

program “Riders on the Orphan Train” which is currently the official outreach program for the National Orphan Train Complex Museum. He received a 2007 Arkansas Arts Council Fellowship in Music Composition. In 2012 he received the Charles Loring Brace Award for helping to preserve the stories of the Orphan Trains.

Track Record

Since 1998, *Riders on the Orphan Train* has been presented in over 500 museums, libraries and schools in Arkansas, Texas and Arizona. Currently, we are concentrating on underserved areas in Texas with funding from Humanities Texas. We have also been funded by the Arkansas Humanities Council, The Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. We participated in Arkansas Heritage Month, Homeward Bound: A Migration Story in 2000 and presented In-Service Teacher Training, Kerrville Folk Festival, Kerrville, Texas in 2005 and 2006.

Testimonials

“...the program far exceeded any expectations I may have had, as did the community’s response...this was by far the most well-attended program the library has ever offered....everyone who attended was moved, educated and entertained...your program truly made an impact on our community.

--Cecilia Hurt Barham, Decatur Public Library, Decatur, TX

Visit our web site for more information.
www.ridersontheorphantrain.org

Riders on the Orphan Train



Multi-media programs

Literature/storytelling
Live music
Film/video

Alison Moore & Phil Lancaster
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Our mission

We are dedicated to providing a contemporary, multi-media format with which to tell the stories of unsung heroes and ordinary people.

Our purpose is to inform, entertain, and move audiences of all ages with a humanities-based program to bring awareness to little-known chapters in history.

Our program

Between 1854 and 1929 over 200,000 orphans and unwanted children were taken out of New York City and given away at train stations across America. The last train came to Sulphur Springs, Texas in 1929. Originally organized by minister Charles Loring Brace to rid New York of homeless street children and provide them with an opportunity to find new homes in the developing Midwest, this nearly eighty year experiment in child migration is filled with horror stories and happy endings. Through literature, music, archival photographs, film interviews, informal lecture and audience discussion this virtually untold chapter in American history comes alive

Riders on the Orphan Train

Song: *Lost Little Children* with video backdrop (O'Brien/Williams)

Song: *Riders on the Orphan Train* with video backdrop (Alison Moore)

Video Interviews with surviving Orphan Train Riders

Dramatic reading: *Riders on the Orphan Train* by Alison Moore
(from the novel-in-progress)

Song: *Ezra's Lullaby* (Phil Lancaster)

Informal discussion on the history of the Orphan Train movement.

Audience Q&A

Song: *Rider on an Orphan Train* (Massengill)

This program is designed for **General Audiences**. 1 ½ hr. including Q&A.
(50 min. without discussion and Q&A)

The presenters

Alison Moore, *Humanities Scholar*

Alison Moore, MFA, is a former Assistant Professor of English/Creative Writing in the MFA Creative Writing Program at the University of Arizona and a current Humanities Scholar. She lives in Austin and has been touring nationally since 1998 with the multi-media program “Riders on the Orphan Train” that is currently the official outreach program for the National Orphan Train Complex Museum and Research Center. She has also developed public outreach programs for the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Inc. and for ArtsReach, a Native American literacy project in Southern Arizona. She is the author of four books, the historical novel “Riders on the Orphan Train” from Roadworthy Press in 2012, a collection of short fiction, *The Middle of Elsewhere* from Phoenix International, University of Arkansas Press in 2006, a novel, *Synonym for Love* (Penguin/Plume 1996), and a collection of short stories entitled *Small Spaces between Emergencies* (Mercury House, 1992) one of the Notable Books of 1993 chosen by The American Library Association She received two National Endowment for the Arts Fiction Fellowships in 1993 and 2010 and the Katherine Ann Porter Prize for Fiction in 2004. In 2007/08 she received the J. Frank Dobie Paisano fellowship from the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Institute of Letters. In 2012 she received the Charles Loring Brace Award for helping to preserve the stories of the Orphan Trains.

Phil Lancaster, *Presenter/Audio-Visual Technician*

Phil Lancaster was born in Texarkana, Arkansas and studied art and music at L'Ecole De Beaux Arts in Angers, France. He became a member of a bluegrass band that traveled and played throughout France and produced an album entitled “Bluegrass Oldies Ltd./Traveling Show.” He also worked as a stage theatre technician for La Course Theatre Nationale in La Rochelle, France. After returning to the U.S. he met three Arkansas musicians and the acoustic quartet “Still on the Hill” was formed in Fayetteville. They released their first CD in 1997, the second in 2000. The group performed at national and international folk festivals. Currently, he tours France with musician Philippe Charlot in the acoustic duo “Transatlantique.” Phil is a co-producer of the documentary film *Gospel, Biscuits & Gravy* for the Arkansas Heritage Foundation. He has been touring nationally since 1998 with the multi-media