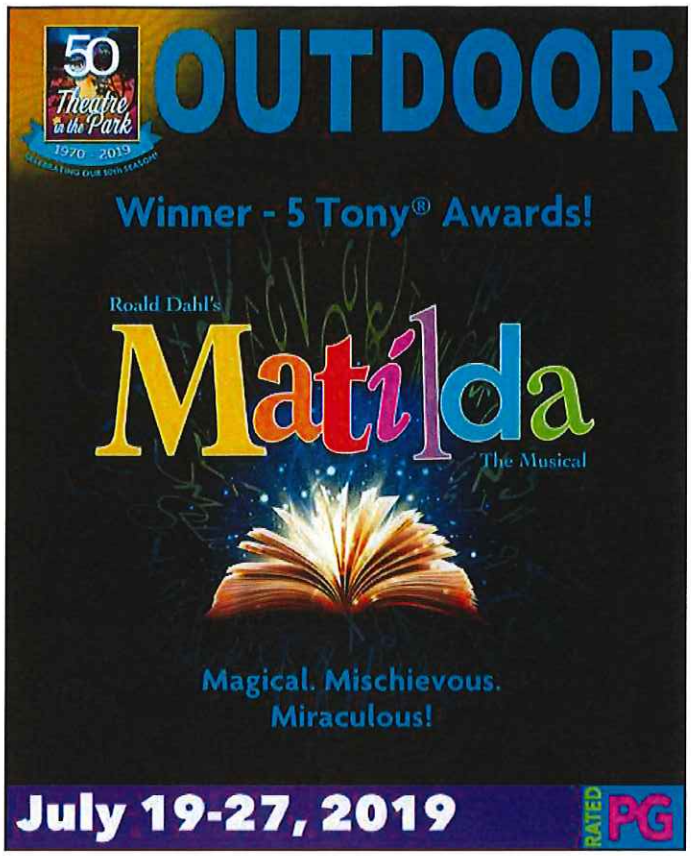

Callback Sides

Mrs. Phelps

Please print a copy of the callback sides and bring it with you to callbacks

(MISS HONEY)

BUT THIS LITTLE GIRL
THIS MIRACLE
SHE SEEMS NOT TO KNOW
T'S SHE'S SPECIAL AT ALL
AN IAT SORT OF
TEACH OULD I BE
IF I LET THI TLE GIRL
FALL

I CAN SEE
THIS LITTLE GIRL
SOMEBODY ST
TO FIGHT ER SIDE
INST HE'S FOUND ME
P IC LITTLE ME
D ANOTHER DOOR CLOSES
AND JENNY'S OUTSIDE.

MATILDA

And so the great day arrived.

#11 – *Acrobat Story II*

It was like the entire world had gathered to see The Burning Woman Hurling Through The Air With Dynamite In Her Hair Over Sharks And Spiky Objects, Caught By The Man Locked In The Cage.

Everything was arranged by the acrobat's sister—a frightening woman who used to be an Olympic-class hammer thrower, and who loved nothing better than to scare the children of the town. People whispered that in her dark and brooding heart she resented her sister both her success, and her love.

Suddenly out came the escapologist, dressed as usual in his tights and spangly costume, but there was no sign of the acrobat and no glimpse at all of her shiny white scarf. And instead of the musical fanfare there was silence as he solemnly strode into the ring.

The ESCAPOLOGIST steps forward in spangly outfit.

MATILDA & ESCAPOLOGIST

'Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls... The Burning Woman Hurling Through The Air With Dynamite In Her Hair Over Sharks And Spiky Objects, Caught By The Man Locked In The Cage... has been... cancelled.'

MRS PHELPS

No!

MATILDA

Yes. The audience gasped so loud that a passing airplane caught it on its instrumentation and reported it as an atmospheric phenomenon.

MATILDA & ESCAPOLOGIST

'Cancelled because my wife is... pregnant.'

MRS PHELPS

Oh, Matilda!

MATILDA

Absolute silence. You could have heard a fly burp.

The ACROBAT steps out.

Then suddenly the audience jumped to its feet and roared in appreciation.

The ACROBAT and ESCAPOLOGIST leave, hand in hand. So happy.

The great feat was instantly forgotten and the applause went on for nearly an hour...

MRS PHELPS

So it has a happy ending?

MATILDA

... forgotten by everyone except, that is, the acrobat's sister. When all had quietened down, she stepped forward and produced... a contract.

MRS PHELPS

A... a contract?

MATILDA & THE ACROBAT'S SISTER (OFF)

'A contract you have signed to perform this feat, and perform this feat you shall!'

MRS PHELPS

No!

MATILDA & THE ACROBAT'S SISTER (OFF)

'I have paid for the posters, publicity, the catering, the toilet facilities – if I give the crowd their money back where is my profit? A contract is a contract is a contract. My hands are tied. The Burning Woman Hurling Through The Air With Dynamite In Her Hair Over Sharks And Spiky Objects, Caught By The Man Locked In The Cage will be performed and performed this day or... off to prison you both shall go!'

MRS PHELPS

No, no!

MATILDA gets up, starts to go. MRS PHELPS is shocked.

W, w, well what happened next?

MATILDA

I don't know, yet. I'll tell you tomorrow.

MRS PHELPS

What? But I don't know if my nerves'll make it until tomorrow.

MATILDA

Mrs Phelps, are you crying? Maybe I shouldn't tell you any more?

MRS PHELPS

Oh no, Matilda, we must find out how it ends? And I'm not crying because it's sad. It's just that they want that child so very much. It must be wonderful for a child to be so wanted.

MATILDA

Yes. Wonderful. Goodbye Mrs Phelps.

#11a – Library Into Classroom

Classroom.

As the [illegible]S enter MISS HONEY pulls Matilda aside.

MISS HONEY

Matilda could I speak to [illegible]lease?
I'm afraid I have not been too s[illegible]sful in getting others to [illegible]ognise your... abilities. So, starting tomorrow I shal[illegible]g in a selecti[illegible] very clever books that will challenge your mind. You may sit and [illegible]d the[illegible]hile I teach the others and if you have any questions, well, I shall do my bes[illegible]swer them. How does that sound?

Pause. MATILDA is overwhelmed. S[illegible]tly hugs Miss Ho[illegible]

#11b – Biggest Hug

Matilda! Why... that [illegible] biggest hug in the world! You're going to hug all of the air out of me!

But MATI[illegible] shows no sign of breaking the hug. Beat. MISS HONEY hugs back.
The TR[illegible]CHBULL storms on.

(MISS HONEY)

I GROW UP—
WHE OW UP—

MATILDA

(same time as MISS HONEY)

JUST BECAUSE YOU FIN S NOT FAIR,
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT ST HAVE TO GRIN AND BEAR IT
IF YOU ALWAYS TAK N THE IN AND WEAR IT,
NOTHING WILL GE.
JUST BECAU IND MYSELF IN THIS S T
DOESN AN THAT EVERYTHING IS WRITT R ME
IF K THE ENDING IS FIXED ALREADY I MIGH WELL
AYING I THINK THAT ITS OK AND
HAT'S NOT RIGHT.

MRS PHELPS

Matilda! How lovely to see you! Are you enjoying school?

MATILDA

Oh yes. Bits of it anyway...

Beat.

Mrs Phelps, where's the revenge section?

MRS PHELPS

What? Well, we don't have a revenge section. Why? Is there a child at school who's behaving like a bully?

MATILDA

Oh no not a child exactly...

MRS PHELPS

Matilda, are you sure something's not—

MATILDA

Do you want to hear the next part of the story?

MRS PHELPS

Story? Did you say story? Did you say...? Matilda what are we waiting for...

SHE gets into position as MATILDA conjures the story.

#16 – Acrobat Story III

MATILDA

Slowly, very slowly, the acrobat wound her shiny white scarf around her husband's neck,

MATILDA & ACROBAT

'For luck, my love.' she said, kissing him with the gentlest of kisses.

'Smile – we have done this a thousand times'

MATILDA

But suddenly she hugged him with the biggest hug in the world, so hard that he felt that she would hug all of the air out of him.

And so they prepared themselves for the most dangerous feat that had ever been performed.

The great escapologist had to escape from the cage, lean out, catch his wife with one hand, grab a fire extinguisher with the other, and put out the flames on her specially designed dress within twelve seconds, before they reached the dynamite and blew his wife's head off!

MRS PHELPS screams out loud.

Beat.

MRS PHELPS

Sorry. Go on.

MATILDA

The trick started well.

The moment the specially designed dress was set alight the acrobat swung into the air. The crowd held their breath as she hurled over the sharks and spiky objects—one second, two seconds—they watched as the flames crept up the dress—three seconds, four seconds—she began to reach out her arms towards the cage—five seconds, six seconds—suddenly the padlocks pinged open and the huge chains fell away—seven seconds, eight seconds—the door flung open and the escapologist reached out one huge, muscled arm to catch his wife and the child—nine seconds, ten seconds...

MRS PHELPS

Oh, I can't look!

STOP

(ALL KIDS)

WE SI[illegible]EVOLTING SONGS BRUC[illegible]

WHOA[illegible]OH—

USING REVOLTI[illegible]YMES.

WE'LL BE REVOLTING[illegible]OREN

'TIL OUR REVOLTING'S DO[illegible]

DOWN, DOWN, DOWN, DOWN

IT IS 2-L-8-4-U

ALL

WE [illegible]EVOLTING!

#21a – A Few Days Later

The Library.

MATILDA is there looking at the books. MRS PHELPS comes forward, smiling.

MRS PHELPS

A few days later, the acrobat and the escapologist's... daughter received a letter from a solicitor. It said that her parents' will had mysteriously turned up and she was now the owner of the beautiful old house which had up until that moment, been owned by the evil aunt—one Agatha Trunchbull.

She moved in immediately and she was very happy, happier than she had ever been in her entire life.

MRS HONEY comes forward to continue the story.

MISS HONEY

As for Miss Trunchbull... she was never seen again. The Chokeys were immediately destroyed and a new headmistress took over.

MRS PHELPS

And her name was... Miss Honey! And it was often said that it was the best school in all the land.

MISS HONEY

And do you know something else, Matilda was never again able to move things with her eyes. I thought perhaps it was because her mind was being challenged. But she said it was because she no longer had a need for super powers. But sometimes I would look at Matilda, this little girl who had done so much to help others, but who was stuck with parents who were mean and cruel and called her names. And I would feel my blood boil. And I would wish that I could just... do something.

MRS PHELPS

So. This is the end. And I wish so much that I could tell you that the story has a happy ending. I wish so much that I could tell you that Matilda got the love she deserved.

But perhaps the truth is not all stories have happy endings.

SHE begins to go. The end of the story...

Suddenly there is the screech of a car. The WORMWOODS (and RUDOLPHO) run on with suitcases.

#21b – We're Going To Spain

MR WORMWOOD

[illegible]'t stand there gawping, we're going to Spain.

MATILDA

Spai[illegible]ut... why?

MRS WORMWOOD

Because th[illegible]ot, this nit, this twitbrain seemed to think[illegible]as a good idea to sell a hundred and [illegible]five old bangers to the Russian Mafi[illegible]

MR WORMWO[illegible]

I didn't know they w[illegible]the flaming Russian Ma[illegible]d I? Come on, boy; we're leaving forever and we[illegible]ever coming back!

MISS H[illegible]NEY

Let Matilda stay here with m[illegible]

Pause. MR WORMWOOD t[illegible] S[illegible]almost falters but doesn't.

M[illegible]RMWOOD

I beg your pardon.

MISS H[illegible]NEY

Mr Wormwood, I would lo[illegible]o take Matilda.[illegible]he would like to stay with me, that is. I would look after he[illegible]h love and respect a[illegible]are and I'd pay for everything. Would... would you lik[illegible]t, Matilda?

MR WORMWOOD

You mean... you [illegible] leave our daughter. Here, with yo[illegible]

MATILDA

What did yo[illegible]y? Did you call me...

MRS WORMWOOD

They'll [illegible]ere any minute!