

Karen Vuranch

Actor, storyteller, historian, author, playwright, Karen transforms every platform into an authentic journey back in time.

Karen Vuranch (www.wventerprises.com) is a storyteller, actress and writer who weaves a love of history, a passion for stories and a sense of community into her work that focuses on human nature. Her enthusiasm for authenticity has led her to incorporate oral history workshops into her research, providing her with the background for captivating portrayals of resilient and hardworking women in her one-woman shows, *Coal Camp Memories* and *Homefront*. Her repertoire includes novelist Pearl S. Buck, labor activist Mother Jones, Indian captive Mary Draper Ingles, and, more recently, chef Julia Child.

“Karen has performed in all 55 counties of our state, in 30 other states and in Britain, bringing historic figures to life for adults and children,” Barton said. “She sets a standard for creativity and authenticity that is second to none.”

Vuranch volunteers as the administrative director of the Historic Fayette Theatre and teaches Introduction to Theater and Speech at Concord University’s Beckley campus. Honored for her achievements by several organizations, her most recent recognitions have been from the Oak Hill Quota Club as well as the Corridor L Tourism Commission that, in 2005, presented her with the Robert C. Byrd Community Service Award and the West Virginia Storytelling Guild that, in 2004, presented her with the Robert McWhorter Achievement Award.