

## ***Sesame Street* Season 37**

### **Cast Bios**

**Alison Bartlett O'Reilly** (Gina) has been a *Sesame Street* cast member for 20 years. Ms. Bartlett began acting at the age of 12 in John Guare's production of *Landscape of The Body* directed by Gary Sinise. Her other theatre credits include the role of Donna, on Broadway, in David Rabe's *Hurly Burly* directed by Mike Nichols, Off Broadway in Second Stage's production of *Jersey City* directed by Risa Bramon in which she starred as Magaly, and Ubu Repertory Theatre's *Family Portrait* directed by Shirley Kaplan. Her television credits include guest leads on *Law & Order*, *NYPD Blue*, *Law & Order : Criminal Intent*, *The Sopranos*, *Queens Supreme*, *Sesame Street* (Emmy Award), ABC's Afterschool Special "It's Only Rock & Roll" in which she received an Emmy nomination and also met her husband actor/director/writer Harry O'Reilly. A lifelong New Yorker, Ms. Bartlett resides in New York City with her husband and their three children.

**Desiree Casado** (Gabi) is now in her 13th season with *Sesame Street*. Desiree plays the daughter of Maria and Luis. *Sesame Street* is her home away from home. Her film credits include *I Like it Like That*, *Bed of Roses*, *Joe's Apartment*, *Wishful Thinking*, *Gloria*, *Anamorph*, and the independent film *Juicy*. She has also appeared in various commercials. This year she landed a small role on the soap opera *One Life To Live*. Desiree loves to dance, especially hip hop and is currently in a dance group named "Eithne." Performing is her passion and would like to pursue her dancing and acting career. She is currently in college and majoring in Early Childhood.

**Kristin Chenoweth** (Ms. Noodle) is acclaimed for her distinctive comedic gifts as well as her wide-ranging musical abilities. This year alone, she starred on a hit NBC show, is working on a third album, has numerous upcoming films, as well as a concert

tour and performance appearances. Chenoweth recently starred in the hit Broadway production of *Wicked*, the back-story to *The Wizard of Oz*. Chenoweth played Glinda, the Good Witch of the North, for which her performance earned her a 2004 Tony Nomination for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical.

A versatile singer, classically trained but equally at home in pop, old standards and Broadway musicals, Tony Award-winning actress Kristin Chenoweth made her solo recording debut with the release of *Let Yourself Go* for Sony Classical. Chenoweth's second album, *As I Am*, was released in April of 2005 on Sony / Integrity records.

Chenoweth film credits include: *RV* with Robin Williams; *The Pink Panther* starring Steve Martin, Kevin Kline and Beyonce Knowles; *Bewitched* starring Nicole Kidman; and she recently wrapped filming *Stranger Than Fiction* with Emma Thompson, Will Ferrell and Maggie Gyllenhaal.

**Emilio Delgado** (Luis) can easily claim the longest running part for a Chicano actor in a continuing series as "Luis" on *Sesame Street* since the show's third season. He began his career in the Emmy Award winning *Cancion De La Raza*, followed by a memorable performance in the acclaimed *I Will Fight No More Forever*, and as Ruben Castillo on the popular *Lou Grant* series. He also appeared on *Cosby* and *Law and Order*. He was Artistic Director of the Barrio Theatre Ensemble of East LA and a company member of Inner City Repertory and Group Repertory playing a multitude of roles. On Broadway, he understudied Raúl Julia in the musical *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Film credits include, *Follow That Bird* and *The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland*. Most recently, he has appeared in several New York area theatre productions including *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* with the

Shakespeare Company of New Jersey, *Boxing 2000* with the NY City Players, *Floating Home* with the Hudson Exploited Theatre Co., *The San Diego Street Padres* at INTAR, and the award winning *Dismiss All The Poets* at the New York Fringe Festival. Emilio is a recipient of the Impact Award from the National Hispanic Media Coalition, the ILKA Award from the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors (HOLA) and has been honored numerous times by the *National Academy of Arts and Sciences* for his work on *Sesame Street*, and if you stay up past your bedtime, you might catch him on classic reruns of *Quincy*, *Policy Story* and *Hawaii-5-O!*

**Olamide Faison** (Miles) whose name means "one who brings honor to his family" in the Yoruba language, is a native New Yorker. This is Olamide's fourth season as Miles on *Sesame Street*. As an actor/singer/musician, Olamide has worked in television, film and commercials. He is a lead singer and the guitarist for the Universal/Motown group Imajin. Olamide is the youngest brother of Donald Faison who stars in the NBC hit series *Scrubs*.

**Bill Irwin** (Mr. Noodle) recently starred on Broadway and London's West End as George in the revival of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* opposite Kathleen Turner for which he won the 2005 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play. Bill also starred opposite Sally Field in the 2002 Tony Award winning play *The Goat or Who is Sylvia* also by Albee.

On Broadway, Bills' original work, *Largely New York* received five Tony Award nominations and won Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Dance and Performance Awards. Bill along with David Shiner, starred and choreographed the hit *Fool Moon*. Bill also appeared with Steve Martin, Robin Williams and F. Murray Abraham in *Waiting for Godot* at Lincoln Center and *Texts for Nothing* directed by

Joe Chaikin at the Public Theatre and in George Wolfe's park production of *The Tempest*. Other Broadway productions include: *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and *5 - 6 - 7 - 8 Dance!*

Bill has appeared on numerous television shows including the closing ceremony of the summer Olympic games in Atlanta in which he starred, directed and choreographed, *Northern Exposure*, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Tonight Show*, *The Cosby Show*, HBO's *Better Midler: Mondo Beyondo*, PBS' *Great Performances 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special*, *Sesame Street* and Mary Chapin Carpenter's video, *Let Me Into Your Heart*. Bill's feature films include: *Love Conquers All!*, *Igby Goes Down*, *The Laramie Project*, for HBO; *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* with Jim Carrey; John Turturro's *Illuminata*, *Scalpers* with Andy Garcia; and Mike Hoffman's *A Midsummer's Night Dream* with Michelle Pfeiffer, Kevin Klein, and Rupert Everett. Also, *My Blue Heaven*, *Scenes From a Mall*, *Popeye*, *A New Life*, *Eight Men Out*, *Stepping Out*, *Hot Shots*, and *Silent Tongue*. He recently completed filming *Lady In The Water* in Philadelphia.

**Michael Jeter** (Mr. Noodle) brought a unique combination of emotion and humor to every character he played, whether it was an assistant football coach (his Emmy-winning role in *Evening Shade*), a terminally ill vacationer (his Tony-winning role in *Grand Hotel*) or a condemned prisoner (his unforgettable performance in *The Green Mile*). As Mr. Noodle's brother, also named Mr. Noodle, Jeter helps "Elmo's World" viewers understand concepts through a hilarious process of trial-and-error, embodying the fun of exploration and discovery while letting children know that it is okay to make mistakes.

**Loretta Long** (Susan) has been with *Sesame Street* since its first season. Before that, she appeared on the public television program *Soul*, and in summer stock

productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *Milk and Honey* and *Sweet Charity*. She is a distinguished former schoolteacher with a doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Long is a published author, visiting scholar and educational consultant. She plays Susan, Gordon's wife and Miles' mother. Over the years, her character has evolved from housewife to nurse to working mother.

**Sonia Manzano** (Maria) is a first-generation American of Latino descent who has affected the lives of millions of parent's and children since the 1970s, when she was offered an opportunity to play "Maria" on *Sesame Street*.

Sonia was raised in the South Bronx where her involvement in the arts was inspired by teachers who encouraged her to audition for the High School of Performing Arts. She was accepted there and began her career as an actress.

A scholarship took her to Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and in her junior year, she came to New York to star in the original production of the off-Broadway show *Godspell*. Within a year Sonia joined the production of *Sesame Street* where she eventually began writing scripts for the series. Sonia has 15 Emmy Awards to date as part of the *Sesame Street* writing staff.

Sonia has performed on the New York stage, in the critically acclaimed theater pieces *Vagina Monologues* and *The Exonerated*. She has written for the Peabody Award winning children's series *Little Bill*, and has written a parenting column for the Sesame Workshop web site called "Talking Outloud" which can be visited at [www.sesameworkshop.org](http://www.sesameworkshop.org).

Sonia's children's book, *No Dogs Allowed*, published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing in 2004, is one of five books selected by the General Mills

initiative Spoonfuls of Stories. As part of that effort, Sonia is working with General Mills and its nonprofit partner, First Book, to encourage children to read and to help get books to children across the country. In the fall of 2005, General Mills will give away a total of one million copies of No Dogs Allowed.

Sonia has received awards from the Association of Hispanic Arts, The Congressional Hispanic Caucus in Washington DC, The National Hispanic Media Coalition, The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families and Hispanic Heritage Award for Education in 2003. She received an honorary doctorate in fine arts from Notre Dame University in 2005. Closer to home she is proud to have been inducted into the Bronx Hall of Fame in 2004.

She was twice nominated for an Emmy Award as Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series. She has served on the March of Dimes Board, and the board of the George Foster Peabody Awards and the board of Symphony Space, a New York City theatrical institution. She is proud to have been featured in the Learning Leaders (volunteers helping students succeed) poster, designed to encourage reading in NYC public schools.

Sonia resides in the Upper West Side with her husband and daughter and is currently working on a second children's book and a memoir.

**Bob McGrath** (Bob) is an original cast member of *Sesame Street*. An accomplished singer with six children's albums to his credit, he performs family pop concerts and has appeared with more than 100 symphony orchestras in the U.S. and Canada.

McGrath has authored eight books including *Uh-Oh Gotta Go* (on potty training) and *Oops, Excuse Me Please* (on manners). He co-authored an educational music curriculum book for Warner Bros. called *Music For Fun*, used by teachers from kindergarten to second grade. His rhythm band set produced by Rhythm Band Instruments is a Parent's Choice Award winner. He has a recording company called Bob's Kids Music, which encompasses his six albums. The *Baby Record* and *Sing Me a Story* have won both Parents Choice Awards and The Children's Music Web Award 2002. Bob's most recent project, Curriculum Connections with Educational Activities, is a professional development video and CD for teachers of Pre-K and 1st grade, using music to develop six literacy skills.

As an advocate for children, Bob has participated for over 30 years in telethons and other fundraising events and was recently honored as a lifetime member by the Variety Children's Charity in British Columbia. He was also recently inducted into the 2002 Silver Circle of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He is the recipient of the American Eagle Award by the National Music Council, the Fame Award by the National Association of Music Educators for furthering the cause of music education, and the 2006 Saskatchewan Centennial Award for outstanding contributions to the province of Saskatchewan. He has been chairperson of National UNICEF Day, hosted World Children's Day at the United Nations and served as host and artistic director for the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap for over 15 years. On *Sesame Street*, he plays a music teacher who lives in an apartment over the Mail It Shop and Hooper's Store. You can visit Bob at [www.bobmcgrath.com](http://www.bobmcgrath.com).

**Alan Muraoka** (Alan) joined the *Sesame Street* ensemble eight seasons ago. His stage credits include the Broadway productions of *Miss Saigon*, *Pacific Overtures*, *The King and I*, *My Favorite Year*, *Shogun and Mail*, as well as the national tours of

*Miss Saigon*, *M. Butterfly* and *Anything Goes*. He has just been cast in the revival of *Mame*, which will perform this summer at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Muraoka has appeared on numerous network television programs and made his film debut in *It Could Happen to You*. Currently he can be seen in *Day of Independence*, a short film by Academy Award-winning director Chris Tashima. As a director, his 1998 production of *Falsettoland* for the National Asian American Theater Company received high praise from The New York Times, and enjoyed a sold-out run at the Vineyard Theatre. Other directing credits include, *John Tartaglia's Ad-Liberty* at Joe's Pub, *TLC (Three Loud Chicks)* at Birdland, The Leading Men benefit concert for BC/EFA at Joe's Pub, *Empty-Handed* for Musicals Tonight, and Ann Harada's *Broadway Spotlight* at the ARS/Nova. Other New York directing credits include the world premieres of *Karaoke Stories* for the IMUA Theatre Company, *Screaming Like a Fool*, a revue of the music of Zina Goldrich and Marcy Heisler, and *A Tribute to Julie and Carol* at Carnegie Hall, an homage to the famed concert with Carol Burnett and Julie Andrews. He is a member of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab. A UCLA graduate, Muraoka received a musical theater performance scholarship underwritten by Carol Burnett. He is also active with many Asian American organizations and was honored with the Inspiration Award from APEX, a mentoring organization in New York City. His character on *Sesame Street* is the proprietor of Hooper's Store, which was recently redesigned to reflect a more authentic urban candy store. Muraoka, an Asian-American of Japanese descent, is not only an important part of that change, but his warm and open character has helped make Hooper's Store the heart of the Sesame Street community once again. For more information, please visit his website at [www.alanmuraoka.net](http://www.alanmuraoka.net)

**Roscoe Orman** (*Gordon*) is an accomplished actor whose credits extend to television, stage, and screen. He studied at New York's Circle-In-The-Square Theatre School and The Manhattan School of Music and made his acting debut with

the Next Stage Theatre Company in 1962. He toured for two years with the Free Southern Theater and was an original member of the New Lafayette Theatre Company where he performed in many plays including *Whose Got His Own*, *The Duplex* and *The Fabulous Miss Marie*. Orman has worked extensively on the New York stage with the Negro Ensemble Company, New York Shakespeare Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, New Federal Theatre, and American Place Theatre, where in 1993 he enjoyed critical success in the title role *The Confessions of Stepin Fetchit*. He appeared as Gabriel in the 1988 Broadway production of *Fences*. Orman's film credits include the title role in *Willie Dynamite*, *F/X*, *Striking Distance*, *New Jersey Drive*, *Drive-By*, *Thirty Days*, and *Twilight's Last Gleaming*, and on television he has been seen on such shows as *Sanford and Son*, *Kojak*, *All My Children*, *Law And Order*, *Sex In The City*, and *Cosby*. He has also narrated such TV documentaries as *Langston Hughes: The Dreamkeeper* for PBS, *Children's Health* and *Heritage Of The Black West* on Discovery Channel, *U.S. Presidents* on the History Channel, and *Images in Black and White* for ESPN. The 37<sup>th</sup> season of *Sesame Street* marks Orman's 33<sup>rd</sup> as Gordon, a science teacher who is married to Susan and the father of Miles.