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THE 2009 NYS SPANISH BETAC SPANISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE SERIES

New York State Education Department Office of Bilingual Education & Foreign Language Studies
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Voces Hispánicas IV DE ESPAÑA E HISPANOAMÉRICA

Authors in the Classroom *A Day with Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy*

May 1st, 2009

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

New York University - Kimmel Center

Room 905-907

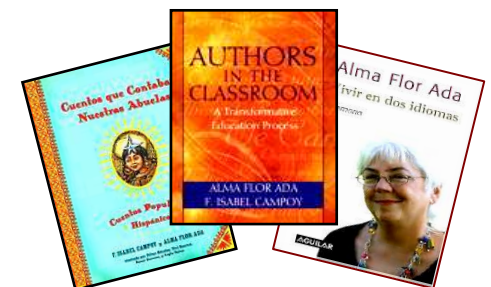
60 Washington Square South, New York, NY

Program

- 8:45 AM Coffee Registration
- 9:30 AM Morning Session
- 12:00 PM Lunch Break
- 1:00 PM Afternoon Session
- 3:00 PM Closing remarks

Book signing

Featured Publications



Guest Speaker

ALMA FLOR ADA



My grandmother taught me to read before I was three by writing the names of plants and flowers on the earth with a stick. Reading and nature became very intertwined for me. The joy of reading a book was enhanced if I could read it outdoors, especially high up in the branches of a large tree. From that favorite hideaway I could also observe the river down below and the world of small animals living in and around the river. My grandmother and one of my uncles were great storytellers. And every night, at bedtime, my father told me stories he invented to explain to me all that he knew about the history of the world. With all of these storytellers around me, it is not a surprise that I like to tell stories. And it was a great joy when one of the bedtime stories that I made up for some of my favorite nieces became a beautiful book, *The Unicorn of the West!*

My growing-up years were a fun and exciting time. I have compiled some of the stories of my childhood in Cuba, as well as stories that I heard from my family when I was a child, in the book *Where the Flame Trees Bloom, Allá donde florecern los framboyanes* and in *Under the Royal Palms, Bajo las palmas reales*.

Besides writing children's books, I am a professor at the University of San Francisco, and I work in schools with teachers, children and parents. The feelings that children experience when teachers do not acknowledge their real name led me to write *My Name is Maria Isabel*. All my life I have had a difficult time getting people to acknowledge that my first name is Alma Flor, so I know personally how this feels, and I have also heard many people express similar feelings. Knowing two languages has made the world richer for me. I believe that all children should be given the opportunity of learning two or more languages when they are young and can do so easily. For that reason I am delighted that most of my books are published both in English and in Spanish. And it makes me even happier that my own daughter, Rosalma Zubizarreta, has done many of the translations of my books.

(Excerpted from <http://www.almaflorada.com/about.htm>)

Guest Speaker

F. ISABEL CAMPOY



Isabel Campoy is the author of numerous books on poetry, theatre, folktales, biographies and art dedicated to children. Songwriter and storyteller, Isabel's goal is to provide children the key to interpreting the world in a fun, challenging and affirming way. Isabel's poetry has appeared in eleven anthologies published by Harcourt and Santillana. Poetry has been her way to communicate to children the wonder of life and words, the joy and magic of creativity. Many of Isabel's poems have been transformed into songs by Suni Paz, and appear in the *Música Amiga* collection. As a playwright and lover of theatre she has explored the re-telling of traditional tales and written original plots that encourage children to familiarize themselves with the way to express emotions, understand others, and value oral and written communication.

Isabel has shared with young readers her knowledge of the arts and her profound interest in creative expression through the publication of four books of paintings by artists from Latin American and Spain, produced in parallel editions, in English and Spanish in the collection *Gateways to the Sun / Puertas al Sol*. "Honrar, honra" (To honor, honors) said José Martí and Isabel has written, with her co-author Alma Flor Ada, biographies of important scientists, poets, artists, and leaders of the Hispanic world to honor their accomplishments. F. Isabel Campoy is a scholar devoted to the study of language acquisition, a field in which she started publishing in 1973 after obtaining her degrees in Philology from Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Reading University in England, and UCLA in the United States. It is not surprising that Isabel has authored books to facilitate language acquisition and development, to discover the playful possibilities of language, and to explain the history of the Spanish language. Born in Alicante, Spain, Isabel currently lives in San Francisco. About herself she says,

"From my mother I inherited a robust pride in my roots, a wealth of folklore through her storytelling and sayings, and an abundant sense of humor. From my father, the passion for learning and the art of teaching."

(Excerpted from <http://www.isabelcampoy.com/about.html>)