

Massaging the Story/Exercising the Listener
(Grade 4 & Up)

Massaging the Story & Exercising the Listener presents David Novak's approach to process performance for advanced storytelling artists. In phase one, 'Massaging the Story', Mr. Novak guides participants through exercises designed to challenge their thinking and interpretive skills when composing stories for performance. In phase two, 'Exercising the Listener', Mr. Novak guides participants in taking their work to performance with the intention on the listener's experience. Throughout this class participants will be given storytelling 'études' and opportunities for 'spot coaching' on varying elements of their stories and performance techniques.

Background:

This class is an outgrowth of the work begun in 'The Object of the Story' and so uses some of the same exercises. However, this goes beyond the work presented there and is focused on the experienced storytelling artist concerned with creative interpretation and performance. The class is based on the following precepts:

1. The storytelling artist can learn about a story by subjecting the story to a variety of changes and interpretations.
2. The storytelling artist can use the process of story exploration for self-examination
3. In performance, the storytelling artist must be concerned with the experience of the listener.
4. Stories are full of revelations.
5. In telling stories we can use the dynamic of revelation in many ways: in the story itself, and in the performance of the story.

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 10 participants.

History:

Massaging the Story & Exercising the Listener has been developed and presented over the past 20 years. Can be generalized for beginners and focused as a master.

This class has been presented at the The Disney Institute, International Storytelling Institute, the Tejas Storytelling Festival, the Florida Story Camp, the Mid-Atlantic Storytellers Gathering and numerous other storytelling festivals and conferences.