



TRENT ARTERBERRY — BIOGRAPHY

When he was just seven years old, Trent Arterberry was amazed and intrigued watching legendary mime artist Marcel Marceau (on television's Ed Sullivan Show) ascending an invisible staircase and battling a nonexistent wind. Many years later those iconic, compelling images were still in Arterberry's mind's eye, vividly illustrating how the elemental language of gesture is truly a universal one - understandable, evocative and engaging to young and old alike. And so as a young man, Arterberry embarked on a quest to share that same magic and wonder with as many people as possible.

Born in Los Angeles in 1951, Arterberry left college in 1971 to pursue studies in mime and theatre. He learned first from master-of-movement Don MacLeod, who would soon enjoy national exposure for his impersonation of a seemingly authentic, raging gorilla attacking a suitcase in the 1970's American Tourister television commercials. Next, Arterberry studied at the National Mime Theatre for two years, while supporting himself as an increasingly popular performer at Boston-area schools.

Arterberry's innovative addition of sound effects, music, and humorous dialogue made his mime shows more accessible and compelling to ever wider audiences - by the mid

'70s, he was touring colleges and opening for major music acts such as Marvin Hamlisch, BB King, and The Kinks. This extensive touring led, in 1983, to Arterberry being recognized as the "Performing Artist of the Year" by the U.S. National Association for Campus Activities. Arterberry later toured with the renowned Spanish crooner, Julio Iglesias, who at the time was the top-selling recording artist in the world. The tour included stops at New York's Radio City Music Hall and Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens.

As his popularity has grown, Arterberry's interest in reaching out to new audiences in new ways has never waned. So he has performed on the streets of Harvard Square, and he's also performed on ice - during the intermission of a University of New Hampshire hockey game. And again while posing for a Pousette-Dart Band album cover on a frozen Walden Pond. He's performed on top his car - during half-time at a college football game. He's performed on water - headlining on the legendary QE2 World Cruise. He's even performed under water amongst sharks and eels in the New England Aquarium's giant ocean tank, where he was bitten on the bottom by an overzealous sea turtle.

During the following decade, Arterberry both found a new love (settling in Sooke, British Columbia to start a family with secondary school teacher Beverley Ruth Sawatzky), and returned to his first love - performing for children. By the '90s, he was performing at hundreds of schools annually throughout the Atlantic Northeast and Pacific Northwest. In 1996, Arterberry and

the renowned Mr. Fish developed *Super Scientific Circus*, a show that combines comedic antics and circus skills to teach the physics of boomerangs, bubbles and sonic booms. *Super Scientific Circus* has been in constant demand ever since, seen by hundreds of thousands of students in the US, Mexico, and the Far East.

Not content to be reaching only children, in 1998, Arterberry wrote, performed and directed *Mime Out Loud* which won "Best Local Production" at the Victoria Fringe Festival. In the next few years, he developed *Actions Speak Louder* for high school audiences, and *Think Big* for elementary school children, both of which combine hilarious physical theatre with thoughtful, inspiring reflections on the importance of learning and the power of the imagination.

In recent years, Arterberry has stretched into new territory again, working with director Gregg Goldston and playwright Rob Wipond to develop shows that blend his trademark physical expressiveness with comedic speaking characters and dramatic story lines. Their collaborations have produced, *My Impractical Life*, a semi-autobiographical exploration of confronting career choices in the teen years, and *The Secret Life of Walter Manny*, about a lonely boy with an overactive imagination that gets him in - and out of - trouble. One could say in other words, now in his sixties. Arterberry is once again making engaging and provocative shows about battling winds and ascending staircases.