



# Gerald Fierst

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Yale University, BA, 1968  
Columbia University, Teachers College, Performing Artists in the Schools  
Certification, 1987

**Civil Celebrant** Creating wedding and memorial ceremonies. Author of THE HEART OF THE WEDDING, a guide for creating personalized, modern wedding ceremonies that blend tradition with contemporary values, offering practical examples and storytelling to help couples craft meaningful celebrations. The book serves as a resource for couples and celebrants and includes historical context, poetry, and sample ceremonies for diverse backgrounds.

## **Storyteller and Lecturer**

Storyteller and lecturer at libraries, educational, cultural, and religious institutions in the US, UK, and Asia – References on request. Experience working in Asia through Maharsarakham University, Thailand, training teachers and teaching English to non English speakers in Thailand, Laos, and Malaysia through performance and storytelling techniques.

2018-2020 Film and Theatre Coordinator for WAE Center of Jewish Services for the Developmentally Disabled

2014-2016- Visiting Artist, L IMMUD, the European Conference on Jewish Education, UK.

2010-Corporate coaching on presentation skills for Essex County Inns of Court.

2008-2021- Resident Storyteller, Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University. Preschool and primary program exploring creativity and the artist's process.

2008-11 Cultural Representative, United States Embassy in Spain, performing for bilingual schools in Madrid, Cordoba, Valencia, Alicante and Santander.

2006- Featured presenter Hong Kong Literary Festival; guest lecturer Maharsarakham University, Thailand

2005 Just Stories Fellowship Recipient - Commissioned to write and perform with Arif Choudhury and Susan O'Hallaran More Alike Than Not- Islamic, Jewish, and Christian in America

2004 Kathleen Hurley Memorial Lecturer, International College of Celebrancy, Queens College, Melbourne, Australia Storytelling and Ritual  
Featured Performer (selected listing): National Storytelling Festival, Jonesboro, Tennessee; Asian Congress of Storytelling, Singapore; Tanglin International School, Singapore; Hong Kong International School; Mellon Library, The American School, London; Chautauqua Institution; St. Louis Storytelling Festival; Storyfest International, Kirkland, Washington; Washington Storytellers Theater, Washington, DC; Ark Theater, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Barter Theater, Abington, Virginia; Flynn Theater, Burlington, Vermont: Wild Onion Festival, Chicago, Illinois; Hudson River Festival, Poughkeepsie, New York: WNET/Student Arts Festival; International Festival of the Arts for Children, New York, New York; 92nd Street Y, Oral Traditions Series of Master Jewish Storytellers, New York, New York; Festival of Jewish Artisans, Los Angeles, California; Limmud, the Conference of European Jewish Educators, Oxford, England and Nottingham, England; CAJE; National Havurah Conference; National Hillel Conference.  
Museum Appearances (selected listing): Yogi Berra Museum; Museum of American Folkart; Hudson River Museum; Philadelphia Museum of Fine Arts; Brooklyn Museum; Brooklyn Children's Museum; Children's Museum of Manhattan; Children's Museum of New Orleans; Children's Museum of Santa Fe; Montclair Art Museum; Morris Museum of Science and Technology; New York State Museum; State Museum of New Jersey; NYC Subway Museum; South Street Seaport Museum; New Mexico Museum of Natural History.

### Organizational Affiliations, 1990-2020

Certification as Civil Celebrant by the International College of Celebrance, Melbourne, Australia, and The Celebrant Institute and Foundation, Montclair, New Jersey, USA,  
Artistic Director, Jewish Storytelling Center, 92nd St Y, New York City  
Founder, New Jersey Storytelling Guild, Montclair, New Jersey  
Board of Directors, The Storytelling Center, Inc., New York, New York  
Co-Director, The Gathering of Mid-Atlantic Storytellers

### Recordings

Christmas Jazz with Conrad Herwig and the Rutgers University Jazz Ensemble, Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Jewish Tales of Magic and Mysticism – audio tape of literary and original stories

Tikun Olam: Stories to Heal the World – Parent's Choice Silver Honoree – audio tape and CD of Jewish folklore

Monstrous Mischief- Parent's Choice Silver Honoree – audio tape and CD of world folklore

The American Spirit – Tall Tales and Real History CD of American folktales and music celebrating the values of individuality and community.

Experience working in Asia through Maharsarakham University, Thailand, training teachers and teaching English to non English speakers in Thailand, Laos, and Malaysia through performance and storytelling techniques.

Corporate coaching on presentation skills for Essex County Inns of Court.

Performance and Whole Language workshops for students and teachers in hundreds of schools across US. References on request.

### Teacher/Artist in Residence

Residence through Pushcart Players and Music for Many, working with storytelling, playwriting and poetry to support literacy with mainstream and special needs students pre K through 8.

Currently teaching artist with StorytellingArts, Princeton, NJ, creating and teaching programs preschool- 12th grade

Teaching Artist in Elementary and Middle School Residencies with Project Impact/NJ, Early Stages/NYC, and Encore Performing Arts.

University performances and residencies include: Yale, Columbia, College of William and Mary, Drury College, University of Ohio, SUNY Binghamton, Cornell, SUNY Utica, Elgin College, Smith College, Simmons College, University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, Allegheny College, Wesleyan College, Westminster College, Randolph Macon College, University of Denver, Skagit Community College.

Director of Education, Whole Theater, Montclair, NJ, 1987-90.

Writing, storytelling, creative drama specialist for New Jersey Arts Foundation; Project Impact Arts in Education Foundation; New Jersey State Council on the Arts; Playwright's Theater, Young Playwrights Program; New Jersey TeenArts; New Jersey Bell Very Special Arts Program.

2013 -2017 WAE/JSDD using storytelling and theater with Special Needs Adults

Director of Education and Faculty member at Whole Theater, 1970-91.

Instructor Montclair State College, Arts Experience Workshop.

Instructor Farleigh Dickinson University, Television Production.

Instructor Bloomfield College, Introduction to Theater.

Recipient 1985 Fellowship in Playwriting, New Jersey State Council on the Arts

### Writer

Imagine the Moon- Plum Street Press, publication spring 2017. Lyric poem with illustrations and study/activity guide.

Bye, Bye, Big, - co-authored with Margaret Read MacDonald- pre-school picture book, Plum Street Press, publication 2017

The Heart of the Wedding, discussion of ritual an ceremony in 21st Century, Parkhurst Brothers, Inc., Our National Conversation, Little Rock, 2010.

Musee Des Beaux Arts – multi media performance piece, Samuel Beckett Theater, NYC, 1993.

Dancing With Miracles (lyrics and book) full length musical theater piece based on Yaffa Eliach's Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust, produced Whole Theater, 1990.

Russian Memories – one man show based on 19th century Russian characters. Video Production, 1985.

American Silhouettes – Dramatic portraits of famous Americans, toured schools and clubs.

## Actor

**Full AEA, SAG-AFTRA resume on request**

Only Murders in the Building– season 1 and 2

National Yakkers Theater Ensemble, performing MOUTH, an original piece based on improvisational storytelling.

Founding member Whole Theater, a LORT Company in Montclair, NJ.

Happy Kitchen, a cooking and exercise show.

Romper Room.

As the World Turns.

Captain Supertooth, product representative for Delta Dental.