

DONNA W. GUTHRIE

Award-Winning Author | Filmmaker | Playwright | Podcaster | Arts Educator | Storyteller | Speaker | Mentor

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PROFILE SUMMARY

I am an author, filmmaker, playwright, and educator who has spent my life telling stories that spark curiosity, empathy, and imagination. Over the years, I've written and published more than twenty books for children and young adults, produced award-winning films and plays, and created podcasts celebrating American storytelling traditions. My work is grounded in the belief that art and education are inseparable, each capable of inspiring connection, courage, and lifelong learning.

AWARDS & HONORS

- Women of Distinction Award (2026) – Girl Scouts of the Pikes Peak Region.
- Golden Quill Award (2025) – Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Outstanding Graduate Award (2025) – Trinity High School District, Washington, PA.
- Woman of Influence (2010) – Colorado Springs Business Bureau.
- Colorado Book Award Nominee (1997) – Frankie Murphy's Kiss List.
- Parents' Press Best Books for Children (1994) – Nobiah's Well.
- Book of the Month Club Selection (1993) – Nobiah's Well.
- Points of Light Foundation / White House Conference on Volunteers in America (1992) – Honored participant.
- Recognized by USA Weekend Magazine as one of "Eight Families of Merit" for national and local volunteerism (1991).
- Book of the Month Club Selection (1986) – The Witch Who Lives Down the Hall.
- Junior Literary Guild Selection (1985) – The Witch Who Lives Down the Hall.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).
- The Authors Guild.
- The Dramatists Guild.

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming & Recent Works

- The Piano That Fell From The Sky, EK Books, 2027.
- Hildie and the Halloween Potion, AM Ink / Spooky Ink, 2026.
- The Words of Curly McGee, Austin Macauley Publishers, 2024.
- Flibbertigibbey Words, Page Street Books for Kids, 2020.
- Mr. Vanatoli and the Magic Pumpkin Seeds, 2016.

Earlier Works

- Collect This! A Kid's Guide to Collecting, Price Stern Sloan, 2001.
- Mysteries, Maps & Monsters, Millbrook Press, 2001.
- The Young Journalist's Book, Millbrook Press, 1998.
- Real World Math, Millbrook Press, 1998.
- Putting on a Play, Millbrook Press, 1996.
- How to Write, Recite, and Delight in Poetry, Millbrook Press, 1996.
- The Secret Admirer, Ideals Publishing, 1996.
- One Hundred and Two Steps, Cool Kids Press, 1995.
- The Young Producer's Video Book, Millbrook Press, 1995.

- The Better Letter Book, Learning Works, 1994.
- How to Promote Your Book on a Shoestring, CBI Publications, 1994.
- I Can't Believe It's History!, Price Stern Sloan, 1993.
- The Young Author's Do-It-Yourself Book, Millbrook Press, 1993.
- Nobiah's Well, Ideals Publishing Company, 1993.
- Not for Babies, Simon & Schuster Publishers, 1993.
- Frankie Murphy's Kiss List, Simon & Schuster, 1993.
- The Witch Has an Itch, Simon & Schuster, 1990.
- Mrs. Gigglesbelly Is Coming for Tea, Simon & Schuster, 1990.
- A Rose for Abby, Abingdon Press, 1988.
- While I'm Waiting, Current, Inc., 1988.
- Little Pig Stayed Home, Price Stern Sloan, 1987.
- Grandpa Doesn't Know It's Me, Human Sciences Press, 1986.
- The Witch Who Lives Down the Hall, Harcourt Brace, 1986.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES & FEATURES

- San Diego Parent, "Family Celebrations" – September 1999
- Mature Living, "Sitting Inn" – July 1999
- Llama Magazine, "Llama Firefighters" – October 1998
- New Mobility, "Old Town Guest House" – May 1998
- Llama Magazine, "Llama Lady" – December 1997
- Network: The Magazine for Colorado Women, "Hey Hollywood!" – August 1997
- My Friend, "A Secret Admirer" – February 1993
- Hopscotch, "Pancakes" – January 1992
- The Springs Magazine, "Families Who Volunteer" – November 1991
- Denver Post, "The Christmas Letter" – December 1987
- Sunday Digest, "Washing Away the Past" – November 1987
- Network: The Magazine for Colorado Women, "My Second Forty Years" – April 1987
- Gifted and Talented Newsletter, "Spring into the Science Fair" – April 1987
- Parents' Plus Magazine, "While I'm Waiting" – May 1986
- Parents' Plus Magazine, "On the Death of a Grandparent" – January 1986
- American Library Journal, "Make Mine a Mystery" – January 1986
- Parents Plus, "In Praise of Older Children" – September 1983
- Turtle Magazine, "The Fourth of July Parade" – July 1983
- Fifty Upward Network, "Old Friend, New Friend Party" – September 1983

FILM & DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

As a filmmaker, I'm drawn to stories that highlight creativity, resilience, and the human spirit. My short films and documentaries have been screened at more than 50 festivals worldwide.

Selected Works

- Western Jubilee (2017) – Screened at over 45 film festivals in the U.S., Germany, Mexico, and Australia.
- Spark & Kiln (2015) – Featured in the Nevada Women's Film Festival, Durango Film Festival, and others.
- The Wedding Gown Project (2012) – Premiered at the Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival and screened nationally.
- William's Words (2018) – An animated short inspired by the early imagination of William Shakespeare.
- Maggie May (2019) – A musical short promoting environmental awareness.
- The Meetup (2021) – A story about connection, friendship, and hope.

- The Unfulfilled Closet (2022) – A short animation celebrating sustainability and joy in reuse.

Earlier Educational Films

- Jasper Enters the Hospital and The Day of Jasper's Operation – Helping children prepare for medical experiences through puppetry and song.
- Wellness: It's Not Magic – A lighthearted story about nutrition and healthy habits.
- Thea's Story: A Young Woman's Life with Lupus – A moving documentary on living with chronic illness, distributed by Myers Broadcasting Company.

PLAYS & PERFORMANCES

Theater has always been a vital part of my storytelling. My plays often explore women's voices, history, and resilience.

- Sister Sailors: Stories and Songs of Seafaring Wives – One-act play inspired by 19th-century letters from women who sailed with their sea-captain husbands; blends historical narratives, photos, and sea chanties.
- Sweet Hour of Prayer – One-act play on women's friendship; read at Roger Simon Studio (NYC) and Edward Albee's Last Frontier Theatre Conference (AK); Honorable Mention, Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival (2005).
- Night Lines – Ten-minute play on aging, loneliness, and poetry; Honorable Mention, Fritz Blitz Ten-Minute Play Competition, San Diego, CA.
- The Wedding Trunk – One-act play based on pioneer women's letters; staged by Carlsbad Playreaders, Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration, Smokebrush Theater, and others.
- Nine Nice Newberys and a Couple of Caldecotts – One-person, 30-minute show highlighting award-winning children's books; toured 47 schools and libraries (1986).
- Make Mine a Mystery – One-person mystery-themed show; toured El Paso County schools during National Children's Book Week; 10,000+ attendees (1985).
- A Visit from History – Four historical classroom monologues; presented to 22,000+ students; recipient of the 1985 Arts-Business-Education Award, Colorado Springs.
- Grandpa Doesn't Know Me Anymore – Slide presentation for the Alzheimer Steering Committee, portraying Alzheimer's through a child's eyes (1984).
- Mr. Vanatoli and the Magic Pumpkin Seeds – Sixteen-minute children's radio program aired on KRCC, NPR (1983).

PODCASTS & LECTURES

In recent years, I have created and performed a series of musical lecture podcasts celebrating the storytelling tradition of country music. Each hour-long presentation blends research, performance, and song.

- Dolly & Me: The History of Women in Country Music – Hour-long musical lecture on iconic female artists, including Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, and Patsy Cline.
- Confessions from a Barstool: The Story Songs of Country Music – Musical podcast featuring storytelling classics like “Ode to Billie Joe” and “Frankie and Johnny.”
- Love, Lust & Liquor: The Bad Boys of Country Music – Musical podcast spotlighting country legends Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, and George Jones.
- Tear in Your Beer, Part I – Compilation of country music's saddest songs on themes of heartbreak, faith, and addiction.
- Tear in Your Beer, Part II – Sequel featuring additional classic heartbreak ballads and reflective themes.
- Three Chords & the Truth: The Songwriters of Country Music – Musical podcast honoring legendary songwriters like Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson.
- Troubadours on Horseback: The History of the Musical Cowboy – Musical podcast exploring singing cowboys of the 1940s–1950s, including Gene Autry and Roy Rogers.
- Hank Williams: The Story Behind the Legend – Musical podcast exploring the life and lasting influence of Hank Williams.

TEACHING & EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Teaching and mentoring have always been extensions of my creative life. I've had the privilege of working with writers, students, and educators through residencies and workshops across the country.

- Artist-in-Residence – Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.
- Visiting Professor – Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Instructor – Pikes Peak Community College, CO.
- Artist in the Schools Programs – Alaska, Colorado, Wyoming, and North Dakota.
- Speaker and Presenter – Boulder Children's Literature Conference, Midwest Writers' Conference, and Chautauqua Institution.

EDUCATION

- MMFA in Children's and Young Adult Writing – Vermont College, Montpelier, VT.
- AMI Degree in Montessori Education – Ravenhill Academy, Germantown, PA.
- BA in Journalism – Rider University, Trenton, NJ.

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Community and collaboration are central to my work as both artist and citizen.

- Co-Founder – Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Founder – Six Women Playwriting Festival, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Founder – Colorado Springs Book Group Roundup, Pikes Peak Library District.
- Habitat for Humanity Volunteer – Colorado, Florida, South Dakota, California, and Koovapoli, India.

I continue to write, film, and teach from my home in Colorado Springs, where I remain dedicated to sharing stories that inspire creativity, compassion, and lifelong curiosity.