her brother Leo—whether they're swinging together on the front yard rope swing or making pancakes and cookies in the kitchen.

# Creative Team Biographies

**Melissa May** she/her (Director) A lifelong performer, Melissa used the theatrical education she received from OTP as a child to work professionally as a young adult. She returned to OTP in 2009 performing in *Cats*. Her most recent work includes service as Choreographer for *The Rocky Horror Show*, Director and Choreographer for 2025's *Black and White Gala* and *The Addams Family*, as well as performing in *Waitress* as Becky. Melissa is also a founding troupe member of *Mash Up Rock and Roll*, with which she will be performing in *The Little Prince* and (continued)

(continued) and the Man from Mars in January 2026. She is very proud of her work the last five years as Old Town Playhouse's Educational Director, sharing her love of theatre with over 700 Young Company students annually. She thanks her family and friends for their enduring support for this theatrical life!

**Matthew Archibald** *he/him* (Music Director) Matt has spent the last 30 years performing opera and musical theatre throughout Michigan and New York, both professionally and "just for fun." Some of his favorite roles have been Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Marius in Les Misérables, Matt in The Fantasticks, and Gabey in On the Town. Offstage, Matt is often involved behind the scenes as Music Director or Vocal Director, and he has created and performed original music for two plays. When he's not at the theatre, Matt is a Youth and Teen Librarian at the East Bay Branch Library. However, his longest running (and favorite!) role is husband to Jenn and father to Julia, Rayna, Josiah, and Skye!

**Samantha Fewins** *she/her* (Choreographer) Samantha Fewins is currently enrolled at Grand Valley State University, where she is pursuing a degree in Special Education. She has been actively involved with OTP Young Company, serving as an educator, choreographer, and director. She has had the privilege of working as a choreographer on numerous productions, including her most recent projects: Frozen Kids, Beetlejuice Jr, Pirates of Penzance Jr, and the youth edition of The Wizard of Oz. When she is not engaged with OTP Young Company, she can still often be found at Old Town Playhouse, where she participates as an actress in various MainStage Productions. Samantha would like to extend her thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering love and support in all her endeavors.

**Quinn Curtis** (Student Choreographer / Dance Captain) Quinn has been a competitive dancer for three years. When she's not dancing, she's studying voice and performing in local productions—always chasing the next chance to be onstage. She is an eighth grader at East Middle School and has been seen in several Young Company productions.

**Ava Demorow** *she/her* (Stage Manager) Ava is an Architect, Project Coordinator and is making her debut at Stage Manager for Matilda alongside her sister, Audrey. She joined Old Town Playhouse earlier this year as part of the Backstage Run Crew for The Prince of Egypt. She is excited to be involved and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

**Audrey Demorow** (Stage Manager) Audrey is a Medical Assistant and is making her debut as Stage Manager for Matilda after  
(continued)

(continued) joining Old Town Playhouse earlier this year as part of the Backstage Run Crew for The Prince of Egypt. She is sharing Stage Manager duties with her sister, Ava. Audrey is so excited to be involved and hope everyone enjoys the show!

## Production Team

**Set Construction/Painting / Set Dressing:** Kerr Anderson, Jeff Kroeger, Nancy Albrecht, Colin Bohash, Dick Cieslik, Bob Coltman, John Herbst, Charles Schmitt, Michael Spry, Arnie Taddia, Dale Wentzloff, Collier Case, Judy Heffron, Clare Shipstead, Janet Stone, Jill Bert

**Backstage Run Crew:** Jen Truelove, Levi Truelove, Dexter Truelove, Karon Velek, Will Velek, Rico Bastian, Coreene Kreiser William Kreiser, Addie McGurn, Grace Crow, Cathy Louis, Aaron Wineman

**Costumes:** Bobbi Jo Lawrence, Missy Morgan, Erin Pardo, Cathy Louis, Betsie Hammerberg

**Props:** Kathy Stephens, Candice Dunn, Flower Apley

**Sound:** Karla Fishburn, Nik Van Wagner, Tanner Presswood Daniel Crow, Jules Putnam, Kelly Rose

**Lighting Team:** Allison Goldsmith, Colleen Hill-Rakunas, AJ Fewins, Nora McGurn

**Parent Volunteers:** Sarah Knowlton, Lisa Stewart, Sarah Mulder, Mat Bryant. Nicole Hicks, Mia Morgan

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"As You Like It" Act II Scene VII - Shakespeare*

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SUN 11/16

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November 8 | **Shop Your Community Day**

November 15-December 21 | **Jingle Bell Shop**

November 22 | **Tree Lighting & Light Parade**

November 22-December 24 | **Santa's House**

November 28-29 | **Black Friday &  
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December 4 | **Ladies' Night**

December 11 | **Men's Night**

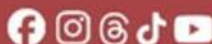
December 18 | **Wrap It Up Shopping Night**



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