

Jef is designated as a “Teaching Artist” by the NC Arts Council. Recently he’s shared his work with students at The Blowing Rock Stage in Blowing Rock, NC; at M.C. Riley Elementary in Bluffton, SC; at the Support Our Students After School Program at Pembroke Middle School in Pembroke, NC; at Merlefest in Wilkesboro, NC; at *JamboRead* at the Spartanburg Public Library in Spartanburg, SC; and at Stone Academy in Greenville, SC.

Upcoming performances of his wacky brand of roving artistry include: The Florence County Libraries in SC; *The Intercultural Celebration* in Petersburg, VA; and *Christmas in July* in Ashe County, NC. He also appears about once a month on the childrens’ wards of Duke University Medical Center.

Currently Jef performs as a mime and mask theater artist in *The InterACTIVE Theater of Jef*. He also teaches mime, ensemble techniques and composition through educational residencies and performs *Stories & Mime* with storyteller Louise Omoto Kessel.

Jef apprenticed with C.W. Metcalf and Tony Montanaro, with brief instruction from Jacques Lecoq. His other studies include: acting with William Hickey, period dance and style with William Burdick, ballet with Beverly Shalomith, modern dance with Carol Richards, commedia dell'arte at the Del'Arte School, and clowning with Ezekiel Peterhof. Other skills gained along the way include juggling, unicycling, stiltwalking, maskmaking, and gourd crafting.

From 1976 to 1993 Jef was a member TOUCH, North Carolina's touring mime theater ensemble. With TOUCH Jef created, collaborated on, directed, and performed over fifty mime theater works, touring thousands of performances to audiences throughout the southeastern United States. They performed in hospitals and prisons, day care centers and college fine arts centers, in concert halls, and on television. They appeared at Lincoln Center's Out-of-Doors Festival in New York and the Alternate ROOTS Festival in Atlanta. The North Carolina Symphony and the Charlotte Symphony both commissioned TOUCH to create and perform original works in concert with them. In 1990, TOUCH received the North Carolina Theater Conference Award for Excellence in Theater for Youth.

Jef has appeared in two UNC-TV special productions with the North Carolina Symphony: *TOUCH Brings Music to Life*, and *Carnival of the Animals*. When his movement/mime skills have been needed, he's also appeared in productions by other theater companies, including: as the plant, Audrey II in Atlanta and Raleigh productions of *Little Shop of Horrors*; as The Mute in Flat Rock Playhouse (with none other than Kim Kay!) and Temple Theater productions of *The Fantasticks*; as a street performer/juggler in the opera *Pagliacci*; and as a dog, an alien, and a mime in productions of the Jelly Educational Theater. From 1995 through 1999, Jef was the Managing Director for the Jelly Educational Theater. For three years, Jef performed as the mascot for the Durham Bulls Baseball Team, Wool E. Bull.