

# David Novak

73 Woodward Ave  
Asheville, NC 28804

Phone: 828.280.2718 (C)  
Email: [david@atellingexperience.com](mailto:david@atellingexperience.com)  
Website: [atellingexperience.com](http://atellingexperience.com)

Actors Equity Association • AFTRA • National Storytelling Network

*As I pursued my love of Theatre Arts, writing, designing, and acting, I began to tell stories. Public venues gave me incentive to invent, teaching me how to converse in my art. But the most impactful, passionate experience that affected my art came with the birth of my son. A new sense of story began to grow. No longer is the telling of stories an instructional behavior, an entertainment, or a creative whimsy. Now it is an act of love.*

## Professional Profile

Award-Winning Storyteller, Actor and Author. Creative professional and educator with extensive project experience from concept to development. Skilled in Public Speaking, Creative Writing, Arts-Integrated Education.

## Education

University of California at San Diego, Master of Fine Arts, Professional Actor Training Program  
Society of American Fight Directors Certification in Choreography.  
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Directing for the Stage  
International Mime Festival and Institute, Viterbo College, LaCrosse, WI

## Employment

Artistic Director, A Telling Experience (1987-present)  
A+ Fellow, NC Arts Council (2014-present)  
Teaching Artist, Wolf Trap Institute for Early Childhood Learning Through The Arts (2016-present)  
Lead Artist, TAPAAS, Asheville City Schools Foundation, 2023  
Storyteller/Teaching Artist, International Schools, Pana Wakke Educational Tours (2014-2018)  
Guest Lecturer, Humanities Department, UNC, Asheville (2012-2018)  
Adjunct Instructor, Storytelling and Performance, East Tennessee State University (2000-2018)

## Recent Residencies and Performances

2023 Featured Artist, Big So. Fork Storytelling Festival, Oneida, TN  
2023 Featured Artist, Moonshell Festival, Omaha, NE  
2023 Master Class, Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada, Sudbury, Ca  
2023 Featured Artist, Tryon Children's Theatre Festival, Tryon, NC  
2022 Wolf Trap Institute, Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators, Vienna, VA  
Henry County Schools, VA and Petersburg Schools, VA  
2022 A+ Schools NC: Audrey Garrett, Greenway Park, Scotts ES, etc. NC  
2021 Springboard to Learning, Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators, St. Louis, MO  
2021 Master Class, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT)  
2021 A+ Schools NC: Raleigh Oaks ES, Sandy Ridge ES, etc. NC  
2021 United Arts Council, virtual assembly, Pleasant Ridge ES, NC  
2021 Tobin Center, Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators, San Antonio, TX  
2020 Holly-Spring Motlow ES, Spartanburg, SC  
2020 Wolf Trap Institute, Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators, Vienna, VA  
2020 The Storytellers' Compass (Virtual) Eliot Institute, Seabeck, WA.  
2019 R. Buckminster Fuller. Krakow, Poland  
2019 Featured Artist, Gilgamesh, Master Classes, Singapore International Storytelling Festival  
2019 Artist Residency, Glenaeon Rudolph Steiner School, Sydney, NSW.

- 2018 Gilgamesh. Glenaeon Rudolph Steiner School, Sydney, NSW.
- 2018 Master Class & Concerts. Sydney International Storytelling Institute. NSW.
- 2018 “Down By The Water.” UNC-Asheville, NC, Arts & Ideas Festival.
- 2017 Teller In Residence. International Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, TN.
- 2017 The Storytellers’ Compass. Eliot Institute, Seabeck, WA.
- 2016 Featured Teller. Orem, UT, Timpanogos Festival.
- 2016 Tour of International Schools. Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, Macao.
- 2016 Master Class. North Carolina Storyteller’s Guild Winter Retreat.
- 2016 Keynote/Master Classes. Sydney Int’l Storytelling Conference, AU.
- 2016 Featured Teller. National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN..
- 2015 R. Buckminster Fuller. Wroclaw Institute of Technology, Poland.
- 2015 Epic of Gilgamesh. Provincetown Playhouse, New York, NY.

**Teaching Experience**

Storytellers of Canada, Sudbury, ON

Master Classes: The Storytellers Gym and WURDZ: a feeling for language, 2023

FEAST Federation of East Asian Storytelling Learning Conference, 2022

Master Class: Massaging the Story & Exercising the Listener

East Tennessee State University

Advanced Storytelling	Languages of Storytelling	Storytelling for Actors/Acting for Storytellers
Storytellers’ Gym	Oral Traditional Storytelling	Telling Personal Stories

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

Oral Interpretation	Introduction to Storytelling	Stage Makeup
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University of North Carolina at Asheville

Storytelling and Performance	Acting II
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University of California, San Diego

Theatre History	Stage Makeup
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**Relevant Experience**

- 2016 Director & Dramaturg, “Does It Show?” Solo performance ethnography by D.K. Reed.
- 2014 – International touring of one-man play: R. Buckminster Fuller: The History (& Mystery) of the Universe.
- 2013- 18 Performance Review editor, *Storytelling, Self, Society: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Storytelling Studies*
- 2012 Director & Dramaturg, “Old Woman In the Basement” Solo performance by Gwenda LedBetter.
- 2010-12 Consultant for Antler Hill Village, Farm, and Horse Barn, Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC
- 2003-16 Actor, North Carolina Stage Company:
  - R. Buckminster Fuller, All My Sons, 12th Night, Stalking the Bogeyman
- 2010 Actor, Flat Rock Playhouse: 12 Angry Men
- 2008 Director & Dramaturg, “Friday’s Father” Solo performance by Gwenda LedBetter
- 1995-96 Managing Instructor of Story Arts, Disney Institute, Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL
- 1990-98 Guest lecturer, Walt Disney Imagineering, Burbank, CA

## Original Stage Works

### “The Death of Baldr”

Commission. Glenaeon Rudolph Steiner School,  
Sydney, NSW

### “Down By The Water”

Multi-media commission. UNC-Asheville, Arts &  
Ideas Festival.

### “Epic of Gilgamesh”

Story Fest, Singapore, SG 2019.  
Provincetown Playhouse, NY, NY 2015.  
Going Deep Storytelling Retreat, Bethlehem, IN.  
Houselights Storytelling Theatre, Atlanta, GA.  
NC Stage Company, Asheville, NC.

### “Hounded: *don't be afraid, be disturbed*”

National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN.

### “The Divorce of Heaven & Earth”

The Open Hand Theater, Syracuse, NY

### “Chaste White & Blush Red”

National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN  
Kitchen Theatre, Ithaca, NY.  
Stories, Inc. Indianapolis, IN.

### “Smoke From the Everglades:

*stories from the tropics of boyhood*”  
National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN.  
Children’s Literature Festival, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.  
Caldwell Playhouse, Boca Raton, FL.

## Publications

Storytelling, Self, Society

*Going Long: Telling Gilgamesh*  
*Gilgamesh*

*Toward a Methodology of Storytelling Perfor-*  
*mance Criticism (with Caren Niele, Ph.D.)*

*The Matriculation of Gwenda LedBetter*

*Visions For Storytelling Studies*

Riverbank Press

*The Little Ant* (picture book)

*Johnny Appleseed & The Bears* (picture book)

August House Publishing

*3 Dolls (Ready-To- Tell Tales )*

Cobblestone Magazine for Children

*Is The World Telling You Stories?*

*Recipe For Storytelling*

Storytelling World Magazine

*String Figure Jack & The Beanstalk*

*Stories on a Shoestring*

*Word Choices: the Icing on the Cake*

*The Scattered Brain*

## Audio Recordings

A Telling Experience

*Chaste White & Blush Red*

*More Rhyme Than Reason*

*Sterling*

*Hounded*

*Smoke From the Everglades*

*Notes On the Art Of Storytelling*

August House Publishing

*Itsy Bitsy Spider's Heroic Climb*

*The Cookie Girl*

## Awards

2016 *Aurand Harris Memorial Playwrighting Award for “Journeying Jack”*

2002 *National Storytelling Network Circle of Excellence*

## Referees

Sheila Wee

Founding Director

Federation of Asian Storytellers

feaststory@gmail.com

www.feast-story.org

+65 9798 4032

Sonia Zivkovic

Director

Pana Wakke International

sonia@panawakke.com

www.panawakke.com

+54 9 11 2379 8177

Kamini Ramachandran

Director

The Storytelling Centre Limited

Creative Producer of StoryFest

kamini@storytellingcentrelimited.com

+65 9116 3935