

Biography

Roscoe Orman

Roscoe Orman has been known to millions for his **thirty-five years as 'Gordon' on PBS-TV's highly acclaimed children's series *Sesame Street***, where he has become a **symbol of fatherhood to an entire generation**. Born and raised in the Bronx, Orman began his acting studies at the Circle In The Square Theatre School with Michael Kahn. Since making his professional debut with the Next Stage Theatre Company's 1962 production of *If We Grow Up*, he has achieved a long and distinguished list of theatre credits.

Orman has hosted many child related events, including national telethons for the prevention of both child abuse and violence among children as well as the Children's Defense Fund's Stand For Children and **New York City's Kid's Day** events." He has toured extensively with **his *Gordon of Sesame Street* concerts**, as a **keynote speaker** and with Matt Robinson's highly acclaimed one man play *The Confessions of Stepin Fetchit*.

As a writer, Orman has penned many poems and was a contributing editor of *Black Theatre Magazine* during the 1970s. **Orman's memoir, *Sesame Street Dad: Evolution of an Actor*** was published in June 2006.

His children's book *Ricky & Mobo* which he wrote and illustrated was published in 2007. In 2008 he was named "**Chief Storyteller**" and **national spokesperson** for **Audible Kids**, the nation's leading provider of digitally downloaded children's literature.

As an early member of the Free Southern Theater in New Orleans, Roscoe toured throughout the South for two years and served as the company's artistic director for one season. **A founding member of Harlem's**

New Lafayette Theatre, he appeared prominently in most of that company's productions, including *Whose Got His Own*, *We Righteous Bombers*, *The Duplex*, *The Devil Catchers* and *The Fabulous Miss Marie*.

Recent roles have included Troy Maxon in *Fences* at Madison Repertory Theatre and Hoke Colburn in the Delaware Theatre Company production of *Driving Miss Daisy*. As a director, Orman has staged productions of plays such as *Goin'a Buffalo*, *Clara's Ole Man*, *How Do You Do*, and *House Party*. **He is a five time nominee and recipient of an Audelco Theatre Award for his performance in the 1997 production of *Do Lord Remember Me*** at Manhattan's Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse.

In 1973, Orman made his **feature film debut** in the title role of **Universal Pictures' *Willie Dynamite***. His other films include *Follow That Bird*, *FX*, *Striking Distance*, *New Jersey Drive*, *Drive By*, *The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland*, *30 Days*, and *Twilight's Last Gleaming*.

In addition to the multiple award winning *Sesame Street*, television audiences have seen him on such programs as *Sanford and Son*, *Kojak*, *All My Children*, *A Man Called Hawk*, *Law and Order*, *Law and Order SVU*, *Cosby*, *Sex and the City*, and *The Wire*.

He has narrated many documentary films, including *Langston Hughes: The Dreamkeeper* on PBS, *Lifeline* on Discovery Channel, and *Heritage of the Black West* on National Geographic and **audio book biographies** of such luminaries as **Colin Powell, Martin Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglas, Barack Obama, and Wilt Chamberlain, to name a few.**

Mission Statement

Roscoe Orman

ROSCOE ORMAN is a multi-dimensional artist who came of age during the politically and culturally transforming decade of the 1960s.

It is paramount that his work promotes the social and educational enrichment of his audience, both child and adult.

He remains steadfast in his commitment to use his talent to empower all generations to be informed and conscientious citizens of the 21st Century's global community.

His more than three decades of association with PBS-TV's universally acclaimed children's program "*SESAME STREET*" (as the beloved GORDON ROBINSON) has allowed him to promote his mission to people around the world as actor, entertainer, writer, lecturer and children's advocate.

"I believe that each of you will find the "Champion" inside of you and learn to love the Journey of becoming the best that you can be and to never give up in the race of life."

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