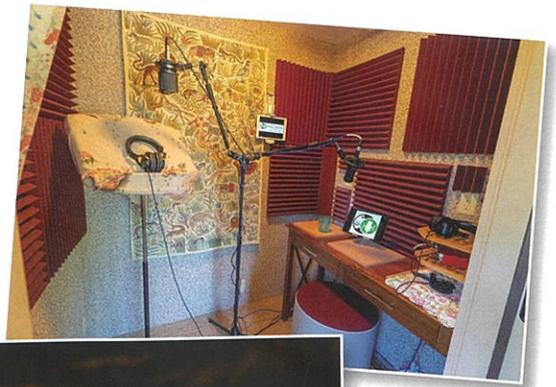
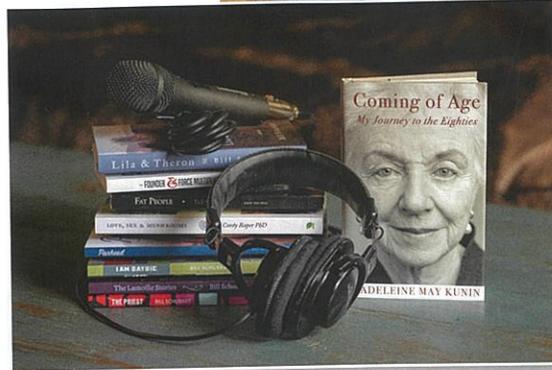


Bringing Authors to Audio: *How Stories Live Beyond the Page*



By Mary Catherine Jones
Photos courtesy Mary Catherine Jones



I've always loved a good story. I suppose we all share that love to some extent. We consume stories everyday through the shows we watch, the books we read, or the oral histories we've heard exchanged between generations.

Through each wave of new technology, story has been steadfast. The introduction of television made us fear radio's extinction. Digitalization made us fear print would die. Except it all still lives because it's the story that matters, not the medium. We live in a time where wonderful, powerful, transformative stories can transcend time, space, and the page.

I easily have one of the most innovative and delightful jobs in the world because I get (paid) to listen to and record fabulous stories and then edit and master them so others may enjoy hearing them unfold. Essentially, Voice Over Vermont assists authors in bringing their books to audio (which means we also support readers in gaining access to fabulous books they prefer to consume by listening).

Voice Over Vermont has an onsite studio in Shelburne where our authors or voice actors record. We assist our authors in determining whether they'll read their own book or find the perfect voice who will. Largely, the recommendation is that if the book is nonfiction (especially memoir) the author reads their own work; if it's fiction, a voice actor is selected instead. We already have a pool of established voice talent for authors to choose from.

Once the narrator is determined, we set up a recording schedule. Factors involved include the length of the book, the experience of the voice talent, and the timeline of the project. For instance, a 50,000-word book translates to roughly five hours of finished audio. Professional voice talent will spend about 1.5-2 hours to record what will become one hour of complete audio. This means it could take 10 hours of recording.

When recording is finished, the title goes into post-production. This is when we'll edit out every mistake or unwanted noise, fill every pause, and compress the wave file into the necessary specs to convert it to the right MP3 format required by the audiobook

distributor (Audible, as an example). In the event we need to re-record a segment, we will do that during the post-production phase as well.

Voice Over Vermont now has a total of twelve audiobooks in our portfolio (with more to come), including Vermont governor Madeleine Kunin's memoir *Coming of Age: My Journey to the Eighties*, and five novels by Hinesburg fiction author, Bill Schubart, including *Lila & Theron* and *I Am Baybie*.

We are actively pursuing bringing more authors and their stories to audio, whether they live in Vermont or not.

We have relationships with local Airbnbs, hotels and other local establishments to help you create a "recording retreat."

If you're reading this and you've just written a book or know someone who has, please reach out. We would love to hear what brilliant book is waiting to be recorded and what story is ready to live and breathe beyond the page.

To learn more about recording your audiobook with Voice Over Vermont please visit our website <https://voiceoververmont.com/audiobooks.php> and download our Author Brochure.

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