

PaddyLynn

GREAT CHICAGO STORYACTING, STORYTELLING, & WORKSHOPS



PROGRAMS

COLOR MY WORLD

Storyacting - 45 min - Ages 2 – 10

This is a fully participatory show!

Perfect for any celebration of children's books! Children act out popular storybooks with make-shift props and a little on-the-spot coaching. I combine storytelling with a bit of acting using the children as various characters or objects in the stories, and we present the entire piece as a little mini-play. I take on characters and do all of the narration, and guide the children so they never feel put on the spot. The end result is a wonderfully theatrical "telling" of each individual story. Even young children are captivated by watching the magic happen onstage. The audience joins in with sound effects, special effects or basically whatever is needed in each particular tale. We all get involved with the experience.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Storyacting/Storytelling - 45 min - Ages 6-10

Children enjoy hearing stories that come from other countries and what better way to make a story come to life than to act it out as a group? Storyacting provides children the opportunity to act various stories out and learn a little about different cultures in the process. Several stories are available to choose from.

PEACE PIPE TALES

Storyacting/Storytelling - 45 min - Ages 6 and up

We can all learn a great deal from our native brothers and sisters. They used stories to teach valuable lessons to their children. Through stories, children would learn important lessons that they would remember for the rest of their lives, and then hand those lessons down to their own children.

Peace Pipe Tales Storyacting is a program that uses two wonderful native legends that offer many roles for the children to participate in.

Children bring the legends to life by playing a variety of characters and using different instruments to create sound.

CHILLERS SPOOKY STORIES!

Storyacting/Storytelling - 45 min - Ages 6-10

Fully Participatory Program

Whether you are looking for some "not so spooky" stories at Halloween, or you just want to have fun any time of the year, this program is sure to give youngsters a good thrill. I have some special stories, which I spin, and shape into the silly and creative fun that tickles the funny bone and rattles the imagination. The best part is the children take on a variety of characters and objects and share in the "telling" of the tales.

LETTERS FROM OREGON TRAIL

Living History – 45/60 min - Ages 8 and up

Through a unique and entertaining combination of theater and storytelling, two actresses recreate one family's amazing journey westward in 1853. The audience is transported back in time in this interactive adventure through demonstrations and audience participation. Share in the family's daily struggles for survival and celebrations of the human spirit.

This program is excellent entertainment for any age studying pioneers. It offers curricular connections to history, humanities, and theater classes, as well as promoting reading and writing.

To help illuminate this program for students, an educational packet is available, and a post-show question and answer period is included.

This program can be adapted for children.

Materials to help you publicize your event

MEET EMILY DICKINSON

Living History – 40/75 min - Ages 14 and up

This beautiful story depicts the real person behind the legendary poet, Emily Dickinson.

Discover what life was like for Emily growing up in Amherst, MA, and what inspired her to write her insightful poetry. Meet the important people in her life, and learn of the events that led to her desire to become a recluse.

This program is adaptable to any space and can run from 40 - 75 minutes in length. Paddy portrays the poet dressed in "bridal white" in this remarkable storytelling piece that engages the listener to look into the soul of Emily and gain a better understanding of the person within.

Whether you are a lover of literature or poetry, or you enjoy seeing a historic person's life being told on stage, this program is sure to delight. It plays wonderfully in high schools, colleges, libraries, historic societies, book and literary clubs, and senior centers, to name but a few.

The Belle of Amherst by William Luce

Materials to Help You Market Your Event

MEET HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

Living History – 45/60 min - Ages 14 and up

Renowned Author of Uncle Tom's Cabin

When I first started to research a storytelling piece on Harriet Beecher Stowe, I wasn't too certain that I would find her story to be interesting and appealing to the general public. I couldn't have been more wrong. Here was a woman who embodied the strength and fortitude of great women of the nineteenth century.

Harriet was born into an established New England family of preachers, her father being a very prominent First Congregational Minister and her brother Henry Ward, equaling that fame as a preacher and great debater of the period. Harriet was well educated and extremely gifted; yet she could not publicly speak or even lead a prayer in church. She grew up at a time when slavery was on the minds of everyone, and she found herself relating to the abolitionists- despite the risks that accompanied it. She grew increasingly angry with the government and lack of intervention from the churches. When her family moved to Cincinnati, OH, which was at the crossroads between the North and the South, tempers were flaring and Harriet did her best to establish some order. Her biggest obstacle was she was a woman and wasn't given much credence. She turned to writing to help educate people and get her message across.

This one-woman storytelling program on Harriet Beecher Stowe relates her life and times, and many personal insights into this amazing woman. Harriet was a wife, a mother, an educator, a writer, and more importantly, a visionary. She felt chosen to write a book unlike any other, not only of that period but even today. Harriet may have been a small five-foot white woman from New England but she had a profound impact on America. Why even President Lincoln upon meeting her said, "So this is the little lady who started this big war."

Harriet's story is an inspiration to all of us struggling to do the right thing, and believing in ourselves. In this program, I try and capture the heart and soul of this gentle powerhouse and share her story with all who will listen.

Materials to Help You Market Your Event

BEATRIX POTTER

Living History - 50 min - Ages 14 and up

Beatrix Potter, the author of THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT and other stories, remains the number one best-selling children's author of all time. Beatrix came from a wealthy, upper middle-class family and was reared by a governess for most of her early life. She was not allowed to play with other children, so as for result, her pets, (which she had many of) became her dearest companions. She developed a love for drawing and painting and used her pets as models. Her vivid imagination coupled with her unique artistic talent gave birth to the charming stories that have warmed the hearts of billions.

Beatrix however, was not only a remarkable artist and author. Her love for nature and the English countryside led her to become a farmer and conservationist. In 1943, when she passed away, she bequeathed 15 farms and over 4,000 acres to the National Trust. She is truly, an inspirational woman.

SPOON RIVER

Living History - 60 min - Ages 14 and up

Paddy and Jon Lynn present a one-hour performance of Edgar Lee Masters' classic portrait of life and death in early Illinois. With traditional music by folk singer Patti Ecker, this fresh interpretation reveals the joys, sorrows, and secrets of Spoon River's unforgettable characters in story and song.

This past year, 2015, marked the 100th anniversary of the publication SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY by Edgar Lee Masters. The anthology is a collaboration of over 200 interconnected free-verse epitaphs spoken by former residents of a fictitious town called Spoon River, who speak from their graves, to tell the truth about their lives. And we all know that oftentimes, the truth can be uncomfortable.

SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY caused a sensation with its frankness on sex, moral decay, and hypocrisy. And although it was banned in Fulton County, the center of Illinois that housed both of the towns of Lewiston and Petersburg where Masters lived, the book captured the imagination of the nation. It quickly went through multiple printings and became one of the most popular books of poetry in the history of American literature.

Even today, SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY remains as relevant as it was in 1915 when it was written. Through stories and songs, this program captures the joys, sorrows, and secrets of the human condition.

TIDBITS OF LAKE COUNTY

Living History – 40/75 min – Adults

Lake County, IL, located on the shore of Lake Michigan between Chicago and Wisconsin is home to more than 700,000 residents, who live in highly developed urban centers while others live in beautiful rural communities.

The county was primarily unsettled prairie and was still home to its native Potawatomi Indians when the County was created by the Illinois State Legislature in 1839. Lake County's first permanent settler, Captain Daniel Wright, first came to the area in 1834.

I wrote this one-woman show specifically for Lake County, IL where I have now lived these past 30 plus years. The area is rich in history and is the home to many of my wonderful family and friends. I present the program as Daniel Wright's daughter Caroline Wright, the first woman married in Lake County back in the mid-1800's. I cover highlights of the area from the early pioneers, the Potawatomie Indians, the first school teacher, what a one room school house was like, swanschool1856 the Underground Railroad, and even the Great Train Robbery that put Lake County on the map. This program is sure to prompt questions and discussion for any group who wants to learn a bit of history of this area. I have shared it with numerous social groups, senior centers, church groups, and schools, and it has been one of my longest standing programs.

LOVE LETTERS

Special Program - 60 min – Adults

LOVE LETTERS is a delightful comedy/drama that centers on two longtime friends, Melissa and Andrew, who meet in second grade. Over the next 50 years, they share their life experiences with one another through a series of letters. They ride an emotional roller coaster of ups and downs that will touch the heartstrings of every audience member. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll connect with these lovers whose entire lifetimes are told through their letters.

Paddy and Jon Lynn have been married for over thirty-five years, and love sharing this Pulitzer Prize nominated play written by A. R. Gurney with audiences of all ages.

CUSTOM PROGRAMS

Frequently, I receive a call from someone looking for a specific story or perhaps a specific theme. I always enjoy the challenge of finding new material and incorporating it into my repertoire, as long as I have the time to work on it. If you are looking for something for your school, library, park district, or even a birthday party, please feel free to contact me so we can discuss your ideas.

I also love to connect people to other storytellers or entertainers if I think they may better suit your needs. There are many talented artists in the Chicagoland area, and I'm blessed to know many of them. Call me or email me anytime to chat. I'd love to hear from you!

Below some of my custom made programs that became popular:

STORYACTING BIRTHDAY PARTY

Storyacting - 60 min - Ages 3-10

One of my most popular programs!

Storyacting is a terrific way to celebrate a birthday whether you are a boy or a girl. With a dozen books to choose from, the birthday party child can choose three stories they like best, and would like to be featured in.

I bring the costumes and props that go with the three stories, and we share in a theatrical experience that you won't forget.

Storyacting can be performed in your home, outside, or just about any place you can imagine. All we need is a playing space, one small table and several eager friends that enjoy using their imagination.

Would you like to custom design the party? Just contact me and let's chat about the possibilities.

FAIRY ADVENTURE PARTY

Storyacting/Acting Games - 45/60 min - Ages 4-7

Little Girls love to have their Fairy Grandmother appear at their birthday party to create a bit of Fairy Magic. The girls all become fairies, and play a variety of fairy games using their best imaginations, creating a memorable birthday they won't forget.

Loosley based on The Rainbow Fairies book series; we engage our imaginations to overcome the trickery of Jack Frost.

We play creative drama games and use our basic acting skills to create our own fairy magic that is far more powerful and full of fun and frolic.

Boys are welcome to join in the fun as well, and can be a variety of characters from frogs to sprites and elves.

Don't have your own fairy wings? No worries, Fairy Grandmother has plenty for you to wear!

DADDY & DAUGHTER

Storyacting/Acting Games - 60 min - Girls 4-10 & Dads

Dads and daughters love having a special night out and this workshop is chalk full of building wonderful memories they won't ever forget. The girls come as their favorite princess or fairy and the dads play all of the other characters in a variety of scenes we act out together. Everyone is engaged in a highly creative session of imagination and fun. Workshops include: Snow White, Cinderella, Little Mermaid, Alice in Wonderland, Beauty and The Beast and Fairyland.

MRS. CLAUS

Storyacting - 30/90 min - Ages 2-10

Christmas is a wonderful time for stories and Mrs. Claus is a great storyteller. While Santa is kept busy delivering toys, Mrs. Claus is busy choosing stories to share with children and their families. She visits malls, museums, and even rides on the Polar Express in some towns.

Why not invite her to share storyacting or storytelling at your special event? She loves to spread holiday magic and cheer to all she meets. Stories can be related to Christmas or they can simply be winter tales. The possibilities are endless.

WORKSHOPS

PRESCHOOL STORYACTING WORKSHOP

60 min and up - Ages 3-4

Children love to "try on" different characters in stories but often cannot do that in a set presentation. That is when a workshop might be exactly what you

need. In a Storyacting Workshop, I bring several different stories that provide an assortment of characters the children love to play, with the intention of allowing them all to have the chance to choose several characters. My trunk is filled with costumes and props brimming with possibilities. I narrate the stories while the children add their own imaginations and something wonderfully creative begins to happen.

The stories themselves are all age appropriate and the list is endless.

Workshops can be booked for one day, one week, or anything in between.

The full weeklong workshops can also end in a mini presentation for the entertainment of family and friends.

FAIRYTALES & FABLES

Storyacting - 60 min and up - Ages 5-8

Children are always fascinated by fairytales and fables, and many of them are familiar with these stories. Storyacting allows the children the opportunity to be many different characters and exercise their own creativity in playing various roles. This workshop can be custom designed to fit fairytales or fables of your liking, or I can choose the ones that best fit your group. Boys and girls enjoy using the costumes and props that enhance the visual aspect of performing these.

Multiple days of these workshops are also available and can be custom designed to suit your needs.

Mini-presentations of the creative work done by the children in these workshops always make for a perfect ending to entertain parents and friends.

MULTI-CULTURAL

60 min and up - Ages 5-8

Stories come from all over our world and are wonderful tools to help us acquaint children with the customs and beliefs of various people. I love some of the old stories of Anansi, the trickster spider that comes from Africa, or The Ram in the Chili Patch that comes from Mexican folklore. These stories not only provide many interesting characters for children to play, but they help children develop ethnic literacy. They provide the understanding of traditions, values, and

symbols of an ethnic group, and the common bonds that link us together as humans. Children act out these stories, playing a variety of characters. A trunk filled with costumes and props enhance the experience.

Multiple days of this workshop provide more opportunities for children to experience different cultures.

A sampling of the stories is a great way to entertain family and friends on the final day of class.

SHAKESPEARE

60 min and up - Ages 8 and up

Who says Shakespeare isn't for kids? I say what better time to instill a love for the spoken word than while the mind is open and eager to learn? In this workshop, we enter into Elizabethan times and play some of the old games that William played when he was a child to acquaint ourselves with what those days were like. We read a bit of Romeo and Juliet and discuss the feud between the Capulets and the Montagues. We build swords using cardboard cylinders from wrapping paper and crepe paper to create make-shift swords we then use in a carefully choreographed sword fight. The sword fight is beautifully orchestrated like a dance ensuring that nobody gets hurt, and focusing on staged movement. If time permits, we can build our own sonnets, learn an Elizabethan dance, or work on excerpts of other wonderful Shakespeare plays. Studying the Bard has never been this much fun!

THIS WORKSHOP CAN BE ADAPTED FOR ANY AGE GROUP 8 YEARS-OLD AND UP.

DRAMA DAZE

60 min and up - Ages 9-13

Drama Daze is a wonderful combination of basic acting techniques, theatre games, and improvisation. This workshop is perfect for children interested in discovering their own creative theatrical skills and those who already have a penchant for theatre. Many of the exercises are done with partners and in small groups. Focus is on using the body, the voice, and the imagination.

Requirements: A large open space

Multiple days of this workshop allow the children to truly experience the many facets of theatre and help them to develop their own talents. If desired, a sampling of some of the exercises can be done at the end of the sessions for family and friends to view. Great fun!

THIS WORKSHOP CAN BE ADAPTED FOR ANY GROUP AGE UPON REQUEST.

DREAM THEATER

120 min and up - Ages 14 and up

Dreams have been around since the beginning of time. There are countless books on dreaming and dream interpretation, yet each person's dreams are unique. Even Shakespeare himself said, "We are such stuff as dreams are made on." In this intensive workshop, students will explore dreams through movement, voice, and imagination, creating fanciful and limitless scenarios that can be in or out of this world. Dress comfortably and be prepared to explore the realm of possibilities that dreams offer.