

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF ORAL STORYTELLING FROM SINGAPORE AND AROUND THE WORLD



Singapore, 8 June 2021— In celebration of its fifth anniversary, [StoryFest](#) will be enchanting audiences with a variety of storytelling programmes by local and international artists. *StoryFest 2021*, the fifth edition of the annual storytelling festival, is co-presented by The Storytelling Centre Limited and The Arts House, online from 20 June – 11 July. This year's theme, 'ReStory', encourages audiences to appreciate the familiar and moving moments of their lives and surroundings, and reimagine their new stories for the future.

StoryFest returns with a three-week long virtual line-up featuring a series of evocative talks and performances hosted across Zoom, VOD and the StoryFest YouTube channel. To commemorate its fifth year, a specially commissioned digital picture book was produced by international storytellers and local visual artists. *StoryFest 2021* brings the focus back to the way stories are told and how they have evolved across time and space. By reconnecting with these rituals in storytelling, audiences are invited to dive deep into the words and transform with these stories together.

Kamini Ramachandran, Master Storyteller and Creative Producer of StoryFest says that "It gives me a great sense of achievement to be celebrating this milestone and how far the Festival has come in these past five years. With this year's theme, '[ReStory](#)', I want to reacquaint audiences with the transformative role of storytelling in our lives and the rituals involved in doing so. I'm really looking forward to 'The Book of Tales' as one of the highlights of this year's celebrations. This digital book is a testament to StoryFest providing opportunities for international storytellers and local visual artists to create collaborative works while being distanced."

Stories that spring from the screens and stay in your hearts

[Awesome Adventures](#) takes children on five different adventures with exciting tales, featuring humans and animals on their quests of boisterous mischief. Suitable for children aged 4 – 8 years old, this could be a fun activity for families to engage in. Be

prepared to travel far and wide from the comfort of your homes. Journey with these tales and celebrate curiosity from the depths of the thick African jungles in 'The First Music', and learn humility in 'Ganesha & Kubera' with an Indian feast fit for the gods.

[**The Book of Tales**](#) brings together five of our previous Asian premiere storytellers and local artists to create five illustrated stories in a digital picture book. These stories cater to all audiences, whether you are looking for a light-hearted tale on unexpected friendships in 'Edith's Lyrebird' or a fantastical story like 'Shela's Journey', that traces the heroine's roots as she guides her ancestors back home. Through this digital commission, audiences can revisit these stories for time to come and be inspired to chart their next chapter.

Stories of Adventurous, Bold and Courageous Heroes and Heroines

Uncover the legends of majestic Singapura against a backdrop of storytelling, percussive instruments and vibrant illustrations in [**Stories From Our Shores**](#) as you hear how two heroes demonstrated resilience in trying times. Discover how Badang, a struggling orphan who was tricked into slavery, breaks free and rises to become Badang the Magnificent. Learn more about Sang Nila Utama's roots and join Raja Suran as he embarks on an epic adventure, in search of an elusive land.

Experience extraordinary stories of women in [**ReStory: Celebrating the Feminine in Folklore**](#). In *Vengeance is Mine*, hear this chilling story of how a lovelorn pregnant village girl transforms into a Pontianak, after dying during childbirth, to exact revenge on the young Datuk who abandoned her. Follow a princess in *Savitri: The Woman Who Walked with Death* as she accompanies Yama, the God of Death in a ruse to revive her beloved husband. Celebrate sisterhood and empathy through toilet confessions in the supernatural tale of *The Toilet Goddess*.

Get in touch with your deepest emotions through the power of storytelling

Learn to apply the qualities of mindfulness when telling stories and become more self-aware in [**Mindfulness as a Tool for Effective Storytelling**](#). Other benefits of practising mindfulness include being calmer and more connected, improving your listening skills and memory.

Laughter is the best medicine for the soul and best way to connect with your audience, especially when you're making a persuasive pitch. In [**Pitching for Laughs**](#), learn how you can add humour to boost your presentations and speaking engagements.

Are you curious about the different forms of puppetry and how you can include them in your storytelling? Discover more and how you can use recycled materials to create your own puppets in [**Puppets and Narratives**](#).

For those looking to soothe their souls and calm the mind, follow **Susan Perrow**, an Australian educator and storyteller in [**The Healing Power of Stories**](#) and be introduced to the art of therapeutic storytelling. Drawing upon more than fifteen years of experience of working with children, teachers and therapists, Susan will show participants how they can gain hope and build resilience through the restorative benefits of storytelling.

In [Introduction to Sensory Stories](#), engage your senses with **Joanna Grace** and explore how stories can be harnessed to create a more inclusive space to engage children with different educational needs. These techniques can also be used by the individual to support their daily lives such as preparing for a good night's rest.

Channelling Confidence and Resolving Crises

Whether you are an aspiring performer or working professional, being able to tell well-crafted stories will help in bringing our ideas alive and engaging audiences. Learn more about the craft of storytelling in [Telling Stories with Confidence](#). The key to managing organisational crises lies in identifying and shaping the different types of narratives which could go a long way in recovering a company's reputation. Managers and executive leaders can learn more about this in [Organisational Crisis and Storytelling](#).

If audiences are interested in learning more about the rituals behind storytelling, join StoryFest's Creative Producer, Kamini Ramachandran in [Story Talk](#), a series of short conversations with storytellers where they share more about their practice. Some of the topics include gender and mythology, storytelling and wellbeing, as well as producing festivals during this pandemic.

Dive deep into the insidious underbelly of Malaysia's capital with [KL Noir: Magic – Storytelling Series](#), presented through seven storytelling video adaptations of the bestselling *KL Noir* series. Unravel the truth behind a mysterious mask-wearing cult as a mute soldier enters its highest ranks in 'War Dogs', or even witness how a conman's victims engage the help of a Chinese shaman to exact their revenge. Be prepared to experience some heart-stopping moments as you immerse yourselves in the quiet stories with unexpected turns that will haunt you in new ways.

"Putting together a festival is rarely easy, even if festivals are inherently joyful experiences. That is especially true in these pandemic-affected times, and so we at Arts House Limited are hugely proud of the work Kamini and her team have done to pull together another remarkable festival for the benefit of Singapore audiences, and of our association with and support for the event. We are very much looking forward to experiencing another potful of glorious stories, from playful childhood tales to sinister imaginings," says Rupert Thomson, Director, Programming and Producing (Venues) at Arts House Limited.

If you are keen to find out more about the programmes, please visit storyfestsg.com. Members of the public can also join in the conversation at:

StoryFest

Website: <https://storyfestsg.com/2021/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/storyfestsg>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/storyfestsg/>

The Arts House

Website: <https://www.theartshouse.sg/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theartshouse/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/theartshouse>

Event details

StoryFest 2021

Accessible online via storyfestsg.com/2021

Dates: 20 June - 11 July 2021

If you are keen to find out more about the programmes, please refer to this table.

TICKETED				
TYPE	PROGRAMME TITLE	DATES	PRICE	DURATION
Performance	StoryFest Showcases ReStory & Stories From Our Shores (14 stories)	Sun, 20 June – Sun, 11 July 2021	S\$25	Est 4 hours
Performance	ReStory: Celebrating the Feminine in Folklore (12 stories)	Sun, 20 June – Sun, 11 July 2021	S\$20	Est 3 hours
Performance	ReStory 1: Celebrating the Feminine in Folklore (6 stories)	Sun, 20 June – Sun, 11 July 2021	S\$15	Est 1.5 hours
Performance	ReStory 2: Celebrating the Feminine in Folklore (6 stories)	Sun, 20 June – Sun, 11 July 2021	S\$15	Est 1.5 hours
Performance	Young Storytellers Showcase – Stories From Our Shores (2 stories)	Sun, 20 June – Sun, 11 July 2021	S\$10	Est 1 hour
Workshop	Organisational Crisis and Storytelling	Sat 26 June 2021 10am – 1pm	S\$50	3 hours
Workshop	Telling Stories With Confidence: An Introduction To The Craft of Storytelling	Sun 27 June 2021 10am – 1pm	S\$50	3 hours
Lecture Presentation	Mindfulness as a Tool for Effective Storytelling	Sat 26 June 2021 4pm – 5pm	S\$10	1 hour
Lecture Presentation	Pitching for Laughs: Public Speaking Lessons From	Sat 26 June 2021 8pm – 9pm	S\$10	1 hour

	Stand-up Comedians			
Lecture Presentation	Puppets and Narratives	Sun 27 June 2021 3pm – 4pm	S\$10	1 hour
Lecture Presentation	Introduction to Sensory Stories	Thu, 1 July 2021 4pm – 5pm	S\$10	1 hour
Lecture Presentation	The Healing Power of Stories	Thu, 8 July 2021 9am – 10am	S\$10	1 hour
FREE				
TYPE	PROGRAMME TITLE	DATES	PRICE	DURATION
Performance	Awesome Adventures 5 stories	Sun, 20 June – Sun, 11 July 2021	FREE	Est 1 hour
Storytelling Series	KL Noir: Magic – Storytelling Series 7 stories	Sun, 20 June – Sun, 11 July 2021		Est 35 minutes
Interviews	Story Talk 20 videos	Sun, 20 June onwards		Est 5 hours
Digital Picture Book	The Book of Tales 5 stories & 5 illustrations	Sun, 20 June onwards		NA

For all images, please click [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

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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 runs The Arts House, a multidisciplinary arts centre with a focus on literary programming located in the heart of Singapore's Civic District; manages Goodman Arts Centre and Aliwal Arts Centre, two creative enclaves for artists, arts groups and creative businesses; and presents festivals through the arts centres. AHL presents the Singapore International Festival of Arts, the annual pinnacle celebration of performing arts in Singapore commissioned by National Arts Council.

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

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.

storytellingcentrelimited.com, @storytellingcentresg