

# GERALD FIERST

259 PARK STREET, UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ, 07043

*home:* 973 746 4608 / *mobile:* 973 464 1374  
www.geraldfierst.com / gerald@geraldfierst.com

**Yale University, BA, 1968**

**Columbia University, Teachers College, Performing Artists in the Schools Certification, 1987**

## **STORYTELLER AND LECTURER**

---

Storyteller and lecturer at libraries, educational, cultural, and religious institutions in the US, UK, and Asia  
– References on request.

2008-09 Guest Artist, United States Embassy in Spain, performing for bilingual schools in Madrid and Cordoba.

2006- Featured presenter Hong Kong Literary Festival; guest lecturer Maharsarakham University, Thailand

2005 Just Stories Fellowship Recipient - Commissioned to write and perform with Arif Choudhury and Susan O'Hallaran More Alike Than Not- Islamic, Jewish, and Christian in America

2004 Kathleen Hurley Memorial Lecturer, International College of Celebrancy, Queens College, Melbourne, Australia Storytelling and Ritual

Featured Performer (selected listing): National Storytelling Festival, Jonesboro, Tennessee; Asian Congress of Storytelling, Singapore; Tanglin International School, Singapore; Hong Kong International School; Melton Library, The American School, London; Chautauqua Institution; St. Louis Storytelling Festival; Storyfest International, Kirkland, Washington; Washington Storytellers Theater, Washington, DC; Ark Theater, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Barter Theater, Abington, Virginia; Flynn Theater, Burlington, Vermont; Wild Onion Festival, Chicago, Illinois; Hudson River Festival, Poughkeepsie, New York; WNET/Student Arts Festival; International Festival of the Arts for Children, New York, New York; 92nd Street Y, Oral Traditions Series of Master Jewish Storytellers, New York, New York; Festival of Jewish Artisans, Los Angeles, California; Limmud, the Conference of European Jewish Educators, Oxford, England and Nottingham, England; CAJE; National Havurah Conference; National Hillel Conference.

Museum Appearances (selected listing): Yogi Berra Museum; Museum of American Folkart; Hudson River Museum; Philadelphia Museum of Fine Arts; Brooklyn Museum; Brooklyn Children's Museum; Children's Museum of Manhattan; Children's Museum of New Orleans; Children's Museum of Santa Fe; Montclair Art Museum; Morris Museum of Science and Technology; New York State Museum; State Museum of New Jersey; NYC Subway Museum; South Street Seaport Museum; New Mexico Museum of Natural History.

## **ORGANIZTIONAL AFFILIATIONS, 1990-2006**

---

Artistic Director, Jewish Storytelling Center, 92nd St Y, New York City  
Founder, New Jersey Storytelling Guild, Montclair, New Jersey  
Board of Directors, The Storytelling Center, Inc., New York, New York  
Co-Director, The Gathering of Mid-Atlantic Storytellers

## **RECORDINGS**

---

*Jewish Tales of Magic and Mysticism* – audio tape of literary and original stories

*Tikun Olam: Stories to Heal the World* – Parent's Choice Silver Honoree – audio tape and CD of Jewish folklore

*Monstrous Mischief* – Parent's Choice Silver Honoree – audio tape and CD of world folklore

*The American Spirit* – Tall Tales and Real History CD of American folktales and music celebrating the values of individuality and community.

Experience working in Asia through Maharsarakham University, Thailand, training teachers and teaching English to non English speakers in Thailand, Laos, and Malaysia through performance and storytelling techniques.

Corporate coaching on presentation skills for Essex County Inns of Court.

Performance and Whole Language workshops for students and teachers in hundreds of schools across US. References on request.

## **TEACHER/ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

---

University performances and residencies include: Yale, Columbia, College of William and Mary, Drury College, University of Ohio, SUNY Binghamton, Cornell, SUNY Utica, Elgin College, Smith College, Simmons College, University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, Allegheny College, Wesleyan College, Westminster College, Randolph Macon College, University of Denver, Skagit Community College.

Director of Education, Whole Theater, Montclair, NJ, 1987-90.

Writing, storytelling, creative drama specialist for New Jersey Arts Foundation; Project Impact Arts in Education Foundation; New Jersey State Council on the Arts; Playwright's Theater, Young Playwrights Program; New Jersey TeenArts; New Jersey Bell Very Special Arts Program.

Faculty member at Whole Theater, 1970-91.

Instructor Montclair State College, Arts Experience Workshop.

Instructor Farleigh Dickinson University, Television Production.

Instructor Bloomfield College, Introduction to Theater.

Recipient 1985 Fellowship in Playwriting, New Jersey State Council on the Arts

## **WRITER**

---

*The Heart of the Wedding*, Parkhurst Brothers, Inc., Our National Conversation, Little Rock, 2010.

*Musee Des Beaux Arts* – multi media performance piece, Samuel Beckett Theater, NYC, 1993.

*Dancing With Miracles* (lyrics and book) full length musical theater piece based on Yaffa Eliach's Hasidic *Tales of the Holocaust*, produced Whole Theater, 1990.

*Russian Memories* – one man show based on 19th century Russian characters. Video Production, 1985.

*American Silhouettes* – Dramatic portraits of famous Americans, toured schools and clubs.

## **ACTOR**

---

National Yakkers Theater Ensemble, currently performing *MOUTH*, an original piece based on improvisational storytelling. Founding member Whole Theater, a LORT Company in Montclair, NJ. Happy Kitchen, a cooking and exercise show. Romper Room. As the World Turns. Captain Supertooth, product representative for New Jersey Dental Health Plan. Film and television day work.