

Story performer Condra is McDowell artist in residence

McDowell Elementary's artist in residency program continues this spring with a visit by Estelle Condra, a native of South Africa. Condra will be at the school from March 26 to April 6.

Condra, an actress, story performer and author, transforms into everything from a roaring witch doctor to a glamorous movie star all in an instant — with her voice.

Condra came to the United States in 1973, bringing with her a seemingly bottomless African drum of native folklore and stories. She developed and enhanced this unique possession by studying speech and drama in London and South Africa. Putting her talent to constructive use, she became the owner of speech and drama schools in South Africa and the United States.

Her talents led her into a variety of artistic areas, including children and adult theatres, dramatic recitals, writing workshops and seminars, plays and poetry. She performed for the Nashville Institute for the Arts in conjunction with the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts, and also assisted them in planning arts education programs for the schools. She has had several articles published; produced original video and music cassettes; and was elected Outstanding Young Woman in America in 1977.

In 1979, she moved to Nashville and has been associated with the Nashville Institute for the Arts since it began. Additionally, she has lectured, conducted workshops and performed for various organizations throughout the country.

In Nashville, she has performed with the Tennessee Repertory Theatre, The Nashville Academy Theatre, the Nashville Symphony, the Nashville City Ballet and the Summer Lights festival.

For two years she performed stories on the air in a weekly program "Ear to Ear With Estelle Condra," for the WPLN Talking Library.

She travels extensively and schedules her performances so that she can still operate the "Imagination Station," a studio for creative drama and innovative thinking for young people. The project is an after school enrichment program.

intellect and imagination. The activities are designed to suit each age group and enable each child to create freely without judgment or criticism.

Condra's goal is to provide an enjoyable time and to give each child a sense of success and self-worth. The theme of her residency is "Magical Moments."

Her activities are not just for the talented and gifted. The shy or slow child can participate at his or her own pace and will also benefit. The by-products of these activities are: self-awareness, observation, concentration, memory, vocabul-

ary, verbal skills, self-expression, and enjoyment of their growth.

Three theatre concepts will be focused on in the creative drama residency. They are: Who are you? What are you doing? And Where are you when you are doing your activity?

The above mentioned are a few examples of the activities that take place during a creative drama residency.

Condra will perform at 8:30 each morning at 8:30 from March 26-30. Her performances will be "The Sacred Cave" and "The Magical Menagerie."



Artist in residence Estelle Condra