

Valerie Tutson was graduated from Brown University with a Masters Degree in Theatre Arts and a degree in a self-designed major—*Storytelling As A Communications Art*. Valerie has been telling stories in schools, churches, libraries, festivals and conferences since 1991. She draws her stories from around the world with an emphasis on African traditions. Her repertoire includes stories and songs she learned in her travels to South Africa, her experiences in West Africa, stories from African American history. In addition, she is gaining quite a reputation for her exciting retelling of age-old Bible stories. She not only delights listeners with her tale-telling, she also teaches workshops and classes to students of all ages, and hosts CULTURAL TAPESTRY, an award-winning show for COX 3 celebrating the diverse cultures around us. Valerie has most recently served as the co Director of the National Black Storytelling Festival in Providence, RI

### **EDUCATION**

Brown University-- Providence M.A. Theatre Arts 1990

Brown University-- Providence B.A. Independent Concentration: Storytelling as a Communication's Art 1987

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Professional Storyteller 1990-present

Host: Cultural Tapestry Cox Communications 1993-Present

Producer: Cultural Tapestry Cox Communications 1999- Present

Drama Teacher: Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program 1989-Present

Drama Teacher: Langston Hughes Center for the Arts and Education 1984-1992

Storytelling Classes: Brown Learning Community 1994- Present

Storytelling: Andover Newton Theological Seminary Summer Arts Institute 1998-99

Williams College Winter Session: Storytelling 1994

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Co-Director, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival, Rhode Island 2003

*The Vagina Monologues*, The Jane Pickens Theatre 2002

National Association of Black Storytellers Board of Directors 2000-Present

Rhode Island Black Storytellers Founder, Member, Board of Directors 1998-Present

FUNDA FESTIVAL: A Celebration of Black Storytelling, Founder, Director 1999-Present

Johnnycake Storytelling Festival Committee 1990-Present

First Night Board of Directors 2000- Present

Rhode Island Feminist Chorus Member 1990-Present

DARE Appointed Board Member 1996-2003

Rhode Island Alliance for Arts Education Board Member 1992-1997

Rites and Reason Theatre Productions 1985-1996

### **AWARDS AND MENTIONS**

Rhode Island Foundation: New Works Grant, 2003

International Heritage Gallery Individual Artist Award 2001

Rhode Island Human Rights Hall of Achievement 2001

RICH Independent Research Grant 2000

Metcalf Award for Media Excellence 1998, 2000

Women in Broadcasting, New England Cable 1999

### **PRINT, AUDIO AND VIDEO PUBLICATIONS**

"In Response to the Question What About the Children?" Langston Hughes Review 1988

"Stories n' Stuff ", Folk tales from African traditions 1995

"MLK Amazing Grace" with Rochel Garner Coleman 2000

Down By the Riverside: Bible Stories video 2000

"Carleen and Me and Dr. King's Dream" on Stories to Shine Up a Saturday Night  
2002