

10-18-2019

## Matilda: the Musical (2019 program)

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*theatre arts*  
HARDING UNIVERSITY



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

**Oct. 18-19 | 8 p.m. | Benson Auditorium**

*theatre arts*

HARDING UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS

ROALD DAHL'S

# Matilda

THE MUSICAL

Book by  
**Dennis Kelly**

Music and Lyrics by  
**Tim Minchin**

Orchestrations & Additional Music by  
**Chris Nightingale**

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.

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"Matilda, the Musical" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019.  
Tel.: (212) 541-4684 FAX: (212) 397-4684 [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com).

# DirECTor'S NoTE



Welcome to Harding University and the 2019 Homecoming musical, Matilda! There are few things that bring me more joy than celebrating children and the magic of musical theatre. So when this musical based on Roald Dahl's classic book became available, I wanted to share it with others. It fits who we are here at Harding. It prizes education, intelligence, loyalty and the power of love. It stands up to bullies, abusers and those who place greed above people. It

shows that children are the hope for the future and that fairness really does matter. It celebrates the reality that faith, hope and love can overcome any size obstacle. So sit back and cheer on the students of Harding University as they share the magic of Matilda.

Thank you for being with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dottie Frye".

Dottie Frye  
Director

## sPECIAL THAnks

Cassie Renee Bennett, Berkleigh Billner, Joanna Crisco, Bruce Davis, Penny Davis, Steve Frye, the Joel Hoggard Family, Victoria Goodwin, Dr. Dutch Hoggatt, Tanner Holloway, Liz Howell, Levi Huddleston, Michaela Hutcheson, Kevin Koel, Logan Light, Laura Looney, Dr. Bruce McLarty, Jeff Montgomery, McKay Murray, Mark Prior and Video Works, Office of Public Safety, Kat Ream, Jana Rucker and the Office of University Communications and Marketing, Jean Waldrop

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

# CaST

<b>Rebecca Light</b> .....	Matilda Wormwood
<b>Laura Eads</b> .....	Miss Agatha Trunchbull
<b>Lydia Black</b> .....	Miss Honey
<b>Drew Holley</b> .....	Mr. Wormwood
<b>Ava Galyean</b> .....	Mrs. Wormwood
<b>Matthew Floyd</b> .....	Michael Wormwood/ Orderly/Ensemble
<b>Shelby Beasley</b> .....	Mrs. Phelps
<b>Holden Montgomery</b> .....	Bruce
<b>Chantel Ceaser</b> .....	Lavender
<b>Marcus Neely</b> .....	The Escapologist
<b>Mackenzie Turney</b> .....	The Acrobat
<b>Carson Lester</b> .....	Doctor/Mechanic
<b>Justice Laws</b> .....	Rudolpho/Child
<b>Timothy Holloway</b> .....	Sergei/Parent/Ensemble
<b>Sarah Arbuckle</b> .....	Cook/Nurse



# CaST

<b>Antonio Montez</b> .....	Henchman 1/Parent/Ensemble
<b>Parker Skinner</b> .....	Henchman 2/Parent/Ensemble
<b>Keller Montgomery</b> .....	Children's Entertainer/ Henchman 3/Ensemble
<b>Sydney Marie Adams</b> .....	Child/Ensemble
<b>Tyler Adams</b> .....	Child/Ensemble
<b>Madison Ceurter</b> .....	Parent/Child/Ensemble
<b>Olivia Dunn</b> .....	Child/Ensemble
<b>Asher Patten</b> .....	Child/Ensemble
<b>Valentino Warren</b> .....	Child/Ensemble
<b>Cordell Hutcheson</b> .....	Parent/Child/Ensemble
<b>Marisa Pesina</b> .....	Parent/Child/Ensemble
<b>Maxwell Ross</b> .....	Parent/Child/Ensemble
<b>Allie Scott</b> .....	Parent/Child/Ensemble
<b>Garrett Smith</b> .....	Parent/Child/Ensemble
<b>Morgan Wrigley</b> .....	Parent/Child/Ensemble



# VOCALISTS

Caroline Anderson  
Joshua Bennett

Elaina Parker  
Emily Whitehorn

# ORCHESTRA

## **Clarinet/Saxophone**

Rayna DeYoung  
Megan Harris

## **Trumpet**

Caleb Henry  
Matthew Thompson

## **Trombone**

Tommy Ghent

## **Violin**

Jessica Carden

## **Cello**

Kaitlyn Schmitt

## **Piano**

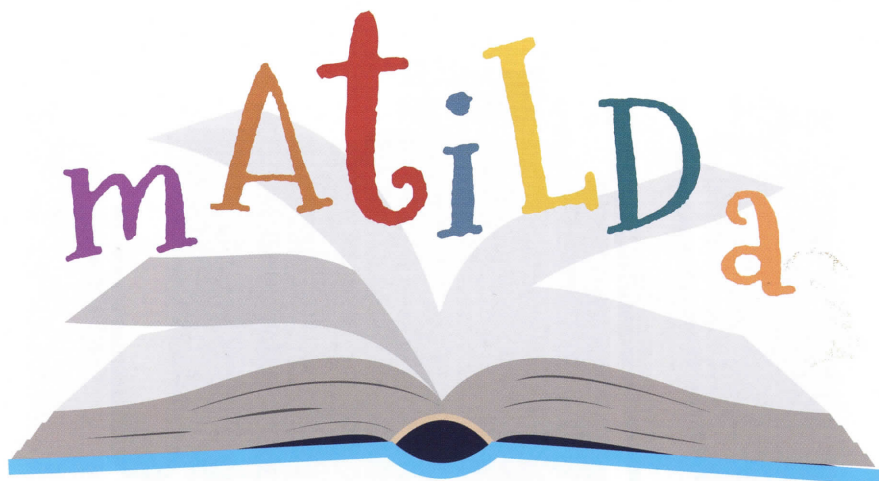
Scott Carrell

## **Bass**

Jon Oden

## **Percussion**

Madie Hale  
Cameron Maupin



# PRoDUcTion tEAm

(fACUty/stAff)

**Director**

Dottie Frye

**Producer**

Cindee Stockstill

**Set Designer**

Britt Lynn

**Conductor**

Andrew Cook

**Music Director/Vocal Coach**

Stacey Neely

**Technical Director**

Ben Jones

**Assistant Technical Director**

Seth Fish

**Costumer**

Katie White

**Sound Designer**

David Robison

**Lighting Director**

Steve Martin

**Assistant Lighting Director**

Jonathan Aders

**Rehearsal Accompanist**

Luke Kays

**Stunt Coordinator**

Bryan Phillips

**Graphic Designer**

Tim Cox

# PRoduCTion TeAm

(STuDENTS)

**Stage Manager**

Abby Austin

**Assistant Stage****Manager**

Brenna Bishop

**Choreographers**

Madison Ceurter

Justice Laws



# ACT ONE

Scene 1	.....	Birthday Party/Dr. Office
		“Miracle”
Scene 2	.....	Wormwood’s Home
Scene 3	.....	Wormwood’s Home
		“Naughty”
Scene 4	.....	Wormwood’s Home
Scene 5	.....	Library
		“Acrobat Story I”
Scene 6	.....	School Gates/Classroom
		“School Song”
Scene 7	.....	Classroom
Scene 8	.....	Outside Trunchbull’s Office
		“Pathetic”
Scene 9	.....	Trunchbull’s Office
Scene 10	.....	Trunchbull’s Office
		“Hammer”
Scene 11	.....	Wormwood’s Home
		“Naughty, Reprise”
Scene 12	.....	Schoolyard
Scene 13	.....	Wormwood Motors
Scene 14	.....	Wormwood’s Home
		“Loud”
Scene 15	.....	Outside School
		“This Little Girl”
Scene 16	.....	Library
		“Acrobat Story II”
Scene 17	.....	Classroom
Scene 18	.....	Classroom
		“Bruce”
Scene 19	.....	Outside Wormwood’s Home
		“All I Know”

# aCT Two

Scene 1 .....	Schoolyard
Scene 2 .....	Schoolyard
“When I Grow Up”	
Scene 3 .....	Library
“Acrobat Story III”	
Scene 4 .....	Wormwood’s Home
“I’m So Clever”	
Scene 5 .....	Matilda’s Bedroom
“Acrobat Story IV”	
Scene 6 .....	Schoolyard
“The Smell of Rebellion”	
Scene 7 .....	Schoolyard
Scene 8 .....	Schoolyard
“Quiet”	
Scene 9 .....	Honey’s House
“My House”	
Scene 10 .....	Classroom
Scene 11 .....	Classroom
“Revolting Children”	
Scene 12 .....	Library



# PRODUCTION CREWS

## **Audio**

Patrick Kelly

## **Costume**

Emily Cantwell

Evan Chesney

Jamie Hall

Emily Lipford

Annie Wilkinson

Hannah Wolfe

## **Dressers**

Emily Cantwell

Evan Chesney

## **Follow Spot Operators**

Kaylee Aulenbacher

Sara Berglund

Kylie Coffey

Deborah Samuelson

## **Makeup/Wigs**

Evan Chesney

Annie Wilkinson

## **Props**

Caroline Hahn

Tyler Patterson

Phallen Reed

## **Motor/Swing Operators**

David Clark

Janelle Witherow Pruitt

Javan Yeager

## **Scenic (Build Crew)**

Sydney Sanford Adams

Tyler Adams

Sarah Arbuckle

Brian Beggs

Lydia Black

David Clark

Jonah Clifton

David Garton

Delaney Hill

Drew Holley

Chloe Hoofman

Cordell Hutcheson

Deborah Samuelson

Zach Slomers

## **Run Crew**

Berkleigh Billner

Delaney Hill

Levi Huddleston

Kevin Koel

# Cast bios



**Sydney Marie Adams (Child/Ensemble)** is a senior theatre major from Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Previous Harding credits include “Crazy for You,” “James and the Giant Peach,” “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show” and “You Can’t Get There from Here.” She also directed the Campus Player’s production of “The Giver” this past spring.



**Tyler Adams (Child/Ensemble)** is a fifth-year senior theatre major from Greenville, Mississippi. He has been involved in many productions, including “Singing in the Rain,” “Crazy for You,” “Zoo Story,” “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Angel Street,” and “Check on Chekhov.”



**Sarah Arbuckle (Cook/Nurse)** is a senior theatre design/production major with a minor in linguistics from Little Rock, Arkansas. Her credits at Harding include “Crazy for You” (ensemble), “Spring Sing: Curtains Up!” (mic stand), and “Annie Get Your Gun” (vocalist). She also served as assistant set designer for “Big Fish.”



**Shelby Beasley (Mrs. Phelps)** is a senior elementary education major from Jacksonville, Florida. Previous shows include the Campus Players’ production of “Cagebirds” and an award-winning performance as a supporting actress in “Doubt.”



**Lydia Black (Miss Honey)** is a sophomore, born and raised in the “City of Stars” (Kilgore, Texas). She is majoring in theatre and minoring in business management. While at Harding she has performed in “Big Fish,” “The Giver” and “He Said, She Said.”



**Chantel Ceaser (Lavender)** is a public relations major from Fort Smith, Arkansas. She is a member of Delta Nu and a queen for Omega Phi. Her theatrical credits at Harding include “Big Fish” ensemble, and Spring Sing 2018 and 2019 ensemble.



**Madison Ceurter (Parent/Child/Ensemble)** is an athletic training major from Arlington, Texas. She has been a competitive dancer all her life. She performed in Spring Sings 2017 and 2018 and directed her club show “Ants” in 2019. She is one of the musical choreographers and will be choreographing the Spring Sing 2020 ensemble.



**Olivia Dunn (Child/Ensemble)** is a sophomore from Jackson, Tennessee, majoring in international business and Spanish. Her recent work includes Josephine in last year's production of "Big Fish" and a feature performer in her Spring Sing 2019 club show "Squirrels."



**Laura Eads (Miss Agatha Trunchbull)** serves as an assistant professor of music at Harding. Her previous roles include Mother in "Amahl and the Night Visitors" (Opera Memphis), Eulalie MacKecknie Shinn in "The Music Man," Dolly Levi in "Hello Dolly," and a Spring Sing hostess in 1983 and 1986.



**Matthew Floyd (Michael Wormwood/Orderly/Ensemble)** hails from Kemp, Texas. Matthew is a freshman theatre major, and some of his favorite roles in high school include Seymour in "Little Shop of Horrors" and Horton in "Seussical, the Musical." He just joined the Pied Pipers at Harding.



**Ava Galyean (Mrs. Wormwood)** is a senior public relations major from Resaca, Georgia. She is president of women's social club, Ko Jo Kai, and a member of Belles and Beaux. Ava is excited to appear in her fourth homecoming musical. She also has been in Spring Sing (ensemble 2017, 2019; hostess, 2018).



**Drew Holley (Mr. Wormwood)** is a senior theatre major from Dickson, Tennessee. His former credits at Harding include "Big Fish," "James and the Giant Peach" and "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show." This past summer, Drew had an internship at Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Training Center in New York.



**Timothy Holloway (Sergei/Parent/Ensemble)** is a junior majoring in integrated marketing communication and history. He has been in a few one acts in addition to "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Giver." He also has been a member of Pied Pipers since his freshman year.



**Cordell Hutcheson (Parent/Child/Ensemble)** is a senior theatre major from Bridgeport, West Virginia. Some of his previous theatrical work was seen in "Crazy for You," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Annie Get Your Gun," and "The Boys Next Door." Cordell also is a member of Pied Pipers.



**Justice Laws (Rudolpho/Child)** is a senior theatre major, music minor from Memphis, Tennessee. Justice has been in all the homecoming musicals and Spring Sings since coming to Harding. He worked as choreographer for Harding Academy's production of "Newsies" last year and is currently working on their next production.



**Carson Lester (The Doctor/The Mechanic)** is a junior from Birmingham, Alabama. He is majoring in computer science with a minor in theatre. He has performed in several other productions at Harding including “Big Fish” and the Spring Sing 2019 ensemble.



**Rebecca Light (Matilda)** is a senior elementary education major from Rolla, Missouri. Rebecca has been in “Crazy for You,” “Big Fish” and the 2019 Spring Sing ensemble. Some of her favorite past roles include: Gretl (“Sound of Music”), Milky White (“Into the Woods”), Lefou (“Beauty and the Beast”) and Beth (“Little Women”).



**Antonio Montez (Henchman 1/Parent/Ensemble)** is a junior accounting and information systems major from Carrollton, Texas. He is a former student-athlete (football), current student assistant, and a member of Titans social club serving as devotional director. This is his first performance at Harding University.



**Holden Montgomery (Bruce)** is a junior communication studies major from Nashville, Tennessee. He has found the Benson to be a second home, appearing in “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Big Fish,” Spring Sing 2018 (ensemble) and Spring Sing 2019 (host). He is involved in Belles and Beaux and TNT social club.



**Keller Montgomery (Henchman 3/Children’s Entertainer/Ensemble)** is a freshman theatre major from Nashville, Tennessee. His favorite roles from high school include Edward Bloom from “Big Fish,” Joseph from “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” and Lysander from Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”



**Marcus Neely (The Escapologist)** is a professional actor whose credits include Dallas Theatre Center, Casa Mañana, and Pittsburgh Public Theatre. He is passionate about using story for redemptive purposes. His independent work has been featured at Uplift and Winterfest. He is currently one of the youth ministers at Downtown Church of Christ.



**Asher Patten (Child/Ensemble)** is a freshman from Searcy, Arkansas. This is his first time in a Harding musical. His previous work includes the leading roles of Jack Kelly in “Newsies” and Joseph in “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” at Harding Academy.



**Marisa Pesina (Parent/Child/Ensemble)** is a junior English major from Lubbock, Texas. She was a member of the ensemble in “Big Fish” and participated in Pi Theta Phi’s Spring Sing show earlier this year. She is honored and excited to perform in “Matilda.”



**Max Ross (Parent/Child/Ensemble)** is a junior theatre and finance double major from Charleston, West Virginia. Max has been performing since he was 8 years old. His Harding credits include “Annie Get Your Gun” (Frank Butler), “Big Fish” (Edward Bloom), and Spring Sing 2018 and 2019 host.



**Allie Scott (Parent/Child/Ensemble)** is a junior acting major, psychology minor from Little Rock, Arkansas. Her Harding credits include Spring Sing 2019 (hostess), “Big Fish” (Sandra Bloom), and “Annie Get Your Gun” (Annie Oakley). Allie is a member of Good News Singers and sings on the praise team for Rock House Ministries.



**Parker Skinner (Henchman 2/Parent/Ensemble)** is a fifth-year senior vocal music education major and theatre minor from Cassville, Missouri. This is his fifth homecoming musical and his eighth production on the Benson stage. In last year’s musical, “Big Fish,” Parker played the villainous role of Don Price and found it very cathartic.



**Garrett Smith (Parent/Child/Ensemble)** is a sophomore psychology major and theatre minor from Sikeston, Missouri. Garrett also was a member of the ensemble in last year’s Homecoming musical “Big Fish.”



**Mackenzie Turney (The Acrobat)** is a sophomore pre-pharmacy student from Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Her previous theatrical work at Harding includes an ensemble role in “Big Fish” and a member of a club show in Spring Sing 2019 “The Greatest Show.”



**Valentino Warren II (Child/Ensemble)** is a junior theatre major, film minor from Jacksonville, Arkansas. His previous work includes “Annie Get Your Gun,” one acts, “James and the Giant Peach,” “Big Fish,” and Spring Sing 2019 ensemble and club show. Val will be directing one of the club shows for Spring Sing 2020.



**Morgan Wrigley (Parent/Child/Ensemble)** is a freshman theatre and English major from Blanchard, Oklahoma. This is her first time on the Harding stage. A few of her favorite previous roles in high school include Wednesday (“Addams Family”), Beth March (“Little Women”), Polly Baker (“Crazy for You”) and Sandra Bloom (“Big Fish”).

# Production Team Bios

**Jonathan Aders (assistant lighting director)** is the event spaces technical assistant for the department of theatre. He worked at Lubbock Christian University for several years after graduating from Harding University with a B.A. in theatre. Jonathan's responsibilities include designing lights, repairing and maintaining equipment, and assisting other events across campus.

**Abby Austin (stage manager)** is a senior theatre design/production major from Brentwood, Tennessee. She has worked as stage manager for "Crazy for You," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Big Fish," and Spring Sing 2019 for Harding, as well as for three shows with Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre 2017. Her recent experiences allowed her to function as stage manager for the summer camps at Nashville Children's Theatre and Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Training Center.

**Brenna Bishop (assistant stage manager)** is a junior theatre design/production major from North Richland Hills, Texas. Previous theatre credits include the assistant stage manager for both "Annie Get Your Gun" and Spring Sing 2018, stage manager for Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre's 2018 season, and stage manager for "Big Fish." She has loved being part of this process and is looking forward to being the stage manager for Spring Sing 2020!

**Andrew Cook (conductor)** is an associate professor of music at Harding where he teaches woodwinds and musical education and directs the Harding Jazz Band. Since joining the faculty in 2014, he has served as the conductor of the orchestra for homecoming musical productions. Prior to Harding, he led the instrumental music program at Faulkner University where he collaborated with the theatre department as music director/conductor on productions that include "Phantom of the Opera" and "Les Mis'rables."

**Tim Cox (graphic designer)** is the 2019 College of Arts and Humanities outstanding alumnus who graduated from Harding in 1994 with a B.F.A. and later from Savannah College of Art & Design with an M.F.A. in graphic design. He went on to do graphic design for the Central Intelligence Agency for 16 years. He also was an adjunct in the art and design department and a proud sponsor of the Knights social club for 13 years. Working with the Office of University Communications and Marketing, he has designed all promotional material for the theatre department since 2017.

**Seth Fish (assistant technical director)** has been part of the theatre department team for five years as the assistant technical director. Part of his duties include leading the backstage crews during the homecoming musicals

and Spring Sings. He also takes point on building all the sets for the theatrical seasons. In the summer Seth assists in the technical coordination of Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre.

**Dottie Frye (director)** is an assistant professor of theatre at Harding. She teaches acting, children's theatre, and theatre appreciation. She has directed the Pied Pipers and the Spring Sing hosts/hostesses/ensemble for 29 years. She also directs each summer in Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre, where her most recent musical "Curtains" was a 2018 Broadwayworld.com award winner for Best Musical in Arkansas. She is the proud "Dot Dot" to her new granddaughter, Ruby Anne.

**Ben Jones (technical director)** has been with the theatre department since 2008. He teaches classes in technical theatre as well as theatre education. He spends most of his time either working in the shop or working with students studying to be high school theatre teachers. Some of the productions Ben has recently directed include "Big Fish," "Til Beth Do Us Part," "The Glass Menagerie," "Angel Street," and "John & Jill." Ben also has designed the set for several Spring Sing productions.

**Luke Kays (accompanist)** graduated from Harding in 2016 with a degree in chemistry and again in 2018 with a master's in teaching. He is currently the laboratory supervisor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry. Luke was married this summer to Kaitlin, who is in PA school at Harding. This is his second year accompanying for the homecoming musical, which he loves because it gives him the opportunity to work with students outside his department.

**Dennis Kelly (author)** 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 has written the book for the new musical of Pinocchio which opened at the National Theatre at the end of 2017, and in 2018 his new play Girls and Boys opened at the Royal Court. His plays have been performed worldwide and to date have been translated into nearly forty languages. For television he co-wrote and co-created Pulling and wrote and created Utopia. For film, he wrote the screenplay for Black Sea, directed by Kevin MacDonal. He also wrote the book for the Olivier and Tony winning Matilda the Musical. In 2010, DNA became a set text on the GCSE English Literature syllabus.

**Britton Lynn (set designer/props)** has been on faculty at Harding since 2003. He works primarily as designer for the theatre department. Some of his recent scenic designs include "Angel Street," "Crazy for You," "Big Fish," "The Glass Menagerie," "Shrek," and "Mary Poppins." Britt also has directed several productions at Harding including "Annie Get Your Gun," "Doubt: A Parable," "Charley's Aunt," "Macbeth," and "A Child's Christmas in Wales."

**Steve Martin (lighting director)** graduated with a master's in 1989 from Harding University. As director of Benson Auditorium Technical Services,

he was hired to be responsible for lighting, nontheatrical staging and movie projection. Steve has since been responsible for the lighting of all Spring Sings and homecoming musicals from 1990-2019 and all concerts, lyceums and special events such as the inauguration of Dr. McLarty and numerous ASI speakers.

**Tim Minchin (composer-lyricist)** Tim is a musician, actor, comedian, writer and director. He's toured extensively in the US, UK and Australia, performing solo, with bands, and with symphony orchestras. He's released five DVDs, the most recent recorded with the Heritage Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. 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).

**Stacey Neely (music director/vocal coach)** is an adjunct instructor for voice and choral education in the department of music. Stacey holds a B.M.E. in vocal/choral music from Harding University and an M.A. from Texas Women's University in vocal pedagogy. She has been the vocal coach for the past four Spring Sings. This is her fifth year as vocal coach for the homecoming musicals.

**David Robison (sound designer)** is the audio events specialist and audio recording engineer for Harding. He has designed sound and served as sound board operator for homecoming musicals, Spring Sings and Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre, as well as other theatre department productions, for more than a decade. He has arranged music and created original music compositions for various theatre performances. He also is an adjunct instructor in the theatre and communication departments teaching software and audio courses.

**Cindee Stockstill (producer)** has been working with the theatre department since 1995, having served as assistant producer or producer on more than 25 homecoming musicals and Spring Sing productions plus numerous plays and smaller musicals throughout the years. She holds a B.A. in education and an M.Ed. (gifted and talented emphasis) from Harding. She also is a certified life coach. Cindee considers herself blessed with the best job on campus, working with some of the most amazingly talented students, faculty and staff at this University! Talk to her about becoming part of the theatre family at Harding!

**Katy White (costumer)** is a Harding alumna and been on the theatre department staff since 2015 serving in the costume shop. Her costume design work at Harding includes "Boys Next Door," "The Nerd," "Father of the Bride" and "Wait Until Dark." She also helps with costumes for Spring Sings, homecoming musicals and Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre productions.



## WElCome to HaRDing uNiveRSity HoMECoMING 2019!

Homecoming is a time I look forward to every year. There is a special feeling in the air — one akin to childlike wonder — that I wish I could bottle up and capture. Part of those feelings are exhibited on stage in this year's Homecoming theatre production, *Matilda, the Musical*. Based on Roald Dahl's 1988 children's novel, *Matilda* tells the story of a spunky 5-year-old girl who loves to read and often uses

her wild imagination to craft stories in an effort to find refuge from a life where she's often told she's too little to make a difference.

How often do we feel inadequate for the task at hand — too small to truly matter? How often do we let that fear keep us from reaching our true potential? Aren't we told in Matthew 18 that we must become like little children in order to enter the kingdom of God? We might do well to leave out a bit of the mischief *Matilda* and her friends engage in, but I think we can all learn a thing or two about imagination and bravery from the musical's little but mighty heroine.

Again, we are so glad you decided to join us for Harding University Homecoming 2019! I hope you enjoy your time here on campus now and for many years to come — and I hope you might take with you a renewed sense, a childlike wonder, of life and the opportunities we've been given to impact God's kingdom. And I hope you walk away knowing that now, and always, you belong at Harding.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce McLarty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Bruce McLarty  
President

# HARdING tHEatRE

## 2019-20

### **Pied Pipers**

Heritage Auditorium | Oct. 19, 2019

### **"Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley"**

Ulrey Performing Arts Center | Nov. 14-16, 2019

### **Pied Pipers Christmas Show**

Ulrey Performing Arts Center | Dec. 7, 2019

### **"Hands on a Hard Body" – Musical**

Ulrey Performing Arts Center | Feb. 20-22, 27-29, 2020

### **"The Little Prince" – Campus Players Production**

Ulrey Performing Arts Center | March 26-28, 2020

### **Spring Sing 2020 "Once Upon a Time"**

Benson Auditorium | April 9-11, 2020

### **Pied Pipers Spring Show**

Heritage Auditorium | April 11, 2020

### **Student One-Act Festival**

Ulrey Performing Arts Center | Tentatively April 30-May 2, 2020

### **SEARCY SUMMER DINNER THEATRE**

Ulrey Performing Arts Center

### **Harvey**

June 11-14, 18-20, 2020

### **Farce of Habit**

July 2-3 & 5, 9-11, 2020

### **Smokey Joe's Cafe**

July 23-26, 30 – Aug. 1, 2020

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