



*Puss
in
Boots*



**TOMÁS AND
THE LIBRARY LADY**



Welcome

People of every generation can relate to the universal themes of love, grief, trust and friendship. It's something about this type of storytelling that deeply moves us and withstands the test of time. In this season of Imaginary Theatre Company, we centered the concept and reality of friendship. What is friendship? Who are our real friends? What does it mean to be a friend in a time of isolation? What does friendship look like when so many of us feel distant, even isolated and unseen? There is something about friendship that grips me, now more than ever, and I explored it in the rehearsal room with the cast of this year's *Tomás and the Library Lady*. Both these stories, one that is a fable we have heard many times before and one that is an autobiography of a man many may not know, hold dear those universal ideas of love and grief, beautifully explore friendship, and unwrap all of its complexities, in under 50 minutes!

While filming these shows I was reminded of how important the need for love and friendship are, especially in a time when millions of people were quarantined away from the ones they loved the most. I must say, sharing space with colleagues and friends felt unusually special this past year, almost indelible and inspiring. We wore our masks and took every precaution, but we gathered in what felt like a sacred ritual to tell a story about friends and the most unlikely of pairs! *Tomás and the Library Lady* is a story about Tomás Rivera, the Mexican American immigrant who found a friend in the library lady, which led him to be a prolific writer, professor and advocate. *Puss in Boots* is a timeless story about finding a friend in the most unlikely of places, and discovering a life of joy, love and happiness.

I hope you grab a friend, a family member or a neighbor, whether they be near or far, whether they are down the street or overseas, and enjoy these shows with them. Watch them together. Share them with your friends and be grateful to engage, in a new way, with the relationships that bring out the best in us. I'd encourage all of us to watch these shows with young people we love. I'd encourage all of us to be grateful for the people we call friend and the ability to make new friends in unusual places. Maybe we all can learn a thing or two from a boy and his librarian, and a young man and his cat.

With love,

Adena Varner

Director of Learning and Community Engagement

Experience the magic of theatre at Camp Rep!

WHEN:

Monday-Friday. 9 AM to 4 PM

Session 1: June 28 – July 8

Session 2: July 11 – 22

WHERE:

The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
Webster University Campus

REGISTRATION:

www.repstl.org





Puss in Boots CAST



MELISSA HARLOW

(Oldest Son/King's Servant/Farmer/Ogre) is elated to make her Rep debut in *Puss in Boots*. Favorite roles include Fiona in *Shrek* (Larry D. Clark Summer Rep), The Editor in *The Final*

Version (Nuyorican Poet's Cafe), Veronica in *God of Carnage* (Pax Amicus Castle Theater), Athena in *The Adventures of Perseus* (NJYA and Experiential Theatre Tour) and Susie in *A Comedy Wedding* (Gateway Arch Riverboat Shows). She has appeared at Hoosier Shakes as Jess in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*, The Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* and Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, as well as The Nurse in the feature film *Star Crossed Lovers*.



ALICIA REVÉ LIKE

(Middle Son/Princess/Ogre's Servant) is delighted to return to The Rep where she was last seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the WiseWrite Young Playwrights Festival. Recently, she was the

featured artist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra's performance of *Peter and the Wolf*, as well as their web series SLSO SoundLab. Other regional credits include *Purlie* (The Black Rep), *Ghost* and *The Hundred Dresses* (Metro Theater Company), *The Wiz* (Coterie Theatre, Kansas City, MO) and *The Gringo* (Fly North Theatrics). Aliciareve.com



MICHAEL LOWE

(Youngest Son) is originally from Little Rock, Arkansas and makes St. Louis his current home. He is excited to be performing with The Rep's Imaginary Theater Company. In St. Louis he has performed with

The Bach Society, The Black Rep, The Actor's Studio, Mustard Seed Theater, New Line, R-S Theatrics, Winter Opera and the Chamber Chorus. His favorite operatic roles include Ben in *The Telephone*, The Bonze in *Madama Butterfly*, Count Robinson in *Il Matrimonio Segreto* and Morales in *Carmen*. His favorite theater roles include The Man in *Blues in the Night*, Giuseppe Nacarelli in *The Light in the Piazza*, Ensembles/US Foreman in *Les Miserables*, Jan the Wise in *Yeast Nation*, Ken in *Smokey Joe's Café*, Caleb in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, Duane in *Hairspray* and Henry/Seaman in *South Pacific*. I hope you enjoy the show.



ESSENCE TYLER

(Puss) was raised in the St. Louis, Missouri theatre community and is delighted to be a part of the Imaginary Theatre Company once again. Being able to travel has allowed her to experience

many things and develop many skills. She is grateful for the opportunity to be involved with this production. She thanks her support system for believing in her and continuing to support her along this journey.

BY JENNIFER ROBERTS
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY NATHAN A. ROBERTS
DIRECTED BY BECKS REDMAN

MUSIC DIRECTOR Tre'von Griffith
SCENIC DESIGNER Scott Loebel
COSTUME DESIGNER Carolyn Mazuca
STAGE MANAGER Carolyn Ivy Carter*

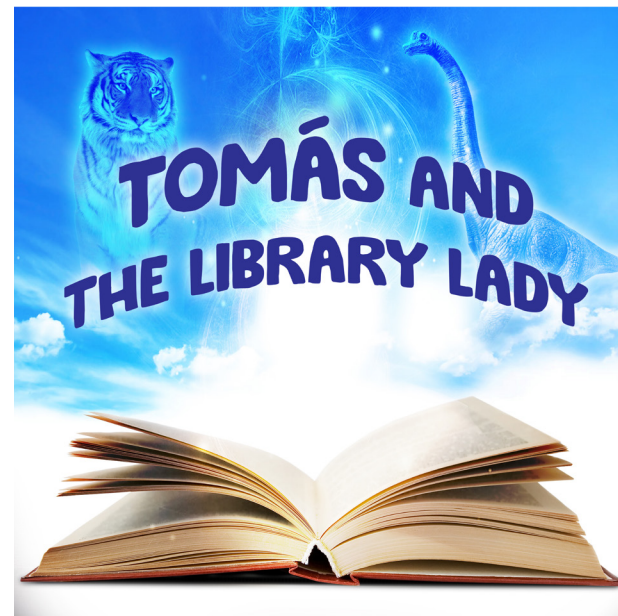
CAST

MILLER/KING John Flack*
OLDEST SON/KING'S SERVANT/FARMER/OGRE Melissa Harlow*
MIDDLE SON/PRINCESS/OGRE'S SERVANT Alicia Revé Like*
MILLER'S YOUNGEST SON Michael Lowe*
PUSS Essence Tyler*



Financial assistance for this theatre has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis; and the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



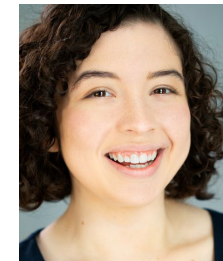
ADAPTED BY JOSÉ CRUZ GONZÁLEZ
 BASED ON THE BOOK BY PAT MORA
 DIRECTED BY ADENA VARNER

MUSIC DIRECTOR Tre'von Griffith
 SCENIC DESIGNER Scott Loebel
 COSTUME DESIGNER Carolyn Mazuca
 STAGE MANAGER Carolyn Ivy Carter*

CAST

JOSEFA/ENRIQUE/ACTOR 2 Lynda Cortez*
 TOMÁS/ACTOR 3 Victor Mendez*
 FLORENCIO/PAPÁ GRANDE/ACTOR 1 Jesse Muñoz*
 LIBRARY LADY/NIGHTMARE TEACHER/ACTOR 4 Jennifer Theby Quinn*

**Tomás and the Library Lady
 CAST**



LYNDA CORTEZ (Josefa/ Enrique) is excited to return to The Rep in *Tomás and the Library Lady!* A recent graduate of the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University, they previously appeared as Hope in *Quiz Out!* (Ignite! New Play Festival), Ismene in *Ismene* (Webster Conservatory), Lu in *BlackBlade* (Dixon Place) and Millie in *Picnic* (Webster Conservatory). They're currently performing in Artistic Stamp's *The Eggcellent Mystery of Inspector Shell* and *Juliet Grey*, a pen-pal based play that reaches children from across the nation! lyndacortez.com



VICTOR MENDEZ (Tomás) is a St. Louis native and Washington University alumnus with a BA in Performing Arts and a BS in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology. He is thrilled to be a part of this show as his first stage production with The Rep's Imaginary Theatre Company. Victor's previous works include *WiseWrite* in 2020 and 2021, *Gremlins – A Live Parody!* with Cherokee Street TC, *Love at the River's Edge* with Shakespeare Festival St. Louis (Cecil), *Night of the Iguana* with the Tennessee William's Festival (Pedro) and exhibitions at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, England. He sends his love and thanks to his family and friends for their unwavering support.



JESSE MUÑOZ (Florencio/Papa Grande) is thrilled to join The Rep again after last being seeing in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. His recent local credits include: Jesus in *Last Days of Judas Iscariot* at Mustard Seed Theatre, Pablo in the Tennessee Williams' Festival's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He is a 2016 graduate of the Webster Conservatory.



JENNIFER THEBY-QUINN (Library Lady/Nightmare Teacher) is delighted to be working with The Rep's Imaginary Theatre Company. A St. Louis native, Jen has worked all over St. Louis and the surrounding region. Some of her favorite roles include Kate Monster in *Avenue Q* with Emery Entertainment, Jerusha Abbott in *Daddy Long Legs* at Insight Theatre, Chris in *Dancing at Lughnasa* with Mustard Seed Theatre and Rebecca DeSpinoza in *New Jerusalem* at the New Jewish Theatre. Her portrayal of both Abigail Williams in Metro Theatre's *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem* and Hope Cladwell in Stray Dog Theatre's *Urinetown* earned her the St. Louis Theatre Circle Award. Catch her in *Once* this coming spring! Jen studied at Saint Louis University, Aquinas Institute of Theology, and is a member of Actors' Equity Association.



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Biographies DIRECTION & DESIGN



BECKS REDMAN (Director, *Puss in Boots*) is currently the Artistic Producer and Director of New Play Development at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Previously, she served on the Artistic teams at Actors Theatre

of Louisville and Baltimore Center Stage. Additionally, Becks has both directed and acted in many productions throughout the United States and United Kingdom.



ADENA VARNER (Director, *Tomas and the Library Lady*) is the Director of Learning and Community Engagement at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. She comes to The Rep as a native of Baltimore, MD, where

she served as the Director of Learning and Social Accountability at Baltimore Center Stage for three years. Adena is a graduate of University of Maryland College Park where she received her BA in Theatre, and the Catholic University of America where she received her Master's Degree in Theatre Education. At the Rep, she oversees all youth, family and community centered programs. She is a playwright, producer, director and educator committed to advocating for equity and diversity in the arts.



TRE'VON "TRE G" GRIFFITH (Music Director) is an independent music artist and creative director. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, with an MA in Global Entertainment & Music Business.

As a St. Louis native, he has served as music director and performer in productions at The Black Rep, Stages St. Louis, Metro Theater Company, University of Missouri-St.Louis, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, COCA and organizations in Europe and China. GO! Magazine by St. Louis Post-Dispatch named Tre G "2016 Rising Star" and also landed a spot in DELUX Magazine's Emerging 30 Under 30. In 2020, he helped form the music festival and media company, WerQFest in St.Louis. Tregmusic.com



SCOTT LOEBL (Scenic Designer) considers it to be an honor to design for the Imaginary Theatre Company. He has designed 27 of their productions since 2008. In addition, he has designed 26 operas for Winter Opera St. Louis

and, over the past 30 years, has worked on over 800 shows in the St. Louis area. He is currently the Charge Scenic Artist for The Rep as well as a member of the scenic crew of Opera Theatre of St. Louis and The Muny. When not painting or designing, Scott teaches Scene Painting at Webster University and SIUE, and he is a proud member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA829 where he serves on the National Executive Board.



CAROLYN MAZUCA (Costume Designer) is a Texas born and Los Angeles based Costume Designer. Her theatrical designs have most recently decorated productions of *Mojada: A Madea in Los Angeles* at The Repertory

Theatre of St. Louis, *Mother Road* at Arena Stage and *Culture Clash (Still) in America* at Berkeley Repertory. She had to pause her work on *Everything That Never Happened* with Oregon Shakespeare Festival for their 2020 season. Carolyn is an active member of the IATSE Costume Designers Guild 892. She is the Costume Designer of *What?* and *Retribution*. Carolyn is the Wardrobe Stylist of Food Network's *Halloween Baking Championship* Season 6, and the Stylist and Costume Designer of *Holiday Baking Championship* Season 7. She is an Assistant Costume Designer on *The L-Word Generation Q* Season 2. Carolyn earned her BFA in Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University. Carolyn can't wait to see what amazing future projects await her! www.carolynmazuca.com



CAROLYN IVY CARTER (Stage Manager) is overjoyed to be back at The Rep as Stage Manager for this season's Imaginary Theatre Company productions of *Tomás and the Library Lady* and *Puss in Boots*. This is her third season as

the ITC Stage Manager. She is a graduate of The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. Some of her other favorite credits include Stage Manager for The Rep's WiseWrite 2020 Festival, Stage Manager for Shakespeare in the Streets' *Love at the River's Edge*, Stage Manager for The New Jewish's *I Now Pronounce*, and Production Coordinator for The Conservatory's 50th Anniversary.