

Jerry Zarnoski Bio



Jerry Zarnoski grew up in Mobile, Alabama. His childhood was full of adventure and magic. "We had bicycle clubs and baseball teams, nightly games of kick-the-can and even Mardi Gras parades. The floats were those red Flexible Flyer wagons pulled down the sidewalk. Kids wearing costumes stood in them throwing candy whether anyone was watching or not."

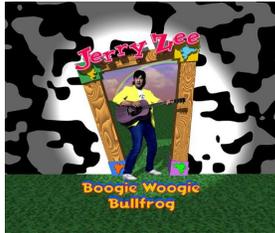
He graduated from Satellite High School in Florida. In his senior year he was voted the Friendliest. He also received a trophy for "The Ugliest Man On Campus". This award came from a fundraiser for one of the school clubs. Whoever had the most "votes" in the form of a jar full of money at the end of the week won the coveted trophy.



While attending art school at University of Florida, he formed the folk-rock group *Rosewater Blue* with two friends and they were signed to an independent record label. In the 70's while playing at universities and clubs around the country they ran into *Mission Mountain Wood Band*. They became fast friends and opening act on several occasions. Eight years after their first meeting Jerry joined the group. With the new name of *Montana*, the band toured and shared the stage with many notable 80's country rock acts including Poco, the Ozark Mountain Daredevils and Asleep at the Wheel to name a few.

In 1985, pursuing a dream to teach children, Jerry found himself in Atlanta working at Paideia, a well-respected independent school. For ten years he taught 1st and 2nd grade. Although classroom duties were shared with another teacher, some of his responsibilities were teaching first year math, beginning reading and science. During the summers he would help write, direct and film movies written by the kids at Paideia summer camp. Some genres included

Sci-Fi, Film Noir, Martial Arts, Comedy and Spy films. Years after leaving Paideia, he was asked if he would return to film and direct a screenplay written by a third grade class based on Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*. Agriculture was the main theme of the class that year, so the antagonists were vegetables attacking instead of fowl.



Working at Paideia School is where his love of teaching and playing music became one. As Jerry Zee, he self-produced a CD of original songs called "*Boogie Woogie Bullfrog*" that won the National Parenting Publications (NAPPA) Gold Award in 1995. The Atlanta Journal Constitution said this about the recording: "Don't be surprised if mom and dad pop this one in the deck even when the kids aren't in the car."

Jerry has performed his kid's show on the Fox Network, various radio programs and many eastern U.S. schools. His music has even been heard on a program in Spain.

Currently, Jerry performs with a vaudeville/comedy duo called *Mike and Angelo*, *The Dukes of Uke* ukulele quartet, a bluegrass trio who has a school program titled *American Songbook* and plays with a non-traditional bluegrass band. He is also involved in various other musical projects, one of which is the release of the second album from *Rosewater Blue* his folk-rock group from the 70's. He continues to perfect the craft of songwriting. Many of his songs can be heard on recordings of cowboy comic Kip Attaway. There is also a children's book in the works and a collection of original songs ready to be recorded for the next Jerry Zee CD.

"My motto has always been 'Never Refuse the Muse'. As long as I'm being creative in some way, then I'm doing what I came here to do."

