

MATILDA THE MUSICAL
CASTING GUIDELINES - CHARACTER NOTES

ADULTS

MISS TRUNCHBULL (Male)

Headmistress of Crunchem Hall Primary School. Miss Honey's Aunt. Once a famous athlete, she is described as a "gigantic Holy terror", a "fierce tyrannical monster" who "marches like a storm trooper with long arms swinging" with an "aura of menace".

Age: 30 to 40ish.

Physicality: around 6'. A physical character actor - must be physically fit and agile.

Vocal: High baritone with a strong F sharp. Extremely good enunciation and vocal dexterity.

Dance: Ribbon Dance and Vaulting

NOTE: There are physical demands of this role – physical fitness is crucial.

MISS HONEY (Female)

A mild, quiet person who never raises her voice and seldom seems to smile - yet possesses the rare gift of being adored by every small child under her care. She should have a curious warmth that is almost tangible.

Age: 25 to 35 years old.

Physicality: "slim and fragile that if she fell over; she would smash into a thousand pieces like a porcelain figure".

Vocal: Soprano up to Bb, with a strong and solid belt up to D. Lyrical pure sounding voice. Could even have a slightly folksy quality.

Dance: Loud and Miracle

NOTE: This role also features as a parent during the opening number.

MR WORMWOOD (Male)

A dealer in second-hand cars - "a mean crooked crook" - with a penchant for wearing jackets with large, brightly coloured checks. Should ideally be a clown and could have an ex-punkish rocker voice.

Age: 35 to early 40s.

Physicality: A weasley or ratty essence. Needs to be agile.

Vocal: Top A (negotiable!) To f#

Dance: Not required

MRS WORMWOOD (Female)

Mother of Michael and Matilda, and the wife of Mr Wormwood. She is obsessed with her amateur Ballroom dancing partner and her looks. Like her husband she thinks very little of Matilda's unique abilities and often berates her. She is as loud in her makeup and dress sense as she is in her voice – must have strong comedy.

Age: 30s.

Physicality: Above 5' 8" preferred

Vocal: Really strong belt voice, with matching vocal stamina. Up to top F/G – with higher ad libs.

Dance: Strong understanding of movement

MRS PHELPS (Female)

Warm and nurturing local librarian who encourages Matilda's love of reading. She has an inner peace.

Age: 30s to 50s

Physicality: Generally played by a woman of non-caucasian heritage.

Vocal: Accomplished singer Dialect Possibly African or Caribbean or non-Caucasian

Dance: Basic movement skills. Appears as a parent in Miracle.

MALE ENSEMBLE / RUDOLPHO (Male)

Mrs Wormwood's dance partner. Should be genuinely fit and athletic. Should have a flare for character comedy and have great vocal and dance stamina for the number 'Loud'.

Age: 20s - early 30s

Physicality: Strong and fit.

Vocal: High baritone with consistent Fs with passing top A

Dance: Very strong dancer. Latin ballroom is an advantage.

NOTE: This role also features as a parent during the opening number and may have other principal or non-principal roles.

MALE ENSEMBLE / MICHAEL WORMWOOD (Male)

Must be able to fully participate in all ensemble vocal and dance numbers and also to play the Wormwood's monosyllabic son. Needs good deadpan comedy and the ability to find a character during a lot of stage time with few words.

Age: 20s

Physicality: 5'2" to 5'7". Teenage looking

Vocal: Accomplished singer.

Dance: Physically fit and strong mover.

NOTE: This role has few spoken words. This is an ensemble/minor role and may have other principal, or non-principal, covers.

MALE ENSEMBLE / SERGEI

Russian Mafia Boss who is physically intimidating, with an accomplished Russian accent.

Age: 30s

Physicality: Over 6ft, broad, masculine, intimidating with strong facial features.

Vocal: Rich Baritone.

Dance: Basic movement skills. Appears as a parent in Miracle

Note: This is an ensemble/minor role and may have other principal, or non-principal, roles.

MALE ENSEMBLE / DOCTOR

Age: 20s, 30s

Physicality: Over 5' 10"

Vocal: High tenor with a comfortable top A. Rock quality.

Dance: Basic movement skills.

Note: This is an ensemble/minor role and may have other principal, or non-principal, roles.

MALE ENSEMBLE / ESCAPOLOGIST

Age: 20s, 30s

Physicality: Over 5' 10"

Vocal: High lyric baritone.

Dance: Basic movement skills.

Note: This is an ensemble/minor role and may have other principal, or non-principal, roles.

FEMALE ENSEMBLE / ACROBAT

A strong all round ensemble performer.

Age: 20s, 30s

Physicality: Above 5'4"

Vocal: Accomplished singer.

Dance: Basic movement skills.

Note: This is an ensemble/minor role and may have other principal, or non-principal, roles.

ENSEMBLE

A strong all-around ensemble performer.

Age: 20s - 30s

Vocal: Accomplished singer.

Dance: Strong dance track

Note: This is an ensemble/minor role and may have other principal, or non-principal, roles.

CHILDREN

MATILDA

An imaginative girl who is clever and wise far beyond her years. She has a thirst for learning that cannot be quenched.

Age: Looks 6 to 10

Height: Up to 4' 3". Short as possible.

Essential: Enigmatic, serious, intense. Instinctive acting ability. Vocal health and clarity.

Dance: Cartwheel.

AMANDA

Age: 8 to 15

Height: 4' 3" –4' 5"

Essential: Slight framed. Strong dance and vocal ability.

LAVENDER

Age: 8 to 15

Height: 4' 3" –4' 5"

Essential: Good dance. Strong singing and acting. Loud and kooky - likes to have fun – big personality.

ALICE

Age: 8 to 15

Height: 4' 6"-4' 8"

Essential: Strong and Bold. Strong dance and vocal ability.

HORTENSIA

Age: 8 to 15

Height: 4' 6"– 4' 8"

Essential: Feisty. Strong dance and vocal ability.

ERIC

Age: 8 to 15

Height: Up to 4' 3". Small as possible.

Essential: Cute. Small.

BRUCE

Matilda's classmate. He is subject to extreme punishment by Miss Trunchbull.

Age: 8 to 15

Height: 4' 6" – 4' 8"

Essential: Vocal ability for "Revoltin' Children". Comic acting ability.

As part of the action on stage this role is required to eat chocolate cake, cream & icing. Must not be allergic to latex (material of the prop cake) or cake/icing ingredients

NIGEL

Age: 8 to 15

Height: 4' 6" – 4' 8"

Essential: Vocal stamina for spoken dialogue. Strong dance ability. Strong vocal ability.

TOMMY

Age: 8 to 15

Height: 4' 8" – 5"

Essential: Strong dance and vocal ability.

Community Players is committed to diverse casting and strongly encourages actors of all ethnicities to audition.