

The Object of The Story (All Ages)

Description#1:

This workshop offers a series of games and exercises drawing on creative dramatics, mime and mask work to enhance the creative process and performance work of storytellers. Participants will learn at least one new story using shoestrings and will have opportunity to create and uniquely interpret many more stories.

Description#2:

A storytelling workshop emphasizing creative uses of objects and creative invention of stories. Suitable for all levels of experience, this one hour workshop presents numerous original activities developed by David Novak to improve the storyteller's creative process and performance.

A/V Needs:

Flip Chart

Enough open floor space for participants to move freely.

Chairs for all participants (i.e. folding chairs, without arms).

Max of 30 participants

Background:

Inquisitive playfulness is essential to the creative process of any artist. In “toying” with the story we will generate ideas in an active way: instead of waiting for inspiration, we will actively seek it out! This program takes as its premise the following:

1. Storytellers animate stories in the true sense of the word ‘animate’: to give life to. Our living voice, our living gestures and our living thoughts all contribute to our animation of stories. In addition, simple hand-held objects can help bring our stories to life.
2. Objects can aid memory. Quilts, charm bracelets and totem carvings have long been used to help us remember our stories. These “story containers” function as a kind of external memory, a mnemonic device for helping memory.
3. Objects can also animate stories in the ways they are handled by a storyteller. Also, objects can be tools to help us think about stories. As such, they can help creativity and be an important part of the storytellers' preparation.

History:

The Object of the Story has been presented to a wide variety of audiences for over 15 years. Because this workshop is comprised of various creative activities with objects, it is highly flexible and can be offered in short (one hour) or long (all day) formats. Also, the workshop's flexibility allows me to target specific audiences such as young students, educators, beginning or advanced storytellers. This workshop has expanded as my own storytelling repertory has expanded. In modeling activities I perform a number of stories from my repertory using marbles, balloons, fabric and string. In the short format, the strong activity, “stories on a shoestring,” is the culminating experience.

The Object of the Story has been presented at many venues including Oklahoma Arts Institute, Hong Kong International School, the Disney Institute, and as part of California Artist-In-Residence programs.