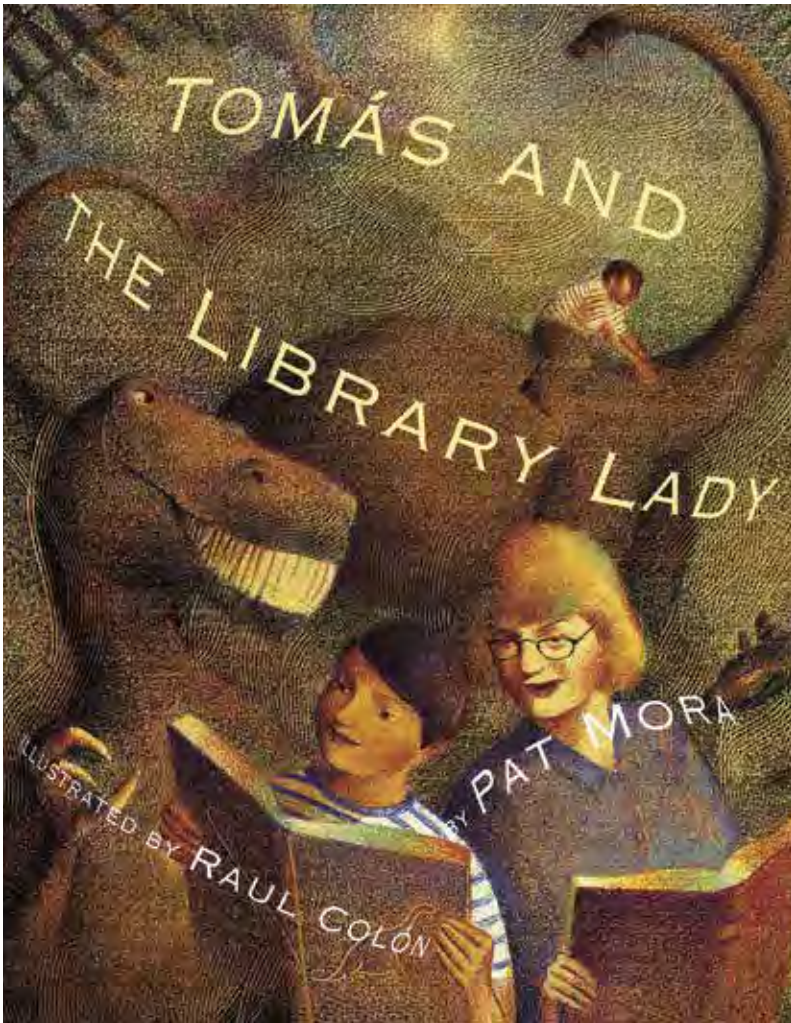


SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE



PARENT'S GUIDE

Sunday, February 13 at 4 PM



Tomás and the Library Lady

Adapted by Jose Cruz González

From the book by Pat Mora | Illustrated by Raúl Colón

About the show

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.

Show support

2021-22 SEASON

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA 

Today's celebration is brought to life, in part, by:

Herb and Gina Clegg

John and Nancy Dickson

Ryan and Danielle Hutcheson

Nichelle and Sasha Weintraub

April and Thomas Whitlock

K&L Gates LLP

The Daniel, Edward, Cora and Strickland Foundation

Children's Theatre of Charlotte receives support from [the Infusion Fund](#), a partnership between the City of Charlotte, Foundation for The Carolinas and generous donors to support the arts and cultural sector. This project was supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.



Infusion Fund
A Partnership for Arts & Culture

**FOUNDATION FOR
THE CAROLINAS**

Special thanks



to Julie Higginbotham of Precious Developments. Julie has worked as our consultant in the creation and preparation of our sensory-friendly performances. We're grateful for this valued partnership.

What to expect at a sensory-friendly performance

Sensory-friendly theatre is an approach to the audience experience that “softens” the environment. What does that mean exactly? In general, we make the theatre available to everyone, including those who may need more flexibility to help manage all of the sensory experiences that come along with attending a performance. Below are some of the adjustments Children’s Theatre of Charlotte is making to create a more sensory-friendly environment tailored to each show:

- Lights in the theatre will stay low during the show, instead of turning all the way off.
- We will lower the sound levels when needed.
- We sell fewer tickets for the sensory-friendly performances so families have more room to move as needed.
- We provide fidgets, headphones and weighted toys to help children feel more organized and settled.
- Someone will be at the front of the stage with glow sticks to help give families a warning when sensory-rich moments are nearing. Raising one light means there’s a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting).
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

Support materials for you

We provide several guides to help prepare your family for your visit:

The visit guide that walks your family through our facility.

The child guide goes with each performance.

The parent guide like this one helps parents support their children’s learning and experience in the theatre.

We want you to have the opportunity to enjoy the theatre with your family, so with that, please enjoy the show!

Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments in Tomás and the Library Lady



Did you know that there's magic to be found inside of books? Watch and see how something as simple as a book has the power to change a life.....

Books offer so many opportunities to learn, be creative, and build relationships!

Sensory-rich moments:

This production opens with lighting shifts and light music.



Meet Tomás and his little brother, Enrique. They're in for some new adventures. They'll even introduce you to their Papá Grande.

Family is important, and so is the village we build around it.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains mild playful activity.



These are Tomás' parents, Florencio and Josefa. They work really hard for their family!

Parents and caregivers do so much to help provide for their families!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene continues with the soft music and transitions into a brief storytelling moment and transitions into the next scene with lighting shifts, singing, and set adjustments. There is also a brief shouting moment.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Florencio and Josefa are moving their family to find more work. They worry about them so much!

Change is hard. How do we help children thrive in tough situations?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene begins with storytelling in Spanish, translated into English.



While the family travels, Tomás has trouble sleeping...

Bad dreams can be very scary. How do we figure out some of the reasons behind them?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene introduces Tomás' nightmare. It contains lighting shifts, banging sounds, vocal adjustments, and set projections. It is also emotionally scary.



Josefa knows just how to help Tomás feel better when he wakes up, and they get to spend some special time together as they travel to their new home.

It's important to take advantages of one-on-one moments with our children when we can!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a brief, soft lighting shift, voice recordings, and singing. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The family has made it to their new home! It's not exactly what Josefa was hoping it would be....

What turns a "house" into a home?

Sensory-rich moments:

In this scene, there are some set change noises



Tomás sleeps in his new home for the first time. Find out why he is having these bad dreams.....

Every child deserves to learn, grow, and be loved wherever they go!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a more significant dream set with active progressions that transitions into Tomás' nightmare with more sound and set effects. It comes to a quick stop with a soft lighting shift and transitions into the next scene with a bigger lighting shift and rooster sound.



Florencio and Josefa work hard together!

Everyone deserves respect for the work they do to provide for their families.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains some shouting and singing with music. It transitions into the next scene with soft lighting shifts and the start of children playing together.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Storytime with Papá Grande is a special time for Tomás and Enrique!

Reading together creates special memories for everyone!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains lighting shifts, some louder vocalizations, and playful activity. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting shift.



Tomás heads into town to run an important errand. He doesn't know how things are about to change for him...

What judgments come to mind when we see children out in our community?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene transitions into the next one with traffic sounds, a lighting shift, and set projections.



Meet the Library Lady! Tomás has just met her, but they're about to start a beautiful friendship!

It just takes one person to make a world of difference to a child. Will you be that person?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a surprise moment with some shouting and a set shift with lighting changes. It transitions into the next scene with soft traffic sounds, soft set shifts, and brief shouting.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Tomás shares his new love of books with his family. He can't wait to go back to the library!

How do we foster a love of reading, even when children can't read yet?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains excited energy. It transitions into the next scene with lighting and set shifts.



Another day at the library means more learning, imagination, and all-around fun for these new friends!

How do we help make learning fun while encouraging children to overcome barriers?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains singing with music, set projections, lighting shifts, and active play. It transitions into the next scene with lighting shifts.



Papá Grande encourages Tomás to practice his reading, and Tomás really brings these stories to life!

Reading gives us a chance to really use our imaginations and turn stories into adventures!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains very active storytelling, bigger lighting and set shifts with projections, and story sound effects (eg. animal sounds). It transitions into the next scene with lighting and set shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Tomás visits the library whenever he can and is so confident now. That is about to change his world.....

Encouraging children as they learn helps build their confidence in more than just a subject in school.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains more singing and active play, lighting shifts, set projections,



Tomás has had such a wonderful day, but he still can't sleep well. Fortunately, his mother is there to help again.

How do we help make learning fun while encouraging children to overcome barriers?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a longer nightmare scene with more projections and vocal effects, darker lighting, and fearful shouting.



Tomás shares his worries with the Library Lady, and she knows just what to say to help him feel better.

Relationships that are built on encouragement can grow into important parts of our support systems.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene transitions into the next one with lighting and set shifts, sound effects, set projections, and some shouting.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The boys are at it again. They really know how to use their imagination!

Children can find a way to make anything more interesting!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains active, excited playing with lots of sound effects, lighting shifts, shouting, and set projections. It transitions into the next scene with projections, lighting shifts, vocal sound effects, and set shifts.



Look! Tomás is now the teacher, and the Library Lady is ready to learn from him!

We may be there to help guide children, but we can learn so much from them as well!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains soft lighting shifts and transitions into the next one with more significant lighting shifts.



Uh-oh, the boys find out there's another change coming right before they fall asleep.....

How do we make sure children have all the information and support they need to put their minds at ease?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains another scary nightmare scene with dark lighting shifts, set projections, vocal effects, and an active confrontation with an abrupt stop and shout. It transitions into the next scene with lighting shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



It's time for Tomás and the Library Lady to say goodbye.

Children will remember those who made them feel seen and understood.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains singing with music and lighting shifts. It transitions into the final scene with lighting shifts, a voice recording, music, and projections.



Did you know that this is actually a true story? Learn more about the real Tomás and his amazing work throughout his life!

Children have the power to change the world if we give them a chance to grow into greatness!

Sensory-rich moments:

This production ends with lighting shifts, music, and projections that tell the true story of Tomás and his life's work.

Thanks for joining us at Children's Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance. We hope to see you at our other sensory-friendly performances in the future.



ctcharlotte.org