

DAVID GONZALEZ - BIOGRAPHY

Storyteller/musician/poet/speaker, and Doctor of Arts, David Gonzalez 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.

- His work **Double Crossed: The Saga of the St. Louis**, was commissioned by the Smithsonian Institution and has toured nationally, including a run at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998.
- In 1998 he 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 the Lincoln Center Institute’s repertory for three seasons (2002 – 2004).
- David wrote **The Secret of the Ceiba Tree**, a community-based multi-media work with the support of a Lila Wallace/Readers Digest Arts Partners grant.
- With support from the *National Endowment for the Arts* he wrote and starred in **Finding North**, a one-man play based on Underground Railroad hero John Parker, which premiered at the Tony-Award winning Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park in 2003, followed by a performance at the Underground Railroad National Freedom Center.
- **The Frog Bride** and **Aesop Bops!** Have been presented at numerous theaters and performing arts centers including extended runs at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and The Philadelphia Theater Company.
- **Mariel**, an Afro-Cuban musical co-written with Grammy-nominated songwriter John Forster, is set in the turbulent times of the Mariel boat-lift from Cuba in 1981. **Mariel**, winner of the Macy’s “New Play Prize for Young Audiences”, was commissioned by the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and had its world premiere in March 2007.
- David’s opera libretto, **Rise for Freedom!**, commissioned by the Cincinnati Opera, premiered in October 2007 to excellent press notices.
- Jimi and Mr. B, a new musical commissioned by The Empire State Performing Arts Center will premiere in April 2008.

Mr. Gonzalez’ poetry has been featured at *Lincoln Center’s Out-of-Doors Festival*, Bill Moyers’ documentary *Fooling with Words* on PBS, and on NPR’s *All Things Considered*. He was the host of **New York Kids** on WNYC for eight seasons and is a contributor to *Studio 360* on NPR. **City of Dreams**, a Latin-jazz/spoken-word project received excellent press notices for their debut CD and as well as a generous commissioning grant from the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, which enabled a world premiere staging of the project at La MaMa E.T.C.

Mr. Gonzalez received his doctorate in Music Therapy from New York University’s School of Education. His dissertation, **Mythopoeic Music Therapy (1992)**, focused on the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice to examine the possibilities of uniting creative expression and active imagination within the therapy experience. He taught at NYU for ten years and has conducted numerous seminars, workshops and lectures at colleges and universities. David worked as a music therapist for twenty years in clinical and educational institutions throughout the New York metropolitan area. As a guitarist he is a long-time accompanist to pioneering jazz vocalist Lisa Sokolov, having appeared with her on numerous concert stages including the Montreaux Jazz Festival, The Vision Festival, and the Knitting Factory. Mr. Gonzalez is fluent in Spanish.