

Steven G. Kennedy

The Show Must Go On: While performing in *Crazy For You*, I was literally bumped off the stage. I injured myself pretty badly, but managed to get through the rest of the show before heading to the hospital.

Moving Experience: I was able to live the dream of a lifetime when I was asked to participate in an early workshop of the stage version of *James and The Giant Peach* with the Pilobolus Dance Company. I had a wonderful time lifting, being lifted, and creating wonderful movement with this extraordinary company of dancers! Of course, I was unable to move for several days afterward.

A Job That Didn't Measure Up: I worked in the fashion industry as a fit model, and it was NOT GLAMOROUS!

Dramatic Discovery: Music Theatre International gave me a wonderful opportunity to choreograph a pilot production and choreographic DVD for Meredith Willson's *The Music Man Junior*. Having no previous teaching experience, I found this to be rewarding personally, professionally, and creatively. And look where I am now!

He's Got Rhythm: I am one heck of a tap dancer.

Best Show in Town: A singular highlight of working in educational theater would have to be The Junior Theater Festival. We work very hard to develop great new shows and materials. Watching the young people who have worked so hard on their productions is both inspiring and heartwarming.

Plugged Into: My iPod and Wii.

Special Thanks to: My high school drama teacher, Mrs. Virginia (Ginny) Chizer, who was a great inspiration. She was tough, but so giving and warm. Her classroom was in constant motion, and she really created a safe place for us all to rehearse and experiment. When I rehearse with young people now, I think back to Ginny and try to create that same safe, fun and creative environment.

Artistic Vision: My ultimate goal at iTheatrics is to continue to work hard with our team to give young people everywhere the opportunity to be a part of a team and to help teachers by creating the best resources possible.

A Star is Born: One mother, Mrs. Laurie Canning, was "elected" to direct her school's show, despite having no theater experience. She worked

hard, asked all the right questions, and constantly moved forward despite some big obstacles. The show was a great success! Laurie has continued her training by taking an iTheatrics Teacher Intensive and shadowing the high school director on his production of *Rent School Edition*. She is quite an amazing person and has agreed to direct the school show next year.

When You're a Jet, You're a Jet All the Way: My favorite musical is *West Side Story*.

It's a Marathon, Not a Sprint: People tend to think of "opening night" as the culmination of the theater process, but rehearsing, building a set, designing a costume, choreographing...working *toward* that big opening is really what it's all about.

On Changes in Education and the Educational Theater Market: With testing and large workloads, young people don't seem to have time for much else, and sometimes the arts suffer. Working with curriculum and national standards, educators have flocked to educational theater. They can teach the subjects associated with the show while having a good time and allowing students to experience the arts again.

Sundays... With or Without George: One of my favorite places in New York is Central Park.

High Note: Each time I work on a show there are many students who have never been in a production or even walked on a stage before. It is amazing to watch these young people come into their own. Sometimes the child who says very little early in the rehearsal process is the chatterbox towards the end.

Advice for Young Artists: Though I do not necessarily advocate professional careers to the young people I work with, I would definitely say education is extremely important for a long and satisfying career in "the business."

No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service: I hate sandals or flip flops in rehearsal. And please, no chewing gum!

Teacher's Pet: I have a Basenji named Kizzy.

In Harmony With: My favorite music group Erasure.

Scene Change: I love Oahu, Hawaii...staying at The Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

***Bon Appetit:* I love to cook! I am of German heritage, and my family never used recipes. Though I can't say I *never* use them, I do love to just open up my refrigerator and start combining and experimenting.**

How He Juggles His Busy Workload: **Coffee!**