PALACE THEATER

SHOW INTEL

Season 2026–2027 | Issue 2: Mrs. Doubtfire



Mrs. Doubtfire
The New Musical Comedy

DEC 12-13, 2026



CLICK FOR TICKETS
OR CALL 203.346.2000

ABOUT THE SHOW

Out of work actor Daniel Hillard will do anything for his kids. After losing custody in a messy divorce, he creates the kindly alter ego of Scottish nanny Euphegenia Doubtfire in a desperate attempt to stay in their lives. As his new character takes on a life of its own, Mrs. Doubtfire teaches Daniel more than he bargained for about how to be a father. A hysterical and heartfelt story about holding onto your loved ones against all odds, ***Mrs. Doubtfire*** is the musical comedy we need right now — one that proves we’re better together.

2:30
RUNTIME
(includes intermission)

8+
RECOMMENDED AGE

FUN FACTS!

- The actor who plays Daniel Hillard/Mrs. Doubtfire has 31 costume changes, many of which happen on stage, and some in under 30 seconds.
- A specially designed full-faced prosthetic mask was created to fit over the actor’s face for the Mrs. Doubtfire scenes.
- The backstage costume and makeup changes are as tightly choreographed as the onstage dance numbers.
- In contrast, the makeup and costume preparation for Robin Williams in the film version took 4 hours.
- Tiny details matter: the ID badge worn by Daniel Hillard uses the actor’s actual headshot, so there are versions for the principal actor as well as for the understudies.
- The show draws on many dance styles for comic and dramatic effect, including tap, disco, hip hop, flamenco, and a Riverdance-inspired production number featuring multiple “Mrs. Doubtfires.”
- There are two nannies in this production — the one portrayed on stage and a professional nanny who accompanies the child actors on tour!



Photo by Johan Persson

FROM PAGE TO SCREEN TO STAGE

The beloved character Euphegenia Doubtfire's first incarnation was "Iphigenia Doubtfire," in the 1987 children's book, *Madame Doubtfire*, written by English author Anne Fine. The book was popular and was shortlisted for several literary prizes. When it was published in the U.S. in 1990, its title was changed to *Alias Madame Doubtfire*.

In 1993, the film version, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, was released in the U.S. to great success, becoming the second-highest grossing film of the year. While the movie version differs in tone and plot from the original book (which was set in England, and is more bittersweet than its adaptation), the film's blend of comedy and heart proved to be a successful combination.

Starring Robin Williams in the dual role of Daniel Hillard/Mrs. Doubtfire, the film was shot in San Francisco and Oakland, California. Many of Robin Williams' famous improvisations made their way into the final cut, creating a tour-de-force vocal and physical performance.

Among many nominations and awards, the film won an Academy Award for Best Makeup, as well as two Golden Globes (Best Motion Picture and Best Actor in the Motion Picture — Musical or Comedy categories).

In 2018, theatrical producer Kevin McCollum (*Rent, Avenue Q, In the Heights*) brought together a creative team to adapt the film for Broadway. The musical version of *Mrs. Doubtfire* opened in Seattle in 2019 before moving to Broadway in 2020 for previews. After a pandemic-mandated hiatus, the show reopened officially in December 2021. It then transferred to London's West End in 2023 and ran there for two years.



Anne Fine. Photo by Claire Collinson



Mrs. Doubtfire: Alanis Sophia (Lydia Hillard), Chance Challen (Christopher Hillard), Vivian Atencio (Natalie Hillard), Melissa Campbell (Miranda Hillard), and Craig Allen Smith (Euphegenia Doubtfire). Photo by Joan Marcus.

AUTHOR ANNE FINE

English author Anne Fine, who wrote the novel upon which the film and show are based, has written over 70 books for children and adults, and has been awarded many literary awards (including two prestigious Carnegie Medals and Whitbread Awards). She was the U.K.'s second Children's Laureate (2001–2003), and received the OBE "for services to literature" from Queen Elizabeth II in 2003.

Her books often deal with social issues and tricky family situations, but she also likes to focus on comedy and satire: "I still adore books that make me laugh, and still write for the reader inside myself." (annefine.co.uk)

She was inspired for the novel's title and main character by a second-hand store in Edinburgh of the same name.

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