



RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE



LOOKING FOR ROBERTO CLEMENTE

Book and lyrics by Karen Zacarías. Music by Deborah
Wicks La Puma. Directed by Barbette Hunter.

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

STEPHENSON AMPHITHEATRE | WEEKENDS MAY 4-12, 2024

ABOUT THE PLAY

In this rock musical, the year is 1972. The place is Pittsburgh, where legendary baseball player Roberto Clemente is at the top of his game. Sam Kowalski and the neighborhood baseball-playing kids are in an intense competition to win the chance to meet Clemente in person. But when their hero helps natural disaster victims in Nicaragua, his fateful off-field actions teach the kids about what is more important than winning. World premiere at Imagination Stage.

-Synopsis from [DramaticPublishing.com](https://www.dramaticpublishing.com)

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT AND COMPOSER

Karen Zacarías was recently hailed by American Theatre magazine as one of the most produced playwrights in the United States. Her plays include *Destiny of Desire*, *Native Gardens*, *Mariela in the Desert*, *Legacy of Light*, *The Book Club Play* and *The Sins of Sor Juana*; adaptations include *Into the Beautiful North*, *Just Like Us* and *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent...* Zacarías is an inaugural resident playwright at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., as well as a core founder of the Latinx Theatre Commons, a national network that strives to update the American narrative to including the stories of Latinos. She is the founder of Young Playwrights' Theater, an award-winning theatre company that teaches playwriting in local public schools in Washington, D.C., and she is proud to be Arena Stage's first resident playwright. Zacarías lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and three children.

A composer, music director and orchestrator, **Deborah Wicks La Puma** is one of the most-produced Theatre for Young Audiences artists working today. Some of her most popular musicals include *Ella Enchanted* (based on the book by Gail Carson Levine), *OLIVÉRio: A Brazilian Twist* and *Einstein Is a Dummy* with playwright Karen Zacarías, and the off-Broadway hit *She Persisted* (based on the book by Chelsea Clinton) with playwright Adam Tobin... A proud Mexican-American and "Navy brat" who grew up in Brazil, Portugal and California, La Puma is a member of TYA/USA, ASCAP and The Dramatists Guild. Mother to three daughters and Mimi the Cat, La Puma lives in Southern California with her PR agent and loving husband, Chris.

-Author bios from [DramaticPublishing.com](https://www.dramaticpublishing.com)

Teaching *Looking for Roberto Clemente* in the Classroom or at Home

BIG IDEAS

This play is about...

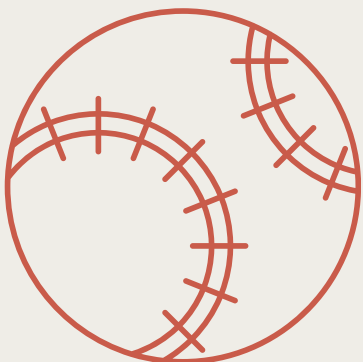
- How baseball can bring people together in friendship and community.
- What it means to look up to someone as a celebrity and as a person.
- How what happens off the field is even more important than what happens on the field.

Discussion Questions **Before** the Play

- Why do people love cheering for a sports team? How are sports a form of community? Who is a part of the sports team?
- What are things you are involved in that give you a sense of friendship and belonging? Are those things important to you? Why?
- What do you do when you hear about hard and scary things happening in the world? How do you feel when you hear about those things? What are ways that you can help?

Discussion Questions **After** the Play

- Did any of the characters say or do anything that stood out to you? How did the characters support each other?
- Why is Roberto Clemente an inspiration to the characters?
- What do you think is more important, how celebrities act when they are on the field or in the spotlight, or when they are off the field?
- What are some ways that you can do things to support your community or the world?



Dramaturgy

What's going on in the world of *Looking for Roberto Clemente?*

Pittsburgh

In 1972, the local Major League Baseball team, Pittsburgh Pirates, won the National League East. They went on to play in the National League Championship Series, but ultimately lost to the Cincinnati Reds. This followed their World Series win in 1971, greatly in thanks to the baseball legend, Roberto Clemente.

Puerto Rico

Roberto Clemente was born in Carolina, a city east of San Juan, in Puerto Rico on August 18, 1934. After the 1972 Pittsburgh Pirates post-season, Clemente went to Puerto Rico to teach a series of baseball workshops for youth and played winter baseball in the Puerto Rican League.

Nicaragua

On December 23rd, 1972, Nicaragua is hit by a two-and-a-half hour series of earthquakes, at 6.3 magnitude. It occurred near the capital of Managua. More than 10,000 people were killed, at least 40,000 people were injured, and approximately 200,000 people in the city with a population of 350,000 were unhoused from the destruction according to the New York Times article released the day after the earthquake. Fires spread across the city, and access to water for drinking or putting out fires was cut off, as well as electricity being taken out.

Sources, links to more information

Pittsburgh Pirates 1972 season, statistics and narration:
<https://thesportsnotebook.com/1972-pittsburgh-pirates/>

About Roberto Clemente and his life in Puerto Rico:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pittsburgh-Pirates>

NYT article about the 1972 earthquake in Nicaragua:
<https://www.nytimes.com/1972/12/24/archives/thousands-dead-as-quakes-strike-nicaraguan-city-capital-battered.html>



Dramaturgy

What's going on in the world of *Looking for Roberto Clemente?*

Clemente's Response

In response to the devastation caused by the earthquake in Nicaragua, Roberto Clemente sent supplies and aid to the people of Nicaragua. When he found out that the aid was not reaching the people he was sending it to, Clemente chartered a plane to take him, Angel Lozano, Jerry Hill, and Francisco Matias to Nicaragua to deliver supplies and support personally. The plane took off on December 31st, 1972.

The Plane Crash

Off the coast of Piñones, the plane crashed. The coast guard conducted a search and rescue mission. Manny Sanguillén, Clemente's teammate, joined divers in searching for his friend. Clemente's body has never been found. The plane is said to have crashed because it was overloaded with people and supplies, trying to get to Nicaragua to provide help however they could.

Remembering Roberto Clemente

On March 20, 1972, a special election was held to waive the waiting period for Clemente to get inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was inducted with 92.7% of the vote in 1973. The MLB also annually presents the Roberto Clemente Award to a player whose actions both on and off the field bring goodness to the world.

Source for information about Roberto Clemente and where to learn more:

In Pittsburgh, there is the Clemente Museum, where most of this research was gathered from. You can visit in-person or virtually:

3339 Penn Ave

Pittsburgh, PA 15201

<https://clementemuseum.com/>



Image of Roberto Clemente from the Society for American Baseball Research

Pre-Show Lesson/Activity Plan

Subject: <i>Looking for Roberto Clemente</i> by Karen Zacarías and Deborah Wicks La Puma	Topic: How feelings of community and teamwork can shape dynamics between people.
Grade 4 Standards: (appropriate for 2-5) Before Seeing the Show	Overview: Students will explore ensemble as it relates to belonging and friendship.

<p>North Carolina Theatre Grade 4 State Standard 5.C.1 Use performance to communicate ideas and feelings.</p>
<p>NC Theatre Grade 4 Clarifying Objective 5.C.2.1 Use improvisation to create characters and solve problems.</p>

Activity	Description of Activities and Setting	Materials & Time
I. Focus & Review	Ask students if they know what the show they are going to see is about (a famous baseball player named Roberto Clemente) and a baseball team.	5 minutes; Discussion-based
II. Statement	Students will explore the concept on ensemble as it relates to sports, and do ensemble-building activities.	30 seconds; Board, marker
III. Teacher Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do people love cheering for a sports team? How are sports a form of community? Who is a part of the sports team? What are things you are involved in that give you a sense of friendship and belonging? Are those things important to you? Why? How can we make our classroom feel more like a community? 	10 minutes; Discussion-based (lead the class in the following pre-show questions).
IV. Guided Practice	Tell students that they will work together to count to [number of students in the room]. However, they cannot talk while they do it, other than saying a number. No one can say more than one number, any number twice, or at the same time. If they do, you start over. If they get it sitting down, have them walk around the room while they do it for more challenge.	10 minutes; Open space; Viewpoints activity based on Anne Bogart's practices
V. Independent Practice	Play Keeper of the Keys: have students stand in a wide circle with one chair in the middle and keys under the chair. One person is sitting in the chair with their eyes closed (they are the keeper). The goal for everyone else is to get the keys without the keeper knowing who is holding them when they open their eyes and guess. Once the keeper hears the keys, they say "pause" and can open their eyes and guess, or once the outside circle is silently ready.	10 minutes; Open space; activity from Drama Based Pedagogy by K. Dawson & B. K. Lee
VI. Closure	Ask students if, and how, the feeling of community in their classroom has shifted. Why is that?	5 minutes

Post-Show Lesson/Activity Plan

Subject: <i>Looking for Roberto Clemente</i> by Karen Zacarías and Deborah Wicks La Puma	Topic: How one person can have a lasting impact - Roberto Clemente's influence.
Grade 3 Standards: (appropriate for 2-5) After Seeing the Show	Overview: Roberto Clemente, a historical figure, making a positive impact on individuals and communities, and how we can be a part of legacy.

North Carolina Social Studies Grade 3 State Standard
3.H.1 Understand how various people and historical events have shaped local communities.

NC Grade 3 History Clarifying Objective
3.H.1.2 Explain the lasting impact historical events have had on local communities.

Activity	Description of Activities and Setting	Materials & Time
I. Focus & Review	Ask students how they felt about the show and to recap/summarize the play. If you haven't already, use the post-show discussion questions.	5-10 minutes; Discussion-based
II. Statement	Throughout this lesson, students will discuss how historical figures can have lasting effects on communities, and contribute to Clemente's legacy.	30 seconds; Board, marker
III. Teacher Input	Visit The Clemente Museum online at: https://clementemuseum.com/ . You can even do a virtual tour, or scroll through the recap of Clemente's humanitarian work. Ask students why so many people have been inspired by him.	10 minutes; Discussion-based; Smartboard or computer.
IV. Guided Practice	As a class, come up with a local cause that you want to help with. For example, food insecurity in Raleigh. Brainstorm as a class how you can help. (Ex. a can food drive at school or volunteering with a local organization.) Make a game plan as a class about how you can do this and make a difference. We encourage you to actually do this!	15 minutes; White board, markers, space for dialogue.
V. Independent Practice	In addition to how you as a group can make important impacts on your community, so can individuals! Ask each student to think of a person who inspires them and write a letter to that person, thanking them for what they do. Roberto Clemente has a foundation that you can write to!	10-15 minutes to make, paper, pencils, envelopes, internet for research
VI. Closure	Ask students how they feel at the end of this lesson verses the beginning, do they feel more hopeful or empowered? Why is that?	10 minutes

GET INVOLVED

Carolina Mudcats Zebulon, NC

A local Wake County minor league baseball team located in Zebulon, NC with community events and games to attend.

Visit:
<https://www.milb.com/carolina-mudcats>

Durham Bulls Durham, NC

Minor League baseball team in Durham with educational programming, community events, games, and youth summer camps!

Visit:
<https://www.milb.com/durham>

The Roberto Clemente Foundation

Honoring Roberto Clemente's legacy, the foundation offers youth baseball programs, disaster relief, and promotes service leadership. You can donate, learn more, keep up with what's happening, and participate in the ongoing legacy of sportsmanship, teamwork, and humanitarianism.

Visit:
<https://robertoclementefoundation.com/>

**“Any time you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don’t, then you are wasting your time on earth.”
–Roberto Clemente**

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