

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>.

Nancy Leppard began her career teaching children with special needs. She then expanded her experience to teaching in a mainstream school. In her 13 years as a teacher, Nancy used stories extensively to motivate and educate her pupils. An avid traveller, Nancy back-packed her way overland from Singapore to the UK, with her husband, living among the locals and listening to their stories.

When he got off the train from KL 18 years ago, **Ferlin Jayatissa** never thought that one day he would grow up to study law, toil away at private law practice, prosecute the darker side of human nature and now lecture law to impressionable young minds. Neither did he imagine he'd be playing doctor on a TV medical drama series, nor assume the role of a theatre actor and director in real life. These days, Ferlin simply enjoys writing TV scripts and the errant article or two for print, and yes, he tells stories.

<http://www.moonshadowstories.org>

A Matter of Evil

~ STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS ~

Featuring:

Kamini Ramachandran

Verena Tay

Special Guests:

Nancy Leppard

Ferlin Jayatissa

Fri 31st Oct & Sat 1st Nov 2008

8 pm

Classroom 2 (2nd Floor), The Substation

References

The Woodcutter & the Bird

Spagnoli, Cathy. (1998). 'The Woodcutter and the Bird', *Asian Tales and Tellers*. ISBN: 0-87483-526-7. Little Rock, Arkansas: August House Publishers, pp 136–138.

The Haunted House

Adapted from Schwartz, Alvin. (1981). *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*. Drawings by Stephen Gammell. ISBN: 0-397-31926-6. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, pp. 29–32.

The Gravedigger

Verena's embellished version of a short tale frequently told by Dr Surey, Kamini's uncle

A Vampire's Bouquet

Inspired by Anne Rice's short story, *Justina*; Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and Alan Moore's graphic novel, *A League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*; and song by British group Cradle of Filth's *Thomography* album, *Lovesick for Mina*.

Mallika & Vikas

A creative retelling of a Native American tale that Kamini read many years ago and has not set within an Indian context.

Heart of Ice

Adapted from Hazen-Hammond, Susan. (1999). 'The Woman Whose Heart Became Ice'. *Spider Woman's Web: Traditional Native American Tales about Women's Power*. ISBN: 0-399-52546-7. New York: Perigee Books, pp. 40–42.

MoonShadow Stories would like to thank:

- The Substation for its support;
- Audrey Wong, Annabelle Aw, Chris Ong, Terence Lau, Elly Ardi and Mrs Chua for their assistance;
- And everyone else who has contributed to the success of this evening's storytelling.

What is evil? Have you encountered it before? And what is worse: the darkness that lies without in other beings, or the darkness that lies within the depths of us all... Our tales will do more than explore these various facets of evil—they will reach beyond and touch the irrational, the supernatural and the unspeakable... Listen to our tales of evil and we guarantee that chills of fear will run up and down your spine...

Order of Stories

***The Woodcutter & the Bird* (Korea): Retold by Kamini**

If you're lost one night in the deep dark woods, should you accept shelter from a mysterious stranger? At great peril to his life, a woodcutter discovers the answer...

***The Gravedigger* (Malaysia/Singapore): Retold by Verena**

Beware the perils of digging up corpses and stealing body parts...

The Haunted House

(inspired by a traditional American story): Retold by Nancy

A house cannot be sold because of the uneasy spirit that dwells within. What happens when a priest is called in to put the spirit to rest? Dare you listen to find out...

BREAK

A Vampire's Bouquet

(inspired by British and American sources): Retold by Ferlin

Bitten by a vampire, a young man becomes infatuated by the legendary Mina Harker only to realize she is not what she seems.

***Mallika & Vikas* (Native America/Set in India): Retold by Kamini**

This story of how a young couple's love is abruptly torn apart reveals the endurance of the human heart, in life as well as in death.

***Heart of Ice* (Micmac, Native America): Retold by Verena**

Is it possible for a girl with a heart of gold to transform into something totally wicked? Listen carefully to this tale of how malice breeds evil...