

A View on Access – The audio described performance and touch tour of Matilda (from the RSC) That took place on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of June at the Cambridge Theatre in the West End London.

Click [here](#) for the Audio of this review which includes audio from the Matilda describers along with songs and dialogue snippets from the Production itself.

Touch tour 12.30 pm Audio introduction 2.15pm Performance start 2.30pm

The award winning Matilda the musical based on the much loved novel by Roald Dahl with a book by Dennis Kelly and lyrics and music by Tim Minchin has taken the world by storm starting its conception at the Royal Shakespeare company's Courtyard theatre in 2010 before transferring to the west end in 2011 where it still thrives and wows audiences today and has recently embarked on a UK tour.

The main narrative of Matilda centres around a little girl with special talents and the power to move things with her mind and a love of reading, her dysfunctional family, and the infamous Miss Trunchball and what follows is a fantastical tale of drama, humour, catchy compelling songs, brilliant set pieces and clever choreography.

With such a fabulous show it's wonderful that the West Ends Cambridge theatre schedules touch tours and an audio description a few times throughout the year and there will also be a touch tour and AD for every venue during the tour.

The touch tour began at 12.30pm and participants were met in the foyer by describers Mary Plackett and Ellie Packer (The two RSC Audio Describers discuss the history and joys of describing Matilda on the audio track, click [here](#) to start the audio to hear the bonus commentary) and then led onto the stage.

It's such a honour to be able to explore the sets of such an elaborate show and both the front of house staff and the stage crew at the Cambridge theatre were nothing but gracious helpful and supportive.

There was around six patrons on the tour and both Ellie and Mary took turns to deliver an informative overview of the stage, sets, props and

costumes and we all got to explore, touch and feel and ask questions along the way. Matilda is such a striking visual experience with so many ambient and colourful elements like an array of wooden cut out letters in different shapes and colours hanging above the stage and many detailed props and lavish costumes so this is integral for anyone blind or partially sighted to gain a greater understanding and insight and everyone who took part enjoyed the experience and had a better notion of all the visual aspects.

There was a detailed introduction through the headset provided at 2.15pm by Mary Placket who delivered a well scripted account of all the information needed to go into the performance with including what the stage is like, the characters and who plays them and what they will be wearing.

Mary continued to describe part one with flair confidence and experience and became a guide in your ear illustrating every important action, movement and physical element essential to the narrative and plot. Ellie took over the reins for part 2 describing the drama as it unfolded on stage and interpreted it all towards the gripping and moving conclusion and was clear, confident and engaging throughout.

The RSC who produce Matilda are committed to access 100 percent and go out of their way to make the show as accessible and inclusive as possible for all those with disabilities and the front of house staff were also well trained to help and support in any way they can.

Matilda at the Cambridge theatre offers audio described performances throughout the year.

The next AD productions are on:

Sunday 25 November 2018, 3pm (Touch Tour 1pm)

Saturday 30 March 2019, 2.30pm (Touch Tour 12.30pm)

***To book tickets call 020 7087 7966***

**Or Email: [access@reallyuseful.co.uk](mailto:access@reallyuseful.co.uk)**

Matilda is also on Tour the audio described performances coming up are

The Birmingham Hippodrome, Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August at 2.30pm  
with a touch tour at 12.30pm

For more information and help with booking tickets call 0121 689 1060

The Palace theatre Manchester – on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November at  
7.30pm with a touch tour at 5.30pm to book tickets call the ATG Access  
line on 0800 912 6971 or for more information email Abigail Henry on  
[abigailhenry@theambassadors.com](mailto:abigailhenry@theambassadors.com).