

GLOBAL

ASIAN
STORIES

PERSPECTIVES

**Singapore International
Storytelling Festival**

1 ~ 5 SEPTEMBER 2012
THE ARTS HOUSE





MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Kamini Ramachandran

Once upon a time... in a land far, far away... still has the power to grip listeners both young and old! Welcome to the Singapore International Storytelling Festival. This year we celebrate Asian stories from a global perspective. We showcase some of the best kept secrets from Asia sharing traditional storytelling art forms for the first time in Singapore! We showcase global storytellers who have worked their magic to give life to our timeless Asian epics and legends! We showcase our Singapore-based storytellers who will weave magic into tales from our region! We invite you to join us in this sweeping worldwide movement of a resurgence in storytelling! There are workshops for all levels of participants from all walks of life, and lots of storytelling performances for family audiences. We celebrate native language and dialect storytelling and also something special for the elderly in our community. Experienced storytellers can look forward to a master class and a forum for exchange of ideas. There's more to my story, take a look at our website for details. I look forward to seeing you!

The Festival is in its seventh year and the core Asian Congress of Storytellers is in its thirteenth year.

Mukashi, mukashi... Pada suatu hari... Once upon a time...

Storytellers featured AT THE SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL 2012

DIANE WOLKSTEIN (USA)

Since 1967, Diane has occupied a unique place in the world of storytelling. Through her performances, teaching, books, and recordings, she has played a major role in the renewed interest in mythology and the modern storytelling movement. Whether recounting epics, trickster stories or fairy tales, Diane enters and speaks from the heart of each story she tells. An internationally renowned author of 23 award-winning books of folklore, Diane is known for her meticulous research and her wide range as a performer. Joseph Campbell calls her 'one of the greatest storytellers in the Western world.'

Mayor Michael Bloomberg named June 22nd, 2007 'Diane Wolkstein Day' in honor of her 40 years of service to New York City where she initiated America's first graduate storytelling programme, pioneered a year-round storytelling programme for parks and schools, hosted her own radio show, and taught mythology at NYU. Diane has toured five



continents, has performed at the UN, Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian Institute, and the American Museum of Natural History, and has been a frequent guest on PBS, NPR, and the BBC. A founding member of both America's National Storytelling Conference and New York City's Storytelling Center, she is the recipient of the National Storytelling Association's Circle of Excellence Award. She is also the epicycle editor of *Parabola* magazine.

Together with talented musician Jeff Greene, she will be presenting the highly acclaimed and hugely entertaining classic Chinese legend of *The Monkey King* for the first time in Singapore.

JEFF GREENE (USA)

Jeff Greene grew up listening to music – from the blues of his boyhood, to the eastern modal music in his travels. He discovered a whole new world of folk music and his research led him to the Ottoman Empire and the Indian subcontinent. Jeff celebrates his diverse musical influences through the variety of instruments he plays.

EDDIN KHOO (MALAYSIA)



Eddin Khoo, is a poet, writer and translator. Following his tenure as an arts and cultural journalist, he founded *Pusaka* Centre for the Study and Documentation of Traditional Performance in Malaysia. *Pusaka* preserves traditional Malaysian art forms such as *Wayang Kulit* shadow puppetry, the dances of *Mak Yong*, *Main Puteri* and *Menora*. Eddin has worked intimately with many of Malaysia's leading traditional artistes, including shadow puppeteers, musicians, dramatists and dancers. His focus has been primarily on the state of Kelantan researching aspects of oral transmission and aspects of ritual in traditional theatre. Eddin was a student apprentice of the renowned shadow puppeteer Dollah Baju Merah. He studied Southeast Asian Arts and Archaeology at SOAS where he was a British High Commissioner's Chevening scholar.

MADE TARO (INDONESIA)



Made Taro, based in Bali, has always loved traditional stories, games and children's songs. A storyteller since 1973 he has performed globally. Passionate about promoting traditional games, he believes these games teach children valuable lessons and keeps them out of trouble. For 35 years he has run *Kukuruyuk*, a children's group that educates children through stories and games. His storytelling sessions include singing and percussion accompaniment. He has written numerous books on traditional games, children's songs and folktales. A recipient of many awards as an outstanding teacher, preserver of culture, storyteller and writer, he was recently awarded the prestigious Cultural Medallion of Indonesia.

LEE SWEE HAR (SINGAPORE)

Madam Lee Swee Har, 70, participated in a dialect storytelling programme over Rediffusion in the 1960s, together with her teacher, the famous Cantonese storyteller Lee Dai Sor. Her repertoire of traditional Chinese stories includes the timeless tale of the archer Ho Yi and the heavenly maiden Chang-Er, who now lives in the moon.



PETER CHAND (UNITED KINGDOM)

Peter Chand, of Punjabi heritage and based in Britain, has been telling stories since 1999 and has entertained international audiences with his tales from the Indian subcontinent. He combines these two cultures to tell stories full of life, wisdom and humour. Whether it's an Indian fable, a ghost story or a tale of love and loss, he has a vast repertoire of stories to suit all ages and clients. Peter also leads workshops both for adults and children in an educational or work-based setting. He conducts corporate workshops for businesses, incorporating storytelling for confidence, teamwork, presentation skills and creativity in the workplace.



JOE HARAWIRA (NEW ZEALAND)

Joe Harawira is a renowned storyteller and Encounter Ritual Expert from the Waikato region. A former educator, Joe is passionate about getting kids out into nature to learn how the Maori related to the natural world. An exponent of the Maori language and a strong supporter of all Maori art forms, Joe is also a performer of *kapabaka*, the Maori cultural dance. Over the past 30 years he has toured globally taking his storytelling skills with him and representing Aotearoa at indigenous and storytelling gatherings. Joe's vast repertoire spans the creation tales, nature tales and of course the anthology of the beloved *Maui* stories.



SINGAPORE-BASED STORYTELLERS

Professional Members from the Storytelling Association (Singapore) will draw you into the enchanting and timeless world of our Asian heritage of oral stories.

CHAN WAI HAN (SINGAPORE)

Chan Wai Han recalls the 1960s when the only entertainment was provided by the legendary Cantonese storyteller Lee Dai Sor; his Chinese traditional tales enthralled listeners through the airwaves of Rediffusion. In 1984 she completed a biography of the master storyteller. She now interprets into English while Madam Lee weaves her magic in Cantonese.



SHINOHARU TATEKAWA (JAPAN)



Shinoharu Tatekawa is a *Rakugo* performer based in Tokyo. *Rakugo* is Japanese sit-down comic storytelling. A lone storyteller in a kimono, equipped with a fan and hand towel entertains by playing several characters. The storyteller talks to the audience but as the story unfolds, the storyteller is gradually replaced by the characters in the story. *Rakugo* has a long history with the stories being passed down orally from master to apprentice since the Edo era. Shinoharu studied under Tatekawa Shinosuke the *rakugo* master himself and completed his apprenticeship in 2011. Shinoharu has painstakingly translated some of these stories into English to make them accessible to a global audience.

RAJASHREE TOPE (INDIA)




Rajashree Tope performs in Marathi, English and Hindi. Her experiences range from professional theatre, to television serials and of course *keertan*. *Keertan* is viewed as an instrument of social education for the common man, especially in the rural world. *Keertan* is a blend of song and narrative to tell the story similar to other traditional forms of singing a story. Rajashree hails from a lineage of *keertankars* and her grandfather's self-composed *keertans* were used during India's freedom fight. She sings to the accompaniment of either brass discs or a harmonium. Her repertoire celebrates the stories from the Indian plethora of well-loved epics and legends.

Contact NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE

sisf@bookcouncil.sg

6848 8290

www.bookcouncil.sg/sisf/

 SingaporeInternationalStorytellingFestival

Registration starts in June.

To be on our mailing list for festival updates, drop us a line at sisf@bookcouncil.sg

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

R Ramachandran / rama@bookcouncil.sg

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kamini Ramachandran
kamini@bookcouncil.sg

FESTIVAL MANAGER

Celine Chow / celine@bookcouncil.sg

ORGANISER



VENUE PARTNER



SUPPORTER



SPONSORS

