

Excerpt terms and conditions



This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

You may view, print and download any of our excerpts for perusal purposes.

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest reading the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity.

Dramatic Publishing

Looking for Roberto Clemente



MUSICAL

Book and lyrics by Karen Zacarías

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

© The Dramatic Publishing Company

**“Clemente the musical
hits it out of the ballpark.”**
—*The Washington Times*

Looking for Roberto Clemente — *Musical. Book and lyrics by Karen Zacarias. Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma. Cast: 6m., 1w.* “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*) 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 it is their hero’s fateful off-field actions while aiding natural disaster victims in Nicaragua that teach the kids about what is more important in life than winning. World premiere at Imagination Stage. “A funny, cracker-jack tale about baseball-obsessed kids ... well-stocked with zest and comedy.” (*The Washington Post*) “Universal themes such as love of sports, friendship, hero worship and coping with tragedy make this show appealing to everyone ... a grand slam.” (*DC Theatre Scene*) *Music excerpts available online. Optional accompaniment CD available. Area staging. Approximate running time: 60 minutes. Code: LK6.*

Cover: Imagination Stage, Bethesda, Md., featuring (l-r) Derek
Manson and Don Kenneth Mason. *Photo: Scott Suchman.*
Cover design: Susan Carle.

ISBN 10: 1-58342-827-5
ISBN 13: 978-1-58342-827-6



www.dramaticpublishing.com



Dramatic Publishing

311 Washington St.
Woodstock, IL 60098
Phone: (800) 448-7469
(815) 338-7170



Printed on recycled paper

© The Dramatic Publishing Company

Looking for Roberto Clemente

Book and lyrics by

KAREN ZACARÍAS

Music by

DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA



Dramatic Publishing Company

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

*** NOTICE ***

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. Current royalty rates, applications and restrictions may be found at our website: www.dramaticpublishing.com, or we may be contacted by mail at: THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., 311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including, but not limited to, the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved.

©MMXIII

Book and lyrics by KAREN ZACARÍAS
Music by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

Printed in the United States of America
All Rights Reserved
(LOOKING FOR ROBERTO CLEMENTE)

For inquiries concerning all other rights, contact:
The Graham Agency
311 W. 43rd St., Suite 1103
New York, NY 10036 • Phone: (212) 489-7730

ISBN: 978-1-58342-827-6

IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All producers of the musical *must* give credit to the author and composer of the musical in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the musical and in all instances in which the title of the musical appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the musical and/or a production. The names of the author and composer *must* also appear on a separate line, on which no other name appears, immediately following the title, and *must* appear in size of type not less than fifty percent (50%) the size of the title type. Biographical information on the author and composer, if included in the play-book, may be used in all programs. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

“Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., of Woodstock,
Illinois.”

Looking for Roberto Clemente was commissioned by and premiered at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Md., April 12, 2008.

Cast:

Peter Zack Colonna
Tommy JP Illarramendi
Sam Derek Manson
Roberto Clemente Don Mason
Charlie Erika Rose
Joe Matthew Schleigh
Noah Chris Wilson

Production Staff and Crew:

Percussionist Aaron Holmes & Dane Krich
Keyboard/Pianist Debbie Jacobson & Keith Tittermary
Stage Manager Kristen Bishel
Director Kate Bryer
Lighting Designer Harold Burgess
Props Designer Marie-Noelle Daigneault
Set Designer Elizabeth Jenkins McFadden
Choreographer Krissie Marty
Sound Designer Neil McFadden
Costume Designer Yvette Ryan
Musical Director Daniel Villar
Directing Observership Jillian Finkle
Master Electrician Robert Brown
Associate Artistic Director Kate Bryer
Production Assistant Jena Chambers
Production Associate Alexis Dearborn
Assistant Technical Director George DeShetler
Costume Shop Manager Marietta Greene-Hambrick
Technical Director Steve Hambrick
Production Manager Sara Bubenik
Costume Shop Assistant Katherine Pentz, Jessica Sanders
Artistic Director Janet Stanford
Scenic Charge Meaghan Toohey

Looking for Roberto Clemente

CHARACTERS

SAM KOWALSKI: an 11-year-old boy. A dreamer with confidence problems. A fervent Clemente fan. A hopeful pitcher.

CHARLIE GUNSTON: an 11-year-old girl. A doer that excels. A tomboy and excellent hitter. Sam's best friend forever.

PETER: an 11-year-old boy. Into sports statistics and baseball cards. Not a natural athlete. Sam's other best friend.

CAPTAIN JOE: an 11-year-old boy. The cool, fancy-pants captain of the Barracuda Little League team.

NOAH: an 11-year-old boy. Joe's right hand guy. A natural athlete and Barracuda teammate. Tommy's younger brother.

TOMMY: a 12-year-old boy with special needs. Lives in his own world. A batboy for the Barracudas. He really wants to play ball.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE: charismatic athlete at the pinnacle of his career (also CATCHER).

ANNOUNCER: recorded and/or live.

SETTING

A baseball diamond in Pittsburgh; 1972.
An island in the sea, Puerto Rico; timeless.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

CD or live rock band: piano, keyboard/bass, guitar and drums.

1. Opening Poem	7
2. Pits in Pittsburgh Part I	8
2a. Pits in Pittsburgh Part II	12
2b. Pits in Pittsburgh Part III	16
2c. Pits in Pittsburgh Part IV	20
2d. Joe's Entrance	22
2e. Joe's Exit	29
3. Homerun, Grand Slam, Promise	31
3a. Homerun Playoff	34
3b. Tang Scene Change	35
4. Winning Is a Ball	39
4a. To Roberto in PR	47
4b. End Act One	49
5. Baseball Funk	50
5a. Sam Loses the Ball	60
6. Diamond in the Rough	61
6a. The Final Game	65
6b. The Announcement	69
6c. Tommy Gets to Play	70
7. Final Poem	71
8. Bows	72

Looking for Roberto Clemente

(PRESHOW SOUND: A radio broadcast of a Pittsburgh Pirates game. Then, open on a shimmering blue ocean created with lights.)

(#1: “Opening Poem”)

SEVERAL VOICES. Legend tells us ...

Rumor has it ...

The story is ...

They say that ...

Once upon a time,

There was a special child,

Different from the others,

That lived on an island both close and faraway,

This child would stand on the shore,

Looking for someone with whom to play,

IN HIS MIND,

HE WOULD DREAM

THAT SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW,

HE WOULD FLY

SAM.

AND FIND

THE OTHER SIDE

OF THE SEA.

SEVERAL VOICES. So this child planted this dream, like a seed,

And the dream grew into an orange tree.

He peeled off a branch,
He plucked its fruit,
And hit that orange across the ocean.

THAT CHILD,
PERHAPS,
MAYBE,
CERTAINLY,
COULD BE ...

CLEMENTE.

ME!

(Blue sea turns to green grass. Pittsburgh, 1972. The people of Pittsburgh sing to their hero.)

(#2: “Pits in Pittsburgh Part I”)

JOE.

THE PIRATES WERE THE PITS IN PITTSBURGH

NOAH.

TILL ROBERTO CLEMENTE JOINED THE TEAM,

PETER & SAM.

HE STORMED INTO TOWN AND
TURNED THE GAME AROUND,

ALL.

OUR NIGHTMARE HAS BECOME A DREAM!
HIP HIP HOORAY!

PETER.

WHAT CAN WE SAY?

CHARLIE.

WE LIVE TO WATCH YOU PLAY!

ALL.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE,
A TRUE BET,
BIG GET!
WE ARE ON YOUR SIDE
AS YOU THROW AND HIT AND SLIDE,
PITTSBURGH CHEERS YOU ON TODAY!

NOAH.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE, OUR PIRATE,

PETER.

YOU'VE ALREADY HIT TWO-NINE-NINE-NINE,

JOE.

THERE'S ONE THING TO BE DONE,

SAM.

GIVE US JUST ANOTHER RUN,

ALL.

THEN OUR CITY STEEL WILL SHINE!
YOU ARE A STAR!

JOE.

YOU RAISED THE BAR!

SAM.

WE HAVE COME SO FAR!

ALL.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE, THIS IS IT,
ONE HIT!
EVERYONE IN TOWN
PRAYS YOU WON'T LET US DOWN!

PETER. No pressure!

CHARLIE. You can do it!

ALL.

THREE THOUSAND! ...

(The sound of a roaring crowd mixes with their voices and becomes the baseball stadium crowd heard through a radio. An apartment appears inside a green baseball diamond where SAM is listening to the radio. Around SAM, we see ROBERTO CLEMENTE come up to bat.)

ANNOUNCER. Two outs and the bases full of runners as Roberto Clemente steps up to the plate. Will this be his 3,000th hit?

SAM. Come on number 21!

ANNOUNCER. He swings. Strike one!

SAM. Come on, Roberto!

ANNOUNCER. The wind up, the pitch. Strike two!

(SAM is in agony.)

ANNOUNCER *(cont'd)*. “The Great One” is down two nothing in the count and here it comes ... and ... *(Sound of bat hitting ball.)* Foul ball. The crowd is on its feet begging for that 3,000th hit. *(Crowd cheers.)* Clemente checks his swing. He’s ready for the pitch ... but wait, he steps out of the box ...

SAM. Listen to me, Roberto, calm down.

CLEMENTE. Calm down ...

SAM. Hold your bat tight.

CLEMENTE. Hold my bat tight.

SAM. And hit one for me!

ANNOUNCER. The wind up ... the pitch ... and—*(CRACK!)*

Open up the windows Aunt Millie, it’s coming through!

SAM. You did it! 3,000!

ANNOUNCER. It's 1972 and Roberto Clemente has hit 3,000! And it's looks like a DOUBLE! A DOUBLE! But wait ... the ball is still going, going, downtown ... way out of the outfield ... further and further ... down the street ... turning the corner? This ball is long gone!

(ROBERTO runs the bases. SAM is jumping up and down with joy.)

CLEMENTE *(while running)*. Thank you! *Gracias!*

SAM. You're welcome!

CLEMENTE. I couldn't have done it without you.

SAM. Don't mention it, Bob!

CLEMENTE. My name is Roberto, not Bob.

(Note: Although CLEMENTE and SAM connect through the radio, at no time are they directly present in each other's space.)

SAM. Sorry, Roberto! Whoa! Wait, can you hear me?

CLEMENTE. Can you hear me? All I ask is you call me by my real name.

SAM. You can hear me! I can't believe this! I'm talking to Roberto Clemente. Hi! I'm Sam Kowlaski. You're my hero.

CLEMENTE. Hero?

SAM. Yes! Twelve Gold Glove Awards, 1971 World Series champion and MVP with a series batting average of .414. Plus you've smashed 22 of your batting helmets.

CLEMENTE. I feel baseball strongly.

SAM. I love baseball too.

CLEMENTE. What position you play?

SAM. Me? Oh, I don't play. Not really. I'm not on a team. It would be nice to be on a team. I mean if someone wanted me on their team ... but, you know ... nobody does. I get

so nervous. I sweat ... I'm, like, the clutch player that has no clutch. When it really matters, I, like, really lose. But still, I loooooove baseball.

CLEMENTE. To love what you do ... is very important. I play every game, like my life depends on it.

SAM. Holy moley, if only I could take a picture of this, of us, just talking on the ... radio ...

(Crowd chants: CLEMENTE! CLEMENTE! ...)

CLEMENTE. Sam, *amigo*, I have to go ...

SAM. Wait!

CLEMENTE. *Silencio!* *(The fans go silent.)* Yes?

SAM *(beat)*. How do you do it?

(Pause.)

CLEMENTE. I don't know. How does a seed reach the sky?

SAM. Huh?

(Crowd chants again: CLEMENTE! CLEMENTE! ...)

ANNOUNCER. And Roberto waves to his fans and ...

(Radio starts to fizz out ... SAM turns the dials ...)

SAM. Oh, no, I'm losing the signal ... Can you hear me? *(The radio sputters.)* Wait, don't go—*(Beat.)* Lost him. Whatchagonnado?

(Silence. CRASH of sound and music—a window breaks in SAM's house and a baseball rolls up to SAM. He just stares at the ball, eyes wide.)

(#2a: “Pits in Pittsburgh Part II”)

SAM *(cont'd)*. WHOA! Peter, Paul and Mary! A ball! *(Pause.)* It's THE BALL! That's Roberto Clemente's baseball!

IS THIS WHAT I SEE?
COULD THIS REALLY BE?
A THREE THOUSAND HIT,
HIT *ME*?
AND ROLLED INTO SIGHT,
CHANGING MY WHOLE LIFE?
COULD THIS BALL
BE HISTORY?

(Radio sputters.)

SAM *(cont'd)*. I got it! Roberto, I got it!

(Radio sputters.)

SAM *(cont'd)*.

IS THIS WHAT I SEE?
COULD THIS REALLY BE?
A THREE THOUSANDTH HIT,
HIT ME?
AND ROLLED INTO SIGHT,
CHANGING MY WHOLE LIFE?
COULD THIS BALL
BE HISTORY?

IT'S ROUND AND IT'S WHITE
AND IT'S WEATHERED SOME FIGHT,
HIT LIKE A SHOT THROUGH THE AIR,
IT'S CIRCLED AROUND
AND IT'S COVERED SOME GROUND,
UNTIL FINALLY LANDING HERE.

IS THIS WHAT I SEE?
COULD THIS REALLY BE?
A THREE THOUSAND HIT,
HIT ME?
PERHAPS, MAYBE,
WHY NOT? CERTAINLY!
A THREE THOUSAND HIT,
HIT ME!

(Around the stage, phones begin ringing as CHARLIE and PETER appear in separate areas, talking to each other excitedly on the phone.)

CHARLIE. Wasn't that fantastic?

SAM. "The Great One"—he did it!

PETER. 3,000 hits! You know how statistically difficult that is to do?

(As the kids sing, they move from separate "home" spaces onstage together to the playground.)

PETER *(cont'd)*.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE, OUR PIRATE,

SAM.

SAILING FROM AN ISLAND IN THE SEA,

CHARLIE.

HIS HIT LIT UP THE SKY,
SINKING OTHER TEAMS *GOODBYE*,

ALL THREE.

AND VICTORY IS OUR BOOTY!
OUR PIRATES WON!

PETER.

THANKS, *TWENTY-ONE!*

CHARLIE.

YOU'RE PITTSBURGH'S FAV'RITE SON!

ALL THREE.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE,
WE LOVE YOU!
IT'S TRUE!

CHARLIE & PETER.
THE BASES HE CAN ROB,

SAM.
BUT PLEASE DON'T CALL HIM BOB.

ALL THREE.
WHAT WOULD PITTSBURGH DO WITHOUT YOU?

(They start playing an impromptu game of baseball. They are not very good.)

CHARLIE. Wow. What a day!
PETER. Sam, can you imagine? 3,000 hits?

(Ball rolls between their legs.)

SAM. I can imagine YOU hitting 3,000 hits, Charlie.

CHARLIE. You bet!

SAM. Charlie, I bet one day you'll play in the big leagues ...

CHARLIE. Maybe one day you'll open a package of baseball cards ... And there I'll be, looking like this—*(Flexes with the bat.)*

PETER & SAM. In between a hard, flakey piece of gum.

CHARLIE. That's right! I'm the card, you're the flakes!

PETER. Well, before you get on a baseball card you have to play in the big leagues, and before that, you have to play on a Little League team, and to play on a Little League team ...

CHARLIE. "Girls can't play. Girls are sissies. They cry and stuff."

SAM. You don't.

CHARLIE. "Girls, they can't take the pressure."

SAM. You can take it!

PETER. It's Sam that can't take the pressure.

CHARLIE. “Girls, they can’t think on their feet.”

PETER. Who wants thinking feet?

SAM. Or stinking feet?

(They laugh.)

CHARLIE. And Pete strikes out!

PETER. That lowers my stats, again.

SAM. You are still better than me.

PETER. That’s not saying much.

CHARLIE. My turn. *(Takes the bat.)* I’d love to be a professional baseball player, or an astronaut.

SAM. I thought you wanted to be President.

CHARLIE. Oh yeah, that too. I’ll be a Pirate, then an astronaut, and then PRESIDENT, and then be a Pirate again.

PETER *(drops the ball again)*. Looking at the numbers, I’m hoping to be an accountant!

SAM. I’m going to work in the steel mills ... like my dad did and my grandpa.

CHARLIE. My mom says those mills ... they are going to close one day.

SAM. Yeah right! No way!

PETER. What would Pittsburgh do if the mills closed? The statistics on that would be ... depressing ... I mean ... that’s as crazy as, impossible as ...

CHARLIE. Hitting 3,000?

PETER. Now that’s different. That’s special.