

SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE
Friday, February 16, 2018
4:45 - 5:30

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FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE: Giving Readings that Sell Books

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FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH YOUR MATERIAL

- Read, read, read it on the page
- Read it out loud
 - Try it in different ways: slow, fast, dramatic, over-dramatic
 - This is your chance to find the way you prefer to read it
 - Read it in a mirror if you want to check your expressions
- Type it out – tactile memory
- Read it to a piece of music repeatedly, that might help you remember it
- Record it and listen
- Smoke it or eat it
- Bottom line: if you don't memorize it, get familiar enough that you can make frequent eye contact without losing your place.

GETTING COMFORTABLE ON STAGE

- Practice in front of a few friends
- Dress comfortably
- Use a podium or music stand – no holding shaky paper
 - Music stands aren't too expensive
- Get there early and check out the space, stand where you'll be reading
- Voice prep before you read
 - Do scales or noisemaking
 - Stretch and breathe
 - Meditate and breathe
 - Have a glass of water or a Ricola (don't forget to spit it out)
- Learn to use a microphone

USING A MICROPHONE

- It is not an alien probe
- Ask your host to adjust it for you – don't be shy
- DON'T eat the mic
- DON'T fear the mic
- Most mics should be 2-3 inches from your mouth, between mouth and chin
- Find the best position for your paper in relation to mic, and stick to it
- If you have not had a sound check, it's okay to ask how your volume is
- If you do have a sound check, read part of your piece that has mid-range volume, as well as a quiet part and a loud part, if there are any
- If you go loud, or shout, back off maybe six inches or so, or do a stage shout
 - DON'T shout directly into a mic (unless you want to traumatize your audience)

GOOD PRACTICES AND MANNERS

- Be yourself
- DON'T apologize for anything
- Read stuff you feel like reading, but which will also represent the book
- Organize and mark your papers and pages
- Sit toward the front so folks know where to find you afterward
- Stay within the time limit
 - Time, time, time your reading
 - DON'T imagine that you've timed it
 - Use a CLOCK. A real one.
 - Include any remarks and intros
- It's much better to leave them wanting more than feeling overfull

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Thank you for coming to our session!

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For more information on Richard Loranger,
including books, readings, videos, art, and esoterica,
please check out www.richardloranger.com.