

HANK FINCKEN: A National Theatre Company of One

In the tradition of Ibsen and Shaw, Hank's six original plays are characterized by precise language, complex issues, and ideas pertinent to our times. Because the audience participates, each performance adapts to the special interests of that unique group. Henry Ford, Johnny Appleseed, Christopher Columbus, Thomas Edison, Francisco Pizarro, and an 1849 Argonaut on The California Trail long to visit intimate theatres everywhere.

Hank was born in New Jersey, grew up in California, lived 5 years in South America, and came to Indiana in 1975. He has been performing Edison since 1990.



EDISON TIMELINE 1847-1931

- 1847 - Thomas Edison is born in Milan Ohio
- 1849 - Gold Rush in California
- 1861 - Civil War begins
- 1862 - Emancipation Proclamation
- 1869 - Edison receives his first patent for vote recorder
 - First Transcontinental Railroad Completed
- 1876 - Edison moves his laboratory to Menlo Park, NJ
 - Bells invents the telephone
- 1877 - Edison invents the phonograph
- 1879 - Edison invents the incandescent lamp and the system that makes it glow
- 1882 - First Edison central electric-power plant in US
- 1887 - Edison moves his laboratory to West Orange, NJ
- 1894 - Edison unveils the kinetoscope to public
- 1903 - Edison releases movie: The Great Train Robbery
 - Wright brothers take the first powered flight
- 1909 - Edison produces a workable alkaline storage battery
- 1914 - World War I (The Great War) begins
 - Edison works for Naval Consulting Board
- 1929 - Light's Golden Jubilee in Dearborn, Michigan celebrates the invention of the light system
 - Stock Market Crash – Great Depression
- 1931 - Thomas Edison dies in West Orange, NJ

VITA Related to Chautauqua Performances

July 2005, Hank performed as Thomas Edison at the Big River Chautauqua (Missouri) and for the New Hampshire Humanities Council (3 cities).

June 2005, Hank performed as Christopher Columbus (2 cities), sponsored by the Tulsa Arts & Humanities Council. June 2004, Hank performed as Henry Ford for the TAHC.

Summer 2004 and 2005, Hank performed as Henry Ford (and troupe leader) for the Ohio Humanities Council. Summers 2002 and 2003, Hank performed as Johnny Appleseed (and troupe leader), and in 2000, Hank performed as Thomas Edison for same institution.

Winter 2004 and 2005, Hank performed as Edison, Columbus, and Ford for the Southern Chautauqua; Stuart, Florida.

June 2003, Hank performed as J. G. Bruff for The Tulsa Arts & Humanities Council.

April 2003, Hank performed as Edison at The Nela Park Laboratory Ninety Year Celebration outside Cleveland, Ohio; sponsored by General Electric Products.

In May of 2002 and 2000, Hank performed as Edison and Johnny Appleseed for Governor Robert Taft of Ohio.

On April 18, 2002, Hank performed as the 49er, J.G. Bruff, for the NCSS Social Studies (Great Lakes Region) Conference.

Hank has worked with The Indiana Humanities Council since 1990. He helped create its History Alive series and performs either a play or in the Chautauqua format.

June 2001, Hank performed as Thomas Edison for The Tulsa Arts and Humanities Council.

On December 13, 1999, Hank performed as Edison (Keynote Speaker) at The Aerodynamics Hall of Fame Banquet in Cincinnati, Ohio, sponsored by General Electric.

May 1999, Hank performed as Thomas Edison in Cape May, New Jersey for the New Jersey Humanities Council.

On January 23, 1998, Hank performed as Edison at the New York Stock Exchange, sponsored by Con Edison.

June 1997, Hank performed as Thomas Alva Edison (and led a discussion afterward) as part of the National Parks International Conference on Edison (150th birthday).