

# JERRY PLAMONDON BIO

I left Novitiate in 1965 during the big blackout of the Eastern Seaboard. I returned to Quebec City and began working for the Royal Bank. It soon became evident that this was not for me, so I enrolled in a B.A. program at Saint Lawrence College in Quebec and graduated from there in 1969.

I began teaching a short time after at St. Patrick's High School, also in Quebec City. A year and a half later, I transferred to a new English High School in Sainte Foy called Saint Vincent's Katimavik High School and taught there until 1975. During this time, I obtained my teaching diploma in 1973 from McGill University. This is also when I discovered what was to be my vocation in life, teaching disabled kids.

In 1974 came my first true love. Her name was Mary. But alas, things were not to be. So in 1975, partially in a move to get over my mixed feelings in all of this, I moved to Montreal where I worked as a Special Education Teacher at Beaconsfield High School. This proved to be a very fertile time in my life as I also found a job as a night manager of concessions for the Montreal Expos. After a few relatively minor relationships, I met doe-eyed, beautiful Mirielle Lavoie. She proved to be the right choice and we got married in 1978. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this summer, three days before the Brockville reunion. During this time, I also began a Special Education Diploma, again at McGill.

We moved back to Quebec City in the Fall of 1978 and I resumed teaching special ed kids until 1982. At that time, I decided to undertake my Masters at McGill (Special Ed.). I also was promoted to a new function, that of pedagogical co-ordinator at my school. In 1984 came a gift from heaven, Gabrielle, our only daughter, was born in August. A year later, due to a dramatic reduction of clientele, I lost my position and transferred to a Youth Center called Centre Jeunesse Tilly where I began my career of teaching kids with serious behaviorial (and many other) problems.

The 1980's were years where I became involved in musicals of different sorts. I mention this because I believe that this experience is a direct result of what I lived at St. Mary's. The first two we produced were, My Fair Lady and Bye Bye Birdie. My contribution, I am firmly convinced, is a living testimony of the training I received as a teenager in Brockville.

Later, I became involved in yet another musical, this time as an actor playing the role of Jesus himself, in a passion play written in part by a former St. Mary's student, Bob Donnelly. Of course, I grew a beard and long hair to fit the part. During that performance, I had to sing a solo called "Abba, Father" in front of some 900 people and a television crew from the local station. I had the "wonderful experience" of listening to that video during a cast party about a month after the event. I just want to tell all of you that I was as "flat as a board". All you could hear was the organist trying to blast the music so that I could somehow catch the note but remained unable to do so throughout the song. Memories of a conversation I had with Jim Barnes not far from the cafeteria came flooding back. Jim, if you read this, you may have vague recollections of this. I think you said something like, "You know Plammy, our singing voices have about same quality." And I had replied, condescendingly, "Yes, I think it is true, but the difference lies in the ear we have for music." ( Implying that my ear was so much better than yours.) Jim, it took me 30 years, but I found out ...

In 1985, while teaching at the Youth Center, I also began a second career, that of teaching English to adult francophones. I formed my own company and wanted to call it Anglofun but somebody beat me to the punch. The present name is "Talk-a-lot".

As of today, after an 18 year stint, I am partially retired from Youth Home teaching (70% workload) and expect to take my full retirement in October 2004. At that time, I hope devote full time to my company and its 40 clients.