

The InterACTIVE Theater of Jef

For children and adults to enjoy together

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Sample Bios for Jef (edit and/or use as you need to!)

Bio #1 (short & sweet)

As a mime, Jef has been around the proverbial barn. After apprenticing with mimes C.W. Metcalf and Tony Montanaro, Jef toured from 1976 to 1993 throughout the United States as a member TOUCH, North Carolina's mime theater ensemble.

Traveling from his home in Lumberton, NC, Jef shares his wacky brand of interactive roving mime/mask theater at many festivals. This year his travels include performances at: *Merlefest* in Wilkesboro, NC; *The Piccolo Spoleto Children's Festival* in Charleston, SC; the *Ocracoke Festival* on Ocracoke Island, NC; *Freedom Weekend Aloft* in Greenville, SC; *Artplosure* in Raleigh, NC; *The Petersburg Intercultural Celebration* in Petersburg, VA; and *Christmas in July* in West Jefferson, NC.

Bio #2 (wonderfully lengthy and detailed)

Currently Jef performs as a mime and mask theater artist in *The InterACTIVE Theater of Jef*. He also teaches mime, ensemble techniques and composition through educational residencies.

Jef apprenticed with C.W. Metcalf and Tony Montanaro, with brief instruction from Jacques Lecoq. His other studies include: acting with William Hickey, period dance and style with William Burdick, ballet with Beverly Shalomith, modern dance with Carol Richards, commedia dell'arte at the Del'Arte School, and clowning with Ezekiel Peterhof. Other skills gained along the way include juggling, unicycling, stiltwalking, maskmaking, and gourd crafting.

From 1976 to 1993 Jef was a member TOUCH, North Carolina's touring mime theater ensemble. With TOUCH Jef created, collaborated on, directed, and performed over fifty mime theater works, touring thousands of performances to audiences throughout the southeastern United States. They performed in hospitals and prisons, day care centers and college fine arts centers, in concert halls, and on television. They appeared at Lincoln Center's Out-of-Doors Festival in New York and the Alternate ROOTS Festival in Atlanta. The North Carolina Symphony and the Charlotte Symphony both commissioned TOUCH to create and perform original works in concert with them. In 1990, TOUCH received the North Carolina Theater Conference Award for Excellence in Theater for Youth.

Jef has appeared in two UNC-TV special productions with the North Carolina Symphony: *TOUCH Brings Music to Life*, and *Carnival of the Animals*. When his movement/mime skills have been needed, he's also appeared in productions by other theater companies, including: as the plant, Audrey II in Atlanta and Raleigh productions of *Little Shop of Horrors*; as The Mute in Flat Rock Playhouse and Temple Theater productions of *The Fantasticks*; as a street performer/juggler in the opera *Pagliacci*; and as a dog, an alien, and a mime in productions of the Jelly Educational Theater. From 1995 through 1999, Jef was the Managing Director for the Jelly Educational Theater. For three years, Jef performed as the mascot for the Durham Bulls Baseball Team, Wool E. Bull.