

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER

TOMÁS and the LIBRARY LADY



MAR 12-28 2021

NEW VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

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Northwestern University's
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts &

RIVES COLLINS
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AL HEARTLEY
Managing Director

RAMÓN RIVERA-SERVERA
Performance Studies
Department Chair

LYNN KELSO
ImagineU Artistic Mentor

proudly present

TOMÁS and the LIBRARY LADY

By Pat Mora

Adapted for the stage by José Cruz Gonzáles

Composer and Music Direction by Benjamin Roberts

Scenic Designer
KAITLYN LANDRY

Costume Designer
MEEKA NAOMI POSTMAN

Lighting Designer
BRIAN JORDAN

Sound Designer
CHARLES RHOAD

Choreographer
EMILY BROOKS

Composer and Musical Director
BEN ROBERTS

Stage Manager
OLIVIA GREENE

Director
ISMAEL LARA, JR.

March 12–28
New Virtual Performance
Available On-Demand

The running time for this production is 50 minutes

The Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts is a member of
Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for
the American Theatre.

Program Cover & Promotional Artwork by Charles Riffenburg
Program Editor: Owen Kiley

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Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts
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wirtz.northwestern.edu

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arts circle
The Arts Together



NAMT
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
MUSICAL THEATRE

Northwestern
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

CAST

In Alphabetical Order

NATHAN LOPINTO Florencio
DANIEL MARES Papá Grande
ALONDRA RIOS Josefa
BRANDON ACOSTA Enrique
DANIEL CALDERON Young Tomás
DNAIEL CALDERON Adult Tomás
DANI GOLDBERG Nightmare Teache
RUBY GIBSON Library Lady

PRODUCTION TEAM

Editors Drey Bautista
Hayley Wallenfeldt
Assistant Director Sunnie Eraso
Assistant Scenic Designer Zoe Snead
Assistant Costume Designer Ben Kress
Assistant Lighting Designer Henry Muller
Assistant Sound Designer Casey Wells
Education Assistant Natalie Rarick
Education Outreach Emma Flanders
Hannah McGrath
Education Outreach Content Editor
Cheryl Chen
Puppet Directors Ana Diaz Barriga
Skye Strauss
Photography Justin Barbin
Promotional Videography Stephen J. Lewis

MUSIC TEAM

Orchestrations Benjamin Roberts
Samuel Perlman
Composer & Music Director Benjamin Roberts
Associate Music Director Samuel Perlman
Associate Music Producers Oliver Paddock
Samuel Perlman
Music Supervisor Ryan T Nelson
Music Assistants Evan Jose
Renata Herrera

ORCHESTRA

Violin Cassiel McEvoy
Trumpets Tyler Felson
Accordion Matthew Melillo
Guitars Evan Jose
Percussion Evan Jose

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic

has placed a pause on in-person collaboration. Along with the rest of the theatre community, I'm grieving and mourning the loss of theatre. Yet, I sit and write this Director's note after a day of in-person, masked and socially-distant collaboration on *Tomas and The Library Lady*. As a team we've experimented with a process that is much different than what we're used to in the before times. Every single member of the team has filled this experiment with gratitude, trust, and an immense amount of care. That thoughtfulness has allowed us to inhabit the theatre together and even 5 at a time, I promise you the magic is alive, it's breathing and ready to erupt once again. "On behalf of the many Chicano parents who have aspired for generations that their children be educated but who do not know what the education system is..." That is the line that ultimately led me to direct *Tomás & The Library Lady*. I see my ancestors in this play, out in fields working tirelessly, dreaming of a better future. I am the descendant of Mexican immigrants. I am a first generation college student. I am the only male in my extended family who does not work outside in the scorching sun with his hands. I am the first person in my extended family to pursue a graduate degree. All of these firsts have been made possible because of the people who have come before me, including the great Tomás Rivera. As an artist, I feel it is a privilege and a necessity to tell stories that matter, to tell stories that teach you something about yourself and the world you want to live in. This story has allowed me to graze shoulders with my ancestors and acknowledge what they did for me to be here. Here, now, creating a beautiful community and taking on the joyous task of telling this story. It isn't often that I feel I am honoring my ancestors with the stories I tell. *Tomás & The Library Lady* is different, it is one of the incredibly rare moments where I am able to pay tribute to those who have paved the way and dreamt for a better future. I hope this play honors Tomás Rivera and inspires children to face their fears with imagination, creativity, and resilience.

ISMAEL LARA, JR.

CAST BIOS

BRANDON ACOSTA (Enrique) is a third-year Theatre and English Literature double major in the Musical Theatre Certificate and the Creating the Musical Module. He is a Writing Coordinator for The 90th Annual Waa-Mu Show: The Secret of Camp Elliott, the Artistic Director of NU Lovers & Madmen, and a proud member of Northwestern Undertones A Cappella. Past NU credits include Hello Dolly! (Ambrose Kemper), She Loves Me (Georg Norwack), and The River Bride (Sr. Costa).

DREY BAUTISTA (Editor) is a third year RTVF undergraduate who is new to, but excited to be working with theater! She is currently a part of an editing group that brings viewers weekly episodes of Imagine U Storytime. In addition, Drey is also the head of marketing for Northwestern's Ballet Folklórico. An immense thank you to all the wonderful people on and behind set who made this production possible even during these times!

EMILY BROOKS (Choreographer) is a junior Theatre major and World Literature minor in the Music Theatre Certificate. Previously at the Wirtz Center, she's choreographed Machinal and performed in The 89th Annual Waa Mu Show, Legally Blonde, and AMTP: Scotland, PA. Other Northwestern choreography credits include The Exorcism of Louanne Campby, Stepping Stones, and Tonik Tap performances. Regionally, she's worked in choreography, education, and performance at Seattle's Village Theatre (Festival of New Musicals), Second Story Repertory (Anne in Anne of Green Gables), The 5th Avenue Theatre, and Taproot Theatre. Endless thanks to the inspiring artists of this cast and team!

DANIEL CALDERON (Tomas) (he/him) is a first year theatre major and is so excited to be a part of his first ImagineU and Wirtz production! He is honored and grateful to tell this important and beautiful Latin/Hispanic story that he resonates so much with. He is a part of the performance ensemble Waa-2, workshopping the 89th Waa-Mu show. He would like to thank his parents for their constant love and support!

RUBY GIBSON (Library Lady) is a junior studying theatre and gender & sexuality studies. Favorite Northwestern credits include AMTP's People You May Know and Joni: Busy Being Free. Ruby is also literary manager of Spectrum Theatre Company and president of the Northwestern Undertones. When she's not performing, you may find her writing plays, props designing, or putting together a killer dramaturgy presentation!

DANI GOLDBERG (Nightmare Teacher) is a second-year studying Theatre, Dance and Computer Science at Northwestern. They are thrilled to be working on their third ImagineU show after working on Winnie the Pooh, and playing the Oversecretary in ImagineU's The Emperor's New Clothes! Other roles at Northwestern include Witt in Waa-Mu's State of the Art and an ensemble member in Re[Click]. They are very thankful to be telling this beautiful and important story in such a difficult time.

OLIVIA GREENE (Stage Manager) is a 2nd year theatre management and global health student who is excited to be doing another show with the Wirtz Center! Her previous projects include Northwestern's Joni: Busy Being Free (SM) and Legally Blonde (ASM), and Chicago Immersive's WANDER: Lincoln Square (Asst. Operations Supervisor). Via is the Stage Management Chair for Lovers & Madmen and the Independent Projects Liaison for the Student Theatre Coalition. Thanks to Dan, Angelo, Barbara and Mark!

CAST BIOS

BRIAN JORDAN (Lighting Designer) is a storyteller and Theatre artist from Syracuse, NY. Brian is in his third year as an MFA Stage Design candidate at Northwestern University. Brian is a lover of action/adventure books, though he hasn't had much time to read lately, and loves the worlds found in books. Brian's mother would tell you he had an imagination just like Tomas when he was younger, always telling stories to people. Samples of his work can be found at brianjordanc.wixsite.com/lightingdesign and on Instagram @briancjordanlighting. Enjoy the Show!

KAITLYN LANDRY (Scenic Designer) is an artist from Montreal, QC, Canada. Kaitlyn is currently a 2nd year MFA Stage Designer at Northwestern University. They have a similar background to Tomas, when it comes to language, as they grew up in a Province that is currently struggling between the French and English languages. They would also say that they definitely had an overactive imagination as a child, which still holds strong to this day in their artistry. Some of their work can be found here: <https://kaitlynlandry.wixsite.com/mysite> or on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/kaitlynlandry/?hl=en>. Enjoy this journey with us!

ISMAEL LARA, JR. (Director) is a Latinx director from Southeast Texas. Selected credits: The Displaced (Northwestern), Lily Plants A Garden, The Thing I Hold (Hangar Theatre), And All the Dead Lie Down (ConCon), Aunt Leaf (Cleveland Play House), The Elephant Man (French Creek). He's developed plays with CPT at Entry Point, Playwrights Local, Creede Rep, Kane Rep, Rec Room, The Lark and National Queer Theatre. Recent assistant credits: The Leopard Play, or sad songs for lost boys (Steep, World Premiere), I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter (Steppenwolf, World Premiere). Ismael is a recipient of a Drama League Fellowship and a 2nd Year MFA candidate at Northwestern.

NATHAN LOPINTO (Florencio) is a second-year Theatre and Economics Major. He is thrilled to perform in his second mainstage production, and has been featured in two other student theatre projects as well as an MFA workshop. He is also a proud member of Playing With Fire, Northwestern's playback theatre improv group. A huge thank you to Ismael and the entire production team for having the inspiration and willpower to make live theatre during these unprecedented times.

DANIEL MARES (Papa Grande) is a Sophomore Theatre Major at Northwestern University in the Musical Theatre Certificate Program. On campus he has been seen performing in AMTP's musical adaptation of Cherry Orchard, Vertigo's Reading Series and Ten-Minute Play Festival, student film sets, and even as a James Bond impersonator at Chicago's Youth Center annual charity event. He is currently working on a YouTube series of life on the road from his three-month long adventure in the fall.

CAST BIOS

MEEKA POSTMAN (Costume Designer) Meeka graduated with honors from Western Michigan University with a B.F.A in Design and Technical Production, emphasizing in Costume Design and Crafts. Recently Meeka has worked in New York City both as a milliner for Arnold S. Levine Inc, and a crafts artisan for Mio Design NYC. Recent credits include The Witches of Eastwick (Western Michigan University), Diary of Anne Frank (Farmer's Alley Theatre), Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol (Emerson Colonial Theatre, assistant for Linda Roethke), Top Girls (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, co-design with Raquel Adorno), and Fun Home (Northwestern University). Meeka is a third-year MFA in Stage Design candidate at Northwestern University. Meeka lives in Hawaii with her girlfriend Kori and their dog Mako.

CHARLIE RHOAD (Sound Designer) (NU 2021) is excited to be a part of his first Wirtz Production as Sound Designer. With a background in film, he primarily works in sound post-production for student films, including Faced With (2019) (dir. Kaia Skillman) (selected for Chicago Southland International Film Festival and Blowup International Arts Festival) and Tara Kay and Ella Mae (2020) (dir. Michael Iannaconi). He also composes music for films and personal projects, such as his 80s-inspired project "Panda Plane", which released a self titled full length LP on all major streaming platforms on January 29th.

ALONDRA RIOS (Josefa) is a freshman theatre major and is super excited to be in Tomás and the Library Lady, her first show at Northwestern. Aside from performing, she enjoys directing and writing/performing sketch comedy. She is grateful for her mentors and family who have supported her, especially her mother who shows endless love and taught her the importance of family.

BENJAMIN ROBERTS (Composer, Music Director) is a senior studying music education and arts administration. Benjamin has developed several new TYA shows as an Associate Producer and performer with Summer Stock Austin, and with Suzan Zeder and Jenn Hartmann Luck: Gretel! and The Battlefield's of Clara Barton. Selected Credits: Broadway: Reefer Madness (2019 Workshop, Music Assistant); Northwestern: Winnie the Pooh (Conductor, Arrangements), Sweeney Todd (Orchestrations), Guys & Dolls (Orchestrations), Waa-Mu 2018-21 (Team Music). This musical is dedicated to his mother, Tina Roberts, the real-life Library Lady. A first-generation college graduate (at Southwest Texas State, Rivera's alma mater), she now teaches English to immigrant and refugee children.

HAYLEY E WALLENFELDT (Editor) a second year Theatre Design & History student, is thrilled to be a unique part of this unconventional Wirtz Production. Her previous work includes: The K of D (scenic), One Flea Spare (scenic & costume), and the Soccer Player in the Closet (scenic). Outside of theatre she is an avid painter, cat enthusiast, and book lover, keeping her fingers crossed to sit with others in Deering Library soon.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank our donors who make it possible to develop and sustain the quality of productions at Northwestern University. The following individuals and institutions have made gifts to one or more of the following areas: the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts, American Music Theatre Project and the Music Theatre Funds. All gifts were made between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020.

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THE SONGS OF SALZMAN & CUNNINGHAM

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