

Polly in the Colony

A TRUE REVOLUTIONARY TALE ♦ ONE ACT · SIXTY MINUTES ♦ TEN SCENES

THE PREMIERE · A NEW CHILDREN'S PLAY

Some stories refuse to stay behind glass.

Polly in the Colony is a new children's play — one act, sixty minutes, ten scenes that carry an audience from a quiet London shop to the night the harbor turned to tea, and on to the morning Boston was free. It is narrated, naturally, by the doll who watched it happen.

A remarkable, funny, and mostly true account of a fashion doll who crossed the ocean on one of the Boston Tea Party ships and found herself swept up in the American Revolution — Polly's journey turns a vain little doll into a true American colonist, and teaches kids and grown-ups alike about courage, family, and how one small voice can change the course of history.

Adapted from the book by Richard C. Wiggin · Written & produced by Rob Brisk · Creative Director Kim Lajoie



Premiere poster · A True Revolutionary Tale. Boston, August 2026.

PREMIERE

August 8–9, 2026
Two performances

VENUE

Boston College High
Dorchester, MA

TICKETS

\$15 adults / \$10 kids
Teachers free

FOR AGES

Children & up
Enjoyed by all ages

A vain little doll meets a revolution.

Nº 02 · THE STORY

When a beautiful English doll named *Polly Sumner* lands in Boston on a ship loaded with tea, she discovers a city simmering with discontent over the King's taxes. One night she has a front-row seat as colonists — disguised as Mohawk Indians — march to the docks and dump the tea into the harbor. Trouble, it seems, is brewing.

Soon war breaks out, and Polly struggles to understand why, and what it will mean for her. As she watches fierce battles unfold, she learns the meaning of liberty and patriotism. Swept up in events that change the course of history, she becomes a part of that history herself.

The show follows Polly's transformation from a vain fashion doll into a true American colonist, and along the way it vibrantly teaches adults and children alike about patriotism, family, courage — and how one person can change the course of history with intention, grit, and using your voice for the benefit of all.

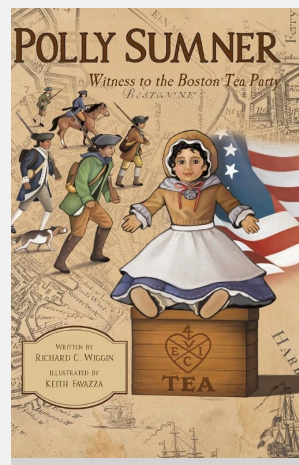
Written to be enjoyed by children, older children, and adults, *Polly in the Colony* will be seen by Boston schoolchildren as part of their American history curriculum beginning in November.

It's the story of an immigrant coming to terms with new beginnings, new awarenesses, new experiences — that every one of us who has ever had to start over can relate to. It's the story of realizing that we are more than we think.

KIM LAJOIE · CREATIVE DIRECTOR

BASED ON A TRUE DOLL — AND A TRUE BOOK

Adapted from ***Polly Sumner: Witness to the Boston Tea Party*** by Richard C. Wiggin (2023). Polly — the actual doll on which the story is based — has survived all 250 years of American history and lives today at Revolutionary Spaces in Boston.



Polly Sumner: Witness to the Boston Tea Party · Richard C. Wiggin

Book Awards at IPNE
BRONZE WINNER



At a glance.

TITLE	Polly in the Colony	SOURCE	<i>Polly Sumner: Witness to the Boston Tea Party</i> By Richard C. Wiggin, 2023
TAGLINE	<i>A True Revolutionary Tale</i>	WRITTEN BY	Rob Brisk
GENRE	Children's play · historical adventure Written for children, older children & adults	CREATIVE DIR.	Kim Lajoie
FORM	One act · sixty minutes · ten scenes	PRODUCED BY	Rob Brisk · Friends of Polly
PREMIERE	August 8 & 9, 2026	IN PARTNERSHIP	Revolutionary Spaces, Boston Home of Polly the doll · host, Nov. 2026
VENUE	Boston College High School Dorchester, Massachusetts	CURRICULUM	Seen by Boston schoolchildren as part of American history studies from November 2026
TICKETS	\$15 adults · \$10 children Teachers admitted free	CONTACT	Friends of Polly info@friendsofpolly.com



A reproduction of the Polly Sumner doll on display at the Old South Meeting House in Boston (via WBUR).

The company.

Nº 04 · KEY FIGURES



AUTHOR OF THE BOOK

Richard C. Wiggin

A historian and former Executive Director of The Bostonian Society (now Revolutionary Spaces), and former Captain and Historian of the Lincoln Minute Men. A living historian and battlefield volunteer at Minute Man National Historical Park, Mr. Wiggin appears regularly in school classrooms and enjoys speaking before civic and historical groups. His book, *Polly Sumner: Witness to the Boston Tea Party*, is the source of the play.



CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Lajoie

An actress, director, choreographer and costumer with a career spanning more than 40 years — professional, semi-professional, summer stock, community theatre, staged readings, world premieres and children's theatre. Her roles include Miss Tweed in *Something's Afoot*, the Art Dealer in *Bakersfield Mist*, and Sonia in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. She joined *Polly* for her love of children, of American history and its role in our shared heritage, and for the chance to collaborate with Rick Wiggin and Rob Brisk.



PLAYWRIGHT & PRODUCER

Rob Brisk

A lifelong educator who has run schools in New Jersey, Oregon and Ohio, and co-founder of The Wellington Initiative, a nonprofit helping schools measure and increase how much students find their work challenging — and love it. After writing for the theater in college (around the time of the Revolution, he says), Rob came out of retirement to write *Polly*, drawn by his dedication to how children learn, his love of history, and the implacable charm of Rick Wiggin and Kim Lajoie.

A doll comes to life.

Nº 05 · THE PRODUCTION

MASS ARTS CENTER

Polly in the Colony is staged by the **Mass Arts Center**, the Mansfield, Massachusetts, arts organization brought in to carry the play from page to stage.

Executive Director **Ken Butler** is building the sets. The cast is drawn largely from the towns around Mansfield, with actors commuting in from Boston and from Rhode Island.

The same company — and the same cast — carries the show from its August premiere at Boston College High School to Old South Meeting House in November. What changes is the stage, the lighting and the tech. Not the people.

Every set piece stays onstage for the entire show — nothing is struck. Cast members not in a scene remain in view, living as people did in that period.



THE DIRECTOR

Dori Bryan-Ployer

Artistic Director, Mass Arts Center · Director, *Polly in the Colony*

Dori Bryan-Ployer has been artistic director and director of education at the Mass Arts Center, formerly MMAS, since 2015. She holds a BFA from The Boston Conservatory, an M.Ed. from Cambridge College, an MA from Emerson College and a Ph.D. in education from Lesley University. Her credits include *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *Spring Awakening*, *Godspell*, *Rent*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Producers*.

“Like they say, if these walls could talk — if this doll could talk, what would she say?”

DORI BRYAN-PLOYER · ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, MASS ARTS CENTER

IN REHEARSAL

Behind the scenes at the July 26 rehearsal at the Mass Arts Center.



Assets & contact.

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Polly — the actual doll on which the story is based — lives at **Revolutionary Spaces** in Boston, having survived all 250 years of our history. Revolutionary Spaces showcases Polly and will host performances of *Polly in the Colony* in November 2026.

PRESS & BOOKING CONTACT

Friends of Polly

EMAIL info@friendsofpolly.com

WEB friendsofpolly.com

FACEBOOK [/PollyInTheColonyPlay](https://www.facebook.com/PollyInTheColonyPlay)

INSTAGRAM [@pollysumner_boston](https://www.instagram.com/pollysumner_boston)

AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS

- › High-resolution premiere poster (print-ready, 300 dpi)
- › Cast & creative headshots — author, director, producer
- › Revolutionary Spaces and partner logos
- › Full synopsis, fact sheet and production credits
- › Interview availability with the author, director & producer
- › Educator & curriculum information for schools
- › Rehearsal and production photography (on request)

To request any of the above, or to arrange interviews and press seats for the August premiere, contact Friends of Polly at info@friendsofpolly.com.

ADDITIONAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

