

Patter Prompts

Workshop goal: To help give guidance for performers to plan and execute the conversational glue that takes a few performed songs and makes them a performance, an act.

What is patter? “Patter” is conversational glue. It is conversation and sharing with the audience that turns your songs and performance into a story and a shared experience with the audience.

Narrative Arch - Much like a play or movie has a plot...your act, in a more subtle sense, should start somewhere and GO somewhere.

Prompting questions:

- How long do you have (to perform)?
- Where are you? Geographically? Venue?
- When? Time of day. Time of year. Are there performers before or after you?
- What is your vibe? Humor? Emotion? Informational? A cause?
- Who are you playing to? Age? Background? Attendees of...?
- What songs make up your act?

For each song:

- How did you first hear it?
 - What makes it special to you?
 - HOW is it relevant to this day or the event you are at?
 - Does it make you think of a story?
 - Who has recorded it?
 - Who wrote it?
 - Do they have a story about that?
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- How responsive is the audience?
 - Are there opportunities for audience participation?
 - Are there holidays, current events, etc. that you should reference?
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- What order are you presenting your songs?
 - How do they contribute to a narrative arch?
 - What's funny??? Ironic??

