

**Richard Hellesen** is the author of a number of plays for adults and children. Among the former are *Kingdom* (premiered at the Denver Center Theatre Company; recipient of the Barrie Stavis Playwriting Award from the National Theatre Conference, and a finalist in the PEN USA West 2000 Literary Awards); *Once In Arden* (originally produced by South Coast Repertory, and the recipient of a Julie Harris Playwriting Award from the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild); *Moonshadow* (six regional theatre productions; awarded the Dennis McIntyre Playwriting Award by the Philadelphia Festival Theatre for New Plays); an adaptation of Frank Norris' *The Octopus* (semi-finalist, 2011 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference); and five plays for Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, where he is an Associate Artist: the full-length *Necessary Sacrifices*, commissioned and premiered in 2012, the one-acts *One Destiny*, *The Road From Appomattox*, and *Investigation: Detective McDevitt*, and as co-writer, the new adaptation of the Frank Wildhorn musical *Freedom's Song*. With the late composer David De Berry he wrote the book for the musical *A Cappella* (premiered at the Sacramento Theatre Company), and a widely-produced musical adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. His two-dozen produced short plays include five finalists for the Actors Theatre of Louisville Heideman Award: *Four One-Hundredths*, *Layin' Off the Lizard-Boy*, *Ethnic Cleansing*, *Teardown*, and *A Speedy And Public Trial*, all produced at City Theatre in Miami (among others). His one-act *Dos Corazones* received a Los Angeles Ovation Award writing nomination, and appears in "Best Ten-Minute Plays 2012", published by Smith & Kraus. Two additional full-length plays, *Compelled* and *All She Wrote*, are currently in progress.

Mr. Hellesen's plays for young audiences include a version of *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* (published by Samuel French), *The Emperor's New Clothes* (People's Light & Theatre Company), and an adaptation of Esther Forbes' novel *Johnny Tremain* (B Street Theatre, Sacramento). With Grammy-winning composer Michael Silversher he has written a musical adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* (part of South Coast Repertory's inaugural Family Series in 2004, with a revised version playing at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Maryland in 2011), as well as eleven Educational Touring musicals for SCR, three of which--*Face 2 Face*, *My Mom's Dad*, and *Birds of A Feather*--were subsequently produced at the Sundance Children's Theatre in Utah. *Face 2 Face* and another tour show, *The Pride of Weedpatch Camp*, were selected as workshop study plays by the Lincoln Center Institute's Rural Arts Education program in 2006 and 2007, through the William Inge Center for the Arts in Independence, Kansas. Along with composer/lyricist Joy Sikorski, they are currently working on an adaptation of Lois Lowry's young adult novel *Gathering Blue* (finalist, O'Neill Music Theatre Conference, 2009).

A member of the Dramatists Guild, Mr. Hellesen was an invited attendee at the Theatre Communications Group National Conferences in 2005 and 2007, a guest panelist at the William Inge Theatre Festival in 2003, and playwright-in-residence at the Inge Center in 2009 and 2012. Additionally, he assists with one-on-one dramaturgy for the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, and has worked in the literary departments of several theatres, including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, South Coast Repertory, and B Street Theatre in Sacramento, where he makes his home.

## **MICHAEL SILVERSHER**

**Composer - Songwriter - Arranger - Producer - Musical Director**

### **WORK FOR THE THEATRE**

#### **SOUTH COAST REPERTORY (1989-2009):**

##### **Composer, Music Director and Sound Designer**

THE ADVENTURES OF PØR QUINLY / THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS / INDIAN SUMMER / THE PRIDE OF WEEDPATCH CAMP / BIRDMAN! / EUREKA! / POWER PLAY / BAD WATER BLUES / RHUBARB JAM / THE FITNESS GAME / BIRDS OF A FEATHER / MY MOM'S DAD / SCRAPPERS / FACE 2 FACE / THE RAMP / GIFT RAP / WHEN I GROW UP

#### **THE KENNEDY CENTER, WASHINGTON, D.C (1996-present):**

##### **Composer**

KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY TALE (w/Mo Willems; currently on national tour) / THE HAPPY PRINCE (opera, w/Elizabeth Wong) / HOW TO MAKE AN APPLE PIE AND SEE THE WORLD (w/Wendy McLeod) / NEW VISIONS, NEW VOICES / A PØR QUINLY CHRISTMAS (w/Quincy Long)

#### **L.A. OPERA (2000):**

##### **Composer**

FRIDAY NIGHT AT HODGES' CAFE

#### **SUNDANCE INSTITUTE PLAYWRIGHT'S LAB & THEATRE (1991-1996):**

##### **Resident Composer, Musical Director, and Resource Artist**

PHOEBE'S CLOSET / FINDING HOME / LEGENDARY CHRISTMAS / OTIS FURIOSO / THE ADVENTURES OF PØR QUINLY / NOBODY HOME

#### **MARK TAPER FORUM (1983-1990):**

##### **Composer, Music Director and Sound Designer**

HAROLD'S BIG FEAT / ONE THOUSAND CRANES / THE ADVENTURES OF PØR QUINLY / P.H.\*reaks (THE DISABLED HISTORY PROJECT) / PUZZLES & SOLUTIONS / THE GREATEST STORIES NEVER TOLD / IN SEARCH OF SIPPAPU / ROBINSON & CRUSOE / THE BEAR THAT WASN'T / NOT WHAT YOU SEE, BUT WHO I AM / JUMP CUT / RAINBOW COUNTRY

#### **THEATREWORKS/Palo Alto (1970-1980)**

##### **Composer and Sound Designer**

COMEDY OF ERRORS / SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS / TWELFTH NIGHT / STORY THEATRE / CHANTICLEER / ODD BODKINS / BUNGLEBERRY STATEMENT / A NEW SONG / ADVENTURES UNDERGROUND / DREAMEATERS / GARDEN OF DELIGHTS / POPCORN / THE CRUCIBLE / the Scottish play\* / TWIGS / THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS / WHEATFIELD WITH CROWS

**Extensive work in television series and specials (Emmy nominations: 1996, 1997, 1999), film, and recording (Grammy Award, Best Children's Recording With Music, 2000), with many contributions to the Walt Disney and Jim Henson song catalogs. Currently composer for two Henson/PBS series, "Dinosaur Train" and "Pajanimals". Member, Board of Directors, The Academy for New Musical Theatre; co-founder, Northern California Songwriters Association.**

**Joy Sikorski** began her music training at age 4, and by age 11 had appeared as piano soloist with the Los Angeles Southeast Symphony, and made several television appearances. She later studied voice, taking master classes (Beverly Sills, Van Cliburn, Madame Ina Suez) and winning contests and scholarships including the Hollywood Opera Club Award. While pursuing an opera career, she married and her life took an unusual turn due North...to Alaska! She built a log cabin with her husband, had 3 children (2 of them born in the cabin), and continued to compose, perform and teach. Her score for the 1977 film *Out There* was recorded by the Anchorage Symphony; she also wrote and recorded the score for the 1989 documentary film *Last Harvest* (winner of the PRSA Award for Excellence), as well as numerous commercial film and radio scores. Among her other original compositions are *Seven Alaskan Flute Pieces* (performed by Jean-Pierre Rampal) and *Caedmon's Hymn* (for the Idyllwild Master Chorale in California). Her music has also been featured in Washington D.C. to raise funds for Rwandan genocide victims, and was smuggled (along with other humanitarian aid) into Eastern Europe and Russia to people behind the former Iron Curtain. She also co-founded "Caring for the Kenai," an award-winning high school environmental awareness contest featured on ABC's "Good Morning America" whose contestants have received the President's Environmental Youth Award, and was also instrumental in establishing an award-winning dance studio and statewide early childhood music education workshops. Returning to Los Angeles in 2001, she became involved as a composer/lyricist and Founding Steering Committee member at the Academy for New Musical Theatre, and created SingBabySing™, a program for early childhood vocal development. She has given voice workshops in numerous states, taught at Idyllwild Arts Academy, been a featured author in Los Angeles Family Magazine, and been a workshop presenter at the B.E.S.T. Arts Conference for Preschool Educators in the Los Angeles area and the statewide Homeschool Association of California. She composed incidental music for *The Wind in the Willows* at South Coast Repertory Theatre in Costa Mesa, and is currently at work on two book projects, original music compositions, continuing online development of SingBabySing™, as well as music copyist work for various other projects.