

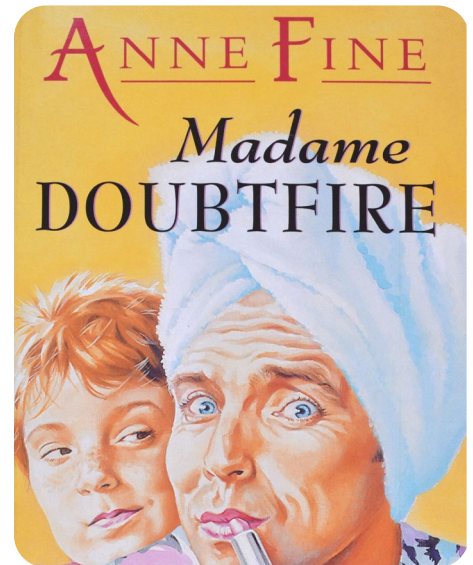


PRE-SHOW RESOURCES HANDOUT 1: MRS. DOUBTFIRE FILM FACT SHEET

Mrs. Doubtfire is a 1993 American comedy drama film released by the production company 20th Century Fox.



The film is based on the plot and characters from the 1987 novel, *Madame Doubtfire*, written by English author Anne Fine and set in the United Kingdom. The novel was written for young adults and shortlisted for several awards.



Despite lukewarm reviews from film critics on release, *Mrs. Doubtfire* was an award winning and hugely popular box office smash hit. It had a budget of \$25 million and made \$441.3 million.

The film is considered a comedy classic. In 2000, it was placed 67th in the American Film Institute's "AFI 100 Years. 100 Laughs" list and 40th on Bravo's "100 Funniest Movies of All Time" list. According to Variety, in 2013, it was the most replayed film in America, airing a whopping 66 times that year!



Robin Williams starred, portraying Daniel Hillard and his alter ego, the Scottish nanny, Mrs. Doubtfire. Considered one of the greatest comedic actors of his generation, the film showcased Williams' talent for voice acting, impressions and his improvisation skills. Williams was awarded the Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy, his third win in this category.



The director of the film, Christopher Columbus, shot numerous takes of scenes on multiple cameras, some with Williams on script and others where he improvised. There were reams of footage, giving the option of editing numerous versions of the film. Several iconic comic moments from the final cut of the film were improvised.



The film scooped an Oscar for Best Makeup. Reportedly, Williams tested the believability of the Mrs. Doubtfire costume and makeup disguise on his own son, who didn't recognise him until he spoke. He also took to walking the streets of San Francisco in the disguise!



The film was set and filmed entirely in San Francisco. That included the five large sets built in an ex-sweet warehouse, a 100,000-square-foot building in the Richmond district.

However, the Hillard home is a real house and the address of 2640 Steiner Street, given in the film, is real, which is unusual.



PRE- SHOW RESOURCES HANDOUT 2: MEET THE CREATIVES

The Producers of *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *The Musical*, Kevin McCollum, and Bob Cohen of Fox Stage Productions, made a joint statement;

“Mrs. Doubtfire is such a beloved story, both laugh-out-loud hilarious and extremely moving...Getting this team together and crafting Mrs. Doubtfire for the stage has been pure joy.” - Entertainment Weekly

Co- writer, John O’Farrell, explains how it came about that he and Karey Kirkpatrick took on the project;

“The producers... approached us [O’Farrell and Karey and Wayne Kirkpatrick] about writing an adaptation of Mrs Doubtfire – they had seen our show [Something Rotten!] and felt that we had both the comic sensibility and the emotional heart to pull it off. Because it’s one thing to write jokes but you’ve also got to be sensitive about the family issues in the film, and to give due space to all the different characters involved.”



Mrs. Doubtfire, the Musical, has been created by a transatlantic (British and American) team of award-winning artists;

Original score and lyrics by the American song-writing team Karey and Wayne Kirkpatrick. The Book (script) written by Karey Kirkpatrick and British author, John O'Farrell.

This team previously collaborated on the hit musical comedy *Something Rotten!* a hilarious romp set in Shakespearean England, nominated for ten Tony Awards.

Direction by four-time Tony Award winner Jerry Zaks, described as 'one of the industry's best for laughs' (*Guys and Dolls, Hello Dolly*). The UK Associate Director is Tara Overfield Wilkinson. Scenic design by Emmy Award winner David Korins (*Hamilton, Dear Evan Hansen*).

Costume Design by eight - time Tony Award winner Catherine Zuber (*Moulin Rouge, My Fair Lady*). The Costume Supervisor is Sabrina Cuniberto.

Music supervision by Ethan Popp (*The Greatest Showman, Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*).

Choreography by Lorin Latarro (*Waitress*). The UK Dance Associate choreographer is Lisa Mathieson.

DID YOU KNOW?

The *Something Rotten!* creative team were not the first artists to begin work on the musical adaptation of *Mrs. Doubtfire*. In 2015, a team with a book by Harvey Fierstein, who played Frank Hillard (Daniel's brother) in the movie, were announced. However, this team could not move away from a reverent retelling of the original film and the project was put on a 'creative hiatus.' It was not until 2018, with the *Something Rotten!* team in place, that work began anew.





PRE- SHOW RESOURCES HANDOUT 2: MEET THE CHARACTERS & CAST



**Daniel Hillard -
Gabriel Vick:**

The Protagonist: the character who drives the action, whose story we follow, and who we sympathise with. Charismatic, fun but unreliable actor. Disguised as Mrs. Doubtfire, he learns to listen to and understand his family better, take more responsibility for his actions and make the most of his talent.



**Miranda Hillard -
Laura Tebbutt:**

The Antagonist: the character who creates drama by creating conflict with the protagonist. Fashion Designer and Daniel's wife, who makes the difficult decision to go it alone with their three children. She grows to love and rely on Mrs. Doubtfire.



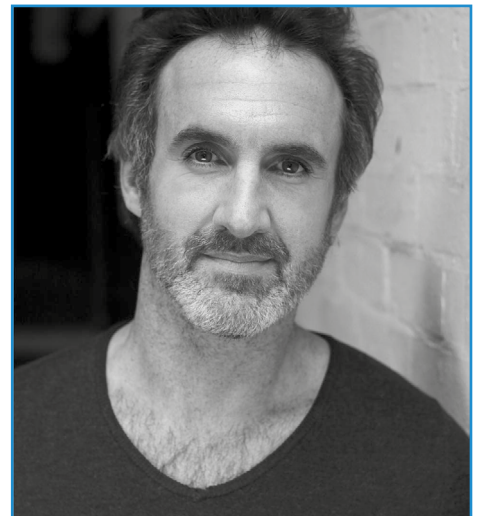
**Lydia (15) Carla Dixon -
Hernandez:**

The Straight Person: The character who sits between the antagonist and protagonist and gives audiences a reference point for normality. Daniel and Miranda's clever and eldest child.



Christopher (12) and Natalie (5) Hillard:

Daniel and Miranda's younger children who struggle with mixed emotions about the divorce. All three grow closer to Daniel as Mrs. Doubtfire.



**Frank Hillard -
Cameron Blakely:**

Daniel's make-up artist brother, who takes on the challenge of the Mrs. Doubtfire Disguise so he can be with his children. He shouts when he lies.



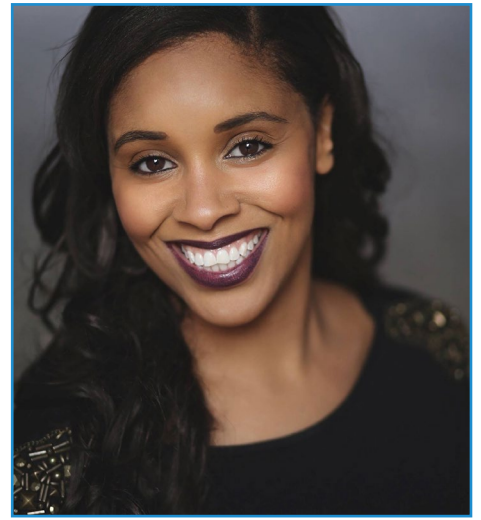
Andre Mayem - Marcus Collins:

Frank's husband, who also assists with the disguise. Frank and Andre want to start a family of their own.



Stuart Dunmire - Samuel Edwards:

Miranda's suave new business investor turned love interest, who wants to get together with Miranda.



Wanda Sellner - Kelly Agbowu:

Daniel's stern but professional court liaison officer.



Janet Lundy - Micha Richardson:

The savvy T.V. Producer from the T.V. studio.



Mr Jolly - Ian Talbot:

The host of a kids' TV show, who lacks charisma.



Ensemble:

There are 13 members of the ensemble, who sing and dance and multi-role, including Kiera Haynes, pictured, who plays Donna Summer.





PRE-SHOW RESOURCES HANDOUT 4: CAN YOU SPOT?

Most productions have a vision, intention, or big idea behind them. The Resident UK Director, Tara Overfield Wilkinson, says, for *Mrs. Doubtfire*;

“...there’s two main intentions that jump to mind. Ultimately, the best thing in the world aside from love is laughter, and *Mrs Doubtfire* is funny! It’s a really funny musical-comedy. The other thing...is nostalgia, because it’s a well-loved movie that plays usually every Christmas [...] It’s bringing [the movie] back for a new generation.”

Theatre is a ‘sign system.’ When you see the production of *Mrs. Doubtfire*, be aware everything you see or hear on stage is there to communicate the intention / vision / big idea to an audience. The creative team work together making artistic decisions about every detail, from the colours used on the set, to the way an actor delivers a line or handles a prop. The audience’s reception of this ‘sign system’ is key to the production’s success!

Task: How many of the following dramatic skills, techniques and devices can you spot when you you see the production of *Mrs. Doubtfire, The Musical*?





PRE-SHOW RESOURCES HANDOUT 4: CAN YOU SPOT?

Task: How many of the following dramatic skills, techniques and devices can you spot when you see the production of *Mrs. Doubtfire, The Musical*?



1. A vocal impression or impersonation of a famous person



2. One vocal and one physical difference between Daniel and Mrs Doubtfire



3. A moment of physical comedy.



5. A small detail in the set design of one location in the musical.



6. An example of how the writers have updated the story to the present day.



7. A reference to a female icon / woman of accomplishment.



8. A moment where the audience know something one or more of the characters on stage do not? (A device known as dramatic irony.)



9. A moment where a character experiences shock or surprise on stage?



10. A moment where the audience had a reaction.

Consider: WHAT was your favourite moment in the production and why?

