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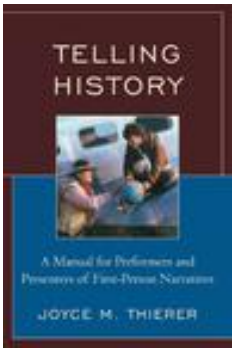
### Telling History: A Manual for Performers and Presenters of First-Person Narratives

*By Joyce M. Thierer* AltaMira Press, 2010 212 pp.




"Whether you plan to use first-person narratives as a museum docent or are starting your own historical performance business, you will find this how-to book invaluable. Step by step, the author provides information that will lead the novice interpreter to higher levels of competency. Through the use of personal anecdotes, Thierer shares the pitfalls and triumphs of becoming an historical interpreter. Any reader who takes Thierer's advice will be well on his or her way to being not only an historically accurate presenter, but also an entertaining performer."—Marcia Fox, Kansas Historical Society

*Telling History* is a manual for creating well-researched and engaging historical presentations. As museums and other informal learning institutions work to create new and appealing programs, many are turning to dramatic impersonations accompanied by informed discussions to educate their audiences. This book guides the performer through selecting characters, researching and writing scripts, performing for various kinds of audiences, and turning performance into a business. For museums, historic sites, and community organizations, it offers advice on training and funding historical performers, as well as what to expect from professionals who perform at your site.

**Joyce M. Thierer** is a founding partner of Ride into History, a historical performance touring troupe, and professor of history at Emporia State University.

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