

**Bio:**

**Biography for Kevin Cordi, Ph.D.**

Professional Storyteller, Story Crafter, Coach and Teacher

The key to storytelling is deep listening. One needs to not only listen to others, but also to the story. A story has its own development and often it is not found in the script we write. We need to play with the world of story before fashioning the story we tell. Drawing on over 25 years of listening to other stories and experimenting and designing narrative work with playful exercises, Cordi shares new methods of story crafting from his recently released recognized book **Playing with Stories: Story Crafting for Writers, Teachers, Storytellers, and other Imaginative Thinkers** (2014) and co-author with Judy Sima, **Raising Voices: creating youth storytelling troupes and groups** (2003).

“Story building does not have to be a solo act,” says Cordi. Join with him as he demonstrates how we can engage and help each other build story awareness.” Come with an idea, not a complete story. Bring a story that you give yourself “Permission 2 Play.”

Cordi is a national/international practitioner of play. His award-winning work has been commissioned by John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in New York, Qatar Foundation International in the Middle East, International Book Festival in Singapore, and Newsweek, among others.

He has won Story Slams in Boston and Louisiana, taught storytelling for Ohio State University, Judson University, and Ohio Dominican University. He now works as an Assistant Professor at Ohio Northern Univeristy and coaches people

all over the world. He holds a Doctorate in Storytelling and Story Making at OSU but his real doctorate comes from listening to so many others, young and old alike, as he travels to over 40 states, England, Japan, Canada, Singapore, Scotland, and Qatar.

A business tells a story. However, using play one can discover more of what the story needs. This unveiling can be discovered with play. A reluctant speaker can build their skills from practicing using playful exercises. Cordi serves as a coach and consultant for correctional institutions to small and large businesses.

His fast paced improvisational story-based work is not common in theater circles and storytelling clubs. He juxtaposes the arts. Come word dance with him as he brings “Permission 2 Play” to Columbus Unscripted.

For more information, see [www.kevincordi.com](http://www.kevincordi.com) and [www.permission2play.com](http://www.permission2play.com)

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Dr. Kevin Cordi traverses around the country and world reminding others that there is rich value in play. His work has been modeled in schools and storytelling organizations around the country. He has been a gas station attendant, grill cook, door-to-door salesperson, and a bus boy. All of this has helped him want to be involved in play more. Whether he is working with a teenager to mix a fairytale, listening to a whole company to tell their story of their business better, or performing for a crowd of 1000, he uses play because this is where the true work is found in story crafting.