

Michael Reno Harrell offers storytelling/music programs specifically designed for family audiences, adult groups, seniors and kids. Quite often he includes workshops in conjunction with his performances. Here are a few of the subjects offered:

\* **How To Tell A Good Story**

What are the basics of a good story? How do we find a story that we want to tell? How long should it be? How do we learn the story? How do we get comfortable telling our story to a LIVE! audience? What are some tricks to help us get from point A to point B and keep the listener's attention?

\* **Your Family Stories Need To Be Saved And Told**

Why do we need to preserve our family stories? What stories need to be told? Gathering those tales before they are lost. How do we save our own oral histories? Recording methods. How to consolidate a bunch of quips and anecdotes into a story. The stories that accompany family heirlooms from sterling silver tea sets to broken squirt guns.

\* **Let's Write A Story Together**

Why write a story when there are thousands already written? For the FUN of it! In this workshop slips of paper will be passed out upon each of which we will each write the name of a place, a person, a location, and an historical event. Then the slips of paper will be dropped into a hat and drawn until we have one from each topic. One person will begin with the opening of the story, then each person in turn will advance the tale. We will record the composition and critique our effort. Then we will edit the story and re-record it.

\* **What Makes A Story Funny?** Here we will explore the elements of what makes a story funny. How do we use humor in our stories to make a point? How do we find the humor in real life stories? Why are we drawn to funny stories? How can we become better at telling funny stories. How important is timing? How do we find the humor in a story?

\* **Finding Your Own Voice**

How do I get started telling stories? What kind of stories do I tell? How do I go about learning a story well enough to tell it? Where do I find the stories that are right for me? Where do I tell my stories? Are there

books to help me get started? Organizations that I can get involved with?

### \* What makes a good ghost story?

What is the history of ghost stories? Why are they such good stories to tell? In picking a ghost story to tell, what do we look for? How long should a story be? How do I learn the story? Can you control the telling space? When is the best time to tell a ghost story? Can I write a story...or find one and adapt it for my own? Plot Twists. Atmosphere. Place. Realism Your demeanor Explosive events.

### \* Critiquing Our Storytelling

Participants tell a short story and the class critiques the piece on choice of material, performance and what changes might help.

### \* The Business Of Storytelling

In this workshop we will discuss what a professional storyteller needs to know about everything but the telling of stories. How do I get paid to do this? Where do I get booked? How do I get booked? How do I find venues? Fees? Promotion? Travel? Networking? Resources? Mailing lists? Developing a web presence, a press kit, a bio, promotional photos. What organizations do I need to check out? What sets me apart from all those other folks out there telling stories? What is the life of a regional... a national storyteller like?