

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS FOR AUDITIONS:

Nzingha (N) - 13 year-old Black girl from Oakland, CA being raised by her grandparents. She's sensitive, doesn't quite fit in, & lately keeps getting into trouble. Through the play, she goes on a wondrous and surprising journey where she gains confidence in who she is and where she comes from. Strong dancer & actor.

Young Grandpa - 13 year-old Black boy from New York City. An ambitious dreamer, he earns a train ticket to Louisiana by busking as a tap dancer. Grows up to be Nzingha's grandfather. Strong singer, actor, & tap dancer.

Young Grandma - 13 year-old Black girl from New Orleans, Louisiana. From a young age she is sought out for her powerful prayers and abilities to heal the sick, especially babies. Grows up to be Nzingha's grandmother. Strong singer & actor.

Ensemble - The ensemble helps the worlds of KOLA come to life by playing various roles including party guests, Nzingha's cousins and classmates, and community members in Oakland, New York City, and New Orleans. These actors will also sing and dance and must be strong team players.

All young artists auditioning for KOLA will participate in a group workshop where we will learn more about the play and flex our acting muscles through games and exercises.

In addition, young artists **auditioning for Nzingha** will perform a short monologue from KOLA (script in hand).

Young artists **auditioning for Young Grandpa & Young Grandma** should come prepared to sing a verse and chorus of a song, a cappella, that shows off their voice. During the audition, they will also learn and sing a short song from KOLA.