

Poet, playwright, performance artist, activist, educator, librarian Jeff Kirby has lived many lives this lifetime.

After graduating with a BFA in Theatre and Philosophy from the University of Toledo, where he taught Movement for Acting and The Creative Process, he founded and directed an award winning performance and movement arts program with physically-challenged artists who wanted to come into their own voice. This resulted in not only some great theatre, but saw many artists moving from dependent to independent living situations and, as designed, directing the project itself.

Kirby's interest in increasing the mobility of himself and others, brought him to Toronto where he studied the Feldenkrais Method, Awareness through Movement, and he opened up his own company, Mind Body Resources instructing movement classes, workshops, trainings, and establishing a thriving private practice.

During this time he wrote and performed a series of monologue plays, later published in a collection called "Cock and Soul," performed in Toronto's diverse alternative club scene at The Rivoli, the Cabana Room, the Music Gallery, the Annex, Theatre Passe Muraille, and Buddies in Bad Times. He volunteered and contributed at The Body Politic and Xtra and his essays/writings appear in a number of anthologies beginning with the letter "Q."

As a gay / AIDS activist, Kirby was at the very first meetings of *AIDS Action Now!* and seeing/meeting the needs of his immediate circle, he created *The Nourish Project*, where people living with AIDS met weekly in each other's homes to prepare dinner and nutritious meals for the week as well as share common information and care. He was a co-founder and director of Gay Vision, which created the *First International Gay Vision Conference on Sexuality and Spirituality*, where he was described as "a cross between Jean Genet and a Buddha on uppers," by Gerald Hannon in *The Globe and Mail*.

Currently, Kirby is the host/curator of *What Queer Reading*, and he handles Marketing and Social Media for the wonderful small Canadian press, Tightrope Books. His new movement workshop, *Loving Yourself Back into Life*, will be in Montreal and Toronto this Spring.

His volunteering and mentoring at East End Literacy's Leadership Training for Immigrant Women led him into the library work he does today. After juggling three simultaneous contracts for a number of years between Oakville Public Library, the Film Reference Library at TIFF, and the Toronto Board of Health, Kirby is now the driving creative force behind City Park Library, where as Library Manager and Programmer of a grassroots community library housed in one of the largest non-profit housing cooperatives in North America, he champions books, authors, artists, and readers daily.

Please welcome, Jeff Kirby.