



Comedy for Kids with Rick Huddle



Stories & Songs.
Real. Funny

Rick Huddle combines physical humor, theatrical storytelling, and music to put on variety shows that go beyond mere entertainment. Parents and children will laugh, sing, and play their way to a deeper understanding of each other.

www.rickhuddle.com

Reviews

Acclaimed by The Oregonian for his *"rubbery face and expressive body language"*, his performance is honest and straightforward. DC Theatre Scene calls him *"dynamic!"* The San Francisco Chronicle says he makes *"the most of the possibilities of one body on stage."*

"Rick Huddle is the Hoover vacuum of storytellers- he just sucks you right in." - Marc Acito, author of "How I Paid for College"

"An assured performer with an easy on-stage presence. You just want more!" - Portland Tribune

"...talented, fun, entertaining, sending a very positive message... and someone we'd all love to have back." - Sara Vogel, Lake Oswego School District

"Dynamic." DC Theatre Scene

"Rick brought such a gift. It was a thrill to see the kids treated with such genuine respect and open affection." - Rebecca Cohen, Director of Stories by the Sea Festival

"You gave such a fantastic show for our students at Wilson School last Monday morning. The kids and adults had such a great time!" - Barb Meyers, Wilson Elementary School

"What a great experience it was to have you here yesterday!" - Kris Meyer, Beach Elementary



"Playful. Empowering. Normalizing the 'others'." - Amy Saidman, Artistic Director, Speakeasy DC, Washington, D.C.

"One of the Northwest's funniest children's entertainers." - The Ashland Daily Tidings

"Funny and engaging performer." - The Willamette Week

RICK HUDDLE

www.rickhuddle.com

rickhuddle@gmail.com

Performance Highlights

RICK HUDDLE

Venue	Location	Contact
Nat'l Storytelling Festival Exchange Place	Jonesborough, TN	Susan O'Conner
Long Island Children's Museum	Long Island, NY	Jim Packard
Bay Area Discovery Museum	San Francisco, CA	Rose Kelly
Portland Children's Museum	Portland, OR	Suzy Choate
Northwest Folklife Festival	Seattle, WA	Cherie Trubon
Freeman Stage	Selbyville, DE	Joan Tyndall
Troy-Hayner Cultural Center	Troy, OH	Kim Clifton
EXIT Theater	San Francisco, CA	Christina Augello
Curious Comedy Club	Portland, OR	Stacey Hallal
Delmarva Chicken Festival	Georgetown, DE	Trish Schechtman
Bay Area Storytelling Festival	Berkeley, CA	Mary Gay Ducey
Warehouse Next Door	Washington, DC	Julianne Brienza
Portland Pirate Festival	Portland, OR	Kate Larsen
Rusty Scupper Pirate Festival	Westport, WA	Rosie Literer
Art of Story Festival	Beaverton, OR	Jodi Nielsen
Klamath Falls Library Tour	Klamath Falls, OR	Nathalie Johnston
Oregon Country Fair	Eugene, OR	Melanie Morrison
Pirates of the Pacific Festival	Brookings, OR	Bruce Ellis
Stories by the Sea Festival	Newport, OR	Rebecca Cohen
Live Wire! Radio Program	Portland, OR	Kate Sokoloff
The Little Theater	Seattle, WA	Robert Aguilar
Tapestry of Tales Festival	Portland, OR	Kate Houston-Mitchoff

Bio *“Bill Cosby and Dick Van Dyke meet They Might Be Giants”*

When 5-year old Ricky’s kindergarten teacher asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he replied, “A clown- so I can make people laugh.”

He doesn’t wear a red nose or floppy shoes, but he has made lots of people laugh- tens of thousands of kids and adults- all over the United States and Mexico.

He’s a captivating storyteller, a gifted dancer, and can play the guitar, dulcimer, 6-string ukulele, and nose harp (but usually not at the same time). He provides fun, lively, and thoughtful performances that leave audiences of all ages laughing.

He has previously worked as a late-night teen counselor, an after-school activities coordinator, a preschool teacher, a mechanical engineer (no kidding), a landscaper, a convenience store clerk, and a mail sorter.



Rick has performed at theaters and festivals all over the country: National Storytelling Festival Exchange Place (TN), Exit Stage Left (San Francisco), The Little Theater (Seattle), Warehouse Next Door (DC), the NW Folklife Festival (Seattle), the Bay Area Storytelling Festival (SF), and Portland’s Tapestry of Tales Festival.

He lives in North Portland with his talented and beautiful wife, Kristin, and their charming, non-yipping chihuahua, Ralphie. His favorite coffee shops are currently Posie’s for writing) and the Madrona Hill (for vegan berry bars).

“Uncover your light and show who you really are, not who you’re ‘supposed’ to be.”- Rick Huddle

RICK HUDDLE

School shows

RICK HUDDLE

Don't get mad, get RAD! (K-6)

This high-energy assembly uses games, humorous stories, and songs to teach students how to identify emotions and be better communicators. Participants will laugh, sing, and play while learning how to recognize feelings. Interactive games increase listening and explore non-verbal communication. This program not only inspires, but shows kids how and gives them the chance to practice being more respectful, listening to each other, and being better school mates. ("Even our 6th graders were laughing!")

Don't get mad, get RAD!
Recognize your emotion
And Decide what to do.



Playing with Words (K-6)

Promote literacy, enhance vocabulary, and boost self-confidence with this interactive performance program. Students will listen to, sing along with, and act out popular stories from authors like Shel Silverstein, Robert Munsch, and Carmen Deedy.



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All shows include artist-provided lesson plans that teachers can use to extend the educational benefits.

Residency Programs

RICK HUDDLE

Writing Your Own Story

Grades 4-12

Writing can be a hard subject to teach. This workshop inspires students to write by focusing on a subject that is immediately appealing: themselves. By writing about their own struggles and successes, students increase self-esteem and awareness. Finding the universal appeal in personal stories broadens perspective and heightens understanding.

Meets the following educational standards:

Language Arts- Understanding and Using a Writing Process

Language Arts- Write narrative texts to express ideas

“Your assembly fit in perfectly with our writing program!” -

Liz Manspeaker, Principal, Seth Lewelling Elementary, Oregon

Storytelling: The Oral Tradition

Grades 4-12

Storytelling is the oldest art form and the most immediate form of education. When Grok, the caveman, wanted to teach his son how to hunt, he told him the story of how Grok tracked a saber-tooth tiger’s paw prints through the jungle and to the watering hole. Storytelling focuses on vivid imagery, the narrative sequence, and personal voice. The skills learned in this workshop are invaluable to students in all facets of their lives- whether they become writers, teachers, lawyers, or auto mechanics.

Meets the following educational standards:

Language Arts- Organize oral presentation in clear sequence

Language Arts- Communicate ideas using the oral form

Creative Performance: We’re Not Just Playing Around

Grades preK-3

Participants use their minds, bodies, and voices to express themselves. Together, we sing, create stories, and practice a variety of theater/improvisational games. The classes are entrenched in play. I believe that creating and performing art in an environment of play encourages self-confidence and awareness. Longer residencies can culminate in a demonstration/performance, if desired. ***“Play is the highest form of research.”*** -Albert Einstein

Meets the following educational standards:

Arts- Create, present, and perform works of art

Arts- Express ideas, moods, and feelings through the arts

“The class helped her so much with feeling confidence in herself.” - Parent of workshop participant

“Rick has a special way of expanding the comfort zones of children so they want to get up and perform.” - Lori Walker, President, Village Home Educational Resource Center





RICK
HUDDLE

Letters of Reference

Toward A New

Excellence

North Clackamas Schools

OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2150 SE Torbank
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222
503.353.5520 phone
503.353.5535 fax

Tiffany Shireman
Principal

Khaliyah Williams-Rodriguez
Assistant Principal

September 29, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Rick Huddle for storytelling and student/family assemblies. Mr. Huddle performed during the annual Spring Family Night at Oak Grove Elementary in the Spring of 2009. Mr. Huddle was recommended to me by a principal colleague in our school district. Throughout the process of setting up the assembly, completing the requisite paperwork and identifying what exactly we wanted Mr. Huddle to do, he was both highly professional and sensitive to our needs.

Mr. Huddle's evening storytelling presentation was well received by children (ages 3-12), their families and staff members. His presentation was engaging and well prepared. Mr. Huddle was careful throughout his performance to encourage kids to tell their own stories and to be creative. He engaged the children and their families in "theater games" type activities after his performance.

I highly recommend Mr. Rick Huddle for student and family performances or Artist-in-Residence type activities. Given an opportunity, I would definitely be interested in having Mr. Huddle work with our students and families again.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Shireman
Principal

MELINDA S. ADELSTEIN

Music Educator

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To whom it may concern:

I am the Music Teacher at Rivers Edge Elementary in Glen Allen, Virginia. I'm writing in support of Rick Huddle's performances. Rick came to our school this fall and performed two assemblies for our students.

The title of Mr. Huddle's show was "Bringing Books to Life". He used a wide variety of methods to entertain the children in an age appropriate manner. He involved the audience of approximately 300 students, in each assembly, with singing, playing the guitar, having the children participate with hand motions, sound effects, and some students acting out the stories under his direction. The smiles and laughter of the students reflected their approval and interest of his stories. His ability to maintain their attention throughout the 45 minute period impressed the teachers and parents who were in attendance.

The Rivers Edge P.T.A. sponsored this program and is planning to have him return early next year for another series of fantastic story telling assemblies. I believe your association will strongly benefit by hosting a performance booking with Mr. Rick Huddle. Please feel free to contact me for further questions or information.

**Sincerely,
Mrs. Melinda S. Adelstein
Rivers Edge Elementary School**



School District of New Glarus

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October 1, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the principal at New Glarus Elementary in New Glarus, Wisconsin. I'm writing in support of Rick Huddle's school shows. Rick has performed two shows for our students last spring.

After Rick's last show, one of the fifth grade students came up to me and said, "This is the best assembly we've had all year!" Even after Chinese acrobats and assemblies with real wild animals, Rick's shows are still the best!

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at (608) 527-5512 or laura.eicher@ngsd.k12.wi.us.

Sincerely,

Laura Eicher
Elementary Principal

Press Clippings

The Oregonian

Storyteller with 'geek' streak spins tales, tackles mechanics

Dual careers |

Engineer Rick Huddle says he sates his soul performing for all ages

By MARK ANDERSON
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

Dozens of fidgety youngsters were tamed and transfixed by a professional storyteller and a mechanical engineer — all in one.

Rick Huddle, a 36-year-old engineer, has recently sought five to 10 jobs a month as a storyteller.

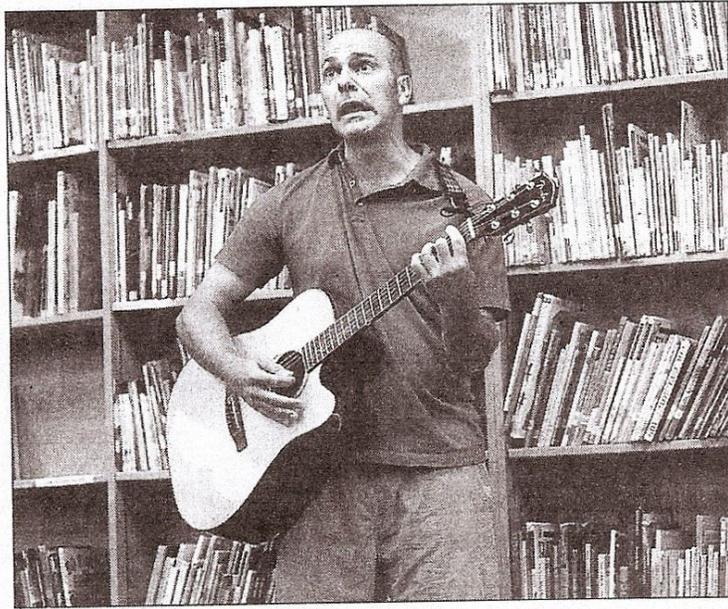
"I still work 20 hours a week as an engineer," Huddle said. "But part of my income comes from storytelling, and I'm starting to do it more and more. The more I do it, the more I can take it into everyday life."

Huddle's everyday life has long included math and science, but he credits his upbringing for cultivating his theatrical side. His grandfather was a preacher, his dad teaches college chemistry and his mother is a graduate of clown college.

"When my dad gets in front of the students he is very much on stage, and he's very funny," Huddle said. "And one of my mom's church members had been a clown with Barnum & Bailey and started up a Christian clown college. That was kind of a big leap for mom."

Huddle cultivated his dual interests growing up in Virginia.

"In high school I was doing a little theater stuff," he said. "I'd do skits between acts in the talent show — in between the real talent. But I also liked digging into calculations. There's that geeky part of me."



BRUCE ELY/THE OREGONIAN

Rick Huddle reads and sings to children Monday at Sabin Elementary School. Huddle is an engineer, but his employer allows him to cultivate his love of storytelling into a part-time career 20 hours a week.

Huddle earned an engineering degree at the University of Florida, then migrated to a Seattle suburb and lived with an aunt and uncle. But he was unable to land a job in his chosen field and instead found work at a YMCA.

"I ended up with about five different jobs, from late-night programs to coaching soccer," he said. "I felt like I had this natural gift with kids. I loved working with them."

Fate steps in

A father of one of the kids worked for McKinstry Company, a Seattle-based engineering firm, and Huddle parlayed the contact into a full-time job. Then about five years ago, circumstances pulled Huddle to Portland, where McKinstry has an outpost.

Earlier this month, long before the fidgety youngsters appeared in the Sabin Elementary library, Huddle was at work. He pushed chairs to the back of the room so the kids could sprawl on the floor, then tuned his guitar.

The performance started with a burst of acoustic six-string, and Huddle quickly had the kids singing along to a song about food. Next was a first-person childhood account of getting caught snatching candy from the grocery store, followed by a yarn about a mysterious cat door.

The children, ages 5 to 12, zeroed in on Huddle's words. His rubbery face and expressive body language helped. An hour later, it was time for lunch, and the buzz was decidedly positive.

"He was fun, and he was funny," Tatiyana Norris, 10, said as several heads nodded. "And I like that he plays the guitar."

Careers converge, depart

Huddle, who performs a free all-ages show July 29 at Belmont Public Library, recognizes the dichotomy of his two professions.

"In college I was really into engineering," he said. "Graduate school, especially, was great. I was into solar and renewable energies and taking all these fascinating classes. I thought I could go out and change the world. But then I started putting in heating and cooling systems for buildings. Something was missing."

For now, Huddle thinks the two careers feed each other.

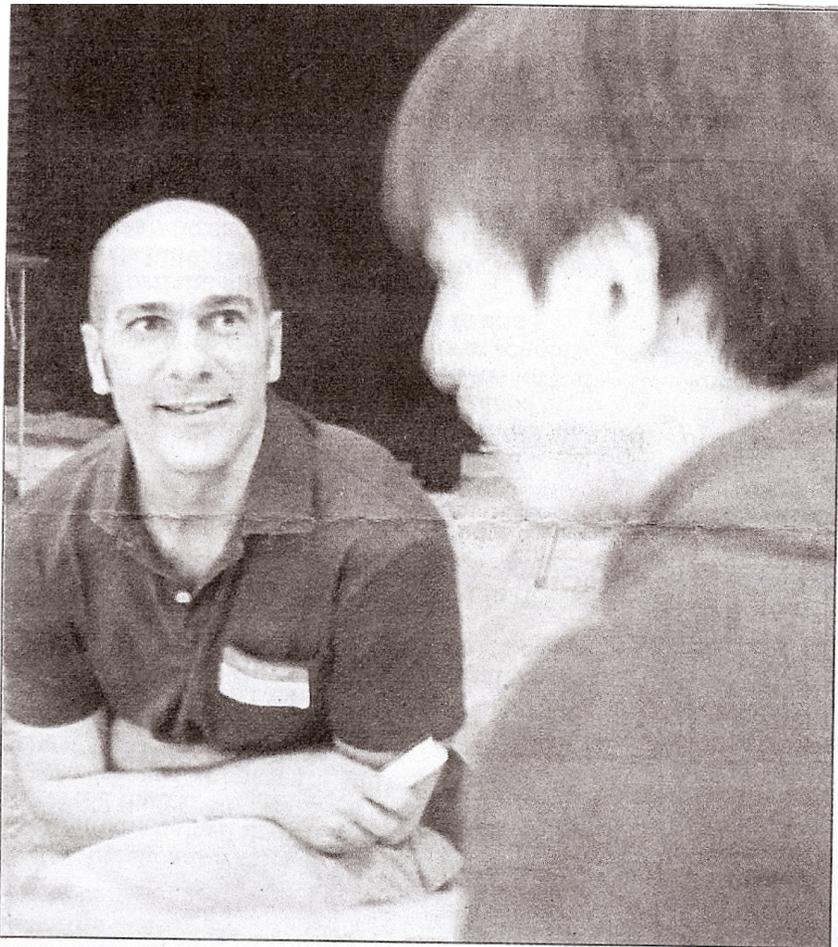
"I've gained self-confidence that allows me to work better with engineering clients," he said. "And I've had the idea of doing some science-related stories. ... I really love storytelling. It lets my light come out and my soul shine. I know that's corny, but it's true."

"They get 'great place to work' awards, and it's a really strong company," said Huddle, who lives in Northeast Portland. "But two years ago I actually went in and told my boss I needed more time for storytelling, and that's when they offered me 20 hours a week."

He has hooked up with such like-minded groups as Portland Storytellers Guild and Portland Story Theater, which he helped

found. He also began telling tales to grownups.

"It's different with kids," he said. "You feel like you need to be more on fire and really energetic — not necessarily frenetic but in an emotive way. ... With adults I strive just to tell a story, like sitting around at a dinner table."



Storyteller Rick Huddle encourages at Brown Middle School student during a story workshop this week.

By JoAnn Boatwright
The Argus

Everybody has a story to tell and storyteller Rick Huddle helped Brown Middle School students tell theirs.

He even gave the seventh and eighth graders "cheat sheets" to help them along.

Huddle was recruited by the Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) as part of the organization's third annual "Hearing Voices: A Storytelling Festival," which celebrates National Library Week, April 14-22.

Armed with instructions on how to tell fictional stories — one sentence at a time — students let their imaginations go, starting with, "Once there was a..." and ending with "from then on..."

Hailing from a long line of teachers and Southern preachers (and a very short line of one clown), Huddle has storytelling in his blood.

For the last 10 years, he has shared his love of storytelling with children and adults at schools, libraries, festivals, and coffee shops in and around Portland and Seattle.

He tells humorous and inspiring stories about princesses who slay dragons, monsters that play kickball, and cows that dance. Some are original stories and some are folktales, but all of the stories emphasize personal growth and challenge stereotypes.

"Their stories are sweet," said Huddle, who noted that nearly every student's included character, plot and theme.

Argus FOCUS

A popular storyteller prompts
Brown Middle School
students to tell their own tale

Brown Middle School's drama teacher for the past six years, Batya Podos has been telling stories about storytelling. She welcomed Huddle as part of a growing drama program that includes an upcoming collaboration with Oregon Children's Theatre and trips to theatre productions at nearby Century High School, which most Brown students will attend.

Podos herself is an avid storyteller who once toured Europe with her own one-woman show. "I'd started a theatre company, but it turned into just me," she said. "It became less play and more story."

Always a fan of myths and stories, Podos draws on her own background and writing talents to create plays with many speaking parts for her students at Brown.

No lead characters and large chorus for Podos, who makes sure everybody on stage says a line or two.

In this week's workshops, Podos directed traffic, cajoled cooperation and listened attentively to her students as they worked with Huddle.

She hopes some will take to storytelling and take to the stage at the "Hearing Voices" story swap at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, at the Walters Cultural Arts Center, 527 East Main Street, Hillsboro.

(Anyone with a yarn to spin or story to tell has opportunity to take the stage. Arrive early to sign-up for one of the 5 - 7 minute storytelling spots.)

Podos herself will be there, setting a good example for her students by telling a story.