

# GARY SCHWARTZ

ACTING / IMPROV TEACHER & PROFESSIONAL ACTOR

## QUALIFICATIONS

Multi-talented, award-winning actor/director/writer and successful entrepreneur with more than 35 years experience teaching acting to beginners and fellow professionals in all age groups; estimated 1000+ students throughout career. Protégé of Viola Spolin and Director of *Intuitive Learning Systems*, which promotes the legendary Spolin approach to improv. Two-time winner on *America's Funniest People*. Founder of The Unity Theater in North Bend, WA. Credits include voice-overs for more than 600 films and TV shows. Member of Barbara Harris's The Looping Group in LA and The Spolin Players in Seattle. Member of SAG/AFTRA and Council Member of the Screen Actors Guild, Seattle chapter.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Walla Washington, Seattle, WA** 2004-Present

**Founder** of and **Trainer** for the first professional looping group in Washington state.

- Facilitate post-production in the NW by quickly elevating amateur voice talent into professional.

**The Unity Theater, North Bend, WA** 2003-Present

**Founder** and **Director** of the first theater of its kind in the Snoqualmie Valley.

- Recruit and train novice talent to act in various professional productions.
- Consistently sell out show tickets after only 6 months in the community.

**Spolin Games for the Actor & Improvisor, Various Locations** 1980-Present

**Freelance Workshop Leader** for the internationally acclaimed improv teaching method and **Director** of Intuitive Learning Systems, a nonprofit that promotes the work of Viola Spolin.

- Develop and teach 2 improv classes/week with 10-15 students, ranging in age from 7 to 70.
- Teach Spolin Games to classes of 15-20 students who include educators, psychologists, laypersons, professional actors.
- Hired by Disney, Animation Studios LA & Redken to teach improv to employees.
- Direct/coach/participate in The Spolin Players, a group of 10 professional actors and voice artists performing in theater and cabaret shows around the Northwest.
- Creator of [www.spolin.com](http://www.spolin.com), a syllabus item in many university courses and listed on the New York Public Library's "Best of the Web" page for Performing Arts.
- Led seven 3-5 day Spolin Games Intensives & Master Classes in Seattle, Italy & Germany.
- Publish educational materials and articles for Spolin Games.

**The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Burbank, CA** 1978 - 1979

**Teacher** at the one of the most well-known acting schools in the US.

- Chosen from dozens of applicants as school's sole pantomime teacher, 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> year students.

**The Richmond Shepard Mime Troupe, Hollywood, CA** 1977-1983

**Substitute Teacher** and **Company Member** for Richmond Shepard, America's #1 Mime

- Winner of Most Original Concept award at the Milwaukee Mime Festival.

**The Saratoga Performing Arts Workshop, Saratoga, NY** 1969-1970

**Teacher**

- Won grant from the New York State Arts Council to teach mime to local-area artists.

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## ACTING & DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

**The Edge Comedy Improv**, Bainbridge, WA 1999-Present  
*Actor/ Coach*

- Perform monthly improv shows with The Spolin Players; consistently sell-out shows.

**Schwartz & Chung**, Los Angeles, CA & Seattle, WA 1977 – 2000  
*Partner / Actor* in nationally acclaimed improv-comedy mime team.

- Performed on nationally televised programs, including *George Schlatter's Comedy Club*, *Comedy Tonight* and *Off the Wall*.
- Selected to perform at corporate functions for Fortune 500 companies, including Exxon, IBM, TRW, Chemical Bank and Sperry/Rand.
- Hired to teach and perform at more than 900 schools in California and New York.
- Developed series for Fox Children's Network called, *The World of Schwartz & Chung* and starred in 130 episodes of *You and Me, Kid* an interactive show on the Disney Channel.
- Appeared 9 times on America's Funniest People; two-time award winner for writing and acting; most recently for segment, "Cool Ways to Scare Your Mom."
- Sponsored by the Los Angeles Music Center Educational division to create and perform *Mime as a Second Language* for bilingual schools throughout the LA Unified School District.

**Spolin Games Show**, Los Angeles, CA 1988-1995  
*Director, Player*

- Won Best Ensemble award for long-running stage show, which the *LA Times* called, "improvisation as pure and unpredictable as you're going to find it."

## EDUCATION

**Antioch University**, Los Angeles, CA  
Bachelor of Arts in Education/Psychology, 1997

**Emerson College**, Boston, MA  
Coursework in Liberal Arts/Theater, 1972-1974

**The National Mime Theater of Boston**, Boston, MA  
Coursework in Mime, 1970-1971

**Windham College**, Putney, VT  
Coursework in Liberal Arts, 1970

**The Now Teen Mime Troupe**, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Coursework in Mime, taught by Benjamin Reel, 1965-1966  
Traveled with Pete Seeger doing folk festivals as solo and troupe performer.



**Gary Schwartz (SAG/AFTRA) (425) 831-7917 email: ils@spolin.com**

Height: 6'2"  
Weight: 225

Suit: 44L  
Waist: 37

Shirt: 16/36  
Inseam: 34

Shoe: 13  
Hat: 7 1/4

Eyes: Green  
Hair: Brown

**FILM**

QUEST FOR FIRE Jean Jacques Annaud (Dir)	20th Century Fox	Rouka - fire keeper
SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL	Weintraub Entertainment	Optometrist
TEEN WITCH	TWE	Mr. Fisher
BODY SLAM	Slam Prods.	Ring Official
THE WIZARD OF SPEED AND TIME	Jittlov/Kaye Prods.	Shorty (Canadian Thug)
MY BRUNCH WITH ANDREA	(Writer/Producer)	The Waiter

**INTERACTIVE MEDIA**

THE JUNGLE BOOK (Live Action Game)	Powerhouse Entertainment/IBM	Col. Ilgwom (starring role)
DISNEY DISK OF FANTASY & MAGIC	Walt Disney Company	Butler/Guide
TOONLAND	7th Level Productions	The Moon, Horse & Cow

**TELEVISION**

ELLEN	Buena Vista Television	Featured
AMERICA'S FUNNIEST PEOPLE	Vin Di Bona Prods.	2 time winner + 9 appearances
PICKET FENCES	David E. Kelly Prods.	Featured
OFF THE WALL	Gaylord Entertainment	Featured
ZOOBILEE ZOO	DIC/BRB/Hallmark	Series Regular (contributing writer)
MR. BELEVEDERE	20th Century Fox	Featured
WONDERWORKS' "Frog"	PBS/Platypus Prods.	Mr. Whittlestone
COMEDY TONIGHT	Boggs/Baker Prods.	Featured Guest (3 appearances)
YOU AND ME, KID	The Disney Channel	Series Regular (contributing writer)
29 MINUTES	Playboy Channel	Series Regular (contributing writer)
FAERIE TALE THEATRE	Showtime	Featured (2 episodes)
PANTOMIME QUIZ (Pilot)	Mike Stokey Prods	Series Regular

**COMMERCIALS**

Klondike Ice Cream Bar, Burger King, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Grandy's Restaurants, Pioneer Chicken, Duracell, Glendale Federal Bank, Tidy Cat, Birdseye Frozen Foods, Richard Simmons Body Asylum, Rice-a-Roni snacks, Budweiser, Plank Road Beer  
 Boatman's Bank (VO), Hallmark Cards (VO), Conroy's Florists (VO) Eagle Hardware, Yami Yogurt (VO), Key Arena/Sonics (VO) Seattle Science Center (VO)  
 INDUSTRIAL FILMS: Honda Customer Care, Arrow Shirt, GTE, Critical Thinking in Action  
 PHOTO MODEL for Reid Miles Studios - Albertsons, Calif. Lottery, Toyota, Ricoh, Playboy, Life Magazine. & Walter Hodges, Seattle, WA  
**Voice Over, Looping/ADR - TV projects include:** Star Trek TNG, Star Trek DS9 & Voyager, Twin Peaks, Sisters, Lois and Clark, X-Files, Baywatch, Hercule Northern Exposure **Films include** - As Good as It Gets, Batman Returns, Broadcast News, Prince of Tides, Island of Dr. Morreau, Pet Semetary 2, Bebe's Kid Fern Gully, Forever Young, Last to Surrender, Twister, Another 48 Hours, Nightmare Before Christmas, Anastasia, Little Princess, Cutthroat Island, Father of t Bride, I Love Trouble, The Fugitive, Quiz Show, Jurassic Park, Antz, End of Days, Bone Collector, Dinosaur, Space Cowboys

**THEATRE**

THE EDGE IMPROV	Bainbridge Performing Arts Cntr	Company Member (current)
SPOLIN GAMES PLAYERS	LA/Seattle/ North Bend	Coach/Player (improvisational)
SCHWARTZ & CHUNG	Comedy Duo (1977-1995)	Comedy Clubs & Corporate Venues
LITTLE OLD BROADWAY	Lew Fields	Variety Arts Center L.A.
THE FANTASTIKS	Huckelby/Mortimer	Scorpio Rep., L.A.
TALES OF SLEEPING BEAUTY	The Giant	Cast Theatre, L.A.
THE BOYFRIEND	Lord Brockhurst	Chanticleer Theater, Boston MA

**TRAINING**

Theatre Games Workshop: Viola Spolin and Paul Sills      Acting Workshop: Jeff Corey  
 Acting Coach: Elizabeth Hoffman Commercial Workshop: Ed Hooks      Film Industry Workshops of L.A.

**SPECIAL SKILLS**

Mime, Juggling, Vocal characterizations; Improv teacher, Dialects: Russian, Slavic, Scottish, Irish, English (Upper/Lower), French, German, Yiddish, Pakistani Brooklyn, Texas, Southern, Scandinavian, and more