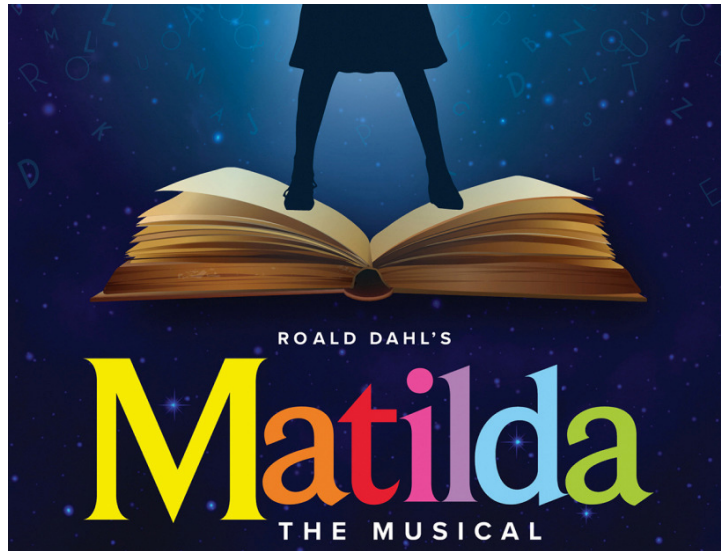


COMING IN 2026



July 31-August 9, 2026

MATILDA THE MUSICAL is based on Roald Dahl's book that teaches that even small, powerless individuals can overcome injustice and shape their own destiny through intelligence, courage, and a "little bit of naughty" defiance. It emphasizes standing up to bullies, the transformative power of literacy, and that family is defined by love and kindness, not just blood.

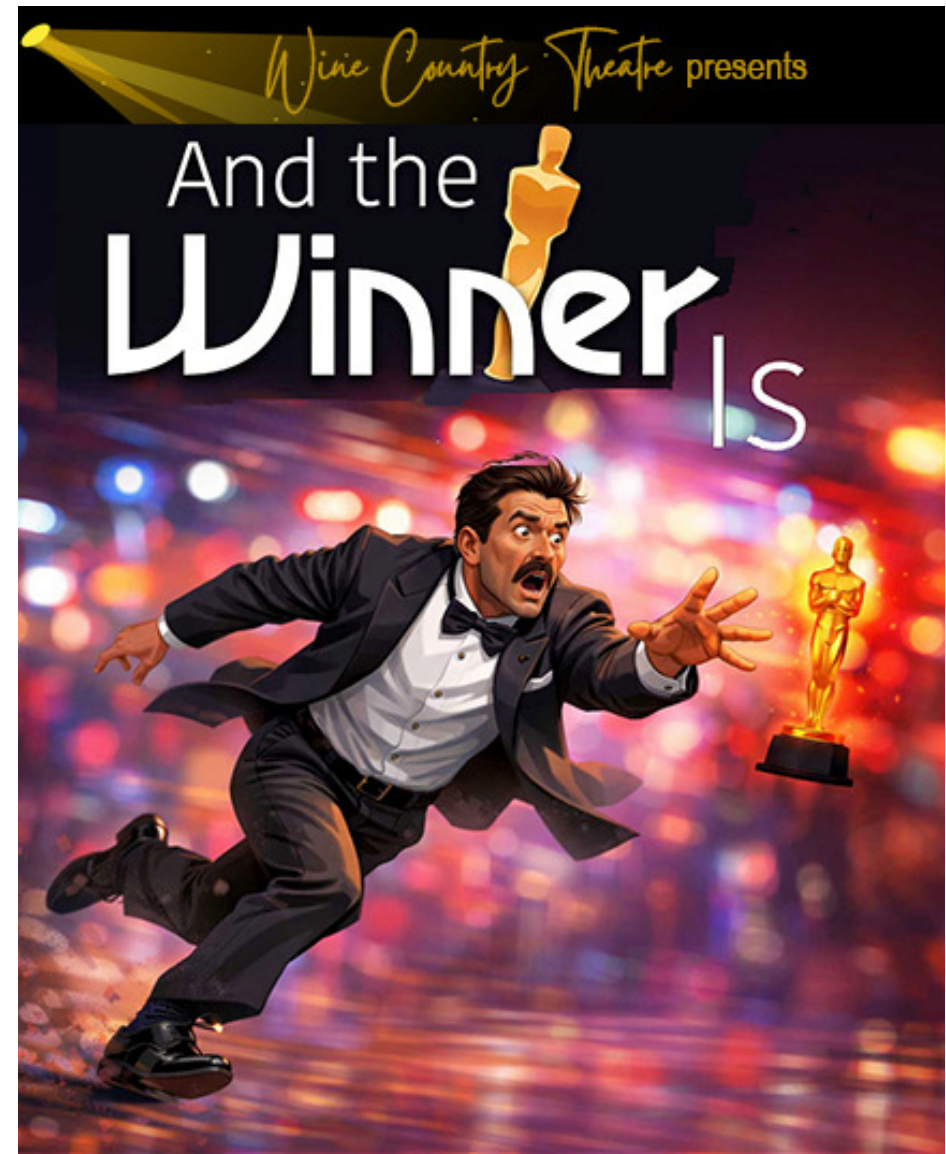
TEMPLETON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
1200 South Main Street, Templeton, CA

Matilda Auditions
THE MUSICAL

MATILDA Auditions will be held May 30th (starting at 12:00PM) and May 31st (starting at 2:30 PM) at Class Act Dance Studio.

1324 Vendels Cir #101, Paso Robles, CA 93446

**Watch for full details to be posted on
winecountrytheatre.org.**



**Presented at
SLO CTE FOUNDATION ENCORE CENTER
April 10-26, 2026**

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to Wine Country Theatre's debut production in the beautiful Encore Center.

In our twelve years as a company, we've made more than a few moves—so many that we've sometimes jokingly called ourselves a "gypsy theatre." Having a space like this changes what's possible. We are deeply grateful to Dr. James Brescia and the SLO CTE Foundation for the vision and dedication that transformed a community building into a place where the arts can live. We're proud (and a little thrilled) to be the first production here, and to help launch what we hope will be a vibrant home for many organizations and many kinds of performances.

Tonight's play, *And the Winner Is*, reminds us why Mitch Albom's stories connect so widely: he can be genuinely funny while still asking big questions about what we value and how we treat each other. In this world—where Hollywood can feel like the ultimate scoreboard—our hero, Tyler, is determined to find out whether he "wins." What he doesn't realize is that the real verdict won't be delivered by an envelope or a golden statue. It will come through an unexpected second chance to face his own impact on the people around him—and to wrestle, in his own way, with what we owe to one another and to God.

Our guiding goal in rehearsal has been to keep the comedy alive. The situation is outrageous, and it should be. But it also lands because it's recognizable: the hunger to be seen, the fear of being forgotten, the ways we dodge responsibility until life (or the afterlife) corners us with the simplest questions. Seamus asks Tyler: "Who have you helped?" and "Who have you hurt?" They're deceptively hard questions—and maybe the best laughs are the ones where we recognize ourselves.

If you find yourself laughing one moment and quiet the next, you're right where the play wants you—caught between performance and truth, listening for what matters when the train finally comes.

And yes—the title is intentionally old-school: *And the Winner Is...* It's a nod to classic Oscar showmanship, as opposed to the phrase used nowadays, "And the Oscar goes to..." And the Winner Is is a reminder to ask what "winning" really means.

Enjoy the show.

Cynthia Anthony, Director

The promise:

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NRSV)

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we shall see face to face."



Cynthia founded Wine Country Theatre 12 years ago, following a career as an Arts Administrator and Credentialed Drama and Speech Teacher. Her numerous acting and directing credits have consistently brought her joy, and she is so grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who have contributed their talents, time and money to sustain the theatre company. Her most recent acting role was in *Cinderella*, where she played the love-to-hate evil stepmother, Madame. Her most recent directing credits include *Tiny Beautiful Things* and the *Live Radio Play* version of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Currently her favorite role is as Nana to her beautiful grandson Luke.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE**

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And the Winner Is by Mitch Albom

ACT ONE:

A mythical Irish bar somewhere between here and heaven.

ACT TWO:

The Academy Awards

Time:

2008 but timeless

PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL CREW

DIRECTOR.....Cynthia Anthony
BOARD PRODUCER.....Lindsey Villanueva-Taylor
SET DESIGN.....Geoff Higgins & Cynthia Anthony
SET ASSISTANT.....Jude Taylor
LIGHT DESIGN/OPERATOR.....Jacob Shearer
LIGHTING CONSULTANT.....Ryan Flores
SOUND DESIGN.....Thomas Grandoli
SOUND OPERATOR.....Dylan Fairchild
VOICE ARTISTS.....Jackson Ontiveros, Libby Higgins, Joe Ogren
COSTUME DESIGN.....Grace Anthony
MAKEUP & HAIR DESIGN.....Grace Anthony
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY..... Lindsey Villanueva-Taylor
HOUSE MANAGER.....Jodi Birks
CONCESSIONS MANAGER.....Will Schulte
SPECIALTY PROPS.....Robin Smith
SEAMSTRESS.....Elaine Work
BOX OFFICE and PROGRAM DESIGN.....Laurie Zenobio
GRAPHIC DESIGN.....Robin Smith
SOCIAL MEDIA.....Will Schulte
#1 ANGEL..... James Brescia
WCT Official Photographer.....Shaunice Barragan-Young
Instagram: @focal_elements_photography

SPECIAL THANKS:

Marjorie Hamon, Kent Kenny, Tyler Robinson, Joe Ogren, Paso Robles Rotary Club, Chad Stevens, Thomas Grandoli, Veronica Surber, Bill Gaines Audio.

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Mitch Albom is a bestselling author, journalist, screenwriter, and playwright known for stories that blend humor with emotional and spiritual resonance. He rose to international prominence with *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and followed it with novels including *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *For One More Day*, and others that explore faith, forgiveness, and the search for meaning in everyday life. Albom is also the founder of SAY Detroit, a nonprofit serving Detroit's youth, and in 2010 he founded **Have Faith Haiti**, an organization that operates a faith-based orphanage and school in Port-au-Prince for children who were orphaned or vulnerable after the 2010 earthquake. Across his body of work—on the page, on stage, and in the community—Albom consistently returns to questions of hope, redemption, and what it means to live a life that matters, making his storytelling a natural fit for the heartfelt comedy of *And the Winner Is*.

PASO TERRA
BISTRO

Late Nite Bites

LATE NITE

BEER/COCKTAILS

- MARGARITA
- RUM PUNCH
- WASHINGTON APPLE
- BEER ON TAP
- BOTTLED BEER
- NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER
- WINE
- SODA, ICED TEA

BITES

- PIZZA SLICES
- ANTIPASTO SALAD
- BREADSTICKS
- ...AND MORE!!!

AFTER "AND THE WINNER IS" UNTIL 11ISH PM

PASO TERRA BISTRO
BACK PATIO AFTER HOURS

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and especially you, our AUDIENCE,
for your support.

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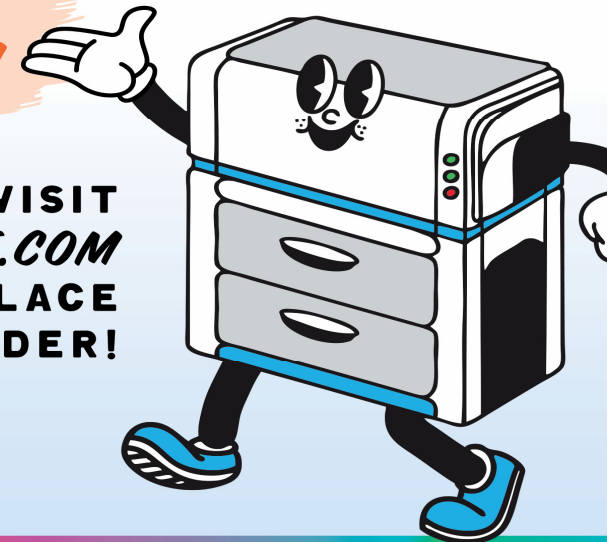
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CAST



GREGORY DE MARTINI (Tyler Johnes) returns to Wine Country Theatre for his third performance. He was seen in *Over the River and Through the Woods* as Nicky and was ensemble for *She Loves Me*. A voice actor by trade he also commits himself to writing and stage acting when he isn't busy making ends meet. He wishes you enjoy this play that the cast and crew have worked so hard to perfect. If this is your first time being with us: Welcome to Wine Country Theatre!



RUSSELL SNOW (Seamus) - who moved to the Central Coast from Charleston, SC, three years ago, has performed in theaters in the Southern and Eastern US ever since his daughter talked him into joining her in a production of *Auntie Mame* at the Alley Theater in Houston, Texas, in the eighties. Since then, he has been in 157 plays and musicals, designed and built 112 sets, and served on the Boards of four theater companies. He is fortunate to have also performed throughout the Central Coast in such shows as *Visiting Mr Green, The Crucible, The Cemetery,*

Club Rainbow, Holiday, And Then There Were None, Beyond Glory, Jesus Christ Super Star, Annie, Fireflies. Many thanks to my wife Anita for her love and encouragement.



AMANDA ROBINSON (Sheri) is joining Wine Country Theatre after a hiatus from the stage, with her last performance being in 2015 at The Empty Space in Bakersfield before moving to San Luis Obispo county. Off stage, she enjoys kayaking, spending time with her flock of small parrots, and general shenanigans. Manda wants to thank all her loved ones back home, her adopted family here, and especially her husband Tyler for all their support.



EDGAR DE LA CRUZ (Teddy LaPetite) is a native of Paso Robles and a veteran of Wine Country Theatre. His first show with them was *Fiddler on the Roof* and his latest show was in *Tiny Beautiful Things*. Edgar has also been featured in shows at Cambria's CCAT, such as *Death of a Salesman, Jesus Christ Superstar,* and *Annie*. He hopes you all enjoy what's been created in *And the Winner Is*.



GEOFF HIGGINS (Kyle Morgan) is thankful to be returning for his eleventh year with Wine Country Theatre. He has been featured in six Wine Country Theatre productions on stage. He asks you to forgive his uneven tan and excessive body hair! He would like to thank the lovely, beautiful and talented Veronica Surber for her constant encouragement and support in all things. VS, I wolf you. To you, the audience, he thanks you for keeping theatre alive!



BRIANNA OTIVEROS (Serenity) is excited to be a part of Wine Country Theatre's production of *And The Winner Is!* This is Brianna's sixth time on-stage with Wine Country Theater having been cast as Brooke in *Noises Off* and The Goose in *Charlotte's Web* and as part of the ensemble with *Cinderella, Fiddler on the Roof,* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. She would like to thank her husband, Nick, for all of his support!

Volunteer!
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winecountrytheatre.org