

Confabulous Session Descriptions

Master Class: Friday 8:30am-12:30pm • Separate Fee

Transition in Eloquence

Antonio Rocha • www.storyinmotion.com

This session will explore and create transitions in storytelling with a creative and eloquent approach. Many storytellers tend to look down while transitioning as if searching for words, missing here a great opportunity to create memorable moments. Antonio will teach how to create eloquent works of arts with movement and/or sound during these transitions, giving the story momentum, therefore moving the plot forward while keeping the story connected to its essence. After several transitions demonstrations from my own work, Antonio will coach a few participants to demonstrate this creative process with their own work. At the end participants will be able to take home a series of ideas and techniques that will help them create memorable transitions for their own storytelling presentations. Their storytelling will never be the same.

**The following Intensives and Workshops are included
in the Full Conference fee or the Individual Day Fee**

Session A: Friday 9:30am-12:30pm • Intensive

Lessons from Thirty-Three Years in the Field: How to Operate a Successful Storytelling Business

Bob Kann • www.bobkann.com

This workshop will provide participants with strategies for expanding their business and earning a healthy financial livelihood from storytelling. Learn a proven philosophy for operating a storytelling business, how to generate work and use one lead to generate many more, how to showcase your talents, how to get your name out most effectively, how to initiate collaborative projects with non-profits or corporate sponsors, and how to negotiate with potential clients with differing financial capabilities.

Appropriate for beginning through advanced storytellers, and for anyone who wants to understand how to generate more work performing and/or successfully managing a storytelling business.

Session B: Friday, 1:45–4:45pm • Intensives

Energy Dynamics in Storytelling

Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo and Nancy Wang, Eth-Noh-Tec • www.ethnohtec.org

The INSTANT the storyteller steps onto the stage... the show is "ON!" Everything counts: ones level of energy dynamics and focus can cast spell upon the crowd or break the mood. Transitions are the psychological throttles that guide the listener between scenes of a story or the shifting emotional moods of your characters. All elements (sight, sound, body placement, gestures) drive the "arc" of a story's landscape. These are the techniques in this workshop.

Appropriate for storytellers, teachers, community program directors

Story Work for Social Justice: An Intro to Theater of the Oppressed
Jasmin Cardenas • www.JasminCardenas.com

Do you find yourself wishing you could create a safe space to talk about current issues? Do you wish stories could move to a more active place where past injustices could be revisited to find future solutions? Do you want to add new games or activities to create community and vulnerability in your storytelling workshops? Come learn some Theater of the Oppressed basics to support the work you do. Dress comfortably move

Appropriate for storytellers working in community spaces and schools with children and/or adults. Educators, librarians, health practitioners and community activists alike will enjoy & be able to use these tools.

Creating Stories by Cultivating the Art of Serendipity: Using Myth, Memory and Chance Encounters

Judith Heineman • www.storytelling.org/heineman

Find new stories through heightened powers of observation and recognizing chance occurrences. We will use written, physical and mental warm-up exercises grounded in a theatrical framework to get your story on its feet in a fast-paced interactive safe environment. Discover how to put your own twist on a tale, incorporate music, multiple voices and trigger objects.

Appropriate for beginner and intermediate storytellers, librarians, educators

Be Bold, But Not Too Bold: Story Coaching

Greg Weiss • gregweiss@protonmail.com

Looking to explore the coach/storyteller relationship? Have a story that could benefit from focused listening and feedback? This interactive workshop will present a successful system for coaching stories, with time reserved for attendees to have their own stories coached, based on the principles of the approach presented. Participants are asked to bring a story (10 minutes or less)—something new OR an old standby that could use some fresh perspective.

Appropriate for beginner through advanced storyteller, librarian, educator—anyone who wishes to explore the teller-coach dynamic from either perspective

Session C: Saturday, 9:00-10:30am

Edges at the Border: Cultural Appropriation vs Innovation in Storytelling

Robert Kikuchi-Yngogo and Nancy Wang, Eth-Noh-Tec • www.ethnohtec.org

Are you interested in weaving traditional music & dance elements to create culturally rich storytelling? BUT how should one approach ethnic traditions different from own heritage? Warning: we tread on dangerous sharp edges! Where does the line draw between embellishment and going “too far” (bastardizing and cultural appropriation)? This workshop, both playful and participatory will guide into a respectful approach (Eth-Noh-Tec will show examples of their Pan-Asian as a starting point for discussion).

Appropriate for storytellers, teachers, community program directors

Words and Music

Rosie Best-Cutrer • www.rosiecutrer.com

In this workshop you will see that you don't need to know how to play an instrument or read music to make beautiful music. Participants will explore the sounds, rhythms and flow of folktales and identify places where music can be incorporated. We will also explore different ideas that will help you make up your own story songs.

Appropriate for beginner and intermediate storytellers, educators, librarians

Be Loud, Be Loud, But Not Too Loud

Simon Brooks • www.SimonBrooksStoryteller.com

Sometimes at a performance you see people in the front few rows cower, whilst people at the back can't hear. A performance does NOT have to be like this. Some people do not know which microphone is best for them. Others do not know how to use a PA effectively for a public speaking, magic, puppet, or storytelling performance. Learn how to maximize your voice, without blasting the front row to the back row.

Appropriate for anyone who needs help with setting up and using a PA system and microphone proficiently.

Intro to Telling Stories

Yvonne Healy • www.irishstoryteller.us

Gain the skills and confidence to let your storytelling escape the page and fly in public. Play interactive games, participate in casual discussion, and develop expressive presentations. You'll leave with 1-2 stories ready to share at a story swap plus the tools to develop stories on your own.

Appropriate for beginner storytellers

Session D • Saturday, 11:00am–12:30pm

Patterns in Stories, Finding Them and Creating Stories from Them

Maureen Korte • www.maureenkorte.com

Stories, like dresses, and houses have patterns or blueprints. Once you find the patterns you can create stories quickly and easily. When you learn about the sequencing of events in stories you will be able to tell stories without mistakes. We will show you the six basic elements of a story and how they form patterns. You will then create stories. You will leave this workshop with new stories to tell.

Appropriate for beginner and intermediate storytellers, librarians, educators, faith, healing arts, camp leaders, students, writers, parents

Story Evolution By Way of Creative Selection

Ingrid Nixon • www.ingridnixon.com

Are you sure that only the fittest and finest crafting choices remain in your stories when you finally perform them? In this highly interactive workshop, we will explore creative approaches to generate a diversity of ideas that will help your stories develop in myriad dimensions. Then, you can choose the most effective ideas that serve your story and the audience, so your stories will evolve from good to unforgettable!

Appropriate for beginner to intermediate storytellers

Beyond The Voice

Antonio Rocha • www.storyinmotion.com

This workshop focuses on individual creativity with the use of body language and mime techniques along to make the invisible visible, therefore creating atmosphere, character and seamless transitions. Studies prove that body language accounts to more than 70% of how we communicate, what we say has very little to do with it. Antonio's 20+ years of experience as a mime, actor and storyteller will guide you with care through these discoveries. This is a participatory session, filled with fun and movement. Learn how to explore these tools in a fun and safe environment and your stories will never be the same.

Appropriate for storytellers at all levels

Once Upon a Time in Olde Timey Town: Telling at Historic Sites

Mary Schmidt • mschmidt@sctcc.edu

“Happily Ever After” can happen when storytellers and historic sites work together. We know storytelling can reach audiences beyond artifacts, buildings and clothing. This session will explore some guidelines when working with historic sites. Information from a regional conference (Annual MOMCC/Mountain Plains ALHFAM – Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums) will be shared. What do historic sites want/need from storytellers? Come ready to share your experiences, suggestions and questions.

Appropriate for beginner and intermediate storytellers, educators, healing arts, historical sites

Session E: Saturday, 2:00–3:30pm

Walking Fields and Streets to Find Poems and Stories

Loren Niemi and Lou Ann Homan • www.storytelling.org/niemi, louannahoman.blogspot.com

This workshop does two things to encourage our creative process. The first is to actually (consciously) walk through the environment to put our bodies in motion, open our senses, and invite memory and imagination. The second is to craft stories and poems from that experience of being in the world with structuring prompts and examples from the workshop instructors, as well as a easy-process handout to use at home, work or in the classroom.

Appropriate for any level of storyteller or writer – also teachers, ministers, counselors

Storytelling and the Culturally Relevant Classroom

Susan O’Halloran • www.susanohalloran.com

Students don’t learn unless they feel they belong. Yet, many educators find themselves facing a classroom of students from diverse backgrounds speaking multiple languages. How do you engage these students and help them feel they are seen and valued? We will explore how to connect the Common Core with your students’ family and community cultures as well as the wider social context in which they live.

Appropriate for educators and storytellers working in schools

Joining In: Audience Participation Stories

Fran Stallings • www.franstallings.com

Storytelling is more than words! Worldwide, traditional tellers often invite listeners’ active participation with bodies, voices, and minds. Learn-by-doing a variety of these “Joining In” stories that involve all the members of your audience. We’ll discuss how, when (and whether) to add participation into a story. Then create your own tradition: develop your own JI version of a short fable.

Appropriate for all who tell to/with groups

The Narrator: A Mysterious Character in our Stories

Susan Stone • www.susanstone-storyteller.com

Whether a personal tale or a traditional one, the narrator makes an appearance. Who is she/he? What is her opinion about the action in the tale? Is he giving information or subtly making us view the story in a different way? We all, experienced or not, are in search of the right voice for our narrators. Come and play and learn who this mysterious character is. Play ...and be reminded.

Appropriate for all storytellers

Session F: Saturday, 4:00–5:30pm

Storytelling – Purposeful, Spontaneous and Playful

Christine Carlton • www.storytellersnsw.org.au

Much has been written about the benefits of storytelling being purposeful and persuasive, yet the power of spontaneous and playful storytelling has often been undervalued. With a sense of play and spontaneity participants in this workshop will be invited to stretch their imagination to develop their creativity, spontaneity and flexibility as storytellers. We will look at the power of Story to educate, entertain, build community, foster creativity and transform lives and business.

Appropriate for all, especially classroom teachers and librarians

The Whole Truth, A Panel Discussion

Jeff Doyle, Loren Niemi, Laura Packer

Tellers often struggle with the concept of truth in their stories. Must our stories be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Or is it okay to lie a little? Proposed discussion topics include defining absolute truth and emotional truth, using facts and invented facts, envisioning what our duty is as storytellers, and examining our stories from an audience perspective.

Appropriate for beginning and experienced storytellers

Gimple the Fool (Fringe Performance)

Madeline Pots

Is it foolish to believe that all things are possible? Gimple responds to the trickery and deceit foisted upon him, with complete faith. The story was written by Isaac Bashevis Singer who received the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Legacy Stories (Story Swap)

Host: Mike Speller

A 5 to 10-minute opportunity to share the story you have performed, the one story you hope lives beyond you: personal favorite, audience fave, tribute to a friend, etc.

Session G • Sunday, 9:00–10:30am

How You Say It

Pippa White • www.pippawhiteonecompany.com

Successful storytelling requires two things: a great story, and great delivery. In this workshop we will look at some theatre techniques that provide richness, power and excitement to the vocal part of your performance. These techniques include phrasing, emphasis, and the dynamics we can use to make our delivery memorable and effective, individual and vibrant.

Appropriate for beginning storytellers

Pocket Stories (Story Swap)

Host: Jeff Doyle

What is your “go to” story when you’re in a pinch? Would you be willing to share it with other storytellers and allow them tell it elsewhere? We are looking for stories 5-10 minutes in length. When you tell at this swap, participants then have permission to tell your story elsewhere. It’s a unique opportunity to share our knowledge and insure the continued tradition of storytelling. Please come listen and share. All stories shared must be in the public domain or your original creation.

A Conversation with Antonio Rocha

Enjoy a casual conversation with our featured guest, Antonio Rocha. Bring your questions!