

# 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.



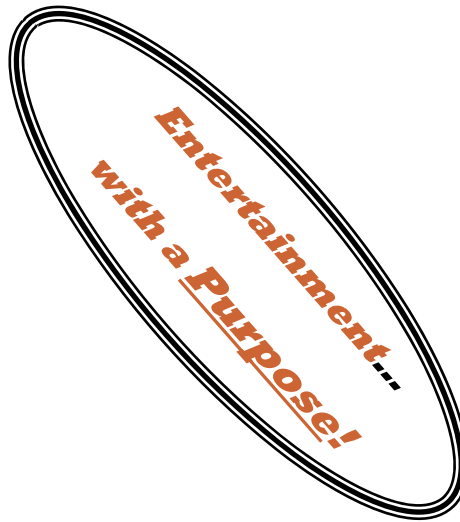
**Beth Miller** has dedicated 21 years to education as a teacher in public and private schools. She has worked with children in grades K through 12 in the United States and in Europe. She is also certified to teach gifted children.

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 your school 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.



*Call today, and ask for "Mr. Edison!"*  
**(866) 742-1233**



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



# PRESENTS



## *Inventing Thomas Edison*



**To order or for more information:**

**Toll free:**

**(866) 742-1233**

**WWW.WINDINGROADS.NET**

**EMAIL: WINDINGROADS1@AOL.COM**

**Cedar Rapids Call: (319) 892-0304**

# Winding<sup>I n</sup> Roads Productions

1996, Winding Roads Productions (WRP) was formed to provide quality, curriculum-based and highly engaging assembly programs and workshops.

In 2006, WPR moved to Cedar Rapids, IA, making these quality programs more available to Mid-western schools, libraries and other institutions,

## Our Goals and Values

- ◆ 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 better as more senses and modes of learning are engaged. That said, we always remember that the excitement we generate must serve the larger goals of motivating and educating students.
- ◆ 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.

## Inventing Thomas Edison

Your students are invited into **Mr. Edison's Orange, New Jersey laboratory!**

As they enter, **your young scientists will be amazed to see Mr. Edison's working laboratory** recreated. They soon meet **Tom Swenson**, who will mesmerize your students as he **transforms into Thomas Edison** right before their eyes!



"Mr. Edison" tells of his life, his values, his amazing adventures and his inventions. All the time, as he did in real life, Mr. Edison is constantly tinkering with inventions old and new—the first lightbulb, movie camera, telegraph keys, and of course the phonograph.

Your students will learn **how he overcame obstacles**, i.e. being a different learner and his near total deafness. They hear but also **SEE** how his devotion to strong values was central to his life — hard work, inventing things to help mankind and always a commitment to excellence. Throughout he also reveals a tremendous sense of humor and positivism!

Lots of student participation in experiments as well.



## Supplemental Workshop!

Enhance Mr. Edison's visit by including our **Hands-On Museum** or our inventor's **Light Workshop**. These activity-filled experiences support and expand on learning from the Edison presentation.

## Our Other Programs

Mark Twain Today

Meet Mr. Lincoln

Hands-On History

Characters with Character

Light Workshop

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**[www.windingroads.net](http://www.windingroads.net)**