



**Better Said Than Done, Inc.**  
*Life is Better in the Telling*

### **Putting the Spotlight on You**

*Better Said Than Done Launches Storytelling Classes in Northern Virginia*

August 30, 2012 -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- **Better Said Than Done**, Northern Virginia's premier storytelling troupe, is launching a series of storytelling workshops and classes for anyone who wants to learn how to tell a story that their audience will love to hear -- whether that's a personal story or the story of their business -- or learn how to enhance their storytelling performances. The first workshop, "Spotlight on You," will be held on October 13, 2012, 11 AM to 4:30 PM, at Epicure Cafe, 11213 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia. The fee for the workshop is \$75 per person and advance registration is required. To register or for more information, go to [bettersaidthandone.com](http://bettersaidthandone.com) and click on Classes.

In the first Better Said Than Done storytelling workshop, "Spotlight on You," instructors Jennifer Luu and Adam Ruben, both long-time storytelling professionals [teacher bios below], will introduce students to the art of storytelling and the techniques involved in crafting and performing a good story. Students will learn story structure, character building, and how to win the audience over, analyze examples of good and bad stories, and workshop their own story ideas, with the goal of leaving with a story to tell. This class is for adults who may be interested in getting up on stage as well as those who would just like to be the life of the party.

Better Said Than Done will also be offering the following workshops and classes:

- Your Business Story: Crafting your company tale
- Storytelling Show Stopper: A four-week course on advanced storytelling techniques
- Make 'em Laugh: Adding humor to storytelling
- Make 'em Cry: Bringing emotion to your story
- Say Yes to the Story: Improv to enhance storytelling

Private groups and one-on-one storytelling coaching are available by request.

For those who would prefer to sit in the audience, upcoming storytelling shows by Better Said Than Done include:

**September 29, 2012 - Traveling Man - journeys, pit stops, and the beaten track**

**October 27, 2012 - Where the Wild Things Are - parties, monsters, and crazy times**

Both shows will be performed at Epicure Café, 11213 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia, at 7 PM, with doors opening at 6 PM. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available at the door. Shows regularly sell out, so it is recommended to arrive early.

**For more information:**

Jessica Piscitelli

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**Better Said Than Done, Inc.**, is a community of professional storytellers. We produce themed storytelling shows throughout Northern Virginia and beyond, featuring true, personal stories from our experienced performers. With stories ranging in length from 7-10 minutes, the shows are energetic, engaging, and highly entertaining. They may be funny, poignant, silly, or unbelievable, but they will convince audiences that *life is better in the telling*. For additional information or to see videos of past shows, visit the Better Said Than Done website at [www.bettersaidthandone.com](http://www.bettersaidthandone.com).

### **Teachers' bios:**

Better Said Than Done CEO and Owner **Jessica Piscitelli** has been writing fiction since elementary school. She went on to writing scripts and studying filmmaking at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and has been a regular commentator on WAMU, DC's NPR station. Prior to discovering storytelling for the stage, she ran a screenwriting workshop for six years. Jessica performed her first story in 2007 and has been addicted ever since – performing stories for SpeakeasyDC, Fan-Freaking-Tastic, TEDx, SWAN Day, McLean Bible Church, WIFV, the Reston Nature House and any venue or corporate event in need of a great story.

A molecular biologist by day, **Adam Ruben** has told stories with SpeakeasyDC, Mortified, Story League, Fan-Freaking-Tastic, and Baltimore's Stoop Storytelling. He has performed stand-up comedy for more than a decade, opening for such comics as Jim Gaffigan and Greg Giraldo, and he appeared as a recurring guest expert in a lab coat on the Food Network's "Food Detectives." He writes a monthly humor column for the otherwise serious journal Science, and he recently published his first book, "Surviving Your Stupid, Stupid Decision to Go to Grad School."

**Jennifer Luu** is a storyteller, a life coach, and a lover, not a hater. With her emotive insight and bite of witty humor, she has told stories and emceed events at retreats, festivals, theaters and college campuses for audiences coast to coast. As a one-time radio deejay, certified wedding officiant and frequent panel moderator, Jennifer is called to do anything that involves speaking (out loud to people). She loves and lives for connections, whether they're between people, performers and audiences, or concepts. Jennifer lives in Alexandria with her special ladyfriend in close proximity to the thriving hub that is her large Vietnamese American family.

**Anna Marie Trester** is a Canadian, a redhead, and a sociolinguist, and she revels in the power of story. She sometimes tells people that she analyzes narratives for a living, but she mainly just loves thinking about language, which finds expression in teaching things like the ethnography of communication, in teaching and performing improv (she has been a teacher at Washington Improv Theater since 2005 and is a member of the long-form improv troupe Fuego), and sometimes (read: once) being interviewed as a language expert on NPR!

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