

Jonathan Kruk, Master Storyteller - *entertains, enchants, educates*

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Goal: To create a course showing the vital role the Hudson Valley played shaping American history and literature. Using primary sources from Colonial to Revolutionary times with literary selections from Washington Irving to James Fenimore Cooper, students will create learn to tell stories of this unique region.

Education

B.A. English, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA 1977

M.A. Educational Theater, English Teacher's Certification, New York University, NYC 1982

Select Storytelling Experiences

Solo Shows - 2010 to present "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "A Christmas Carol," at the Old Dutch Church, Sleepy Hollow, NY, Salem, MA, Detroit, MI, Bridgeport, CT, Glens Falls, NY

Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum - Storyteller-in-Residence, 2014 to present

Creates "tours in tales" for families inspired by the art of useful objects in the collection.

Teaching Artist, Early Stages, Inc. New York City, 2000-2013

Created, developed and conducted with Jackie Pine a fourth grade social studies residency on Colonial and Revolutionary New York to meet core curricular goals through storytelling.

Professional Educational Storyteller, 1989 to Present

Enchants children into listening, learning, and imagining through interactive and theatrical storytelling. Developed curricular based programs: Finger Fables, Story Theater, Hudson River Lore, Medieval Manors & Manners, Tales of the Americas, Myth, Story-Makers Workshops, Shakespeare is Elementary.

Master Storyteller - Historic Hudson Valley, Sleepy Hollow, NY 1989 to Present

Tailoring programs for "Sheep To Shawl," "Peter Kalm: Colonial Traveller" and more

BOCES Affirmed Artist Educator. 1986 to present

School programs accepted for partial funding through BOCES throughout NYS

Artist Educator, Westchester Arts Council – 1985 -1992

Funded to give programs in schools, libraries, mental health and senior centers. "Imagination Celebration" grant to the council by the National Endowment for the Humanities for a local history program with New Rochelle fourth graders.

Storyteller in Residence, New Interdisciplinary School 1984-1994

Engaged children with Autism, and Downs syndrome, with active listening tales.

Storyteller in Residence, Freeport Schools, Long Island – 1982-1992

Taught six first and second grade classes with weekly, interactive fables and fairy tales.

Featured Performances

+ Mercy College Sources and Stories Shaping The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

+ WAMC Radio - "Listen With The Lights On" Eerie lore of olde New-York, 2016 to present

- + The Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in New York, Flushing Meadow Park, 2016 to present
 - + United Solo Artist Festival, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" Theater Row, NYC, Nov. 2015
 - + Rockland County Teachers Assn. - "Teaching By Tales" workshops, Nyack, NY, 2015 to 2017
 - + ABC "Good Morning America" Oct. 2016
 - + CBS "Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood" Sept. 2012
 - + National Geographic Channel "Sleepy Hollow" Sept. 2000
 - + Troubadour - Huntington Renaissance Faire, Huntington Unitarian Church, NY 1987 to 2004
 - + Master of Ceremonies - "Children & Fine Art" Nassau County Museum of Art, NY 1998-2006
- "Legends and Lore of the Little People" - Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, NY
an annual tour in tales of fairy realms, elf- lairs, and troll tromping, 1981 to present.

Keynote Presentations

- + The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York, Oct. 2017
- + Greater Hudson River Heritage Network, Oct 2016
- + SLMSSNY Conference Keynote Performance April 2015
- + New England Storytellers -"Sharing the Fire" Conference 2012
- + Tribes Hill Solstice Concerts, Tarrytown, NY, 2001-2008
- + Archdiocese of New York Annual Teacher's Conferences, Somers, NY, 2004, & 2005
- + National Native Plants Gathering, Altoona, PA 2003
- + New York State Reading Council Conference, workshops & keynote, 2001, 2002 , 2007
- + Nassau BOCES "Making Connections" "On the Hudson" workshop & keynote, 1999
- + Greenburgh School District Superintendent's Conferences 1998, 1999
- + Parents as Reading Partners Conference, Albany, NY 1996
- + Westchester Early Childhood Educator's Councils 1990-96

Notable Performances

- + Solo Shows - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & A Christmas Carol 2016- 2017
- + Fraunces Tavern Museum, NYC "Ghost of the American Revolution" 2017
- + Centennial of the City of White Plains, NY Read of the Declaration of Independence, 2016
- + Hamilton Theater, Rahway, NJ - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow 2014
- + Mark Twain House, Hartford CT - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow 2011
- Quadracentennial of the Hudson River - celebrations with Rich Bala, NYC to Albany, 2009
- + Building the Dams in Story & Song, for kids from Queens & the Catskills, with Rich Bala, A Catskill Watershed Corp. Grant, 2007
- + Pete Seeger's Great Hudson River Revival Clearwater Festival 2004, 2009
- + Hamilton - Burr Duel - New-York Historical Society exhibit in song & story with Rich Bala 2003-5, "Alexander Hamilton, A Life in Story and Song, 2016 to present
- + 200th Anniversary of the Statue of the Amiable Child, Riverside Park, NYC, 1996
- + Earthday Celebrations Bear Mountain Bridge, NY, 1990, Battery Park NYC, 2000

Sample of Performance Venues

Adirondack Museum, Arkell Museum, New York State Museum, Albany Institute, Coe Hall, SUNY Potsdam, Litchfield Historical Society, Fort Crailo, Fort Stanwix, Stony Point Battlefield, Washington's Headquarters, White Plains & Newburgh, New Windsor Cantonment, Knox's Headquarters, Clermont State Historic Site, Morse Mansion, Mount Gulian, Scenic Hudson's West Point Foundry Site, Teatown Reservation, Croton Point Park, Philipse Manor Hall, Yonkers, Sagamore Hill T. Roosevelt Mansion, Van Cortlandt Manor, Thomas Paine Cottage, Valentine Varian House, Bartow Pell Mansion, Morris-Jumel Mansion, John Jay Homestead, Fraunces Tavern, Tappan 1776 House, Putnam Historical Society, Westport Fine Arts Fair, Liberty Hall Union, NJ, WCBS, WHUD, WAMC, WBLJ, History, Channel, Travel Channel, Food Network, German TV 1, Cablevision, World Cup Nursery School

Awards

2009,-2011 - Three Parents Choice Awards for spoken word recordings
2008 - Selected "Best Storyteller in the Hudson Valley" Hudson Valley Magazine
2008 National Association for Parenting Publications Honors Award, children's recording; The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
2001 CD "Revolution on the River" with Rich Bala awarded Best of the Valley by Hudson Valley Magazine
2000 Bronze Citizenship Medal, Sons of the American Revolution
1998 Citation from NYS Assembly for arts in education work at the Greenburgh Schools.
Many citations from scouting organizations

Recordings

"Santa on the Hudson" - Tales original & traditional Berger Platters, Prod. Bronxville, NY 2012
"Halloween Tales" - original spooky stories, Berger Platters, Prod. Bronxville, NY, 2011
"Rip Van Winkle" - a dramatic reading with music by Matt Noble, Berger Platters, Prod. Bronxville, NY 2010
"Once Upon the Hudson" - stories and songs of the river with Rich Bala, Berger Platters, Prod. Bronxville, NY 2009
"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" a dramatic reading with music by Matt Noble, Berger Platters, Prod. Bronxville, NY 2008
"The Rainbow Dragon" traditional and original fairy tales, with music by Matt Noble, Berger Platters, Prod. Bronxville, NY 2007
"Revolution on the River" - stories and songs of the American Revolution in New York with Rich Bala, Wizmak Prod. Dover Plains, NY 2001

Film

2018 "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" a live solo performance film, Fox & Crow Prod., Andrea Sadler producer/ director, Jim Keyes, original music
2004 "Parables of Jesus" Silver Burnett Ginn Religious CD series

Publications

"Legends & Lore of the Hudson Highlands" The History Press, Charleston, SC 2018
"Legends & Lore of Sleepy Hollow and the Hudson Valley" The History Press, 2011

Personal

Past President Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Trustee Desmond Fish Library, Philipstown Democrats Committee, Scouting, Yoga, Swimming, Hiking and Biking. Married to actress/ film maker Andrea Sadler. Father of musician Zosia Kruk.