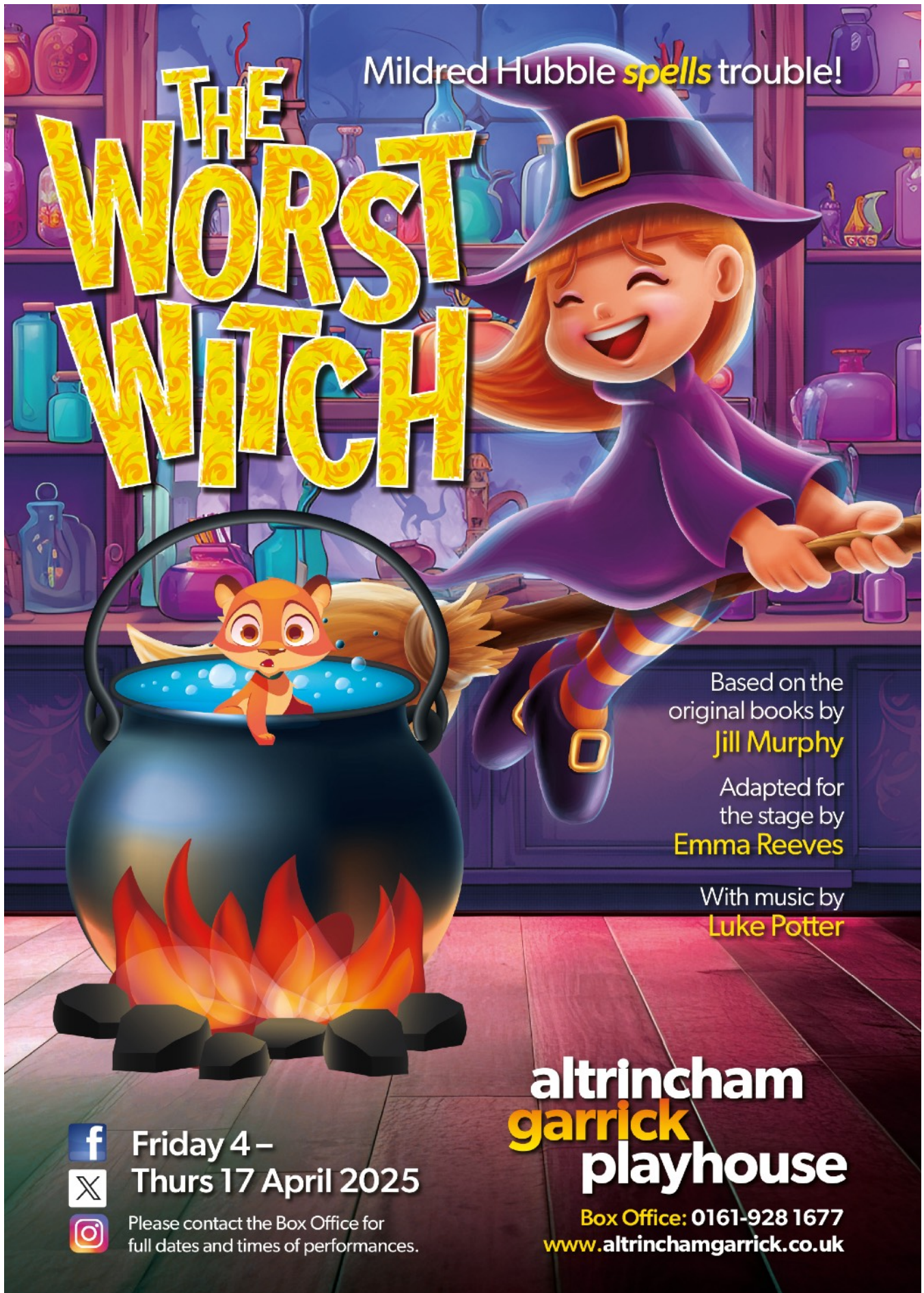


ALTRINCHAM GARRICK PLAYHOUSE - AUDITION INFORMATION:



Mildred Hubble *spells* trouble!

THE WORST WITCH

Based on the original books by **Jill Murphy**

Adapted for the stage by **Emma Reeves**

With music by **Luke Potter**

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**



Friday 4 –



Thurs 17 April 2025



Please contact the Box Office for full dates and times of performances.

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Thank you for expressing your interest in auditioning for “**THE WORST WITCH**”. This production will be part of our Spring/ Summer 2025 Season at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

The Audition Date for this production is
The Rehearsal Start Date for this production is
The Production Dates for this production are

Tuesday 21st January
Sunday 16th February
Friday 4th - Thursday
17th April

Performance Schedule

Friday 4th April - 7.30pm
Saturday 5th April - 1.30pm
Saturday 5th April - 5.30pm
Sunday 6th April - 1.30pm
Sunday 6th April - 5.30pm

Wednesday 9th April - 7.30pm
Thursday 10th April - 7.30pm
Friday 11th April - 7.30pm
Saturday 12th April - 1.30pm
Saturday 12th April - 5.30pm
Sunday 13th April - 1.30pm
Sunday 13th April - 5.30pm

Wednesday 16th April - 7.30pm
Thursday 17th April - 7.30pm

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7.30pm - 10pm, and every Sunday from 2pm - 5.30pm.

We do ask that all those auditioning are able to make every rehearsal. We do, of course, understand that sometimes you may have other commitments and special occasions during the rehearsal process, and we therefore ask that you inform us of any dates you are not available in advance (at the audition) and we will try and make this work. If you have a date that you're unable to rehearse within ten days of the opening night (4th April) we may have to ask you to withdraw from the production.

You may not be called to every rehearsal, and the Director will produce a rehearsal schedule as far in advance as possible, but we do still ask that those successful in being cast in the production remain flexible, as rehearsal schedules can often change during the process.

THE WORST WITCH

Friday 4th - Thursday 17th April 2025
Altrincham Garrick Playhouse

Adapted from Jill Murphy's original books by Emma Reeves
With Music by Luke Potter
Directed by Kay Valentine
Musical Direction by Peter England

Before **Harry Potter** exploded onto the scene there was another seemingly ordinary child, Mildred Hubble, who wound up in the most extraordinary of places... A school for witches! Now its time for you to join the world of magic and mayhem at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse this Easter Holiday!

Currently in her final year at Miss Cackle's Academy, accident prone Mildred and her fellow pupils are about to embark on their biggest adventure yet...

When Mildred and her friends decide to put on a play about their experiences as witches in training, mayhem inevitably ensues. Jealous Ethel Hallow is always out to spoil Mildred's fun. Stern Miss Hardbroom is opposed to all fun in general. Worst of all, an old enemy returns with a plan for revenge that could threaten not just the Academy, but the whole world.

Featuring all of Jill Murphy's beloved characters, this action-packed new stage adaptation by Emma Reeves includes original music, magic and a dose of Mildred's unique brand of utter pandemonium!

The Worst Witch premiered at Royal & Derngate, Northampton in 2019 and toured the UK before transferring to London's West End later that year. The production then went on to win the Olivier Award for Best Family Show in 2020!

Characters

The is a female/fem-presenting show with no male/non-binary characters available. The Worst Witch is a play with music.

Teachers:

All the teachers sing throughout the show with backing vocals throughout. Unlike the west end version the teachers will **not** be the band playing live on stage.

Miss Ada Cackle is the headmistress of the Academy. Acting age 45+

She is a warm and approachable character and much more lenient towards Mildred when she is in trouble, and rather than intimidate the girl as Miss Hardbroom does, Miss Cackle gives sorrowful lectures which causes Mildred to feel guilty for the trouble she is in rather than shouting.

Agatha Cackle is Ada's twin sister and **played by the same actor as Miss Cackle** with a 50:50 costume and wig split. She is the definition of evil twin and plots to take over the academy.

These characters are the polar opposite of each other and will be an amazingly challenging role to take on.

Miss Hecate Hardbroom embodies the image of a stern nineteenth century schoolmistress. Acting age 30+

Whilst she terrifies her students and is strict and severe, it is clear that she always acts in what she thinks is in the best interests of the academy.

Miss Drill and Miss Bat. Acting age 25+

Very few lines but heavy singing roles. Miss Drill is the PE teacher and Miss Bat is the music teacher. They are best friends with big eccentric personalities to portray.

Students – all played by 18+ actors but playing 15 and 16 year olds

Mildred Hubble is lead of the show. Despite being clumsy and bumbling, Mildred's intentions are good and she is well-meaning. Mildred does have traits other people find annoying - creating havoc wherever she goes, mixing up spells and potions, Mildred is a walking disaster, often on the brink of bringing utter peril upon the school. Yet, with the help of her good friends she manages to prevent disaster just in time. She means well and tries hard, but she is adventurous and very impulsive, meaning she often gets into trouble with her teachers - most notably with Miss Hardbroom, who prefers zealous, hardworking pupils like Ethel Hallow. But as she has this knack of saving the teachers, the pupils and sometimes the whole academy from utter destruction, she always escapes getting expelled.

Maud is usually very gentle, but she can become quite snappy when someone attacks her best friends. She even dares to face Miss Hardbroom when it comes to defending Mildred. Mostly Maud is the voice of reason and tries to prevent Enid from leading Mildred down the path to mischief.

Enid is friendly and kind-hearted, but sometimes oversteps the line in her attempt to befriend and help people and be nice. Despite her eccentric nature, Enid is normally a very true friend. She is known for being a practical joker. She takes an instant liking to Mildred and hopes to become her friend, implying that she is not judgmental.

Ethel always scores straight As in all her subjects, and gives the impression of being a model student. Though she is able to turn on the charm of sweetness and innocence when the teachers were near, her true self is spoiled, snobbish, and vindictive, for she is "*one of those lucky people for whom everything goes right*", and her father is the Chairman of the Board of School Governors. Hence, she regarded herself as being superior to all the other students, and fully entitled to belittle and abuse the likes of Mildred and her friends.

Drusilla Although she's Ethel's partner in crime, and a bully to begin with, Drusilla isn't really mean spirited. She lacks the acid-tongued spite of Ethel, and seems to be in great awe of her. Drusilla seems to have no will of her own. Drusilla does everything Ethel orders her to.

Fenella – also the on stage manager and off stage manager of the show.

Griselda is best friends with Fenella and is mainly a singing and ensemble role helping with most of the sfx onstage.

What to Prepare

Audition pieces will be available from 6.30pm on the Audition Evening, but we have also included them at the back of this pack for preparation. The page numbers from the script are listed below:

MISS CACKLE/ AGATHA - Pages 22 - 24 and 67

MISS HARDBROOM - Pages 16 and 74 - 76

MISS DRILL - Page 26

MILDRED - Pages 22 - 25 and 86 - 87

MAUD - Pages 37 - 38

ETHEL - Pages 20 - 22

ENID - Pages 31 - 32

In addition to the scripted audition pieces, we ask all auditees to please prepare a Musical Theatre song that shows off your vocal range and your acting through song/ story-telling abilities. It does not need to be a long song (2 minutes) and please bring piano sheet music for our Musical Director to play from.

MISS BAT, DRISILLA and FRENELLA please just prepare a song, there'll be no dialogue at the audition.

The Audition Evening

Auditees will need to sign in and complete a contact sheet in the Theatre Bar at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse from 6.30pm on Tuesday 21st January. We will then see each auditee in the Annexe in front of the audition panel from about 7pm.

There will be Garrick personnel to show you around and help you through the process. Please be aware that these audition evenings often include quite a bit of waiting around and can be long, but we will try to move as quickly as we can.

The audition panel will consist of the Director, Musical Director and members of the Altrincham Garrick's Artistic and Casting Team (ACT).

We are a diverse theatre and we welcome auditees of all ages (above the age of 18) and all genders, ethnicities, sexualities, disabilities and races, to enrich the work of the production.

What Next?

If you've read all the information in this pack, and wish to audition, then please email casting@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk stating "**THE WORST WITCH**" in the subject heading and detailing your name and contact number. By emailing, you will have registered for an audition on Tuesday 21st January.

We'd like to wish you the very best of luck, and we look forward to welcoming you, or seeing you again! Thank you for taking the time and interest to prepare for this audition and Break-A-Leg!

Best wishes,

Joseph Meighan (Artistic Director/ Artistic and Casting Team)

Carole Carr (Artistic and Casting Team)

Mike Shaw (Artistic and Casting Team)

Fiona Primrose (Artistic and Casting Team)

Gemma Sales (Artistic and Casting Team)

The Potions Lab

MUSIC NO. 4a. "THE POTIONS LAB"

Led by ETHEL, the GIRLS set out witching equipment - cauldrons and ingredients.

MISS HARDBROOM Open the Book of Common Spells at page one. We will begin with the basics. A simple Laughter Potion -

ETHEL *groans.*

- yes, Ethel?

ETHEL Miss Hardbroom, surely there's no need for *me* to start from the beginning?

MISS HARDBROOM Very well. Ethel Hallow, I give you permission to impress me.

ETHEL I'll brew my signature Butterfly Levitation Potion. When I drink it, I shall flutter around the room with the beauty and grace of a butterfly.

MISS HARDBROOM I'm sure we are all looking forward to that spectacle. The rest of you, get on with your laughter potions.

The GIRLS set to work on their potions - passing around cauldrons and ingredients etc. MILDRED and MAUD are working together. ETHEL works alone. DRUSILLA works with FENELLA.

Witchery is all about self-control, discipline and precision. Calculating the perfect ratio is crucial, as is correct measuring and accurate gesticulation. Keep on with your work. I expect you all to achieve an acceptable level of hilarity by lunchtime.

MISS HARDBROOM *goes to another part of the classroom.*

MAUD *(reading from the spell book)* Would you say that was toad green?

ETHEL appears on all fours – transformed into a pig.

ETHEL (*snorts*)

DRUSILLA She's a pig!

MISS HARDBROOM (*examining ETHEL*) Barely. The spell was very poorly done.

The ETHEL-pig snorts in panic.

Yes Ethel, you may well snort with alarm. Perhaps next time, you will bother to measure your ingredients properly.

ETHEL *snorts indignantly and angrily – clearly trying to get a message across.*

DRUSILLA What's she saying?

MISS HARDBROOM Let us find out.

MISS HARDBROOM *makes a magical gesture and ETHEL is restored.*

DRUSILLA Ethyl! You OK?

ETHEL (*snorts*)

DRUSILLA Your tail's gone, anyway...

MISS HARDBROOM Ethel. I am *not* impressed.

ETHEL That was sabotage! Somebody tried to poison me!

MISS HARDBROOM Don't be so dramatic. You simply didn't add enough pondweed.

ETHEL I did! I measured out the exact amount! Someone must have tampered with my ingredients.

MISS HARDBROOM Remind me. What does the Witches' Code say about dealing with failure?

ETHEL "Don't fail". But Hallows don't fail! I'll do it again. I'll get it right this time...

Desperate.

Please let me do it again!

MILDRED (*suddenly*) It was my fault. I'm sorry.

MISS HARDBROOM Who said that?

MISS HARDBROOM *moves her hands, "divining"*

MILDRED's position magically.

(*sighs*) Mildred Hubble, I presume?

MISS HARDBROOM *makes a magical gesture and snaps her fingers. The GIRLS jump as MILDRED is suddenly "visible" again.*

ETHEL (*furious*) You did – that to me!

MAUD It was my fault too.

Everyone looks around for MAUD. MISS HARDBROOM clicks her finger and MAUD becomes visible again.

MISS HARDBROOM (*to MILDRED and MAUD*) So, you were partners in crime.

MILDRED No. I took the pondweed, but I didn't know that would happen! I've never done magic before. I came here by accident. I'm supposed to be at another school and – I'm not even a witch at all.

Gasps from the GIRLS (except MAUD).

MISS HARDBROOM A trespasser!

MILDRED No!

MISS HARDBROOM Stay here while your fate is decided. Class dismissed.

MISS HARDBROOM *leaves. All the GIRLS go except MILDRED, MAUD and ETHEL.*

MILDRED What will they do to me?

MAUD They won't hurt you. I won't let them.

ETHEL You and whose coven? You can't help her. She's seen things only a witch should see.

MILDRED But – what if I became a witch? I could learn –

ETHEL Witches are born, not made. And you're about as magical as a cheese sandwich. Pleb.

MAUD Stop calling her that.

MILDRED I'd rather be a pleb than a snob.

ETHEL That's lucky then, Plebby McPleb, the plebbiest pleb in Plebtown. I wonder what they'll do to you. Maybe they'll just turn you into something that can't speak. Like a tree, or a rock. Or a worm. You look a bit like a worm. Your family won't even notice.

MUSIC NO. 5. "SHE BROKE THE CODE"

BAND

SHE BROKE THE CODE, SHE BROKE THE CODE,
NEVER MESS WITH THE WITCHES' CODE.

THEY'LL TURN YOU INTO A FROG OR A TOAD,
IF YOU MESS WITH THE CODE.

HEY, SHE'S MESSING WITH THE WITCHES' CODE
HEY, SHE'S MESSING WITH THE WITCHES' CODE

HEY, SHE'S MESSING WITH THE WITCHES' CODE.
SHE'S MESSING WITH THE WITCHES' CODE.

As the BAND sing, MISS HARDBROOM delivers MILDRED to MISS CACKLE's study, and leaves.

MISS CACKLE Well, Mildred. What am I to do with you?

MUSIC NO. 5a. "MISS CACKLE'S OFFICE"

MILDRED I'm sorry. Please, just let me go home.

MISS CACKLE I'm afraid I can't do that.

MILDRED I won't tell anyone, I promise. Please. My mum will be so worried –

MISS CACKLE Yes, I should talk to your mother.

MILDRED Don't hurt Mum! It wasn't her fault!

MISS CACKLE I'm not going to hurt anyone, child! I was simply going to remove all your memories of this place. That's the usual procedure.

MILDRED (*relieved*) Oh.

Then, slightly sad.

Oh... Could I maybe just remember Maud? And Tabby?

MISS CACKLE Why them?

MILDRED Maud's my friend. I've never really had a friend before.

MISS CACKLE And why is that?

MILDRED I guess I just – never really fit in.

MISS CACKLE Do you think you might fit in here?

MILDRED (*stunned*) Are you saying I can stay?

MISS CACKLE On a trial basis. Bunn?

MILDRED Yes please! But...why?

MISS CACKLE There's something special about you, Mildred Hubble. I would like to find out what it is. Only a witch should be able to see through our protective spells.

MILDRED So could I really be magical? Even if my family aren't?

MISS CACKLE It's never happened before. But *you* are not your family. Not one of us is. Thank the Grand High Witch.

MILDRED What do you mean?

MISS CACKLE Every family has its demons, and sadly, I mean that literally. Inherited curses are two-a-penny in magical families, but we Cackles suffer from a particularly embarrassing condition.

MISS CACKLE *beckons MILDRED closer.* MILDRED *learns in.*

Evil Twin Syndrome.

MILDRED Evil Twin Syndrome?

MISS CACKLE In your world, it's mostly confined to certain soap operas. But for witches, it's a clear and present danger. Look at this picture.

MISS CACKLE *shows MILDRED a picture.*

What do you see?

MILDRED It's you – but wearing a wig.

MISS CACKLE If only. That is my sister, Agatha Cackle.

MILDRED Oh. Right.

MISS CACKLE Alas, due to the family curse, all the evil from both our souls ran into Agatha. She was born with a raging desire to possess all that I have, and destroy it.

MILDRED Including the school?

MISS CACKLE Especially this school. Since I inherited the family business, she has tried to take over many times and always failed – but I fear we have not seen the back of her.

MILDRED Why are you telling me all this?

MISS CACKLE To make you see that no family is perfect, and you should never be ashamed of where you come from. Also, you never know, it may turn out to be important later. Now, would you like to speak to your mother and ask for permission to stay?

MILDRED Yes!

MUSIC NO. 5b. "WITCHING KIND" (REPRISE).

BAND

WITCHING KIND WE ARE

AH-

AH-

Int. Miss Cackle's Academy – Potions Room

MILDRED *runs in to join MAUD.*

MILDRED I can stay! I can stay!

MILDRED and MAUD *hug and jump around.*

MAUD We're going to be witches together!

MILDRED Yes!

BAND

DON'T YOU KNOW WERE THE WITCHING KIND?

MILDRED

(then, anxious) But what if Ethel's right? And I'm as magical as a cheese sandwich?

MAUD Don't say that. You can do this. I'll help you.

MILDRED Really?

MAUD Cheese sandwiches are my favourite.

Montage 1 of Academy Scenes

MUSIC NO. 6. "MONTAGE 1"

The GIRLS move between scenes quickly, creating little vignettes.

MISS DRILL jogs on, a sports whistle around her neck.

MISS DRILL First things first. Hovering. Sticks on the ground.

The GIRLS place their broomsticks on the ground.

Now, say it loud, say it proud - *Hover!*

With the help of ENID, the sticks hover on command.

ETHEL Hover!

DRUSILLA Hover!

FENELLA Hover!

MAUD Hover!

MILDRED Hover!

MISS DRILL Come on, Hubble! Give it some welly. Show that broom who's boss!

MILDRED holds her hand to her broomstick, commanding it:

MILDRED Hover. Hover!

It works! MILDRED and MAUD celebrate.

MISS BAT scats: (see vocal score). **MILDRED** in front of **MISS HARBROOM**, answering a question...

For a looky-likey spell, the ratio should be three parts eye of newt to one part toe of frog.

MISS HARBROOM That is... Correct.

ACT ONE, CHANTING ROOM

31

Everyone stares at ENID. MISS BAT looks around, bewildered, for the source of the extraordinary voice.

MISS BAT Enid – was that *you*?

ENID, *fake-innocent, looks around and behind her, “puzzled”, and shrugs.*

MILDRED *explodes in uncontrollable laughter. ENID looks at her with an expression of bewildered innocence – which just makes MILDRED laugh all the more. She laughs and laughs, until she suddenly realises that all the OTHER GIRLS are staring in the same direction – MISS HARDBROOM’s appeared again. MILDRED abruptly stops laughing.*

MISS HARDBROOM Mildred Hubble! I might have known. Whenever there is chaos and disruption, it always comes down to you! Will you ever learn to take witching seriously?

ENID *takes this information on board.*

ENID It was me, Miss Hardbroom. I told her a joke.

MISS HARDBROOM *A joke? In Chanting class?*

ENID It was the one about the warlock and the tiny broomstick, do you know it?

MISS HARDBROOM I do not, nor do I wish to. Enid, I know this is your first day, so I will make allowances.

ETHEL *puts her hand up.*

Yes, Ethel.

ETHEL Enid needs somebody to take her in hand. To show her around, and help her settle in –

ENID Awesome. I choose Mildred!

MILDRED *Me?!*

MISS HARDBROOM No. Mildred is – not at all suitable.

ENID I don't understand. Miss Cackle told Mummy that every single girl here is a hard-working, talented witch.

MISS HARDBROOM (*containing her annoyance*) She said that did she?
Resigned.

Very well. Mildred, Enid is now your responsibility.
The school bell rings.

ENID Wicked. Come on, Mils!

ENID drags MILDRED out after her. MAUD watches, a bit left out...

ETHEL (*to MAUD, sotto*) That didn't take long.

MAUD What?

ETHEL She's already dumped you for someone better.

MAUD Oh, bore off you slimy slug.

ETHEL Just watch her. You'll see...

ACT ONE, MONTAGE 2 OF ACADEMY SCENES

37

ENID Here, take my broomstick. I don't mind one more expulsion.

MAUD No, take mine!

ENID Mine's a genuine antique Nightrider. It cost Dad a fortune.

MAUD (to MILDRED) But I'm your best friend!

MILDRED looks between her two friends, torn. Doesn't want to have to choose:

MILDRED It's OK. I can fix this.

MILDRED heads off with her broken broomstick. MAUD's a bit hurt. ENID realises and feels bad for MAUD. ETHEL has a brilliant idea, and follows MILDRED. DRUSILLA automatically follows ETHEL.

ETHEL (to DRUSILLA) Wait there.

DRUSILLA Why?

ETHEL You'll see.

Obediently, DRUSILLA stays. ENID goes over to MAUD.

ENID You know what? Why don't you borrow my broomstick tonight?

MAUD (sarky) What, your "genuine antique Nightrider?"

(suspicious) Why?

ENID You're the best flyer – you should have the best broom.

(tempting) Go on, just take it...

MAUD (snaps) Stop trying to buy us with broomsticks! I'm not for sale and nor is Millie.

ENID All right, don't be like that –

"MILDRED" (really ETHEL in magical disguise!) enters.

MAUD Mildred, tell your friend that I don't need charity.

"MILDRED" Oh, not this again!

MAUD What do you mean?

"MILDRED" I'm just so bored of your jealousy. In fact, I'm bored of you.

MAUD (*shocked and upset*) Mildred!

"MILDRED" (*to MAUD*) I've tried to be friends with you and Enid, but you won't let me. Fine. I choose Enid! Now will you leave me alone?

Devastated, MAUD struggles not to cry.

MAUD OK.

MAUD *walks off.*

ENID Mildred!

"MILDRED" What? It had to be said.

ENID No it didn't! You go and tell her right now that you didn't mean it.

"MILDRED" Why are you taking her side?

ENID 'Cos I wanted to be friends with the class clown, not the school bully.

"MILDRED" (*angry*) I am not a bully!

(then, calming down) You've got it all wrong... I just lost it, that's all. I'm really sorry -

ENID Don't tell me, tell Maud.

"MILDRED" I will... I'll just take this for her...

MUSIC NO. 7a. "BROOMSTICK SPELL"

"MILDRED" *picks up MAUD's broomstick. She quietly mutters some words into it and makes magical gestures.*

"MILDRED"

NAH-I-E

NAH-I

GIRLS

AH-

AH-

Corridor / Miss Cackle's Study

MILDRED, MAUD and ENID huddle close, MILDRED concentrating as she tries to see through TABBY's eyes – "TABBY-cam". TABBY sneaks into the study and watches as MISS CACKLE (by means of a double!) confronts AGATHA.

AGATHA and MISS CACKLE are taking tea and buns.

AGATHA Only you would invite your conquerer for tea and buns.

MISS CACKLE We're sisters, after all. I see no reason not to be civil. Crumpet?

AGATHA I'll take your crumpet. Then I'll take your school.

MISS CACKLE Yes dear, that's what you always say. But the school has always been mine.

AGATHA Because you're three minutes older than me! Three minutes! That's all!

MISS CACKLE For the Grand High Witch's sake Agatha, how many times? It was because you're *evil*!

AGATHA You mean strong. Tough. Taking back control. Making witching great again.

MISS CACKLE Evil.

A furious AGATHA overturns the table. At the noise, TABBY jumps down and runs to MILDRED.

MAUD (*re. table falling*) Did you hear that?!

MILDRED Tabby! Are you OK?

TABBY (*mews, pathetic, scared*)

MILDRED They ARE fighting!

ENID Awesome, I've always wanted to see a witch-fight.

MUSIC NO. 13. "ZOMBIES"

The BAND, with zombie-like expressions, start to play dramatic music.

MAUD You don't have to do what she says!

ETHEL Yes they do. I slipped a little Obedience Potion into their water bottles.

ENID So the dragonsbane was yours.

AGATHA *Getting back to my plans for world domination -*

MILDRED *(shocked)* World domination?

AGATHA *Thank you, that's the reaction I'm looking for. Now, imagine this...*

The BAND play suitably intense music.

A glorious Empire, lasting forever. Based on good, old-fashioned values. The plebs kept in line by fear and superstition. A world ruled by witches. And by witches, I mean me.

AGATHA *levitates here.*

MISS HARDBROOM I suppose one must admire your ambition.

AGATHA Join me, Hecate. Together, we will build a world fit for witches.

MILDRED No!

ENID Come on, HB!

MAUD Miss Hardbroom, you can't!

MISS HARDBROOM holds up a hand; the GIRLS instantly fall silent.

MISS HARDBROOM *(to AGATHA)* All right, you've convinced me. I'm in.

DRUSILLA *(shocked)* Miss Hardbroom!

FENELLA No!

ENID No way, HB!

AGATHA Silence, brats!

(to the BAND) No, not you!

The BAND play on.

Well, well, well, Hecate Hardbroom. I thought you were loyal to my sister.

MISS HARDBROOM My loyalty is pledged to the Craft, the Academy and the Cackle family. In that order. As the Code tells us, witches must act in the best interests of all witches.

MILDRED But Agatha's evil!

MISS HARDBROOM Evil is just a point of view.

(to AGATHA) And from where I'm standing, your sister has been letting things slip.

(at ENID) Admitting disruptive students.

(at MILDRED) Accepting lower standards in the name of so-called diversity.

MAUD *(indignant)* Miss Cackle's a brilliant Headmistress. And you're supposed to be her best friend!

MISS HARDBROOM Witches don't make friends. Only convenient alliances.

AGATHA *clicks her fingers at ETHEL who goes off, taking*

DRUSILLA with her.

Looking at AGATHA, MISS HARDBROOM touches her forehead in a gesture of respect.

Agatha.

AGATHA Hecate.

The two of them share an elaborate witchly handshake.

MILDRED Nooooo!

ENID You can't do this!

FENELLA Miss Hardbroom, don't!

MISS HARDBROOM Quiet! I know what I'm doing. This is the best way, for all of us. *Trust me.*

The GIRLS glance at each other - does Miss Hardbroom have a secret plan?

ETHEL and DRUSILLA bring on a case containing long, hooded robes and hand them to AGATHA and MISS HARDBROOM.

AGATHA Good. Now let us dress for the occasion!

MISS HARDBROOM (to AGATHA) Those are the Grand High Witch's robes.

AGATHA As of now, I am the Grand High Witch. And you are the Supreme Sorceress. If you will accept that honour.

MISS HARDBROOM A little flashy for me, but I do like the stitching. Must have taken you ages.

Having handed over the robes, ETHEL gestures to DRUSILLA to follow her offstage - for their next task...

AGATHA I had plenty of time. All those years in exile -

MILDRED You were doing embroidery?

AGATHA Yes, and plotting my revenge! Ethel!

ETHEL and DRUSILLA bring the mirror onto the stage.

As the witches all stare at the mirror, a face appears in it. It's MISS CACKLE. She screams silently and claws at the front of the mirror, trying to escape.

MILDRED Miss Cackle? Is that you?

But her face falls as she sees MAUD's body.

What happened? Maud - ?

MILDRED Maud saved me. And now we have to save the world without her. Starting with Miss Cackle.

Glances at the magic mirror.

(to ETHEL) How do we get her out?

ETHEL We can't. Agatha's magic trapped her in the mirror! She's more powerful than any of us.

MILDRED But is she more powerful than *all* of us?

FENELLA What do you mean?

MILDRED Remember what Miss Bat said?

ETHEL No. Who listens to that shrivelled old hag?

ENID I did! She said, we can magnify our power by working together.

MUSIC NO. 14. "JOIN THE CIRCLE"

MILDRED (*looking at the mirror, sings quietly*)

JOIN THE CIRCLE...

(*more confident*)

JOIN THE CIRCLE...

ENID *joins in.*

MILDRED / ENID

JOIN THE CIRCLE EVERMORE ...

ETHEL, FENELLA and DRUSILLA *join in, forming a circle.*

ETHEL / ENID / FENELLA / DRUSILLA

JOIN THE CIRCLE, HOLD THE CIRCLE,

JOIN THE CIRCLE EVERMORE.

ALL the GIRLS, including the HYPNOTISED BAND, join in.

ALL

JOIN THE CIRCLE, JOIN THE CIRCLE,
JOIN THE CIRCLE, JOIN THE CIRCLE.

MILDRED It's not enough! We need more!

ENID (*gestures to audience*) What about them?

ETHEL Them? They're plebs!

To the audience.

Sorry. I mean - normals.

MILDRED I'm normal! But I still learned to do magic.

ETHEL If you say so.

MILDRED What if it doesn't matter who your parents are? What if there's magic in everyone?

ETHEL No. Witches are different. Witches are special. Witches are *better*.

MILDRED If I can be a witch, anyone can!

To the audience.

Come on. We can do this. Together.

MILDRED *encourages the audience to join hands and chant.*

MILDRED / ENID

JOIN THE CIRCLE, JOIN THE CIRCLE.

The BAND are released from their trance.

MISS BAT Come on everyone, sing up!

MISS DRILL Give it some welly!

The BAND joins in:

ALL

JOIN THE CIRCLE, JOIN THE CIRCLE,

JOIN THE CIRCLE, JOIN THE CIRCLE!

