

Mr. Jonas Basom

Jonas Basom is a passionate educator, artist, consultant, and author. He is a national presenter in arts and literacy for schools, organizations, and education conferences. His hands-on workshops train teachers how to use drama in all school subjects to create an optimal learning environment. Jonas has created curriculum products such as The Drama Game File that are used by teachers, school districts, and universities nationwide. For his teaching excellence, leadership, and innovation, Jonas was awarded the 2003 Bravo Award for Outstanding Arts Educator of Southern California.

Jonas first appeared on stage as the hungry crocodile at the age of six and has been immersed in the performing arts ever since. He received outstanding training at world-renown Seattle Children's Theatre, and Roosevelt High School, a national top-ten theatre program. His professional credits include dozens of productions for stage, film, television, and radio. In Los Angeles, Jonas has engaged hundreds of children at parties and events as Kuzu the Klown and helped produce and perform traveling theatre productions for school assemblies. Jonas is accomplished in acting, pantomime, puppetry, tap dance, clowning, singing, improvisation, and voice-over work.

Jonas received his BA in English and French from Amherst College, and his MA in Education with Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Pepperdine University. As a teacher, Jonas has worked with students from preschool to adult in both private and public schools. From 1993-2000, Jonas created and managed the Drama Program at the prestigious Buckley School. His curriculum included sequential drama instruction for every child in grades K-5, elective courses for middle school, and annual performances in grades 1-6. In 1999 Buckley won the Bravo Award for Outstanding Visual and Performing Arts School.

Since 2000, Jonas has been a traveling theatre teacher and coach for Los Angeles Unified School District's Arts Program. He trains elementary teachers in standards-based theatre arts instruction by teaching 12 model lessons to K-6 students, leading staff development, and coaching teachers individually.

Jonas has taught high school students as a guest artist at numerous schools and conferences. As program director for The Media Workshops, Jonas organized and taught hundreds of high school and college students from around the country in media studies seminars at UCLA.

As an adjunct professor at California State University LA, Jonas has developed a required course in theatre arts for elementary credential candidates. He has also taught courses in puppetry and literacy for the University of Phoenix.