



Presents

Tomás and the Library Lady

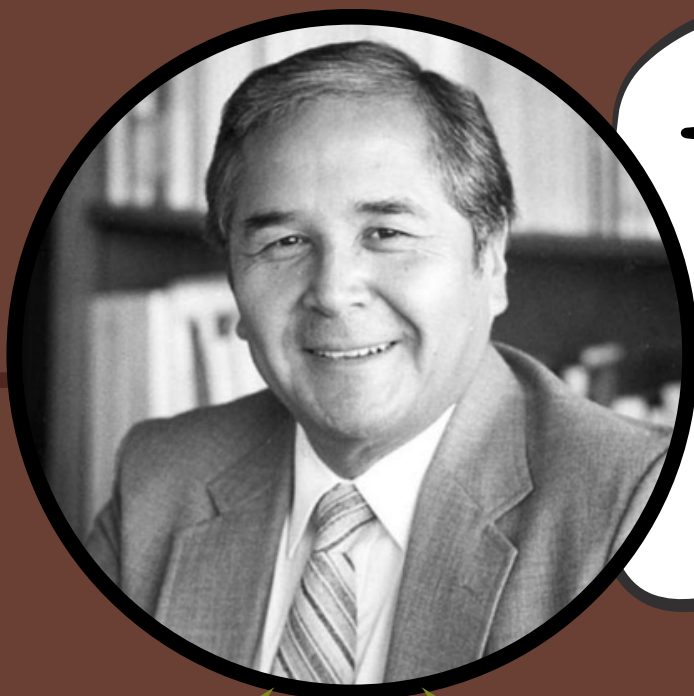
Adapted by José Cruz González
From the Book by Pat Mora



For more info, visit fusetheatre.org/tomas-and-the-library-lady

The Story

This bi-lingual play is the boyhood story of Tomás Rivera and how he befriended a librarian in Iowa who encouraged him to read. Tomás, the child of migrant farm workers, became a writer, a professor, and a national education leader. Rising to become the Chancellor at University of California at Riverside. The campus library now bears his name. The play includes a cast of three with puppets and projections that create a magical journey of discovery set in the early 1940's in Midwest.



Tomás Rivera began writing when he was just twelve years old and grew up to become a famous author, poet, teacher, and chancellor - which meant that he guided a whole university!

Musical Guide

1. Vámonos P'al Norte
(Let's Go North)



2. En Paz
(In Peace)



3. Elotes
(Corn)

4. The Big Tall Dinosaur



5. Libros
(Books)



6. Adiós
(Goodbye)



Characters

Young Tomás is a young boy who travels with his family away from his home and his school (and his scary teacher!) as his 'Amá, 'Apá, and Papá Grande look for farm work in Iowa. He is full of imagination and loves to tell cuentos (stories) - just like his Papá Grande.



Josefa is Tomás and Enrique's mother. She makes the best pan dulce in Tejas! She is worried about Tomás' bad nightmares.

Florencio is Tomás and Enrique's father. He has driven the family to Iowa in search of work and must make the best of the housing the patrón can provide for temporary workers. He has big dreams for his sons.



Characters

Papá Grande is Tomás and Enrique's abuelo (grandfather). He has a big bushy mustache and loves to tell cuentos (stories). He believes Tomás will be a great writer one day.

The Library Lady becomes a friend and teacher for Tomás when he discovers the library in his new town. She is everything his teacher at home is not. She is patient, caring, and friendly. She teaches Tomás English, and he teaches her Spanish.

Enrique is Tomás' little brother who loves trucks. He is loud and loves when Tomás shares his stories.

The Nightmare Teacher haunts Tomás' dreams. She represents the challenges he is facing in school - which are learning to speak and to read English.

Cast



Santiago Zapien

As Young Tomás



Raissa Marchetti-Kozlov

*As Josefa, The Library Lady and
The Nightmare Teacher*



Osvaldo Mora

As Florencio and Papá Grande



About Fuse Theatre



Fuse Theatre creates meaningful theatre experiences to connect communities, expand perspectives, and foster civic engagement. We believe our work is made stronger by the many voices, perspectives, and experiences we bring into our projects. Our work is founded in principles of justice, equity, and inclusion for all.

Our Connect and Play Program brings the magic of live theatre to youth and their caregivers through touring productions. This includes local tours of bilingual productions and original and published plays that amplify diverse stories and characters for young audiences.

Current Connect and Play productions include: *Tomás and the Library Lady*, *What We Remember*, and *Bloom: A Sensory Adventure*.