Oral History and the Radio Documentary/Feature -

Introducing the COHRD form:
Crafted Oral History Radio Documentary

Dr Siobhan McHugh, Faculty of Creative Arts, University of Wollongong
Presenting the “COHRD”

Radio that seeks to inform, move and delight, and in so doing, connects past and present lives.

Maries the feature maker’s imagination, the documentarist’s concern for accuracy and balance and the oral historian’s rigour and democratising drive.

A blend of art, history and narrative journalism.

COHRD: CRAFTED ORAL HISTORY RADIO DOCUMENTARY

Anna/Tracy Haynes /Conor
+ Common Ingredient: VOICE, which can surpass Printed Text

- Conveys information re age, gender, social/cultural background
- Conveys mood, emotion (CLIP: JAN GRAHAM)
- Intimate (FD Roosevelt’s fireside ‘chats’)
- Persuasive (Bill Clinton - folksy)
- Endearing (Hanson’s ‘cracked’ voice evoked empathy)
- Offputting (Howard’s whine, Gillard’s flat tones/broad accent, royal poshness)
- UNIQUE - ‘vocal print’
- Barthes “grain of the voice”
Phyllis: Stolen Generations

‘It just happened that my mother came once to see me. But, she was hurt, I could understand, she was upset – I mean, taking a child away at a small age and then going back to see the mother as an adult, well, she’d be shocked I suppose, thinking “oh, you’re not my daughter.” But that was the first and the last I’ve seen her.’

working from a transcript, not a tape, ‘equivalent to doing art criticism on reproductions’. -Portelli, 1979

Print version: ‘we flatten the emotional content of speech down to the supposed equanimity and objectivity of the written document’ - Portelli 2006, pp34-5

The Power of Voice multimedia essay Siobhan McHugh, Transom http://transom.org/?p=15508
OFFSPRING: SOBER UNCLE SEDUCED BY BOHEMIAN AUNT on a BIG NIGHT OUT
Liz NAME??
Phil and Gwen Cassidy
Power of Voice: Susan Timmins

Parents eloped 1920s; Julia barred forever; died in childbirth. Both sides rejected Susan and her brother.
What NOT to do...

- Documentary: ‘sonic Brussels Sprouts’ - Biewen
- ‘Castor Oil’ - Burns
- Feature can sacrifice style to substance, disappear up its own fundament
Opening Montage Marrying Out Part 1
Bibliography


