

# TIMELESS TALES:

## BRINGING YESTERDAY'S STORIES INTO TODAY

Ancient folk tales, fables, myths and legends are excellent stories to retell in themselves. Yet the impact of these stories on some of your listeners may increase if you could somehow reset the story in a modern context. Using selected Aesop's fables as a starting point, *Timeless Tales* aims to share with you some tips and tricks of how to adapt yesterday's stories into tales that you can tell with flair for today's audiences.

### **Areas Covered:**

#### **Session #1: Adapting**

- Why adapt tales?
- When is adapting appropriate?
- Different types of adaptation
- Process of adaptation: Adapting a tale

#### **Session #2: Telling**

- Review of your adaptation
- How to tell your adaptation aloud and polish it for performance

**Facilitator:** Verena Tay of MoonShadow Stories

**Dates/Time:** Tuesday, 2 March 2010 (7–10 pm)  
Saturday, 6 March 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): \$180
- b) Friends of the Storytelling Association (Singapore): \$220
- c) Non-members: \$260

**Pre-requisites:** This workshop is geared for beginners as well as tellers with some experience. Participants must be fluent with the English language.

### **Registration/Enquiries:**

Please contact Verena Tay via [verena@moonshadowstories.org](mailto:verena@moonshadowstories.org) or 91263835 (sms only) by **Fri 19 Feb 2010**.

*A workshop organised & presented by*



[www.moonshadowstories.org](http://www.moonshadowstories.org)

*In collaboration with*



[www.storytellingsingapore.com](http://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.