

RELEASED: Wednesday 9 March 2016

## Matilda and Me: The story of Tim Minchin and the making of a smash hit musical

***Matilda and Me* airs Sunday 3 April at 7.40pm on ABC**

*Matilda and Me* tells the story of the Australian debut of global smash hit stage show *Matilda the Musical* and its composer Tim Minchin.

Narrated by Tim's sister Nel Minchin, and co-directed by Nel and Rhian Skirving, *Matilda and Me* explores how Tim has evolved from loud-mouthed iconoclastic comedian to being Australia's most recognized musical theatre export, and shows how an unlikely partnership led to the most successful musical of its generation.

When the Royal Shakespeare Company took a seemingly big risk by asking Tim to compose a musical based on Roald Dahl's children's classic *Matilda*, little did they know he had been preparing for the job his whole life. Through candid interviews, rare archive, glimpses into Tim's daily life and personal performances at his home piano, the film reveals how the boy from Perth went from WA's beaches to Broadway and the West End.

'Anyone who has a brother or sister knows what it's like to grow up so close to someone, and yet still be surprised at who they turn out to be. It was a chance for me to go back in time and piece together how my brother Tim became 'Tim Minchin' right before my eyes.' **Nel Minchin, Narrator/Director**

Against the backdrop of preparations for the Australian premiere, the high energy of the rehearsal room features the original Aussie cast and songs from the musical, propelling the story towards its star studded opening night climax.

'When Nel approached me about being involved in a *Matilda* doco, I was mostly just excited that she (and her co-director, Rhian, who is one of my best mates) had an excuse to come to LA to hang out. But what they've created is really lovely and surprising. They have explored my (unremarkable) origin story, and woven it beautifully into the (remarkable) origin story of this musical... celebrating the world-class Aussie theatre industry on the way. Clever sis.' **Tim Minchin**

'This is a story for everyone and the ABC is excited to be airing a new documentary, *Matilda and Me* - featuring an Australian icon whose musical genius and a 30 year relationship with Roald Dahl's marvellous novel culminated in a worldwide smash-hit musical.' **Mandy Chang, Head of Arts, ABC**

The film will be complemented by additional 'children's' behind the scenes content produced especially for ABC 3.

*Matilda and Me* is an IN FILMS production for the ABC. Directed by Nel Minchin (*Gaycrashers*) & Rhian Skirving (*Rock and Roll Nerd*) Producers: Ivan O'Mahoney (*Hitting Home*, *Go Back To Where You Came From*), Nial Fulton (*Hitting Home*, *The Outlaw Michael Howe*) and Nel Minchin.

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