

Guest Speaker-Jaston Williams

JASTON WILLIAMS (Writer and Performer) Jaston is known nationally as the co-author, co-star and producer of the four award-winning plays in the *Greater Tuna* cycle. His performances have played on and off Broadway, at the Kennedy Center, the Edinburgh International Arts Festival, the Spoleto Festival U.S.A., and all over America. Jaston received the L.A. Dramalogue Award for both *Greater Tuna* and *A Tuna Christmas*, and *A Tuna Christmas* was published in "Best Plays of 1995." For several years, he has toured in Larry Shue's *The Foreigner*, *The Fantasticks*, and directed the musical *Bad Girls Upset By The Truth*. Jaston received the Texas Governor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts by a Native Texan and has performed at the White House on three occasions. He has appeared at Austin's State Theatre in Eugene Ionesco's *The Chairs* and at ZACH Theatre as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* and in Jay Preston Allen's *Tru*, for which he received the Austin Critics Table Award for Best Actor in a drama. He has also appeared at the ZACH Theatre in *The Laramie Project*, and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Jaston's autobiographical play, *I'm Not Lying*, was the first of his six solo shows, all receiving critical acclaim in performances across the country. The others solo shows are: *Cowboy Noises*, *Camping With Gasoline*, *Blame it on Valentine, Texas*, *Maid Marian in a Stolen Car* and *Clear To Partly Crazy*. Jaston enjoys sharing the stage with friends Joe Ely, Kimmie Rhodes, Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Jo Carol Pierce in their performance piece, *Is There Life After Lubbock?* and loves working with actress Lauren Lane in his two-hander play, "*A Wolverine Walks into a Bar...*". Jaston is the recipient of the 2013 Texas Medal of the Arts and has been inducted into the West Texas Walk of Fame. He has just completed work on his first novel. A native son of West Texas, Jaston currently resides in Lockhart, Texas.



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