

# PAULA LARKE

***Advocate for Peace: keynote speaker, workshop facilitator, humorist, vocalist, drummer, banjoist, bassist, storyteller, and percussive-word artist***



A veteran of the professional stage, (New York Shakespeare Festival, New Federal Theatre, La Mama) story-gatherer in and creative consultant to educational and community service institutions, Peace Activist (community peace builder through the arts) PAULA LARKE is firmly grounded in the art of human relationship building. She has brought her hands-on experience to advisory and keynote presenter roles within educational, social service, public and private sector institutions for over thirty years. She is a fiercely avowed autodidact, having studied exactly what she needs to know to do exactly what she wants to do all her adult life. This course of studies she sometimes calls "Hard-Head Hindsight University", and her degree, Doctorate in Decency Discernment. After doing professional theatre in NY and on tour, Larke immersed herself in the classroom of the American community, traveling with stories, music, and message across rural and urban USA. Her accolades as a performer/lecturer include enthusiastic endorsements from the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Services, Leadership America, the General Board of Global Ministries, and innumerable advocacy organizations across the U.S. In addition, she provides counseling and motivational workshops through faith-based and community service organizations across the country. She works with refugees from every continent to help them acclimate to American language and customs and still honor the traditions and values of their own cultures.

For over 30 years schools, playgrounds, community centers, nursing homes, churches, lumber mills, electronics plants, Dairymen's Association dinners, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary clubs – have been inspired and called to Larke's messages of peace, non-violence and accountability. Unceasingly promoting peace, justice, and integrity, Paula is a treasured advocate and mentor, combining her musical and theatrical artistry with skills learned in her training with CTI (CONNECT Training Institute), Creating a Culture of Peace, the Brecht Forum TOP Lab (Theatre of the Oppressed), as well as two decades of community organizing and education training through work with Carpetbag Theatre, Inc., NC Teaching Fellows, Kellogg Foundation, Brushy Fork Institute, the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Southern Rural Black Women's Development Initiative, the Highlander Center in New Market Tennessee, among many others. She is founder, executive and artistic director of Voices in the Treetops, Inc. She created and coordinates its local seedling program, C.U.L.T.U.R.E. (Creative Unity, Learning Together for Understanding, Respect, Excellence), now operating in the Clarkston Community Center in Clarkston, GA. This program models the positive effect of music and intercultural arts activities in diffusing tension and preventing violence in the Clarkston area.

She is a member of Alternate ROOTS, Inc., Local 1000 of the American Federation of Musicians, and Actors Equity Association.

**For extensive photos, more information on programs visit:  
[www.voicesinthetreetops.org](http://www.voicesinthetreetops.org) and [www.paulalarke.com](http://www.paulalarke.com)  
or visit YouTube for Paula Larke videos**



photo by Elisa Zazzera

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