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Dramatic Publishing

Barrio Grpp!



Musical

Book and Lyrics by Quiara Alegría Hudes

Music by Bill Sherman

"[A] gentle, witty children's musical [that] eschews conventional narrative thrills and chills in favor of exploring children's creative and emotional lives."
(The Washington Post)

Barrio Grrrl!

Musical. Book and lyrics by Quiara Alegría Hudes. Music by Bill Sherman. *Cast: 3m., 4w.* Spunky 9-year-old Ana is faced with a very big decision. On the one hand, as her alter-ego, Barrio Grrrl, with her invisible sidekick, Amazing Voice, she's pretty busy preserving justice in the barrio and protecting her neighborhood. On the other hand, in the world where Ana lives with her *abuelo* and misses her mom who is far, far away in Iraq, reality is sneaking up on her. It's time for Ana to decide what's most important: being a superhero or a girl who works little miracles in real life. Pulitzer Prize- and Tony-winner Quiara Alegría Hudes and Grammy- and Tony-winner Bill Sherman give audiences a funny and warmly truthful play that will make hearts sing. "The story includes some delightful fantasy sequences along with flashbacks that tell Ana's story in a lively manner. ... Children simply get carried away by the delightful music. Be warned that the opening title song is a particularly insidious 'earworm' that will leave 'Barrio, barrio, barrio, barrio GRRRL!' ringing in your brain for hours afterwards." (*DCTheatre Scene.com*) *One ext., one int. set. Approximate running time: 60 minutes. Royalty on application, plus music rental. Code: BK6.*

*Photo: Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences, Washington, D.C., featuring (l-r) Erika Rose, Chris Wilson, Ana Nogueira and Vishal Vaidya.
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311 Washington Street
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Barrio Grrrl!

Book and lyrics by
QUIARA ALEGRÍA HUDES

Music by
BILL SHERMAN



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(BARRIO GRRRL!)

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IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

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In addition, all producers of the play must include the following acknowledgment on the title page of all programs distributed in connection with performances of the play and on all advertising and promotional materials:

“*Barrio Grrrr!* was commissioned by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was first produced at the Kennedy Center Oct. 14 to Nov. 15, 2009.”

For all my grrrls
my cousins Yessie and Ashley
my sisters Gabriela and Ariel
my daughter Cecilia

and for every single grrrl at heart

—Q.A.H.

Barrio Grrrl!

CHARACTERS

ANA: a kid, secret identity Barrio Grrrl.

THE AMAZING VOICE: her imaginary friend.

SANDIP: a kid.

OSCAR: a kid.

ODETTE: a kid.

ABUELO: Ana's grandfather, also plays PROFESSOR and KING HARALD V.

MOM: Ana's mom, also plays WAITER and SALESPERSON.

THE AMAZING VOICE or MOM also doubles as a pre-recorded VOICEMAIL VOICE.

SETTING

Waterloo Street in North Philadelphia. A narrow one-way block crammed with brick row homes on either side. The summer.

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Barrio Grrrl!

Scene 1

(#1. “Superhero Introduction”)

(CD track #1: 01-01A-Superhero Intro_Barrio Grrrl.

ANA comes out of her house and plops down angrily on her stoop.

Suddenly, THE AMAZING VOICE enters.)

(#1A. “Barrio Grrrl!”)

(CD track 01-01A continues.)

ANA. And now another episode of ...

ALL *(entering around her).*

BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO GRRRL!

BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO GRRRL!

AMAZING VOICE. Ana Ortiz was your average do-gooder.

Day care. A girl was teased for her Payless shoes, Ana became her friend. Kindergarten. A boy’s glasses broke, Ana taped them together. First grade. A boy had a cast, Ana helped him across the street. But last year, things really changed.

ANA. I got a Certified Imaginary Friend.

AMAZING VOICE. The Amazing Voice.

ANA. And I became ...

ALL (*except ANA*).

BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO

(*With ANA.*)

BARRIO GRRRL!

ANA.

BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO

ALL.

BARRIO GRRRL!

ANA.

I'M GONNA SAVE EVERY BROKEN HEART
ON THIS BARRIO BLOCK WHERE I WAS BORN AND
RAISED

'CUZ ON THIS BROKEN DOWN BARRIO BLOCK
THERE'S A LOT OF HEARTS TO BE SAVED!

I'M GONNA FILL EVERY POTHOLE IN
AND LEAD A MILLION-KID MARCH TO CITY HALL
TILL EVERY SINGLE SIDEWALK CRACK
ISN'T HARDLY CRACKED AT ALL

AMAZING VOICE.

IF YOUR POWER IS OUT

ANA.

I GOT A CANDLE!

AMAZING VOICE.

SCRAPE YOUR KNEE?

ANA.

THERE'S A SOLUTION!

AMAZING VOICE.

IF YOUR DOUBLE-DUTCH ROPES GET STOLEN AGAIN

ANA & AMAZING VOICE.

WE'LL START A REVOLUTION!

ALL.

BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO GRRRL!

AMAZING VOICE.

YOU'RE GONNA

ANA.

I'M GONNA

ALL (*except ANA and AMAZING VOICE*).

SHE'S GONNA

ANA.

I'M GONNA

AMAZING VOICE & ANA.

CHANGE THE WORLD!

ALL.

BARRIO GRRRL!

AMAZING VOICE. Last week on *Barrio Grrrl* ...

(A PROFESSOR enters and sits beside ANA. He looks at a file.)

PROFESSOR. Your application is quite unusual.

ANA. So is my life.

PROFESSOR (*looking through a folder*). Nine years old. Puerto Rican descent. Just completed third grade at Roberto Clemente Elementary. Says you want to skip middle school, high school, go straight to college. (*Puts down the folder.*) So then. Why here?

ANA. In order to save the barrio, I need a top degree. People have to take me seriously.

PROFESSOR.

IF YOUR POWER IS OUT

ANA.

I GOT A CANDLE!

PROFESSOR.

SCRAPE YOUR KNEE?

ANA.

THERE'S A SOLUTION!

PROFESSOR.

IF YOUR SIDEWALK CHALK WAS ERASED IN THE RAIN

ANA & AMAZING VOICE. ALL.

WE'LL START A REVOLUTION!

WE'LL START A REVOLUTION!

AMAZING VOICE.

WE'LL START A REVOLUTION!

A REVOLUTION!

PROFESSOR (*puts out his hand for a shake*).

WELCOME TO HARVARD.

(PROFESSOR Exits.)

ALL.

WELCOME TO HARVARD!

BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO GRRRL!

ANA.

WITH A CLICK OF MY KNOCKOFF KICKS

I CAN TELEPORT AND WALK THROUGH SOLID THINGS.

ODETTE.

WHAT WAS THAT IN THE SKY?

OSCAR.

A HUGE PIGEON FLEW BY.

ANA.

IT WAS ME WITH MY BARRIO WINGS!

ALL (*except ANA*).

WHOA!

ANA.

AND IF I WAVE MY CELLULAR WAND
I CAN SHIFT MY SHAPE, WITH A

AMAZING VOICE.

WHOOSH!

ANA.

AND A

AMAZING VOICE.

POW!

ODETTE.

WHERE DID ANA GO?

OSCAR.

SHE WAS HERE

SANDIP.

I DUNNO

ANA.

IF THEY COULD ONLY SEE ME NOW!

KIDS.

IF THE GARBAGE TRUCK IS STUCK IN A POTHOLE

ANA.

I'LL LIFT IT UP AND RESCUE THE CREW.

ODETTE.

THE PHILLIES CAN'T PLAY!

SANDIP & OSCAR.

RAIN DELAY!?

ANA.

I'LL CHANGE THE WEATHER, TOO.

KIDS.

SHE'LL CHANGE THE WEATHER,
LOOK NOW THE SKIES ARE
BLUE!

AMAZING VOICE.

SHE'LL CHANGE THE WEATHER,
TOO

ALL.

BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO BARRIO GRRRL!

ANA & AMAZING VOICE.

WHAM BAM POW WOO!

AMAZING VOICE.

YOU'RE GONNA

ANA.

I'M GONNA

ALL (*except ANA and AMAZING VOICE*).

SHE'S GONNA

ANA.

I'M GONNA

ALL.

CHANGE THE WORLD!

BARRIO GRRRL!

(#1B. “Barrio Grrrl Playoff”)

(CD track #2: 01B-Barrio Grrrl Playoff.

ABUELO enters from their house, and AMAZING VOICE hides. ANA snaps back into her reality.)

ABUELO. Ana, stop daydreaming. You know the rules.

ANA. Inside and doors locked by eight.

ABUELO. What else?

ANA. Don't leave Waterloo Street?

ABUELO. Ana.

ANA. Don't leave the stoop.

ABUELO. Off to Pork Chop Palace. My shift ends at nine.

ANA. Abuelo, can I have a dollar?

ABUELO. What did I say when you asked me yesterday?

ANA. “Stop asking for a dollar.”

ABUELO. Stay by the phone. Your mother's going to call.

ANA. That's tomorrow. She's calling tomorrow for my birthday.

ABUELO. *Se me olvidó.* We'll do your birthday this week-end. I'm working a double shift tomorrow. *(He goes to exit, comes back and hands her a dollar.)* Don't spend it all in one place, OK? *(Exits.)*

AMAZING VOICE *(singing)*. You got a dollar! You got a dollar!

ANA. Corner store here I come!

AMAZING VOICE. Wait your grandpa said—

AMAZING VOICE & ANA. “Don't leave the stoop.”

ANA. I've got dough. And no place to roll it.

(#2. "Summer in the Barrio Part 1")

(CD track #3: 02-Summer in the Barrio.

SANDIP appears at his window.)

SANDIP. Hey Ana, can I come watch *Robot Wars*?

ANA. New family budget. No more cable TV.

SANDIP. Oh, man. Bet you I can eat 64 crayons in a minute.

ANA. Sandip, I don't have crayons.

SANDIP. Me neither. I ate them.

(OSCAR appears at his window.)

OSCAR. Big brothers stink.

ANA. What happened, Oscar?

OSCAR. They're all, "we're best buddies," and then they get a girlfriend, and you're yesterday's news.

ANA. There's gotta be something cool to do today.

(A blues riff starts.)

ANA *(cont'd)*.

IF MY MOM WAS HERE WITH ME, SHE'D TAKE ME
TO THE JERSEY SHORE.

ALL *(except ANA)*.

MMM MM. MMM MM.

SANDIP.

SOMEWHERE THERE'S SOMEONE WITH A LEGO SET
THAT I CAN'T AFFORD.

ALL (*except SANDIP*).

MMM MM. MMM MM.

SANDIP, ANA & OSCAR.

SUMMER IN THE BARRIO.

WE'RE BORED.

ALL (*except SANDIP, ANA and OSCAR*).

MMM MM. MMM MM.

ANA.

IF MY MOM WAS HERE WITH ME, SHE'D TAKE ME
TO THE PHILLY ZOO.

ALL (*except ANA*).

MMM MM. MMM MM.

OSCAR.

THEY SAY VACATION IS AWESOME. KID, IT JUST
ISN'T TRUE.

ALL (*except OSCAR*).

MMM MM. MMM MM.

SANDIP, OSCAR & ANA.

SUMMER IN THE BARRIO.

OSCAR.

I'M BORED.

SANDIP & ANA.

WE'RE BORED.

(ODETTE appears at her window.)

ODETTE.

ME, TOO.

ALL (*except ODETTE*).

MMM MM. MMM MM.

SANDIP.

SOMEWHERE THERE'S A KID ON A COOL WATER
SLIDE!

ANA.

THERE'S A KID AT SIX FLAGS ON A LOOP-D-LOOP
RIDE!

ODETTE.

A KID AT SUMMER CAMP, CANOEING BY THE TREES

OSCAR.

THEY SAY WE GOT IT EASY, BUT IT'S ALL CONSPIR-
ACIES!

ANA.

BUT MY MOM AIN'T HERE WITH ME, SO I SPEND MY
DAY IGNORED.

ALL (*except ANA*).

MMM MM. MMM MM.

OSCAR.

I'M AT THE GAME OF LIFE, BUT I STILL HAVEN'T
SCORED.

ALL (*except OSCAR*).

MMM MM. MMM MM.

KIDS.

SUMMER IN THE BARRIO.
WE'RE BORED.

ADULTS.

MMM MM. MMM MM.

ALL.

MMM MM. MMM MM.