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WordPlay breathes new life into the age-old art of storytelling.

Bricolage and Alan Olifson bring back WordPlay for the 2015 season.

PITTSBURGH—Part This American Life, part stand-up comedy, Bricolage brings the art of live storytelling back to the stage with 2015’s first WordPlay.

Throughout history, the art oral storytelling has been an important part of the human experience, allowing communities to share beliefs, traditions and history in a narrative form.

“...human life depends on the stories we tell: the sense of self that those stories, the relationships constructed around shared stories, and the sense of purpose that stories both propose and foreclose”

—Arthur Frank, Letting Stories Breathe

A modern twist on this timeless practice, WordPlay is a stimulating communal experience that blends personal true stories with a live music mash-up. With brazen honesty and creativity, actors, comedy writers, and everyday people read their own funny, and often poignant, stories while a DJ spins a real-time soundtrack. Using anything from Bruno Mars to Bach, the DJ and producer work with each performer to develop the perfect music mix, creating a rich storytelling experience unlike anything out there today. The result is something distinct, collaborative, lively, and most importantly...totally real.

WordPlay will be held at Bricolage at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 10 and will include a spectacular array of local Pittsburgh storytellers including Alan Olifson, Elvira Eichley, David Malehorn and WYEP’s, Joey Spehar. Tickets to the show are $15 and can be purchased at http://www.bricolagepgh.org/events/wordplay
Creator and producer Alan Olifson, host of the Pittsburgh’s monthly Moth StorySLAM series, transplanted WordPlay to the Steel City from Los Angeles where it ran successfully for five years. "Ever since seeing a rough cut of a movie without the score I've been amazed at the power of music to move a story", says Olifson. “So when I started my own storytelling show, adding a musical element seemed like a natural progression for the form."

Now Pittsburghers can share their stories n’at in this unique and dynamic platform.

Interested in sharing your story on stage? Future WordPlay shows are on August 14th and November 20th. Story submissions must be true, engaging, and around 1,500 to 2,000 words. Email your submission to submissions@wordplayshow.com.

References
1. http://www.sfs.org.uk/content/oral-storytelling

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**Our Mission**
At Bricolage, our mission is to immerse artists and audiences in adventurous theatrical experiences that foster connections and alter perceptions.

**Artistic Vision**
We envision theater not as a passive experience, but as a vehicle for heightened involvement for artist and audience alike. Our approach encourages artists to take the creative risks necessary to create full-blooded, high-quality theatrical experiences that challenge audiences to engage in new ways, react, and express openly their opinions about our work – to have a stake in the creative discussion.

The word Bricolage means, “making artful use of what is at hand.” What excites this company is the connection and interaction between seemingly disparate elements, and the potential for these components to resonate as one cohesive event. Bricolage uses the distinctive resources of the Pittsburgh region to create theatrical experiences that stimulate a heightened sense of involvement for the audience. "What’s at hand" is our city’s changing landscape, our plentiful human and material resources, and the salient political, cultural and ethical issues we encounter and react to each day.

By combining different artistic mediums, nourishing local talent, producing provocative work, and facilitating audience engagement, Bricolage seeks to revitalize live performance for a new era.