

DEENA ROSENBERG HARBURG



Deena (Rosenberg) Harburg is thrilled that her mentors down the yellow brick road were Yip Harburg and Ira Gershwin. Deena is a writer, musical theatre historian, educator and producer. She is President and Artistic Director of the Yip Harburg Lyrics Foundation, dedicated to universal education through the arts; peace and social justice; lyricist Yip Harburg's artistic legacy. Deena is Lifetime Founding Chair of the unique Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU's Tisch School of the

Arts. She has produced readings of over 60 new musicals. Alumni include Winnie Holzman (*Wicked*) and George C. Wolfe (*Angels in America*). Deena raised over \$1 million to fund the Program.

Deena designed the Computers and the Arts Project (CAP), a unique elementary school literary initiative in inner-city New York. She is the author of *Fascinating Rhythm: The Collaboration of George and Ira Gershwin* (Dutton/Viking-Penguin; University of Michigan Press) based on extensive work with Ira Gershwin in his archives; and *The Music Makers* (with Bernard Rosenberg, Columbia University Press). Deena conceived theatrical concerts for the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian and many other major venues.

Deena adapted one-hour family versions of two major shows with Yip Harburg lyrics: *Finian's Rainbow* (music by Burton Lane) and *The Jazz Wizard of Oz* (music by Harold Arlen); the songs from both are distributed worldwide. She founded The Rainbow Troupe to showcase Yip Harburg's songs of social conscience. The Troupe is also developing Deena's original musical, *Free and Equal*.

Deena lives in New York's East Village near where Yip grew up, with her husband Ernie Harburg (Yip's son) and their son, Ben.