

David Williams  
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## WEBSITES

<http://realdavidwilliams.com/> **Music, Literature, Videos, Cartoons** Overall Website  
<http://danjo53.wix.com/ohtheanimals> **Kids Music and Literature**  
<http://danjo53.wix.com/ohtheanimals#!pbs/b0n7c> **Emmy winning songs/videos from PBS**  
<http://danjo53.wix.com/davellie> **Music**  
<https://realdavidwilliams.com/category/cartoons/> **Cartoons**  
<http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/photo/listForContributor?screenName=0419ynmnd8xtj> **Visual Art**  
<http://www.colorado.edu/cye/people/research-affiliates/david-williams> **U of CO affiliation**



Community Engagement, Design and Research (CEDaR) Resource Center  
 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



**David Williams**

## **Writer, Songwriter, Artist, Scholar**

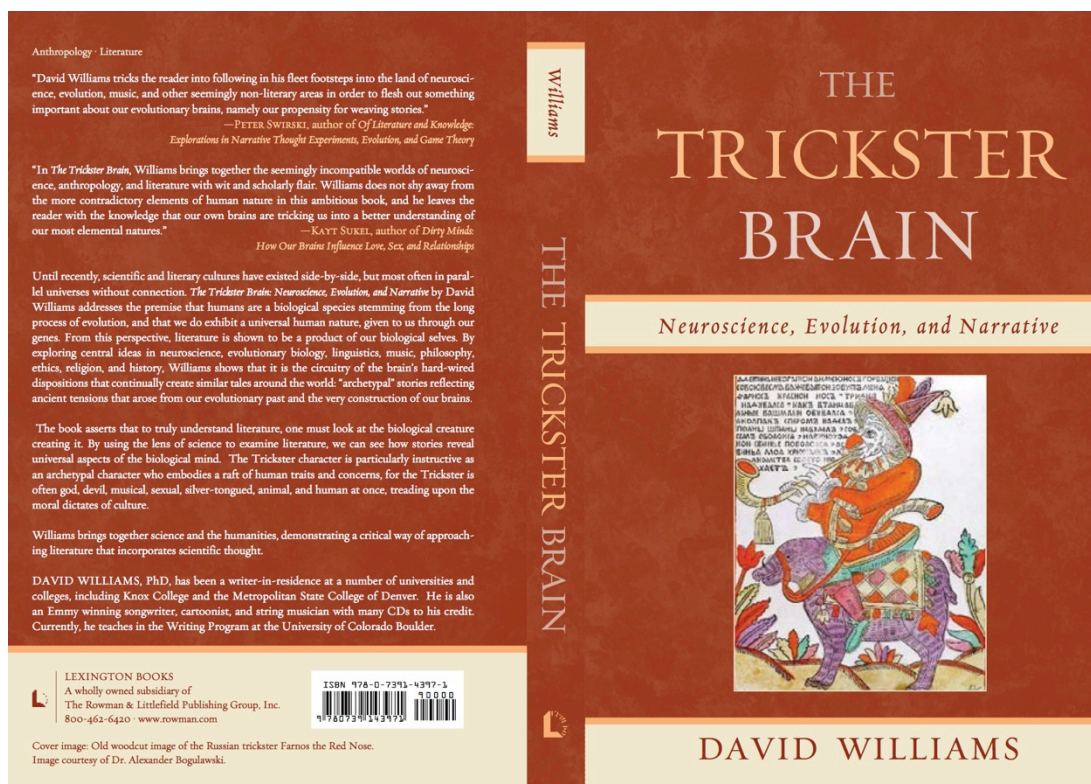
David Williams is interdisciplinary scholar and artist who works in a variety of genres, for BOTH children and adults. An Emmy winning songwriter, his songs have had over 80 million hits on YouTube, and he is currently represented in Hollywood as a songwriter and screenwriter for TV and Film. Also a children's author with Random House, David has been teaching the lessons of wildlife preservation and sustainability to new generations. From the book about his grandmother--which is in the McGraw-Hill 5th grade textbook (Grandma Essie's Covered Wagon), to his Rhino Song (which is being used in anti-poaching education in South Africa, having been taught to over 100,000

young people)--David has impacted people all over--awakening them to the sanctity of the natural world.

David has also published fiction, non-fiction, poetry, cartoons (with the Chronicle of Higher Ed and other publications), and is an established painter; he is also a multi-instrumentalist specializing in gypsy jazz, blues, and americana. Over the years he has released numerous award-winning CDs of original songs. A new CD of songs for adults was recently released that hit 22 on the Indie Charts in 2015: Little Prayers of Belief. David has been a writer in residence at many colleges and universities in the US. His most recent scholarly work is The Trickster Brain, about neuroscience and literature, and how biology is implicated in our story making selves.

### Science Writer—Neuroscience, Anthropology, and Literature

His latest adult book, The Trickster Brain: Neuroscience, Evolution, and Narrative, examines the evolution of the brain and the development of stories while dealing with numerous other areas that define our biological selves. In this book, mythology is examined as a window into the brain's modular construction.



## EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago—Ph.D. in English/

Dept. of English / Creative Writing (Dec.1993) Specialization: Fiction Writing,  
under the direction of Michael Anania. Literature Specialization: Native American  
Literature, under the direction of Dr. A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff

Northern Illinois University—M.A. English

Dept. of English Literature, 1984. Specialization: Creative Writing, Poetry, under the direction of Lucien Stryk

Northern Illinois University—B.A. Anthropology, 1978

University of Iowa—Post-graduate study in Anthropology, 1980-81

## RECENT WORK AND PROJECTS

### The South African Children's Endangered Animal Music Project

As the number of rhinos, elephants, lions, and other large mammals plummeted over the last few years due to increases in poaching, a few independent international projects to protect wildlife began and eventually converged, which led to the formation of **The South African Children's Endangered Animal Music Project**, to expand the message of wildlife protection to kids in Africa, and beyond.

In 2011, Irene Huysamen, Chairperson of the Green Wall of Africa, managed the "Rights for Rhinos," program [www.rightsforrhinos.co.za](http://www.rightsforrhinos.co.za) in which two game rangers walked 2,000 kilometers, educating children about the plight of rhinos and other animals. They spoke to over 16, 500 school kids on the main route and at the end of the 3 month journey realized that the South African youth had little to ZERO knowledge about what was happening to their heritage, in particular the rhino! It was decided by the team that they needed to start their own non-profit organization (Green Wall of Africa SEE Projects) as a platform for the youth of South Africa to have a "VOICE" for the "VOICELESS" and in June 2012 they launched the youth project "Rhino SA" [www.rhinosa.co.za](http://www.rhinosa.co.za) facebook: RHINO SA.

While scouring the Internet for resources to present to children on rhinos, Irene stumbled upon David Williams' (<http://realdavidwilliams.com/>) Emmy winning "Rhino Song" (<http://youtu.be/QOvlot-i6rY>), which had been featured on a PBS show for kids called Big Green Rabbit. This song became the linchpin in advancing the cause of rhinos, as the video of the song has now been shown to over 100,000 kids in South Africa, carried from location to location via computer and screen, stirring excitement, as the program has enlarged to children becoming "rhinos" themselves, complete with authentic badges, designating them as protectors of wildlife <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=4595853554095>.

## SCREENWRITING

Currently writing and pursuing movie and TV deals, including two feature films, The End of Animals, and Manoir De Mes Reves, as well as a number of sitcoms: Matches, and The Starless Celebs Club, Creako & Cleopatra, The Secret Gospel, and more, represented by Ramo Law Firm in LA.

## GRAPHIC RECORDER/FACILITATOR/SCRIBE, VISUAL ARTIST

Worked for companies such as Educause, McKesson, and AT&T doing Graphic Recording. **2005-2009** Cartoonist and Graphic Recorder for ECAR/EDUCAUSE, an international think tank for Higher Education—the New Hampshire Symposium on Higher Education sponsored in part by Hewlett Packard, July 2005; the San Diego Symposium, June 2006; the Phoenix Symposium, December 2006; and the Boulder Symposium, 2007.

**2009 EMMY WINNER, TELEVISION, WRITER, SONGWRITER**, for writing & composing for Big Green Rabbit, an environmental TV show for children that taught sustainability and respect for the environment, which ran nationally for two years on PBS. Produced videos of my work about nature, wildlife, and ecological stewardship have had over 30 million hits on YouTube.

Currently working on a new show, Animalooza, which will appear on Rocky Mountain PBS in October, 2013, all songs written by David Williams.

**ONLINE EDUCATION WRITER, RESEARCHER, DEVELOPER** for CU Boulder Continuing Education: Designing classes for online instruction, including best practices for teaching online, which involves the production of new digital techniques for online education, and helping to develop techniques for a new online writing center for tutoring students at CU.

### **CARTOONIST/VISUAL ARTIST**

Long-time cartoonist for Chronicle of Higher Education, Barrons, and other magazines and newspapers as well as cartoon cards with Carlton Cards and Soultrader of London. See "Cartoons" at <http://realdavidwilliams.com/>.

### **PLAYWRIGHT**

**Developed Science/Literature/Music/Ecological Sustainability curriculum and classes** bringing the Humanities and Arts together, through over 15 years of residencies through the Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri Arts Councils' Artist in the Schools Program as well as The Rockford Arts Program, and STEM schools in Colorado. This included creation of songs, poetry, plays, and short stories, most of which focused on scientific exploration of nature and ecology interpreted through art. Environmental Play for Colorado Stem Schools, written in 2011, "Going Down the River," which led to receiving 2011 Encompass Research In China Cultural Exchange Travel Grant.



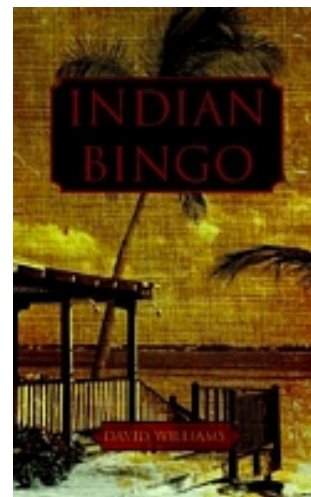
**What do you mean I should follow my dreams?  
My dream is to bite your head off.**

**Artist-in-Residence Writer, Composer, and Videographer** at Wild Bear Nature Center, Nederland, CO, summer 2010, 2011, creating videos and songs for the web having to do with Colorado wildlife, ecology, and sustainability. Published CD of original songs for kids on sustainability and ecology: **Wild Bear Nature** [http://www.dailycamera.com/ci\\_16875901](http://www.dailycamera.com/ci_16875901).

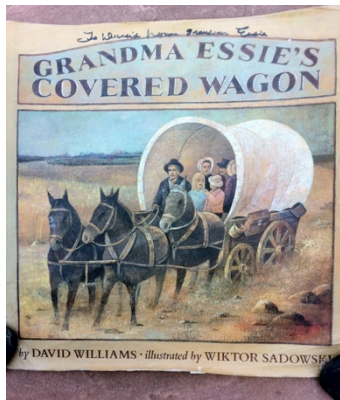
### **BOOKS**

**The Trickster Brain: Neuroscience, Evolution, and Narrative**, published June 2012, published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group. This book deals with recent findings in neuroscience, evolutionary psychology, but it is also a primer on how to take a cognitive critical approach to literature (bringing science into the humanities), which requires knowledge of human evolution, biology, the development of music, and art in our species, gender, sexuality, religion, and more. Worldwide trickster stories from myth and literature are used to as a window into our biological selves and our constantly conflicted brains, which were never designed but developed in the haphazard process of natural and sexual selection.

**2006 Indian Bingo**. Ghost Road Press. A collection of short fiction stories with an accompanying CD of 18 original songs titled Joplin, MO. Indian Bingo was a finalist for the Drue Heinz Prize, and two of the stories received awards from the Illinois Arts Council.





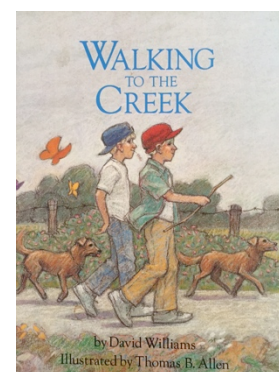


### **1993 Grandma Essie's Covered Wagon.**

Alfred A. Knopf. A juvenile book about the early life story of Essie Williams, chronicling her travels in a covered wagon with her family through economically distressed Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, shortly after the turn of the century. 1994 Notable Award Winner from the National Council of Social Studies. Reviewed in Publishers Weekly July 12, 1993, The Bulletin of the Center For Children's Books, October, 1993, and The Horn Book Magazine, November, 1993. Note: This book is also included in a two fifth grade reader anthologies: MacMillan Co. and McGraw Hill, and is part of the school curriculum for millions of American children.

### **1990 Walking to the Creek.**

Alfred A. Knopf. A juvenile book about the exploration of a small pasture creek by two boys who discover ecological destruction yet also the beauty of the natural environment. Reviewed in Newsweek, December 3, 1990: 65 as one of the top twenty children's books of the year. Reviewed in Booklist December 15, 1990: 863.



### **1997 What Do I Read Next: Multicultural Literature: Section on Native American Literature.**

Rafaela G. Castro. Edith Maureen Fisher, Ph.D. Terry Hong. David Williams.

Ph.D. Detroit: Gale Research Publishing Co. 1997. (Wrote the one fourth of this book on Multicultural Literature dealing with Native American Literature. The book is an annotated bibliography with an extensive introductory essay).

## **PUBLICATIONS IN LITERARY MAGAZINES**

### **Short Stories**

- 2002 "Don't You Know That?" Element magazine issue 3, vol. 1, April, 27-29.
- 2002 "Bobby Angel," TriQuarterly issue 113, Summer 213-217.
- 1993 "Next Door Neighbors," Farmer's Market 10 91-97.
- 1992 "Hello From the Heartland," The Writer's Barbecue 7 66-92.
- 1990 "Nerves," Karamu 12.1 (Spring): 51-54.
- 1990 "Thicker Than Water," Farmer's Market 7.2 33-46.
- 1990 "Mound," Wapsipinicon Almanac 3 74-78.
- 1989 "Fishing," Other Voices 9 (Spring 1989): 67-175.
- 1989 "Spook Light," The Beloit Fiction Journal 4.2 7-14.
- 1989 "Animals," Black River Review 5 3-4.
- 1989 "Gizzards," Farmer's Market 5.1 7-18.
- 1988 "Langston Hughes," Webster Review 13.2 52.
- 1988 "Key Lime Pie," Farmer's Market 4.1 70-77.
- 1987 "Country Music," The Chariton Review 13.2 38-48.
- 1987 "Indian Bingo," Farmer's Market 4.1 43-51.
- 1987 "Brothers," Cimarron Review 78 17-21.
- 1986 "A Good Policy," The Beloit Fiction Journal 2.1 81-89.

## POEMS

- 1987 "Bush," Passages North 8.1 8.  
 1987 "Late Season," Sunrust 8 (Winter): 26.  
 1987 "Cob," The Phoenix 6. 1 & 2 67-68.  
 1987 "The Cows," Pacific Review 5 52.  
 1987 "Buzzell Road," Sunrust 8 (Winter): 32.  
 1986 "White Fish," Calliope 9.2 (May): 43.  
 1987 "White Fish," Food for Thought. Bigby, Joan & John., ed. New York: William Morrow & Co. (1987): 250.  
 1987 "Listening to Guy Dull Knife Sing," The Midwest Quarterly 28.3  
 1986 "Alphabet," Poets On 10.1 (Winter): 13.  
 1986 "With Kelly Along the Creek," Poets On 10.2 (Summer): 38.  
 1986 "Owl," The Rectangle 61.1 33.  
 1985 "Plant Food," Poets On 9.1 32.  
 1985 "Osprey," Black Bear 2 37.

## THEATRE

- 2011** Going Down the River, a musical for kids about sustainability.  
**2009** DJANGO A full length musical about Django Reinhardt, the French gypsy guitarist who died in 1953.  
**1997** Cliques. A full length musical for young adults, produced by New American Theatre. Rockford, IL.  
**1994** Two Fairy Tales. Music and Lyrics of a children's play, produced by the Springfield Theater Center.  
**1991** Oh, The Animals. A full length musical play for children, produced by Mid-America Playwrights, Theater Company.

## FILM & VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES

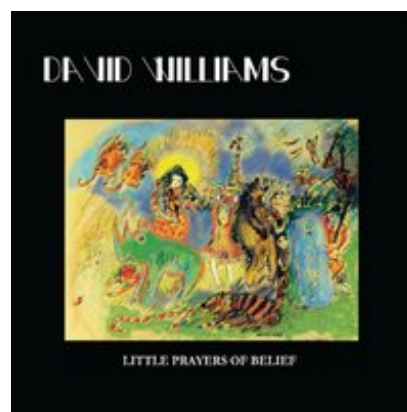
- 2012** The Human Story, a 20 minute documentary on the rise of our species.  
<http://youtu.be/YeVC3Q5E-kU>  
**2002** I Love English in a Major Way, a 30 minute mockumentary on being an English major, written and directed in conjunction with some of the students in the Ink Stained Wretches writer's group based in the English Department at MSCD. The movie was produced and filmed by the Auraria Media Center.  
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4741263325594951110>

## MUSIC

**Singer-songwriter, Folk, Blues, & Swing historian, multi-instrumentalist, specializing in americana music and Gypsy Jazz guitar.**

## CD ALBUMS

- 2016** DAVELLIE. 13 Original songs in Gypsy Jazz, Americana, Blues, and Folk by David Williams and Ellie Brown.  
**2015** LITTLE PRAYERS OF BELIEF. 13 new songs by David Williams—folk, blues, gypsy jazz.  
**2011** Chocolate Bar. 14 new songs by David Williams, folk, americana.  
**2011** Wild Bear Nature. 21 new songs for kids by David



Williams. Review: [http://www.dailycamera.com/ci\\_16875901](http://www.dailycamera.com/ci_16875901)

**2010** The Crazy Kind. 15 new songs by David Williams, Americana/bluegrass/folk, featuring David on guitar and vocals, Kristina Murray on guitar and vocals, Jordan Ramsey on mandolin, Katie Glassman on fiddle, Duane Webster on bass, and Chris Elliott on banjo. Reviews at <http://realdavidwilliams.com/>.

**2007** Django Jazz. 17 songs in the Gypsy Jazz genre, with Deco Django.

**2006** Joplin, Mo. A compilation of original songs that act as a companion CD to the book of short stories, Indian Bingo. The songs are in the old-timey and country blues vein and feature the Americana singer, Darcy Perez, on many of the vocals. The album reflects the characters and landscape of the Ozarks. See <http://realdavidwilliams.com/> for reviews.

**2005** David Williams and Deco Django. A live recording of tunes from the gypsy jazz repertoire in the style of the original Hot Club of Paris, first developed by the great Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. David Williams on lead guitar, Bill Pontarelli on clarinet, Jerry Rudy on rhythm guitar, and Duane Webster on standup bass. See [www.decodjango.com](http://www.decodjango.com) for reviews.

**2003** Where the Dark Road Starts: Songs of Love.

Studio recording done at Swallow Hill's famed studio in Denver, featuring all original compositions in a folk, blues, gypsy jazz vein. See <http://realdavidwilliams.com/> for reviews.

**2003** Rainforest and Tropical Animals. A collection of original animals songs, many of which were commissioned by Chicago's Shedd Aquarium for their "Tropical Rising Exhibit. Winner of a 2003 NAPPA Award. See <http://realdavidwilliams.com/> for reviews.

**1995** Route 66. Fifteen original art songs about people and places along the old Route 66 highway: blues, folk, and jazz melodies, recorded with a grant from the Illinois Arts Council in music composition.

Reviewed in the Chicago Sun Times Sept. 23, 1994; in The Maverick Report in October 1994; in Dirty Linen,

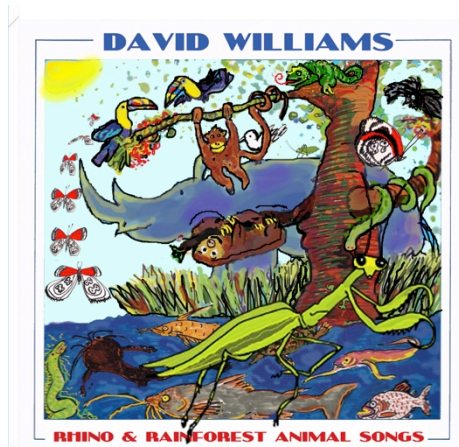
August 1994; in the Icon, October 1994; in The 66 News, Summer 1994, and Route 66 Magazine in Spring 1994. Featured as a news story on nationwide on National Public Radio and internationally on Monitor Radio, Spring 1994. See [www.trapdoor-media](http://www.trapdoor-media) for reviews.

**1990** Oh, The Animals. An American Library Association award winner, fourteen original songs for children. Reviewed in Booklist December 15, 1990: 873. Reviewed in The Chicago Tribune Sunday, August 19, 1990: Tempo Section 3. Reviewed in Dirty Linen February--March 1991:51. Reviewed in The Chicago Sun Times June 21, 1991: 46. See [www.trapdoor-media](http://www.trapdoor-media) for reviews.

**1990** Peach Faced Love Bird. Seventeen original songs about endangered species from around the world, featuring calypso, blues, folk, and jazz music. Reviewed in Dirty Linen December, 1992.

**1985** Cowboy Time. Recorded with help from a grant by the Illinois Arts Council, original Western songs covering the historical range of cowboy music.

**1981** The Great Frontier. Original folk songs, with a Midwestern theme.



## AWARDS & GRANTS

**2011** Recipient of 2011 Encompass Research In China Cultural Exchange Travel Grant: Traveled two weeks throughout China, summer 2011, all expenses paid, to meet with students from grade school to college, teaching environmental songs and learning about Chinese music and culture.

**2009 Emmy winner** in Composition and Writing for work on The Big Green Rabbit, PBS television program (for which I wrote most of the songs for the series).

**2008 Band winner Denver Post Theater Awards** for best musical band in Colorado for "Woody Guthrie's American Song," which was part of the 2008 Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

**2008 Emmy Nomination** in Songwriting for the PBS childrens' show, Big Green Rabbit.

**2002-2003 National Association of Parenting Publications Award**, NAPPA, for children's music, for the album Rainforest and Tropical Animals.

**2000 Grant from MSCD** for writing time in the summer months, \$3,000. This grant allowed me to begin work on a collection of short fiction.

**1997 Award of \$500.00 from the Illinois Arts Council** in music composition, performance (vocals, guitar, violin, & mandolin), and songwriting for Who Let That Django Jazz Into the Room?

**1995-1996 Included in the "State of Illinois Authors Poster,"** presented by the State of Illinois, honoring 113 Illinois authors, past and present who have made a contribution to American literature.

**1994 Designated as a participant in the 1995-1996 Arts-Tour Program** through the Illinois Arts Council. The Arts Council will pay for twenty-five percent of the fees for all public appearances by David Williams made in the State of Illinois over the next two years.

**1994 Artist Assistant Grant for promotion of the CD Route 66**, from the Illinois Arts Council: \$500.00

**1993 Award in Song Writing for Route 66**, from the Springfield Area Arts Council, in conjunction with the Illinois Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts: \$500.00.

**1992 Award in Literature** for the short story, "A Living That Means Something," from the Springfield Area Arts Council, in conjunction with the Illinois Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts: \$500.00.

**1991 Grant from GTE** for a production of the play Oh, The Animals at the Egyptian Theatre in DeKalb, Illinois, \$1,500.00.

**1991 Literature award in the short story from the Illinois Arts Council** for "Nerves," which appeared in Karamu, \$1,000.00.

**1991 Notable Award in Children's Music**, the top audio honor from the American Library Association (the organization which confers the Caldecott and Newberry Awards) for Oh, The Animals a cassette tape of fourteen original songs, on Trapdoor Records.

**1991 Illinois Arts Council's Illinois: The State of Writing Reading Series award winner.**

Chosen as one of twelve Illinois fiction writers and poets to read in the first official state sponsored reading series.

**1987 Literature award from the Illinois Arts Council** in the short story for "Indian Bingo," which appeared in Farmer's Market, \$1,000.00.

**1987 A collection of short stories, The Bingo Bus, was a finalist in the Drue Heinz** fiction competition at the University of Pittsburgh Press.

**1986 Judson Q. Owen Prize in Literature**, from Sigma Tau Delta, \$1,000.00.

**1985 J. Hal Connor Award for Creative Prose** from Northern Illinois University.

**1984 Lucien Stryk Award in Poetry**, Northern Illinois University.

**1983 Illinois Arts Council Fellowship** in Music Composition, \$1,000.00.

**1978 Folk Music Apprenticeship Grant** from the National Endowment for the Arts for study with a master musician, \$1,000.00.



## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**2010—Present University of Colorado at Boulder Instructor.** Teaching courses in Environmental Writing, Science Writing (Neuroscience), Composition, Business Writing, and Literature.

**2007-2010—Colorado School of Mines**

Instructor. Taught courses in Nature and Human Values (Ecology, Sustainability, Ethics) for LAIS.

**2009, 2010—Artist in Residence** at Wild Bear Nature Center, Nederland CO June through August

**2005-2007—University of Colorado at Boulder. Instructor. Taught courses in American & British Literature.**

**1998-2005—Metropolitan State College of Denver.** Department of English. Assistant Professor, Director of Fiction Writing. Taught Creative Writing, and American Literature. Official student advisor.

**1997-1998—Kishwaukee College.** Instructor. Taught Creative Writing.

**1994-1998—Northern Illinois University.** Instructor. Department of English, Instructor.

**1993-1994—Knox College.** Department of English, Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Artist in Residence. Galesburg, Illinois.

**1991-1993—Sangamon State University.** Instructor. Department of English, part-time Professor of Writing and Literature. Springfield, Illinois.

**1987-1991—The University of Illinois at Chicago.** Department of English, Teaching Assistant. Chicago, Illinois.

**1990-1991—Northern Illinois University.** Department of English, Teaching Assistant. DeKalb, Illinois.

**1984-1998—Illinois Arts Council Artist in Education Program, Artist in Residence.**

**1984-1987—Iowa Arts Council Artist in Education Program, Artist in Residence.**

**1984-1987—Missouri Arts Council Artist in Education Program, Artist in Residence.**

Taught short courses in over a hundred residencies, lasting from one week to two months, in Creative Writing (both poetry and fiction) and Music Composition, at elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in towns and cities throughout the Midwest. **Iowa Arts Council Touring Arts Team member.** Conducted two day workshops music and literature, and gave evening performances at dozens of Iowa towns with populations below 1500. University of Iowa.

**1980-1981—Department of Anthropology, Research Assistant.** Iowa City, Iowa.

## COURSES TAUGHT

Environmental Writing

Science Writing

Modern and Contemporary Literature

Nature & Human Values

Introduction to Women's Literature

Introduction to Shakespeare

Blues Music and Poetry

Senior Writing Experience, Multi-genre Workshop

Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop

Creative Writing Workshop: Fiction

Creative Writing Workshop: Literary Humor

Creative Writing Workshop: Contemporary Short Story  
 Freshman Composition--101 & 102  
 Freshman Composition—Online  
 Freshman Composition—101, with an emphasis in Anthropology  
 Developmental Writing  
 The Art & Craft of Writing  
 Native American Literature  
 American Literature since 1865  
 Fiction Writing for Young Adults  
 Introduction to Creative Writing  
 Introduction to Fiction  
 Writing Workshop: Drama for Children

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Cognitive Science, Evolutionary Psychology, Fiction Writing, Poetry Writing, Native American Literature, Cultural & Physical Anthropology, American Literature, Songwriting & Music Composition, Cartooning, Children's Literature, Drama, Musical Theater, World Literature, Mythology, Composition, Folk Music, Gypsy Jazz, Blues, Swing, Jazz

## **NPR RADIO APPEARANCES**

**1988** "Flea Market."  
**1980** "A Prairie Home Companion."  
**1979** "All Things Considered."  
**1979** "Folk Festival USA."

## **International Folk Festival Appearances**

**1988** The Vancouver Folk Festival.  
**1985** The Winnipeg Folk Festival.

## **TELEVISION APPEARANCES**

**2008-2010** Featured singer-songwriter on PBS show for kids, Big Green Rabbit, which ran nationally for two years. Videos from the show are available on YouTube, with over 30 million hits.  
**1998** Featured as a news special on Denver television, ABC, for a library performance.  
**1994** Missouri PBS filmed a documentary: David Williams's songs of Route 66  
**1994** Interviews and news features by the ABC and CBS affiliates in Joplin, MO.  
**1991** David Williams, Artist in Residence. A video documentary chronicling the teaching of writing in the Artist-in-Education program was produced in 1991 by Afterimages film company and distributed nationally to public television stations.

**PAINTINGS**

<http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/photo/listForContributor?screenName=0419ynmnd8xtj>









[http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/bullandwoman?xg\\_source=activity](http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/bullandwoman?xg_source=activity)

## REFERENCES

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[www.online.colorado.edu](http://www.online.colorado.edu)

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[gregg.cannady@stemhigh.org](mailto:gregg.cannady@stemhigh.org)

## REVIEWS

“Williams works magic. . . . he describes commonplace events with uncommon grace.”

[Newsweek magazine](#)

“David Williams hits you like high beams from a big rig. . . . the record [Route 66] is about more than an old road.”

[The Chicago Sun Times](#)

“David Williams’ songs teach as well as entertain.”

[The Chicago Tribune](#)

“There are few artists, as performer and writer, who can synthesize the core elements of a specific influence and make it their own. In college, that was a skill we were encouraged to develop. David Williams does it with ease on Django Jazz -- a collection of songs centered around the style and writing of Django Reinhardt & Stephane Grappelli, that extends itself into the trad sounds of Billie Mayhew, Fats Waller and others. David's quartet not only understands the core imagery and emotionalism that exists in the songs, they infuse a modernity that doesn't sound like just plain stylizing for the sake of style. It simply sounds real -- whether covering a classic, or performing an original. One of my favorite and most aired releases from 2007 on The Colorado Sound.”

[Chris 'goat' K. - Host of the Colorado Sound on KRFC, 88.9FM, www.krfcfm.org \(Saturdays 5PM-7PM \(mountain\) Rating: 5 of 5 Stars! \[5 of 5 Stars!\]](#)

“Route 66 is a musical journey from Chicago to the Ozarks, down the fabled highway David Williams traveled as a child. His songs are full of interesting characters, in settings ranging from roadside diners to the crowded streets of Chicago to a barren farm in the middle of nowhere, all connected by this trail of tarmac. It's a mix of styles: blues, folk, rockabilly, all complemented by Williams' warm, rich vocals. A highlight is “Flood Water,” whose bitter, scathing lyrics are sung to, of all things, an old timey country tune. This is a Midwestern anthem. Crank down the windows and take a ride.”

[Dirty Linen](#)

“It's as though Williams has peeled off a chunk of worn asphalt from the “old road” like it was a genuine slice of life, and treated it with the loving attention of a museum curator in order to preserve it for as long as possible.”

[Jefferson County Journal—Tennessee.](#)

"His songwriting has that same, wonderful sense of the bizarre [as Gorka]. Like Gorka, he even writes great songs about cows and pigs. This is the definitive animal song tape. . . this tape is a gem!"

### Dirty Linen

"I've seen a lot of singer-songwriters pass through over the years; most of them quickly forgotten. But every once in awhile, someone rises up with a real talent for lyrics, and such a talent is David Williams."

### Come For To Sing

"You will be knocked out by Williams. . . reminiscent of Ry Cooder and Leon Redbone. A totally terrific collection . . . ."

### The Chicago Sun Times

"In this superb oral history, Williams gathers together the "prairie stories" told by his Grandmother."

### Publishers Weekly

"The voice is quietly upbeat, remembering the adventure and the safety of the family wagon against the wild outside. Precise details evoke the hardship as well as the hope." Booklist

"Taken as a whole, *The Trickster Brain* can be admired for its lofty goal, which is to connect a kind of cross-culturally realized narrative element to the biological design and function of the human brain. Folklorists may also admire Williams' willingness to work across disciplinary lines." Journal Of Folklore Research

"David Williams tricks the reader into following in his fleet footsteps into the land of neuroscience, evolution, music, and other seemingly non-literary areas in order to flesh out something important about our evolutionary brains, namely our propensity for weaving stories." Peter Swirski, author of "Of Literature and Knowledge: Explorations in Narrative Thought Experiments, Evolution, and Game Theory"

"In *The Trickster Brain*, David Williams brings together the seemingly incompatible worlds of neuroscience, anthropology and literature with wit and scholarly flair. Williams does not shy away from the more contradictory elements of human nature in this ambitious book, and he leaves the reader with the knowledge that our own brains are tricking us into a better understanding of our most elemental natures." Kayt Sukel, author of Dirty Minds: How Our Brains Influence Love, Sex, and Relationships

"*Evolution of Birds* is a curious image, seeming to fuse disparate stylistic elements from a Chagall-like dream to Pop influenced psychedelic mysticism. The densely populated birds crowd and overtake the smaller human figures within the picture plane, but don't appear menacing. The human figures themselves appear to be of a specific time period, rather than rendered in the same universal naturalism/abstraction of the birds. (Are they supposed to be recognizable iconic images? ) I find the small female portrait

in the upper right to be particularly doll-like in its diminutive status and position. The achromatic palette is also an interesting choice for the figures, connecting them to each other and separating them out from the lavishly colored cacophony of toucans, parrots and owls. The bright yellow hue peaking through the small pieces of open ground helps to animate the space, and corroborate a vibrant bustle of activity. Flattened with the space, the birds ultimately appear designed as a larger decorative motif, or are at least passively acted upon by outside evolutionary forces. The piece entitled *End of Animals* is slightly more macabre in its title and implication, but the graphic imagery also offers whimsical relief through calavera –esque skeletons and ornamental elements. The large blue elephant inspired shape in the center is a great visual rest and hierarchal component, allowing all of the other active elements to swirl around it. The geometric designs remind me of many global traditions and patterns, but meld into a unique homogenized personal vision.” [ARTISTS2 Comment by Resident Curator](http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/evolution-of-birds-new?xg_source=activity)  
[\\_ \(http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/evolution-of-birds-new?xg\\_source=activity\)](http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/evolution-of-birds-new?xg_source=activity)

*Bull and Woman* caught my eye with iconic references to Chagall’s acrobats and Picasso’s Bulls....and yet the circus theme easily fits into your personal stylistic abstraction of animal forms. The signature high chroma, saturated hues are kept in tenuous balance here, as there’s a distinguishable foreground, middle ground and background. The agitated and gestural line work moving throughout the piece ties together the drawing in an expressionistic scene. What appears to be a female figure in the ring on the far left is the most human subject, and yet there is a strange personification of the bull in the foreground. His expression is the most defined, particularly when contrasted with the doll like acrobats in the background. I see the figures in the space as having an animated quality that makes one think of toys rather than sentient beings. The dream like environment spins, and pushes the sky to the front of the picture plane, pulling the viewer into the hypnotic space. [ARTISTS2 Comment by Resident Curator](http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/bullandwoman?xg_source=activity)  
[http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/bullandwoman?xg\\_source=activity](http://www.artists2artists.net/photo/bullandwoman?xg_source=activity)