

## STORYTELLING MASTER CLASS by Mr. Abbi Patrix (France)

### *The Storytellers' Tool: Exploring the Body as an Essential Subject that Supports the Storyteller in His Art Form*

Date: 2nd September 2011 (Friday)

Time: 10.00am – 5.30pm

Duration: 6 hours masterclass with 1-hour lunch break (at participant's own expense) and two 15-min tea breaks (provided by organizer)

Venue: Seminar Room 1, National Museum Singapore, 93 Stamford Road, S 1788897

Fee: S\$220/person (Includes 2 tea breaks)

(Registration starts at 9.30am @ The Foyer)

*Suitable for storytellers with experience*

### SYNOPSIS:

Abbi Patrix has always been concerned with the storyteller's relationship to his own body. For him this has been an important subject of research and experiment, and an unending source of questioning.

During the workshop, emphasis will be given to the body's place within the discipline of storytelling, and within the context of narrative, without either separating stories from their teller or the matter from its form.

The aim is to consider that the storyteller's body is the tool of his trade, and as such it is essential to study it, understand it, and to develop its potential. Our bodies support our words. They give language, sounds and movement their real dimension.

When a storyteller tells his story, he is not only heard but also seen by his audience. Everything is relevant, everything is recorded, everything is a form of language.

The vocabulary he uses with his body must support his story: it must be evaluated, worked on, tamed. Our concern is to start with the storyteller's body, and to follow the path that his words will take to reach us.

### ABOUT THE FACILITATOR:

Abbi Patrix is Artistic Director of Compagnie du Cercle and Co-Director of Le Maison du Conte (*The House of Stories*). He is an acclaimed storyteller who uses the spoken word in multi-disciplinary performances and is also Co-Founder of FEST (Federation for European Storytelling). For the past twenty-five years Abbi has been dedicated to the art of storytelling in all forms and runs Le Labo (*The Lab*), a space for research and creation that mentors storytellers.

"Trained in theatre and movement with Jacques Lecoq in Paris, Abbi Patrix deserves the accolade 'master storyteller'. He mixes the spoken word with theatre, music and movement to create something completely new. Half-Norwegian, half-French, he has toured widely in France, Great Britain, Scandinavia and West Africa, performing in both French and English. He has been exploring the art of storytelling for the past thirty years with his Compagnie du Cercle, founded by him in 1980 and is currently Artist in Residence at La Maison du Conte (which is an Arts Centre in the suburbs of Paris dedicated to the art of storytelling in all its forms). His powerful rhythmic work has earned Abbi Patrix an international reputation as one of the greatest of Europe's performance storytellers."

Website: (click on UK flag for English Language version)

<http://compagnieducercle.fr> & <http://www.lamaisonduconte.com>

### About La Maison du Conte (*The House of Stories*)

La Maison du Conte (*The House of Stories*) is part of a wider structure – Mondoral – which has brought together the four national leading centres representing storytelling in France, supporting storytelling and the arts of speech on a nationwide scale. Its directory is open to artists, festival organizers, companies, amateurs, artistic agents, professors. [www.mondoral.org](http://www.mondoral.org)

La Maison du Conte is a member of a storytelling network, a group of professional companies and/or organizations dedicated to the arts of speech in France. These associations are deeply committed to the area where they're located and to the people living there. Their numerous cultural projects are a reflection of a will to develop and collectively promote our discipline.

"There are now many places throughout the world today dedicated to the storytelling art form. What we have in common is the love of oral stories that have been transmitted through time by books and human beings. We are actively working on transmission so that oral performances find a real place in today's society. This goes beyond styles, forms, languages and repertoires. The globalised scale of communication today inclines us to share more and more through the oral and to ensure that it is transmitted to the next generations. Some will tell stories to those closest to them, some will look for more performing skills, but we all bless the storytellers of all times that have left us such an amazing repertory to discover and to transmit."

"At La Maison du Conte (*The House of Stories*) I have worked with more than 30 young artists-storytellers who are exploring their art and searching for the right words to use. We call our gatherings 'Le Labo' (*The Laboratory*) because we consider that the art of storytelling has to be researched as an experimental discipline. I followed the saying *we transmit well what we search for*" – Abbi Patrix

### About Le Labo (*The Laboratory*)

Le Labo is a collective and multi-disciplinary place for research, improvisation and transmission which La Maison du Conte undertakes each year, under the supervision of Abbi Patrix. This original experience gathers storytellers from different backgrounds, leading them through both a teaching process and an exploration of their art. It demonstrates the wish of La Maison du Conte to place its activities and actions in a resolutely collective dimension. At the end of each year, the Le Labo members present the results of their work and research, whilst participating in one or several public performances. La Maison du Conte offers the possibility for both professional storytellers and apprentices, teachers and youth workers to follow various types of training, such as workshops, week-ends or monthly courses. Master-classes, conferences, and performances are also organised in order to pass on the basics of the art and discipline, hosted by key figures and well-known artists.

### ENQUIRIES

Singapore International Storytelling Festival 2011 [www.bookcouncil.sg/sisf](http://www.bookcouncil.sg/sisf)  
National Book Development Council of Singapore [www.bookcouncil.sg](http://www.bookcouncil.sg)  
Telephone: 68488290 / 68488294

### REGISTRATION

Registration Forms and Payment Instructions: [www.bookcouncil.sg/sisf](http://www.bookcouncil.sg/sisf)

### ORGANIZED BY

This Master Class is organized by Kamini Ramachandran [www.moonshadowstories.org](http://www.moonshadowstories.org)