

About MoonShadow Stories:

MoonShadow Stories celebrate the art of oral storytelling, especially for adults. We invite you to sit back, listen to the beauty of the spoken word, and collectively experience a few moments of quiet contemplation... **MoonShadow Stories** are also available for storytelling for adults in the workplace, storytelling for children, private events, and more. For enquiries, please contact Kamini Ramachandran (Tel: 9273 2383. Email: kamini@moonshadowstories.org).

About the Storytellers:

Storytelling has always been vital for **Kamini Ramachandran**, from her earliest memories of her grandparents telling her stories to her efforts in continuing this storytelling tradition with her two young sons everyday since they were six months old. In 2004 Kamini joined forces with Verena Tay to found **MoonShadow Stories** to promote the lost art of the oral narrative. They strongly believe that children will benefit if the beauty and wonder of storytelling is first re-introduced to adults. Hence, they were the first contemporary storytellers in Singapore to focus on storytelling for adults. The Singapore media is also fond of featuring Kamini's talents as a professional storyteller. Not only has she been interviewed on various radio programmes about her work as a storyteller but she has been a regular guest telling stories 'live' on radio since 2005. Kamini is the current President of the Storytelling Association (Singapore) as well as a founder member.

An Associate Artist with The Substation (Singapore's first multidisciplinary arts centre) since 2002, **Verena Tay** has spent more than two decades acting, directing and writing for English-language theatre, working at various times with The Necessary Stage, Action Theatre, TheatreWorks and Practice Theatre. Since 1997, she has been concentrating on solo performances, most of which have been featured at The Substation with its support. In addition, Verena uses all her theatrical background to bring stories vocally and physically alive in her unique fashion. Together with Kamini Ramachandran with whom she founded **MoonShadow Stories** in November 2004, Verena has been telling stories at The Substation, the Armenian Church, local museums and within the community, much to the delight and enjoyment of adults and children. From Aug to Nov 2007, Verena was an Honorary Fellow with the renowned International Writing Program (University of Iowa, USA), gaining much insight on the craft of writing from her peers around the world; in the US, she told tales from Southeast Asia, entertaining and fascinating audiences in New York state and New Orleans. For more information, please visit <http://verenatay.com>.

Look Out for More Storytelling for Adults:

Heart of Darkness

Fri 30th & Sat 31th October 2009; 8 pm
Classroom 2 (2nd Floor), The Substation
Ticket: \$12 Limited Seating Available

To register:

Please contact Kamini Ramachandran (Tel: 9273 2383. Email: kamini@moonshadowstories.org).

<http://www.moonshadowstories.org>

The Untold:

A Revealing Night of Indian Stories
Collected by A.K. Ramanujan

~ STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS ~

Featuring:

Kamini Ramachandran

Fri 26th & Sat 27th Jun 2009

8 pm

Classroom 2 (2nd Floor), The Substation

Ticket: \$12

A  PRESENTATION

References

A) *Folktales from India: A Selection of Oral Tales from Twenty-two Languages*

Selected and Edited by A.K. Ramanujan

New Delhi: Penguin Books, 1994 (ISBN 0-14-023328-8)

- 'Tell It to the Walls' (p. 3)
- 'Untold Stories' (p. 4)
- 'A Story in Search of an Audience' (pp. 30–35)
- 'When a Tale is Finished' (p. 384)
- 'And Then Bhurrah!' (p. 385)

B) *A Flowering Tree and Other Oral Tales from India*

By A.K. Ramanujan

Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997 (ISBN 0-520-20398-4)

- 'A Story and a Song' (pp. 1–2)
- 'A Story to End All Stories' (pp. 214–216)

MoonShadow Stories would like to thank:

- The Substation for its support;
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- Rakhee Jain for her kind help with the food and beverage;
- And everyone else who has contributed to the success of this evening's storytelling.

'When a Tale Is Finished'

(excerpt from *Folktales from India*, p. 384)

My story is done.

The flowering tree is dead.

○ flowering tree, why did you die?

The black cow at me up.

○ black cow, why did you eat the tree?

The cowherd didn't look after me.

○ cowherd, why didn't you look after the cow?

The daughter-in-law didn't give me food.

○ daughter-in-law, why didn't you give food to the cowherd?

My little baby was crying.

○ baby, why did you cry?

The black ant bit me.

○ black ant, why did you bite the baby?

I live in dirt

And when I find soft flesh, I bite.

What is a story? Why is it so important for human beings to tell stories and listen to stories? To gain some insight, sit back, relax and listen to these retelling of Indian folktales gathered by the late eminent folklorist, A.K. Ramanujan... And after the break, you are more than welcome to stay back and listen to Kamini share her thoughts about the craft of storytelling...

Order of Stories

Tell It to the Walls

There is a well known Tamil saying, when nobody wants to listen to you, "Go tell it to the wall!" Stories stored within our bodies have strange effects on our physical being.

Untold Stories

A servant secretly listens to the vengeance planned by the four untold stories in his master's belly and saves his master. But who will save the servant?

A Story and a Song

What is a wife to do when her husband won't listen to her songs and stories? Learn about the importance of communication between spouses...

And Then Bhurrah!

When the audience clamours for more, what can a storyteller do? Spin more yarns, or something else?

~ BREAK ~

A Story in Search of an Audience

The unborn child of a beggar woman listens to an old lady tell the story of the Sun God as part of the ritual to break the old lady's daily fast for the Sun God. In turn, many wonderful blessings are showered on the child...

A Story to End All Stories

Sometimes, being a skilled storyteller is to one's disadvantaged. Discover how a simpleton won a thousand rupees from a king who wanted to be bored by story...

When a Tale is Finished

What happens at the end of a tale? Listen and find out...