

THE MOTH



TRUE STORIES TOLD LIVE

40,000+ stories told

6,000+ live events since 1997

16,191 submissions to the pitchline

600 live shows in 2019

932 students who have told stories at
High School SLAMs (to 10,000 of their peers)

6 continents where The Moth has held events

500+ stations that air The Moth Radio Hour

486 participants who have told stories through
The Moth Community Program in 2019

73 million podcast downloads annually

30 cities with monthly StorySLAMs

570,522 followers across The Moth social media profiles

4 stories told by Nobel Laureates

3 storytellers who have been in outer space

2 audience members who have fainted during
stories about surgery

2 onstage marriage proposals (they both said yes)

Who We Are

The Moth is true stories, told live and without notes. We celebrate the ability of true, personal storytelling to illuminate both the diversity and commonality of human experience. Our work allows people all over the world and from all walks of life: astronauts, students, a dental hygienist, a hotdog eating champion, a mechanic, exonerated prisoners, veterans, Nobel laureates and everyone in between, to share their stories on stage in front of a live audience. Through live shows, storytelling workshops, a podcast, Peabody Award-winning Radio Hour, and New York Times Best Selling books, The Moth brings the power of personal storytelling to millions of people each year—creating community and building empathy around the world.



Where We Began

The Moth began on a back porch in small-town Georgia, where a small circle of friends—including poet and best-selling novelist, and Moth Founder, George Dawes Green— would spend sultry summer evenings swapping spellbinding tales. There was a hole in the screen, which let in moths that were attracted to the light, and the group started calling themselves “The Moths.” Years later, after some of the group moved to New York City, they began hosting storytelling events — trying to recreate the feeling of those special gatherings. The first was held in a living room, but word spread fast, and the events soon moved to cafes and clubs throughout the city — and then to popular venues throughout the country and beyond. Since its founding, The Moth has presented more than 40,000 stories, told live and without notes, to standing-room-only crowds worldwide.

Live Shows

The Mainstage

The quintessential Moth experience, a two-act show where five tellers and a notable host share true personal stories, without notes.

StorySLAMs

Community-focused, open-mic storytelling competitions where anyone can share a five-minute story on the night's theme. These ten lucky audience members, picked at random, vie for the chance to be crowned the night's StorySLAM champion.

GrandSLAMs

Held in select cities, ten StorySLAM winners are invited to take to the GrandSLAM stage for the ultimate storytelling competition.

"If you look over the edge of the shuttle, it's like looking over a cliff, with 350 miles to go down to the planet. And there are no good handrails."

—MIKE MASSIMINO

"You could tell just by looking at him that he was not someone who cried often... He didn't try to wipe away his tears. He tried to take the heels of his palm,, and jam everything back into his eyes, as if everything was just goinna go right back where it came from."

—DAISY ROSARIO



The Moth holds monthly StorySLAMs in 30 cities around the world:

Ann Arbor, Atlanta, Asheville, Berkeley, Birmingham, Boston, Burlington, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Houston, London, Los Angeles, Louisville, Madison, Melbourne, Miami, Milwaukee, Missoula, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Sydney, the Twin Cities and Washington D.C.

Programs

The Community Program

We partner with community organizations, small nonprofits, and cultural institutions to host workshops that inspire confidence and self-reflection in storytellers and listeners, deepening connections within and between communities. These experiences provide our partners with the space, tools, and expertise to practice the art and craft of storytelling.

The Global Community Program

Held in the global south, these workshops develop and elevate true, personal stories from extraordinary individuals who are advocating across a multitude of world issues.

The Education Program

This program works with young people and educators to build community and understanding through storytelling workshops, performances and innovative academic resources.

MothWorks

Using our seven principles of Moth storytelling curriculum, developed through work with over 10,000 storytellers, MothWorks offer customized workshops and corporate events. These experiences introduce a vocabulary for storytelling within the workspace, offering practical storytelling solutions for business.



The Moth has hosted workshops in 42 countries around the world:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Cameroon, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Yemen, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Broadcast & Books

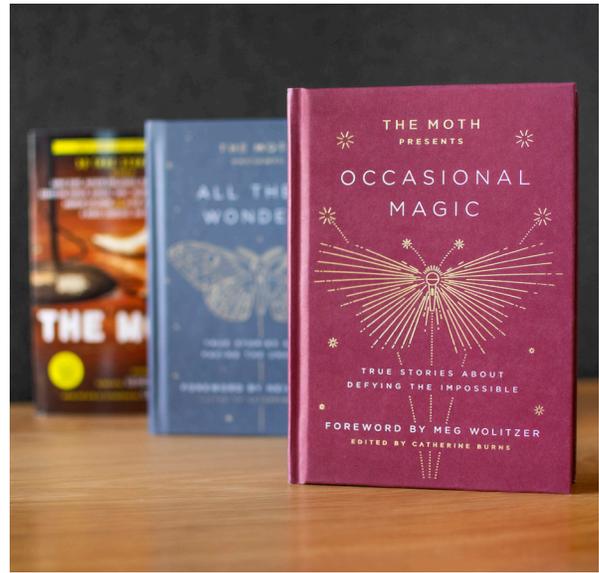


The Moth Radio Hour

The Peabody Award-winning The Moth Radio Hour features The Moth's most beloved tellers, chosen from across The Moth's live shows and programs, and explores the stories behind the stories. Each hour mixes humorous and heartbreaking tales told with honesty, bravery, and wit. The Moth Radio Hour is broadcasted on 500+ public radio stations across the country. The show is produced by The Moth, Jay Allison and Atlantic Public Media and is presented by PRX, the Public Radio Exchange.

The Moth Podcast

The Moth Podcast is a free weekly podcast featuring stories told across our programs, as well as full episodes of The Moth Radio Hour. Since its launch in 2008, it's been regularly ranked in the top ten podcasts on iTunes, alongside such mainstays as This American Life, Radiolab, and The TED Radio Hour. The Moth Podcast is downloaded more than 73 million times a year (source: Podtrack July 2019).



The Moth Books

To date, The Moth has published three critically acclaimed books: The New York Times Best Seller The Moth: 50 True Stories (Hachette Books), All These Wonders: True Stories About Facing the Unknown (Crown Archetype) and our newest release, Occasional Magic: True Stories of Defying the Impossible (Crown Archetype) which debuted at #12 on The New York Times Best Sellers List. The Moth's books have been published worldwide and translated into multiple languages including Japanese, Korean, and Portuguese.

"Wonderful [...] Some [stories] are heartbreakingly sad; some laugh-out-loud funny; some momentous and tragic; almost all of them resonant or surprising. They are stories that attest to the startling varieties and travails of human experience, and the shared threads of love, loss, fear and kindness that connect us."

—MICHIKO KAKUTANI, NEW YORK TIMES

"Full of emotion, humor, and vulnerability, these stories skillfully illustrate and evoke empathy for the human condition."

—LIBRARY JOURNAL, STARRED REVIEWS

"All These Wonders is replete with wondrous true stories of loves, losses, rerouted dreams, and existential crises of nearly every unsugarcoated flavor."

—MARIA POPOVA, BRAIN PICKINGS

The Moth Ball

Our annual fundraising gala, The Moth Ball, is the grandest, glitziest night of The Moth year. It's an all-out celebration—including cocktails, dinner, dancing, and of course, a not-to-be-missed storytelling show, featuring favorite Moth tales and tellers. Each year, an honored guest receives The Moth Award, celebrating the art of the raconteur.

Roxane Gay
Roz Chast
Aziz Ansari
Carrie Brownstein
Zadie Smith
Albert Maysles
Martin Scorsese
Spalding Gray (posthumously)
Calvin Trillin
Anna Deavere Smith
Salman Rushdie



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