



Since Rita Paskowitz has spent her whole life trying to live up to her hair, it's no wonder she became a storyteller.

As a member of the Nebraska Arts Council's *Artists in the Schools/ Communities* and the *Nebraska Touring Artists Programs*, Rita has entertained and edified audiences around the state - while also working as a Master Teacher and Teaching Artist for UNL's *Arts Are Basic*. She is Co-founder and Artistic Director of Grief and the Arts Training Experience/GATE (a program for bereavement specialists) and *EDU-GATE* (*GATE*'s sister program for educators).

Rita also teaches *Storytelling and Education* at UNO and is the Storyteller-in-Residence at KidsKamp – a camp for grieving children. In addition, Rita works extensively in the field of healthcare and speaks on Depression to both children and adults. And...she's at Omaha's Joslyn Art Museum every month engaging families in PICTURE THIS! – finding the stories in works of art.

Plus - she's fun to be with and hardly ever gets whiny.

Rita Paskowitz doesn't just tell stories - she ELECTRIFIES them. It's no wonder: having graduated with a major in Speech and Drama during the waning days of the Viet Nam War, she has been speaking out dramatically ever since.

In an attempt to be someone else, Rita became an actress; in an attempt to be more open, she became a stand-up comedienne; and, finally, in attempt to be herself, Rita became a storyteller. In her various performing incarnations, Rita has delighted audiences from New York City to Los Angeles – including such in-between points as the Twin Cities, Phoenix, Santa Barbara and Sun Valley.

She currently works as an *Artist-in-Residence in the Schools/Communities* and in the *Nebraska Touring Program* for the Nebraska Arts Council, a Master

Teacher/Teaching Artist in Theatre for UNL's *Arts Are Basic/Aesthetic Education for Children* , and Storyteller-in-Residence at Temple Israel (where she is also the educator for *Hate, Humanity and the Holocaust* for middle schoolers).

Rita teaches *Storytelling and Education* in the College of Education at UNO and is the Co-founder, Artistic Director and Storytelling/Theatre Artist for *GATE/Grief and the Arts Training Experience* (an arts training program for bereavement specialists) and *EDU-GATE* (*GATE* 's sister program for educators). Rita is the official Storyteller for Ted E. Bear Hollow's KIDSKAMP for Grieving Children and speaks on Depression to both children and adults. She can be found on the third Saturday of every month at Joslyn Art Museum, leading PICTURE THIS! - a program designed to engage families in finding the story in a work of art.

Rita also leads workshops and retreats for a variety of business, healthcare, religious and social organizations while maintaining an active Storytelling performance schedule. She is available for everyone in need of having the cockles of their hearts warmed, tickled and teased.

And yes – her hair is real.