

So You Want to Be A Speaker?

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By Cathleen Fillmore

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Like many people, you're intrigued by the speaking profession. So was I. Ten years ago, I was teaching English as a Second Language to adult immigrants and bored silly. I was looking around for a profession that would supplement my income.

When my friend Danniell Star took a leave of absence from his teaching job, he started speaking to groups. He was getting paid more as a speaker than as a teacher and he got to repeat his material! Sounded good to me.

Danniell's first year as a speaker was a little lean financially, though. When his leave of absence was over, his old employer called him in for a new opening for a part-time position. Danniell agreed to an interview and then later called to cancel it.

I thought he was nuts! I said "Danniell, you know speaking is not that secure a profession. It's good to have something to fall back on!" And he said something that changed my life.

He said, "Cathleen, when you have something to fall back on, you fall back!"

It rang so true! I saw immediately and with a shock that the teaching job that I thought provided a financial cushion in fact was holding me back from pursuing my true talents and interests.

Or, as Robert Allen, the author of Multiple Streams of Income puts it: "You can take the door marked 'security' or the door marked 'freedom'. Just remember that the door marked 'security' lies. The only security is found within yourself."

A few months later, I quit my job, packed up my car, kissed my grown kids and friends goodbye and moved to a different part of the country to try my luck as a writer or speaker. It was a little unnerving to take the plunge in such a dramatic way but I'd been wanting to do it for a long time and finally, it was sink or swim time!

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Well, I was initially so naïve about business and had so much to learn about the speaking profession that I certainly got dunked many times. I did everything the hard way and it's one way to learn quickly. Ultimately, I thrived doing what I love to do. Because I was happier, my health immediately improved along with my outlook on life.

Speaking to large groups of people has never come easily to me. It's a myth that speakers are extroverts. I'm not. I'm pathologically shy, yet somehow the fact that I believe I have something to share gives me the impetus I need to plow right through the shyness and not only get up on stage but love it!

The route I chose was kind of hair-raising and wouldn't necessarily work for everyone but there are many ways to get into professional speaking which I share with you in my book, *Speaking for Money*. You choose the right route for you!

Cathleen Fillmore is owner of Speakers Gold, a proactive speakers bureau.

Cathleen Fillmore is President of Speakers Gold, the pro-active speakers bureau. To purchase the e-book *Speaking for Money*, visit www.speakersgold.com. For a free subscription to an online marketing newsletter for speakers, send any email to cfillmore@idirect.com.

Acoustic Research Speaker May Just Be The Right Choice For You!

By Glen B. Porter

I have been an audiophile for a long time, but surprisingly, I never had really good sound that I could count on until I got my first Acoustic Research wireless speaker. Before the Acoustic Research speaker, I was using inferior equipment. Although I did not go straight from my first, big, clunky second hand bass speakers with broken cones to the Acoustic Research speaker, the difference was almost as pronounced. Nonetheless, the Acoustic Research speaker was just the last step in a string of slowly improving audio equipment that I had been acquiring since I was very young.

Before I ever saw an Acoustic Research speaker, I tried many other brands. I thought Bose were pretty good, and for a long time they were my favorite. Even now, when I am listening to music quietly to avoid disturbing my girlfriend, I turn off the Acoustic Research speaker and plug in my Bose headphones. But still, nowadays my whole house is wired with Acoustic Research speakers which pipe music to any corner that I want, any time.

It started when I was a teenager growing up in the 70s. This was a long time before there was such a thing as Acoustic Research speakers, or many of the other brands that are popular today. What I had was a pair of second hand speakers which I had inherited from a friend, when he bought his new stereo. He seemed to not think that they were good enough for his use anymore, but for me they were amazing. They had all of the bass that a teenager wants, and a mellow tubey sound that I still find tasteful. Unfortunately, they had many weaknesses including a torn speaker cone that buzzed, and very low treble fidelity. But still, I did really like them, and they did a good job for me all the way through

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college.

You can even use an Acoustic Research speaker to hear sound outside, as I have done. I have a wireless Acoustic Research speaker which plays music to the patio whenever I am entertaining. It saves me the trouble of having to bring out a boom box, and the sound quality is simply sensational. All of my guests have complemented the good fidelity that an Acoustic Research speaker provides, and many of them have gone on to buy them themselves. I say that they have good taste in sound.

Glen B. Porter provides readers with up-to-date commentaries,

, and

reviews for

, music, movies and other related information.



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