

About Verena Tay:

Since 1986, Verena Tay has acted, directed and written for the local English language theatre scene, working with The Necessary Stage, Action Theatre, TheatreWorks, Practice Theatre, Mime Unlimited and other companies. She began writing and crafting solo performances in 1997. Her third monologue, *Cotton & Jade*, was created with the Substation's backing and premiered during Septfest 2000; subsequently, *Cotton & Jade* was performed in Porsgrunn, Norway (November 2000) and during 'Transit III: Theatre, Women, Generation: International Theatre Festival & Meeting' (organised by Odin Teatret and the Magdalena Project at Holstebro, Denmark, January 2001).

Since March 2001, the Substation has kindly supported Verena's work further by providing free/subsidised rehearsal and performance space. In July 2002, the Substation formally appointed Verena as an Associate Artist. This extended collaboration resulted in the solo performance, *Medea: One on One* (based on the Penguin translation of Euripides' *Medea*), which premiered at the Guinness Theatre in July 2002 and then in Brisbane, April 2003, at Magdalena Australia's International Festival of Women in Contemporary Theatre. With the Substation, Verena also co-organised *Performing Words 2003: Singapore*, a workshop for 9 local and foreign women artists to create and perform their own texts. Facilitated by Geddy Aniksdal (Norway) and Gilly Adams (Wales), *PW2003: Singapore* was conducted full-time for 2 weeks in March 2003; the work was showcased at the Substation on 29 March and at Magdalena Australia's festival on 15 April.

Verena's other recent writing efforts include the mime script for Mime Unlimited's successful production of *Cinderella Dreams* (September 2002) and being part of the Hearing Voice Project organised by TheatreWorks' Writers' Lab spanning 2002. In October 2003, Verena will begin an MA course in Voice Studies at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London with financial assistance from the Association of Singapore Actors (of which she is a proud member) and the National Arts Council.

About Kamini Ramachandran:

Kamini Ramachandran has been fulltime resident storyteller to her two young boys for the past 3.5 years. She studied English Literature at The University of Reading and used to teach Speech & Drama before the birth of her sons. She met her husband at university and lived in London for many years before moving to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Children's literature is a recent passion and an expensive addiction. Her grandfather told her stories and her mother told her stories, and now she tells stories to her sons and other children (sometimes adults) who will listen. Like Verena and Madanarathi, she just completed the 5th Storytellers Course organised by the Asian Storytelling Network and the National Book Development Council of Singapore. Her special interest is in birthing stories, which she is currently researching. When the children allow it, she dabbles in jewellery designing. Otherwise she is busy being a fulltime mother and managing her household, including ensuring the storytellers all get their fix of *vadais*, *kesari* and...

About Madanarathi:

Madanarathi works as a Special Teacher at AWWA Special School. A mother of a four-year old boy and an avid reader, she has recently become very interested in storytelling and also completed the 5th Storytellers Course organised by NBDCS and ASN. Apart from storytelling, she is passionate about listening to children's music from around the world.

This evening's storytelling is an event of

the Substation
A Home for the Arts

Sessions supported by:



National Book
Development Council
of Singapore

**magdalena
singapore**



asian storytelling network

Storytelling for adults

Women Who Act:

Asian-Pacific Folktales

(Distressed Damsels Not Wanted)



Featuring:

Verena Tay

Kamini Ramachandran

Madanarathi

Thu 14th, Fri 15th & Wed 20th August 2003

8.30 pm

The Blue Room (1st Floor), The Substation

Pay-as-you-want

References

Tokoyo & the Sea Monster

Ragan, Kathleen (Ed.). (1998). 'The Tale of the Oki Island'. *Fearless Girls, Wise Women, and Beloved Sisters: Heroines in Folktales from Around the World*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, pp. 199–202.

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Davis, F. Hadland & Paul, Evelyn. (1992). 'The Slaughter of the Sea Serpent'. *Myths and Legends of Japan*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., pp. 333–336.

Bopoluchi

Steel, Flora Annie. (1894, 2002 edition). 'Bopoluchi'. *Tales of the Punjab*. Noida, India: Rupa Paperback, pp. 65–70.

Parvatibai vs. the Dacoits

Ragan, Kathleen (Ed.). (1998). 'How Parvatibai Outwitted the Dacoits'. *Fearless Girls, Wise Women, and Beloved Sisters: Heroines in Folktales from Around the World*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, pp. 170–172.

Sankaranarayanan, Vasanti. (July 2002). 'Indian Folk Tales: The Woman Who Outwitted the Dacoits'. *At A Glance*. Newsletter by Global Adjustment.com. <http://www.globaladjustments.com/nljulo2.html#rit> (last accessed: 17 July 2003).

The Story of Savitri

Das, Subhamoy. (December 2001). 'Immortal Love Legends Part 3: The Story of Savitri & Satyavan'. What You Need to Know About Hinduism.com. <http://hinduism.about.com/library/weekly/aa021201c.htm> (last accessed: 10 July 2003).

Puteri Gunung Ledang, or the Fairy Princess of Mount Ophir

Gan, Linda & Kwan Shan Mei. (1991). 'The Magical Princess'. *A Treasury of Asian Folktales*. Singapore: Earlybird Books/Federal Publications (S) Pte Ltd (1996 print run), pp. 30–37.

Sabri Zain. 'Puteri Gunung Ledang: The Fairy Princess of Mount Ophir'. <http://www.sabrizain.demon.co.uk/malaya/melaka3.htm> (last accessed: 3 June 2003).

Zakaria Bin Hitam & Harmer, Susan. (1989). 'The Princess of Mount Ophir'. *Folk Tales of Malaysia*. London: Macmillan Publishers, pp. 27–35.

Escape from the Oni

Fourot, Jeanette L. (1995). 'The Oni's Laughter'. *Asian-Pacific Folktales and Legends*. New York: Touchstone, pp. 158–162.

Verniero, Joan C. (2001). 'The Bride and the Oni'. *One-Hundred-and-One Asian Read Aloud Myths and Legends*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, Inc., pp. 199–201.

Hina

Mutén, Burleigh & Bailey, Siân. (1999). 'The Woman in the Moon'. *Grandmothers' Stories: Wise Woman Tales from Many Cultures*. Bath: Barefoot Books, pp. 37–44.

Singh, Rina & Lush, Debbie. (1999, 2000 paperback edition). 'Hina'. *Moon Tales: Myths of the Moon from Around the World*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, pp. 28–35.

Welcome...

Sit down,
make yourself comfortable
and listen to this evening's
selection of stories old and new
from the Asia-Pacific
about women who have
a sense of themselves,
who use their wits and who take charge...

Order of Stories

Tokoyo & the Sea Monster (Japanese)

Bopoluchi (Indian)

Parvatibai vs. the Dacoits (Indian)

The Story of Savitri (Indian)

Puteri Gunung Ledang,
or the Fairy Princess of Mount Ophir (Malay)

Escape from the Oni (Japanese)

Hina (Polynesian)