

CONNIE *Regan-Blake*

Awards and Achievements

Lifetime Achievement Award – ORACLE Awards Program

Presented to individuals in the storytelling community who have dedicated their lives to the art form of storytelling and who have demonstrated meritorious service to the National Storytelling Network, as well as to the community of storytellers at large. The individuals who are awarded are those who have expanded public awareness of the art of storytelling by virtue of their preservation of traditional art forms or the significant originality of their body of work.

Circle of Excellence Award – ORACLE Awards Program

Presented to artists who are recognized nationally by their peers to be master storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of storytelling. Connie was one of the first to receive this prestigious award which honors storytelling artists.

Distinguished National Service Award – ORACLE Awards Program

Presented to those individuals, members or groups who contribute their time and energy in an exemplary manner on the national level to forward the work of the National Storytelling Network.

National Storytelling Association

Founding Member, Board of Directors (1974 – 1984)

Artistic Director of the National Storytelling Festival (1978-1983)

Chair of Board of Directors (1981- 1984)

B.B. Maurer West Virginia Folklife Scholar Award

Awarded to an individual who has contributed to the preservation and perpetuation of Appalachian cultural heritage. The award is named for Dr. B.B. Maurer (1920-2003), considered the “Father of Cultural Studies” in West Virginia. Past honorees include Senator Robert C Byrd and Jean Richie.

Southern Artistry Designation

The North Carolina Arts Council honored Connie as a designee for the Southern Artistry, an adjudicated, online registry of outstanding artists, performers and writers.

North Carolina Arts Council

Honored by the NC Arts Council for artistic merit and touring capability. Selected to be included in the *North Carolina Touring Artist Directory* to promote Connie's "wonderful artistry."

Storyteller

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Performer of the Year

Awarded by the Folk Heritage Committee at the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, the nation's oldest folk festival

Storyteller of the Year

Awarded by the North Carolina Storytelling Guild for "significant and exemplary contributions to storytelling and to storytellers."

Regional Artist Project Grant

[Asheville Area Arts Council](#)

Connie's audio and video recordings have received numerous awards including the **American Library Association Notable Recording Award**, the **Parent's Choice Award**, and the **Storytelling World Gold Award**.

Tell It in the Mountains

Artistic Director (1993-2000)

Mountain Echoes Storyfest

Artistic Consultant (2001-2002)

National Storytelling Festival

Honored uniquely at the National Storytelling Festival as the only storyteller to be on the main stage as a featured teller or emcee each year for its more than 30-year history.

Mountain Sweet Talk: A Two Act Play

Asheville's longest running theatrical production, Connie co-wrote, produced, and starred in Asheville's longest running theatrical production along with Barbara Freeman. (1986-1992)

Tales of Appalachia: For piano trio and storyteller

An original classical work and intersectional exploration of music and storytelling. Connie collaborated with the Kandinsky Trio and composer Mike Reid to create 'The Cantankerous Blacksmith', which toured nationwide.

Teller In Residence

Designated as an ambassador for storytelling at the International Storytelling Center.

Storyteller