

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Matilda: Big on Broadway

Julia Ross, contributing writer

On a recent field trip to New York City, the Interior Design faculty and students had the opportunity to preview the new Broadway show *Matilda*.

Matilda, based on the novel by British author Roald Dahl, is a Broadway performance filled with energetic and exciting theatrics. The performance is produced by the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Company and is currently on preview at the Shubert Theatre in New York City.

While the acting itself is spectacular, the overall performance is filled with lively music, catchy song lyrics and fantastic choreography. The set design is mesmerizing with a collection of oversized scrabble tiles, creative graphics and fluorescent lights.

Matilda is a children's story about a girl who is forced to overcome rude, destructive parents and a horrible headmistress in order to live up to her true potential. Many of the main characters are played by children, who fill the stage with incredible voices and amazing talents. The role of the title character *Matilda* is played by four different girls who take turns mesmerizing the audience with their singing and acting abilities. Each of the four actresses does an incredible job creating a mature, creative and distinctive title character.

The most surprising part of *Matilda* is the despicable Miss Trunchbull is performed by a man. While this is one of the few differences between the original novel and the stage performance, the actor does an outstanding job creating such a wickedly despicable



Cover art via blogspot.com

villain. While the original stage performance of *Matilda* was a huge success on the London stage, the Broadway performance seems to be on its way to being a hit.

Terrence Malick, Back in Motion?

Directing only six feature films in the last four decades, Terrence Malick has separated himself from many filmmakers of his time who seem to embrace a 'you win some, you lose some' mentality when it comes to quality verses quantity.

Impressively educated at Harvard and Magdalen College at Oxford, Malick's pursuits have not always been film. He worked as a journalist for publications including *Newsweek* and *The New Yorker*, and later taught philosophy at M.I.T. It wasn't until he enrolled in one of his colleague's film classes that his interest in the subject was ignited.

In 1969, he enrolled in the first graduating class of the American Film Institute's Center for Advanced Studies. Malick received his first feature screen writing credit on Stuart Rosenberg's *Pocket Money* and in the same year went on to direct his first film *Badlands* which was released in 1973. Although the film was low-budget (Malick rejected all studio offers) it

was widely praised as a masterpiece, especially as a directoral debut. Regardless of the highly positive reception of his first movie, Malick would not emerge with a new film for another five years.

Days of Heaven marked his resurrection in 1978, and with it, an applauding critical response. After winning a Cannes Best Director award for the film Malick relocated to Paris and retreated into silence once again – this time for longer. Nearly two decades passed before he announced his return to directing, introducing an adaptation of the James Jones novel *The Thin Red Line*. While the film (released in 1998) may not have been a masterpiece worthy of twenty years anticipation, it nonetheless earned Malick Best Adapted



Terrence Malick via www.imdb.com

Playbook Praise

Cameron Lambert, contributing writer

"*Silver Linings Playbook*," released on December 25, 2012, was not expected to be a huge hit in the box office, but according to Box Office Mojo, "*Silver Linings Playbook*" grossed approximately \$128,112,000 as of March 29, 2013—just in the United States.

The film tells the story of Pat, played by Bradley Cooper, and Tiffany, played by Jennifer Lawrence. Pat has just been released from a mental institution when he beats his wife's lover. From this incident, however, it is realized that he has bipolar disorder. Tiffany, a hot-headed young woman who doesn't care about anyone or anything, is dealing with the recent tragic loss of her husband. As both Pat and Tiffany have moved back in with their parents to readjust to life, they find each other in the midst of their unfortunate circumstances. What begins as a friendship based on completely different motives, turns out to be a funny, passionate, and sometimes tense romantic relationship. Pat and Tiffany, who both have so much anger inside of themselves, are able to find true happiness in each other. As seen in "*The Hunger Games*," Jennifer Lawrence's ability to envelope herself into her character is also evident in "*Silver Linings Playbook*." She is volatile, passionate, and a little bit intimidating. Lawrence's acting makes it impossible for the audience to remain indifferent from her every emotion. "*Silver Linings Playbook*" is set to release on DVD on April 30, 2013. With its big name actors and unpredictable love story-- it is a must see!

Helen Kenney, staff writer

Screenplay and Best Director Academy Award nominations and was a commendable addition to his filmography. The *New World* came seven years later, which told the story of Pocahontas in its own way, employing the stunning imagery notable in Malick's previous work. In 2011 Malick ended his six year hiatus with *The Tree of Life*. The film - which was largely a love letter to his philosophical roots - was a narration of life, religion and love through cinematic poetry. With the regular throngs of critical anticipation, *The Tree of Life* lived up to its expectations, winning the coveted Palme d'Or at the Cannes along with Oscar nominations including Best Picture, Best

Cinematography.

After a long career of deliberate

Dr. Who: BBC Hit

Kaylee Dyson, contributing writer

Do you have friends who are obsessed with British television shows? You might understand that weeping angel statues or blue police boxes carry special significance to them. Perhaps the words TARDIS, dalek and sonic screwdriver all sound vaguely familiar to you, but you can't quite place them. All of these things have to do with a television show *Doctor Who*.

Doctor Who is a British television show that has recently been gaining popularity in the United States. The show is not new by any means, though. The BBC began airing the show in 1963 and has been very popular with children and adults alike. The longevity of the show can partially be attributed to the nature of the main character. The Doctor is a time-traveling alien (though he looks like a human) who "regenerates" every so often, gaining a new body (and therefore, a new actor to portray him).

Though he is a time lord from the planet Gallifrey, the Doctor has an affinity for humans and often brings them along as companions. Together they travel all across the universe and time to save the world. The show is whimsical, exciting, clever and a bit scary at times. Ask a friend about the show or tune in to see for yourself. It's never too late to start a quality television show such as this one. In fact, now would be a lovely time to start, considering the 50th anniversary special occurs later this year.

Season 7 of *Doctor Who* airs on BBC America Saturday nights at 8pm EST.

undertakings, it could be that Malick is becoming restless. Having just released his latest film, *To the Wonder*, at an uncharacteristically hastened pace (only two years stand between his most recent works) Malick is back on the radar with less critical empowerment. Although some might argue a bad Terrence Malick movie is still a good *Anyone Else* movie – it should be noted that *To the Wonder* will not be the triumph that *Days of Heaven* was only three films its senior.

In a 40-year career that has boasted six handsome films, Terrence Malick has solidified himself as a significant contributor to contemporary filmmaking and has distinguished himself from the Hollywood style of production.

Regardless of his future endeavors, Malick will remain an icon of patience - or maybe indecisiveness - among a film industry full of impulsive career moves and compromised creative processes.