Tomás and the Library Lady
For ages 6 and up

adapted by
José Cruz González
from the book by
Pat Mora
illustrated by
Raúl Colón
director
Alicia Tafoya

Summary of Tomás and the Library Lady
When a young boy meets a librarian, his world expands and so does the power of possibility.

Based on the true story of Mexican-American author and educator, Tomás Rivera, this inspirational story follows a migrant family from long days in the fields to nights spent together listening to Grandfather’s stories. Curiosity leads Tomás to the library where he gets lost in the happy imaginings of books and ultimately, writes his own story of success. Tomás becomes the first person of color appointed Chancellor in the University of California system with a library that now bears his name.

The BIG QUESTIONS about the show
• Tomás has to move from place to place a lot in his story. What would it be like to have to move from your home? What would you miss the most and why?
• When Tomás reads his imagination takes him into the story. If you could be a part of one of your favorite books, which one would it be and why?
• Tomás’ relationship with the librarian has a huge impact on his life. Is there an adult that has helped you and your learning in a positive way?

Meet the cast

Alex Aguilar
Jennifer Poarch

Themes explored
understanding, perseverance, the power of dreams

Presented by:
BANK OF AMERICA
About the playwright

José Cruz González’s is a playwright, director, literary consultant, and professor whose theatrical works have made a tremendous impact on the TYA (Theatre for Young Audiences) landscape. Play titles of his include Los Valientes, The Sun Serpent, Super Cow Girl and Mighty Miracle, Sunsets and Margaritas, Inviero, The Heart’s Desire, The Blue House, Tomás and the Library Lady, September Shoes, Harvest Moon, Salt & Pepper, Earth Songs, The Cloud Gatherer, Lily Plants A Garden, Old Jakes Skirts, Watermelon Kisses. His plays have been published by Dramatic Publishing, University of Texas Press, Smith and Kraus, Inc., Anchorage Press Plays, Inc., Playscripts, Inc., Lion and Seagot Press, and Dutton Children’s Books. A collection of his plays, Nine Plays by José Cruz González Magical Realism & Mature Themes in Theatre for Young Audiences was published by the University of Texas Press in 2009. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America and TYA/USA. He is an Associate Artist with Cornerstone Theater Company (CA), and Playwright in Residence with Childsplay (AZ).

Recommended Reading
If you enjoyed the show, check out these books at your local Charlotte Mecklenburg Library branch. Check availability at cmlibrary.org.

Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman by Marc Tyler Nobleman
My Dream of Martin Luther King by Faith Ringgold
They Called Her Molly Pitcher by Anne Rockwell
Strong Man: The Story of Charles Atlas by Meghan McCarthy
Young Pelé: Soccer’s First Star by Lesa Cline-Ransome

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?

Write to Us!
Children’s Theatre of Charlotte
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CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(K-5).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

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