



Childsplay's
360° Theatre Resources for Schools



By **José Cruz González**

Music and Lyrics by
José Cruz González

Music Arranged and Performed by
Adam Jacobson

Adapted from the book "Tomás and the Library Lady" by Pat Mora, illustrated by Raul Colón. Published by Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc. Text copyright (c) 1997 by Pat Mora. All rights reserved.

Directed by **David Saar**

Scenic and Costume Design by
Holly Windingstad

Sound and Projection Design by
Anthony Runfola

Stage Manager: **Alfredo Macias**

The Cast

Adrian Hernandez..... **Tomás**
Elizabeth Polen..... **Library Lady**

School Tour: October– December, 2011

Tempe Center for the Arts , Studio Theatre
April 7- April 15, 2012

Recommended for ages 5 and older
www.childsplayaz.org

Production Funding Provided by:



**About *Tomás and the Library Lady*
and Your Theatre Experience**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



**WHERE EDUCATION AND IMAGINATION
TAKE FLIGHT**

The Story:

Tomás Rivera travels with his Amá, his Apá, his Papá Grande (grandfather), and his little brother Enrique from Crystal City, Texas, all the way to Hampton, Iowa, to find work picking corn, spinach and beets. Tomás is haunted by memories of a teacher in his Texas school who punished him for speaking Spanish. His parents are worried about him, but reassure him that he is smart and talented, and that his Papá Grande thinks he will become a writer or a painter some day. When the Riveras arrive in Iowa, they discover that their new home is little more than a chicken coop. But the family carries on, getting occasional treats like *pan dulce* (sweet bread) and listening to Papá Grande's stories. One day Tomás' Amá sends him to the post office, and he discovers the Carnegie Library next door. The Library Lady invites him in and introduces Tomás to books about anything and everything he can possibly imagine. Tomás enthusiastically shares the new stories that he has found with his family, and he and his brother Enrique find other books in the town dump. Tomás teaches the Library Lady some Spanish, while he becomes more confident in English and realizes that he doesn't need to be afraid of his Nightmare Teacher back in Texas any longer. Then comes the day when Tomás comes to visit the library lady and tells her that he must teach her a sad word in Spanish: *Adiós*. Tomás Rivera grew up to become the father of Chicano literature, as well as the Chancellor of the University of California at Riverside. The library there bears the name of the boy who was encouraged to read by a library lady in Iowa.

Themes/Curricular Ties:

Storytelling * Migrant Farm Families * Literacy *
Imagination * Unlikely Friendships * Generations *
Learning a New Language * Moving to a New Home *
Integration

"Love is necessary in the classroom. A teacher should realize that if he has love for children he will be creating lasting, happy individuals. A degree of love brings security to a child and makes him feel worthwhile. A child realizes he is loved and in turn will respond as a unique individual to that love."
~Tomás Rivera, 1961



About Childsplay:

Childsplay is a professional non-profit theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

What We Do:

In addition to our weekend public performances, we also offer three theatre experiences for our school audiences: Field Trips, School Tours and Artist in Residence Programs. Field trip performances, where students come to the theater and see a production, can be booked by contacting Beth Olson at 480-921-5757. School Tour Performances, where we come to your school or other location and perform, can be booked by contacting Jaime Fox at 480-921-5751. Artist in Residence Programs, which can be individually designed to meet the needs of your school or can be based on one of our many existing formats (page to stage, creating original work, use of drama to teach curriculum, professional development for teachers), can be booked by contacting Patricia Black at 480-921-5750.



Our Home:

The Sybil B. Harrington Campus of Imagination and Wonder at Mitchell Park (formerly Mitchell School) is where you'll find our administrative offices, costume shop, prop shop, rehearsal spaces, and Academy classrooms. We love to hear from our audiences. Send your letters and reviews to:

Address: 900 S. Mitchell, Tempe, AZ 85281

Phone: 480-921-5700

Email: info@childsplayaz.org **Web:** www.childsplayaz.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/childsplayaz

To help enrich and extend your theatre experience, check out the 360° Theatre Resource Center on our website!

**We perform at the Tempe Center for the Arts
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway
Tempe, AZ 85281**

Theater Etiquette:

It's helpful to review the rules of theater etiquette before seeing a show, especially since this may be the first live theater experience for some of your students. Please take a moment to discuss the following pointers prior to seeing the performance:

- Use the restroom before seeing the show as we do not have intermission during our school performances.
- Stay seated during the performance.
- Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance. Remember, the actors can see and hear the audience just like the audience can see and hear them.
- Appropriate responses such as applause or laughter are always welcome.
- Food, candy, gum and beverages will not be allowed in the theater/during the performance.
- Use of cell phones (including text messaging), cameras or any other recording device is not allowed in the theatre/during the performance at any time.
- Following the performance (time permitting) there will be a brief question/answer session where audience members will have an opportunity to ask the actors questions about the production.



Things to Talk about *Before Seeing the Show...*

About Pat Mora:

Pat Mora founded the family literacy initiative El día de los niños/El día de los libros, Children's Day/Book Day, the April 30th celebration that links all children to books, languages, and cultures on a daily basis. An award-winning author of more than twenty-five children's books, as well as adult poetry and nonfiction, Pat is a popular national speaker shaped by the U.S.-Mexico border. She speaks often at conferences, universities, and schools about the writing process, family literacy, and leadership. Her picture books include *Tomás and the Library Lady*, *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*, *The Song of Francis and the Animals*, and the alphabet book, *¡Marimba! Animales A-Z*. The proud mother of three grown children, Pat enjoys time with family and friends, reading, gardening, cooking, museums, and the wonder of the natural world both when she travels and when she returns to her home in beautiful Santa Fe, NM (from patmora.com).

About Tomás Rivera:

Tomás and the Library Lady is based on the real life of Tomás Rivera who was born in 1935 in Crystal City, Texas, to a migrant Chicano family. Despite facing the oppressive conditions of migrant life, Rivera graduated from high school and went on to receive a bachelor's and master's degree in education from South West Texas. In 1960, he received a Ph.D. in Romance Languages from the University of Oklahoma. In 1979, he became the highest-ranking Chicano in public and private education when he accepted the position of Chancellor at the University of California, Riverside. During those years he published extensively, including his landmark novel *...y no se lo tragó la tierra* (1971), short stories and poetry posthumously gathered in *The Harvest and The Searchers: Collected Poetry*. All of his works, including his essays, are now found in *Tomás Rivera: The Complete Works*, edited by Julián Olivares (1992). All of his writings deal with the harsh life faced by Chicano migrant workers and their remarkable resiliency. Rivera was particularly concerned with the liberation of the children of Chicano migrant workers. For Rivera, this liberation was to be achieved through education. Today, Rivera is considered to be one of the most important Chicano writers and educators.

About Migrant Farm Families in America: Thanks to Cesar Chavez, the conditions that migrant farm workers face today are much better than they were when Tomás Rivera was a boy. Cesar's dream was to create an organization to protect and serve farm workers, whose poverty and disenfranchisement he had shared. For more than three decades Cesar led the first successful farm workers union in American history (known today as the United Farm Workers of America), achieving dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and humane living conditions for hundreds of thousands of farm workers. Today, hired farm workers make an important contribution to agricultural pro-

duction, accounting for about 30 percent of all farm workers. Hired farm workers help provide labor during critical production periods. Some migrate from production area to production area during several months of the year, others work locally only during harvesting season, and some work full time for a single employer.

Storytelling: All cultures have stories, legends and myths that they share. Families, too, pass stories down from generation to generation. Storytelling started as an oral tradition and eventually stories were documented in various ways: cave wall drawings, signals or sign language, and, of course, written language. Stories are told for entertainment, to teach a lesson, to help understand the origin of things or to help understand why things happen. Tomás listens to his Papa Grande's stories and later becomes a storyteller himself when he discovers books in the library.

Library Magic

"¡Vamos! Let's go to the library!"

Tomás said to his family. He showed them his favorite books and his cozy reading nooks.



"¡Vamos! Let's go to the library!"

Tomás said to his friends. "Hurry!" They saw *libros* in stacks and rows. They laughed at funny puppet shows.

¡Vamos! Let's all go to the library!

Join the fun, a treasure house that's free. Bring your friends and family. Stories, computers, maps and more, facts, fun. Enter the magic door. Like Tomás, open books and soar. Be a reader. Explore galore.

**In memory of the leader, educator and author,
Tomás Rivera**

~Pat Mora, 2005



Yolanda London and Ricky Araiza