

BEYOND STORYTELLING 101

Have you been telling stories for some time already and been wondering how you can improve your storytelling skills? If yes, then this workshop is for you! *Beyond Storytelling 101* aims to enhance participants' ability to adapt stories for telling and to hone their delivery skills over 12 hours of coaching.

Beyond Storytelling 101 (2010) will be the third time that this intermediate course is being carried out after the two successful courses held during 2008 and 2009.

Areas Covered:

- How to choose and adapt stories for performance
- Telling for children vs. telling for adults
- Vocal skills: speech clarity, projection, expressiveness
- Presentation skills: awareness of body language, use of gestures, working with props/ visual aids
- Rehearsal skills: regarding different methods of preparation
- Performance skills: physical & vocal warm-ups, how to overcome nerves, coping with gaffes

Facilitator: Verena Tay of MoonShadow Stories

Dates/Time: Tuesday, 4 May 2010 (7–10 pm)
Saturday, 8 May 2010 (2–5 pm)
Tuesday, 11 May 2010 (7–10 pm)
Saturday, 15 May 2010 (2–5 pm)

Venue: Verena's home along Bukit Timah Road, near Newton

No of Participants: 6 minimum, 8 maximum

Cost per Participant:

- a) Associate Members of the Storytelling Association (Singapore): \$320
- b) Friends of the Storytelling Association (Singapore): \$360
- c) Non-members: \$400

Pre-requisites: This is NOT a workshop for beginners. This workshop is geared for participants who have been telling stories actively for some time and wish to improve their telling skills.

Registration/Enquiries:

Please contact Verena Tay via verena@moonshadowstories.org or 91263835 (sms only) by **Fri 23 Apr 2010**.

A workshop organised & presented by



www.moonshadowstories.org

In collaboration with



www.storytellingsingapore.com

About the Workshop Facilitator

Verena Tay brings stories vocally and physically alive in her unique fashion, drawing from her more than twenty years of experience in acting, directing and writing for local English-language theatre. Together with Kamini Ramachandran with whom she founded MoonShadow Stories in November 2004, Verena has been telling stories at The Substation and at various venues across Singapore, much to the delight and enjoyment of adults and children. In particular, MoonShadow Stories has done much to push the boundaries of storytelling for adults in Singapore.

In terms of theatre, Verena has created various solo and collaborative performances, often based on original, self-written material—the latest being the multilingual production *Bumiputra Cina* (2009)—while as an Associate Artist with The Substation (2002–09). Where writing is concerned, her first book, *In the Company of Women: Selected Plays*, was published in 2004. Her recent plays that have been staged include *Imperfect Family Recipes* (2008), *The Lunar Interviews* (2008) and *The Car* (2006), which won Action Theatre's Theatre Idols in 2005. As an Honorary Fellow at the renowned International Writing Program, University of Iowa (Aug–Nov 2007), she gained much insight on the craft of writing from her peers around the world. (While she was in the US, she also told tales from Southeast Asia, thereby entertaining and fascinating audiences in New York state and New Orleans.)

Armed with MA in English Literature (1993) from the National University of Singapore, Verena pursued an MA in Voice Studies (2005) at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London during 2003–04. She now teaches voice, speech and/or presentation skills at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University and other local institutions. For more information, please visit <http://verenatay.com>.

Participants' Feedback on Verena Tay's Beyond Storytelling 101 Course (2009)

"Allowed to develop my own style. Patience by Verena to guide me."
~ Ignatius Ng

"Some of the vocal exercises were helpful for making us aware of the need for vocal range."
~ Ng Seng Chuan

"Great as it was."
~ David Bok

"The vocal exercises for better clarity. Feedback given by Verena on my 'voice dropping' & rhythm. The personal hours for extra coaching were good. I enjoyed the course, very useful. My confidence level has improved."
~ Kordial Kor

"Voice-projection. How to tell a story in a 'performing' style. Crafting a personal tale into a 'tellable' story. Very specific and constructive comments which helped improved my storytelling."
~ Lim Peng Peng

"The exercises, the tips on improving my telling, helped me the most."
~ Kala Sundaram

About MoonShadow Stories

Both Kamini Ramachandran and Verena Tay attended a storytelling course organised by Asian Storytelling Network and the National Book Development Council of Singapore during 2003 and have never looked back since. In November 2004, we joined forces to found *MoonShadow Stories* with the aim of promoting the lost art of the oral narrative. We strongly believe that if we can re-introduce the beauty and wonder of storytelling to adults, then children will benefit. Hence, we were the first contemporary storytellers in Singapore to focus on storytelling for adults. Since 2005, *MoonShadow Stories* has been busy telling stories to adults and children at The Substation and other community venues in Singapore.