

PERFORMANCE GUIDE

SUPER AUNTY

BOOK BY LEE CATALUNA
MUSIC BY SEAN-JOSEPH CHOO



WWW.HTYWEB.ORG

CONTENTS

ALOHA FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ERIC JOHNSON	2
PRODUCTION CREDITS	3
ABOUT THE SHOW: THE BIPOC SUPERHERO PROJECT	4
POST SHOW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	5
BOOKS: SUPERPOWERED READING LIST	6
POST SHOW WRITING ACTIVITY: CREATE YOUR OWN SUPERHERO PLAY	7
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND DRAMA ACTIVITY	8
ABOUT HTY	9
OUR COMPANY	9

ALOHA FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ERIC JOHNSON

Aloha and welcome to the work of Honolulu Theatre for Youth! We are delighted to share these resources with you. We believe wholeheartedly in the power of stories to bring us together across time and distance. When that happens we often find great similarities with our fellow humans that strengthen our sense of belonging, heritage and shared purpose. We also find profound differences which should be equally celebrated. Differences stretch our sense of self and tickle our curiosity for what is possible. Coming from a place that is both geographically remote and culturally diverse, we treasure stories in our community and are deeply honored to share this one with you now. If you would like more information on the company or our work, look us up at htyweb.org.





OUR PARTNERS

We have been fortunate to work with wonderful partners and funders on the creation of this project.

The Hawai'i State Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch

Cooke Foundation

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Book by Lee Cataluna

Music by Sean-Joseph Choo

Directed by Mattea Mazzella

Music Direction by Sean-Joseph Choo

**Set, Costume, Prop,
and Projection Design by**
Emily Wright

Lighting Design by
Sarah Danvers

Sound Design by
Sean-Joseph Choo

Stage Manager
Sarah Danvers

Performed by
Jarren Amian
Alysia Kapa'a
Lokomaika'i Lipscomb
Kalā Muller

**Additional Creative and Technical
Support by**
Chesley Cannon
Eric Johnson
Eric West



ABOUT THE SHOW: THE BIPOC SUPERHERO PROJECT

Super Aunty, written by Lee Cataluna with music by Sean-Joseph Choo, is part of a national initiative launched by Theatre for Young Audiences/ USA (TYA/USA) called the BIPOC Superhero Project. The project is helmed by acclaimed playwright and educator, José Casas, and is designed to give playwrights of color access to mainstream, professional TYA companies across the nation. Twenty playwrights of color were commissioned by twenty-four theaters to create works featuring BIPOC superheroes. The project culminates in 2024 with a year-long celebration of productions, co-productions, and a published anthology of all the plays. HTY's new musical will be the first in the series of these nation-wide productions.

Audiences will delight in the original music, local characters and humorous scenarios that take place as four friends in a Hawai'i schoolyard explore what it takes to be a superhero. They come to realize that the women who raise them are the strongest, fastest, bravest people they know and that caring for others with aloha is a real super power.

“This project is about partnerships and community building, and creating spaces for necessary dialogue meant to create action,” said José Casas, the project's creator and leader. “We will give opportunities to directors of color, actors of color, dramaturgs of color, and stage managers of color. It is about encouraging TYA to reassess if they address issues of diversity, while inviting communities to be a part of the experience instead of tokenizing them. It is about reminding ourselves of why we do theatre in the first place.”

HTY's production includes a BIPOC creative team including the writers, director, actors, designers and stage management.



POST SHOW DISCUSSION

IN OUR PLAY, 4 FRIENDS EXPLORE WHAT DEFINES A SUPERHERO. WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU THINK A SUPERHERO SHOULD HAVE?

WHAT WOULD YOUR SUPER POWER BE AND WHY?

IS THERE A SUPER AUNTY IN YOUR LIFE?

HOW CAN YOU BE A SUPERHERO TO SOMEONE ELSE?

SUPERHERO BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM

SUPERPOWERED READING LIST



by Kamala Harris,
Illustrated by Mechal Roe
(for ages 3-8 yrs)

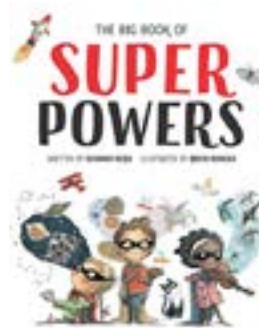


by Aviaq Johnston,
Illustrated by Tim Mack
(for ages 3-5 yrs)

by Alicia Ortego
(for ages 3-6 yrs)



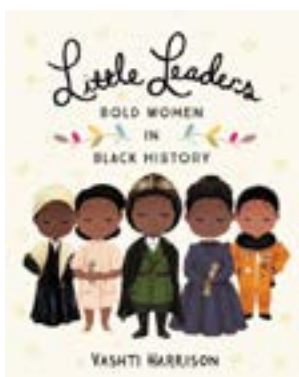
by Shelly Becker,
Illustrated by Eda Kaban
(for ages 3-6 yrs)



by Susanna Isern,
Illustrated by Rocio Bonilla
(for ages 5-8 yrs)



by Adisan Books,
(for ages 5-8 yrs)



by Sashti Harrison
(for ages 4-9 yrs)



by Josephine Cameron
(for ages 8-12 yrs)



Olugbemisola Rhuday-
Perkovich (Editor)
(for ages 8-12 yrs)

CREATE YOUR OWN SUPERHERO PLAY



INSTRUCTIONS

How does an idea become a play that can be performed on the stage? First, a story needs to be created from the idea, then the story must be adapted into a script.

The author of a script is called a playwright. All the playwrights involved the **BIPOC Superhero Project** came up with an idea that they turned into a script. In our play, Super Aunty, everyday people are the real superheroes who help everyone in their community.

Start with this writing prompt or discussion with class:

What defines a superhero?

A superhero is someone who _____.

This activity can be done as an individual writing activity or in small groups in class.

○ CREATE YOUR SUPERHERO CHARACTER

- 1. What is your Superhero's name?
- 2. What is their super power?
- 3. Where do they live?

○ CREATE THE STORYLINE.

- 1. What happens to start the story? This is called the inciting incident.
- 2. What happens next?
- 3. How does the story resolve

○ CREATE THE SCENE

- 1. What is the setting?
- 2. Who are the characters?
- 3. What is the dialogue? If there is more than one character, the words that the characters say to each other is called "dialogue," or the lines that the actors will say.

○ SHARE YOUR SUPERHERO SCENE

If time, rehearse and perform your scenes.

LIFELINE

Who are the Super Auntys (or Uncles) in your life? Who can you turn to for help?
It is important to know who you can turn to for help in different situations.

Click the graphic below to watch the video activity.

In this video, four different characters struggle with problems. After each one is presented, student pairs discuss who the character could ask for help with the problem.



click the graphic to play video

GRADE LEVEL FOCUS: Grades 3-6

SEL FOCUS

NHES Standard 4: Interpersonal Communication

NHES.4.5.4 Demonstrate how to ask for assistance to enhance personal health

NHES Standard 5: Decision-Making

NHES 5.5.2 Analyze when assistance is needed in making a health-related decision.

ACTIVITY

After each short scene, student pairs discuss who could be most helpful.

TO PREPARE, please:

- Preview the video before sharing it with your students to best help you introduce the activity.

- Create student discussion pairs

This SEL Activity was created by HTY's
Drama Education Department.

Go to www.htyweb.org for a complete video library of
Social-Emotional Drama Activities for grades Pre/K- 6.



ABOUT HTY

Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY) is a theatre of place, deeply rooted in the cultures and people of the Pacific and dedicated to serving young people, families and educators across the Hawaiian Islands. Founded in 1955, HTY is one of the oldest professional TYA companies in the country and is recognized for its long history of innovative drama education programming and the creation of original theatrical works that celebrate the diverse cultures of Hawai'i.

OUR COMPANY

Becky Dunning
Managing Director

Stu Hirayama
School Reservations

Brad DeCaires
Box Office

Fay Ann Chun
Grants Manager

Jian Gu
Accounting

Eric Johnson
Artistic Director

Reiko Ho
Artistic Associate/Marketing

Moses Goods
Artistic Associate/Actor

Annie Cusick Wood
Artistic Associate

Artistic Team
Jarren Amian
Chesley Cannon
Sarah Danvers
Serina Dunham
Alysia Kepa'a
Iris Kim
Lokomaika'i Lipscomb
Mattea Mazzella
Kalā Muller
Hermenegildo Tesoro Jr.
Eric West
Emily Wright

Daniel A. Kelin, II
Director of Drama Education

Lily Crumpton
Asst. Director of Drama Education

Tamara Smith
Drama Ed. Administrator

Clara Whippy
Teaching Artist

Ana Narrajos
Teaching Artist

Chloe Tower
Teaching Artist