



For Immediate Release

December 7, 2011

Contact: Karina Kacala, Marketing Coordinator

kkacala@firstpersonarts.org, 267.402.2057

First Person Arts Celebrates the Holiday Season with Stories
Three December StorySlams Let You Share Your Holiday Cheers and Tears

Event Details

First Person Arts StorySlam: Naughty or Nice

Monday, December 12th

Doors at 7:30pm, Slam starts at 8:30pm

World Cafe Live (3025 Walnut Street)

\$10 (\$8 for First Person Arts members)

First Person Arts StorySlam: Gifts

Friday, December 16th

Slam starts at 7pm

Philadelphia Museum of Art

FREE after Museum admission

First Person Arts StorySlam: Family Feud

Tuesday, December 27th

Doors at 7:30pm, Slam starts at 8:30pm

L'Etage (6th and Bainbridge Streets)

\$10 (\$8 for First Person Arts members)

More info at <http://www.firstpersonarts.org/holiday-storyslams> or call 267-402-2055.

PHILADELPHIA– **First Person Arts** gets into the holiday spirit with three December StorySlams inspired by the season. The new 2011-2012 StorySlam season kicks off on Monday, December 12th at World Cafe Live with the theme **Naughty or Nice**. A special Slam at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Friday, December 16th in the Medieval art gallery takes its cue from the theme of **Gifts**. And after returning from holiday travels with the family, storytellers can share their new material on the theme **Family Feud** at L'Etage on Tuesday, December 27th. The full schedule of 2011-2012 StorySlams is below.

Entering their sixth season, First Person StorySlams are popular storytelling competitions in which audience members share true stories from their lives based on the night's theme. Ten storytellers are chosen at random from those who sign up. Each storyteller has five minutes to impress the crowd

with his/her story and style. Judges, also selected from the audience, score the performances on a ten-point scale. A guest storyteller, invited from our roster of previous Slam winners, warms up the crowd with a true tale. The highest-scoring storyteller wins a chance to compete in one of two Grand Slams, in which winners from the monthly StorySlams vie for the title of “Best Storyteller in Philadelphia” and free StorySlam admission for life.

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, atop 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

December 12: Naughty or Nice
January 9: Daily Grind
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

2011- 2012 L’Etage StorySlam Schedule

December 27: Family Feud
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

Special Event Slams- Details TBA

City vs. City StorySlam, April 20 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.

Summer Grand Slam, May 19 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.

StorySlam, June 23 at the Kimmel Center Solstice Celebration

This summertime Slam invites anyone to share on the theme of "Firsts" at the popular 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 10-day First Person Arts Festival, the only festival in the world dedicated to art in any genre that is inspired by real life experience.

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.