

# SPEAKEASYDC

## SpeakeasyDocs: a call for producers

***Do you know someone in DC with a great story to tell? We're all ears!  
We're looking for audio producers of all shapes and sizes and levels of experience  
to interview and produce radio-styled stories from across our city.***

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### ***Project***

We're SpeakeasyDC, and we're commissioning a series of well-produced audio features created from interviews, and we want you to be a part of it. You've heard the sort of stories we're talking about—like the first-person accounts you hear on public radio shows like *This American Life*. We want compelling characters, beginnings and ends, anticipation and resolution; you know ... an honest-to-goodness "what-happens-next" story. These produced features will run throughout the year on our podcast.

### ***Subjects***

We're looking for stories that come from interviews with interesting characters who live in the District of Columbia. We want stories from "somebodies" (you-know-who's hair stylist) or "anybodies" (the guy you've talked to over coffee for the last five years but never asked his name). Stories should have strong biographical elements, giving us a sense of the storyteller.

### ***Themes***

Each month we focus on a theme that drives both our live performances and our podcast. We want stories that echo those themes. For the coming year, here are the themes:

**"Like a Virgin" – February**  
*Innocence, naiveté, and first-times*

**"Game Over" – March**  
*Death, dying and the afterlife*

**"Doh!" – April**  
*Sticking your neck out, sticking your foot in your mouth, or just plain sticking out*

**"Parallel Universe" – May**  
*Alternate lives, what ifs, and flip sides*

**"The Last Straw" – June**  
*Quitting, Getting Fired, and Breaking up*

**"Cliques, Cults & Family Rituals" – July**  
*Belonging and Brainwashing*

**"Jackasses & Bitches" – August**  
*Mean people and evil deeds*

**"Rock Bottom" – September**  
*Falling flat, bombing out, and bouncing back*

**"Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My" – October**  
*Stories about Fear*

**"From the Trenches" – November**  
*War and peace*

**"Shitlists & Hitlists" – December**  
*Being naughty or nice*

### ***Timeline***

Let us know if you're interested. We would like to start producing and airing these stories as soon as possible. We will be accepting pitches until March 15, 2008 for pieces to be produced throughout the spring and summer. Work produced "on spec" after that date will be accepted through July 2008 [see below for more info].

## *Producers*

We're looking for two tiers of producers—seasoned audio producers and the uninitiated but enthusiastic.

- **Experienced producers** should pitch your ideas to SpeakeasyDC. Let us know your concept and your approach for the project, and send us a link to a sample of your work. If you have ideas for more than one theme, please let us know because we're trying to avoid duplication and we're not opposed to having producers doing work on more than one theme.
- **New producers and the curious** are also welcome and encouraged to produce work “on spec”—show us what you've got, and if we like it ... we'll buy it! Give us a heads up if you're thinking of doing this, because we'd love to know what you're working on and because we want to avoid duplicating topics. It's not required, but we'd love to hear from you.
  - *Anyone can be a producer ... even you!* Maybe you've never done something like this but have a sneaking suspicion that you can. Want to see how it's done? Check out [www.Transom.org](http://www.Transom.org) for interviewing tips to what gear to use to where to find FREE digital editing software. Give it a shot!

## *Production Guidelines*

You'll create a feature-length audio story (anywhere from 5 to 12 minutes in length) created from intimate face-to-face interviews. Interviews must be broadcast quality recordings on professional or “prosumer” recording equipment (like minidisk), and final work will be mixed digitally. Producers will also consider interweaving appropriate music or moderate ambient sounds to create an engaging and entertaining listening experience.

Before you begin seriously mixing the story, we'd like to approve a script of your piece. And we require editorial approval of your final mix before the project is considered complete. You will be engaged and compensated using an Independent Producer Agreement, and your work will be jointly owned with SpeakeasyDC who reserves the right to distribute your work via podcast, for playback over our website, and will be available for future broadcast use by SpeakeasyDC. All approved work will be paid \$500 per story.

## *Contact Information*

For your pitches and any questions about this series:

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For more information about SpeakeasyDC,

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*SpeakeasyDC promotes the art of live storytelling through our events, including our monthly open mic, solo shows, ensemble performances, special events, story socials, classes, and recordings.*

*We believe that storytelling and the oral tradition have a unique ability to give color and texture to human experience, to promote understanding, and to create a sense of connection and meaning.*