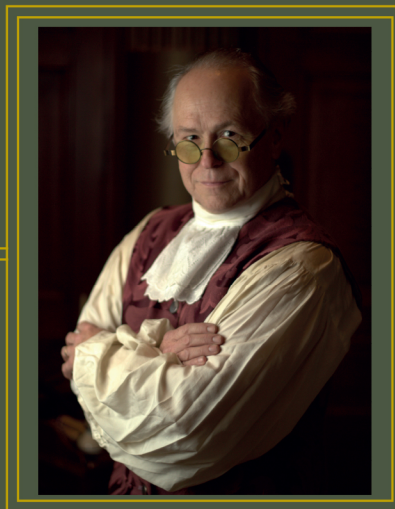


## History you can talk to



## ABOUT GREGROBIN SMITH

GREGROBIN SMITH's acclaimed portrayal of *Benjamin Franklin - LIVE!* brings the world of Dr. Franklin to your Audience. Interactive and topical, Dr. Franklin entertains, educates, and motivates his audiences to experience history as essential and important to their lives. Using the Chautauqua tradition of teaching history, GregRobin's presentation brings the reality of Franklin's legacy into focus in a manner that is both accessible & enjoyable. A refreshing way to learn, *Benjamin Franklin - LIVE!* uses the audience's own conversations with Dr. Franklin to provide a unique and intimate "brush" with history.



GregRobin Smith is a history scholar, author, actor, and educator. He has pioneered work in interactive history education, charming audiences for more than thirty years with his presentational excellence. A lifelong admiration for Dr. Franklin, combined with a passion for "hands-on-history," inspires Mr. Smith's illuminating interactive performances. GregRobin is a proud Union member of AGVA, the American Guild of Variety Artists.

## About the Presentation

Each presentation begins with a first-person narrative from Franklin's remarkable life. Filled with intrigue, wit, and humor, and surrounded by the "history" that made the man, "Dr. Franklin" then invites his audience to join him in conversation as he takes questions from the floor. Particularly suited to students, the question and answer dialogue takes on the unique character of the audience's own curiosity. Mr. Smith's deep understanding of his subject allows him to answer questions within the character and context of sound historical reference.

*Recommended for ages 9 and up and suitable for all audiences.*

## DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Born in 1706, a little more than a decade after the Salem Witch Trials ended and at the threshold of the Age of Enlightenment, Benjamin Franklin embodied the energy and vibrancy of this new nation. A self-educated man, Franklin recognized, early on, that knowledge was the key to self-improvement. Throughout his life, Franklin referred to himself as a printer, but Franklin's pursuits as a scientist, innovator, inventor, statesman, and social thinker literally revolutionized his world with works that continue to impact our lives today.

*"It isn't what you know that counts.  
It's what you think of in time."  
—Ben Franklin*

## What is Chautauqua?

CHAUTAUQUA is a "presentational" educational tradition that has been enjoyed by audiences for more than 100 years. Started in 1878 at Lake Chautauqua in New York, Chautauqua uses performers, dressed in character, to "present" a variety of topics or personalities and bring them to life. Combining popular education with entertainment, traditionally, Chautauqua topics ranged from history to literature to political presentations. By 1891, Chautauqua was hailed as "...the greatest popular educational movement of modern times," and when Teddy Roosevelt was President he claimed, "The Chautauqua is the most American thing in America." By the turn of the last century, more than 35 million Americans a year attended Chautauqua. Today, *Benjamin Franklin - LIVE!* enlists this tradition to help children and adults realize the benefit of first-hand presentational education.

Captivating an audience is the key to any and all learning. **Benjamin Franklin - LIVE!** offers educators and history buffs a unique opportunity to engage in a lively, thought-provoking learning immersion. "Interactive" in the finest sense of the word, each presentation takes on the special character of the audience involved. This real-time exchange of living thought envelops the audience in a unique historical understanding that cannot be obtained through textbooks, documentaries, or lectures alone.



If you are looking for an engaging entertainment experience for your group or social gathering, **Benjamin Franklin - LIVE!**, is an opportunity to depart from the ordinary. This presentation charms and delights while delivering a theatrical punch through the novelty of the Chautauqua style. Coupled with the wit and repartee of Dr. Franklin himself, your audience's imagination will be inspired. The interactive quality of **Benjamin Franklin, The Original American**, is the perfect way to keep performances and benefits stimulating, guaranteeing fun and enlightenment for all.

Education as Entertainment



Entertainment as Education

## Presentation Fees:

One-hour school assemblies (for 4th grade and up), libraries and private groups: \$500.00\*  
Benefits, fundraisers and public performances (up to 2 hours): \$1,500.00\*

*\*Prices subject to change. Travel fees may apply. Please contact us for information on multiple-performance discounts & sponsorships.*

Other presentations sponsored by our sponsor - The Washington Shakespearean Festival - includes hands-on programs both entertaining and educational

- \* Robyn Plaeyr - Renaissance Man/ Elizabethan Poet
- \* Interactive Shakespeare Programs
- \* Sir Gregory - Medieval Knight

For more information or booking please contact us:  
E-mail: [Ben@Ben-Franklin.org](mailto:Ben@Ben-Franklin.org) | Web site: [www.Ben-Franklin.org](http://www.Ben-Franklin.org)  
Toll Free 1-866-320-1776

### FRAMES OF REFERENCE - RECOMMENDED READING

The AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN is the quintessential Franklin in his own words. Since then many excellent works have been written about Franklin including:  
Benjamin Franklin, An American Life by Walter Isaacson  
Benjamin Franklin by Edmund Morgan  
The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin by Gordon S. Wood

Benjamin Franklin by Carl Van Doren  
My Life with Benjamin Franklin and Mon Cher Papa by Claude-Anne Lopez

**For Young Readers:**

Ben Franklin's Almanac by Candace Fleming  
Biography of Benjamin Franklin by Tom Streissguth

**For Younger Readers:**

The Amazing Mr. Franklin or The Boy Who Read Everything by Ruth Ashby

**Benjamin Franklin related Web sites:**

[www.ben-franklin.org](http://www.ben-franklin.org)  
[www.law.ou.edu/hist](http://www.law.ou.edu/hist)  
[www.pbs.org/benfranklin](http://www.pbs.org/benfranklin)  
<http://fi.edu/franklin/>

**Special Thanks**  
**For Sponsorship and Support:**  
The Washington Shakespearean Festival - [www.WaShakespeare.org](http://www.WaShakespeare.org)  
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Post Falls, ID



*I have the honour to be your most obedient & humble servant,  
Dr Benjamin Franklin*

# Ben Franklin

## The Original American



*A first-person interaction with Franklin scholar*

Greg Robin Smith

*History you can talk to*

*"There was magic afoot at our school when Ben Franklin made his appearance!...Franklin was made real...(and) as such, Franklin was seen as a remarkable human being and not a two-dimensional figure. This was an outstanding and enriching performance."*

— Robert Herold  
Head Teacher & Social Studies Chair, Northstar Junior High (now retired)  
[www.Ben-Franklin.org](http://www.Ben-Franklin.org)

Innovative