

CURRICULUM VITAE — MELANIE RAY

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Born February 1947, active in the performing arts since 1965

EXPERIENCE IN BRIEF

Stage - storyteller, actor, front of house, lighting and backstage production.

Radio, recording - storyteller, narrator, actor, director, producer, editor, interviewer, researcher

Film, television - storyteller, actor, amateur for children's scriptwriting, book reviewer

Other - teacher (storytelling), board member, writer, singer, mail clerk, researcher, theatrical script analyst, artistic director (storytelling festival), co-ordinator/producer (storytelling)

CURRENT WORK

Presentations in seniors' residences as one of several tellers forming "Myths and Memories," under the auspices of the Vancouver Society of Storytelling

Featured teller at the Vancouver International Storytelling Festival 2009

School shows, including high school workshops in storytelling; teaching storytelling one on one
Stories told in museums, at house concerts, etc.

TRAINING

High School Honours; second year Simon Fraser University (theatre with John Juliani)

Professional development workshops -

Acting	Yurek Bogayawisc, Andre Gregory, Powys Thomas, Jane Heyman, Linda Putnam, Kayla Armstrong, John Juliani
Voice	Rod Menzies, Andrew Wade of the Royal Shakespeare Company (in Vancouver 1994), Linda Rammage, UBC Voice Clinic
Singing	Bonnie Ferguson, J. Douglas Dodd
Storytelling	Cdn: Bob Barton, Barb Karmazyn, Johanna Kuyvenhoven, U.S: Laura Simms, Jay O'Calahan, Doug Lippman, Mary Love May Swedish: Mats Rehnman (T.O. Storytelling Festival, 2006)
Movement	Judith Koltai (workshops, including an 8 month master class.) Santa Aloi (improvisational dance classes, ongoing)

STORYTELLING

I have been telling stories professionally since 1984, first as part of 'Wives' Tales Story Tellers' with Nan Gregory, then on my own from 1989. I have done many school and community tellings, some of which I've listed here. I tell folktales, literary, historical and personal tales. I love working with long stories, such as the two-hour romance, 'Tristan and Iseult', or H. C. Andersen's 'Snow Queen.'

Storytelling Festivals

Sechelt, Vancouver (several, incl. 09), Sooke, Nanaimo, Port Angeles,
Whitehorse, Edmonton, Ottawa, Toronto ('05, '06), Montreal (07)
Wales in 2010

Other Festivals

Vancouver: Writer's, Women in View, Children's, Folk Music, Booksellers',
WinterFest, First Night

Elsewhere: Seattle's Bumbershoot, Island's Folk, Nanaimo Children's, Forest
Festival - Port Angeles, Canadian Children's Book Week Tour (5 days, Ontario,
'03); Surrey Children's ('07), BC Museum of Mining (Britannia Beach, 2009)

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Also in the Community

In BC, various other parts of Canada, a bit of England and the States.

Notably:

Sydney (Cape Breton University symposium), St. Peter's – Nova Scotia
Vancouver East Cultural Centre with singer/folklorist/teller Rosalie Sorrels
with singer/writer Bob Bossin -Vancouver, Tofino, Victoria (oral history of Tofino)
with singer Bonnie Ferguson - International Women's Day; Women in Music
with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra - Christchurch Cathedral for Christmas
at the Vancouver, Surrey, Kamloops, Nanaimo and Campbell River Art Galleries
as a guest of tellers Amy Douglas and Nick Hennessey in Whitby, England
'Tristan and Iseult' - Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Victoria, Nanaimo,
Eastern Townships, Vermont, etc.
(thanks to Canada Council for the Arts for a grant to develop and tour this story.)

In Schools across Canada

BC, but also Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal

Radio, Television

- a guest on various shows, for CBC Radio
- 'Tell-A-Tale Town' -six segments of storytelling on children's TV show
- 'Readers and Writers' - six book reviews for Knowledge Network TV

Recording

- 'How Music came to the World and other Stories' (CD), produced by the CBC and the Vancouver Society of Storytelling in 2000. I am one of several storytellers and musicians. Xhu Chia He and I created a version of the Chinese opera 'Pipa-ji.'

ACTING (1966 - 2004)

1966 – 1983 Prior to becoming a storyteller; resume available on request.

1984 – 2009 All but one of these entries are storytelling with an emphasis on acting.

A Song of Small by Emily Carr, remount (see below) directed by Noah Drew; Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Kamloops, Gabriola Island, Ottawa, currently available

A Question of Belongings original ensemble work, 6 actors, directors Noah Drew, Sunita Singh

A Song of Small first version, conceived and directed by myself with Lynda Smith; Laurie Lesk on piano; Vancouver Art Gallery, The Playhouse, Vancouver and Rockwood Storytelling Festivals, Vancouver Children's Festival; Fort Langley

The Wondersmith and his Son Irish folktale, 2 tellers, dir. Arnie Zaslove; Women in View

Foreign Territory two tellers, written and directed by Jackie Crossland; Vancouver Fringe Fest.

Transformations original ensemble work based on folktales, two tellers, dir. David Petersen; Vancouver Fringe Festival

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OTHER EXPERIENCE

Production

(paid and volunteer) lighting, sound, front of house (including usher), producer (Pauline Johnson stories, 2004), stage manager, projectionist (16mm film), stage carpenter, (IATSE casual), movie concession worker (Ridge Theatre), Artistic Director (Van. Int'l Storytelling Festival - 2005 and 2006/07)

Facilitator/Researcher

found and interviewed people for their personal stories -
1) for the 200th anniversary of Captain Vancouver's arrival (also did programming, emcee)
2) for Vancouver's Ideas Fair
3) for the 'Homefront' exhibit at North Vancouver Museum.
coached potential scriptwriters in Lower Mainland schools for the 'Incredible Story Studio' television series
researched stories for CBC/Vancouver Society of Storytelling/Valerie Dare co-production of 'How Music Came to the World and other Stories'

Publicist/Administrator

board & publicist - Vancouver Society of Storytelling
on founding board of Art Starts in Schools
on the Board of Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada

Narrator

- Library Services Branch, Audiobooks Division, 1989 - 2002; over 100 titles, won the Torgi Prize (CNIB) for narration in 1995, also nominated for the Torgi in 96.
- various other narrations, for CD-ROM, educational materials

Singer

- alto in the 'Provisional Brass Tacks Choir', director J. Douglas Dodd

Writer

- story in 'Next Teller', anthology editor Dan Yashinsky (Ragweed Press, 1994)
- articles in various newsletters and journals in Canada and the US
- adapted six folktales for Tom Jackson to tell in a production with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
- "Bi-Anonymous", article published in "The Healing Heart - Families" (eds. A. Cox and D.H. Albert, New Society Publishers, 2003)

Teacher

many storytelling workshops, one on one lessons for children or adults

Theatrical script analyst – for a website business giving technical support to Shakespeare productions, 2006 - ongoing.

A member of Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada, Vancouver Society of Storytelling, The Victoria Storytellers' Guild, Art Starts in Schools, Society of Storytelling (U.K.)