

Barry Stewart Mann, MFA - Artist Description of Arts-Infusion Projects

I have done a variety of arts-infusion projects over my several decades as a teaching artist. Here are a few brief descriptions:

- "Energy in Performance" – with a high school physics class, we explored the metaphorical levels that could be extrapolated from study of potential and kinetic energy, including concepts like text and subtext and a student's 'potential' for success, and created a full class performance piece that included monologue, poetry, physics formulas, choral readings, and more.

- "From There to Here" – with multiple classes at a high school (English, ESOL, Art) and interviews with people throughout the school community (including janitors, teachers, parents, administrators, and students," we created and performed a script of dramatized stories about the breadth of the immigrant experience.

- "Cinderella through the Ages of Theatre" – with 8 upper elementary classes, we created and performed a retelling of the Cinderella story sequentially through 8 styles of theatre, with the beginning presented as a Greek tragedy, and the end as Absurdism, with Commedia, Indian dance theatre, and Naturalism along the way.

- "Drippin' and Droppin' through History" – with a third grade class, we created a performance in which two drops of water traveled from the Appalachian Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico, witnessing the stories of six heroic individuals along the way, from Cherokee Beloved Woman Nancy Ward to U.S. Grant to Louis Armstrong to Nobel Prize Winner Rigoberta Menchú, incorporating student art as backdrops.

- "The Journals of Lewis and Clark" – with two small first grade classes at a charter school, we created videos enacting stories from the explorers' journals; the students also created and narrated pictographs conveying the Native Americans' likely versions of the same events.

- "The Great Depression Experience" – in a three-lesson sequence, I introduce students to diary excerpts from the Great Depression, lead them in a series of improvisations tracing the plummeting fortunes of a Dust Bowl family, have them write journal entries in character, and then create a video including each child in character sharing a favorite entry.

An ideal residency would spring from a teacher's passion, or the combined passions of a team of teachers, perhaps involving several disciplines. I imagine upper elementary classroom teachers wanting to create a performance or video or series of improvisational experiences (in the mode of Process Drama, a favorite drama strategy) that bring in visual art and music, that allow the students to delve deeply into a Language Arts or Social Studies topic (such as *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*, or early European explorers in the Americas), and that develop organically. It would involve student improvisation, alternate viewpoints and outcomes, collaborative creation of a script, and some form of sharing or performance.

Biography

Barry Stewart Mann

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Barry Stewart Mann, MFA, is a professional actor, storyteller and arts educator based in Atlanta. A graduate of Harvard University with an M.F.A. in Theatre from the University of San Diego, Barry has been on the faculty of Lesley University's M.Ed. Program in Integrated Teaching through the Arts since 2008, teaching courses in "Drama and Critical Literacy" and "Cultural History through Storytelling".

As an actor, Barry has performed across the country, including at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, the Florida Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Rep, and Studio Theatre in D.C., as well on such local stages as Theatrical Outfit, Theatre Emory, Horizon Theatre, and the Atlanta Shakespeare Theatre. As a storyteller, Barry has told tales to thousands in festivals, libraries, schools, camps, and beyond; was featured at the *II Festival Internacional de Cuentacuentos* in Santo Domingo, DR; was named the 1999 National Storyteller of the Year; Is on the international storyteller roster of DreamOn Productions of Buenos Aires, Argentina; and has been a regular contributor to the Public Radio program *Recess!*

Barry is a roster performer and teaching artist with the Alliance Theatre, Georgia Wolf Trap, Georgia Council for the Arts, ArtsNow, Fulton County's Teaching Museum, and Atlanta Partnership for Arts in Learning, and worked in the past with Young Audiences, California Playwrights Project, and San Diego Institute for Arts Education. He has taught and led workshops in story and drama integration at numerous colleges and universities, including Georgia State, University of Florida, Utah State, Boise State, Middle Georgia State, Dalton State, and Young Harris. He is a member of the National Storytelling Network, the Southern Order of Storytellers, and Actors Equity Association.

Barry has traveled widely both in the U.S. and abroad, and speaks several languages at various levels of proficiency. He shares his life with his wife Sheri Mann Stewart, and actor and filmmaker, and their sons Tendal and Royce, both also actors and social activists.



Telling – Cherokee Stories at Oakhurst / Teaching – *Mulan* Process Drama at Glenwood