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Media Release
For Immediate Release

StoryFest 2018 celebrates legends and showcases the best from around the world



Singapore, 16 April 2018 – Themed **#BeLegendary**, *StoryFest: International Storytelling Festival Singapore* 2018 celebrates the timeless myths and legends from around the world from 1 – 3 June 2018.

Presented by The Storytelling Centre Limited and The Arts House, *StoryFest 2018* presents 21 storytellers, acclaimed and aspiring, in 17 programmes to share and tap into the power of storytelling

"StoryFest is a meeting place for listeners and tellers who are connected by the universal nature of stories that bridge age and culture," says Kamini Ramachandran, the creative producer of *StoryFest*. "This year's theme **#BeLegendary** honours the oral tradition by rejoicing in legends from around the world spoken, told, performed and painted."

Of the eight performances, three acclaimed storytelling performances make their Asian premieres at the Festival — the Nordic epic **Beowulf** by The Telling Theatre (Denmark), Nairobi-based Maimouna Jallow's adaptation of Lola Shoneyin's award-winning debut novel **The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives** and Mara Menzies's **The Illusion of Truth** with stories from her Scottish and African heritage.

Returning for its second edition, *StoryFest* once again makes The Arts House the festival home for performances, and the gathering ground for international storytelling experts, local practitioners and everyone who appreciates stories.

Sarah Martin, CEO of Arts House Limited says, *"Having been the Supreme Court, Legislative Assembly House and the former Parliament House, The Arts House has been at the heart of many stories that impacted our lives. StoryFest carries the torch to tell powerful stories and let inspiring words echo in rooms within the 190-year-old national monument."*



In another festival first, *StoryFest 2018* teams up with Singapore company BigTiny to convert its container home on wheels into a **Story House**. Free daily pop-up performances and activities by members of the Young Storytellers Mentorship Project will also be announced every morning of the festival.

Story Cloth is a free activity that invites all ages to pick up a paint brush and instill life to the characters, landscapes and motifs from the stories told at the festival.

Beyond the showcases, the storytellers will also facilitate workshops to share their skills and techniques with practitioners and those who employ storytelling in their line of work. **Dr. Nicola Grove** (UK), an acclaimed storyteller and a pioneer in using literature and story in schools for special needs children, will be conducting two masterclasses on storytelling and disability. Harnessing the power of storytelling, the two sessions will benefit caregivers, as well as therapists, educators and storytellers who work with people with special needs and communication challenges.

Ramachandran adds, *"Every culture has its own stories that explain the way we live, help us navigate the world around us and even heal us. It is important to learn from stories and continue re-telling to keep them alive."*

StoryFest 2018 will run from 1 – 3 June at The Arts House. All programmes, with the exception of *Story Cloth* and *Story House*, are ticketed.

Details and tickets are available at storyfestsg.com

For more information on StoryFest 2018, please refer to

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About The Storytelling Centre Limited

The Storytelling Centre Limited is a non-profit organisation based in Singapore. Our core mission is to foster and advance the art of storytelling through performances, collaborations, artistic exchanges, mentorships, training and community outreach.

The Storytelling Centre Limited firmly believes that stories are storehouses of Singapore's unique multidimensional legacy. The oral traditions of folktales, mythology, legends and fables are avenues for preserving, showcasing and developing Singapore's rich and diverse heritage. Our focus is on ensuring the sustainability of the art form by nurturing emerging Young Storytellers.

About The Arts House

Occupying the almost 200-year-old building that was home to Singapore's first parliament, The Arts House continues in the distinguished tradition of this gazetted national monument and now plays a key role in the country's arts and creative scene. The Arts House at the Old Parliament, as it is affectionately referred to, promotes and presents multidisciplinary programmes and festivals within its elegant spaces. It focuses in particular on the literary arts, celebrating the works of written and spoken word artists from Singapore and beyond.

About Arts House Limited

Arts House Limited (AHL) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to enriching lives through the arts. AHL manages two key landmarks located in the heart of Singapore's Civic District – The Arts House, a multi-disciplinary arts centre with a focus on literary programming, and the Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall, a heritage building that is home to the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. It also runs the Goodman Arts Centre and Aliwal Arts Centre, two creative enclaves for artists, arts groups and creative businesses, and performing arts space Drama Centre. AHL presents the Singapore International Festival of Arts, the annual pinnacle celebration of performance and interdisciplinary arts in Singapore commissioned by the National Arts Council.

AHL was set up in 11 Dec 2002 as a company limited by guarantee (CLG) under the National Arts Council and was formerly known as The Old Parliament House Limited. It was officially renamed Arts House Limited on 19 Mar 2014.



ANNEX A: Storytellers and Asian Premieres

Storytellers from Denmark, Scotland and Africa lead this year's line-up which will include three acclaimed performances making their Asian premieres.

The Telling Theatre (Denmark) presents the story of *Beowulf* — a Nordic epic full of monsters and heroes. The duo, consisting of Jesper la Cour Andersen and Troels Kirk Ejsing, have honed their unique version of this tale over the past two decades and performed all around the world, even aboard a Viking ship.

Nairobi-based storyteller, journalist and consultant **Maimouna Jallow** adapts Lola Shoneyin's acclaimed novel *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives* for the stage. Chronicling the life of the archetypal patriarch Baba Segi, Maimouna tells an endearing tale of friendship, love, deception and betrayal through five amazing characters in the story.

In *The Illusion of Truth*, **Mara Menzies** (Scotland/Kenya) draws from her rich and diverse cultural heritage to tell three compelling legends that explore our relationship with truth.



ANNEX B: Singapore storytellers take the stage

This year, the festival continues to celebrate Singapore practitioners and provides a performance platform for commissioned works, both collaborative and multidisciplinary.

The Young Storytellers Mentorship Project is an initiative by The Storytelling Centre Ltd to pass on the craft to the next generation of tellers. Five of these apprentices will be presented in ***A Caravan of Stories***.

Key storytelling and spoken word organisations in Singapore will participate in ***The Singapore Showcase – Be Legendary*** and will feature a plethora of stories rooted in different oral traditions. In this showcase, listen to stories told by members of the **Storytelling Association (Singapore)**, spoken word performances by **Method Productions**, personal narratives from **Story Slam Singapore**, improvised tales from **Improv Asia** and true stories by **Safe Space Stories**.

In a festival first, *StoryFest 2018* has commissioned visual artist mslatenightjam to create the ***Story Cloth*** with illustrations inspired by the stories told in the three-day festival. Outlining three panels of fabric bearing elements of the characters, landscapes and motifs, *Story Cloth* invites all ages to pick up the paint brush and breathe life to the visual stories.



ANNEX C: Inspiring the next generation with stories

This edition of the festival sees an increase in programmes for the young ones. The three international storytellers will take children across oceans and mountains into the realm of fantasy with tales crafted for young minds.

In *Story! Story! Story Come! African Folktales Reimagined* **Maimouna Jallow** retells an enchanting collection of stories based on ancient tales from around the continent which contain valuable moral lessons on issues of social justice.

Mara Menzies will share some of Scotland's most exciting tales of great heroes, animals who speak and play tricks on each other as well as a faery queen in *Magic, Mystery & Mayhem*.

The *Legend of the Nordic Gods* sees Danish storyteller **Jesper la Cour Andersen** engage young audiences as he plays up to 11 roles — including Norse gods Thor, Loki and Freya.

In another festival first, StoryFest teams up with local company BigTiny to convert a container home into the *Story House* where a selection of puppets, props and big books are made available as prompts for inspiring the sharing of stories. Daily pop-up performances by members of the Young Storytellers Mentorship Project will also be announced every morning of the festival.



ANNEX D: Mastering the art of storytelling

The festival will also help to forge new relationships and encourage cultural exchange between the international storytellers and our Singapore talents. Beyond having the opportunity to catch the enchanting storytellers on stage, *StoryFest 2018* also offers five workshops and two masterclasses to guide aspiring storytellers in the development of their own practice and to teach professionals how to apply storytelling in their work.

Dr. Nicola Grove (UK), a storyteller and a pioneer in using literature and story in schools for special needs children, will be conducting two masterclasses on *Storytelling and Disability*. Harnessing the power of storytelling, the two sessions will benefit caregivers, as well as therapists, educators and storytellers who work with people with special needs.

Creating a safe and affirming environment, *Safe Space Stories* allows participants to find their own creative voice in writing. Based on the Amherst Writers & Artists Method, the workshop is developed by Singapore-born, New York-based author and writer **Paul Rozario-Falcone**.

Utilising ephemera like fabric and paper, art therapist and art therapy educator **Emylia Safian**'s workshop *Collage as Storytelling* explores both mixed- and multi-media collages as a technique to weave personal stories with archetypal nature of mythological narratives.

Mara Menzies will introduce practical tips and techniques to engage young audiences in *The Magic of Storytelling with Children*, while Maimouna Jallow will share in her workshop *Adapting Novels for Performance* how to bring text to life on stage, and The Telling Theatre will also conduct *Story Play: An Inspiration for Creative Storytelling* to promote and refine the telling of personal stories.



ANNEX E: StoryFest 2018 Statistics

Performances	3 Family-friendly	5 for adult audiences
Workshops	5	
Masterclasses	2	
Free activities	2	

Performances	Performance	Performers
Asian Premieres	Beowulf	The Telling Theatre (Denmark)
	The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives	Maimouna Jallow (Nairobi)
	The Illusion of Truth	Mara Menzies (Scotland/Kenya)
Family Audiences	Legend of the Nordic Gods	The Telling Theatre (Denmark)
	Magic, Mystery & Mayhem!	Mara Menzies(Scotland/Kenya)
	Story! Story! Story Come!	Maimouna Jallow (Nairobi)
Singapore Commissions	Be Legendary	Storytelling Association Method Productions Story Slam Singapore Improv Asia Safe Space Stories
	A Caravan of Stories	Young Storytellers Showcase

	Title	By
Free Activities	Story Cloth	mslatenightjam
	Story House	Big Tiny

	Title	Facilitators
Workshops	Adapting Novels for Performance	Maimouna Jallow (Nairobi)
	The Magic of Storytelling with Children	Mara Menzies (Scotland/Kenya)
	Collage as Storytelling	Emylia Safian
	Safe Space Stories	Paul Rozario-Falcone
	Story Play	The Telling Theatre (Denmark)
Masterclasses	Storytelling & Disability 1: Multi-sensory Approaches to Traditional Tales	Dr. Nicola Grove (UK)
	Storytelling & Disability 2: Helping People to Share their Own Stories	

ANNEX F: ADULT PERFORMANCES — ASIAN PREMIERES



THE ILLUSION OF TRUTH

by MARA MENZIES

3 June 2018, Sun | 8pm – 9.15pm

Play Den, The Arts House

\$25

1-hr, No Intermission

Enter worlds where not everything is as it appears to be. *The Illusion of Truth* explores our relationship with the truth. How do we judge others and ourselves? How do we use legends and myth to explain the natural world around us? These stories will have you sitting on the edge of your seat. Prepare for an unforgettable experience! Mara Menzies draws from her African and Scottish heritage to give insight into three fascinating, thought provoking tales from Kenya, Scotland and Nigeria.

The Changeling (Scottish traveller tale)

A tale of an infant child who wouldn't stop crying for he had been 'taken' by the faerie folk. In order to get their true child back, the parents must pass a terrible test of faith.

Ochosi (Cuba/Nigeria)

The young hunter Ochosi desires to join the ranks of the Orisha gods. But he must please the gods with a special gift. And this gift comes with a price he must pay.

The Woman who wanted to Eat Meat (Kenya)

According to Gikuyu tradition women were not allowed to eat meat. But Washu discovered the taste of meat and breaks the rules of her tribe. And there are consequences to bear ...

Recommended for adult audiences ages 16 and above

No admission for children below 12 years

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating



ADULT PERFORMANCES — ASIAN PREMIERES



THE SECRET LIVES OF BABA SEGI'S WIVES

by Maimouna Jallow

2 June 2018, Sat | 8pm – 9.15pm

Play Den, The Arts House

\$25

1-hr, No Intermission

Based on the novel by Lola Shoneyin, *'The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives'* is an endearing and powerful tale of deception, betrayal, love, and friendship. It chronicles the life of Baba Segi, the ultimate patriarch, as he tries to unravel the mystery behind his fourth wife's infertility. Through his quest, we explore the burdens that society places on women and the cunning ways these women escape from the confines of poverty and patriarchy. Be ready to laugh, cry and connect with five amazing characters, all performed by storyteller Maimouna Jallow.

Recommended for adult audiences ages 16 and above

No admission for those below 15 years

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating

ADULT PERFORMANCES — ASIAN PREMIERES



BEOWULF

by The Telling Theatre

1 June 2018, Fri | 8pm – 9.15pm

Play Den, The Arts House

\$25

1-hr, No Intermission

King Hrothgar celebrates building the great Deer Hall with a feast. In the dead of night a terrifying creature, Grendel slaughters his men while they sleep. Years later the young hero Beowulf comes to the Deer Hall and offers to fight Grendel. But he does not plan for the wrath of Grendel's mother ... she rises from the bog and so begins the great battle!

Seated face to face in the imagined Viking Hall the distance between the action and the audience is minimal – and you become a part of the thrilling tale. Jesper la Cour Andersen and Troels Kirk Ejsing bring this ancient Nordic legend to life through story, music and action.

The poem of *Beowulf* is one of the very early written sources that describes events on the soil of the Danes. According to researchers and historians the poem is written on the background of oral tradition around 700-800 AD and rooted in the Germanic Iron age of 300-400 AD. An incident gave a monk, probably in Northumbria, a reason to write it down. Today you can find a transcript from 1100 AD at the British Library in London.

Recommended for adult audiences ages 16 and above

No admission for children below 12 years

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating



THE SINGAPORE SHOWCASES



A CARAVAN OF STORIES - YOUNG STORYTELLERS SHOWCASE

3 June 2018, Sun | 5pm – 7pm

Blue Room, The Arts House

\$15

2-hrs, 15-min Intermission

The Young Storytellers Mentorship Project by The Storytelling Centre Limited supports the professional development of emerging talents in oral storytelling, highlight the importance of nurturing future artists to ensure sustainability of the art of storytelling.

A Caravan of Stories takes you to the desert plains and bazaars where tales were told for a thousand and one nights. Witty girls, a man who never lies, bloodthirsty robbers, an accused peddler and a magic horse will bewitch and beguile you!

Presenting five youths sharing their passion and talents for storytelling.

The Honest Man (Middle East)
by Jeremy Leong

Ali was known far and wide as a man who never told a lie. The King heard of this honest man but did not believe it to be true. Ali was summoned to the royal palace where he was given a task ... to lie to the Queen about the King! What will Ali do? Lie through his teeth to save his skin, or stay steadfast to the truth? Find out in this comedic retelling of a humorous tale.

The Wicked Girl (Turkey)
by Andrea Alingalan

A clever and beautiful slave girl heads out in search of a spare oil lamp to bring back to her owner's home, but finds herself caught up in an exciting adventure instead. She meets



a handsome trader whom she tricks and steals from. Each night she toys and teases with him and the furious man vows to drink her blood in vengeance!

The Kabuliwala
by Khyan Kotak

Inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's short story this is a tale of a peddler from Kabul who sells his wares to eke out a living. In the course of his work he befriends a little girl, Mini, and dotes on her like his own daughter. Time passes and the Kabuliwala is jailed for an incident. It is now Mini's wedding day, and he is released. Will their friendship stand the test of time?

The Magic Horse (Persia)
by Daisy Mitchell

The Sultan is gifted a magic horse that can fly great distances. In return for this gift he pledges his daughter, the Princess, to the maker of the horse. Outraged at his father's act, the Prince steals the horse to save his sister! But the horse leads the Prince to strange lands and a tale of kidnap, love, revenge and much flying ensues.

The Thief & The Cunning Bride (Persia)
by Fahim Murshed

Roshan is no ordinary woman ... widowed at an early stage in her marriage and forced to remarry a stranger, she finds herself in the company of a persistent thief. The thief only wants to rob and steal but each time his attempts are foiled by cunning Roshan. In a fit of fury he traps her, but will this be the end for our heroine?

Recommended for adult audiences ages 15 and above
No admission for children below 12 years
Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating



THE SINGAPORE SHOWCASES



Be Legendary

2 June 2018, Sat | 5pm – 7pm

Blue Room, The Arts House

\$20

2-hrs, 15 min intermission

Be Legendary celebrates this year's festival theme by showcasing key storytelling and spoken word organisations from Singapore. Listen to stories from the oral tradition by members of the Storytelling Association (Singapore), spoken word performances by Method Productions, personal narratives from Story Slam Singapore, improvised tales from Improv Asia and true stories by Safe Space Stories. Stories inspire us to become heroes and heroines. Come and listen to tales both old and new, yet strange and true!

METHOD PRODUCTIONS

The Legendary Storyweaver

by Kamil Haque

Kamil Haque guides the audience through eight different narratives. Along the way, he will weave in stories and characters of his own inspired by themed, true and anonymous secrets sourced from the audience.



Roadmap to Life
by Rayanna Dibs

No cash, no phone, no passport and nowhere to stay

Family Secrets
by Laura Schuster

How to let go of your dead mother

STORY SLAM SINGAPORE

How I Lost and Found my True Love
by Artur Akhmetzyanov

Sometimes you have to lose your love to discover your true love.

The House with the Flowers on the Gate
by Stephanie Dogfoot

A true account of being evicted and the power of solidarity in friendship.

IMPROV ASIA

A Story That Can Only Be Told Once
by Liao Yun Qing

A child is born and we get to decide what happens in this story.

STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE)

Abu Katrina
by Nandini Nagpal

A Jewish folktale of a lazy man and how his wife finally got him to work.

The Crystal Heart
by Helen Tan

A poignant Vietnamese legend of love and heartbreak and an echoing song.

SAFE SPACE STORIES

In Search of A Story
by Paul Rozario-Falcone

A writer goes seeking for a story in the hopes of connecting with it.

Recommended for adult audiences ages 16 and above
No admission for those below 15 years
Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating

FAMILY AUDIENCE PERFORMANCES



MAGIC, MYSTERY & MAYHEM!

by Mara Menzies

3 June 2018, Sun | 2pm – 3pm

Play Den, The Arts House

\$15

1-hr, No Intermission

Join storyteller Mara Menzies as she shares some of the world's most exciting stories. Travel to Scotland to meet the magical faery folk and listen to their adventures. Then head across oceans to Africa to hear stories of great heroes and queens, meet animals that talk and play tricks on each other. Lose yourself in the colour and wonder of our world. This family event is not to be missed.

The Tale of Tam Lin (Scotland)

And so it was said that the boy Tam Linn was stolen by the Faery Queen and never returned from the deep woods. Janet goes on an adventure to rescue Tam Linn. The wicked Queen transforms Tam Linn into a whole host of animals! Can Janet still save him?

The Story of Fire (Africa)

There was a time before fire when man ate his food raw. One day, fire comes to the village and wreaks havoc! But a strange discovery is made amidst the chaos ... and it changed the way we eat!

Tortoise goes to a Feast in the Sky (Africa)

During the famine Ijapa the tortoise heard about a feast up in the sky. Only the birds were invited because they could fly. Ijapa disguised himself and tricked his way there only to learn a painful lesson.

Recommended for family audiences ages 5 and above

No admission for babies and children below 3 years

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating

All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the programme

FAMILY AUDIENCE PERFORMANCES



STORY! STORY! STORY COME! - AFRICAN FOLKTALES REIMAGINED

by Maimouna Jallow

3 June 2018, Sun | 4pm – 5pm

Play Den, The Arts House

\$15

1-hr, No Intermission

Re-Imagined Folktales from Africa is an enchanting collection of stories based on ancient tales from around the continent. The tales delve into historical facts and mysteries; provide children with valuable moral lessons on issues of social justice, and are funny, lively and engaging.

Uncle Modibo (Mali)

Uncle Modibo is a master cabinetmaker with a big dream – to build an art school in his community. But despite his best efforts, it seems that his project is cursed. That is until the community rally around him to make his dream come true.

Sweet Play (Nigeria)

When the water spirits catch Kimi spying on them, they worry that she will reveal their sacred songs and dance to the world. Indeed, she becomes an instant Internet sensation. Will she use her fame for good, or will the water spirits be forced to punish her?

The Giraffes of the Desert (Niger)

Deep in the Sahara, where the Tenere desert meets the Air Mountains, rest the gigantic carvings of two giraffes. Archaeologists tell us that they are over 18 feet tall and about 7-10,000 years old. How did they come to be? Did their far-seeing spirit guide hunters across the desert? And will they be there for generations to come? Moufa tells her story.



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Why Children Should Not Work (Zambia)

When the King of Barotseland goes blind, his subjects vow to find a cure to restore their beloved ruler's sight. A wise man reveals that the only way to do so is by capturing the ferocious monster of Lake Makapaela. Will the grown-ups be brave enough? Or will the children save the day and get a mighty reward?

Recommended for family audiences ages 5 and above

No admission for babies and children below 3 years

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating

All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the programme

FAMILY AUDIENCE PERFORMANCES



LEGEND OF THE NORDIC GODS

by Jesper la Cour Andersen
 3 June 2018, Sun | 11am – 12pm
 Play Den, The Arts House
 \$15
 1 –hr, No Intermission

Experience the mighty God of War in action, the Trickster God asking for good ideas and the Goddess of Love have enough! Watch as a nag of a Stallion helps the gnome of a Master Builder. Hold on when Thor gets back and hears that Freja is going to be married ... Don't get scared when a Mare gives birth to a strange Foad.

Theatrical storytelling of the highest calibre with Jesper la Cour Andersen playing 11 roles and involving the audience as well. Enter the legendary world of the Nordic Gods and prepare to be surprised at every turn!

Recommended for family audiences ages 6 and above
 No admission for babies and children below 3 years
 Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating
 All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the programme

FREE ACTIVITIES



STORY CLOTH

by mmlatenightjam

1 – 3 June 2018, Fri – Sun | 11am – 8pm

Front Porch, The Arts House

FREE with registration

Paying tribute to the festival theme #BeLegendary, visual artist mmlatenightjam creates illustrations inspired by the key stories told during StoryFest 2018. Taking elements from characters, landscapes and motifs, she paints a series of Story Cloths reminiscent of the traditional pieces of illustrated fabrics used by bards and storytellers.

Commissioned by The Storytelling Centre Ltd, the Story Cloth is a free community engagement activity suitable for all ages. Pick up a brush, be guided by mmlatenightjam, and take your time as you bring life to visual stories through colour. Watch as the legends and myths are slowly revealed over the span of the festival. Ignite your imaginations and #BeLegendary!

Recommended for ages 4 and above



FREE ACTIVITIES



STORY HOUSE

by Big Tiny & The Storytelling Centre Ltd
1 – 3 June 2018, Fri – Sun | 11am – 8pm
Front Porch, The Arts House
FREE with registration

The perfect place for storytelling for all ages! Story House is a cosy, intimate space sponsored by [Big Tiny](#) for StoryFest 2018. Come explore selected storytelling books, puppets and resources as you gather with friends and family inside this special space. Reconnect with the power of listening as you hear stories told. Discover sharing your own stories through simple story games and story cards.

Story House is a free public activity that encourages everyone, both big and small and young and old to sit down, gather as a community and share the beauty and wonder of storytelling. Ignite your imaginations and #BeLegendary!

ADMITTANCE TERMS:

- Story House can only accept small groups of people for each session– 12 – 15pax depending on ages.
- All visitors must queue and wait for their turn to enter the Story House.
- Footwear, bags, bulky items must be removed and placed outside the Story House.
- Food and beverage is not permitted inside the Story House.
- Each facilitated session (storytelling, games, craft etc.) is limited to 20-mins.
- Safety is priority – patrons who pose a threat to others safety or to the structure, will be asked to leave the Story House.
- StoryFest is not responsible for any loss or damages of belongings.
- StoryFest is not responsible for any accident or personal injury occurring in or around the Story House.

Recommended for ages 3 and above
All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout



MASTERCLASSES

Ideal for Special Needs, Teachers & Educators, Counselling & Therapy, Parents & Caregivers, Community Facilitators, Storytellers.



STORYTELLING & DISABILITY 1

Multi-sensory Approaches to Traditional Tales

by Dr. Nicola Grove

1 June 2018, Fri | 10am – 5pm

Blue Room, The Arts House

\$200

1-hr Intermission; lunch not provided

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating

This workshop will explore effective ways of using traditional stories with children and adults who have language and communication difficulties. Multi-sensory storytelling involves awareness of the many modalities through which a story is communicated that go beyond words, including: use of voice and music, expressive movement and gestures, images, physical props, touch and smell.

The workshops addresses those with the most severe needs at the centre of the work, considering what a story means and how it can be told with authenticity and respect. When we go deeply into the story, solutions often present themselves. As well as pure enjoyment, stories can also promote empowerment, resilience, healing and inclusion.

All cultures have a resource of stories that address issues of exclusion and discrimination, and which can be used to strengthen the voices of those who are often left out. Participants will work with selected stories, introducing multi-sensory



elements, and considering how they can be used to develop confidence and a positive sense of identity.

Highlights:

- Participants can expect to enjoy stimulating discussion that probes our practice
- Collaborate in creating your own adaptations of stories to take away and use in your work settings.
- Use will be made of drama, props and sensory exploration.
- Be ready to take part, play seriously, but don't feel under pressure

Skills:

- Participants will understand the critical role of stories in shaping how we think about each other and the world.
- Learn how to adapt a traditional story so that it can be enjoyed by everyone across the range of ability.
- Discover how to employ multi-sensory tools selectively and appropriately to convey a story.
- Understand the significance of how disability is represented in traditional tales in different cultures.
- Develop ideas for using traditional stories to empower people who are marginalised through disability.
- Take away a fun story ready to use in your practice.
- The workshop will appeal to anyone working with individuals who have communication difficulties, including intellectual disabilities - moderate, severe or profound; specific language difficulties; autistic spectrum disorders; those with severe hearing or visual impairments - in educational, health, social care or community settings. Some knowledge and experience is recommended, either in special needs or in storytelling practice.

*There are links with the second master class *Storytelling & Disability 2* (Monday 4th June), dealing with personal storytelling, but each workshop can be attended independently.*



STORYTELLING & DISABILITY 2

Helping People to Share Their Own Stories

by Dr. Nicola Grove

4 June 2018, Mon | 10am – 5pm

Blue Room, The Arts House

\$200

1-hr Intermission; lunch not provided

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating

All over the world there are children and adults with disabilities who have stories to tell about their lives - but too often they cannot be heard. This workshop will introduce an innovative, simple conversational strategy - Storysharing® - for enabling individuals to narrate their own experiences - whether grand life stories, or the tiny anecdotes of everyday that contribute to the webs of friendship that sustain us and build resilience.

The approach was developed through 10 years watching and listening to how stories are shared in real life - the playground, the dinner table, the residential home, the school. Evidence shows that it is effective with a wide range of special educational needs - from profound intellectual impairment, to autism, to selective mutism and extreme shyness.

Storysharing has been used for building communication and listening skills, developing relationships and empathy, and in citizen advocacy in community and school settings. The workshop is Introductory Level.

Areas addressed:

- Reflect on how and why personal stories are important
- Discuss cultural influences on styles of anecdotal telling



- Analyse the factors that inhibit successful narration by children and adults with communication difficulties
- Learn and practice some of the key techniques used in the approach
- Plan ways of using what they have learned in their own workplace or at home

Highlights:

- Come prepared to have fun, to listen and learn from each other
- Use will be made of role play, film observation and small group work in a safe and supportive space. No-one needs to feel pressurised to perform
- We will also create resources for recording and sharing stories, including theatres, puppets and patchworks

Skills:

- Understand the role of personal stories in building identity, empathy and friendship
- Identify the barriers that prevent individuals with communication difficulties from being able to tell and share stories about their lives
- Know what makes a good story for a child or adult to share
- Links will be made with the first master class Storytelling & Disability 1, dealing with traditional storytelling, but each workshop can be attended independently.

1-hr Intermission; lunch not provided

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating

There are links with the first master class Storytelling & Disability 2 (Friday 1st June), dealing with traditional tales, but each workshop can be attended independently.

WORKSHOPS



COLLAGE AS STORYTELLING: An Assembly of Senses

by Emylia Safian

2 June 2018, Sat | 2pm – 4.30pm

Blue Room, The Arts House

\$25

2.5-hrs, 10 Mins Intermission

* Inclusive of art materials, and a canvas to take home

This workshop will explore both mixed and multi-media collages as a technique to weave personal stories with archetypal nature of mythological narratives, through an assemblage of different forms of fabric, paper and other ephemera. We will explore this early 20th-century modern art form coalescing with contemporary smartphone technology to enable the transformation of stories while continuing to honour the embodied and authentic “cut and paste” fragments on canvas.

Areas addressed:

- As an applied form of storytelling that is non-performative, you will play storyteller-audience as you engage in your personal creative process.
- The workshop draws upon theories of depth psychology, art therapy and human development theories, and will take on a strength-affirming approach



Highlights:

- This workshop is experiential in nature, however experience in art is not necessary
- Discover the language of imagery through art-making and narratives
- Explore functions of personal and universal symbols
- Make meaning of personal creative process
- Have fun being creative with art-making!

All art materials will be provided and each participant will bring home their original canvas artwork. You will need your smartphone (with camera function) with you throughout the workshop.



WORKSHOPS



SAFE SPACE STORIES

by Paul Rozario-Falcone

3 June 2018, Sun | 10am – 1pm

Living Room, The Arts House

\$25

3-hrs, 10 Mins Intermission

Experience the transformative writing method known as the Amherst Writers & Artists (AWA) method. "Oh, I'm not a writer or an artist or a creative person!" If you find yourself saying this, then this workshop is just for you. Anyone who writes is a writer, whether it's a tweet, an e-mail or a novel. We humans are by nature creative and within each of us is a voice waiting to come out and be heard. Safe Space Stories workshops are designed to allow you to find your voice within the setting of an affirming, non-judgmental space.

We write using prompts (lines of poetry, images, physical objects, etc.), writing in short bursts of time. We can write to the prompt or ignore the prompt entirely and write whatever comes to mind. We can then choose to share our writing with our fellow-writers, or not. It's entirely up to you. We listen to our stories with an open heart and mind. The group is then invited to affirm the newly-created writing using only positive language. No questions, no criticisms, no suggestions for improvement. You won't be 'taught' what good writing is, but you will be encouraged to listen to yourself and to your fellow writers and respond in a positive, uplifting way. You'll be surprised at how much we can learn about the craft of writing using this simple, liberating method.



Highlights:

- Safe Space Stories offers a safe, affirming, encouraging space in which to write and share stories.
- Safe Space Stories teaches listening with an open heart and mind and gives us the chance to affirm and encourage each other as writers.

Testimonials:

"I have attended other workshops where the criticism can be crippling and stifling to one's creativity. But not here. The group writing together makes it less lonely. At first, I was anxious to share my writing because it was raw with incomplete thoughts and sentences. But the method Paul used to conduct the workshop provided only positive feedback and support. It encouraged the writing process at whatever stage you are at. I felt inspired to share my second piece of writing readily. It was amazing to hear the beautiful stories by my fellow writers who wrote them in such a short time. There is no better and safer space to express oneself through writing than Safe Space Stories." – Wun

"Paul's Safe Spaces Stories workshop is a magical environment, where people are able to create writing in a nurturing and inspiring community. Participants are safe to take productive risks and are instantly rewarded for their efforts in this workshop. I've been in many workshops, and have also led my own, and Paul's calming energy and well-designed prompts are a unique combination and are not to be missed. I look forward to attending another workshop soon." - Alison Lowenstein

Latecomers advisory: All latecomers must wait for suitable cue for seating



WORKSHOPS



ADAPTING NOVELS FOR PERFORMANCE

by Maimouna Jallow

1 June 2018, Fri | 2pm – 4pm

Living Room, The Arts House

\$20

2-hrs, 10 Mins Intermission

This workshop draws on the belief that there can be a symbiotic relationship between written fiction and performance storytelling. Whilst there has been a renaissance in African literature in the past decade, the tradition of oral storytelling is on the decline. Maimouna has developed a body of work based on the adaptation of novels by African women for the stage, using performance to give non-reading audiences access to literature - 183 million African adults are illiterate. Meanwhile, the project aims to revive oral traditions by incorporating song, dance and music, and creating a direct relationship with audiences using call and response.

Areas addressed:

This workshop will take participants through the step-by-step process of adapting novels into performance including:

- what types of literary works are ideal for storytelling
- how do you turn a book into a performance script
- how do you maintain the spontaneity of storytelling in scripted performances
- how do you make your show come alive with music, dance, and song
- how to navigate permissions and rights



Highlights:

- This workshop will be hands on, giving participants ample opportunity to test the theory
- In addition, Maimouna will demonstrate her work with literary fiction adaptation through short performances
- Develop key skills to aid in how to adapt novels that you love into performances



WORKSHOPS



STORY PLAY: Inspiration for Creative Storytelling

by The Telling Theatre

2 June 2018, Sat | 2pm – 4pm

Living Room, The Arts House

\$20

2-hrs, 10 Mins Intermission

Story Play was developed to promote and refine personal stories. The method is based on 25 years of meetings with people – creating stories using the narrator's insight and the actor's instruments as the focal point. Story Play is intended as a tool for a deeper understanding of the nature of the narrative and a guide to how we can share and refine personal stories through body, voice and presence. All stories originate from 'listening' and the narrative tries to reproduce what we have heard in a form that corresponds to the narrator's personality and context of retelling.

Highlights:

- Through simple exercises and dialogue participants can expect to understand the creative angle to storytelling
- Jesper is trained in mime and acting, and Troels in acting and music and together they will share how they use these skills as tools in their work as performers
- Understand how to listen to the story to guide you in how to perform it
- Learn creative ways to include the audience in your storytelling performance



Methodology:

Story Play is based on five stages that characterize the successful process of the creative work of a story.

- The *listener* - In the first phase, the narrator listens to his inner and outer world for a story.
- The *carrier* - In the second phase, the narrator selects what he can 'bear' or 'stand' to tell.
- The *opening* - The third phase is the search for the possibility or opportunity to tell the story.
- The *situation* - The fourth phase represents the moment of the unfolding and expression of the story itself.
- The *echo*- The final phase represents reflection on the unfolded story and what emerged from the telling.

The process is cyclical, leading to listening yet again to what the story had to say. It will be an advantage if participants have experienced *Beowulf* before attending this workshop.

The Story Play model workshops have been conducted in University College, Hammar, Norway 2012, the Meyerholt Center, Moscow, Russia 2012 and Kids Euro Festival, Washington, USA 2013.

A four-year research experiment using the Story Play model concluded with the recognition of storytelling as a basic life skill. This has led to the integration of storytelling within the Danish education system.



WORKSHOPS



The Magic of Storytelling with Children

by Mara Menzies

2 June 2018, Sat | 11 am-1 pm

Blue Room, The Arts House

\$20

3-hrs, 10 Mins Intermission

Working with children is exhilarating, exhausting and there is never a dull moment! Stories have incredible power and influence over children and is an excellent conduit to a multitude of important skills such as:

- Improved listening skills
- Improved vocabulary and grammar
- Improved expressive skills
- Greater confidence
- Greater imagination and creativity

This workshop will introduce practical tips and techniques on how to engage with young audiences between ages 4 to 8 years.

For many people who work with children, storytelling can feel like a terrifying proposal. This workshop is ideal for those new to storytelling, looking to improve their confidence or those who wish to find ways to better incorporate it into their work. It offers practical solutions for engaging a young audience, including how to use your voice, facial expressions and physicality to keep the children at the heart of the story.

Participants will be taken on a journey of discovery and explore diverse strategies for group engagement. Using a combination of storytelling, hands-on activities and discussion, the workshop will explore the process of choosing the right kind of



stories for children and methods of ensuring children play an important role in the storytelling process.

This workshop is an interactive and participatory experience with group discussions and group activity as well as opportunities to try out techniques in a safe and supportive space.

Areas Addressed:

A practical workshop that will explore tips and techniques to assist storytelling with children:

- How to engage the children physically
- Importance of exaggerated facial expressions
- Methods to increase confidence
- Voice techniques: call and response, song and rhyme, repetition
- Conveying characters convincingly
- Links to sources of stories and other story aids online
- Tools that are available and the different ways to maximise their efficiency
- Please come in loose, comfortable clothing.