

Meet the Staff

Tom Swenson is a talented performer committed to using theater to bring learning to life and to make positive values relevant in the lives of children of all ages. His acting experience ranges from major roles in semi-professional plays and musicals to work in television and film as well as work behind the scenes.

With a background in psychology, Tom spent over a decade working with special needs children and another ten years in alternative education. At the same time Tom pursued his theater interests. He saw again and again how theater can be a powerful tool for changing lives and for healing.

In 1996, Tom formed Winding Roads Productions. In the coming years he visited 3,000+ schools, performed 5,000+ shows to over one million children. In 2002 he added *Mark Twain Today* to his repertoire, made Las Vegas his home and joined forces with Beth Miller.

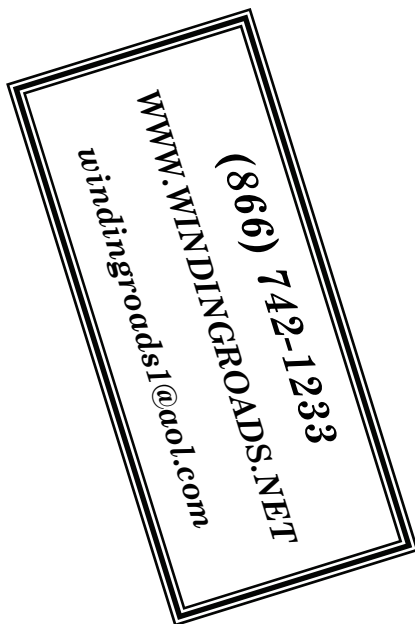
Beth Miller has dedicated 21 years to education as a teacher in public and private schools. She has worked with children in grades K through 12 in the United States and in Europe. She is also certified to teach gifted children.

A frequent presenter at education conferences, Beth has also written several plays and designed countless creative activities for children. Several of her ideas have been published in education magazines and newsletters.

With her varied background at all grade levels, Beth is uniquely qualified to ensure Winding Roads programs reach their targeted audiences, align with the learning objectives of America's schools and remain highly engaging.

In 2006, Beth took a sabbatical from her teaching position to be more involved with WRP and to pursue her writing interests.

In 2006 Winding Roads, Tom, Beth and their two greyhounds moved to Cedar Rapids, IA.



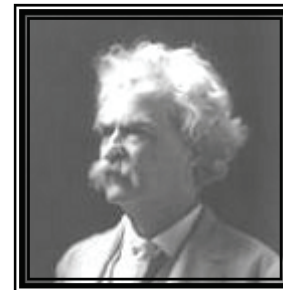
Winding Roads Productions
1719 Washington Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Entertainment with a Purpose!



Winding Roads Productions

PRESENTS



Mark Twain Today



For order or for more information:

Toll free:

(866) 742-1233

WWW.WINDINGROADS.NET



Winding Roads

In 1996, Winding Roads Productions (WRP) teamed with Mobile Ed Productions, Inc. (MEP) to tour the extremely popular *Our World of Robotics* program. In 2002, Tom added the Mark Twain program to his repertoire. Over these years with MEP, Tom learned from experience how to connect with children at a fundamental level and motivating them to learn.

In 2003, Tom completed his contract with MEP, moved to Las Vegas, partnered with Beth Miller. Over the next year they completely revised WRP's two programs and added three new ones.

In 2006, WPR moved again, this time to its permanent home, in Cedar Rapids, IA, which put it geographically and culturally right in the middle of America. We can now reach millions more customers than before.

Our Values & Goals

- ◆ To **tailor each performance** to your school's curriculum and to the grade level and needs of **YOUR** students. We support YOUR goals.
- ◆ To create **high-impact experiences**. Entertainment values are important to us because research shows that children learn best when all the senses and modes of learning are engaged. That said, we always remember that the excitement we generate must service the larger goals of motivating and educating.
- ◆ To provide extensive **support materials**. We provide **print and web resources** for your teachers and student resources before and after the presentation. Our programs are designed by educators for educators.
- ◆ To design **affordable programs**. We design programs so that they are within your budget.

Mark Twain Today

This incredible program **informs, uplifts, inspires, entertains** and warms the hearts of students of all ages.

Students in grades K-8 are mesmerized as **our impersonator transforms into Mark Twain right before their eyes!** Using hairpieces, makeup and costume, our actor transforms into Mark Twain in a matter of minutes as he seamlessly sets the stage for the performance to come at the same time.

For all grades, the next 40-45 minutes are chock full of suggestions about the writing process, Twain's life story, readings from his most famous works, jokes, humorous sayings, classic stories, wit and wisdom and strong value messages. **Many visual aids and props**, including vintage articles, enhance the presentation.

Audience participation comes in two forms. Individual students are invited on stage to be part of the performance. But **all students** are invited to be part of the show!

Elementary school students become guests in Mr. Twain's home. As he did real life, Mr. Twain entertains **YOUR** children (his "goldfish" as he called them) with both stories written and stories lived. **Middle and High School** students for 45 minutes become the Hannibal High School graduating class of '05, and are treated to Mr. Twain's amusing commencement speech.

Material is painstakingly edited to target each audience's level of sophistication and understanding. **Students of all ages** love such stories as *The Celebrated Jumping Frog*, and all learn of his adventures out West, his years as a riverboat pilot, the source of his pen-name, his writing tips and his connection to Halley's Comet and much more. The program **for the youngest scholars emphasizes Twain's**



childhood, his family life and on Twain as storyteller. Young ones LOVE storytellers. Students hear stories i.e. *Punch, Brothers, Punch* and *The Blue Jay*. Older elementary students hear excerpts from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. **Middle and high school students** are moved by passages from *Innocents Abroad, Huckleberry Finn* and *Roughing It*.

The physical requirements for this program are simple: a stage area of a minimum 12 feet by 20 feet wide and a room for dressing. Setup takes 30 minutes, and breakdown another 20 minutes.

NEW: Add on Workshops!!

Enhance the experience of Mr. Twain's visit by including our Hands-On Museum or other related workshops! These highly focused and intimate events extend and supports the presentation. **Call today! Toll Free 866-742-1233.**

Our Programs

Mark Twain Today

Meet Mr. Lincoln

Hands-On History

Inventing Thomas Edison

ROBOTS!

(limited touring area)