

Digital Azul Sound Studios and Robin Rice

Innovating Audiobook Production for a Weekly Podcast Series

In the evolving landscape of audiobook production, Digital Azul Sound Studios has established itself as a hub for innovation and high-quality audio storytelling. A standout example of this is the studio's collaboration with author Robin Rice on her autobiographical project, *Stories About Stories*. Released as a 36-part weekly podcast series, this ambitious project blended traditional audiobook standards with the dynamics of episodic podcasting—demonstrating Digital Azul Sound Studios' adaptability and technical precision.

Overview

Stories About Stories is a personal memoir that explores the narratives we construct about ourselves and others. Spanning 36 chapters and an epilogue, the project was recorded over a ten-month period, from April 2024 to January 2025, using industry-standard tools including Avid Pro Tools, a Neumann TLM193 microphone, and a Focusrite ISA One Analogue preamp.

While audiobook recordings typically happen over a shorter timespan, this project's release as a podcast required sustained production quality and thoughtful listener engagement across each episode.

Challenges and Solutions

One of the main challenges in producing *Stories About Stories* was maintaining consistent audio quality across an extended recording period. With sessions taking place over ten months, it was essential to provide listeners with a seamless auditory experience. To address this, Digital Azul implemented rigorous recording protocols, including consistent microphone placement and a professionally acoustically treated studio. Equipment was regularly calibrated, and detailed session documentation was kept, ensuring that each recording matched the quality of those before it.

Scheduling was another key consideration. Coordinating sessions with Robin Rice over such a long period required careful planning and adaptability. The studio developed a structured yet flexible recording schedule, supported by clear communication between the production team and the author. This approach ensured that deadlines were met without compromising the quality or comfort of the sessions.

Stories About Stories
with Robin Rice





Finally, adapting the audiobook for a weekly podcast format introduced its own set of demands. Unlike traditional audiobook releases, this format required a focus on listener engagement across individual episodes. Digital Azul worked closely with Robin Rice to reframe the content for episodic delivery, incorporating strategic intros and outros and aiming for consistent episode lengths to keep the series accessible and compelling for listeners from week to week.

Conclusion

The collaboration between Digital Azul Sound Studios and Robin Rice on *Stories About Stories* demonstrates the studio's ability to navigate the complexities of long-term, episodic audio production. Through careful planning, technical consistency and a flexible, collaborative approach, the team delivered a high-quality podcast series that maintained listener engagement across its 36 episodes. The project reflects Digital Azul Sound Studios' capability to meet the evolving demands of modern audio storytelling.

Three Questions with Robin Rice

What inspired you to choose a weekly podcast format for releasing your audiobook, and how do you feel this approach impacted listener engagement?

"I wanted the book to be in my own voice and, to be honest, to ignore some of the rules of written grammar to tell the story in the way I wanted. I see my voice as an instrument, and I wanted to use it to be close to my listeners."

How did the collaborative process with Pedro and Digital Azul Sound influence the storytelling and presentation of your memoir?

"Pedro was a top professional in every aspect. I never once wondered if the sound would be clear and solid. That allowed me to really dive into the presentation. The facilities were top pro as well."

Were there any specific challenges or surprises you encountered during the recording sessions, and how were they addressed?

"It took a few sessions for me to find my pacing and voice, so there were some re-recording sessions until I was fully happy. Pedro was great—he had full patience and wanted me to get it right, too. Very soon, we got into a groove that worked every time."