Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

This image helped me understand the appearance of the doctors involved in the "blue baby" operation. I used it to help portray the characters better in the performance.

This interview on Vivien Thomas, shows what Thomas thought about his experiences and events that happened in his life. I used it to better understand how he felt about not having recognition until almost 16 years after the initial operation.

This article on the "blue baby" operation tells readers about the operation and what happens during it. It helped me understand how much Vivien Thomas was overlooked, His name was not mentioned once in this article, while his white colleagues got all the credit. I used this information to help shape Clara Thomas part of the performance.

Schafer, Pascha. Personal interview. 6 June 2016.
This interview with Dr. Schafer, helped me understand the legacy of Vivien Thomas in the eyes of an adult cardiologist. Dr. Schafer told how the shunt that Vivien helped create is still used in today's medical field. She also told how the babies with the heart defect are living longer and longer, thanks to Vivien's work. I used her answers to help tell the impact that Vivien created.

Dr. Herman Taylor, the President of the Board of directors for American Heart Association, explained the impact Vivien Thomas had on the association. He also gave very useful resources on Vivien Thomas, Helen Taussig, and Alfred Blalock, which explained the medical terms for the "blue baby" Operation. I used this source to create the performance more accurate.

This image shows the letter that Vivien Thomas wrote to Dr. Haller. I used it to aid me in understanding the importance of the dog Anna, who was in the operation and trials to find the cure for the "blue baby" syndrome.

This interview went over how Vivien Thomas worked with other doctors like Alfred Blalock, Helen Taussig, and Joseph Beard, to become the person he was. Thomas also answered questions on the operation, his relationship with Blalock, and the lack of credit
he received from the operation's publicity. I used it to help understand Thomas's thoughts on his different experiences with his coworkers.

Time Magazine. "Babies of Blue Babies." *Time* 28 Sept. 1962: n. pag. Print. This article tells how the babies from 1945 who got the "Blalock-Taussig" operation were affected, and how their lives turned out. I used it to see that after eighteen years Vivien had still not received recognition for his work.

Time Magazine. "Blue Babies." *Time* 31 Dec. 1945: n. pag. Print. This article introduced the blue baby syndrome to the public, it told how Blalock and Taussig figured out the cure by doing years of research. I used it to see how Vivien Thomas was not credited for his work.

Time Magazine. "From Blue to Pink." *Time* 15 June 1953: n. pag. Print. This article tells the struggle that Blalock and Taussig had to go through to get to be able to do the procedure. I used it to help grip that after eight years Vivien still had gotten no recognition for his work.

Time Magazine. "Man or Dog." *Time* 20 Nov. 1950: n. pag. Print. Time Magazine provided an article on how the Blalock-Taussig operation took place, the experiments on the dogs that took several years. I used it to help further my understanding that even in 1950 after five years Vivien Thomas still has not gotten any recognition.

Weintraub, Neal. Personal interview. 16 May 2016. In this interview I asked Dr. Weintraub about the relevance of Vivien Thomas and his work in today’s medical world. Through his answers I discovered that the blue baby syndrome is still relevant and has stricken many patients and families. I used his answer, that a modified version of the shunt Vivien Thomas made is still in use, to help tell Vivien’s story and show his impact.

Secondary Sources


This article is on the history of the Johns Hopkins lab, The Hunterian, which was opened by Alfred Blalock and Vivien Thomas. I used it to understand why they opened the lab and how the lab is put to use today.


This article on Mary Joyner tells how she struggled with the "blue baby" syndrome and overcame with the help of Johns Hopkins University surgeons. I used it to get a better understanding on the personal impact that Vivien Thomas had on kids, now that the "blue babies" are now adults.


This book was mainly about a man named Dr. C. Walton Lillehe, who played a major role in pioneering open heart surgery. He interacted with a plethora of different doctors in his extraordinary life time, though on page 56 it tells how he meet Dr. Alfred Blalock. It tells about the blue baby procedure and how it compares to the other procedures that went on at that time in history. I used the information in this book, though specifically page 56, to help understand how the blue baby procedure was innovative to pediatric cardiology.


This book set a basic timeline for the events leading up to the procedure. I used the information about the characters in this book to help to develop the characters in my performance.


This documentary on Vivien Thomas and Alfred Blalock helped me understand the struggle that Thomas and Blalock had to endure to find the cure for the "blue baby" syndrome. It also showed me the thoughts of Vivien Thomas and his wife, Clara Thomas, and other people who had major roles in the "blue baby" operation, with small journal entries, clips from autobiographies, and interviews. I used it to grasp the characters feelings and emotions.


This article tells the medical aspects of the "blue baby" operation and diagnosis. I used it to get a better knowledge on the medical terms for the performance.
This online article about Dr. Helen Taussig, one of the first female pediatric Cardiologist, gave a quick explanation of the "blue baby" operation and her role in the making of it. It also shows me her background, where she was born, her education, and how she got to Johns Hopkins. I used this article to get a better understanding on Dr. Helen Taussig's role in the operation.


Something the Lord Made. Dir. Joseph Sargent. HBO, 2004. Film. This film on Vivien Thomas, Alfred Blalock, Helen Taussig, and the overall "blue baby" syndrome operation helped me by giving a basic timeline of the events that took place during the operation. It also showed me the different relationships Vivien Thomas had with Blalock and Taussig compared to other doctors in the office. I used it to gather more information on the operation.

"That First Operation." Medical Archives JHMI. Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, n.d. Web. 3 Jan. 2016. <http://www.medicalarchives.jhmi.edu/firstor.htm>. This online exhibit of the first "blue baby" operation provides pictures and gave in-depth descriptions of the first operation that took place. I used it to help me understand the science behind the operation.


"Vivien T. Thomas, L.L.D." *Medical Archives JHMI*. Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, n.d. Web. 3 Jan. 2016. <http://www.medicalarchives.jhmi.edu/vthomas.htm>. This online exhibit showed different photographs and drawings of Vivien Thomas and his colleagues. It also gave a brief explanation of his past, and how he invented many tools to help the "blue baby" Operation occur. I used this resource to get a basic overview of the Operation.