



# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Linda Jacobs  
212-609-5900 x255  
[ljacobs@tcg.org](mailto:ljacobs@tcg.org)

**“Haunting and funny, full of folk wisdom  
and unflinching honesty.”  
—*Publisher’s Weekly*, on the work of Jo Carson**

**New from TCG Books:  
Jo Carson’s Latest Collection of Oral Histories—  
Stories Too Good to be Made Up**

NEW YORK — Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of *Liar, Thieves and Other Sinners on the Bench*, the newest book by Jo Carson, author of *Stories I Ain’t Told Nobody Yet*. Carson is a uniquely American writer and performer, who has spent more than fifteen years working with stories from communities throughout the country, crafting more than thirty plays from these oral history collections. In performance, these works have illuminated and invigorated the communities in which they were forged, as the people see themselves on stage in a new light.

**“She is a quintessential community artist, with a true ear for the way people talk and what they really mean to say.” —Linda Frye Burnham, Community Arts Network**

This book collects Carson’s favorite excerpts from the community plays she has written—stories that range from the homespun to the extraordinary—together creating a portrait of America in an amazing diversity and authenticity of voices. These stories are slices of life, passed beyond the circle of family and neighbors.

**“Jo Carson has distilled some decades of community-conscious story collecting and playmaking into a pungent blend.” —Jo Sobol, PhD and storyteller**

“Human experience is varied and astonishing, almost beyond belief,” says Carson. “Human failings are centered in hopes, fears, loves, wants, needs, the very thing that make us human, and it is the experience of these failings that can move us from knowledge to wisdom... And that’s the very moment every writer worth their salt wants to write about.”

**Jo Carson** is a writer and performer living in Johnson City, Tennessee. She has published award-winning plays, short stories, children’s books, essays, poems and other work, and for years was a commentator on NPR’s “All Things Considered”. Her collection of monologues and dialogues, *Stories I Ain’t Told Nobody Yet*, made Booklist’s editor’s choice and ALA’s recommended list. Her *Spider Speculations: A Physics and Biophysics of Storytelling* was published by TCG in 2007.

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**Theatre Communications Group (TCG)** is the national organization for the American theatre. TCG is dedicated to nurturing professional, not-for-profit American theatre institutions, artists, and audiences, and to fulfilling its mission to strengthen, nurture and promote professional, not-for-profit field.

TCG initiatives include a variety of artistic, management, international and advocacy programs. TCG's many publications offer a national resource for reference, opinion, and debate on theatre and the performing arts today. TCG publishes *American Theatre* magazine, ARTSEARCH, and books on theatre and performing arts. Please visit our website and online bookstore at [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org).

***Liars, Thieves and Other Sinners on the Bench***

**by Jo Carson**

**Paperback 288pp**

**\$16.95 978-1-55936-331-0**

**July 2009**

Also available from TCG Books:

***Spider Speculations: A Physics and Biophysics of Storytelling***

**by Jo Carson**

**\$16.95 978-1-55936-283-2**

***Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet***

**by Jo Carson**

**\$13.95 978-1-55936-027-2**

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