

Emma Walton Hamilton

Bestselling Children's Author, Editor, Arts Educator & Literacy Advocate

"Emma possesses a gift for helping shape what E.M. Forster, calls, story, plot and character in literature of all kinds, not just plays"

—Joe Pintauro, Award-winning Playwright, Author and Poet

Emma Walton Hamilton is a best-selling children's author, editor, arts educator and literacy advocate. She has co-authored 20 children's books with her mother, Julie Andrews, six of which have been on the *New York Times* best-seller list, including the *The Very Fairy Princess* and *The Very Fairy Princess Takes the Stage*, *Julie Andrews' Collection Of Poems, Songs And Lullabies*, *Dumpy The Dump Truck*, *Simeon's Gift*; *The Great American Mousical* and *THANKS TO YOU – Wisdom From Mother And Child*.

Emma's own book for parents and caregivers, *Raising Bookworms: Getting Kids Reading for Pleasure and Empowerment*, premiered as a #1 best-seller on Amazon.com in the literacy category and won a Parent's Choice Gold Medal, and silver medals from the Living Now and IPPY Book Awards, respectively. It also received Honorable Mention from *ForeWord Magazine's* Best Book of the Year.

Emma is Editorial Director for The Julie Andrews Collection publishing program, which is dedicated to quality books for young readers that nurture the imagination and celebrate a sense of wonder. In addition, Emma is a faculty member for Stony Brook Southampton's MFA in Writing and Literature Program, where she serves as Director of the annual Southampton Children's Literature Conference, Co-Director of the Southampton Playwriting Conference, and Executive Director of YAWP (the Young American Writers Project), an inter-disciplinary writing program for middle and high school students on Long Island. Emma is also the creator and host of the "Children's Book Hub" an online writer's salon, and "Just Write for Kids!" a home-study course for aspiring children's book authors.

A former actress, Emma worked in theater, film and television for ten years before turning her attention towards directing, producing, educating and writing. She was a faculty member for several years at the Ensemble Studio Theater Institute, and then became one of the founders of Bay Street Theatre

in Sag Harbor, New York. Emma served as Bay Street's Co-Artistic Director for 13 years, and then chose to focus her energies on the Theatre's educational and young audience outreach as Director of Education and Programming for Young Audiences until 2008.

In addition to writing and editing children's books, both for the Julie Andrews Collection and independently, Emma also works as a freelance children's book editor, and writes a blog, *Emmasaries: Raising the Next Generation of Readers and Writers*. Emma is also a Grammy Award-winning voiceover artist, having provided voicing for several audiobooks as well as radio, television, theater and industrial spots. Emma has co-written lyrics for several songs, and selections of her poetry are included in *Julie Andrews' Collection Of Poems, Songs And Lullabies*. Emma and her mother also completed stage and symphonic adaptations of *Simeon's Gift*, which was developed at Bay Street Theatre and went on symphonic tour to venues including the Hollywood Bowl, Atlanta Symphony and the O2 Arena in the UK under the banner of *Julie Andrews' Gift of Music*.

Emma is a member of the Author's Guild, The Dramatists' Guild, The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the International Reading Association, SAG, AEA, AFTRA and ASCAP. She has served on the theater panel for the New York State Council on the Arts, as a National Ambassador for The Broadway League's "Kids' Night on Broadway," and as a trustee for the Morriss Center School in Bridgehampton, NY. An accomplished public speaker, Emma addresses arts and literary conferences, schools, universities and other groups on a regular basis about the value of, and synergy between, the arts and literacy.

Emma lives in Sag Harbor, NY, with her husband, producer/actor Steve Hamilton and their two children.



"for our hero, we want to be sure that it is relevant to, and resonant for, the child reader."

—Emma Walton Hamilton

Suggested Speech Topics:

Arts Education Advocacy:
The Relationship Between the Arts and Success in Life

Getting and Keeping Kids Reading in the Digital Age

Finding One's Own Voice