

PG

Jan 14-30



ROALD DAHL'S

Matilda

THE MUSICAL

Directed By: Denise Parton

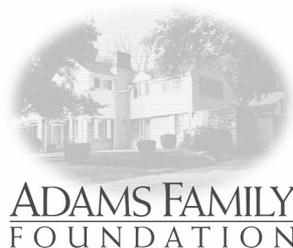
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The Center for the Arts is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Director's Note

Welcome to CFTA's production of *Matilda the Musical*!

Someone asked me recently if the show *Matilda* was against education. I smiled, wondering how they could come to that conclusion, but in their defense, they hadn't seen the entire show and were only familiar with the song *Revolting Children*. To be honest when I was first asked to direct the show, I wasn't sure if I wanted to. I wasn't a big fan of the movie and whenever I take on a show, I want to have meaning. I want my work to have a story worth telling, and I am happy to say, *Matilda* is a wonderful story. The premise of the entire piece is "I am a miracle." I love that concept. The opening song is entitled *Miracle* and the children sing, "My mommy says I'm a miracle." The closing song, *Revolting Children* screams the same line, "My mommy says I'm a miracle!" These children are innocent and set out to face their world by going to school, eager to learn and be everything they dreamed of being. Yet, sometimes society dulls our senses and robs us of our self-worth while frightening us into believing that we are not special.

Yes, *Matilda the Musical* sensationalizes the conflict with characters such as the evil Miss Trunchbull and the horrid parenting of the Wormwoods, yet sadly enough our children sometimes face these types of monsters. The song that begins Act Two is entitled, *When I Grow Up*. In this number we see the kids look at their mirrors and see their older self-looking back. The lyrics say, "*When I grow up, I will be strong enough to carry all the heavy things you have to haul around with you when you're a grown up.*"

I watch these beautiful children perform this number and I know first-hand that some of them are carrying heavy burdens now, even in their youth. I love them so. They are strong, they are resilient, they are miracles!

-Denise Parton

Director of *Matilda the Musical*

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Roald Dahl's
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

Jan 14-30

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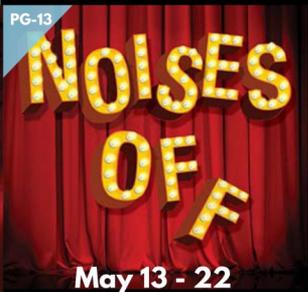
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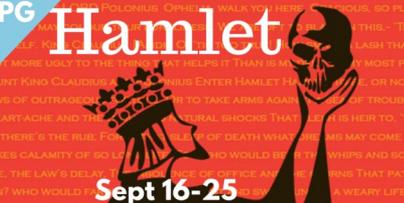
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Jan 14-30

Directed By:
Denise Parton



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical is the captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. With book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, Matilda has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages around the world.

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey. Over the course of her first term at school, Matilda and Miss Honey have a profound effect on each other's lives, as Miss Honey begins not only to recognize but also appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE:



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

This event has been made possible with generous support from the Tennessee Arts Commission, The City of Murfreesboro, and The Community Foundation. The Center for the Arts is a member of the American Association of Community Theatre, the Center for Nonprofit Management, Main Street Murfreesboro, Murfreesboro Art Committee, The Rutherford Chamber of Commerce, and Tennesseans for the Arts.

The Center for the Arts is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

CAST OF MATILDA: THE MUSICAL

Cast

Matilda.....	Alana Shirk & Rachel Harlan
Miss Honey.....	Lydia Taylor & Hailey-ann Harlan
Trunchbull.....	Zach Dame & Nick Mullins
Mr. Wormwood.....	Wil Hansen & Titus Keiningham
Mrs. Wormwood.....	Caroline Humphries & Erica Bundy
Rudolpho.....	Christopher Keiningham
Mrs. Phelps.....	Kathryn Blackburn
Lavender.....	Madison Loyd
Michael Wormwood.....	Thomas Scott
Bruce.....	Aiden Shirk
The Escapologist.....	Cole Williams
The Acrobat.....	Catherine Scott
The Doctor/Sergei.....	Cal Ammons
Amanda.....	Aylee Gardner
Nigel.....	Jude Williams
Eric.....	Hampton Phillips
Alice.....	Claire Lee
Hortensia.....	Estella Williams
Tommy.....	Zaden Dill
Cook.....	Anna Claire Ashley
Dance Team.....	Aiden Absher, Caprice Ciletti, Grace Cook, Eliza Griffey, Taylor Harrison, Katie Ledford, Bridget Millsaps, Journey Parton, Alissa Whitney
Ensemble.....	Charley Floyd, Eden Harris, Jenna Martin, Kendall Plunk, Julia Scott, Thomas Scott

Production and Crew

Director.....	Denise Parton
Music Director.....	Heather Blackburn
Choreographer.....	Brittany Griffin
Stage Manager.....	Lincoln Phillips
Light Design.....	Denise Parton
Light Operator.....	Denise Parton
Sound Design.....	Titus Keiningham
Sound Operator.....	Mark Williams
Costumer.....	Denise Parton
Set Design.....	George Downer
Lead Set Painter.....	Katrin Keiningham
Crew.....	Abbey Coffey, Jordan Chambers, Katrin Keiningham

Special Thanks

George Downer, Connie and Sam who brave snow and ice to come and work on the set. Thank you, George, for always creating an amazing world for us to perform in. Titus Keiningham who is always sharing his expertise to take things to a new level. Thank you for the special effects, filming rehearsals and being an amazing Mr. Wormwood.

Katrin Keiningham, Haley Orozco, Shelly Morris, and Katelyn Falgout who share their artistic talents in adding beautiful touches to our set.

The New years Eve Painting Crew: Anna Claire Ashley, Aiden Absher, Caprice Ciletti, Grace Cook, Donna Dame, Zach Dame, Zaden Dill, Charley Floyd, Aylee Gardner, Wil Hansen, Rachel Harlan, Taylor Harrison, Caroline Humphries, Claire Lee, Jenna Martin, Bridget Millsaps, Journey Parton, Aiden Shirk, Alana Shirk, Catherine Scott, Julia Scott, Thomas Scott, Lydia Taylor, Estella Williams and Jude Williams.

Sarah Scott for bringing me, Journey and Brittany dinner. It was fabulous!!

The Who's Who of Matilda The Musical



Alana Leigh Shirk (Matilda) is 17 years old and has loved all things musical theater for as long as she can remember. She has been blessed with the opportunity to perform many roles alongside her CSA and CFTA family. Some of her favorites include Deloris in *Sister Act Jr*, Flounder in *The Little Mermaid Jr*, and Sharpay in *High School Musical Jr*. However, her experience here as Matilda has risen to the top of the list. She is very thankful that you are here and hopes you enjoy the show!



Rachel Harlan (Matilda) is so excited to get to play this role at CFTA. Some shows that she has performed in at CFTA include *Beauty and the Beast* (ensemble), *Les Misérables* (ensemble), and *The Little Mermaid* (ensemble). She has also enjoyed doing Center Stage Academy shows at CFTA she has been in *Sister Act Jr*. (Mary Lazarus) and *Frozen Jr*. (snow chorus). She hopes you enjoy the show!



Lydia Taylor (Miss Honey) is thrilled to once again perform on the Center for the Art's stage, her "home theater" since 2010. Her most recent productions were *The Producers* (Usherette) and the *Pirates of Penzance* (Isabel). She sends her gratitude to the wonderful production team for the opportunity, the talented cast, and to those who support the Center by watching and being a part of live theatre. Her performances are dedicated to the "famfamily". Hail, Poetry.



Hailey-ann Harlan is so excited to be playing Miss Honey for half of the shows here at CFTA. In the past few years she has had the honor of playing Wednesday (*Addams Family* Smyrna High), Elsa (*Frozen Jr*. CSA), and will be playing Miss Honey again in March for Smyrna High School. The Center has always been a second home to her because of the warm and welcoming cast, crew, and staff. She hopes that you enjoy the show!



Zach Dame (Trunchbull) has been in numerous plays at the Center For The Arts Murfreesboro, and has been in such shows as *Aida*, *Les Misérables*, *Hairspray*, and recently, *Moana Jr*. Being in theater for 6 years, he still loves the feeling of starting a show and finding that he is surrounded by people that are so talented, yet so humble. It's easy to say that you love the cast around you, but Zach truly feels blessed to work with the familiar and new faces in *Matilda*. From the bottom of his heart, enjoy the show!

The Who's Who of Matilda The Musical



Nick Mullins (Trunchbull) has a bachelor's degree in vocal music education from TN Tech University, and currently teaches k-5 music at Stewarts Creek Elementary. A performer since age 9, you may have seen him in shows all over the middle Tennessee area. In addition to performing, he also loves music directing and teaching private voice lessons at the Center.



Wil Hansen (Mr. Wormwood) is excited to be back on the stage at The Center For The Arts after several years. He's been making films, acting on screen, taking dance classes, drawing comics and doing lots of other creative things and is excited to be back in a show with such a talented group of people! He hopes that you enjoy the show and that you will take a smile home with you!



Titus Keiningham (Mr. Wormwood) recently performed as Walter Hobbs in *Elf the Musical* at the Center, and in *The Music Man* at Springhouse Theater. He starred in many USO shows (like *Hello Dolly* and *City of Angels*) while living in Germany in the 90s. As a A/V/L engineer, he spent many years producing commercials and music videos, as well as running conferences and large corporate events. With events being limited the last couple of years, he decided doing some theater will be fun, especially when doing it with his family!



Caroline Humphries, a sophomore at Central Magnet, is thrilled to perform as Mrs. Wormwood. Her most recent productions include *Into The Woods* (Witch), *Radium Girls* (Grace Fryer), *Sister Act Jr* (Mary Patrick), and *The Outsiders* (Cherry). She is so thankful for her family, friends, and directors who have given endless support and the confidence to keep chasing her dreams. Caroline is honored to be a part of this incredible show, and hopes the audience loves every minute!



Erica Bundy (Mrs. Wormwood) is a native of Oak Ridge, TN where her love of performing began. Some of her favorite roles were Anne Frank, Penny (*Hairspray*) and Lola (*Damn Yankees*). Erica spent ten years in Houston, TX where she played Elle Woods (*Legally Blonde*) Jack (all female *Lord of the Flies*) and Myrrha (*Metamorphoses*). During the day Erica directs the English Learner program at LEAD Public Schools in Nashville. This is her first production in Middle Tennessee!

The Who's Who of Matilda The Musical



Chris Keiningham (Rudolpho) just finished playing Matthews in *Elf the Musical*, he was Protaire in *Les Misérables* at the Center, played Tommy in *The Music Man* at Springhouse, was in *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Macbeth* at Pulltlight in Franklin, and in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Annie*, *Mary Poppins* and *Cinderella* at Teen Learning Center. He's a High School senior, dual enrolls at MTSU and is looking forward to living the college life real soon!



Madison Loyd (Lavender) has been performing at the Center For The Arts for almost 4 years. She has appeared in such shows as *Annie Jr* (Molly), *Frozen Jr* (Young Elsa), and *Little Women* (young Amy). Madison would like to thank her parents, family and friends for always supporting her, and the staff of CFTA for the opportunity to perform and learn. She would also like to thank Denise Parton for cultivating her love for the theater, and for never giving up on bringing *Matilda* to the stage in Murfreesboro!



Aiden Shirk (Bruce) is 14 years old and has been performing on stage since the age of 9. He has had the opportunity to play some really fun roles including Toby in *Sweeney Todd*, Pugsly in *Addams Family*, Hans in *Frozen Jr*, and Troy Bolton in *High School Musical Jr*. For Aiden, theater is all about the friendships and memories that are made in the process of putting a show together. He is beyond thrilled to be playing Bruce now and hopes you enjoy the joy as much as he is!



Aiden Absher (Dance Team) is thrilled to be part of his first Main Stage production with *Matilda: the Musical*. Aiden is 11 years old and has previously performed in Center Stage Academy productions of *Elf the Musical Jr*, *Jungle Book Kids* and *Moana Jr*. He enjoys gaming, shooting hoops and hanging out with friends in his spare time!



Cal Ammons (The Doctor/Sergei) has been a CFTA regular over the years, performing in shows such as: *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Newsies*, and *The Producers*. He has also been involved with many shows behind the scenes working tech and stage crew.

The Who's Who of Matilda The Musical



Anna Claire Ashley (Cook & Adult Ensemble) is a freshman in high school, and is excited to be in this incredible show with such an amazing cast. She was Martha in *High School Musical Jr.* and Sister Mary Celeste in *Sister Act Jr.* with CSA. She was on the dance team for *All Together Now*, and most recently was a Chief Ancestor in *Moana Jr.* Anna Claire thanks the director, production staff and cast for this opportunity, and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has enjoyed being a part of it!



Kathryn Blackburn (Mrs. Phelps) is seventeen years old and is a junior at Stewarts Creek High School. She has been doing theater for ten years and has fallen in love with the art. She has played the roles of Mayzie in *Seussical Jr.*, Nala in *The Lion King Jr.*, and most recently Gramma Tala in *Moana Jr.* She is thrilled to be cast in another show.



Caprice Ciletti (Dance Team) is so excited to be part of the *Matilda* cast at Center for the Arts. Caprice is in 6th grade at Rockvale Middle School. She has been performing musical theater since she was 8 years old. Her favorite roles are as Young Anna in *Frozen Jr.*, and Amy in *Little Women*. Caprice would like to thank Ms. Denise for her passion she brings to every show, Nathaniel Paul for helping her to find her voice, and her parents who love and support her dreams always!!

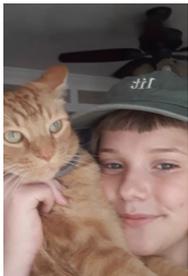


Grace Cook (Dance Team) is excited to have the opportunity to perform at CFTA. She has most recently been seen in productions for CSA such as: *Moana Jr* (Left Claw/ Dance Ensemble) and *High School Musical Jr* (Dance Ensemble). She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her through tough decisions, her directors that helped her find her way back into what she enjoys, and the cast for being there for a good laugh on a gloomy day. She cannot wait for you to see the show!



Zaden Dill (Tommy) may be new to the main stage, but not to performing. His favorite roles from Center Stage Academy include: Mr Donner (*Rudolph The Musical*), The Constable (*Tuck Everlasting*), and Santa (*Elf Jr.*). He's so thankful to Ms Denise, Mrs Heather, and Mrs Brittney for casting him in this show, because *Matilda* is his favorite musical!

The Who's Who of Matilda The Musical



Charley Floyd (Ensemble) is thrilled to be in *Matilda*! Her first show at the Center for the Arts was a production class of Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. She loves how welcoming the cast has been and how many friends she's made in these past few months. Charley looks forward to doing future productions at Center for the Arts and growing as a performer!



Aylee Gardner (Amanda) is super excited to be a part of CFTA's production of *Matilda*. She started theater at a young age and has loved it ever since. Some of her most recent performances include *Seussical Jr* (Bird Girl) at Blackman High, *Little Women* (Marmee) at CFTA, *Sister Act Jr* (Mother Superior) at CFTA, and *High School Musical Jr* (Gabriella) at CFTA. She thanks everyone who has helped this amazing show happen, and she hopes you enjoy!



Eliza Griffey (Dance Team) is thrilled to be making her debut to the Center for the Arts stage in *Matilda*! She has previously been seen in *Into the Woods Jr* (Bakers Wife), *A Chorus Line* (Diana), *Fun Home* (Small Allison), and *Frozen* (Olaf). Catch her on the stage again soon as Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (St. Andrews Sewanee), or Wendy in *Peter and Wendy* (the Arts Center of Cannon County). Thank you to this amazing cast and crew for making this show as fantastic as it is!



Eden Harris (Ensemble) began at CFTA at the age of 4. She has been in numerous productions some of which include *Lion King Jr.*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Annie Jr.*, and *Peter Pan Jr.* She is in 5th grade at McFadden School of Excellence. She enjoys theater performances, clogging and playing sports.



Taylor Harrison (Dance Team) is excited to perform in her first mainstage show at CFTA. You may have seen her over the past seven years in Center Stage Academy performances such as *Moana Jr*, *The Little Mermaid Jr*, *Annie Jr*, *Mulan Jr*, and *Frozen Jr*. Outside of theater, Taylor enjoys rock climbing and hanging out with her dog, Sadie. Taylor wants to thank the directors of *Matilda* for giving her the chance to shine in this production.

The Who's Who of Matilda The Musical



Katie Ledford (Dance Team) is excited to return to the Center for the Arts in *Matilda*. She is no stranger to the Center, most recently appearing as Fann in *A Christmas Carol* and previously in the ensemble of *Les Misérables*, as Susan Walker in *Miracle on 34th Street*, and as Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*. She has also appeared in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* at Stewarts Creek Middle School as Veruca Salt, *Seussical the Musical* at Stewarts Creek High School as Jojo, among others.



Claire Lee is excited to be back on the stage in the production of *Matilda*. She will be playing the role of Alice. She has been involved with the Center Stage Academy for eight years. She has been seen in *Aladdin Jr*, *Frozen Jr*, and most recently *Moana Jr*. She loves being a part of the theatre community and thank you to Denise Parton for the opportunity to be involved with this great show.



Jenna Martin (Ensemble) is a sophomore at Central Magnet and has performed in several shows at CSA over the years as well as shows at Central Magnet. She is excited to be involved in her first mainstage production as CFTA.



This is **Bridget Millsaps'** first main stage play, as part of the Dance Team. She has been in several CSA shows like *Wizard of Oz* and *Elf Jr*. Bridget is in 5th grade at Erma Siegel and hopes you love the show!



Journey Parton (Dance Team) is no stranger to the stage. She has been performing in productions since the age of nine. Most recently she played the role of Moana in *Moana JR*. Journey's other credits include, Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*, Ursula in *The Little Mermaid Jr*. Rafiki in *The Lion King Jr*, and Olaf in *Frozen Jr*. as well as countless other roles. She is thrilled to be performing alongside her wonderful friends and is extremely proud of each one of them!

The Who's Who of Matilda The Musical



Hampton Phillips is thrilled to be back on stage at CFTA as Eric. He has enjoyed performing in many CFTA productions, most recently as Michael in *Elf the Musical*. He's grateful for the love and support of his family. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the theatre.



In her downtime **Kendall Plunk** likes making pottery and reading books. She is especially fond of Gilmore Girls, Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, coffee, and fuzzy blankets. Being comfy is a sport that Kendall could win an Olympic medal in. *Matilda* has been a lot of fun and she is happy to be doing this show with many of her favorite people.



Catherine Scott (The Acrobat) loves theater more than anything. She has been taking Aerial Silk classes under Callen Austin for only a year, but her incredible flexibility gives her an edge! She has been in several plays at CFTA including: *Frozen Jr*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Elf Jr*, *Jungle Book Jr*, *Moana Jr* and now *Matilda*! Catherine has a black belt in Taekwondo and loves to travel. She thanks you for supporting The Center for the Arts.



Julia Scott (Ensemble) is so excited to be on the stage for the first time. She is extremely creative and loves all types of art, especially jewelry making. Julia is trained in Aerial Silks and Taekwondo. She loves poached eggs on toast, chicken nuggets, fries and mac & cheese. Julia hopes you love the show!



Thomas Scott (Ensemble) is newer to the stage. *Matilda* is his first main stage production. He was in *Elf Jr.* (manager) and *Moana Jr.* (fisherman) in the summer of 2021 through CSA. He is active in Trail Life USA and love being outdoors. Thomas is a black belt in Taekwondo and strives for excellence in all things. He has played competitive chess for 6 years and has a knack for electronics and programming. He is excited to be a part of *Matilda*!

The Who's Who of Matilda The Musical



Alissa Whitney (Dance Team) has been doing theatre for as long as she can remember. She is blessed to have been a part of many shows, from playing Miss Scarlet in *Clue* to a dancer in *Aladdin*, and although this is her first show at the Center, she looks forward to many more! She wants to thank Denise, Brittany, and Heather for the opportunity to grow her craft, and her family for always encouraging her.



Cole Williams (The Escapologist) is thrilled to be in his first musical, *Matilda*. He is thankful to his friends and family for their support in this new found passion. He sends a special thank you to his mom and dad and to Journey, Brittany and Denise for their support, guidance and encouragement.



Estella Williams is thrilled to be playing the role of Hortensia in her 6th main stage production at the Center. She has done numerous Center Stage Academy shows including *Moana Jr.* (Tamatoa), *Frozen Jr.* (Anna), *Sister Act Jr.* (Sister Mary Robert), and *Little Mermaid Jr.* (Ariel). Estella is a Sophomore at Rockvale High School and was just selected as one of the top 25 High School Musical Theater Performers in TN. She loves to perform with her friends and brother at the Center and hopes you enjoy the show!



Jude Williams (Nigel) is ecstatic to be in the miraculous cast of *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*! He is thankful to return onstage after a two year long hiatus! On this stage, you might have seen him perform in Disney's *Newsies* (Les), *Elf Jr* (Buddy), *Sister Act Jr* (Eddie Souther), *Tuck Everlasting* (Jesse), *Peter Pan Jr* (Peter Pan), Disney's *Aladdin Jr* (Aladdin), *Les Misérables: School Edition* (Lesgles), and most recently in *All Together Now!* as a featured soloist. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Team Rachel (Performing the 14th, 16th, 22nd, and 28th) features

Rachel Harlan as Matilda Wormwood
Hailey-ann Harlan as Miss Honey
Nick Mullins as Miss Trunchbull
Erica Bundy as Mrs. Wormwood
Titus Keiningham as Mr. Wormwood

Team Alana (Performing the 15th, 21st, 23rd, 29th and 30th) features

Alana Shirk as Matilda Wormwood
Lydia Taylor as Miss Honey
Zach Dame as Miss Trunchbull
Caroline Humphries as Mrs. Wormwood
Wil Hansen as Mr. Wormwood

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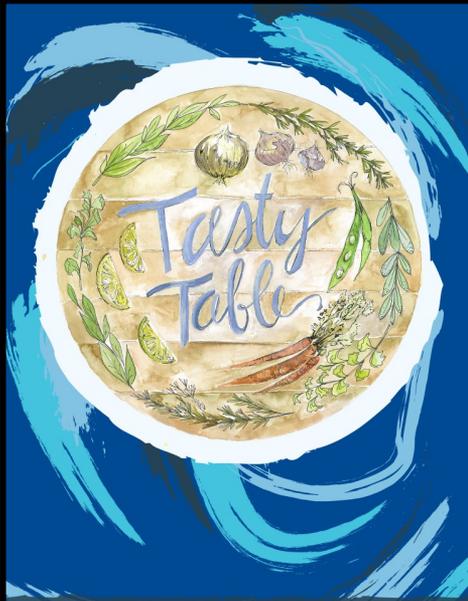
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Enjoy the Show!

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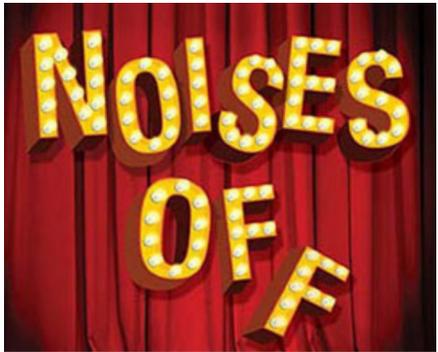


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