

David Gonzalez Biography

David is the proud recipient of the 2011 International Performing Arts for Youth "Lifetime Achievement Award for Sustained Excellence". In 2010 Mr. Gonzalez was named a *Joseph Campbell Foundation Fellow*. He was nominated for a 2006 *Drama Desk Award* for "Unique Theatrical Experience" for his production of *The Frog Bride* at Broadway's New Victory Theater. He has created numerous productions, including the critically acclaimed *¡Sofrito!* with The Latin Legends Band, and *MytholoJazz*, both of which enjoyed sold-out runs at New Victory Theater. David's work *Wounded Splendor*, was the result of a two-year residency and commission from the University of Maryland. *Sleeping Beauty*, co-commissioned by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Brooklyn College, and The McCallum Theater, premiered in March 2010 and has gone on to tour nationally including a run at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. David was a featured performer at the 2007 *National Storytelling Festival*, and has performed at festivals in Spain, Switzerland, France, Costa Rica, Norway, Puerto Rico, and throughout the United States. He also appeared for three seasons at the Royal National Theatre in London. Mr. Gonzalez is the Artistic Director for The Alliance for a New Humanity, an international service organization dedicated to peace and sustainability.

Mr. Gonzalez' work *Double Crossed: The Saga of the St. Louis* toured nationally, including a run at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998. The same year, David was honored with the *Helen Hayes Performing Artist of the Year Award*. *As If the Past Were Listening*, a suite of creation myths, was selected for Lincoln Center Institute's repertory for three seasons (2002–2004). David's Latin Jazz poetry project *City of Dreams* was commissioned by the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, premiered at New York's La Mama Theater, and was the first spoken-word project to perform at Dizzy's Club at Jazz @ Lincoln Center. He wrote *Finding North*, a one-man play based on Underground Railroad hero John Parker that was commissioned by the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and performed at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; *Aesop Bops!*; and co-wrote *Mariel*, an Afro-Cuban musical set in the turbulent times of the Mariel boat-lift from Cuba, with Grammy-nominated songwriter John Forster. *Mariel* is the winner of the Macy's "New Play Prize for Young Audiences." David is also the author of the opera libretto *Rise for Freedom!*, produced at the Cincinnati Opera, and *Jimi and Mr. B*, a musical commissioned by the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center. His long form poem *Oh Hudson* in collaboration with violin virtuoso Mark O'Connor commemorates the Hudson quadricentennial, and his version of *The Carnival of the Animals* with classical piano virtuoso Frederic Chui, premiered in 2008. David received his doctorate in Music Therapy from NYU and taught there for ten years.

David's poetry was featured at Lincoln Center's Out-of-Doors Festival, Bill Moyers's documentary *Fooling with Words* on PBS, NPR's *All Things Considered*, and the World Science Festival among many other venues. He was the host of *New York Kids* on WNYC for eight seasons. He earned a doctoral degree from New York University in Music Therapy and has conducted numerous seminars, workshops and lectures, and

worked as a music therapist in clinical and educational institutions. David is also a professional public speaker on topics ranging from creativity to culture. Online at www.davidgonzalez.com