**Artist Biography: McDermott in Motion**

*McDermott in Motion: Bringing to Life the Picture Book Art of Gerald McDermott*

with Nyla Fujii-Babb and Yukie Shiroma

Dedicated to Caldecott Award-Winning Children's Picture Book Artist, Gerald McDermott, for his permission and enthusiastic support of *McDermott in Motion.*

Choreographer/dancer, Yukie Shiroma, and storyteller, Nyla Fujii-Babb, create a performance of "living picture books" melding modern dance, music, masks, costumes, and storytelling. Featuring "Arrow to the Sun," "The Stonecutter," "Anansi the Spider; A Tale from the Ashanti," and other works by Gerald McDermott, these performances introduce audiences to literature, folklore, cultural studies, and the visual and performing arts in an exciting multi-disciplinary form.

**Yukie Shiroma**, Co-Artistic Director of *Monkey Waterfall Dance Theatre Company*, is a third generation Okinawan-American who has performed and taught dance and mask theatre work nationally and internationally for over twenty-five years. In 2005, she performed at the World Dance Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; taught at the New Zealand School of Dance; and was a featured artist at the International Workshop Festival in London.

**Nyla Fujii-Babb** is of Asian and Native Hawaiian ancestry. Born and raised in Hawaii, she has been a storyteller, actress, voice-over talent, and producer for over 30 years. She is considered to be one of the *Kupuna* (Elders) in Hawaii’s storytelling circle and has taught storytelling and shared stories with all ages from Native Hawaiian Elders to preschoolers statewide. Noted for her collaborative work with other artists, she has combined storytelling with dance, theatre, music, and the visual arts working with in such diverse venues as the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, The Monkey and the Waterfall Dance/Theatre Company, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and for the Contemporary Museum of Art. Nyla is the only storyteller from Hawaii invited to be an "exchange place" teller and "featured" teller at the prestigious National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. She has also been a featured storyteller at festivals in St. Louis, the Bay Area, San Juan Capistrano, Illinois, Ojai, California, the Eugene Multicultural Festival in Oregon and at the Hawaii Talk Story Festivals. She has appeared on stage for the Kumu Kahua Theatre Company and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth in Hawaii, and in the Japan-America Theatre in Los Angeles, and the Emerson Majestic Theatre in Boston.