

**PERFORMANCE GUIDE**

# **TOO MANY MANGOS**

**WRITTEN BY REIKO HO**

**MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ROSLYN CATRACCHIA**

**ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY TAMMY PAIKAI,  
ILLUSTRATED BY DON ROBINSON**



**WWW.HTYWEB.ORG**

## **ALOHA FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ERIC JOHNSON**

Aloha and welcome to 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](http://htyweb.org).



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## OUR PARTNER

Mahalo for your generous support!

**Hawai'i State Department of Health**

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

**Written and Directed by** Reiko Ho

**Music and Lyrics by** Roslyn Catracchia

Adapted from the book by Tammy Paikai, illustrated by Don Robinson

**Set and Lighting Design by**

Chesley Cannon

**Music Arrangements by**

David Kauahikaua

**Costume Design by**

Iris Kim

**Stage Manager**

Sarah Danvers

**Prop Design and  
Technical Direction by**

Eric West

**Performed by**

Jarren Amian

Serina Dunham

Kevin Molina

Kalā Muller

Emily Wright

Alexis Bugarin (Understudy)

**Additional Prop and Sound  
Design by**

Jarren Amian

**Puppet Design by**

Emily Wright

**Study Guide by**

Reiko Ho

**Wig Design by**

Aiko Schick

Friston Ho'okano



## SHOW SYNOPSIS

After picking mangos from their tree, Grandpa exclaims, “We get too many mangos for our little family!” He sends Nani and Kama on a journey down their street to share their mangos.

Their journey becomes an adventure as they meet the colorful neighbors who live on their street. They learn something from each of their neighbors and return with a wagon full of “mahalo gifts” and hearts full of aloha.

HTY’s original musical is based on the book by local, Hawaiian author Tammy Paikai, illustrated by Don Robinson.

## NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR REIKO HO



What a joy it has been to create “Too Many Mangos.” First, I adore Tammy Paikai’s beautifully illustrated storybook that shows us the power of kindness and sharing. As a grown-up reading the book, every page reminds me of my own childhood, growing up in Hawai‘i--climbing the family mango tree, playing with neighborhood friends, making chili pepper water with my grandpa.

By coincidence, my dear friend Roslyn, who composed our lovely score, grew up in the same neighborhood! Our song-writing meetings were filled with recounting memories about the neighbors. We were filled with nostalgia for that time when there were no cell phones and we would roam the neighborhood until the sun went down and it was time for dinner. I put many of those memories into the script.

Life moves fast. I hope this play feels like a warm memory and allows the young people and families watching a moment to take a breath.

## "TOO MANY MANGOS" AUTHOR TAMMY PAIKAI



Native Hawaiian author, Tammy Paikai, grew up on Oahu and enjoys the rich cultures and beauty of the islands. She and her husband reside in Waipio Gentry and have raised three wonderful children. As a child she loved writing poetry and drawing.

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Here is an excerpt from an interview she did in 2022 with Kamalani Hurley, another Native Hawaiian author:

### **Why did you become a writer? What inspired you to write for children?**

*It was a desire deep inside of me to be creative. From childhood, I drew cartoons and wrote poetry for fun. At Island Heritage I wanted to try my hand at being a writer. The Creative Director suggested that I submit a manuscript. I came up with a little poem called, Aloha Is..., and it was accepted and published in 2006. To this day, it is still one of Island Heritage's Best Sellers. This story is in rhyme and shares the many meanings of aloha. Illustrated by Rosalie Prussing, the pictures are absolutely a work of art! I wanted to write for the children of Hawaii to give them books about "us." I was very lucky to be partnered with great artists that brought my stories to life. Their talents helped me share the beauty of our people, our values, our lifestyle and our home.*

### **What do you enjoy most about writing for kids? What are some of your greatest challenges in writing for children?**

*I really enjoy when the kids connect with my stories. Like in Too Many Mangoes, perhaps they have mangoes that they have shared with their neighbors or maybe they have a hard-of-hearing grandpa too. I am in awe when someone says that my book is one of their favorites. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that would ever happen! It makes me feel so proud that I can bring joy to others in my own little way. My greatest challenge would be coming up with an idea for a story. I want all of my stories to be upbeat and positive. I want to give a good message to the children and make them smile.*

To read the complete interview:  
<https://kamalanihurley.com/interview-with-tammy-paikai/>



## DID YOU KNOW?

*Here are some fun facts about our play...*

Author Tammy Paikai named the characters in the book after members of her real family. Nani and Kama are named after one of her daughters and her son. Tammy's grandpa was the real Mr. Wong, and she remembers climbing her grandpa's mango tree just like the characters in the book.

HTY's set, costume, and prop designers used the illustrations in the book as inspiration to create the designs for the show.

Playwright and director, Reiko, and composer, Roslyn, both grew up in the same neighborhood in East O'ahu. They used their memories of their own "small kid" time to create the script and the songs.

If you grow up in Hawai'i, you know that "mango season" -when the trees are flowering- means allergy season. And every family has their own style of homemade mango picker and mango preference. There are over 60 varieties of mango grown in Hawai'i. Hayden, Pirie, and Rapoza are three of the most popular varieties grown in many backyards. Mango is not native to Hawai'i. The first mango trees came from Manila in 1824.



Bug Juice is a real thing from plantation times! Many locals still like to eat both the ripe and green mangoes with a dipping sauce concoction known as "bug juice." Although the actual recipe for bug juice varies, it basically consists of shoyu (soy sauce), vinegar, sugar and black pepper, or chili pepper water (note: no actual bugs).

### BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM



- *Too Many Mangos*  
By Tammy Paikai, illustrated by Don Robinson  
(Island Heritage Books)
- *Grandpa's Mixed Up Lu'au*  
By Tammy Paikai, illustrated by Don Robinson  
(Island Heritage Books)
- *Aloha Is...*  
By Tammy Paikai, illustrated by Rosalie Prussing
- *I am Kiki! Love Me!*  
By Tammy Paikai, illustrated by Eliza Fortney
- *Honu, Honu, Where are You?*  
By Tammy Paikai, illustrated by Yuka Green

### VIDEOS

- TOO MANY MANGOS: A STORY ABOUT SHARING by Tammy Paikai | Story Time Pals | Kids Books Read Aloud  
[https://youtu.be/\\_Pvi\\_8XqC4g?si=JmQK5ziPTu1OjNw6](https://youtu.be/_Pvi_8XqC4g?si=JmQK5ziPTu1OjNw6)
- ALOHA IS... by Tammy Paikai | Story Time with Miss Jenn  
<https://youtu.be/RqPBlQYJsA4?si=MTdtHWkW5lHXeX3r>



## POST SHOW DISCUSSION

**WHAT DO YOU THINK GRANDPA WANTED  
NANI AND KAMA TO LEARN?**

**DO YOU REMEMBER WHY EACH NEIGHBOR PICKED THEIR  
SPECIAL MANGO?**

**EACH NEIGHBOR GAVE NANI AND KAMA A "MAHALO GIFT" IN  
RETURN. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT GIFT EACH NEIGHBOR  
GAVE THEM?**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK THE THEME OR THE MAIN IDEA OF THE  
PLAY WAS?**

**TEACHER NARRATED STORY – ACTING OUT**

Our play is an example of using a book as inspiration and adapting the story to be performed by actors on stage.

- STEP 1**      **Choose a story that you enjoy and read it aloud to your class.**
- STEP 2**      **Prepare your students.**  
Assign characters to different students for them to act out or have them act out the actions of the story as a whole group or small groups. Multiple students may play a single character together, if desired, which may make it a little easier for the littlest ones.
- STEP 3**      **Prompts for Students**  
a. “I will tell the story and you will act out the action.”  
b. “If I stop, please help me speak like the character, adding what the character might say.”  
c. “How can you show what the characters are doing in the story or how they are feeling? Use your body and voice.
- STEP 4**      **Narrate the story**  
Allow the students to creatively improvise and perform the actions of the story as you narrate. Validate and note strong choices made by students as they enact the story and encourage students to add details that show the actions and reactions of their character.
- STEP 5**      **If time, go through the story again**  
Encourage more detailed exploration of the story and characters. Ask students to suggest other lines of dialogue that the characters might say.



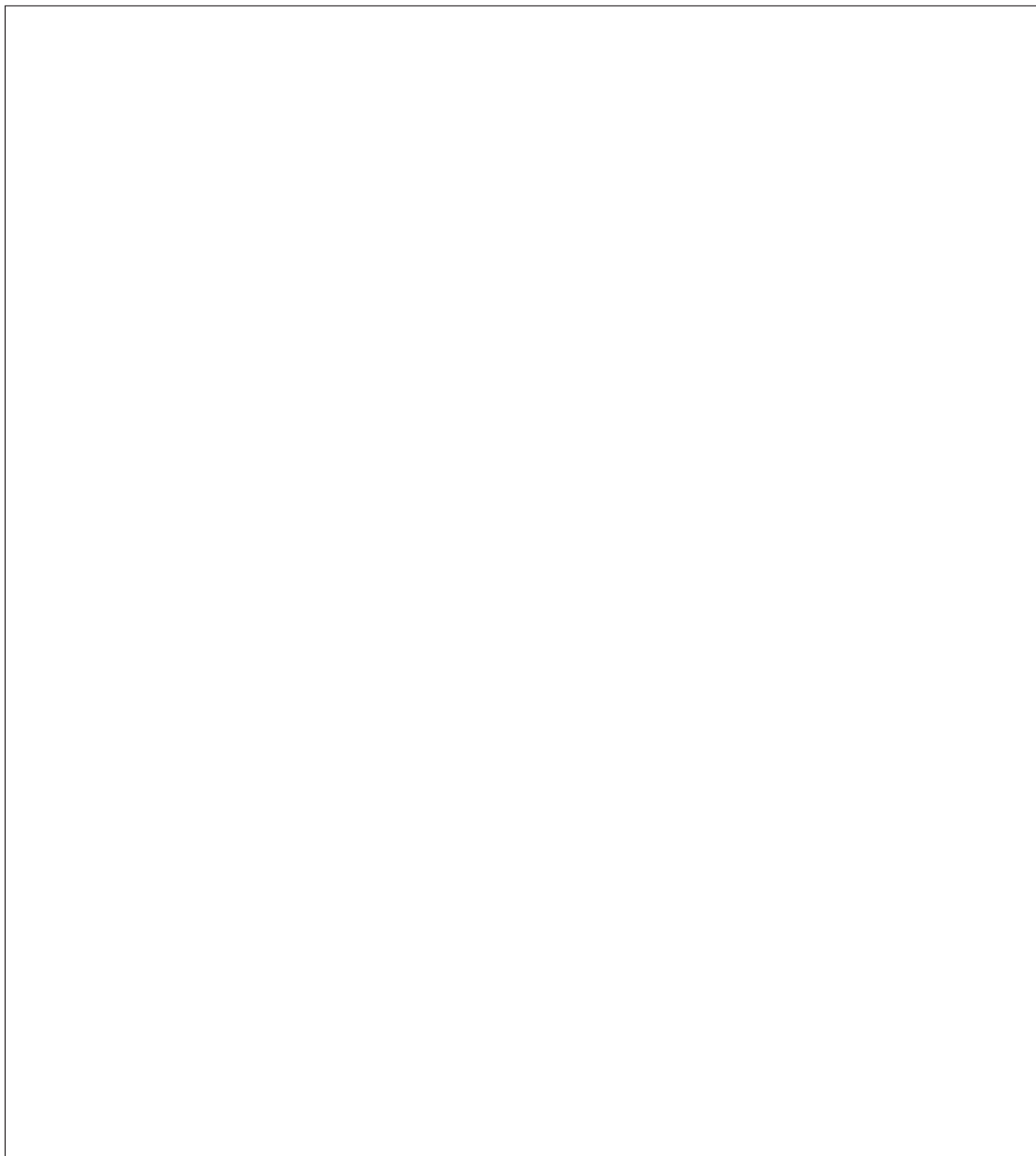
## VISUAL ARTS ACTIVITY

### DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER FROM THE PLAY

*Character* \_\_\_\_\_.

*I liked this character because* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.





## 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  
Kaonohiokalaalohilohinei Muller  
Hermenigildo Tesoro Jr.  
Eric West  
Emily Wright

**Daniel A. Kelin, II**  
Director of Drama Education

**Tamara Smith**  
Drama Ed. Administrator

**Clara Whippy**  
Teaching Artist

**Ana Narrajos**  
Teaching Artist

**Chloe Tower**  
Teaching Artist

**Jill Jackson**  
Teaching Artist