



# Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

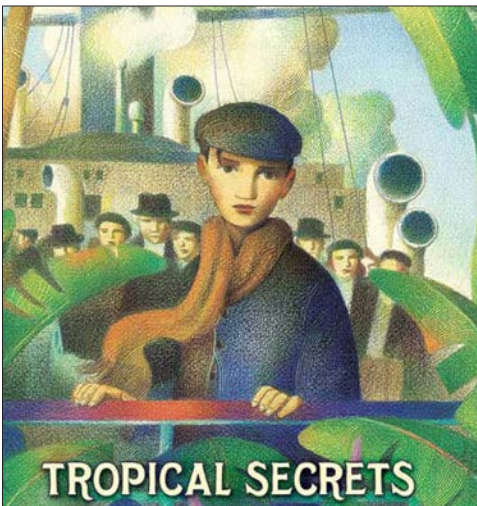
We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the North Carolina Essential Standards as well as the Common Core Standards and National Core Art Standards for theatre. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.



NCES-TheaArts.(3-8).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.6.TA.A.1.2: Analyze informal or formal theatre productions in terms of the emotions or thoughts they evoke, characters, settings, and events. National Theatre Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work. National Theatre Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

## ***Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba***

Recommended for ages 8 and older



by Margarita Engle

**Adapted for the stage**  
LM Feldman

**Director**  
David Winitsky

**Themes explored**  
the Holocaust, Cuban history and culture, immigration, kindness

## **Summary of Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba**

**Kindness casts a welcomed light against the dark shadow of the Holocaust.**

11-year-old Daniel has escaped Nazi Germany and finds himself alone on the shores of Havana, Cuba. He meets spirited 12-year-old Paloma girl who has some painful secrets of her own. Through their unlikely bond, she introduces Daniel to the language, music and history of Cuban culture. However, once Cuba enters the war these two young friends are faced with some dangerous choices that will ultimately test their friendship. This production is part of The Kindness Project.

## **The BIG QUESTIONS about the show**

1. What is a refugee? Why do people become refugees? What situations may lead to their circumstances?
2. Daniel struggles at the beginning of the story with language. How might it feel to have to live in a new country where you don't speak the language? What are some things in daily life that may be difficult if you are unable to communicate or understand what others around you are saying?
3. Music plays a key role in the story. What are some of the times that music is important and how does it help the characters?



NCES-TheaArts.6.TA.A.1.2: Analyze informal or formal theatre productions in terms of the emotions or thoughts they evoke, characters, settings, and events. NCES-Music.(3-8).MU.MR.1: Understand the interacting elements to respond to music and music performances. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.2: Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study. National Theatre Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

## **Meet the cast**



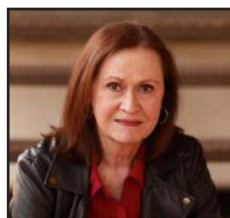
Frank Dominguez



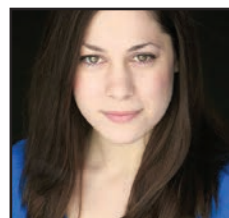
Adrian Thornburg



Isabel Gonzalez



Paula Baldwin



Margaret Dalton



Tom Scott

## About the playwright\*

L M Feldman loves theater that is dynamic, honest, brave, and the smallest bit impossible. Her plays are formally adventurous, physically kinetic, deeply inquisitive, and frequently ensemble-driven. They are as deft in their language as they are in their movement. L has lived in seven cities and is now based in Philly – where she is an InterAct Core Playwright and a proud member of Orbiter 3 (Philly’s producing-playwrights collective).

\*Biographical excerpts from L M Feldman’s website:  
[www.laurenfeldman.com](http://www.laurenfeldman.com)



NCES-TheaArts.4.TA.CU.2.2: Understand the role of the playwright in relation to script construction techniques, such as dialogue, protagonist, and antagonist.

## Meet the refugee help centers in Charlotte

### Refugee Support Services

[refugeesupportservices.org/refugee-info/](http://refugeesupportservices.org/refugee-info/)

### Our Bridge for Kids

[joinourbridge.org/](http://joinourbridge.org/)

### Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency

[carolinarefugee.org/](http://carolinarefugee.org/)



National Theatre Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

## Recommended Reading

If you enjoyed the show, check out these books at your local Charlotte Mecklenburg Library branch. Check availability at [cmlibrary.org](http://cmlibrary.org).

*Inside Out and Back Again*  
by Thanhha Lai

*Santiago’s Road Home*  
by Alexandra Diaz

*Refugee*  
by Alan Gratz

*90 Miles to Havana*  
by Enrique Flores-Galbis

*Other Words for Home*  
by Jasmine Warga

*Until I Find Julian*  
by Patricia Reilly Giff

## THEATRE CORNER

Every play Children’s Theatre of Charlotte produces is created by a talented team of designers, technicians, actors and a director. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you saw the performance.

1. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
2. What did you like about the costumes? Did the costumes help tell the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?
3. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
4. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story you forgot you were watching a play?
5. Were there any actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person but play different characters?

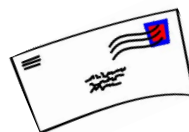


NCES-TheaArts.(3-8).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.6.TA.AE.1.2: Understand how to use technical theatre components of costumes, props, masks, and set pieces to support formal or informal dramatic presentations. National Theatre Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. National Theatre Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

For more activities and content surrounding this show, [click here](#) to access Children’s Theatre of Charlotte’s Pinterest boards.



Want to learn more? Visit the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center [here](#).



## Write to Us!

Children’s Theatre of Charlotte  
300 E. 7th St.  
Charlotte, N.C. 28202



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(3-8).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

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