

GINA FIELDS

Theatre Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Gina Marie Fields is a 2007 and 2008 Music Center Artist Fellow. She is an actor and a storyteller and has performed on stage and worked with children and teachers off stage for 18 years with such notable theater groups as the We Tell Stories, The Imagination Co., Great Leap, San Jose Repertory's Red Ladder Theater Group, New Conservatory Theater and the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, among others. She has taught storytelling, improvisational work, Shakespearean text, Education-in-AIDS and basic theater skills. She is also a working actor in Los Angeles, most recently seen on television in "Medium," "The Shield" and "Nip/Tuck." On stage she has performed in "Twelfth Night" at the Globe Playhouse and "Icarus and Aria" at the Sacred Fools Theater and "Insurrection: Holding History" at The Celebration Theater. She received her B.A. in psychology, with an emphasis on children's studies and dramatic arts from U.C. Berkeley. Gina is overjoyed to be taking part in the program and is excited about gaining more tools with which to inspire teacher and empower children to find and use their own voice.



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ABOUT THE COMPANY:

We Tell Stories, founded in 1980 by Carl Weintraub, is a multi-ethnic storytelling troupe with a threefold purpose: to entertain and educate children through the literature, folklore, and mythology of all times and cultures; to expose them to the processes of language and acting as art forms; and to inspire them to plumb the depths and reach the heights of their own creativity. To this end, the group diligently seeks fresh material and performs it with an extemporaneous flavor, encouraging children to participate - from their seats, in their minds, and on the stage. In this way, the children see themselves as an integral part of the process, not only witnessing, but also experiencing the stories' morals, the art and the fun. An old trunk filled with props and costumes is the solitary set, and it is the group's hope that the audiences go away saying to themselves, "I could do that!"

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

Gina Fields workshops, based on We Tell Stories principles, will focus on basic storytelling techniques and dramatic skills for performance. Students will learn a story and turn it into a play. The process increases reading comprehension, encourages literacy and inspires a joy for reading by helping students to understand story structure in a hands on, practical and fun way. Sequential workshops can incorporate one or more of the following elements: play production, improvisation, verbal and movement games, creative writing, concentration, imagination and problem-solving. All workshops impart an understanding of the concepts of group support and trust, as well as an eagerness to accept new ideas.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best?
- Continue to model the process of working with stories that was demonstrated by the artist. Encourage the students to use the techniques they learned when preparing and giving oral book reports.
- Finish the process of putting the story together if it was a one-session workshop.