



Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

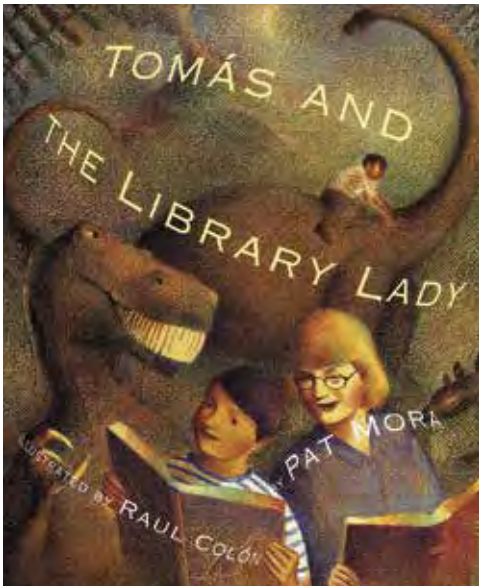
We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the North Carolina Essential Standards as well as the Common Core Standards and National Core Art Standards for theatre. Look for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



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events. National Theatre Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work. National Theatre Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

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

Themes explored

understanding, perseverance,
the power of dreams

Presented by:



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?



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.(K-5).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. National Theatre Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Meet the cast



Alex Aguilar



Jennifer Poarch

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*, *Invierno*, *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 Seagoat 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).



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.

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

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.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play. 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.



Write to Us!

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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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