



Texas Monthly editors
take the stage for
Texas Monthly LIVE

Texas Monthly LIVE

STORY PITCH GUIDELINES

Texas Monthly LIVE is 90-minute show featuring magazine-style stories, richly told in front of a live audience, with musical and multimedia accompaniments. When we look for stories, we look for ones that are best-told live, that lend themselves to audience reaction and interaction, and are personal, surprising, moving, or fun.

QUESTIONS WE ASK WHEN EVALUATING STORY IDEAS:

WHAT'S THE PERSONAL CONNECTION?

We look for stories with a deep or personal connection to the writer. That connection is the engine that both drives the writer the *need* to share the story with a live audience, and in turn commands an audience's energy and attention.

WHY WOULD WE TELL THIS STORY NOW?

Stories that are relevant, revealing, and timely, that possess both perspective and immediacy, give a live show extra electricity. Is this story touching on the zeitgeist of the moment? Does it speak to some urgent challenge in society?

WHY IS THIS STORY RIGHT FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE?

We look for stories that lend themselves to visual and musical treatment. Do visuals play a compelling part in the experience of the story, or can they powerfully shape the audience's reaction or understanding?

CAN WE INCORPORATE THEATRICAL ELEMENTS INTO THE TELLING?

The theater allows for, and audiences often respond best to, unanticipated twists, audience participation, surprise appearances by subjects, or depictions by actors. Does a story lend itself to these theatrical elements?

WHY NOT?

We all love stories and storytellers that are charmingly or hilariously evergreen and entertaining.

HOW DO I SUBMIT MY IDEA?

Write up a pitch that answers some of the questions listed above. Then email it to TMLive@texasmonthly.com.

We will review it and get back with you.

WHEN IS THE NEXT TEXAS MONTHLY LIVE?

We are currently set to open our first show of our second season May 22, 2019, at the Paramount Theater in Austin. Then, we hope to travel the show to cities across Texas and beyond. Please visit texasmonthly.com/tmlive to see additional cities and tour dates.



Previous *Texas Monthly* LIVE Stories



A Love Unearthed



O Sister, Where Art Thou?



O Sister, Where Art Thou?

Executive Editor Skip Hollandsworth tracks down one of the first all-female country and western musical groups in history — who just happened to be behind bars.

Journey to Mars Executive Editor Katy Vine takes you on a hoped-for journey to Mars courtesy the latest leap in space travel: the plasma engine.

The Greatest Producer You've Never Heard Of Executive Editor Michael Hall explores the little-known history of the most influential music producer ever to come out of Waco.



Mom – In Touch

Senior Editor Abby Johnston discovers a forgotten notebook with clues that, twenty years on, connect her to her mother.

Borges in Texas Senior Editor Eric Benson sheds light on an international literary figure and his late-in-life adoration of Austin.

Staking Claims Contributor Amparo Garcia-Crow draws connections between being the inaugural director of Austin's Mexican American Cultural Center and heir to Spanish land grant acreage to reveal an untamed Texas tale of invention and legacy.



A Love Unearthed

Contributor Sarah Wilson excavates the prehistoric past of Big Bend and finds both personal and paleontological evidence of our shared human history.

How to be a BBQ Snob BBQ Editor Daniel Vaughn answers the audience's burning questions about Texas BBQ.

Tips from The Texanist Senior Editor David Courtney, *Texas Monthly's* popular advice columnist known as The Texanist, offers wisdom on everything Texan.