

Booking a Performance.



"Ian Ruskin's play about Harry Bridges and the West Coast dock workers brings to life the story of one of the most important leaders and one of the most militant unions in American Labor history. While the story primarily covers a period some 50 to 70 years ago, the message applies to the struggles workers face today. I wholeheartedly recommend this play to all trade unionists whether you are a seasoned organizer or just joined your first union."

Richard Trumka, President, AFL – CIO

Thanks for your interest in booking a performance. I have performed this play over 200 times to approximately 50,000 people, including many unions. Although the story is specifically about Harry Bridges and the ILWU, it is a universal rallying cry. It is clear to me from audience reactions that it is especially inspiring to anyone in a union. With all the challenges that the union movement faces today, this story of workers winning a great battle against enormous odds and taking control of their lives will move and empower your membership (see quotes below). The following information should answer most of your questions, but please contact me at 310-876-2494 in Los Angeles or by email at ianruskin@theharrybridgesproject.org to request any additional information. Also, watch scenes from our film of the play, which aired nationwide on PBS, at <http://www.youtube.com/harrybridgesproject> see <http://theharrybridgesproject.org/index.html> for an overview of the work.

The play, a 65-minute multi-media production, is an entertaining and educational piece full of the wit and ironies of Harry's life (shorter versions are also available). Audiences find the story, of standing up against enormous odds and winning, to be inspiring to them in their own lives. And so many of the themes in the play – immigration, workers' rights, a democratic labor movement, prejudice and discrimination, McCarthyism, issues of surveillance, a war on terror, the growing gap between rich and poor, and globalization – are more relevant to us every day. Performances are usually followed by an audience discussion and Q & A with Ian.

The fee depends on the size of the audience and venue, ranging from \$1,000 at small California locals to \$2,500 for a State Convention to \$4,000 for a National Convention, plus travel and accommodation. **I am always willing to discuss costs and ways to make a performance possible for you.** Accommodation can be at the convention hotel or a guest room in a private home. Travel is in economy class plus ground transportation or, in California, mileage. Once you confirm I try to arrange additional performances in the region in order to share travel costs. **The fee includes** – props and costume, the play cues (sound effects, music and archival photos and footage), a CD of pre-show music, and coordination of technical requirements.

Promotion and Publicity – I will supply you with three templates – a personalized program, an 8 x 11 flyer and a 16 x 22 poster – for you to reproduce (see below) and a press release. I am also happy to do phone interviews for print and radio publicity or for your own newsletters and announcements, and there is a press kit on my web site that can be downloaded.

Technical requirements – the play is designed for maximum performance versatility. A stage area and lighting are preferable. A sound system, projector, DVD player and screen or white wall are required. You will need to supply simple furniture (two chairs, a coffee table and a podium) and a person to run the cues, which is very easy. A "Performance Requirements" sheet will be emailed to you once the booking is made and, once travel is booked, an invoice. I have performed in hotel ballrooms, high school classrooms and a 1500 seat theater, and, most importantly, at many, many Union Conventions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Recent and Upcoming Performances –

2013

Lillian Theatre, Los Angeles – 2 week run
Electric Lodge Theatre, Venice – 2 week run
ILWU Local 34
ILEWU Local 10
ILWU Canada

2012 –

Musicians Union of Las Vegas, Local 369
Washington Education Association
Democratic Party of Contra Costa County
UFCW Local 1167 Stewards Conference
UFCW Local 135 Stewards Conference
ILWU Local 23
Grand Performances, Los Angeles
International Organization of Masters Mates and Pilots Conference
ILWU Canada
Laborers International Union of North America

Earlier (partial list)

California Staff Organization Annual Conference
Wilda Marston Theater, Anchorage
Southwest Oregon Community College
San Ramon Democratic Club
Food and Drug Council, Las Vegas
York College of Pennsylvania
Center for Collaborative Solutions Conference
The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Delegates Congress
Stand Up Guys for Labor, Anchorage, Alaska
Oregon State University
IBEW, Vacaville, CA
California Teachers Association Urban Issues Conference, Los Angeles
National Education Association UniServe Managers Conference, San Diego
Center for Collaborative Solutions Conference, Anaheim
Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Seattle
UFCW Local 5 Shop Stewards Conference
Connecticut Education Association
Nevada Education Association
Alaska AFL-CIO
The Casa, Liverpool
St. Joseph's University
The Guthrie Center
University of Washington

"From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks" – quotes from performances

"Ian Ruskin's one man performance captivated the audience at the Alaska AFL-CIO's biennial convention with his portrayal of Longshorman Harry Bridges. I would highly recommend it to labor organizations and activists seeking to book a truly inspiring performance of a classic American labor story".

Vince Beltrami, President, Alaska AFL-CIO

"Thank you for your incredible performance...this year's convention attendees will take the inspiring message of your show with them into 2012 and beyond as they fight for fairness and dignity for all workers".

Ellen Anreder, Director, Food and Drug Council

"You gave our shop stewards a sense of pride and history by revealing the broad shoulders they stand on as active participants in the Labor Movement. I will recommend your performance to other Locals around the country. It is a definitely a performance that all Union members should witness"

Mickey Kasparian, President, UFCW Local 135

"You might wonder what nurses and longshoremen have in common....the struggle for justice on the job, a decent standard of living and a society that works for those who labor. Ian Ruskin's play tells stories about events in the 1930's, 40's and 50's that have many lessons for us today. 500 nurses turned out to see this play and walked away entertained, educated and inspired."

Rose Ann DeMoro, Executive Director, California Nurses Association/
National Nurses Organizing Committee

"Everyone was thrilled with your ability to capture the essence of Harry Bridges and to create a piece that was entertaining, educational and very moving. It will be inspiring for all workers, the organized and the unorganized, to learn about these struggles and successes".

Elise Bryant, Senior Staff Associate, National Labor College/George Meany Center

"Ian gives an exciting and entertaining portrayal of one of the most important figures of the 20th century, and the issues explored – immigration, the rise of unions, prejudice and discrimination, McCarthyism and the coming of Globalization – make it remarkably relevant today".

Carolyn Doggett, Executive Director, California Teachers Association

Thanks for a GREAT performance. (AFM President) Ray Hair said he had tears in his eyes. He wasn't alone. Everyone applauded me for including Harry Bridges! Thank you for setting the mood, pace, and tone of what turned out to be a highly successful conference.

Thom Pastor, Secretary/Treasurer, Local 369, American Federation of Musicians

"The play was not only exciting and inspiring, but provided an excellent educational experience to UCLA students....the story of Harry Bridges still has important lessons for us today, especially in this time of globalization and economic inequality".

Kent Wong, Director, UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education

"I cannot thank you enough for your brilliant presentation *From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks* at our annual labor-management conference this year. Our audience was simply riveted, and the enthusiastic standing ovation you received speaks volumes for the power and impact of your performance!"

Janet Walden, President and CEO, Center for Collaborative Solutions

“Thank you for bringing your wonderful, riveting and highly entertaining performance to Harvard Law School for the 65th Anniversary of our Trade Union Program. It was the absolute highlight of our conference....with a sustained standing ovation and the audience insisting on staying to talk to you for over an hour. I was particularly impressed by your ability to reach our very diverse audience....from retirees to young college students and even a sprinkling of High School students....you managed to hold everyone’s attention and bring labor history to life”.

Elaine Bernard
Executive Director, Labor and Worklife Program & Trade Union Program
Harvard Law School

“Harry Bridges is one of the most important labor leaders of the 20th century, and Ian Ruskin, in his one-man show, has captured him -- his persona, his ideas -- brilliantly. There were times when I forgot this was someone other than Harry Bridges speaking. It is a valuable piece of working-class history, presented colorfully and intelligently”.

Howard Zinn, Historian, Playwright and Social Activist

“Unmistakable topicality and human interest infuses *From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks*...it is undeniably apropos for the corporatist-beleaguered present. Certainly Ruskin, whose versatility, innate affability and easy delivery lands directly between middle-period Geoffrey Rush and the late Roger Livesey, conveys the truth as he sees it, holding focus...maintaining intrigue...

David C. Nichols, Los Angeles Times

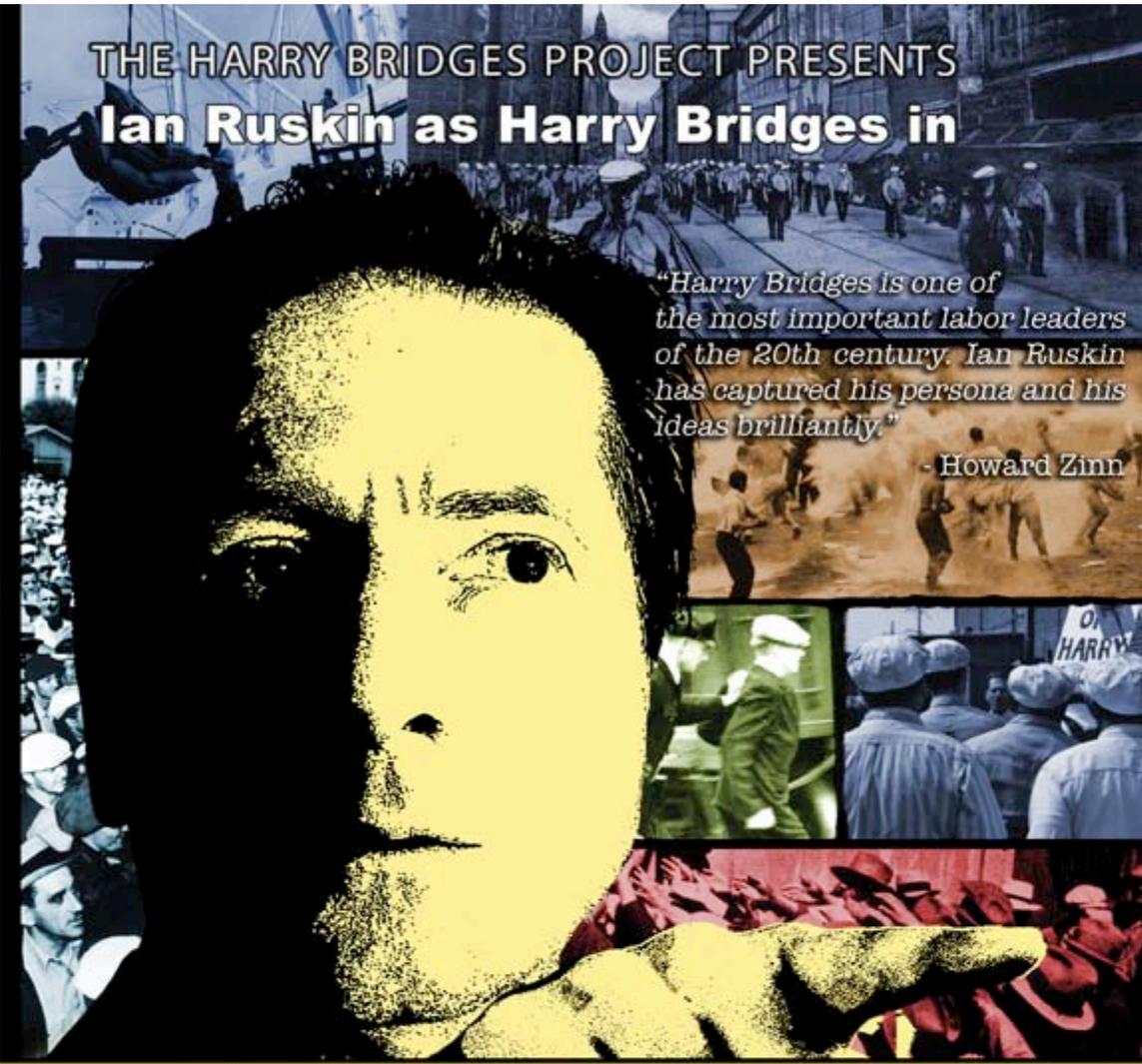
“Ruskin, a stellar storyteller, revivifies Bridges in both appearance and sentiment. Ruskin’s script is wonderfully didactic and his presence is compelling. Not only do we see this master stage craftsman in a sterling performance, we also are informed of an important and rarely broached part of America’s sordid labor history. For anyone who works for a living, or is dependent on workers to live (and that’s all of us), *From Wharf Rats to Lord of the Docks* is a must-see show”.

Ben Miles, showmag.com, Los Angeles

“The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting”

Czech writer Milan Kundera

Samples of a flyer / poster and the program follow –



THE HARRY BRIDGES PROJECT PRESENTS
Ian Ruskin as Harry Bridges in

"Harry Bridges is one of the most important labor leaders of the 20th century. Ian Ruskin has captured his persona and his ideas brilliantly."

- Howard Zinn

**FROM WHARF RATS
TO
LORDS OF THE DOCKS**

***on June 28th, 2008 at 7:30 PM
in the Wolfington Teletorium, Mandeville Hall
presented by
The Comey Institute of Industrial Relations
Saint Joseph's University***

Ian Ruskin

Ian trained at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. In England, he worked in Repertory Theater, London's West End (where work included the title role in *Jack the Ripper*), television (including the Laurence Olivier *King Lear*), and film. In Los Angeles, his work has ranged from *Murder She Wrote* to the acclaimed one-man play *The Man Himself*. He has also done extensive voice work in radio, commercials, and in over 100 films and television programs.



Photo by Veronica Puleo

He has performed the play over 200 times across America and in Canada, Hawai'i, Australia, and England. The film of a live performance in front of 1,000 longshore workers, directed by legendary filmmaker Haskell Wexler, has aired on PBS for the last three years and is available on DVD.

The New Play

Ian's new one-man play *To Begin the World Over Again: the Life of Thomas Paine* about America's one truly radical Founding Father is now available for bookings.

It premiered at the Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse, Seattle and on opening night of Grand Performances in Los Angeles. He has since performed it for the National Nurses United Convention in San Francisco and the California Federation of Teachers Conference in Los Angeles. Upcoming performances include The American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia and Harvard Law School in Cambridge.

It was written with the support of a COLA Fellowship, The Thomas Paine Society, The Living History Centre, The University of Washington and many individuals.

The Harry Bridges Project

The Harry Bridges Project was created to develop programs that can fill an important void in the American public's understanding of their own history—the history of American 20th century workers. We aim to tell the story of workers' struggles to build better lives for themselves and of the struggles of the American labor movement to organize.

Our project takes audiences on journeys through some of America's most exciting, turbulent, and epochal years, with one of its most dynamic figures as their guide. It also demonstrates the importance of people uniting across all racial, ethnic, religious, and political lines and of working towards a world of justice and dignity for all.

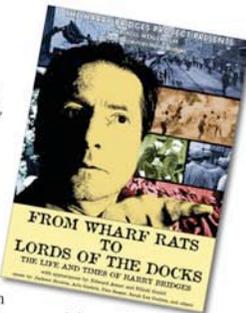
For more information please go to: theharrybridgesproject.org

Contact us at: ianruskin@theharrybridgesproject.org

The One-Man Play

(San Francisco, sometime in the 1960s)

This one-act play is a human portrayal of Bridges' passion, struggles, and wicked sense of humor. It features many of his own words, and covers his life from his childhood in Australia until near his retirement in the 1970s. It includes the electrifying 1934 General Strike in San Francisco, the drama and comedy of his trials, the traumas of his marriages and divorces, the controversy of a union standing up for social and political issues around the world, and the impact of the groundbreaking Mechanization and Modernization agreement. The play features rare labor songs, political parodies, archival photographs, and film footage. And today, as we face globalization, massive job losses in manufacturing, wars and invasions, and the greatest threat to the American labor movement since the Cold War, Harry's story has become more relevant and inspirational than ever.



"I don't know of any way for working people to win basic economic justice and dignity except by being organized into a solid, democratic union."

—Harry Bridges, Bill Moyers Interview, 1974



THE HARRY BRIDGES PROJECT

and the

UFCW Local 135

present

"FROM WHARF RATS TO LORDS OF THE DOCKS"

on Tuesday, May 15th at 1 PM at the
UFCW Stewards Conference at the
Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel



Harry Bridges

Bridges was a labor leader and social campaigner with a profound and far-reaching impact on the fabric of American life during the 20th century.

An international celebrity for 40 years—a hero or the devil incarnate, it all depended on your point of view—his work as a labor organizer in the forefront of change and his struggles to withstand 21 years of deportation trials (the longest in American history) made him a unique figure.

He fought to win basic rights and human dignity for all workers. He campaigned all his life against prejudice and discrimination and in support of justice for oppressed peoples around the world, principles as relevant today as they were during the harshness of the Depression.

Bridges' personal life was as vivid and compelling as his public life—three wives, two bitter divorces, and a "Hollywood era," with star-studded fund raisers for his trials.

He was always a "working stiff," but he met with presidents and toured Europe as a hero. He knew Charlie Chaplin, Paul Robeson, Billie Holiday, Pete Seeger, and Orson Welles. A radical working-class leader with a love of the American Constitution, he was truly unique, with a sharp sense of humor, a fearlessness in the face of controversy, and a very individual view of the world.



COURTESY ILMU

