

Marty Johnson

Pie in the Face: My childhood dream was to be a clown – and a teacher.

Dramatic Objective: To continue to create materials that inspire students and teachers to experience the joys of musical theater.

Flying High: I performed the role of John in my 4-H club's production of *Peter Pan* when I was nine. I even made my own top hat for the role.

Note-worthy Accomplishments: I wrote an adaptation of *The Emperor's New Clothes* that combined the spoken word and American Sign Language and toured through the Virginia Stage Company in 2000. I'm currently writing a full-length musical with my writing partner, Jonathan Waller.

Gettin' Ready Rag: *Ragtime* is my favorite musical. I had the opportunity to direct the pilot of *Ragtime School Edition*. It was the right people and the right time.

Standing Ovation For: My graduate school advisor, Tom Behm, who taught me to believe in what you do and push yourself to get better.

Casting Himself in Educational Theater: I started doing theater at age nine and wanted to be a teacher by the time I was ten. I was a camp counselor at age 13 and put the two together. The rest is history.

An Apple For This Teacher: Holly Stanfield, a teacher from Kenosha, Wisconsin, is doing great things for the all the right reasons.

Motivated By: My friends and the students I work with.

Perfect Pitch: I try to deliver quality materials and artistically exciting shows to the businesses we work with, whether they be performing arts centers or educational groups.

Showstopping Numbers: Budget cuts have made it more difficult for some schools and groups to be involved in the arts. But the upside is that those who are doing it really feel passionate about it.

Words He Lives By: Enjoy the ride, and take time for yourself.

Advice to the Next Generation of Artists: Experience all areas of theater and keep pushing yourself to learn new things and improve.

Directing Wisdom: Get help from others – don't work in a bubble.

What He Still Finds Thrilling: I enjoy watching parents' reactions when they see their child succeed. It's also inspiring to witness students learning to work together and to help teachers get excited about teaching again.

Performance Pet Peeve: Long scene changes.

Highly Recommends: *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.

What He'd Have on His Desert Island: A microwave.

Favorite Rag: *Entertainment Weekly*.

His Hobbies: I enjoy playing games, reading, and trying out new restaurants.

Why He Hearts NY: There is always something new to do.

Favorite NYC Restaurant: My top pick changes week to week, but I like 44 ½ for a nice dinner.

Idyllic Retreat: My favorite vacation spot is Maine. It holds lots of friends and beautiful scenery. Portland is also very cool.

Go, Packers, Go!: I am a huge Green Bay Packers fan!