



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Karina Kacala, Marketing Coordinator
kkacala@firstpersonarts.org, 267.402.2057

First Person Arts Slams Valentine's Day

Storytellers air their romantic dirty laundry at the popular "Ex-Files" StorySlam.

Event Details

First Person Arts StorySlam: The Ex-Files
World Cafe Live (3025 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA)
Tuesday, February 14th

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., Slam starts at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for First Person Arts members) and available only at the door
Guarantee a table by making a reservation with World Cafe Live by calling 215-222-1400
after 10:00 a.m. up until the Monday of the Slam.

More info at <http://www.firstpersonarts.org/theexfiles>.

PHILADELPHIA— Following the success of last year's sold-out "anti-Valentine's Day" StorySlam, **First Person Arts** hosts a special Tuesday Slam at World Cafe Live. Inspired by the theme **The Ex-Files**, ten storytellers take to the stage with their true tales of love lost. Stories range from the sweet to the sad, the hilarious to the ridiculous. It's an unconventional night out on the most romantic day of the year for couples and non-couples alike. Hosted by **R. Eric Thomas**, star and writer of the hit 2011 First Person Festival show, *Will You Accept This Friend Request?*. The full schedule of upcoming StorySlams is below. Find more information about StorySlams at <http://storyslams.firstpersonarts.org> or call 267-402-2055.

Entering their sixth season, First Person Arts StorySlams are popular storytelling competitions at which audience members share true stories from their lives based on the night's theme. Anyone can sign up for a chance to be one of ten randomly selected storytellers. Each storyteller has five minutes to captivate the crowd with her storytelling prowess. Judges, also selected from the audience, score the performances on a ten-point scale. A guest storyteller, invited from a roster of previous Slam winners, warms up the crowd with a true tale. The highest-scoring storyteller wins a chance to compete for the title of "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia" and free StorySlam admission for life at one of two Grand Slams.

StorySlams occur twice almost every month, on second Mondays at World Cafe Live and fourth Tuesdays at L'Etage. Doors open at 7:30pm, and the Slam starts at 8:30pm. Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$8 for First Person Arts members, and are available only at the door. StorySlam Six-Packs of tickets are available online or at the door for \$50 and can be purchased in advance at sixpack.firstpersonarts.org. World Cafe Live is located at 3025 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. StorySlams at World Cafe Live are **all-ages**. L'Etage is located at 6th and Bainbridge Streets, above the popular Crêperie Beau Monde in Philadelphia, PA. StorySlams at L'Etage are **21+**.

In 2012, First Person Arts will also present special StorySlams as part of the **Free Library of Philadelphia Book Festival** and the **Kimmel Center Summer Solstice Celebration**.

2011- 2012 World Cafe Live StorySlam Schedule

February 14: The Ex-Files
March 12: Around the World
April 9: Identity Crisis
May: Summer Grand Slam (See below)
June 11: My Favorite Mistake
July 9: Wild Things
August 13: Obsessed
September 10: Schooled
October 8: Us and Them
November 8: Fall Grand Slam (See below)

2011- 2012 L'Etage StorySlam Schedule

January 24: Against the Odds
February 28: Social Network
March 27: Best Ever
April 24: Your Mom
May: Summer Grand Slam (See below)
June 26: Detours
July 24: In Transit
August 28: Guilty Pleasures
September 25: Mission Impossible
October 23: The Unknown
November 8: Fall Grand Slam (See below)

Special Event Slams- Details TBA

City vs. City StorySlam, April 20, 7:30pm, at the Philadelphia Book Festival at the Free Library of Philadelphia Now in its fourth year, the popular City vs. City StorySlam pits a team of top First Person Arts storytellers against raconteurs from another U.S. city (TBD) in a storytelling showdown where hometown pride is the name of the game. This year's theme is "**Mistaken Identity.**" Former competitors include teams from Boston, Chicago,

and Washington D.C. Tickets are on sale at <http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/index.cfm?ID=31963&type=2>.

Summer Grand Slam, May 19, 8:30pm, at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Winners from Slams in December through April vie for the title of “Best Storyteller in Philadelphia” and free Slam admission for life. For the first time ever, the Grand Slam takes place at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts as part of their By Local Series. Tickets are on sale at <http://www.pennpresents.org/tickets/?id=183>.

StorySlam, June 23 at the Kimmel Center Solstice Celebration

This summertime Slam invites anyone to share on the theme of “Firsts” at the Kimmel Center Solstice Celebration.

Fall Grand Slam, November 8 at the First Person Festival of Memoir and Documentary Art

Winners from Slams in June through October vie for the title of “Best Storyteller in Philadelphia” and free Slam admission for life. The Fall Grand Slam kicks off the multi-day First Person Arts Festival, the only festival in the world dedicated to art that is inspired by real life experience across genres.

ABOUT FIRST PERSON ARTS

Celebrating its 10th anniversary of programming in 2011, First Person Arts believes that everyone has a story to tell and that sharing our stories connects us with each other and the world. First Person Arts presents and supports the development of memoir and documentary work by individuals at all levels of experience, from accomplished artists to everyday people. It provides a stage on which these stories can be heard through a variety of programs throughout the year, including twice-monthly StorySlams, writing and storytelling courses, and its annual First Person Arts Festival. Visit firstpersonarts.org or call 267-402-2055 to learn more.