



## Hercules:

### *One of history's lost voices*

**Feb. 17, 2011 • 11:30 am**

Join National Park Service Rangers at Federal Hall National Memorial at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 17 for a special program exploring the life of Hercules, one of George Washington's slaves.

Flamboyant, larger than life, Hercules was George Washington's talented chef in Mount Vernon, New York and in Philadelphia. Considered a wonderful culinary artist, as gifted as any chef in the colonies, Hercules was a popular and prominent figure inside and outside of the Washington household. Because of his special talents, Hercules was afforded many privileges, such as keeping the profits from the sale of left-over food, being able to walk around freely with his gold-handled cane, and the opportunity to dress extravagantly for his station. He



worked the system, doing what he had to do, playing a role, succeeding in living life as much on his own terms as possible.

And then he left the Washingtons, never to be found. He had been the master of the kitchen, but now he was his own master.

Actor Bruce Robinson (photo right) brings Hercules to life in a way that not only is respectful but captures the chef's dandyish ways.

Following the performance there will be a question and answer period.

Seating is limited and group of 10 or more are asked to make a reservation to ensure space. To RSVP or for more information, please call 212-825-6990.



Bruce Robinson as Hercules

## Plan Your Visit

Federal Hall National Memorial is open 9 a.m. to 5 pm Monday.

Ranger-guided tours are offered at 10 and 11 am and 1, 2 and 3 pm daily.

Ask about the self-guided Junior Ranger program for younger visitors.

There are numerous ways to get to Federal Hall using public transportation. Please visit [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) for more information and maps.

212-825-6990 • [www.nps.gov/feha](http://www.nps.gov/feha)