

DAVID NOVAK

"In him, The Brothers Grimm and Carl Jung meet Monty Python."

Jeannine Pasini Beekman, Houston Storytelling Festival

"He tells his stories with great physical awareness, a real sense of suspense, humor, and integrity. His range, personality, warmth, truthfulness, imagination, ability to transform, taste, all combined, make him a unique artist."

June Dunbar, Artistic Director, Lincoln Center Institute

"Novak, a gifted teller who regularly performs at festivals around the country, enhances his stories with a bag of tricks. His fluid voice can become a dozen different characters. He sometimes takes out a looped string and turns cat's cradle tangles into antlers, beards and other costumes for his protagonists."

Smithsonian magazine

"David Novak embodies the definition of the word creative. He is an entirely original storyteller whose tales are inventions of his imagination or original adaptations of classic fables or myths. A trained theatre professional, David uses his skills as an actor and director to bring his stories into the third dimension. His expertise in the art of mime and circus techniques allows him to transform everyday objects and simple props into magical uses for his storytelling. His keen artistic eye is always at work, carefully selecting the theatrical and literary elements of his program. It is this selectivity which separates the art from the craft and the primary artist from a merely interpretive one. Dave is that primary artist in the truest sense."

"Stylistically, his work is characterized by a strong and expressive physicality and a voice that is agile and clear as a bell. He possesses a combination of flexibility and control and an intuitive ability to pace himself and work with his audience."

Barbara Leonard, Artistic Director, LA Music Center On Tour

"A unique artist possessing one of the most exciting storytelling talents seen in America"

fyi. Honolulu, HI

"You have to see Novak in action to understand why he can make a living by telling stories. He might be a stonecutter one moment, an emperor or a mountain or a cloud the next. He glides from a Giant's gruff baritone to a woman's falsetto in an instant, flowing in and out of divergent characters with ease."

Register-Guard. Eugene, OR

"The session is over quickly. Too quickly for the children, who have been suspended in time, held by the voice and considerable talents of the storyteller. Practice makes perfect, they say, and judging from Mr. Novak's performance, he must have told a great many stories indeed."

Homer News. Homer, Alaska

"I found his work with the teachers to be outstanding. He was meticulous in planning teaching units with them, including step-by-step analysis of skills in storytelling. As a result, the teachers have had the confidence to continue his work without hesitation."

Principal, Hope School, Carlsbad, CA

A Telling Experience



David Novak

David Novak is a remarkable speaker with a background in theatre arts including Shakespeare, clowning, creative dramatics, playwriting, and directing.

Mr. Novak recently received the 2002 Circle of Excellence award from the National Storytelling Network, for excellence in the art of strytelling. He is a veteran of the National Storytelling Festival, cofounder of the innovative *National Yackers Theatre Ensemble*, and creator of *The Storyteller's Compass*, a new method of "narrative wayfinding." He has performed at numerous theatres and festivals including the Cincinnati Playhouse, Woodstock theatre Company, Timpanogos, Tejas Festival, Oklahoma City's Winter Tales, Hawaiian Talking Island, Northern Appalachian, and Sierra storytelling festivals. He has been keynote speaker for the American Alliance for Theatre In Education, the Mid-Atlantic Storyteller's conference, the Greater California Reading Association and numerous library and educational conferences. His aesthetic education programs have found audiences across the country from the Lincoln Center Institute to the Los Angeles Music Center On Tour.

Mr. Novak has been guest instructor for the University of San Diego, International Storytelling Institute, Oklahoma Arts Institute, John Campbell Folk School, and Walt Disney Imagineering. In 1995/96, David was Master Storyteller for the Disney Institute in Orlando, Florida.

"David Novak is the most eclectic storyteller on the scene today. Just when you think you've got him pegged, he surprises you with complete originality and insight. His retelling of Cinderella in iambic pentameter goes a long way towards 'reviving Ophelia'. His tale of Sterling, the salt shaker that falls in love with the sugar bowl, surpasses Anderson. Whatever the occasion, he always knows the right tale to tell. "To Tell," Novak says, "means To Discern. Choosing the right story at the right time for the right reason, is the real art of the storyteller." Judging from his choices, he is a true storytelling artist."

A Telling Experience combines the simple magic of theatre with the evocative movements and voices of the master storyteller. A master of literary collage, David Novak animates his programs, contrasting simplicity with complexity, the familiar with the surprising, the ordinary with the fabulous. From the simple power of the spoken word, to the circus high-jinx of a veteran entertainer, David Novak offers a unique program of stories concerning universal themes of character, courage, caring and wonder.

"The same need that brought about the search engine has brought about today's storyteller," Mr. Novak says. "The art of the storyteller is the art of the wayfinder. The teller gives us the cognitive strength and the story constellations that we need to find our way. In keeping the ancient rhythm, the storyteller is here now to help us stand once again at the center and reorient ourselves to ourselves and one another."