

Leeny Del Seamonds

Master Story Performer™

What folks are saying about Leeny Del Seamonds, Master Story Performer™:

Awards and Kudos:

“Leeny, a heartfelt thank you for joining us and sharing your superb stories in Jonesborough—you are truly a wonderful ambassador for storytelling!”—*Susan O’Connor, International Storytelling Center*

“Leeny, you were magnificent! Thanks for gracing my show with your beautiful talent, warmth and wit.”—*Jordan Rich, WBZ Radio, Boston, MA*

“Leeny Del Seamonds was awarded the title “**2002 National Storyteller of the Year®**” at the 56th Annual Sweet Corn Festival in Millersport , Ohio , on August 31, 2002. Her story captured the attention of judges and listeners alike. Leeny honored her father’s heritage by telling her story from the Hispanic culture entitled *Renaldo*.”—*Donna Foster, Ohio Creative Arts Institute*

“We should all take note: a love of life and a sense of humor are the ingredients that fuel us. They are the essence of perspective. In Leeny Del Seamonds’ family there is a strong tradition of conveying the family’s culture through sharing humorous stories. Leeny writes “For years, I never heard the ending to Aunt Lilia’s version of ‘El Oso,’ a story about Mamá and a bear on the loose, because every time she tried to tell it, the ending got lost in laughter.” Laughing is important. Very important. Take time to be with the children in your life. Play some games, listen to music and share some stories. You’ll learn a lot about each other. And that, in our opinion, is award-winning material.”—*Claire S. Green, President, Parents’ Choice Foundation, referencing Leeny Del Seamonds’ article on the importance of sharing family stories*

“***CelloTales: The Melding of Music, Myth & Memories***,” created and performed by Leeny Del Seamonds and cellist Gideon Freudmann, won a **2004 Parents’ Choice Gold Award**. “***CelloTales***” is a unique and special collaboration of two art forms: music and storytelling. The wonder of timeless stories is melded with boundless music, transporting listeners into the soul of the story and song. ***Parents’ Choice Foundation*** selected “***CelloTales***” as a recommended audio (ages 8 and up) for their 2004 Holiday Gift Guide of “Award Winning gifts sure to please.”

In her review of “CelloTales” for Parents’ Choice, Dr. Flora Joy declared, “A splendid marriage of cello and story, this CD transports listeners to Japan , Spain , and Germany . The cello produces the wings of the flight, and the stories become the nourishment—creating an unforgettable journey.”

“In “***CelloTales***,” Freudmann’s inventive cello accompaniment is integral rather than supplemental to Del Seamonds’ entertaining tales in this unique listening adventure.”—*Booklist*

“Storyteller Leeny Del Seamonds and electric cellist Gideon Freudmann team up in this unique blend of music and story. Del Seamonds makes masterful use of her expressive voice, melding it with Freudmann’s cello as a fellow instrument in the symphony of the tales.”—*School Library Journal (“CelloTales” selected “Audio of the Week” 4/09/04)*

“*CelloTales* with Leeny Del Seamonds and Gideon Freudmann was the highlight of our Festival!”—*Ginger Webb, President, Three Apples Storytelling Festival*

Winner of a *2003 Parents’ Choice Silver Honor* award, Leeny’s highly acclaimed CD, “*¡Ay Caramba! ¡Ay Ay Ay! Cuentos y Canciones (Latino Stories & Songs)*,” created and performed by Leeny Del Seamonds, is sweeping the nation by storm. This 67-minute recording, “a labor of love,” includes four original family stories, three songs, and four Latino folk tales as retold by Leeny. *¡Vive el cuento—live the story!*

“Leeny Del Seamonds makes listeners feel like they are sitting at her feet watching her expressions and movements. The stories are told with gusto and humor; kids will laugh and clamor for more.”—*Booklist*

“Cuban-American Leeny Del Seamonds is a vibrant and animated storyteller. She immediately captures the attention of the audience and holds it easily. This album will be an excellent addition to libraries.”—*School Library Journal*

“Congratulations, Ms. Del Seamonds, on bringing knowledge as well as joy to so many people as you ply your calling as a storyteller to young and old alike. It is a laudable accomplishment because you can reach and teach at the same time.”—*Geoffrey D. Hall, Chairman, Committee on State Administration, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives*

Festivals, Conferences & Celebrations:

“Leeny, it is an understatement to say you were outstanding. I am sure you are aware that everyone in the audience was totally caught up and engaged by you. In fact they are still talking about you. Your storytelling skills are excellent. Energy, sparkle, conviction and spirit exude from you! It was a joy working with you.”—*Dr. Pelonomi Khumoetsile-Taylor, Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, Bunker Hill Community College, Compelling Conversations Lecture Series, Boston, MA*

“Leeny Del Seamonds enchanted and inspired us with her storytelling. Our Annual Celebration of Women was a huge success. We raised over \$34,000 net for our programs and services dedicated to improving the lives of women.”—*Women’s Center of Jacksonville, FL*

“We are still high on the 23rd Annual Connecticut Storytelling Festival. And high on Leeny Del Seamonds! Your stories were all wonderful. You exceeded wildest imaginations, bringing your multitude of talent and your creative mind to the task.”—*Peg O’Sullivan, Connecticut Storytelling Festival*

“Leeny, thank you for sharing your wonderful stories at our Festival. Your energy and joy are infectious!”—*Lucinda Flodin, Prairie Center for the Arts Storytelling Festival, Schaumburg, IL*

“Leeny, I want to thank you once more for making the Festival such a stupendous one. The caliber of tellers this year was awesome!”—*Joyce Greiner, Tcha Tee Man Wi Storytelling Festival, Corvallis, OR*

“Thank you for your participation in First Night Boston 2004. Your fantastic stories and artistic contribution are what make First Night such a very special event!”—*First Night, Inc.*

“Leeny’s stories suited the day exactly—well chosen, performed perfectly, and fitting right in with our emphasis on Latin American culture. Families sought us out afterward to compliment us on finding her!” – *Judi Paradis, Program Coordinator, Arlington’s Dia de los Muertos Fiesta*

“It was such FUN having “An Evening with Leeny Del Seamonds” at Simmons! I’ve heard from every person who was there about how much they enjoyed it.” – *Maggie Bush, Simmons College, Boston, MA*

“Leeny is funny, irreverent, smart, sassy—and a dynamite storyteller as well!”—*Jane Yolen, Author*

“We received an overwhelming, positive response for Leeny’s dynamic program!”—*John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Boston, MA*

“We heard again and again from the stage crew, audience members, and festival organizers that Leeny Del Seamonds was a talented member of an incredibly strong roster of tellers we had assembled this year!”—*Clearwater Great Hudson River Revival 2001, New York*

“In her rich workshops, Leeny not only shared practical ideas with us, but gave us inspiration as well. She is very helpful, fun, entertaining and approachable!”—*National Storytelling Conference, Kansas City, MO*

“A master storyteller, Leeny’s versatile, energetic and spirited performances bring stories to life and life to stories.”—*Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, Boarding House Park, Lowell, MA*

“A masterful Sharing the Fire Opening Keynote address! Leeny Del Seamonds set a new standard for Sharing the Fire!”—*Sharing the Fire Storytelling Conference, Boston, MA*

“A wonderful performance! Leeny brought the characters in her stories to life for the audience, and her performance was unforgettable.”—*Tapestry of Tales Multicultural Storytelling Festival, Brown University, RI*

“It was a treat to have Leeny perform at the Connecticut Storytelling Festival. She is such a pro!”—*Barbara Reed, Director, Connecticut Storytelling Festival*

“It has been my pleasure to meet and work with Leeny. I admire her approach to storytelling. The gifts Leeny leaves with her listeners are precious and enduring.”—*Onawumi Jean Moss, Keepers of the Word Storytelling Festival, Amherst College, MA*

“Leeny was absolutely terrific, and her wonderfully inspiring stories about preserving the Earth really fit in with the theme of our program.”—*Springfield Science Museum*

“Leeny Del Seamonds is a professional in every sense of the word. She delivered all that she promised—and more. Her storytelling was enchanting. Leeny cast a magical spell over the audience through costume, movement and voice with an energy that was almost palpable.”—*Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, MA*

“Leeny was clearly a hit, both with parents and kids, because I am still getting feedback of the “That was really awesome!” variety. Leeny was terrific—and I wasn’t a bit surprised! I look forward to having her visit again, but we’ll need a bigger place, though—word travels fast, and everyone will want to attend!”—*Children’s Librarian, Woburn Public Library, MA*

“Our patrons enjoyed Leeny’s performance, and I am still hearing favorable comments. Leeny’s stories and participatory activities had them spellbound.”—*Children’s Librarian, Mansfield Library, MA*

“Ever since I first saw Leeny perform, I knew I couldn’t wait to bring her here!”—*Children’s Librarian, Goodnow Library, Sudbury, MA*

“Leeny’s unique blend of story, mime and theatre is riveting. It’s her VOICES that I dearly love! Whether animals or humans, the way she colors their voices, with researched accents and believable emotion, is fantastic!”—*Janice F. Molnar, Across The Arts, Acton, MA*

The Press:

“Leeny told stories with Cuban-American ebullience at First Night Boston 2004.”—*The Boston Phoenix (Editor’s Picks)*

“Listeners responded with rapt attention to the considerable storytelling talents of international performer Leeny Del Seamonds at “Gimistory,” The Cayman Islands International Storytelling Festival.”—*Caymanian Compass, Grand Cayman , B.W.I.*

“Leeny’s expressive voice transmits the magic of storytelling.”—*Booklist Magazine*

“One of New England’s most beloved storytellers, Leeny Del Seamonds is best known for her high energy and her Hispanic programs, often incorporating improvisational theatre and mime in her work.” – *The Tale Trader*

“Belting out her plethora of Hispanic/Latino voices, the fabulous Leeny Del Seamonds will be performing her thousands of characters. And that is only the tip of the iceberg!”—*Michelle Hazel, The Tiger News, NC*

“Leeny Del Seamonds brings all her gestures and inflections to bear. Her conviction, dedication and passion are downright infectious.”—*Boston Herald*

“She truly made her characters come alive—what an actress!”—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

“She travels light. Her props are her hands, and her eyes, and her voice. But oh, what a voice!”—*Westford Eagle, Beacon Communications*

“With a solid reputation for engaging the audience and breathing life into her stories, Leeny Del Seamonds is clearly a person who is gifted with many talents, has learned to use them to enrich the lives of others, and is incredibly content to be able to do so.”—*The Merrimack Journal Magazine*

“Del Seamonds was a captivating storyteller. Dressed for a night of festivity in black and glittery gold, she told mesmerizing stories, international in flavor, which featured intricate sound effects and audience participation.”—*The Lowell Sun*

“Leeny performed a series of tales from many continents and varied cultures using all her skills as actress, mime, and master of many dialects to the delight of her audience.”—*Serendipity News, Clearwater, FL*

Schools:

“Leeny was magnificent and many said ‘*The Snow Child*’ was one of the most beautiful stories they had ever heard!”—*Dr. Gwendolyn Nowlan, S. Connecticut State University*

“Leeny, I received terrific feedback about your kick-off for International Week. The kids, as well as the teachers, thought you were so entertaining and that the time flew by! I'm not sure when International Week will be next year, but our Principal has asked me to book you again. I'll let you know when, thank you.”—*Jennifer Russo, Fisher School, Walpole, MA*

“Leeny, thanks again, so very much, for a memorable week! People are still talking about how wonderful the performances were, and the reaction from the teachers was all positive...some quotes: ‘The children were spellbound!’ ‘Fantastic!’ ‘Teachers enjoyed it too!’ ‘The teacher workshop was full of exciting strategies to use for myself as well as my students.’ ‘Bring her back!’”—*June Ramondetta, Washington Township Public Schools, New Jersey*

“Leeny has succeeded in touching all of our Southeast family with her many talents, spirit, caring and exuberance. How fortunate and blessed we are to have had her here—she, indeed, owns a very special part of our hearts!”—*Sharon Sawtell, Southeast School, Leominster, MA*

“Leeny, thank you sooooo much for taking your time to come into our classrooms to teach us how to be a great actor and storyteller, like you! We learned how to speak loud and clear “to Chicago” and how to make different voices and expressions while performing and giving book reports. Hope you come back soon!”—*5th Grade Students, Hillside School, Needham, MA*

“Leeny Del Seamonds, Artist-in-Residence, was outstanding in every way. It was absolutely mesmerizing to watch Leeny work with the youngsters as they demonstrated newfound concentration, poise, pride, enthusiasm, performance skills, and self control on stage. The residency experience was overwhelmingly successful and productive, and it was truly a pleasure to work with a fine professional such as Leeny, who is a master and takes her profession very seriously.”—*Bennett School, Leominster, MA*

“Leeny Del Seamonds is a dedicated and talented artist. Clearly, this residency had a tremendous impact on the students’ self-esteem and ability to feel comfortable in front of an audience. I would love to see this residency become a regular part of our academic program.”—*Patricia Karl, Superintendent, Lawrence Family Development Charter School, MA*

“Many of the students who never spoke a word in class really began to verbalize under Miss Del Seamonds’ direction and encouragement. She holds herself to a high standard of teaching and performing and thus has high expectations for her students, resulting in personal pride and a willingness to take a risk by stretching personal creativity. We are honored to have had the pleasure of working and learning with the dynamic and delightful Leeny Del Seamonds in residence.”—*Priest Street School, Leominster, MA*

“Leeny’s presentations were inspirational to us all: teacher and student. Her repertoire of voices and characters are amazing and kept us spellbound. Leeny’s patient guidance and coaching encouraged each fourth grader, and each student felt a sense of accomplishment and pride after completing his/her story. This was a wonderful experience, and we look forward to working with Leeny in residence again and again.”—*Abbot School Fourth Grade Teachers, Westford, MA*

“Leeny was a joy to watch, and the children loved having her come into their classrooms to teach them how to act out stories and make those stories come to life.”—*Alice Dery, Enrichment, N. Attleboro, MA*