

2020 KBA Roster

Building/Engineering

Jay Mankita playfulengineers.com

Comics

Marek Bennett www.marekbennett.com

Juggling-Comedy

Alex O'Brien Feldman www.alexthejester.com

Michael Menes <http://www.michaelmenes.com/cosmic-juggling/>

Magic

Tom & Debbie O'Carroll www.debbieocarroll.com

Markus and Angelique Steelgrave www.SteelgraveMagic.com

Music

Aaron Jones www.mraaronmusic.com

Julieann Hartley www.missjulieann.com

Nature

Squam Lakes Science Center <http://nhnature.org>

Storyteller

Mark Binder <https://transmitjoy.com/library/>

Simon Brooks <https://www.SimonBrooksStoryteller.com>

Theater

UNH- Little Red Wagon <https://cola.unh.edu/theatre-dance/academics/youth-programs/little-red-wagon>

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

JAY MANKITA

310 Montague Rd
Amherst, MA 01002
413-627-3145

Contact: Jay Mankita

Arts Discipline: **Building/Engineering**

jay@playfulengineers.com

www.playfulengineers.com

Program Descriptions:

"Chain Reactions & Creative Contraptions" A two-hour hands-on building workshop (participants do not have to stay the entire time) in which kids/families build "Rube Goldberg Machines", complicated chain reactions which accomplish simple tasks. You supply the people and the tables; Jay brings all the materials, including tracks, balls, pulleys, dominoes, wood blocks, string, rubber bands, clamps, tinkertoys, etc... from which the participants build whiffle-whackers, tetherballs, mini-ziplines, fantasticators, and carousels, as part of their mechanisms. This workshop dovetails nicely with the theme - each Rube Goldberg Machine tells a story; based on the age and abilities of each participant, the storytelling aspect of individual projects will be developed more or less. For instance, a metal washer spiraling down a threaded rod can also be an elevator, a car driving down a multi-level parking garage, or an animal running down an underground tunnel. This workshop works easily for small focused groups, and large groups up to 100 people. Larger groups of up to 200 people can be great fun, but need to be confirmed in advance and may require additional funding. Please see videos and quotes at Jay's website, playfulengineers.com

Length of program: 2 Hours

Program suited for: All ages and families (less suited for babies and toddlers)

Program can be performed:

Fee: \$500 for 2 Hours

Mileage charge: federal rate

Block booking rates available

Performance space requirements: Tables and floor space

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

MAREK BENNETT – COMICS WORKSHOP

93 Bennett Road

Henniker, NH 03242

603-428-7049

marek@marekbennett.com

www.marekbennett.com

Contact: Marek Bennett

Arts Discipline: **Comics Workshop**

Program Descriptions:

"IMAGINE YOUR STORY" COMICS WORKSHOP Join NH teaching artist Marek Bennett's COMICS WORKSHOP on a quest to create original comics that ONLY YOU can draw... Using blank paper, pencils, ink, and four basic "storytelling elements," we'll find out what happens when lines, dots, and blobs turn into mysterious characters and magical worlds with surprising powers and secrets. We'll also look at how artists and authors use peer feedback to improve their work and get it out to new readers, and ways to self-publish our work as photocopied hand-made "mini-comics." Marek shares his own tips and tricks from 25 years of creating graphic novels, from his first sci-fi daily "Quasar Blasters" newspaper strips to his current "Freeman Colby" Civil War adventure series.

This program is based around active group drawing time, with participants each creating 1+ pages of original comics under Marek's guidance. Longer formats can also include the creation of a group anthology mini-comic featuring 1+ pages of sample artwork for each artist, produced & published during the workshop for each participant to take home as a souvenir. Marek's popular interactive COMICS WORKSHOPS build literacy skills, hone powers of imagination, model complex project organization and self-publishing techniques, and help artists of all ages collaborate, appreciate, and support the work of their peers. Participants go home with the skills necessary to continue creating comics independently all Summer long. No experience required – everyone can draw comics!

Length of program: 45 minutes to 3 hours (flexible)

Program suited for: grades 1-12

Program can be performed: indoors

Fee: \$350

Mileage charge: .50 per mile from Henniker

Block booking rates available

Performance space requirements: Tables, chairs, pencils, paper

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

ALEX THE JESTER

80 Rogers Ave

Contact: Alex O'Brien Feldman

Somerville, MA 02144

Arts Discipline: **Juggling Comedy**

617-591-8161

alex@alexthejester.com

www.alexthejester.com

Program Descriptions:

Whoosh !! In the blink of an eye, the the drab, quiet monk whips off his plain, brown robe, to reveal a crazy colorful, court jester ! Soon the playful fool is doing all the fun things that are denied to a monk. He's dancing, making faces, juggling, and goofing with the audience. Soon he leads the audience in a series of antics that turn this quiet abbey into a house of merry! Nonetheless, he tones down the laugh riot here and there, lest he gets caught by the stern abbot ! Alex the Jester has devoted his life to being a fool, that character that can get people of nearly any age or culture to laugh. He's dazzled audiences on Showtime, PBS, America's Got Talent, and Off-Broadway . Wild sight gags , amazing stunts, audience interactions and his crazy gibberish create a show that you'll never forget. This show is easy to promote and easily draws large audiences. After laughing an hour with all ages present, people don't want to leave! The kids linger for autographed bookmarks. and the adults catch up with their friends and take pictures of their kids next to a bona fide court jester.

Workshop **Fool School**

How to Get People to Lighten up!

The fool has always had a vital role: to make merry, especially when other folks are a little too serious. The fool starts with making light of him or herself, and has a disarming way that would invite others into an upside -down world that somehow made perfect sense.

- That impish look before pulling a prank
- How to say a mouthful without speaking a word
- Crazy mouth sounds, gibberish and double talk
- Balancing tricks
- Creating a funny walk
- Safe slapstick
- Over-the-top faces
- How to get loud applause without asking for it

Length of program: 45-60 minutes

Program suited for: ages 5-105

Program can be performed: indoors

Fee: \$525 Workshop is offered after the show for \$125 additional

Mileage charge: federal rate

Block booking rates available \$460 (mileage reduced to .25 mile)

Performance space requirements:

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

MICHAEL MENES

357 Darnit Rd

Contact: Michael Menes

Buckfield, ME 04220

Arts Discipline: **Juggling Comedy**

207-440-9147

msmenes@gmail.com

<http://www.michaelmenes.com/cosmic-juggling/>

Program Descriptions:

JUGGLING STORIES from Around The World In this juggling show for libraries, Michael goes on an adventurous journey, sharing his story about becoming a successful juggler who travels around the world with all his amazing juggling skills. From Argentina to England to China and all the way to Australia, children will get to see many different kinds of juggling and hear stories from the places they come from. Michael Menes (pronounced Men•ness) is a contemporary vaudevillian who has performed all over the world. A juggler and world traveler for over 30 years, Michael has performed in festivals, theaters, television, and on over a dozen luxury cruise lines all over the world.

JUGGLING and Coordination Workshops (Maximum 25 Children) Children will learn to juggle scarves, swing pois, balance objects, and learn basic principles of juggling patterns. Michael will also demonstrate and have kids try "drop-free juggling" by using an apparatus he invented called a ParaPlay.

Length of program: 45 minutes

Program suited for: ages 4 and up

Program can be performed: indoors or outdoors

Fee: \$400 Juggling workshops \$75 **Mileage charge:** none

Block booking rates available

Performance space requirements: Electrical outlet and an area that is 12 x 16 plus space for the audience

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

TOM & DEBBIE O'CARROLL

51 Olive Street

Newburyport, MA 01950

978-462-9954

debbie@debbieocarroll.com

www.debbieocarroll.com

Contact: Tom & Debbie O'Carroll

Arts Discipline: **Magic**

Program Descriptions:

The Wonderful World Magic Show Tom & Debbie O'Carroll will delight your young patrons with a fun and funny interactive magic show that highlights fairy tales and myths from around the world. Lively songs and tunes on the guitar, banjo, tin whistle, mandolin, Irish drum and African thumb piano will introduce youngsters to music from Scotland, Spain, East Africa, Ireland, Italy. Their dazzling stage magic illusions will enchant all with lore of magical storybook characters from around the world like a Scottish prankster water horse, the Mexican Cinderella, a mischievous forest sprite from Ghana, a crafty leprechaun, the gift-bringing grandmother Befana from Italy and the weather-forecasting groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil from the United States.

Make Your Own Magic Tricks Workshop Get your favorite magic word ready! You will learn how to make and perform some astounding magic tricks that feature myths and legends. Amaze your friends and family with the magic illusions, sleight-of-hand effects, and card tricks that you will learn how to create and take home with you. This fun-filled hour-long workshop is for ages 7 and older.

Length of program: 45 minutes

Program suited for: 3-10

Program can be performed: indoors or outdoors

Fee: \$350 performance, \$225 workshop **Mileage charge:** none

Block booking rates available

Performance space requirements: clear 10 x 10 space

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

MAGIC OF THE STEELGRAVES

399 Roberts Ridge Road

Contact: Markus and Angelique Steelgrave

East Waterboro, ME 04030

Arts Discipline: **Magic**

207-247-2361

amazed@steelgravemagic.com

www.SteelgraveMagic.com

Program Descriptions:

What do fantasy, fairy tales, and myths have in common? The element of Magic! In a fairy tale, as in a magic show, things aren't always as they seem. One of the region's only magical duos, The Steelgraves bring that very sense of wonder, surprise, and delight to hundreds of family audiences throughout the Northeast each year. Shows are completely self-contained (with a flexible backdrop that can expand to fit your space), and feature adorable animals, upbeat routines performed to music, lots of good-natured audience participation, and astonishing illusions you won't see anywhere else!

Markus was inspired to be a magician as a child, after reading a book in the library about Harry Houdini, and finding instructions for a magic trick in the back of the book. (Little did he imagine then, that would be the start of his lifelong "story"!) Angelique founded and toured with Krackerjack Theatre and Driftwood Players before teaming with Markus. Over the years, The Steelgraves have created many different types of shows, including several that utilized the CSLP themes. In addition to their performing career, The Steelgraves co-founded and were Entertainment Coordinators of the Cape Cod Festival of Magic and produced a convention for magicians, the Oceanside Magic International on Cape Cod.

Their performances for library audiences are a fun blend of magic and other arts—captivating the youngest kiddos as well as parents and grandparents. For this year's theme, The Steelgraves weave magic and fantasy into a joyful experience that will pique the curiosity of your young readers and inspire them to find out more...by leaving them with the "magic number", 793.8.

Length of program: 50-60 minutes

Program suited for: 4 and up

Program can be performed: indoors

Fee: \$395

Mileage charge: .50 every mile

Block booking rates available discount \$50 per show and split mileage charges

Performance space requirements: electrical outlet and cleared space minimum of 12' wide x 10' deep.

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

MR. AARON

3 ½ Liberty Street. Apt B

Contact: Aaron Jones

Concord, NH 03301

Arts Discipline: **Music**

770-298-6482

Rattleboxstudio@gmail.com

www.mraaronmusic.com

Program Descriptions:

Join Mr. Aaron on a fantastic musical adventure! We'll go on an imaginative, interactive musical quest, featuring story songs, sing-alongs, multiple musical instruments, creative collaborative song writing, and plenty of dancing and fun for all. The program follows a loose storyline, with built in moments of crowd creativity and participation; a kind of musical choose-your-own adventure. What song do we need to sing to sneak by the sleeping dragon? What if she wakes up? What music will we make? The program is an exciting blend of music and using our imaginations collaboratively.

Mr. Aaron's build-an-instrument workshop is a wonderful compliment to his musical quest program. We'll go into more detail about the instruments Mr. Aaron uses in his presentation, exploring the materials they are made from, how they produce sound, and how they are played, with opportunities for all workshop attendees to try. After that, we'll craft our own musical instruments from recycled materials, and see what music we can create as a group. The cost of materials is included in the workshop fee.

Length of program: 45-60 minutes

Program suited for: 0-10

Program can be performed: indoors or outdoors

Fee: \$325 solo/\$425 duo/\$525 band/ \$300 add on workshop

Mileage charge: .25 every mile

Block booking rates available

Performance space requirements: space for kids to sit and move. A small table for my merchandise if it's okay to display it.

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

MISS JULIEANN

19 Prescott Heights Road

Contact: Julieann Hartley

Hooksett, NH 03106

Arts Discipline: **Music**

603-848-5037

Julieannhartley1@gmail.com

www.missjulieann.com

Program Descriptions:

Flamingo the Fish: A Concert about Creativity with Miss Julieann - Join board certified music therapist, Julieann Hartley for an interactive program that also teaches caregivers how to help support their child's developmental needs, no matter how varied they are. Using the original songs from her album, Miss Julieann: Therapeutic Songs for Kids, as well as other fantastical kid's classics, Miss Julieann will be getting the children to move, shake, imagine, laugh and challenge themselves in a variety of ways. With an emphasis on supporting imaginative play, the program will address a variety of social, emotional, behavioral, communication, motor and cognitive skills appropriate for ages 0-10. The children will play instruments and dance, while the adults learn about how to take the music home and adapt it to better meet their child's needs. Throughout the program, children will get to play instruments and change the words to songs to embrace their imaginations. At the end, Miss Julieann will be around to help address any parent's questions about how to adapt a song for to better support their child.

Literary Fairy Tea Party and Musical Jam with Miss Julieann- In this whimsical workshop/concert, participants are invited to come dressed up as their favorite fantastical creature and participate in a musical tea party that serves up a healthy dose of imagination to each child. Miss Julieann will host participants to a tea party made up entirely of the children's imaginations. In between the pretend servings of "Creature Cookies", "Idea Ice Cream", "Day Dream Dumplings" and "Thinking Tea", Miss Julieann will lead the group in the silly songs including, "The Literary Fairy" which promotes literacy and imagination through music, as well as a variety of songs from her album, Miss Julieann: Therapeutic Songs for Kids. These songs were specifically designed to be interactive and address a variety of social, emotional, behavioral, communication, motor and cognitive skill appropriate for ages 0-10. On top of showing parents how to use music to address some of the developmental goals, children will walk away with a deeper understanding on how to use books and music as a gateway to their favorite fantasy worlds. At the end, Miss Julieann will be around to help address any parent's questions about how to adapt a song for to better support their child. Songwriting workshops for older children and adults also available.

Length of program: 45 minutes of music, 15 minutes of album signing or pictures

Program suited for: All ages

Program can be performed: indoors or outdoors

Fee: \$325 solo/\$425 duo with Mr. Joey **Mileage charge:** federal rate **Block booking rates available**

Performance space requirements: Access to electrical outlet

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

SQUAM LAKES SCIENCE CENTER

23 Science Center Road, PO Box 173

Contact: Audrey Eisenhauer

Holderness, NH 03245

Arts Discipline: **Nature**

603-968-7194 x14

Audrey.eisenhauer@nhnature.org

<http://nhnature.org>

Program Descriptions:

Stories on the Wild Side - Reading and science come together in this fun program blending storytelling with up close encounters with three live, native, NH wild animals. Animal characters in stories are often very different from real animals, but we can still learn important truths about animals through stories. A Squam Lakes Natural Science Center naturalist will read aloud short stories featuring animals and the natural world, and then introduce one or two of the story's wild characters. Visits with live animals featured in the tales will challenge kids to separate fact from fiction.

Length of program: 1 Hour

Program suited for: target grades K-4 but all ages will enjoy. **Program can be performed:** indoors

Fee: \$250 (non profit discount rate)

Mileage charge: federal rate

Block booking rates available: No

Performance space requirements: We require a table in the front of the program space (such as a 6' folding table). If there is a screen and projection system onsite that saves us from having to bring our own.

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

MARK BINDER

PO Box 2462

Contact: Mark Binder

Providence, RI 02906

Arts Discipline: **Storytelling**

401-272-8707

mark@markbinder.com

<https://transmitjoy.com/library/>

Program Descriptions:

Imagine Your Story -- Tall Tales and Fairy Tales -- from "Cinderella Spinderella" to "It Ate My Sister" or "The Short Tale of Erika P. Spunk", author and storyteller Mark Binder delights listeners of all ages with stories that spark the imagination (and encourage reading). Weaving a blend of reading, storytelling and song, Mark Binder captures attention and takes patrons on a journey with imagination. Everyone is transported. Mark's programs are 45 minutes long and adapt based on the patrons who are there that day. (In other words, if you're planning a middle grade program and a bunch of early learners show up, neither group will leave disappointed.)

Imagine Your Story -- And Write It Down! Mark Binder is the master of the "Instant Short Story." He has developed a method to teach writers how to unlock their creativity and structure their stories. This is a fun, hands-on workshop that turns readers into writers. It's amazing how much can be accomplished in 60 minutes. Mark teaches children, teens and adults how to "improvise" a story and then shape it into something whole and satisfying. There is no maximum number of participants, but they must all be at the same age range. I.E. Middle Grade and Parents. Teen. Adult. Because it's a writing workshop, under third grade doesn't work. No maximum number, but each participant must have a table/desk and chair, writing paper and a pen. Laptops are ok too. Must have a chalkboard/dry erase board/flip pad or screen with projector/computer connector.

Length of program: 45 minute author visit/storytelling program. 60 minute writing workshop

Program suited for: 3-103 Multigenerational but program can be adapted for a specific age group.

Program can be performed: indoors or outdoors

Fee: \$400

Mileage charge: .58 per mile (discount block booking)

Block booking rates available

Performance space requirements: A cup of water, a chair and a table. I have my own sound system if necessary. If a large outdoor space, then we'll need power.

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

SIMON BROOKS

253 Barrett Road

New London, NH 03257

603-877-0033

simon@diamondscree.com

<https://www.SimonBrooksStoryteller.com>

Contact: Simon Brooks

Arts Discipline: **Storytelling**

Program Descriptions:

Award-winning British storyteller, humourist and entertainer Simon Brooks has been sharing some lesser-known, as well as popular folk and fairy tales, myths and legends throughout New England. He has also traveled to many other states during his over 15 years as a professional storyteller and raconteur. His character voices and sound effects make him popular in schools and libraries. He transports listeners to another place where they become part of the tale, as they imagine the story. Simon will share tales from all over the globe, incorporating many cultures in a single hour. Tales from Japan, Korea, Britain, China, Africa, Europe and the Americas all fall within Simon's repertoire. 'Jack' tales, pourquoi stories, animal tales, and fables, stories of King Arthur, Greek myths, and more are all at this master storyteller's fingertips. Humour, pathos, and a small dose of silliness even adults enjoy are all included - at no extra cost! His ability to engage care-givers as well as children makes his presentations all the more value for money. Based in New London, NH makes him easy to reach and not far from most! Block bookings split mileage as well as 10% discount to help keep expenses down for all libraries. And you are giving work to a 'local' business. Simon also provides separate 60-90 minute workshops on how to tell stories (true personal and/or fairy tales), and public speaking, which are as much play as learning. Simon Brooks has performed at the Arts Museum, Boston, the Isabella Stewart Museum, hospitals, schools, colleges, camps, businesses, private parties and many festivals and conferences. In 2018 he performed at the prestigious National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN. In 2019 he will be performing at the Timpanogos Festival in UT, and in 2020 will be seen telling tales on the main stage at the Florida Storytelling Festival. Simon has released four storytelling CDs/albums and an recording of his "The Epic of Gilgamesh, a retelling." His first book, "Under the Oaken Bough," a collection of seventeen folk and fairy tales was published by Parkhurst Brothers in April 2018. He has a podcast called "Conversations with Storytellers" where he spends time interviewing some of the storytellers in the country who are the storytelling community's elders. Available on iTunes, Stitcher, and at his Patreon page: <https://www.patreon.com/simonbrooks>

Simon Brooks offers many workshops from 'How To Create Fractured Fairy Tales' to 'FastTrack To Storytelling', a workshop which teaches public speaking through telling either personal true stories, or fairy tales. Using different techniques, participants will learn how to find a story, break it down and sequence the tale, then how to learn it and present the story. This workshop is best suited for no more than 10 participants for between an hour and 90 minutes. The longer, the deeper, and more fun people will have as they learn through games, play, and sharing.

Length of program: 40-60 minutes, sometimes a little more if folks are having fun.

Program suited for: 5 and up family shows **Program can be performed:** indoors or outdoors

Fee: \$295

Mileage charge: .55 within 100 miles drive of New London, NH, .58 beyond

Block booking rates available Performance space requirements: Power if inside

KIDS, BOOKS AND THE ARTS ROSTER 2020

UNH – LITTLE RED WAGON

30 Academic Way PCAC, Room D22

Contact: Jamie Clavet

Durham, NH 03824

Arts Discipline: **Theater**

603-862-2150

Jamie.clavet@unh.edu

<https://cola.unh.edu/theatre-dance/academics/youth-programs/little-red-wagon>

Program Descriptions:

The Little Red Wagon is a professional summer theatre troupe that tours throughout New England each summer. We are the longest running not for profit children's theatre troupe in North America. This summer we have two shows on tour for hosts to choose from first up is "mystery box". What's in that mystery box? The curious little red wagon troupe open it to see what myths pop out! It's certainly more than Pandora bargained for. Our second show is "the wildlife in my life".

Mom, dad and Jamie are moving to the country! What kind of animals will they encounter on the way? And how will mom and dad cope when they find out their new home is already home for a bunch of other furry and feathery friends? If Jamie has anything to do with it, everyone will learn how to love and live with all the critters that make living in the country interesting and fun! Join Jamie in working out how to teach mom and dad to coexist with native wildlife.

Length of program: 35-45 minutes

Program suited for: All Ages

Program can be performed: indoors or outdoors

Fee: \$500.00 - \$800 for 2 shows

Mileage charge: none

Block booking rates available: No

Performance space requirements: We need access to a single power outlet to power our sound system. We also request a flat open space 16-20 ft. wide.

