EVENT OUTLINE

Event Title:
Writing to Change the World Through Live Storytelling: Craft Meets Catharsis
(Panel F128)

Event Description:
Live storytelling professionals (and champions!) discuss the craft and catharsis of sharing writing with LIVE audiences. We’ll explore live storytelling’s unique ability to open eyes, break down barriers, empower, heal, and change the world — one performance at a time. Whether you’re a live storyteller or not, you’ll learn methods to help clarify and amplify writing that leaves a lasting impact on the world.

Event Category:
Nonfiction Craft & Criticism

Agenda

9:00-9:05a  Welcome & Opening Remarks (5 min)
9:05-9:15a  Craft: Before the Story (10 min)
            Panelists share how they approach the craft of writing stories for live audiences.
9:15-9:30a  Live Storytelling (15 min)
            Panelists each deliver a 2-minute story.
9:30-9:55a  Catharsis: After the Story (25 min)
            Panelists share what catharsis feels and looks like AFTER a live storytelling performance.
9:55-10:15a Q&A (20 min)
Welcome & Opening Remarks

9-9:05a (5 min)

Welcome to Writing to Change the World Through Live Storytelling: Craft Meets Catharsis

A few reminders before we begin:

• For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let the moderator of the panel (identify moderator) know, and a printed copy will be delivered to you.

• Please make sure that spaces marked for wheelchairs remain clear of chairs or other barriers.

• Treat service animals as working animals and do not attempt to distract or pet them.

• Be aware of those with chemical sensitivities and refrain from wearing scented products.

• Please be aware that your fellow attendees may have invisible disabilities. Do not question anyone’s use of an accommodation while at the conference, including for chairs reserved for those with disabilities.
Opening Remarks

Thank you all for being here! We have an incredible panel of storytellers, and we’re excited to get started.

Live storytelling has become an increasingly appealing -- yet often mysterious -- approach for new and established writers, particularly those who feel "stuck" or in need of feedback or in search of a creative twist. It can help to distill our larger, overwhelming writing projects down to their clear and actionable messages, but how do we do it?

The benefits of live storytelling are well documented, from helping us focus, easing social anxiety, building self-confidence, and keeping us socially connected.

The five of us are here to show you how different writers bring stories to life, and the positive impact those live stories have on ourselves, our communities, and the world at large. Please be sure to check out our course listing on the AWP site for additional resources, tips, links, and contact info for panel members.

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Event Participants and Short Bios

• Christine Wolf, Event Organizer & Moderator
Christine Wolf is an author, former freelance columnist for the Chicago Tribune, a Moth Story SLAM champ, and founder of Writers' Haven LLC, a writing coaching service and cooperative workspace for women writers. She coaches memoirists from concept to publication. www.christinewolf.com

• Kevin Cordi, Panelist
Kevin Cordi was raised on stories and knows that stories are at the heart of meaning making. He has told stories in over 44 states, England, Japan, Qatar, Singapore, Scotland, and Canada. He holds a Doctorate in Storytelling and Education from The Ohio State University. www.kevincordi.com

• Nestor Gomez, Panelist
Nestor Gomez was born in Guatemala and traveled to Chicago undocumented in the mid 80’s. He told his first story at a Moth story slam to get over his stuttering. Since then, he's won more than 70 Moth Slams. He is also the creator of “80 Minutes Around the World” — a storytelling show about immigration experiences. www.nestorgomezstoryteller.com

• Paulette Perhach, Panelist
Paulette Perhach is an award-winning freelance writer, speaker, and the author of Welcome to the Writer's Life, one of Poets & Writers' Best Book for Writers. She’s written 2 million-reader viral essays. She teaches, coaches, and leads meditation and writing sessions at A Very Important Meeting. www.welcometothewriterslife.com

• Susan Rohde, Panelist
Susan Rohde works in higher education and has enjoyed success on the Moth stage with 3 wins to her credit. Between work, storytelling and a very full house, there is just enough time to enjoy her beautiful family and new puppy.