



Deena Rosenberg Harburg is a writer, educator and producer. Deena's life was put on the yellow brick road by her mentors Yip Harburg and Ira Gershwin. Everything she has done and continues to do in her illustrious career is dedicated to education in all areas through musical theatre writing and performance. She is Executive Vice-President and Artistic Director of the Yip Harburg Foundation. The YHF is dedicated to universal education through the arts; peace and social justice; Yip's artistic legacy.

Deena is Founding Chair and was Master Teacher of the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. This is the country's—and maybe the world's—only such program. Deena was invited to design it in 1980 and chaired it for 17 years, producing readings of over 60 new musicals featuring professional actors. Faculty has included Leonard Bernstein, Harold Prince, Sheldon

Harnick, Stephen Schwartz, Andrew Hammerstein, Nancy Ford and Gretchen Cryer. Alumni include major Broadway writers such as George C. Wolfe (*Angels in America*) and Winnie Holzman (*Wicked*). Her unique program continues to thrive and produce some of Broadway and regional theater's most influential writers. During her tenure at NYU, Deena secured large grants from the Ford Foundation and the Oscar Hammerstein Family; funds from Herb Alpert, Yip Harburg, Harold Arlen and Frederick Loewe Foundations, and small grants from countless other organizations totaling over \$1 million.

A cultural and musical historian, Deena got her BA at the University of Chicago in cultural history. She did her graduate work in Musicology at the CUNY Graduate Center. Deena also designed and is the executive director of the Computers and the Arts Project (CAP), a unique elementary school initiative in New York City, and Performing Arts for Literacy (PAL), a unique high school program.

Deena is the author of *Fascinating Rhythm: The Collaboration of George and Ira Gershwin* (Dutton/Viking-Penguin; University of Michigan Press) which is based on extensive work with Ira Gershwin in his archives, on NEH and Rockefeller Foundation grants; and *The Music Makers* (with Bernard Rosenberg, Columbia University Press). She has also penned numerous articles. Besides her work at NYU, Deena has guest-lectured and conceived theatrical concerts at the CUNY Graduate Center, Boston University, Penn State, San Diego State, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian and other major venues.

Deena adapted a one-hour version of the classic Yip Harburg-Burton Lane-Fred Saisy musical *Finian's Rainbow* which will be distributed by Music Theatre International worldwide. She also adapted the one-hour version of *The Wizard of Oz*, again, to be distributed worldwide. A current major focus and passion, Literacy through Musical Theatre, led her to found the Yip Harburg Foundation's Rainbow Troupe which recently workshopped her original musical *Free and Equal*. She works closely with inner-city students, teachers and schools around the city and especially in New York's East Village near where Yip grew up and where she lives with her husband Ernie Harburg (Yip's son) and their son, Ben.