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The King of Average  
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**The King of Average**  
**By Gary Schwartz**

# Press Release

## **ACCOMPLISHED SEATTLE VOICE ACTOR PENS INSPIRING MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL; GETS BOOK DEAL**

**“A STORY OF AN INVISIBLE BOY MADE VISIBLE BY A  
STRANGE IDEA”**

Gary Schwartz had an idea when he was eleven years old: Told that he was only average, he wondered if he could be more average than anyone else---if he could be the *most* average kid in the world. The very idea made a shy boy who suffered from poor self-esteem feel suddenly special. The boy who wanted to be invisible and escape notice and family pain now had a mission. He was somebody. He could cope.

One way that helped Gary cope was developing a sense of humor. By studying comedians on Ed Sullivan and practicing impressions, he could make kids at the school lunch table laugh. Two years later at age 13, he was selected to perform up and down the Hudson River with Pete Seeger and the great folk entertainers of the 1960s. His show business career had started.

Schwartz carried the idea of being the most average around for fifty years and decided to write a book about it. *The King of Average* (ISBN is 978-1-5137-0331-2) combines the wit and wordplay found in *The Phantom Tollbooth* with the tale of an average boy travelling his emotional landscape in the Realm of Possibility. He befriends a talking scapegoat named Mayor Culpa, a professional optimist and an equally professional pessimist called Kiljoy, and goes on a journey to reclaim his self-esteem and authenticity.

“We take the trauma of childhood with us into adulthood and, without self-awareness, we can suffer our whole lives.” says Schwartz. “I hope this story will inspire children to better understand their feelings and discover their own truth in an entertaining and fun way.”

**For Immediate Release**

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## About the Author



Gary Schwartz started out being seen and not heard and ended up being heard and not seen.

He began his professional career as a mime at age 13, performing with Pete Seeger and other well-known folk singers. He continued as a mime into the 70's, transitioning into the spoken word and acting in the 1980s. He has appeared in numerous film and television projects since then, including the Oscar-winning feature film **Quest for Fire**.

Schwartz found his calling doing voices and has lent his voice to hundreds of film, TV shows and video games (he is the voice of several well-known video game characters). He has been passionate about improvisational acting for decades and studied with theater games creator Viola Spolin for many years. He is a passionate improv coach and facilitator devoted to carrying on Spolin's techniques, and has traveled from Japan to Finland teaching Theater Games technique.

He lives in North Bend WA and founded Valley Center Stage, North Bend's community theater in 2003.