

Stephen Daldry's Speech 3rd June 2006

And, it is of course the last performance of the great and very wonderful Haydn Gwynne who plays Mrs. Wilkinson. Haydn has been, very much, the rock on which this production has been built. She has been the centre of us as a company. It's a sort of old adage that you should never work with animals or children. Um, I in fact cut Mrs. Wilkinson's chihuahua early on in rehearsals. But her generosity and warmth to the children, the many hundreds of children now that have been in the show, has been exceptional. Apart from her very warm, generous actions, she has also been a very brilliant, very powerful and very moving, very wonderful Mrs. Wilkinson. In our story, of course, all the characters I've mentioned make their farewells to Billy at the very end of the show. These moments are particularly poignant and will be excessively poignant for us this evening, so I ask your indulgence at our excessive emotionalism and I hope you have a great show. Thank you so much for being with us this evening.

