

ADAM J. BOOTH

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Education

**M.M. Case Western Reserve
University, Music History, 2006**
magna cum laude

**B.M. University of South Carolina,
Music Composition, 2004**
magna cum laude

Shepherd College, 2000 - 2002
Transferred to University of South Carolina

Adam Has Taught At

**Ghost Ranch
Shepherd University**

West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy

**Virginia Governor's School for the
Humanities and Visual & Performing Arts**

Hagerstown Community College

WORKSHOP EXAMPLES

Storycrafting I: Distilling Plot, Growing Narrative

Suited for all ages; appropriate for school classrooms, businesses, and organizations

So often we want to tell a story or have an idea in mind for a narrative but just cannot find the right place to start. Welcome to the dilemma of the creative type! In this highly-interactive workshop, participants will complete exercises making it easy to create a clear plot that is separate from synopsis and narrative. Then, optional elementary and/or advanced sensory elements of storytelling are explored in order to build a more solid narrative on the plot foundation. Both solo and partnered exercises are used. Appropriate for those who use story and narrative in advertising, communication, multimedia, and non-profit organizations.

Storycrafting II: Basic Story Elements

Suited for all ages; appropriate for school classrooms, businesses, and organizations

With regards to your English teachers, the best stories aren't constructed via three main components (beginning, middle, and end). The art of story has a number of important elements that are often overlooked in education and analysis. In this highly-interactive workshop, participants will be led through the identification and application of basic story elements, including three kinds of time, plot and narrative (see Storycrafting I), characterization, and three universal building blocks. With plenty of examples and opportunities to tell, participants will leave the workshop with works in progress, a stronger storytelling toolbox, and a firmer grasp on the technique that goes into great storytelling.

Storycrafting III: Advanced Story Techniques

Suited for intermediate to advanced storytellers

You're no longer a beginning storyteller. You know how to structure and tell a story and have been in front of audiences of varying sizes. What comes next? This workshop introduces tellers to advanced elements of storytelling and leads them through exercises to identify and build those skills. Focus is on cognition, framing, music, rhythm, cadence, and the "other" senses. Come prepared to work and explore elements that you might not have realized were part of top-notch storytelling.

Storyboxing

Suited for school-Aged Persons

This activity-based workshop teaches young tellers how to associate items and imagery with memories and then transform those associations into vivid storytelling descriptions. Built upon an artistic practice advocated by dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp, this workshop encourages development of the artistic process of storytelling. Importance is given to telling instead of memorizing or reading. Group work is encouraged and examples are demonstrated.

Critical Thinking for Story Development: 2+2=

Suited for all Ages; Appropriate for secondary classrooms, businesses, and organizations

This workshop is for those who are looking to gain a competitive edge in their own field via the use of storytelling. With increasingly challenging critical thinking exercises, participants learn to create comparisons that push the receptive capacity of the presenter and receiver. Come prepared to THINK and widen your capacity for how you describe, classify, and parallel. Appropriate for those who use story and narrative in advertising, communication, multimedia, and non-profit organizations. Not for the faint of mind!

Guest Lecturing and Workshop Presentations Include

**National Endowment for the Arts Summer
Seminar *Voices from the Misty Mountains***

**Ohio Order for the
Preservation of Storytelling**

Story Arts Minnesota

Kansas Storytelling Festival

Frostburg State University

Fairmont State University

**University of North Georgia &
Bear on the Square**

**Association of Living History
Farms and Museums**

**Shepherd University
Appalachian Heritage Festival**

**Public and Private Schools
across the Mid-Atlantic region**

Mining the Fool's Gold: Turning Family Stories into Tall Tales

Suited for all Ages

Are there stories in the family that are too good to be made up? Ever wish there were? This crash course will guide participants through the process of taking family stories - no matter how plain - and turning them into tall tales. Focus is placed on conventions of tall tale, story development, and skills of exaggeration. Participants should come to the workshop familiar with a short personal or family story they wish to use.

Introduction to Appalachian Stories and Storytelling

Suited for all Ages

This course can be taught with varying degrees of involvement. As an introduction to Appalachian storytelling, the course visits traditional folklore from indigenous and imported sources. The oral tradition is explored. Course can be expanded to look at other styles of story, including humor, tall tale, inexplicable phenomena, ghostlore, witchlore, balladry, and the present state of story production and collection.

Oh The Depths of the Riches: Mining Meaningful Family Stories

Suited for More Seasoned Persons with multiple meetings

This intensive class leads tellers of differing degrees of storytelling experience through the process of understanding how story works as an art form. Beginning with general functional categories of storytelling, students explore the reasons to telling their own stories. Next comes lessons in character development, narration, temporality, and building levels of description through senses, metaphor, and symbolism. Analysis of examples from great storytellers is an important part of this process and group discussion is encouraged.

**Course can be taught in a week-long session or individual lessons can be extracted to create shorter workshops

An Introduction to the Appalachian Dulcimer

Suited for all ages

The banjo isn't the only distinctly American musical instrument. In this interactive informance, participants are introduced to the Appalachian dulcimer. Constructions, history, and various playing styles are explored, including traditional and neo-traditional. This is a hands-on workshop suitable for people of any skill level, especially beginners. Depending on method of travel, multiple instruments will be brought and demonstrated.