

Rehearsal notes



Storytellers get in for free. You may have one friend on the guest list and we need to have their name 2 days before the night of the show.

Be there at 6:30 and check in with door person. Find a seat (sit on the aisle if you can), see where you are on the program and have your picture taken. After the show Odyssey will treat each storyteller to a drink at a local pub. You may invite guests.

Microphone:

1. put your foot on the mic stand base to ground yourself
2. adjust to just below your mouth
3. attach yourself to the mic – keep it in position
4. if you scream, back up from mic

Being on stage has 3 beginnings

1. when you walk on the stage
2. the first thing you say
3. the beginning of the prepared material

Nervous

- Everybody gets nervous
- Pick your “best audience” and play to them. Use feedback from them
- Rushing through a story sounds like you are nervous
- Nervous is anticipating a sorry outcome, Excited is visualizing a positive outcome
- Relax, have fun

The **main block is fear of embarrassment** - of getting the story wrong, or telling it badly. But if the telling of the story is a playfully changing/experimental occasion, then how can you get it wrong?
Play has no right or wrong.

Know your first and last line.

Keep focused on the **The Point** of the story. If you keep your purpose in telling the story clearly in mind, the story can change fluidly, but will never be lost in anecdotes and details. You have to be willing to let the story change; if you're not willing to do that, the story is going sound stilted and false.

You can just **ignore little mistakes** and fill the listeners in if you forgot to say something important. No one but you knows what you were going to say anyway.

Endings should be clear, so your listeners know that your story is over without having to tell them. You can do this by slowing down and adding emphasis. You can say “Thank You”; do not say “And that’s my story”.

Take your time, but not the next speaker's. **Be on, be good, be off** (vaudevillians' rule).

Storytelling is *personal*—so **make a personal contact** with your listeners. Talk *to* them—not *at* them.

Above all, **trust yourself, your audience, and your story**. Remember, anyone who listens to a storyteller is already on your side. Just *being* a storyteller is magic—even before you say a word. They want you to succeed and they are grateful for the gift of your story.

