



Del Suggs BIO

The philosopher Kierkegaard wrote that "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

You might apply that to the career of **Del Suggs**.

Del has the perfect combination of skills and experience: He has spent much of his career as an entertainer; he has the academic credentials of a professor; and he has a lifetime of experience as a leader of national, regional, and local organizations.

He was named one of the "**Top Five Artists of the past 25 Years**" by *Campus Activities* magazine, an honor reflecting his stellar career in this field.

He is also the Highest-Rated Speaker in the country, according to the *Artist Report Cards* submitted by campuses to *Campus Activities* magazine. Del was named a finalist for "**Best Campus Speaker**" as voted by the member schools of the *Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities*, a title he won in 2010. He was also a finalist for "**Best Speaker**" in the *Campus Activities* magazine *Readers Choice Awards*.

His latest journal article is titled "**Instant Assessment**" published in the January/February 2015 issue of *Campus Activities Programming* magazine, published by the *National Association for Campus Activities*.

Del's latest book is titled "**The Student Activities Handbook**", and was published in October of 2017. It is a handbook for members of campus activities boards, teaching skills in forming and leading a board, along with the production and promotion of campus events and programs.

The second edition of his book "**Truly Leading: Lessons in Leadership**," was published in September of 2016. The book is a twenty-five chapter course in leadership skills, aimed directly at college and university student leaders. It has received high praise from those in the higher ed community. The original version had seven printings since 2011. The second edition features updates and new chapters on campus elections, service projects, and more.

The award-winning ASCAP songwriter, singer, and guitarist has cut a remarkable path. During his thirty-plus year career, Suggs has produced and released five albums of his own songs. He's also produced over a dozen releases for the independent label **The Cascades Recording Company**. He's been named "The Very Best of The Best" in music by **Campus**

Activities magazine.

He's also earned a *Masters'* degree in **Instructional Design and Development** from **Florida State University**, and studied with Dr. Robert Gagne (rhymes with "Kanye") and Dr. Leslie Briggs-- peers of B.F.Skinner. Suggs has taught at FSU in both the College of Education *and* the College of Music.

By the way, he's released a new CD named "Almost Christmas," and is currently restoring a 1974 Chrysler Mutineer sailboat. And he shares the cover of a book titled **Roadmap to Success** with **Dr. Deepak Chopra** and **Dr. Kenneth Blanchard** (famed author of *The One-Minute Manager*).

"I guess I'm still trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up," he said in a recent interview. "The problem is, I want to do everything."

A life-long volunteer leader, Suggs is currently serving as the Chair of Florida's **Big Bend Scenic Byway**, named the most scenic drive in Florida by **USA Today**. He is also the performing artist representative on the **Council on Culture and the Arts (COCA)**, the state-designated local arts agency for Tallahassee, Florida. He is past president of the **Tallahassee Museum**, ranked one of the top ten museums in Florida. He received the "Museum Service Award for Outstanding Trustee" from the **Florida Association of Museums**. He has been on the board of directors of the **National Association for Campus Activities (NACA)**, the **Florida Flambeau Foundation, Inc.**, and the **Musicians Association of Tallahassee**. He's even been named "Volunteer of the Year" by **WFSU-FM**, the NPR affiliate in his home town. Del is also a Voting Member of The **National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences** (The Grammy Awards), and served on the committee which founded the Florida Chapter of NARAS.

Suggs is a contributing author to the 2008 book "**Tour:Smart**" by **Martin Atkins** (Nine Inch Nails, Ministry, et al). Other authors include **Henry Rollins**, **Zim Zum (from Marilyn Manson)**, and more rock royalty. There is also a chapter about Suggs in "**Trop Rock Songs: Stories and Tales**" by Andy Forsyth (2011).

Suggs was the third inductee into the **National Campus Entertainment Hall of Fame** in 2001. "Performing Songwriter" magazine described Suggs as "**Jimmy Buffett jamming with the Indigo Girls and James Taylor.**" "Dirty Linen," the acoustic/folk music magazine, said "his songwriting adeptness is a marvelous blend of depth and perception that never fails to inject serious subject matter with consistently entertaining music."

With his flowing hair and walrus mustache, Del Suggs is easily recognizable on stages all over the country. Whether he's presenting a lecture on "Truly Leading," doing training in "*Learning Reconsidered*," or singing his song "Magic Chair," the audience is engaged by his talents.

Del Suggs is an original. He is one of those individuals who comes on stage as a stranger, and leaves it as a friend. That is a rare gift.