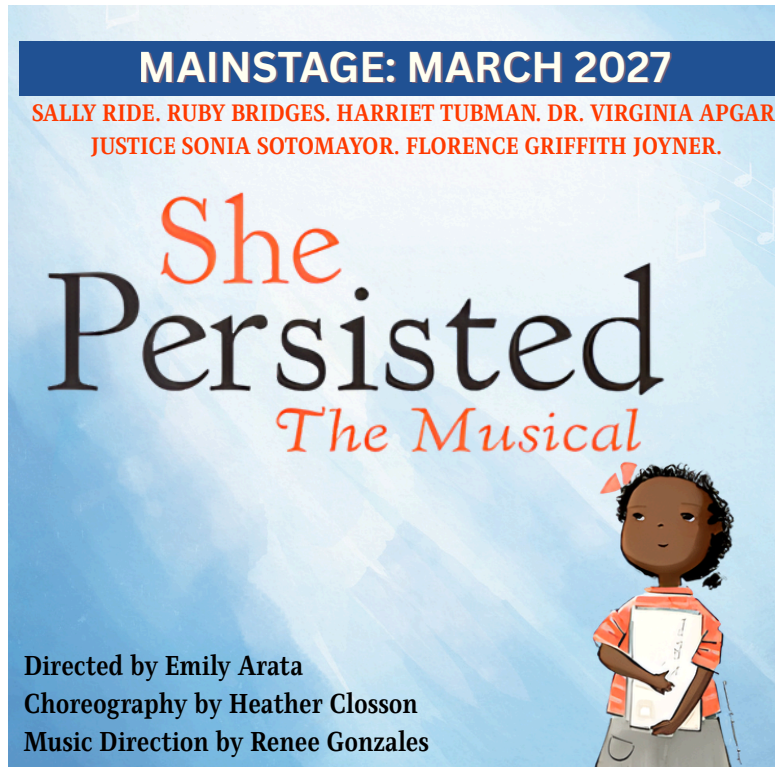


Fort Wayne
youththeatre
 AUDITION PACKET



Auditions: Sunday, Nov. 22 (1-4PM)
Call-Back: Tuesday, Nov. 24 (4:30-6:30PM)

CONTENTS:

Audition Notice & Info
Audition Tips
Conflict Sheet
Audition Materials)

Open Audition Spots by Reservation Only.
Sign up at FWYT.org/auditions



AUDITION NOTICE: DATES & TIMES



OPEN AUDITIONS: Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026 (1-4PM)

- EVERYONE must SIGN UP online for a one hour audition spot at fwyt.org/auditions.
- Fill out the audition info online when signing up.
- Come prepared to fill out a sheet listing your rehearsal conflicts.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your audition time to check in, fill out papers, etc.
- Location: RKF Studios, 2446 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. Enter the RKF Studios doors toward the back of the left/east side of the building. Look for the Youththeatre signage.

Everyone should be prepared to...

- Sing ONE of the audition songs contained in this packet individually for the directors. Choose the song that either best represents the role you wish to play or or shows off your voice/range the best.

CALL-BACK: Monday, Nov. 24, 2026 (4:30-6:30PM)

- Location: RKF Studios, 2446 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46805
- Actors needed at Call-Backs will be notified via call or text or email on Sunday after auditions.
- At Call-Backs, actors may be asked to-
 - Dance. So dress appropriately with appropriate footwear (no flip-flops).
 - Read sides from this packet.
 - Sing one of the selected audition songs or be taught and sing additional music.

CAST LIST AVAILABLE: NO EARLIER THAN SUNDAY, NOV. 29. May be later.

REHEARSAL PERIOD:

REHEARSALS: Jan. 11-Feb. 26, 2027 (M-F, 4:30-6:30/7PM)

TECH WEEK: Feb 28 (Noon- 5PM), Mar. 1-4 (4:30-8PM), 2026; Mar. 11 (Brush-Up Rehearsal, 4:30)

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES: March 5 (7PM), 6 (7PM), 7 (2PM), 12 (7PM), 13 (7PM), 14 (2PM)

SCHOOL SHOW/Learn-It Live @ Embassy: March 15, 2027 (Rehearsal 4:30-6:30PM), March 16 (Performance 10AM)

ABOUT THE SHOW:

Sonia Sotomayor- the first Latina Supreme Court Justice. Harriet Tubman- leading Civil War abolitionist. Sally Ride- the first woman in space. They were told they couldn't do it. All of them did it anyway. At the National Museum of Women in History, 4th-grader Naomi is intimidated: is she good enough to write an essay about these women who changed the world? When she is whisked through time to meet these trailblazing American women, plus Dr. Virginia Apgar, Florence Griffith Joyner, and Ruby Bridges, their stories help Naomi realize that she IS enough. Based on the children's book by Chelsea Clinton, *She Persisted* The Musical JR. is a joy-filled, high-energy musical that reminds us all, boys and girls alike, that change begins when we refuse to give up!



Fort Wayne Youththeatre seeks an all female-identifying cast ages 10 thru adult for this production.

While certain characters need to be cast racially according to their real-life counterpart, we strongly encourage performers of all races and ethnicities, and abilities to audition. Reading skills required.

CHARACTERS...

Naomi, a 10 year-old student. African American. A curious, determined fourth grader.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: C#5, Vocal range bottom: G3

Juno, a 10 year old student. Any race. Naomi's supportive classmate and friend.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: A3,

Bailey, a 10 year old student. Any race. Naomi's encouraging classmate and friend.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: A4, Vocal range bottom: G3

Time, a young magical being. Any race. A magical guide through history.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: C5, Vocal range bottom: C4

Young Harriet Tubman, student. African American. A young girls who will grow up to be an abolitionist who fought for freedom.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: F#3

Adult Harriet Tubman, teen/adult. African American. A brave abolitionist who fought for freedom.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: F#3

Young Florence Griffith Joyner, student. African American. Athletic youth who will go on to Olympic glory.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: F#3

Adult Florence Griffith Joyner, teen/adult. African American. A record-breaking Olympic sprinter.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: F#3

Mrs. Chan, teen/adult. Asian American. Naomi's caring teacher.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: C5, Vocal range bottom: C4

Young Sonia Sotomayor, student. Latina. A young latina who will grow up to become a Supreme Court Justice.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: A3

Adult Sonia Sotomayor, teen/adult. Latina. A determined judge who made history.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: A3

Young Dr. Virginia Apgar, student. Caucasian. A girl who aspires to become a doctor.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: A3

Adult Dr. Virginia Apgar, teen/adult. Caucasian. An innovative doctor who helped save newborns.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: A3

Young Sally Ride, student. Caucasian. The young version of astronaut Sally Ride.

Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: A3

Adult Sally Ride, teen/adult. Caucasian. A pioneering astronaut who reached for the stars.

Gender: female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Young Ruby Bridges, student. African American. A courageous girl who challenged school segregation.

Gender: female

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: G3

Ensemble, student/teen. Any race/gender.:

Students, Reporters, President of Princeton, Sonia's Mother, Nurse, Race Announcer, Astronaut Trainer, Museum Guide



Remember...

Don't think of an audition as a competition. Think of it as a chance to do something you love to do- perform! For however long you're up there, that role is yours. Make the most of it. Be creative. HAVE FUN!

The Directors are all rooting for you to succeed!

General Audition Tips...

- **BE PREPARED.**

Directors are impressed by actors who care.
Know the show. Read the script. Listen to the music.

- **BE ON TIME.**

- **ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION.**

Listen quietly to others. It is polite...PLUS you learn from what they do.

- **REMEMBER, YOU ARE AUDITIONING ON-STAGE & OFF.**

The directors are always watching.

- **DON'T APOLOGIZE OR MAKE EXCUSES.**

Director's can tell when you're sick. Just do the best you can.

- **GIVE IT 150%.**

Do your absolute best, then...

- **LET IT GO.**

Whatever happens happens. IT'S ONLY A PLAY!!!

Reading Audition Tips...

- **BE SEEN!**

Don't hide behind your script.
Hold it about chest level so we can see your face.

- **BE HEARD!!**

Project your voice so directors can hear & understand you.

- **BE CONFIDENT (even if it's fake)**

Plant your feet. Use your face, your hands, your whole body to communicate.

- **LISTEN TO YOUR FELLOW ACTORS!!!**

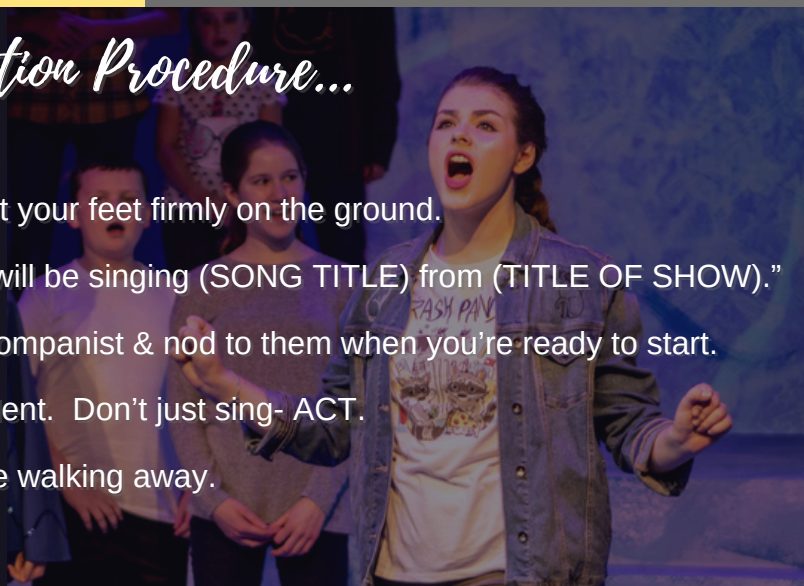
Pay attention & react to what they do.

- **DON'T JUST READ, ACT!!!!**

Directors know you can read.
Show them you can ACT!

Youtheatre Musical Vocal Audition Procedure...

- Enter
- Go to your spot in front of the Directors & plant your feet firmly on the ground.
- Say "Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME) and I will be singing (SONG TITLE) from (TITLE OF SHOW)."
- Make eye contact with the Music Director/Accompanist & nod to them when you're ready to start.
- Sing your song. Be loud. Be clear. Be confident. Don't just sing- ACT.
- When finished singing, say "Thank you" before walking away.
- Exit.





CONFLICTS:

PLEASE FILL OUT AND BRING WITH YOU TO AUDITIONS.



Please list **ALL** conflicts you have with dates below. Do **NOT** list as a conflict if it is something you can change, skip or reschedule.
Put an "X" if you can't come at all, or write the specific times you **CAN** be there within the rehearsal time period.

MONDAYS 4:30-7PM	TUESDAYS 4:30-7PM	WEDNESDAYS 4:30-7PM	THURSDAYS 4:30-7PM	FRIDAYS 4:30-7PM
01/11	01/12	01/13	01/14	01/15
01/18	01/19	01/20	01/21	01/22
01/25	01/26	01/27	01/28	01/29
02/01	02/02	02/03	02/04	02/05
02/08	02/09	02/10	02/11	02/12
02/15	02/16	02/17	02/18	02/19
02/22	02/23	02/24	02/25	02/26

NO CONFLICTS ALLOWED:

Tech Week: Feb 28 (Noon- 5PM), Mar. 1-4 (4:30-8PM), 2026; Mar. 11 (Brush-Up Rehearsal, 4:30)

Performances: March 5 (7PM), 6 (7PM), 7 (2PM), 12 (7PM), 13 (7PM), 14 (2PM)

School Show/Learn-It Live @ Embassy: March 15, 2027 (Rehearsal 4:30-6:30PM), March 16 (Performance 10AM)

NAME: _____



AUDITION MATERIALS: Vocal Audition Music

Everyone auditioning should select ONE of the following three song options from SHE PERSISTED.

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #1: HOPE

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #2: ISN'T IT COOL?

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #3: WALK ON

Select the song you think best shows off your voice and range or a role you're interested in.

Songs do NOT need to be memorized, but auditioners should be familiar with the material enough to not be glued to their music.

See the AUDITION TIPS page for more expectations and suggestions.

CAST RECORDING TRACKS FOR ALL 3 PIECES

The cast recording tracks (with voices) can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Tio7M-ixz0yKG0F1Ov9IfvyI9ihGwBJD?usp=sharing>

ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS FOR ALL 3 PIECES

The accompaniment tracks (no voices) which will be used in auditions can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uHhbNJljqAEhcNinfQOKTSbeto98BUIW?usp=sharing>

SHEET MUSIC

Sheet music for all 3 pieces can be found in the pages to follow...

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #1- Page 1

She Persisted JR.

Hope

14

CUE:

NAOMI: Wow. How do you keep doing it?
How do you keep going?

HARRIET: How could I not?

START

(HARRIET:) ... Tell you the truth, I have hope.

Freely (HARRIET:) Moderate Ballad ♩ = 110

I find hope in a bird sing - ing, the

song that it's bring - ing. The mu - sic fresh as the air. — I find it in the

sight of a moun - tain, with stars be - yond count - in', the truth that we all be - long there.

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #1- Page 2

(Through the rest of the song, the ENSEMBLE will periodically hold up lanterns, creating signals and lighting the path for HARRIET and NAOMI to travel. We will never see their faces, but we will definitely hear their voices.)

(HARRIET:)

10

— That's where I find hope. — That the good in all of us can — pre - vail

ENSEMBLE:

A G/B A7/C# D Em/D D F#7

14

— I have hope — If we strive, learn, and love we will not fail.

Bm G

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #1- Page 3

END

Freely

(HARRIET:)

18

(HARRIET:) The sun came like gold through the trees,
and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven.

(HARRIET:)

22

I find hope in the

B/A Bm/E

A tempo

26

smile of a child — who's gone a bit wi - ld. Can't be re-con-ciled to sit still. — Some find it in the

E A/E E A/E Bm7/E Bm7/A A2

ISN'T IT COOL?

#21 - Isn't It Cool?

87

space

START

Rit.

SALLY, NAOMI, CADETS:

In

B

B7

Lyrical ♩ = 118

(SALLY, NAOMI, CADETS:)

91

space things go free and I am an as-tro-naut float-ing in dreams

ENSEMBLE:

E D#m C#m F#7

The musical score is for the song 'Isn't It Cool?'. It begins at measure 87 with a vocal line that has a long 'space' (rest) followed by the word 'In'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with chords B and B7 indicated. A 'START' bracket marks the beginning of the main section, which includes a 'Rit.' (ritardando) instruction. The vocal part is for 'SALLY, NAOMI, CADETS:'. The score continues to measure 91, where the vocal line has the lyrics 'space things go free and I am an as-tro-naut float-ing in dreams'. Below the vocal line, there is an 'ENSEMBLE:' section with a thick black bar. The piano accompaniment continues with chords E, D#m, C#m, and F#7.

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #2- Page 2

95

Some - how _____ the world is at my feet— Cry-stal sweet The

E D#m

(SALLY, NAOMI,
CADETS:)

END

99

stars sur - round me as Earth's beau - ty beams! _____

D2 F#

SALLY: Wanna see something really cool? I helped develop the space shuttle's mechanical arm.
But it's frozen from how cold it is in space.

103

E

Walk On

24

CUE:

RUBY: They stay home. To not be with me.

START

(NAOMI doesn't know what to do.)

(RUBY:) Sometimes I just wanna stop, you know?

(NAOMI gives RUBY a hug.)

Tentatively ♩ = 80

(RUBY:)

When I'm a-lone and I'm a-fraid,

D

— fro-zen in place, in-vi-si-ble as a ghost I stop a mo-ment, not so

Bm D/A G D/F#

sure, dry the tears from my face Pry my eyes from the floor—

G F#m C2

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #3- Page 2

Stronger **Rit.**

12

It's hard in so man - y ways But I keep think - ing — one small

G/D D C2 Bm A/C#

With Confidence ♩ = 85

16

phrase Walk on I walk on — I step in - to the dark, to the light,

G/D D C6 Bm7

20

— to the fight I — walk on — I walk on — Don't know which

C6 D C

VOCAL AUDITION PIECE #3- Page 3

END

(While still turned away, they hold up signs from history against desegregation. "Go Back Where You Came From.")

23

— wind is blow - ing, but I'll — keep on go - ing. —

Bm C Bb

26

The an - gry voi - ces think they'll win. I've been shut out, shut a-way and shout-ed down

D2 Bm D/A

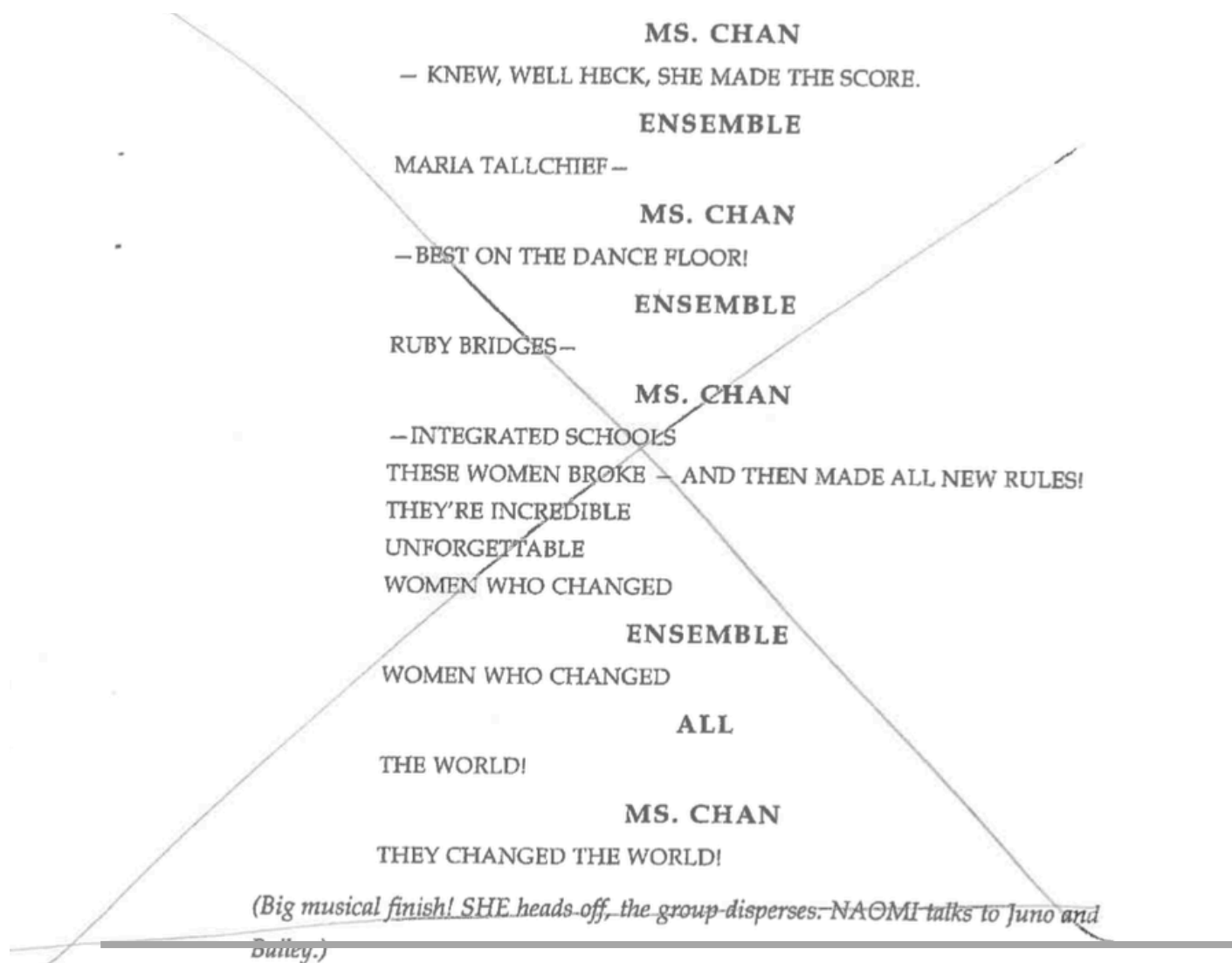
(A new sign reads 'GLORY SEGREGATION!')

29

— I'll take a breath, be - gin a - gain I'll fol - low

G D G

SIDE #1: Naomi, Bailey, Juno



START →

NAOMI
 I can't do this essay. It's impossible!

BAILEY
 It's not that hard, just write it.

JUNO
 Besides, you already know what you want to be when you grow up. An astronaut.

NAOMI
 I don't know...

BAILEY
 Are you kidding? "I'm Naomi, blah blah, planets, satellites, blah blah..."

JUNO
 "Neil Armstrong, Mary Jamison —"



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #1 (Cont.): Naomi, Bailey, Juno

NAOMI

Mae Jemison.

JUNO

Exactly. And you're great at math!

NAOMI

I just ... I don't wanna say I'm going to be something all amazing and then be a loser!
And if I can't write an essay now, how am I gonna do it in middle school and high school and college and —

JUNO

Whoa, whoa! We're only in fourth grade!

BAILEY

But we do have a lot of essays ahead of us.

NAOMI

Ugh!! ... What are you gonna write about?

JUNO

I think I want to be a teacher. Or a pro soccer player.

BAILEY

I'm gonna be an Instagram influencer. And then President.

(to Juno)

Will you follow me on Insta? I just have to convince my parents to get me a phone first!

TRACK 6

STOP

(JUNO and BAILEY head off. NAOMI, alone, contemplates the portraits of SONIA SOTOMAYOR, FLORENCE GRIFFITH JOYNER and SALLY RIDE.)

#3 — Perfect/Not Reprise

NAOMI

HOW? HOW DID THEY DO SO MUCH?
WHEN I ALWAYS SEEM TO MESS UP
EVERYTHING THAT I TOUCH?
WHY DO I DISSOLVE IN TEARS?
I WISH I COULD BE
ANYWHERE BUT HERE!

TIME

(booming voice, offstage)

YOUR WISH IS GRANTED!

SIDE #2: Naomi, Time

SCENE 4: TAKING TIME

NAOMI

Whoa. What was THAT?

(TIME jumps on stage.)

TIME

THAT was the magic of TIME!

NAOMI

Who are you?

TIME

I, my Little Acorn, am Time! I heal all wounds! A stitch in *me* saves nine!

(a la Hamilton/Showtime at the Apollo:)

What ME is it? ShowME!!

NAOMI

Is this like some interactive museum tour?

TIME

Interactive, yes! Museum, no, Little Acorn.

NAOMI

Why do you keep calling me that?

TIME

Because that's what you are! An acorn that will grow into a tree. You're a calf, a kitten, a kid!

NAOMI

I know I'm a kid.

TIME

And you will grow up to be a cow, a cat, a goat!

NAOMI

What are you talking about?!

TIME

TIME TRAVEL! Ta dah! You are on a journey through history! I am the living embodiment of Time!

NAOMI

(skeptical)

You. You're Time? But you're a kid. How can Time be a kid?



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #3: Harriet Tubman, Naomi

SCENE 6: HARRIET TUBMAN

NAOMI

Hope ... Time said I'd find hope. I don't feel hope, I feel cold. Why is it so dark in time- travel? Are those crickets?

(The sound of CRICKETS and FROGS. LIGHTS DIM, STARS TWINKLE. NAOMI hugs herself from the cold and fear. And then she hears RUSTLING.)

Is that ... Who's there?

TRACK 14

#5a – Tubman Portrait/Escape

(Behind her the PAINTING of HARRIET TUBMAN appears.)

HARRIET TUBMAN

(voice-over)

"I should fight for my liberty as long as my strength lasted."

NAOMI

Oh wow.

(The painting fades to reveal HARRIET TUBMAN behind it. She's finding her way through the brush. Harriet is startled to find Naomi.)

NAOMI

You're ... you're Harriet Tubman!

HARRIET TUBMAN

Shhhh! Quiet! You want to let the whole world know? There's a bounty on my head forty thousand dollars strong!

NAOMI

I'm sorry, I...

HARRIET TUBMAN

If you're with me, you shush, understand? Anyone finds us, we're taken South! I'd make 'em kill me first. But don't you worry. I haven't lost a single passenger, not about to now. There's a station up ahead.

NAOMI

A station? On the Underground Railroad!

HARRIET TUBMAN

Hush, I said!

(Off-stage a DOG barks. VOICES.)

TRACK 15



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #3 (Cont.): Harriet Tubman, Naomi

(HARRIET TUBMAN)

Run, child! Through the stream!

(HARRIET grabs Naomi's hand and they run off, navigating a stream. THEY find a safe hiding spot behind a rock. The VOICES FADE.)

Take a few breaths, we're safe now. They've headed down the road toward town.

NAOMI

Was that ...? Are we ...?

HARRIET TUBMAN

You're safe. What's your name, I can't call you child all the way to Canada.

NAOMI

Naomi.

HARRIET TUBMAN

Naomi. I like that. Mine is ...

NAOMI

Harriet. I know.

HARRIET TUBMAN

My given name's Araminta. They called me "Minty." My parents come from Ashanti people, the Ashanti Empire.

NAOMI

I didn't know that. Wait, you said Canada?

HARRIET TUBMAN

Six-hundred fifty miles to St. Catherine's, Ontario.

NAOMI

We have to walk to Canada? I thought the North had free states.

HARRIET TUBMAN

There's free and there's free. You've heard of the Fugitive Slave Law? They can pick you up in any state in the Union and take you back into slavery. You don't get a day in court, even if you're a free citizen!

NAOMI

Wow. How do you keep doing it? How do you keep going?

#6 -- Hope

HARRIET TUBMAN

How could I not? ... Tell you the truth, I have hope.

TRACK 16



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #4: Naomi, Sonia

SCENE 7: SONIA AT PRINCETON

(SONIA SOTOMAYOR, now 20, comes striding across to a door, dressed like a college student from 1974.)

#6a – Sonia Entrance

NAOMI

Hey! It's Sonia! She's all grown-up!

(to Time)

When are we?

TIME

I'd say about 1974. She's a student at Princeton University. Which is wow, quite impressive for a poor girl from the Bronx.

(SONIA raises her hand to knock, but then thinks twice. She paces, nervous, in front of the door.)

NAOMI

START → Sonia! Sonia, hi!

SONIA

Oh, hi. Hello. I'm sorry, I'm not really focusing well right now.

NAOMI

What's wrong?

SONIA

What's wrong? That's the door of the President of Princeton! I can't go in there and confront him, can I?

NAOMI

Well I don't know —

SONIA

But on the other hand, there's only 31 Puerto Rican and 27 Chicano students at the whole college, out of thousands of students! There needs to be more representation, he needs to hear that, right?!

NAOMI

I definitely —

SONIA

But who am I to go in and talk to the President of Princeton?! Maybe I should just let things work out on their own, not make a fuss.



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #4 (Cont.): Naomi, Sonia

(SONIA)

(This time NAOMI doesn't answer)

No, really, I need an answer this time.

NAOMI

Oh! I mean, you're gonna be on the Supreme Court someday, the highest court in America. Of course you can go in there!

SONIA

Supreme Court?! There's never been a female Justice on the Supreme Court!

NAOMI

~~There've been four, including~~

TIME

(to Naomi)

Psst! Naomi! This is 1974. The first woman doesn't get appointed to the Supreme Court until 1981.

SONIA SOTOMAYOR

I'm just working hard to be a lawyer. Maybe be a judge one day.

NAOMI

I think you could go further than that! And anyways, you always sound convincing to me. Just go talk to him and ... I don't know ... be Sonia.

SONIA

I do know how to do that. Thank you, Naomi.

(SONIA knocks and goes through the door. Sonia talks to the PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON, a shadow projection.)

PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON

(offstage)

Hello Miss Soto-may-er.

SONIA

It's Sotomayor, sir. With all due respect, Princeton needs to change. There is not one Puerto Rican or Chicano professor, not one class on Puerto Rican or Chicano cultures!

PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON

I'm sorry, but I can't just hire faculty because you ask me to. This is the way it is.

SONIA

Because, folks, it's not the way it should be. On behalf of the Latino students here



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #5: Time, Naomi

SCENE 8: DOWN TIME

TIME

Okay! Who's next?! I'm really hitting my stride here! Pow! Supreme Court Justice!
Bam! Medical innovator! You wanna write your essay about an undercover reporter?
Or one of the sparks of the Civil Rights Movement? —

NAOMI

Can we just ... can we just stop for a minute?

TIME

What's wrong? Wait, am I doing this whole magical journey thing right? I can do
better, I swear —

NAOMI

No, no, that's not it. I just need a little —

TIME

Time? Ta da!

NAOMI

Ha. These women are amazing, but every time I think about writing the essay, it just
seems impossible. I know I should push through, but ... I wish I could talk to
somebody about this.

TIME

How about an adult you trust? Like your teacher?

NAOMI

Ms. Chan? She's nice, but isn't that cheating? Like I already failed?

TIME

What?! No, that's her *job*, to help you!

NAOMI

It's like I'm supposed to be perfect at things right away. Or at least really really good.
Otherwise why do it?

TIME

No one can do something perfect the first time. There is no perfect. Good enough is
perfect.

NAOMI

It doesn't feel that way.

(beat)

What if these women are just naturally amazing and I'm ... not.

TIME

I think you need to learn to love yourself. Even when you fail.



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #6: Naomi, Florence

TIME

Not so fast!

(TIME dramatically leans ahead of Florence, wins the race. Celebrates ecstatically in slow motion.)

RACE ANNOUNCER

And it's Valerie Brisco-Hooks first! Florence Griffith in second! Merlene Ottey in third!

TIME

Whew. I need a medal, where's my medal?!

NAOMI

What? She came in second? Did you just cheat to win?

TIME

Nope. True story. She got a *silver* medal in the 1984 Olympics. And then silver *again* in the 1987 Championships. She'll have to wait another year for a shot at the Olympics again.

(beat)

~~Look, she's back home, training. Go talk to her~~

NAOMI

Excuse me, Miss Flo Jo?

FLORENCE

It's Florence, sweetie.

NAOMI

Really? Can I ask you a question?

FLORENCE

Of course. But make it speedy. I've got to get back to my job at the bank.

NAOMI

You work at a bank?

FLORENCE

Sure. I need to make money to live, right? I train in the morning, at lunch and after work.

NAOMI

Why? I thought you were just a natural athlete.

FLORENCE

When I first started my technique was all wrong. I've had to work to get this fast.

(counting on her nails)

I run 4 miles a day, lift weights for my legs, practice my starting push off...

START →



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #6 (Cont.): Naomi, Florence

NAOMI

And whoa. Those are amazing fingernails.

FLORENCE

You like? Red, white and blue, and this one's gold! I got disqualified from a relay once because they said my nails were too long! Heck with that, I like my nails!
... So what's your question?

STOP → NAOMI

Um ... when you lose, I mean come in second ... how do you keep working? How do you know you're good enough? I mean, of course YOU'RE good enough—

#8 — Run My Race

FLORENCE

Hey, sweetie, you're good enough too. You're great no matter where you are. And if you're not your number one fan, who will be? Let me tell you something.

TRACK 22

(sings)

THESE PAINTED NAILS
THEY'RE NOT DETAILS
THEY ARE MY SOUL SINGING JOYOUSLY
THE WAY I RUN
OR THE CLOTHES THAT STUN
THEY ARE MY OWN KIND OF POETRY!

TELL THE WORLD I'LL TAKE MY TIME
TO MAKE MY OWN SELF RIGHT
DEEP INSIDE I KNOW I'M FINE
IN FACT I'M TAKING FLIGHT

I'M GONNA RUN MY RACE
AND SHOW MY FACE
LET PEOPLE SAY WHAT THEY'LL SAY
I'M GONNA BE MYSELF
AND SEE MYSELF
NEGATIVE THOUGHTS, GET OUT OF MY WAY!

I'M GONNA CROSS THE LINE
AND BE JUST FINE
I KNOW MYSELF ENOUGH TO KEEP ON
I WILL PUSH MY LIMIT



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #7: Juno, Bailey, Naomi, Time

TIME

You can do this! Hey, that means I did it too! Well smell us, Copernicus! Let's get back to your field trip.

(NAOMI hears VOICES off stage.)

START

↓
(offstage)

JUNO

Ms Chan, how many words does our essay have to be? Do we have to read it out loud in class?

BAILEY

(offstage)

And how are we supposed to be like them anyway? I mean, we're just kids! They're like super-famous grownups!

(NAOMI falters. TIME sees it.)

TIME

Oh no. Naomi, don't. Remember what Florence Griffith Joyner said — those voices, think positive ones.

NAOMI

(struggling)

I'm trying.

TIME

Remember what Sally Ride said. You can dream.

NAOMI

I know, but ... They're right, I'm just a kid! It's one thing if you're all grown up, it's different for a kid in real life! It's too hard!

TIME

You don't have to be perfect, you can just try.

NAOMI

I'm just one little girl by myself. What can one girl do? I can't. I can't.

TIME

You can —

NAOMI

(mini-tantrum)

I'm not gonna do it! I'm not! Leave me alone!!

(Silence.)



AUDITION NOTICE: Audition Sides

SIDE #8: Ruby, Naomi

SCENE 11 RUBY BRIDGES

(The painting of RUBY BRIDGES appears. It fades to reveal a girl, even smaller than Naomi, in a starched white dress. ANGRY VOICES offstage shout unintelligible insults. Ruby walks. She takes a few steps, then shakes her head. Daunted but not defeated, she decides to pause, rest emotionally and recharge.)

#9a – Bridges Portrait

RUBY

I can't do it right now. I need to stop.

(RUBY sits on the curb of the street. NAOMI approaches with sympathy.)

NAOMI

Hi. I'm Naomi.

RUBY

I'm Ruby.

NAOMI

Are you okay?

RUBY

(shakes her head)

I can't keep doing it every day. The yelling, the rock throwing. I'm scared.

NAOMI

Somebody's throwing rocks at you? Who?

RUBY

Them! All those white people screaming. The first time I saw the crowd I thought it was Mardi Gras, there were so many people. Then it turned out they were yelling at me.

NAOMI

Where are you going?

RUBY

First grade. This school has only ever had white students before, they don't want me to go to the same school with them.

NAOMI

A mob is throwing rocks because you're going to first grade? I'm in fourth grade, I'll go tell them a thing or two!

START →