

MITCHELL'S JOURNEY

The Magic of Storytelling



Tips on Oral Storytelling

Relax! It may feel stressful to think yourself on stage when you're trying to create a story out of thin air. Don't try to tell the perfect story. Sometimes silly mistakes are more fun/funny than the story itself. Don't be afraid to laugh and remember it's supposed to be fun. The more relaxed you are, the easier the story will come.

Let the Music Guide. Music is powerful in itself. Think of music as your storytelling partner and that they're doing 80% of the work. When listening to music, the human mind is already creating images and feelings on its own. Your job is not to lead the story, but follow the music and nudge listeners in a direction. Most of the work is being done by the listener and the music.

Use Body Movement. When circumstances allow, use body movement to enhance your story. If you're telling someone a story while standing ... don't be afraid to crouch, duck or point in an imaginary direction.

Vary Your Pace and Tone. As you unravel a story, change the pace of your oration to match the story points. If something mysterious is happening, alter the pace of your words to mirror mystery. If something menacing is about to happen, your pace and tone will communicate that feeling as much as the music.

Each Story A Glimpse. Remember, when you're trying music-inspired storytelling, your job isn't to complete an entire story - instead, its to let the music lead your listeners to catch a glimpse of a story. Your stories might only be a 30 seconds ... so let that glimpse sweep them off their feet.

Each Song Is a New Story. Every song represents an opportunity for an entirely new story. Don't worry about trying to tie one story to another. Let each song give you and your listeners a glimpse of a story that stands on its own - as though you're reading a page from a much larger epic.

Creating Your Playlist

When creating your first playlist, start small. Browse the songs you've already purchased and see if any might make good candidates. Generally you don't want songs with a lot of lyrics as they'll compete with your spoken word. Rather, find musical scores from soundtracks or other forms of music that have limited lyrics.



{ Soundtrack Classical
Jazz Reggae
New Age World
Ethnic

Using Props

As you get the hang of music-inspired storytelling, consider using props from time-to-time. These can include toy swords, flashlights, blankets, boxes, and other house-hold items. Each year, just after halloween, we'd purchase decorations, costumes and other props that were on sale. Armed with new props like wizard staves, fog machines and other things, our story time was taken to the next level.

