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*Dramatic Publishing*

# Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle



By José Cruz González

“*Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle’s* tale of a grandmother and granddaughter who don’t agree might be a familiar story, but it is one that touches upon many emotions and situations. With the added urgency of a pending possible foreclosure and the use of a multicultural family, it also is a story for modern times ... It seems that a friendly stray dog might be the ‘miracle’ these two strong female characters need to ... realize how lucky they are to have each other.”

—TalkinBroadway.com

# Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle

**By José Cruz González.** *Cast: 2w., 1 either gender.* Six-year-old Cory doesn’t want to live with her grumpy grandma she barely knows. Grandmother Autumn doesn’t much like the idea, either. She’s about to lose her home to foreclosure and is struggling to make ends meet. But what choice does she have? Cory’s dad has to find work, and this is the only solution for now. As Cory and Grandmother Autumn work through the adjustments of their new family structure, a stray dog appears on the doorstep. It’s love at first sight for Cory and positively the last straw for Grandmother Autumn. In a delightfully surprising story filled with humor and heart, *Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle* reminds us love makes almost anything possible, even in hard times. *Unit set. Approximate running time: 50 minutes. Code: S1Y.*

*Production: Metro Theater Company at Thornhill Library, St. Louis, featuring (l-r) Leah Stewart and Peggy Neely-Harris. Photo: Nancy Tonkins. Cover design: John Sergel.*

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# **Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle**

By

**JOSÉ CRUZ GONZÁLEZ**



**Dramatic Publishing Company**

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For Penny

*Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle* was commissioned and developed by Metro Theater Company and premiered on Sept. 27, 2011, touring to Zion Lutheran School in Belleville, Ill.

Director ..... Carol North  
Stage Manager ..... Sarah Rugo  
Costume Design ..... Lou Bird  
Sound Design ..... Rusty Wandall  
Set Design ..... Nicholas Kryah

Cast:

Nicholas Kryah ..... Dog/Miracle  
Peggy Neely-Harris ..... Grandmother Autumn  
Leah Stewart ..... Cory

The play was first developed at Metro Theater Company's New Work Incubator in December 2009 and October 2010 as part of The American Arts Experience—St. Louis. It was also workshopped at NYU's 13th Annual New Plays for Young Audiences in June 2010.

*Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle* received a second production and tour at Childsplay on March 22-30, 2014 at the Tempe Center for the Arts. The cast included Chanel Bragg, Osiris Cuen, Carlos A. Lara and Jon Gentry. Kish Finnegan, costume design; Joey Trahan, sound design; Douglas Clarke, scenic design; Joel Thompson, lighting design; D. Daniel Hollingshead, hair & makeup design. Ellen Beckett, stage manager. Dwayne Hartford, director.



Special thanks to  
Emily Kohring, Nancy Swortzell, Cecily O’Neill,  
NYU, the Metro Theater Company community and  
Our Lady of Guadalupe School in St. Louis.

# Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle

## CHARACTERS

**CORY:** a 6-year-old girl of mixed heritage, Latina/African-American. Bright, curious, wild imagination, loves to read and invent games.

**GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN:** a middle-aged African-American woman with a toothache. College educated and unemployed. On the verge of losing her home. A church lady who loves to wear her hat to church. Regal, stern, independent and set in her ways. Widowed.

**DOG/MIRACLE:** a homeless dog with an unstoppable life force. Playful, happy, loving, nurturing, loves to run, chase things, chew stuff, eat and sleep on his back.

## TIME & PLACE

2011. A neighborhood where wild dandelions grow and foreclosure signs flourish.

# Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle

*(GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN and CORY stand onstage. CORY wears a jacket, cowboy boots and a cowboy hat. She carries a backpack and holds onto a toy dog named Bandit.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(to CORY's unseen father)*.

You want to leave your daughter with me?

CORY *(to her unseen father)*. Papi, I don't want to stay with her!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. After everything we've gone through?

CORY. I don't care if she's my mommy's mommy!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. You took my Sara away and now she's gone.

CORY. Her house is scary!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Don't make any promises you can't keep.

CORY. I'll stay in the truck and I won't whine!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I don't want her.

CORY. I want you!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. What job?

CORY. Why can't I go?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I'm looking for work, too.

CORY. What city?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I burned through my savings.

CORY. Please take me with you!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I don't even have health insurance.

CORY. Please, Papi!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. You're sleeping in a truck?

CORY. I won't be a crybaby!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. What kind of father are you?

CORY. I'll be a good girl!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Fine, she can stay, but it's only temporary.

CORY. No!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. There's the front gate.

CORY. Don't go!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Go!

CORY. ¡PAPI!

*(A truck is heard driving away.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Lord, what now? *(To CORY.)* There's no need for tears. It's cold. Let's go inside.

*(CORY doesn't move.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(cont'd)*. You can't stay out here by yourself. That's my first rule. There're vicious dogs running around the neighborhood. They're wild and hungry. I'll make supper.

*(In the kitchen. They sit. GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN serves CORY a bowl of soup. CORY smells it and makes a face.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(cont'd)*. Baby, you gotta eat your soup.

CORY. I'm no baby. My name is Cory. Cory *Angelica Torres*.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Torres?

CORY. *Torres*.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. OK, Cory *Angelicaaaa Torres*! You gotta eat your soup.

CORY. No.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I made it fresh for you.

CORY. It came out of a can I saw.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. OK, you're right. You wanna grow up to be big and strong, don't you? That's why you gotta eat your chicken soup.

CORY. I don't like chicken soup. Chicken soup comes from chicken poop.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. What?

CORY. They poop in everything especially soup.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. That's nonsense.

CORY (*pointing into the bowl*). What's that?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. That's chicken meat.

CORY. Poop.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. No.

CORY. What's that?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Noodles.

CORY. Big poop.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Child, where did you learn this?

CORY. Madeleine Perry-Chang told me.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Who's she?

CORY. My study buddy.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. You believe her?

CORY. Yup, ah huh, she's the smartest kid in first grade.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Well, she's wrong.

CORY. How do you know?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. 'Cause I went to college. So who's smarter now? Eat your soup.

*(CORY refuses. She crosses her arms.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN (*cont'd*). Food costs money. I count every penny. Second rule. "What Grandma Autumn serves, you'll eat or you'll sit there all night."

*(GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN crosses her arms.)*

CORY. Poop.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Soup.

CORY. Poop.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Soup.

CORY. Poop.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. OK, time for bed!

CORY. But I'm not sleepy.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Well, I am. I'm older than you.

*(They prepare a place for CORY to sleep.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(cont'd)*. Now lie down.

CORY. My daddy reads to me before I sleep.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I can't picture that.

CORY. He's a real good reader. The best.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Fine.

*(CORY hands GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN a book.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(cont'd)*. *Forever Poppy.*  
"When—"

CORY. —Forever *Flor* Keyshawn *Isla*-Baptiste-Poppy was  
born—

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. "—her parents believed in  
honoring their ancestors—"

CORY. —by giving her a very long and complicated name.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. "So Forever *Flor* Keyshawn  
*Isla*-Baptiste-Poppy—"

CORY. —was just known as Forever Poppy.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Why am I reading to you if  
you all ready memorized the book?

CORY. 'Cause it's my favorite in the whole world.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Maybe I should read you something else.

CORY. That's all I got. *Papi* had to sell everything. All my things fit in here. *(She holds up her backpack.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Well, this is all I got: four walls, a bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

CORY. It's more than I got.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Well, then we agree on something.

CORY *(points)*. What's that?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. It's my church hat. You're not allowed to touch it. That's rule number three. Now, lie down and close your eyes.

CORY. I can't.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Why not?

CORY. The sofa bed creaks.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Well, that's 'cause it's old.

CORY. Something's outside my window.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. It's a tree's shadow caused by the moonlight.

CORY. You got monsters under here?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Monsters? There's no such thing as monsters.

CORY. Yes, there is.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Well, they don't come near this house.

CORY. Why not?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. 'Cause they're scared of me.

CORY. Why?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I deep fry them in oil and eat them with Tabasco sauce!

CORY. ¡PAPI!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. It's a joke! I'm kidding! If there were monsters, they wouldn't come to my house 'cause I eat chicken soup. That's what really keeps them away.

CORY. Can I sleep in your bed?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. You're a big girl. You've got your own space. I'll leave the light on.

CORY. Please don't close the door.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. OK. Good night.

CORY. Night.

*(GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN exits. CORY sits up. She peeks over the edge of the sofa bed.)*

CORY *(cont'd, timidly)*. Is anybody there?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(offstage)*. Go to sleep!

*(CORY throws the blanket over her. The next morning. Music. GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN enters gently brushing her teeth. She stands before an imaginary sink and mirror. CORY gets up and brushes her teeth before an imaginary sink and mirror. They go through their morning ritual unaware what the other is doing. GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN puts on her church hat. CORY puts on her cowboy hat.)*

CORY. Yeehaw, Super Cowgirl!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. You can't wear that in church.

CORY. Why not?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. 'Cause the Lord's house isn't the "Wild West."

CORY. The Lord should let cowgirls into church.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Well, you'll just have to take that up with him.



*(GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN takes the cowboy hat off CORY.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(cont'd)*. We're going to church, then the food bank, and come home.

CORY. Why do we got to go to church?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Your parents never took you to church?

CORY. Nope. We went for waffles, instead!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Oh, Lord!

*(A church bell is heard. GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN carries an umbrella.)*

CORY. Is it gonna rain?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. No. It's to protect us from those wild dogs.

CORY. Why are they wild?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. 'Cause the neighbors left them behind when they moved out.

CORY. There's nobody to love them?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. There's nothing to love about them. They're nasty and they'll bite your head off. Now stay close. *(A car passes by, sending out a friendly honk.)* Good morning, Mr. Johnson!

CORY. Look at all those pretty flowers!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. They're dandelions, unwanted weeds.

CORY. Can I pick some?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. No, you can't.

CORY. But there's so many of them.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. You see all them for sale signs? Most of my neighbors moved out 'cause they've been robbed of their homes.

CORY. How'd their homes get robbed?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. By those no-good-for-nothing thieves in fancy suits and ties wearing expensive shoes and cologne on Wall Street. They're the ones that caused this mess. You borrow money from them and they'll choke the life out of you.

CORY. Their mommies or daddies should talk to them about being bad.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Take their privileges away!

CORY. Put them in time out!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Put them in jail!

CORY. No TV!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. No parole!

*(DOG enters. He carries an old belt with a shiny buckle in his mouth. He looks lost.)*

CORY. Look, it's a doggy!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Don't go near him.

CORY. He looks friendly.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. He might bite you.

CORY. He's got a belt in his mouth.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. That's 'cause he's crazy. Shoo!

CORY. Poor doggy.

*(CORY crosses to DOG. He drops the belt in front of her. He looks at her, then the belt, back to her, then the belt. He nudges her. She picks it up and pets him.)*

CORY *(cont'd)*. Can we keep him?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. What? No!

CORY. I promise I'll feed him!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I can't afford to raise you and a dog!

CORY. I'll play with him everyday!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. He's dirty and carries diseases!

CORY. Please!

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. I said, "No!" *(To DOG.) GO AWAY! (Lifting her umbrella as if to strike him. He yelps and runs away. To CORY.)* Hurry now! Let's go before he follows us!

*(Church music.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(cont'd, to the unseen church ladies)*. Good morning, Sister Edwina! What a beautiful new hat you have. My, they charged you that much? Sister Hattie, so very nice to see you! What an elegant hat you're wearing! Oh, it's from Atlanta? Sister Esther, I love the plumage! You look like a peacock! Praise the Lord.

CORY. Their hats are bigger than yours.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(to CORY)*. Shhh! *(To the unseen church ladies.)* Who's this? It's my granddaughter Cory. Say hello to the nice ladies, Cory.

CORY. Hello.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. They don't get to visit me much. I always have to go to them.

CORY. Huh?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Close your mouth, dear. It's not polite. *(To the unseen church ladies.)* Kids, today! *(Music is heard.)* Ladies. *(To CORY.)* Sit down.

CORY. You lied.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. No, I didn't.

CORY. Broke the truth.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. No, I bent it a little that's all.

CORY. I don't remember you ever coming to visit us.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. That's 'cause you were a baby in diapers. All you could do is eat and sleep.

CORY. Can we go now?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. No, service just started.

CORY. But I can't see anything.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. Don't embarrass me in front of these ladies.

CORY. Can I have some gum?

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. No!

*(Church music begins. GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN stands and pulls CORY up, too. DOG walks in carrying a large feather in his mouth. He crosses to CORY dropping it in front of her.)*

CORY. Hey, is this for me? How did you find me? Have you come to pray? Don't let Grandma see you!

*(CORY pets him. DOG stands behind GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN and CORY. A woman's voice is heard screaming, "Lord, almighty!")*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(to DOG)*. You! *(To congregation.)* He's not my dog! I've never seen him before!

*(DOG yelps and runs off. Chaos ensues in church.)*

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN *(taking CORY by the hand)*.  
Let's go!

*(At the church food bank.)*

CORY. I'm hungry.

GRANDMOTHER AUTUMN. So am I.

CORY. We've been waiting in line forever.