

# ATLANTIC FOR KIDS

Neil Pepe Artistic Director Jeffery Lawson Managing Director Mary McCann School Executive Director

presents

## SHE PERSISTED, THE MUSICAL

Script & Lyrics by Adam Tobin

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

Adapted from the Book Written  
by Chelsea Clinton &

Illustrated by Alexandra Boiger

Published by Philomel Books

Music Supervision by Macy Schmidt

Directed & Choreographed

by MK Lawson

*Ruby Bridges/Bailey*  
**Auberth Bercy**

*Sonia Sotomayor/  
Juno*

**Jianzi Colón-Soto**

*Dr. Virginia Apgar/  
Sally Ride*

**Amanda Corday**

*Naomi*

**Amber Jaunai**

*Harriet Tubman/  
Florence Griffith  
Joyner*

**Cynthia Nesbit**

*Ms. Chan/Time*

**Heather Sawyer**

production design &  
illustrations

**Edward T. Morris**

costume designer

**Rose Bisogno**

sound designer & mixing

**Cameron Hoffman**

video editing

**Janna Emig**

video & effects  
consultation

**Liminal Entertainment  
Technologies**

production stage  
manager

**Louis Markowitz**

atlantic for kids  
artistic director

**Alison Beatty**

This play was commissioned and first produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre during the 2018/2019 Season.

*She Persisted, The Musical* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

*She Persisted, The Musical* will run for approximately 60 minutes with no intermission.

**AUBERTH BERCY** (*Ruby Bridges/Bailey*) is a graduate from New World School of the Arts College in Miami, FL. She is an actress who has been seen Off-Broadway at The 24 Hour Theatre Festival and The Broadway Bound Theatre Festival. Aubert is also a current member of The Flea Theater's Resident Acting Company The Bats. Also a stand up comedian in New York, you may have seen her at YAAAS Comedy Festival and will take part in the 2020 Black Women in Comedy Festival, but more than anything she's very excited to be a part of bringing *She Persisted, The Musical* to life!

**JIANZI COLÓN-SOTO** (*Sonia Sotomayor/Juno*) is a graduate of the Molloy College CAP21 BFA Program. Recent credits: *She Persisted* (Atlantic Theatre Co.), *The Giant Hoax* (Theatre Row), *The Waitress and the Robber* (Seoul, S. Korea) *Lady Capulet* (Barefoot Shakespeare Co.), *West Side Story* (The Madison Theatre), *Troilus and Cressida* (Under St. Marks Theatre), *The Wrong Box* (Theatre for the New City), *Lysistrata Jones* (Ophelia Theatre Group). [www.jianzicolonsoto.com](http://www.jianzicolonsoto.com) | [@jancoso](mailto:@jancoso)

**AMANDA CORDAY** (*Dr. Virginia Apgar/Sally Ride*) is thrilled to be a part of *She Persisted, The Musical!* She previously appeared as Aunt Sponge in the Atlantic for Kids production of Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*, as well as on Maude Night at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater (UCB) with her sketch comedy team House Of Birds. You can find her original characters and impressions on YouTube, or see her in the Amazon TV mini-series "Ladies of the Lake." Amanda enjoys fostering kittens in her spare time! Instagram: [@amandacorday](mailto:@amandacorday).

**AMBER JAUNAI** (*Naomi*) is a NY-based actor, deviser, and combatant. Credits include: *Just Like Viola* (New York Theater Workshop); *Really Really Gorgeous* (The Tank); *Sincerity Forever, Not My Monster!*, and *How Color Brave...?* (The Flea); *Lava* (Exponential Festival); *Kaspar* (International Festival-Sibiu); *Polaroid Stories, An Octoroon, Hair, and Middletown* (Pace University). TV: "New Amsterdam," "Bull," "Law and Order: SVU," "In Pursuit." Film: *Coward, Also With You, The Girl in the Camera, Fuse and Match*. She has also developed work with Page 73 and Playhouse Creatures. BFA Acting, Pace University '17. [@amberjaunai](mailto:@amberjaunai)

**CYNTHIA NESBIT** (*Harriet Tubman/Florence Griffith Joyner*) is immensely proud to be a part of the cast of *She Persisted, The Musical* and to take the stage in her first production with Atlantic Theater Company! She was last seen touring China as Zuma/Mayor Goodway in Nickelodeon's *Paw Patrol Live! Race to the Rescue*. Other Off-Broadway credits include: *Interstellar Cinderella* (Fairly God Bot); *A Band of Angels* (Ella), a production

which won the Off Broadway Alliance Award for Best Family Show! She also played Pippa in the premiere production of *Twinkle Tames a Dragon* and Emma in *Please Bring Balloons*. Cynthia hails from Cincinnati, OH and moved to New York City after receiving her B.F.A. in Musical Theater from Ball State University. Instagram: [@CynthiaNesbit](mailto:@CynthiaNesbit)

**HEATHER SAWYER** (*Ms. Chan/Time*) is a Swasian from Dallas, Texas and a graduate of the Molloy College CAP21 BFA Program for Musical Theatre. Heather has appeared as James in *James and the Giant Peach*, Scottie in *The Big One Oh!* and Tatted Man in *Last Stop on Market Street*, all with Atlantic for Kids. She appeared Off-Broadway as Angel in *Revelation the Musical*. In 2018, Heather was in the New York Musical Festival song cycle, *Breaking Ground*. Her favorite roles include: MJ Clarke in *Camp Eaglewood* (dir. Marshall Paillet), Tweedle Dee in *Lost in Wonderland* (dir. Baayork Lee), and the Wolf in *Into the Woods* (dir. Travis Greisler). Not only is she an avid lover of stories, Heather also loves thunderstorms, snow globes, overalls, and pupper-ronis. BLM. Insist. Resist. Persist. [@heathersawyer14](mailto:@heathersawyer14) [theadventuresofheathersawyer.com](http://theadventuresofheathersawyer.com)

**ADAM TOBIN** (*Script & Lyrics*) is the writer and lyricist of *She Persisted, The Musical*, adapted from Chelsea Clinton's children's book for Bay Area Children's Theatre. A Senior Lecturer teaching screenwriting and television at Stanford University, Tobin created the television series "About a Girl" and "Best Friend's Date" for Viacom's The-N network (now TeenNick), won an Emmy for writing on Discovery Channel's "Cash Cab," and worked in script development for Jim Henson Pictures and The National Basketball Association. He has taught story seminars to DreamWorks Animation, Aardman Animation, and Blue Sky Studios. Tobin also performed with Los Angeles Theatresports and the comedy group The But Freakies, and was a founding member of the Stanford Improvisors. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Stanford in English and an MFA from USC School of Cinematic Arts in Screenwriting.

**DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA** (*Music*). A composer, music director and orchestrator, Deborah Wicks La Puma is one of the most produced Theater for Young Audiences artists working today. With bestselling children's author Mo Willems she has created *Elephant and Piggie's: We Are in a Play* (The Kennedy Center), and *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* (Seattle Children's Theatre). Her many and diverse works with playwright Karen Zacarias include *Ella Enchanted* (based on the book by Gail Carson Levine), *Olivério: A Brazilian Twist* (The Kennedy Center), *Frida Libre* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Looking for Roberto Clemente* (Imagination Stage) and *Einstein Is a Dummy* (The Alliance Theatre). With playwright Doug

Cooney, La Puma created *Nobody's Perfect* (based on the book by Marlee Matlin), a bilingual musical in English and American Sign Language, commissioned by Very Special Arts and the Kennedy Center. Recent 2019 premieres include *She Persisted, The Musical* (based on the book by Chelsea Clinton) with Adam Tobin at Bay Area Children's Theatre, and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus: The Musical* with Mo Willems at the Kennedy Center. Her adult works include the lyric opera *Dakota Sky* and the Mexican folk musical *Perdita* (based on Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*) with Kathleen Cahill; and Cornerstone Theater Company's *Making Paradise: The West Hollywood Musical*. She received her MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, her Bachelor's degree from Stanford University, and she studied folk music with ethnomusicologist Alfredo López Mondragón. Her honors include the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, an NEA New American Works Grant, two Parents' Choice Awards, and a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Adaptation. A proud Mexican-American and "Navy brat" who grew up in Brazil, Portugal and California, La Puma is a member of TYA USA/ASSITEJ, 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.

**CHELSEA CLINTON** (*Author*). As vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, Chelsea Clinton works alongside the Foundation's leadership and partners to help create economic opportunity, improve public health, and inspire civic engagement and service across the United States and around the world. In particular, Chelsea focuses on promoting early brain and language development through the Too Small to Fail initiative, and uplifting/empowering female entrepreneurs and women-led businesses around the world through initiatives like the Caribbean-focused Women in Renewable Energy (WIRE) Network. She also serves on the boards of the Clinton Health Access Initiative and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. In addition to her Foundation work, Chelsea also teaches at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and has written several books for young readers, including *The New York Times* bestsellers *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World* and *She Persisted Around the World*, as well as *Start Now! You Can Make a Difference*; *Don't Let Them Disappear*; and *It's Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired & Get Going*. She is also the co-author of *The Book of Gutsy Women* and *Grandma's Gardens* with her mom Hillary Clinton and of *Governing Global Health: Who Runs the World and Why?* with Devi Sridhar. Chelsea holds a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford, a Master of Public Health from Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, and both a Master of Philosophy and a Doctorate in international relations from Oxford University. She lives with her husband Marc, their children Charlotte, Aidan and Jasper, and dog Soren in New York City.

**ALEXANDRA BOIGER** (*Illustrator*) grew up in Munich, Germany as the youngest of seven children. She studied Graphic Design at the Fachhochschule Augsburg before working in Feature Animation at

Warner Brothers and DreamWorks. After working in animation, Alexandra decided to pursue a lifelong dream of becoming a children's book illustrator. She has illustrated many picture books, including *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World*. *Max and Marla* was her debut as both author and illustrator. Alexandra now lives in Northern California with her husband and daughter.

**MK LAWSON** (*Director, Choreographer*) is always grateful to be back working for Atlantic, having directed the world premiere of *The Big One-Oh!* earlier this season. MK has choreographed 5 other projects for Atlantic for Kids, and directed last season's *Road Dahl's James and the Giant Peach*. As choreographer: award-winning productions for Florida Rep, White Plains Performing Arts Center, Ocean State Theatre Company, and Sharon Playhouse; numerous productions and events for NYU. As director/choreographer: *Brigadoon* and *The Secret Garden* (NYU); upcoming immersive revival of *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Out of the Box Theatrics); new musicals for the Fringe Festival, NY Children's Theater Festival, and Musical Theatre Factory. As Associate Director/Choreographer: *Rock of Ages* (New World Stages), world premieres of *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion* (5th Avenue), *The Gentle Whisper of Trees* (Westport Country Playhouse), *Atlantis: a new musical* (Virginia Rep), the new Duncan Sheik musical *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice*. If you want to know more, check out [mklawson.com](http://mklawson.com)!

**MACY SCHMIDT** (*Music Supervisor*) is an NYC-based Music Director, Orchestrator, and Copyist. Most recently, she worked on the Broadway production of *TINA: The Tina Turner Musical*. She spends much of her time on projects collaborating with contemporary musical theater artists on musicals in development. Macy has taken her work across the globe as well, and recently returned from Asia, where she Music Directed for Shanghai Starz, an international musical theater camp in Shanghai, China, and India, where she worked on the music team for the London-bound stage adaptation of *Monsoon Wedding*. Macy also serves as a faculty pianist at the Manhattan School of Music and Cap 21 Conservatory, and teaches Music Theory at Pace University. She is a passionate advocate for women in music. [macyschmidtmusic.com](http://macyschmidtmusic.com)

**EDWARD T. MORRIS** (*Production Design & Illustrations*) is a NYC-based set and projections designer. *She Persisted* is Edward's fifth production with Atlantic for Kids. Edward has designed for Roundabout Underground, The Barrow Group, Cherry Lane Theater, Goodspeed Opera House, LaMama ETC, The Magic Theatre, Martha Graham Dance Company, San Francisco Playhouse, Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center, Weston Playhouse, Westport Country Playhouse, Yale Repertory Theatre, and the comedian Colin Quinn. BFA, University of Michigan; MFA, Yale School of Drama. Lecturer: New School for Drama. Member: United Scenic Artists Local #829 and Wingspace Theatrical Design. Co-Author: [www.sustainableproductiontoolkit.com](http://www.sustainableproductiontoolkit.com) Portfolio: [www.edwardtmorris.com](http://www.edwardtmorris.com).

**ROSE BISOGNO** (*Costume Designer*). Previous Atlantic for Kids design credits include: *Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach* and *The Big One-Oh!*. Other credits include: *Brigadoon* (NYU), *The Secret Garden* (NYU), *Big Bend in the Red Dirt Desert* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Pins and Needles* (NYU) and *The Meanest Birthday Girl* (Musical Theatre Factory). Congratulations to the entire *She Persisted* team!  
rosebisogno.com

**CAMERON HOFFMAN** (*Sound Design & Mixing*) is a NYC based Sound Designer/Engineer and Video Programmer. He is a constant collaborator with Five Ohm Productions and a California State University Graduate. Recent credits include: Sound Programmer: *The Lehman Trilogy*, Broadway; Video Programmer: *Untitled Dance Party Show Thing*, Virgin Voyages; Sound Designer: *The Big One-Oh!*, Atlantic For Kids, and Audio Head: *Octet*, Signature Theatre Company.

**LOUIS MARKOWITZ** (*Production Stage Manager*) is overjoyed to be returning to Atlantic for Kids and to *She Persisted*, *The Musical* in this new format. Other Atlantic for Kids: *The Big One-Oh!* Other NYC credits include *Tin Woman* (Reading), *Ellen West* (Prototype Festival), *The Dead 1904* (Irish Rep), *Consent* (NYU Grad Acting, US premiere), amongst others. Louis has also worked at the Glimmerglass Festival as an ASM. Much love to his Atlantic Theater family, his parents, and the incredible *She Persisted*, *The Musical* team.

**JANNA EMIG** (*Video Editing*) is an Atlantic alum and editor based in Brooklyn, NY.

**LIMINAL ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGIES** (*Video & Effects Consultation*). Bringing together a team with experience in film, theater, and broadcast, Liminal Entertainment Technologies develops innovative software and systems for numerous entertainment industries. Rising to meet the needs created by the current pandemic, Liminal created the acclaimed utility, ZoomOSC, and has established itself as a premiere name in virtual theater. Currently specializing in decentralized performance, virtual events, and live streaming, Liminal prepares to release its StreamWeaver software ecosystem, which will open up new horizons for both virtual and in-person events and performance. The Liminal Team is grounded in the motto "Adapt to the Present, Build for the Future" as it strives to pioneer the future of entertainment.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Chelsea Clinton, Alexandra Boiger, Nina Meehan, Khalia Davis, John Prignano, Bari Lurie, Joy Secuban.

## ATLANTIC THEATER COMPANY & ATLANTIC ACTING SCHOOL

(Artistic Director Neil Pepe; Managing Director Jeffery Lawson; School Executive Director, Mary McCann). Formed in 1985 by David Mamet and William H. Macy, Atlantic Theater Company is an award-winning Off-Broadway theater dedicated to producing great plays simply and truthfully while utilizing an artistic ensemble. At Atlantic, we believe that the story of a play and the intent of its playwright are at the core of the creative process. Each season, we aim to produce plays and musicals that are vital and thought-provoking – from premieres by emerging and established writers to classics that speak to modern audiences. Since its inception, Atlantic has produced more than 200 plays and garnered numerous awards including 22 Tony Awards, 25 Obie Awards, 21 Lucille Lortel Awards, 11 Drama Desk Awards, 8 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 5 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 4 Theater World Awards, 4 Drama League Awards, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama

Atlantic for Kids (Artistic Director, Alison Beatty) has presented fun, quality children's theater for over 20 years and presents two productions each season. These acclaimed shows are noted for their ability to touch on serious themes while entertaining kids with a blend of music, humor and spectacle. In addition to its weekend performances for families, Atlantic for Kids has welcomed thousands of NYC public school children to see weekday performances. These performances include talkbacks with cast members and discussions about the themes of the play. Previous productions have included, among others, *The Big One-Oh!*, *Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach*, *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical*, *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, *1001 Nights: A Love Story About Loving Stories*, *Ivy + Bean: The Musical* and *Camp Kappawanna*.

Alongside being an award-winning producing organization, we've also been teaching theater since our inception. Today, the Atlantic Acting School has grown into one of the most respected training institutions in New York City – offering a diverse range of programming including an accredited conservatory program, a BFA program through NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and after-school and summer programs for kids and teens. We also bring theater into the classroom through robust arts education initiatives that serve a record 4,000 public school students each year.



United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing scenic, costume, lighting, sound and projection designers in Live Performance.



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