



2021 with StoryCraft

Newsletter #1 - Jan. 21st

Hey there storytellers!

It's been a minute!

We've missed you and hope you're healthy and safe.

This is the first edition of our now monthly newsletter. Here you can find all things StoryCraft: the start to our 2021 course schedule, story games and prompts to enliven your shelter-in-place experience, stories to watch, and more!

2020 was beyond comprehension and we're approaching 2021 with cautious hope. Check out our first in a series of essays about storytelling and how it relates to the world around us.

This first essay is on [The Truth](#).

Upcoming classes! Enrollment is open!

Our schedule of classes and performances for the next six months is now live! Go [here](#) for more information on each class and a sneak peek on our courses currently in development. These classes fill up fast: go ahead and sign up on our [enrollment forms](#).

We also teach private group classes: if you have up to 8 friends or co-workers who might be interested in learning storytelling together, let us know at

storycraft.education@gmail.com! We can make it happen.

Right now we are teaching...

[StoryCraft: Foundations of Personal Storytelling](#) - If you've taken our StoryCraft class at Stanford or online, the Foundations of Personal Storytelling is the equivalent. This is for the beginner! If you've never taken a class with us before, this is where to start! One former student said: "DO ANYTHING YOU CAN TO TAKE THIS CLASS."

[StoryCraft: Next Level - Going Further and Deeper](#) - If you've taken StoryCraft (or StoryCraft: Foundations of Personal Storytelling) and want more, Next Level is for you! In this class, you will dive deeper, hone your already developed storytelling skills as well as building brand new ones. One of the students in our pilot course called it a "Beautiful, soulful class."

[StoryCraft: Performance Workshop](#) - Once you've taken Foundations and Next Level, fine-tune a story you crafted in one of those classes to perform in our biannual public show. StoryNight, for the larger storytelling community and other guests. Our next StoryNight will be in mid July! We can't wait to see what those stories will be!

Updates from Us

Here are some highlights from the last few months with StoryCraft:

- We taught our very first international class to folks in Bremen, Germany! (Yay our Germany contingent!!! Y'all are amazing!!) It was an incredible group of people!
- We designed a brand new course! It's an intermediate class that we're calling: StoryCraft: Next Level - Going Further and Deeper.
- We have a few new workshops in the hopper, including a StoryCraft class circling around big personal stories, fairytale, and myth. And, somewhere down the line, StoryCraft: In the Wild as well as an advanced class called StoryCraft: Embodied Storytelling. Check out what we're cooking up on [our class list](#).
- We are also starting our own podcast about stories and storytelling. What would you want to hear us explore? Let us know [here](#).

- And lastly, we are starting a corporate branch of StoryCraft offering companies workshops on effective communication, team bonding, diversity and inclusion, and customized programs to suit the clients' needs. More information to come.

Stories, Storytelling Games, Podcasts and other great classes we recommend!

Check out [this story](#) from the pilot of our StoryCraft: Next Level - Going Further and Deeper by Lianna Holston. Lianna is an incredibly funny and thoughtful comedienne who has been involved in StoryCraft in a number of ways. We love her stuff! You can hear more from her @liannaholston on all social media platforms (click here for her [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)).

[Click here](#) for a game that can connect you with friends online! On that link, you'll also find prompts to play around with for a potential story. You could do this on your own, or try it out with friends/family.

We did an interview of an incredible and well-loved musical artist, singing instructor extraordinaire, Raz Kennedy. Check out that interview [here](#)!

[Here's](#) a beautiful short film from the The New York Times Opinion section video series. Elizabeth Brooke, daughter of StoryCraft friend Haynes Brooke, served as the post-production coordinator on this great piece.

This second, visually stunning piece is from our friend Haynes Brooke himself, and can be found [here](#). We still don't know how Haynes got that footage -- it's amazing!!!

Here are some other storytelling resources we love:

[Martin Shaw's Storyteller course](#), a must-take if you want to explore stories that have been around for for hundreds of years and how they speak about our human experience today with authenticity and power. This course was life changing for me!

[Michael Meade's podcast Mosaic Voices](#) explores the power of stories and myth in our world today. He is another great resource for stories and wholeness! Highly recommend his work -- books, online courses and his

podcast!

Friend and Alumni of StoryCraft Austin Meyer has [documentary films](#) that we love! We will be featuring some of them in upcoming newsletters, but check out his site. He is an incredibly talented storyteller.

Each month we'll share recommendations like these for you to check out, often created in part by members of our StoryCraft community. If you want to suggest future pieces for us to share, let us know at storycraft.education@gmail.com. We're all ears!

Our website is under construction, but check it out in the meantime for more information at storycraftclass.com.

Happy storytelling!

Michelle Darby, Megan Calfas, Michelle McGhee and Rachel Thomson

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A still from our wonderful pilot course for StoryCraft: Next Level.