

BIO PAUL OERTEL

Paul Oertel is a singer, dancer and actor who has performed nationally and internationally since 1972 in such venues as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Denver Art Museum, Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, Schimmel Center for the Arts in New York City, Tristan Bernard Theatre in Paris, and in the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, Aarhus Festival in Denmark, and in the Facing America Festival in Germany and throughout France as well as in Amsterdam, Stockholm, Munich, Berlin, Nürnberg, Regensburg, and Copenhagen.

Paul began dancing at age ten in northern California studying modern dance and tap. He attended the University of California at Berkeley where he received a B.A. in Dramatic Art. Concurrently, he studied at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. He went on to pursue his M.F.A. degree in Acting at New York University's School of the Arts studying Acting and Voice with such renowned artists as Olympia Dukakis, Joseph Chaikin, Richard Cieslak, Richard Schechner, Kristin Linklater, Robbie McCauley, Peter Kass, Nora Dunfee, Mark Zeller and Omar Shapli. He studied dance with Nanette Charisse, Zena Rommett, David Wood, Marnie Thomas, Linda Tarnay, Elina Mooney, Beverly Brown, Gladys Bailin, Gus Solomons Jr., Rudy Perez and at the Erick Hawkins studio. His theatre training also included Tai Chi, Circus Techniques, Indian Dance, Mime, Yoga, Fencing, Story Theatre Techniques, Theatre Games, Improvisation, Speech, Text, Dialects, and Singing.

In 1975 he began working with his mentor Emmett Hutchins, Advanced Certified Rolfer, in the art of Structural Integration. He is a practitioner of Jin Shin Jyutsu which he began studying in 1985 with Mary Burmeister.

His teaching credits include workshops at colleges, universities, private studios and professional performance conservatories throughout the USA and Europe. He has taught actors, dancers, singers, musicians, composers, visual artists and writers as well as therapists, body workers, doctors, teachers, business professionals, etc. both privately and at such institutions as the University of Colorado, Orebro Sweden's Lansteatern, Denmark's Aarhus Teater Skole, Copenhagen's Actor's Union, Bali's College of Performing Arts, Middlebury College, the National Theatre Conservatory at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Boulder College of Massage Therapy and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and has been on the faculty of Naropa University since 1974.

He is a founding member and principal performer of the Nancy Spanier Dance Theatre/Performance Inventions where since 1972 he has performed in over 70 original works created in collaboration with artistic director Nancy Spanier. Highlights include *Hamlet Reclassified* (a one man show) with tours in Colorado, Vermont, Sweden and Denmark; *Arena: A Documentary in 5 Rounds* (a male duet); *Trial By Journey* (starring role of the protagonist); *Flesh Chronicles* (a quartet on the theme of aging). His one-man show *On the Sunny Side: An Outrageous Cabaret* has had performances in France, Germany, and Denmark as well as the USA. His current one-man music theatre piece, *Temps et tant d'amour*, sung in French, has been performed throughout France and in the USA.

He performed in Jean Claude van Itallie's play *The Traveler* which had its premiere at The Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. He performed for three seasons in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. He served as the Performance Coach for van Itallie's production of Genet's *The Balcony* at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He coached a Danish actress in her original one-woman show, *Fixing A Hole*, at Teater Far 302 in

Copenhagen.

An interview about his teaching approach and philosophy is available on the double CD titled *Paul Oertel's Discipline of Freedom: Teachings on Voicework and Artistic Expression*.

His current projects include spontaneous performance videos filmed in ancient sites in Western Europe, site specific improvisational dance performances in France and a one man concert performance of The Beatles.