

## Author & Award-winning Storyteller Dianne de Las Casas



Photo credit: Randy Richards

Touring internationally, author and award-winning Storyteller Dianne de Las Casas sizzles on stage with “traditional folklore gone fun!” and “revved-up storytelling.” Audiences don’t just listen – they sing, clap, dance, chant, and roar with laughter. De Las Casas adapts traditional folklore, adding fun audience participation, song, and of course, humor. A dramatic storyteller, she does not stay still! Through the use of character voices, creative movement, and animated facial expressions and gestures, she creates a world of fantasy and enchantment. Childhood travels around the world contributed to shaping her future as a storyteller. De Las Casas lived in the Philippines, Hawaii, Spain and traveled across Europe and the United States. Her varied cultural experiences nourished her imagination, and she continues to draw on that knowledge, adding depth and richness to her tales.

De Las Casas is a Louisiana State Roster Artist, a Louisiana Touring Directory Artist, and a Mississippi Arts Education Demonstration Roster Artist. She is the author of several children’s books including *The Cajun Cornbread Boy* (Pelican Publishing; 2009), *Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach* (Pelican Publishing; Fall 2009), *Mama’s Bayou* (Pelican Publishing; Spring 2010); *The Gigantic Sweet Potato* (Pelican Publishing; Fall 2010), and *There’s A Dragon in the Library* (Pelican Publishing, Spring 2011).

Her professional books for teachers and librarians include *Story Fest: Crafting Story Theater Scripts* (Teacher Ideas Press; 2005), *Kamishibai Story Theater: The Art of Picture Telling* (Teacher Ideas Press; 2006), *Handmade Tales: Stories to Make and Take* (Libraries Unlimited; 2008) *Tangram Tales: Story Theater Using the Ancient Chinese Puzzle* (Teacher Ideas Press; 2008), *The Story Biz Handbook: How to Manage Your Storytelling Career from the Desk to the Stage* (Libraries Unlimited; 2008), *Scared Silly: 25 Tales to Tickle and Thrill* (Libraries Unlimited; 2009), and *Stories on Board: Creating Board Games from Favorite Tales* (Libraries Unlimited; June 2010).

Her debut CD, *Jambalaya ~ Stories with Louisiana Flavor*, won a 2004 iParenting Media Award, a 2004 Children’s Music Web Award, and a 2005 Storytelling World Honor. In addition, *Jambalaya* received a rave reviews in *School Library Journal*, *AudioFile Magazine*, *Kidzmusic.com*, and *Georgia Family Magazine*. Her second CD, *World Fiesta*, won a 2005 Children’s Music Web Award and received a rave review in *ALA Booklist* and was selected by *School Library Journal* as “Audio of the Week.” *Booklist* says, “De Las Casas’ commanding voice, unique characterizations, emotive vocalizations, and creative methods of reaching out to her audience are most engaging.” Her latest CD, *Jump, Jiggle & Jam ~ A Rhythmic Romp Through Story Land*, won a 2006 NAPPA Honors, 2006 Children’s Music Web Award, and rave reviews in *School Library Journal* and *Publisher’s Weekly*.

She performs arts-in-education programs and residencies at schools, libraries, festivals, museums, and special events. Interviewed by the *Wall Street Journal*, de Las Casas is a sought-after international professional development workshop leader. She is a frequent presenter at IRA, ALA, AASL and other literacy and education conferences. She is an enthusiastic advocate of literacy and arts-in-education programming. Dianne de Las Casas continues to make the story connection with thousands of children every year, reaching and teaching through the wonder of stories.

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