

## Ian Ruskin, Actor/Writer/Activist



Ian is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. He founded The Harry Bridges Project in 2000 and has written, performed and produced many plays and radio and film documentaries, including *From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks* about labor leader Harry Bridges. He has performed the play over 250 times to approximately 50,000 people, including the Houses of Parliament and the Scottish Parliament. The film version, directed and shot by multi-Academy Award winner Haskell Wexler, aired nationwide on PBS for 4 years and achieved 50% of the market, making the film available to 150 million Americans. He has completed work on an educational package for high schools and community colleges and a new radio documentary *A Wild Woman Sings the Blues* about the life and work of Barbara Dane. He is also working on a treatment for a feature film based on the 1934 San Francisco General Strike. His new play *To Begin the World Over Again: the Life of Thomas Paine* continues his mission to present the stories of forgotten and misunderstood heroes from American and European history. Performances have included The American Philosophical Society, Harvard Law School, the California Judges Association, Conway Hall in London and the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians. He has completed the filming and edit of a live performance of this play and NETA will distribute it to public television stations in this, the Presidential election year. He is also working on having the film distributed in England, France, Canada and Australia. Paine was, after all, a citizen of the world. He has begun work on his next project, to write a new one-man play about “the man who invented the 20<sup>th</sup> century” Nikola Tesla.

<http://www.ianruskin.org/>

<http://theharrybridgesproject.org/index.html>

<http://www.thelifeofthomaspaine.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysfz71XihXQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheLifeofThomasPaine/videos>