

LIFE STORIES

We make it easy for you, by helping you prepare and organize your memories. Then you tell the stories, in your own words, during a relaxed videorecording session.

THE CONCEPT

Life Stories. To professionally record on video the personal family remembrances of an individual. So they can share with family members this priceless treasure, and leave something truly valuable for future generations.

THE PHILOSOPHY

We believe that these unique memories are very important to families, and need to be preserved while there is time. We will document the stories in a relaxed but inspired videorecording session. The goal is to bring out the colour, emotional resonance, depth and details of the memories.

THE TEAM

Jerzy Kukulski is a long-standing professional photographer, videographer and video editor. From his high-quality PickArt Studio, he offers a range of photography and video services. For 'Life Stories', he handles the video camera work, the video editing, and co-produces the series.

Chris Evans has years of experience as a professional freelance producer, writer, interviewer, composer, educator, and guest artist-in-the-schools. For 'Life Stories', he takes care of client relations, story lines, interviewing, music composing, and co-produces the series.

~~~~~ *Life Stories* - concept copyright 2012 ~~~~~  
Contact: Chris Evans (416) 282-1986 [ipickart.com](http://ipickart.com)

# **LIFE STORIES - WORKBOOK**

This workbook has been created to help you gather and organize your memories and stories. If you prefer, you can document them in your own way. Either way, we need a copy of the information. This will be essential for us to have at the videorecording session, along with labelled photos, to serve as prompts for the various stories.

Here's our suggestion on how to use this workbook. Enter your name, or the name of a relative, at the top of the page, along with key information. Then, as you think of memories and stories, write them down in the appropriate sections on the page. You may want to list them in point form, as memory-prompts, to save space. Or, just start another page on the same person.

As you go along, it will be easy to see where you need more information. Do not feel the need to complete every section, just use them as guides to remember whatever you can. Other family members should also be consulted, and this information can be added.

## **YOUR MEMORIES**

Reflect on everything you can remember about key events in your life and times with your family. Make some notes about your favourite life and family memories. Gather all pertinent letters, papers, photographs, and family heirlooms you or your family have preserved - with names, dates and places where possible, especially for photos - and bring them all to the videorecording session. Prepare clear introductions for each story.

Where possible, write down the full names and nicknames of all family members, near and distant, that will figure in your stories. You might also list beloved pets, mentors, colleagues and close family friends. Include any information you have about where and when people were born and lived.

The eventual value and enjoyment of the video will be greatly enhanced by the nature of the stories told. The colour of the stories will come from the details, and from which specific memories are chosen. The best ones are those that bring the personality and character of you, the family members, and the era to life.

## **THE STEPS**

1. Arrange the initial information meeting (in your home, with some family members present, we'll leave you with a workbook to assist you).
2. Gather stories, memories, photos, heirlooms, etc. (please attach photo information to photos – places, names, dates, and make some written notes about the key stories, involve family members).
3. Arrange the information review meeting and book a date for the video recording session (leave at least a 2-week gap between these two dates, for additional gathering of information, photos, heirlooms etc.).
4. The information review meeting (in your home, with some family members present).
5. Deliver a copy of the stories and memories information to us (at least three days before the video session).
6. The video recording session (see info below).
7. Our transferring and editing sessions will take place (no family attending).
8. Our mastering sessions to produce the final video (no family attending).
9. Our making of the DVD copies and delivery to you.

## **THE VIDEO SESSION** (One or two family members may attend)

For the video session, bring all photos, stories, heirlooms etc. Also bring bottled water and a change of clothes (black, white or tan, plain – no logos, spots or stripes). Inform us of any special needs.

Please make sure the photos are labelled with names, dates and places where possible, and be prepared to leave them with us for a week, so we can scan them. The photos can be loose, or gathered in a photo album. Remember to have succinct and clear introductions ready for each story.

## **DESCRIPTION OF OUR WORK**

1. Initial Meeting (to deliver and discuss the Life Stories Workbook)
2. Information Review Meeting (to go over information and photos)
3. Video Recording Session (typically 2-3 hours)
4. Original music composition, recording and mixing.
5. First Editing Sessions (transfer of raw footage, scanning of photos, and ordering of segments)
6. Second Editing Sessions (insertion of music and photos, transitions, and design of special sections - introduction, slide show, and end segment)
7. Producing Sessions (refining and polishing the full, final video)
8. Making of DVD copies and delivery.

## **DVD COPIES FOR CLIENTS**

All DVD's are 100-year archival DVD discs. They come in a high-end metal case.

1. With the top package (Family Biography) the client will receive 3 DVD copies.
2. With the middle package (Sweet Memories) package the client will receive 2 DVD copies.
3. With the short package (Flashback) package the client will receive 1 DVD copy.

Extra copies - \$45. each, \$75 for a Blu-Ray copy.

10 or more DVD's - 10% discount. More than 25 DVD's - \$30. each.

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## CHOICES

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### **THE FAMILY BIOGRAPHY VIDEO**

(Documentary Style)

Description: Up to 2 hours of professionally produced documentary video – featuring family memories and life stories told by the storyteller, enhanced with home movies, photographs, heirlooms, music and additional related information from a narrator. This video will be a real treasure. It will go deeper into the storyteller’s memories, with more stories and a greater overview of the family and key places, with extra visuals included. There will be more thorough preparation to develop the story lines, bring out the most colourful stories, and the character and essence of the storyteller and of the people in the stories.

Videorecording session is in-studio or in the storyteller’s home.

Rate: \$1950.

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### **THE SWEET MEMORIES VIDEO**

(Monologue Style)

Description: Up to 2 hours of professionally produced video, including photos, heirlooms and music. The storyteller will be the main focus. The memories selected will attempt to provide an overview of family history, highlighted by the most colourful and key stories.

Videorecording session is in-studio or in the storyteller’s home.

Rate: \$1450.

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## **THE SPECIAL EVENTS VIDEO**

(Monologue Style)

Description: Up to 1 hour of professionally produced video, with photos and music, centred around the key memories of the storyteller. It might be family and life stories or it could be a gift to celebrate a birthday, a retirement, an anniversary, a graduation, a family gathering, or some other important event.

Videorecording session is in-studio only.

Rate: \$950.

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## **THE FLASHBACK VIDEO**

(Monologue Style)

Description: Up to 30 minutes of professionally produced video, with photos and music. Short and simple, featuring the storyteller. Aside from family and life memories, it could be a tribute to a special friend, or a gift to celebrate a birthday, an anniversary, or some other important event.

Videorecording session is in-studio only.

Rate: \$650.

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## **THE CUSTOM VIDEO**

While every *'Life Stories'* video is customized and exclusive, there may be a project you have in mind that is beyond the choices listed above.

On request. Please inquire.

NAME OF RELATIVE:

NICKNAMES:

(APPROX) DATE OF BIRTH:

PLACE OF BIRTH:

PLACES LIVED:

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WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN THEIR TIME

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FUNNY STORIES

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PERSONALITY TRAITS, MANNERISMS, PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS

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ARTISTIC ABILITIES, HOBBIES AND SKILLS

WISDOM THEY PASSED ALONG

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WHAT YOU LIKED BEST ABOUT THEM

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MEMORABLE ACTIVITIES YOU SHARED

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MEMORABLE ADVENTURES OR TRIPS YOU SHARED

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SPECIAL FAMILY GATHERINGS AND TRADITIONS

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HOW THEY WERE WITH YOU AND WITH ONE ANOTHER



