



Producer/Director/Instructor
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Matthew 5:16

The Reliving Radio Drama Weekend Workshop

The goal of Reliving Radio Drama weekend workshops is to honor God while pulling together a “little theater troupe” from your circle of friends and families. Radio performance is better than “readers theater” and relives the sights and sounds of the golden age of radio. It allows everyone to take part. Our youngest actor was 6 years old. The most mature participants were well past their seventieth birthdays.

Reliving Radio producer/director Dick Karman meets with the assembled cast on Saturday morning to go over the choice of scripts and assign parts. He takes 3 or 4 hours to give an overview of radio drama and to show some short video clips of radio drama past and present.

Tapes of old radio shows, of performance tips and of the chosen performance are left with the group along with printed production notes. The cast members meet two or three times to practice their lines and their delivery. During these meetings listening to the tape of the chosen show helps to clarify the parts and the sound effects.

Four weeks after the first meeting, Mr. Karman returns with the sound effects and Radio studio equipment. The emphasis is on voice delivery and integrating the sound effects. A floor director, a sound effects director and a silent intercom become important players in this rehearsal.

Six weeks after the initial meeting, Saturday morning we set up a complete sound stage and run a dress rehearsal. We clean up the show in the afternoon and Lord willing, that evening we open the doors for a family and friends radio theater.

The time spans for a weekend workshop are variable. Some groups have done it in as few as 4 weeks start to finish. Other groups have taken 8 weeks. The quality of the performance does not depend on length as much as quality of rehearsal time.

Every actor and crew member is responsible to print a copy of the script. Each member of the troupe also needs to count the cost and make a commitment to be at each rehearsal. This is a team that cannot function without all of its players. For the Saturday rehearsals the performance building must be available for use. To add flavor and flair to the performance, cast and crew should try for a “thrift store” costume resembling the clothing of the 1940s and 1950s.

A recording of the final performance will be remastered, made available (one free to each performing family) and sold to family and friends.

The weekend workshop troupe must have at least 12 actors, 3 support people, and 1 director. The overall cost starts at \$400 and increases depending on the length and complexity of the chosen performance script. You can see some of the materials at www.relivingradio.com/students.