## James R. (J.B.) Eckert

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\* all at Bloomington Arts Center

\*\*Gallery Players / Readers Theater

Age Range 50 – 150

2000 - 2006, I have recreated:

John Sargent Pillsbury (Part of the U's sesquicentennial /r 120 appearances in US)

Edward Currie (The founder of Neighborhood House)

Malachi Herney (Assistant Director, Northwest Dry Enforcement District)

Crawford Livingston (Entrepreneur and Wealthy St. Paul resident)

Billy Phillips (first Ramsey County Attorney)

Cyrus Northrop (President of the University of Minnesota)

Santa Claus (for the Arboretum and Holidazzle Parade)

James J. Hill; Charles Haralson (apple developer); Major J. P. C. McMahon (surgeon) Recreations involve public appearances, original speeches based

on research, extemporaneous discussions steeped in historical fact.

#### Since 2000, I have acted in:

Then There were None / General McKenzie

The Odd Couple / Vinnie \*

Our Town / Editor Webb \*

A New Christmas Carol / Charles Dickens \*

Arsenic & Old Lace / Teddy Roosevelt \*

Miracle on 34th Street / Kris Kringle \*

The Monkey's Paw and other stories \*\*

War of the Worlds radio recreation \*\*

A Serious Man, A Cohen Bros Film

*Speed Graphic / Red Herring* (Student Films)

The Road of Life – Siege at Leningrad @ Harmony Theater

## Previous acting experience:

1998—Ramsey County Halloween series

1980—Mabel Tainter Theater / Friday the 13th

1950's-'60's—Old Log Theater / several plays

## Directed:

July 2008 - Radio Theater productions of 4 classic old radio shows / w lights & movement

Dec 2007 - Directed Best Christmas Pageant Ever live theater / Sold out all performances

Dec 2006 - Produced / Directed Going My Way / radio recreation

Nov 2006 - Wrote / Directed Tyler and the Tom / new radio show with dimension

Dec 2005 - Produced / Directed Fibber and Joe Find Christmas / radio plays w/dimension

Nov 2004 - Produced, Wrote and Directed church 60 minute musical / radio show

Sept 2004 - Directed Radio plays *The Philadelphia Story* and *The Bickersons* 

Sept 2003 - Directed *Doorway to Doom*, radio plays to sold-out audiences

2000-2002 - Taught radio / live action presentations for Elder Learning Institute, U of M

2000-2001 - Wrote/directed 192 award winning dramatic Sesquicentennial Radio vignettes

1998-2006 - Sundays, work with St. Joseph's Parish students to interpret scripture readings

1985 - Directed *The Fantastics* / St. Joseph's Parish

1976 - Directed 36 national & local award winning Bicentennial TV vignettes

EDUCATION			

BA University of Minnesota / Minneapolis Major: Journalism

**Minors: History and Speech** 

# **WORK EXPERIENCE / Full time position**

Fall 1992 – 2005 University of Minnesota

Writer/Voice & Conceptualizer- weekly radio series / Associate or Senior Producer for 2 television series / Spokesperson for the U /

Historical researcher for Alumni Center / Tour Guide

Fall 1986 – Fall 1992 KTCA-TV Producer, Writer, TV spokesperson

Spring 1983 – Winter 1985 CONUS communication Managing Editor

Spring 1981 – Spring 1983 KSTP-TV Television Producer 6 a.m. & producer/

developer - 5 p.m. casts.

#### **AWARDS**

Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (several) Awards each of Excellence & Merit / 1996 - 2002 / news focused / producer-writer-anchor (radio)
Society of Professional Journalists Page One Award / first place / 2002 / prod-writer (radio)
ITVA Twin Cities Video Festival / Bronze Award / 1998 / producer (television)
Pedestal Award / University of MN Institutional Relations / 1996 / for Outstanding contributions
Agricultural Communicators in Education / Bronze Award / 1995 / Writer-producer-anchor
other awards

New York Film Festival / Bronze Medal / Industrial Film / Conceptualizer-writer
Ohio State / First place / Radio News Story Coverage / Producer - writer
Gabriel Competition / Merit Award / Children's Television Program / Conceptualizer-writer
Golden Mike Award / Television Historical Series / Creator - producer - writer - anchor
U-P-I National Radio / First place (2) / Radio News / Producer
NBNA (regional-5 state) (3) Radio News Event Coverage / Conceptualizer-producer-writer
U-P-I Regional Radio / (2) / Radio New / Public Service / Producer-Talent
Minnesota Historical Society / Recognition for accuracy and creativity - TV Historical Series
American Heart Association / Recognition for developing 24 hour radio heart programs

Prior to 1981, I was an on-camera reporter, cut-in anchor and newscast producer/writer for KSTP Radio and Television news. Developed the "Friends and Neighbors" television feature insert in newscasts; covered Minneapolis / Hennepin County Government; was a television street reporter.

**WRITER** - Business Video's / Slide shows / Live action presentations:

Schwan's Centennial Celebration - Live singing/dancing historical stage show

Sister Kenny Chronic Pain and Rehabilitation Program (video)

Burlington Northern Wheel Shop (video) / Graco Ultra (film)

Multi-Foods - English Muffin System (video) / Intertherm Heaters (video)

State Fair three screen 3-D (film-KSTP-TV) / Dantes Test Security (Video)

CETA (Comprehensive Employment & Training Act) (PSA)

Minnesota Supreme Count Centennial Video (video) / Time Savers (Video)

Thermo King (video) / "Inky Lou" for Louis O. Werneke Co. (film)

Hubbard Broadcasting Inc. (Video Story Board)

Governor's Council on Fire Prevention (Video-PSA)

Shoplifting (Video-PSA) / County Attorney's (PSA)

Scouting (slide show)

Fins and Feathers Magazine (Proposal)

Tony Fox Promotional (Proposal)

Brooklyn Park Award Presentation (Proposal)