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COOKEVILLE, TN – Do you have a great true story to tell, and can you do so with passion in front of a live audience while being filmed for a national broadcast? WCTE Upper Cumberland PBS, in partnership with the Cumberland County Playhouse and the WORLD Channel, will hold open auditions at three historic theatres around the Upper Cumberland to find the best storytellers in the region for WORLD Channel’s series, *Stories from the Stage*.

Auditions are open to all ages and will be held on March 3, at the Park Theater in McMinnville; March 11, at the Cookeville Performing Arts Center and March 17, at the Cumberland County Playhouse in Crossville – each day from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tellers will be expected to deliver a 5-6-minute monologue about a real-life experience. The idea is to capture stories that reflect the rich culture of the region and put a new twist on the traditional front-porch type storytelling of the south. From the auditions the six best storytellers will be filmed at an event at the Cumberland County Playhouse’s Black Box Theater on April 10. Of those six, WORLD Channel will choose three stories to broadcast nationally. Those three selected will also claim a prize of \$125 each.

“We are honored to be invited by WORLD to contribute stories about the Upper Cumberland and its residents to *Stories from the Stage*,” said Brent Clark, WCTE’s Director of Content and Digital Media. “WCTE was the first PBS Station to be invited to participate, and we’re excited to bring a southern perspective to their existing series.”

Stories from the Stage, which is already airing on the WORLD channel, builds on the popularity of live storytelling and showcases the power of everyday people sharing real stories in front of a live audience. In an effort to get a broader variety of stories from various parts of the country, WORLD reached out to WCTE to showcase storytellers from our rural region.

For more information contact Paula Walker at pwalker@wcte.org, and for more information about *Stories from the Stage*, visit <http://worldchannel.org/programs/stories-stage/>

WCTE has served the Upper Cumberland for more than 39 years as the region’s premier storyteller and is the only television station in a 75-mile radius of Cookeville, TN, making it a strategic partner in education, health services, government, arts and music. WCTE is owned and operated by the Upper Cumberland Broadcast Council and is one of only 350 PBS affiliates nationwide.

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