

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please Contact: Ashley Owen | 910.323.4234 ext. 222 | aowen@cfrt.org

CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE PRESENTS MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Fayetteville, NC- CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE (CFRT) is kicking off the new year with *Matilda the Musical*, based off of Roald Dahl's beloved children's book, running January 26-February 19. Fresh off the heels of the hit Netflix film release, audiences will get to experience the stage version of Dennis Kelly (book) and Tim Minchin's (music & lyrics) TONY-award winning show in person! The production is directed by Marc de la Concha, CFRT's Education Director. His national tour credits include *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Peter Pan* and *Discover Theater: Featuring Disney's Cinderella and Disney's The Jungle Book*, along with starring in CFRT shows like *Shrek: the Musical* (Donkey), *Clue* (Wadsworth), and *The Odd Couple* (Felix.). Charlie Sutton, 10-time Broadway veteran including performing in *Wicked*, *Kinky Boots*, and *How to Succeed in Business*, starring Nick Jonas, will Choreograph the production. James Clark, music minister at CrossPointe Church, will Musically Direct.

CFRT's *Matilda* will feature two different youth casts: the Honey Cast and the Trunchbull Cast. In the lead roles are Isabel Iatauro (Honey Cast) and Callie Mackenzie Tisdale (Trunchbull Cast.) This will be Iatauro's CFRT debut, while Tisdale has been in several productions including *Annie* (Molly) starring Robert Newman and *Shrek: the Musical* (Young Fiona.) Both youth casts feature 8 additional young actors playing the roles of Matilda's classmates.

The 36-person cast also features national performers Merrill Peiffer (National Tour: *Mamma Mia!*) as Ms. Trunchbull, Kelly Felthous (National Tours: *Wicked*, *Flashdance*, *Grease*) as Mrs. Wormwood and Kevin David Stevens as Mr. Wormwood (National Tours: *Rent- 20th Anniversary*, *Officer and a Gentleman*). Local performers include Jennifer Newman as Ms. Honey (CFRT's *Shrek: the Musical*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Clue*) and Ayana Washington as Mrs. Phelps (CFRT's *Dreamgirls*, *Shrek: the Musical*, *The Color Purple*.) Rounding out the cast are CFRT alumni Dax Valdes (National Tour: *The King and I*), Chris Kyle (CFRT's *The Wizard of Oz*), Mikey LoBalsamo (CFRT's *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Clue*), Amber Dawn French (CFRT's *BCPE*, *Annie*, *Shrek: the Musical*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Clue*), and Alannah McMillan (CFRT's *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Color Purple*, *Into the Woods*.)

CFRT offers multiple different opportunities for audiences to see their shows at a special rate. Military Appreciation Night (Wednesday, February 1) gives 25% off tickets to active duty servicemembers, veterans, and their families (sponsored by The Kyle Foundation.) Teacher Appreciation Night (Friday, February 3) gives all educators a 25% discount on tickets. There will also be a Sensory Friendly performance on Sunday, February 12 (sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield NC.) The show will feature decreased sound and lighting, a Safe Zone outside of the auditorium with a live broadcast of the show being streamed.

***Matilda* has previews on Thursday, January 26 and Friday, January 27, and opens Saturday, January 28 at 7:30pm. The performance schedule is Wednesday and Thursday at 7:00pm, Friday at 7:30pm, Saturdays at 2pm and 7:30pm, and 2:00pm on Sundays. Tickets range from \$19-\$37. The show runs through February 19. For tickets and information visit: cfrt.org or call the box office at 910.323.4233.**

###

Cape Fear Regional Theatre believes in the power of storytelling and the visceral impact of live theatre. We strive for the highest standards of excellence in our artistic work, educational offerings, and outreach efforts. We provide the region a place to come together to laugh harder, think deeper, share our experiences, and grow as a community.