

# Storyteller Kirk Waller

## (Short Bio)

With a lifelong love of story, literature and the visual arts, Kirk Waller has been immersed in these art forms for over 20 years. He summons all of his God-given talents and masterfully fuses them together - spoken word, rhythm, music and movement to create an unforgettable storytelling experience.

He has garnered national recognition for his abilities, including being awarded the J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant by the National Storytelling Network, receiving a Parent's Choice Foundation GOLD award for his latest CD, ***“But Why? Stories, Music and Songs”***, First Place in the Phi Rho Pi National Forensics Speech Championship and was also a Marin Arts Council Community Arts Grant recipient for his work with Fair Housing of Marin, Colors of Diversity Storytelling Project. Kirk received his Bachelor's Degree in English and his Master's in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University.

Kirk has told at festivals, schools, libraries, churches and special events in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he resides with his two great boys and across our nation. He will be telling at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN for the first time this coming fall.

Kirk Waller was awarded the coveted J.J. Reneaux Emerging Grant in 2010 by the National Storytelling Network. The Emerging Artist Grant awards a monetary benefit and national exposure to a storyteller of major and unique performing talent who has not yet received wide public recognition.

*“Although there were other excellent candidates, the committee was unanimous in its selection of Kirk Waller,” said the Review Committee, J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award. “We were struck by the commitment and passion he brings to his craft and the wide range of skills he possesses.”*

Kirk is a member of the National Storytelling Network, National Speakers Association, Storytelling Association of California and Delta Wordweavers. He is also the Director of Storytelling Programs at Stagebridge Senior Theater Company in Oakland, Ca.