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MEET ROB

Who would ever have imagined that sharing experiences about solo motorcycle journeys at university would lead to a career in storytelling?

Rob began sharing stories professionally in 2000, honing a unique talent for storytelling on the Anglo Zulu War battlefields. Bringing the drama of battlefields to life led to international speaking engagements. His subject matter has expanded considerably but remains, always, about essentially human stories. There is a powerful thread of intuition and interconnectedness, directed at the better angels in our natures, which resonates powerfully with audiences today.

Born in 1966, with a background in agriculture, wildlife safari guiding, photography and travel, telling stories professionally was a magnificent and significant change in direction. Extensive travelling across Africa and around the world for four unbroken years cemented Rob's interest in people, cultures and history - creating clear views on our interconnectedness.

Rob now has regular engagements at conferences / dinners and work as a specialist lecturer on Antarctic expedition ships. All of which make for a wonderfully fulfilling vocation, entertaining audiences in the theatres of their imaginations.

With stick and trademark shorts, Rob prides himself on positive, unique storytelling without reliance on electronic or visual aids – “when the lights trip, Rob does **not**”!

ROB

WHAT ROB DOES

Storyteller extraordinaire, keynote speaker, cultural guide and author

Stories of human trials and triumphs never go out of vogue, and mesmerising storyteller extraordinaire Rob Caskie, with his walking stick and trademark shorts, brings them alive like no other. Often in the settings where such stories unfolded, in South Africa and abroad. In a world of instant gratification, the art of a powerfully told story belongs to few and relies on he who stirs the imagination.

Most interested in how people behave when challenged and under pressure, he believes we only reveal our true strength in adversity – and he shows audiences how they can draw on this to thrive in uncertain times.

Rob's new keynote, '**Engaging Intuition**', takes the familiar concept of '**Ubuntu**', or interconnectedness, and repurposes it for **today's** audiences. While times may have changed, the virtues of goodness, positivity, intuition and sharing are perhaps more important than ever in South Africa – and Rob brings a message of hope into boardrooms and conference venues. Suggesting that it is interconnectedness that makes the world go around, he shares stories of greatness, diversity and generosity that will reach the hearts of even the most cynical audiences.

Rob excels in crafting lessons from some of the greatest historic tales available. These lessons focus primarily on leadership, choice, victory and defeat. Using his skills as a tour guide, Rob brings immediacy and passion to his keynotes, knowing just which messages to deliver to inspire, to create change or to entertain.

Importantly, Rob can modify content in such a way that it speaks to an **event's** theme or a **client's** objective – whatever the occasion, he delivers an important message in an accessible, engaging fashion

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ROB

ROB'S STORIES

Engaging Intuition

The important role intuition plays in our daily lives

Using a wealth of fantastic human stories, Rob explores the role intuition may have played historically, and how it may be engaged positively to Life today. Did Black South African soldiers feel something was going to go wrong with SS Mendi crossing the English Channel in February 1917? Their response to tragedy will make you weep. The Mendi is one of many extraordinary stories used in this engaging presentation.

Medley Of South African History

A romp through the last 200 years

This young country has a fascinating and complex history. This story deals with early inhabitants and the arrival of the Nguni people. One of them became the military genius Shaka, with major implications. Religious persecution and poor standards of living result in a miscellany of Europeans arriving in the Cape after 1652. British rule, taxation and slavery eventually leads to the Great Trek. Along with the discovery of diamonds and gold, it creates a kaleidoscope of characters and intrigue worth sharing.

Isandlwana

The Battle of Isandlwana, 22nd January 1879. British defeat or Zulu victory?

Scarcely 10 days after the invasion of Zululand began, disaster struck at Isandlwana. Whilst Lord Chelmsford was away with 60% of the force in search of the main Zulu Army, the remaining force of 1 800 British soldiers was overwhelmed by 25 000 Zulu warriors. Imagine the courage of facing modern rifles with spear and shield? In less than 2 hours more than 1 300 British soldiers lay dead in what some view as the greatest military defeat the British suffered at the hand of a native army in their entire colonial history.

Rorke's Drift

The battle of Rorke's Drift, 22nd /23rd January 1879. An account of this epic defence against impossible odds

Who would ever have conceived that a force of roughly 4 000 Zulu warriors would immediately run on from Isandlwana to attack Rorke's Drift some 10 miles away? At Rorke's Drift, comprising of little more than a makeshift hospital and a store, the desperate British soldiers prepared a barricade 4 feet high, built of mielle bags and awaited the Zulu onslaught. A fierce battle then waged for almost 10 hours: 139 British soldiers held out against the 4 000 Zulus. This remarkable battle saw the award of 11 Victoria Crosses and 5 Distinguished Conduct Medals, immortalised by the classic 1964 movie "Zulu".

The Race To The Pole

Viking versus Brit revisited

By mid-1910 the race to be first to the South Pole had intensified after Shackleton's 'furthest South' in 1909. Robert Scott (Royal Navy) believed he would be first, but found himself facing supreme Polar explorer, Roald Amundsen from Norway. In this presentation Amundsen's preparation, previous experience and planning are discussed, along with his expert use of dogs. Amundsen reached the South Pole on 14 December 1911 – Scott followed 34 days later on 17 January 1912. In a fantastic duel, the Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, took the prize. The story contrasts Amundsen and Scott, ending starkly with the death of Scott's entire polar party.

ROB'S STORIES contd...

Going South With Scott & Shackleton

Portrayal of 2 Polar greats

This presentation initially takes the audience to the South Pole with Scott's party of 5 in January 1912, and the tragic deaths of all the men en route 'home'. Did they die psychologically when they found Amundsen had beaten them to the Pole by 34 days?

Scott's Antarctic rival, Ernest Shackleton is then discussed in detail - his ship crushed by ice, and 28 men living on the ice for 16 months before their extraordinary leader sails 1200km across the Southern Ocean to get help from South Georgia. Epics of human struggle and triumphs of the human spirit.

Endurance : Shackleton's Way

Greatest leadership and survival story of all time

This business oriented presentation highlights Ernest Shackleton's remarkable leadership principles, his choice and organisation of teams and how he always believed in a positive outcome despite dire circumstances. The central story regards the crushing of the ship Endurance by ice, leaving 28 men afloat on a sea of ice for 16 months, and then Shackleton's 1200 km journey in a lifeboat across the Southern Ocean to get help. This presentation details remarkable lessons regarding preparation, experience, ingenuity and good fortune.

The Allure Of The Arctic North

Tragedy of Naval hero Franklin and contrasting claims


Who would have thought that the North West Passage would claim Franklin and 128 of Britain's finest along with their ships between 1845 and 1847. Amundsen would be the first through the fabled passage and then turned his attention south when Cook and Peary claimed to have reached the North Pole. Along with Nansen the history and the intrigue of the Arctic region is spell binding.

The Sudan Campaign 1880 ~ 1898

Islam versus Christianity

By 1880 the Sudan, ravaged by slavery and exploitation by foreigners, was ripe for revolt. A local Islamic tribesman, believing he was a descendant of Mohammed himself, became The Mahdi – The Guided One. Arabi's War in Egypt provided the opportunity and diversion. By 1883 the Sudan was in open revolt, led by the Mahdi and his Dervishes. Britain was split in terms of response given, leading to the siege of Khartoum and the death of General C.G. Gordon and 30 000 people. Spectacular battles were fought, in which the Dervishes broke the British Square on 3 occasions. Eventually in the greatest feat of Arms in Africa since the Crusades, Kitchener smashed the Dervishes at Omdurman in 1898.

*“Your talk was incredible,
mind blowing... Rob you are
a legend!”* Wayne Coetzer | Red Carnation Group


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