

# Verena Tay ~ Storyteller

**Full Name:** Tay Siew Hui, Verena **Date of Birth:** 15 October 1965

**Email:** [verena@moonshadowstories.org](mailto:verena@moonshadowstories.org)

**Website:** <http://verenatay.com>; <http://www.moonshadowstories.org>; <http://verenatay.wordpress.com>

**Qualifications:** - MA in English Literature (National University of Singapore, 1993)  
- MA in Voice Studies (Central School of Speech and Drama, London, 2005)

---



## STORYTELLING: CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

- Since Feb 2006: Founding member of the Storytelling Association (Singapore), <http://www.storytellingsingapore.com>
- Since Nov 2004: Formation of MoonShadow Stories (<http://www.moonshadowstories.org>) with Kamini Ramachandran; an informal group that focuses on storytelling for adults

## STORYTELLING: PERFORMANCES

- Storytelling (within Singapore) for adults
  - *Heart of Darkness*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Ferlin Jayatissa; MoonShadow Stories, Classroom 2, The Substation; 30 & 31 Oct 2009)
  - *Wits & Guts: Stories of Women Who Take Charge*, lunchtime storytelling for the staff of AWARE (2 Oct 2009)
  - *Happiness in Hard Times*; storytelling for adults (MoonShadow Stories, Classroom 2, The Substation; 3 & 4 Apr 2009)
  - *Women's Stories*; storytelling for adults in honour of International Women's Day (Storytelling Association (Singapore)/The Substation, The Substation Theatre; 8 Mar 2009)
  - Storytelling during *Wine, Women & Words II* (Magdalena (Singapore)/The Substation, 27 & 28 Feb 2009)
  - *What's Love Got To Do With It?*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran; MoonShadow Stories, Classroom 2, The Substation; 13 & 14 Feb 2009)
  - *Tales of Spirit and Hope: From Mouth to Heart*; storytelling for adults to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Storytelling Association (Singapore), Classroom 2, The Substation, 29 Nov 2008)
  - *A Matter of Evil*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran; MoonShadow Stories, Classroom 2, The Substation; 31 Oct & 1 Nov 2008)
  - *Fracture*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran; MoonShadow Stories, The Random Room, The Substation; 4 & 5 Jul 2008)
  - *Charming...*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran; MoonShadow Stories, The Random Room, The Substation; 23 & 24 May 2008)
  - Dinner Storytelling as part of The Arts House's *My Own Series* (MoonShadow Stories/The Arts House/National Book Development Council of Singapore; The Hall, The Arts House, 16 May 2008)
  - Dinner Storytelling for sponsors of the Singapore International Storytelling Festival 2008, National Book Development Council of Singapore (The Hall, The Arts House, 15 May 2008)
  - Storytelling during *Wine, Women & Words* (Magdalena (Singapore)/The Substation, 27 Jul 2007)
  - *Stories on the Hill* (The Substation; as part of the Singapore Arts Festival 2007, Festival Club @ The Substation & Timbre; 23 Jun 2007)
  - Storytelling during *Beautiful: Conversations with Inspirational Women of Our Time* (Singapore Council of Women's Organisations/Asian Civilisations Museum; in conjunction with ACM's *Beauty in Asia* Exhibition; 22 Jun 2007)
  - *\$2 a Story* (Fundraising for The Substation; 4 Jun & 2 Jul 2007)
  - *Storytelling for Adults—Body Parts: Dissection of the Male Ego* (MoonShadow Stories/NUS Arts Festival 2007, University Cultural Centre Courtyard; 16 Mar 2007)
  - *Appetites Aplenty: An Evening of Tales to Get Your Juices Flowing* (Asian Storytelling Network/Talespin; 10 & 11 Nov 2006)
  - *Storytelling for Adults* (MoonShadow Stories/The Lightworkers' Space, 31 Oct 2006)
  - *Witches, Sirens & Crones: Tales of Magickal Women*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Ferlin Jayatissa; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation, Classroom 2; 6 & 7 Oct 2006)
  - *Literati 2: Say Wat?* (organised by [www.platformthelabel.blogspot.com](http://www.platformthelabel.blogspot.com), Books Actually & The Substation; 8 Sep 2006)

- *Tales Apart: Asian Tales for Adults*; storytelling to support the Power Dressing exhibition of traditional Chinese costumes and textiles (Asian Civilisations Museum/MoonShadow Stories, Discovery Room, 25 Feb & 25 Mar 2006)
- *Storytelling for Adults*; in honour of International Women's Day (Magdalena (Singapore)/The Substation/Singapore Council of Women's Organisations, Guinness Theatre, 10 Mar 2006)
- *A Woman Divine: Walking with the Goddesses*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Ferlin Jayatissa; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation, Classroom 2; 11 Feb 2006)
- *More than Meets the Eye: Tales that Tickle, Thrill and Terrify* (Asian Storytelling Network/Talespin & The Substation; 29 & 30 Nov 2005)
- *The Unnatural*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Mabel Lee; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation, Classroom 2; 15–16 Oct 2005)
- *Faeries for Adults*: storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Jessie Goh; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation, Classroom 2; 20–21 Aug 2005)
- *Archipelago: Southeast Asian Island Stories and Music*; storytelling for youths and adults at the Armenian Church in celebration of Singapore's 40<sup>th</sup> National Day (with Kamini Ramachandran, Sheila Wee, Kiran Shah, Thomas Manhart & friends; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation; 12–13 Aug 2005)
- *The Male Instinct*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Cyril Wong; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation, The Blue Room; 8–10 Jul 2005)
- *Pushing Boundaries: Power Women* (with Kamini Ramachandran; MoonShadow Stories/AWARE, 3 Jun 2005)
- *A Spring Feast*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Panna d/o Kantilal; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation, The Blue Room; 13–15 May 2005)
- *A Feast of Fools*; storytelling for adults (Asian Storytelling Network/Talespin & The Substation; 2 & 3 Apr 2005)
- *All About Hearts*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Chuah Ai Lin; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation, The Blue Room; 25–27 Feb 2005)
- *Strong Women*; storytelling for adults (with Kamini Ramachandran & Rosemarie Somaiah; MoonShadow Stories/The Substation, The Blue Room; 14–16 Jan 2005)
- *Tales from the Dark Side*; storytelling for adults (Asian Storytelling Network/Talespin & The Substation; 9 & 10 Oct 2004)
- *Women Who Act: Asian-Pacific Folktales (Distressed Damsels Not Wanted)*, storytelling for adults with Kamini Ramachandran and Madanarathi (The Substation; 14, 15 & 20 Aug 2003)
- Storytelling (within Singapore) for children/students/family audiences
  - Storytelling during *Tête-à-Tête Tea @ TCF*, a gathering hosted by the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation in honour of Tan Sri (Dr) Tan Chin Tuan Scholars of Hwa Chong Institution (Tan Chin Tuan Foundation/Storytelling Association (Singapore), Tan Chin Tuan Mansion, 28 May 2009)
  - OKTO-Storytelling Association (Singapore) video series of storytellers telling 2-minute tales as oktoBITE fillers on OKTO channel (Video date: 11 Mar 2009). My two stories, *Hair* and *The Tiger*, were videoed. *Hair* was first broadcast on OKTO in the evenings around 9 pm during 26 Jul to 10 Aug, & 16 Aug 2009.
  - *Singapore Snippets: Storytelling for Adults* (Speak Good English Movement/Magdalena (Singapore), Library@Esplanade Open Stage, 11 Oct 2008)
  - Storytelling for children and adults for the Mid-Autumn Mooncake Festival (Bukit Batok Neighbourhood Committee, Hoover Part, 13 Sep 2008)
  - Asian Storytellers Concert (as part of Singapore International Storytelling Festival 2008; Play Den. The Arts House, 4 & 5 Sep 2008)
  - Storytelling for McDonald's Red Pea Programme (20 Jul & 3 Aug 2008)
  - Volunteer storyteller for KK Women & Children's Hospital's Children's Ward Entertainment Programme (Apr–May 2008)
  - *Masak-Masak: A Potluck of Delectable Stories from Around the World* (Storytelling Association (Singapore), The Lab @ Republic Cultural Centre, 8 Mar 2008)
  - Storytelling for children as part of the *Greek Masterpieces from the Louvre* exhibition (National Museum of Singapore, 3–5 Mar 2008)
  - Main storyteller for *My Grandfather's House/People & Memories* (Act 3 International Pte Ltd/National Heritage Board, as part of Singapore Heritage Festival Kids' Zone 2007, 18–29 Jul 2007)
  - Volunteer storyteller for a Make-A-Wish Foundation (Singapore) event (17 Dec 2006)
  - Volunteer storyteller at the Asian Women's Welfare Association's Before & After School Care Programme, Towner Road (Dec 2006–Apr 2007)
  - *Storytelling Showcase* (1<sup>st</sup> Singapore International Storytelling Festival/National Book Development Council of Singapore, Ngee Ann Auditorium, Asian Civilisations Museum, 3 Sep 2006)
  - *Let's Celebrate: An Afternoon of Storytelling for Mum and the Family* (Launch of the newly registered Storytelling Association of Singapore, Ngee Ann Auditorium, Asian Civilisations Museum, 14 May 2006)

- Storytelling (Asian Civilisation Museum, 16 Oct 2005)
- *Story Caravan: Stories in the Park* (Drama Plus Arts/Asian Storytelling Network, 25 Sep 2005)
- *Hans Christian Andersen—Chapter 3: New and Old, Read and Told: Stories for All from 7 to 70!* (Society for Reading and Literacy, 29 Apr 2005)
- Telling of Hans Christina Andersen's 'The Ugly Duckling' for Parry Primary School (Asian Storytelling Network, 4 Apr 2005)
- *Ethnic Tales: Story Dancing* (NAC-Shell Community Arts Series, Woodlands Civic Centre Open Space Plaza, 20 Nov 2004)
- Storytelling (beyond Singapore)
  - Storytelling for adults (Lakeview Baptist Church, New Orleans, USA; 16 Nov 2007)
  - Storytelling for adults (Storytelling Circle, Schenectady, NY, USA; 21 Aug 2007)
  - Storytelling for children (Boys and Girls Clubs of Albany, NY, USA; 20 Aug 2007)
  - Storytelling for children (Stone Ridge Public Library, NY, USA; 18 Aug 2007)

### **VOLUNTARY STORYTELLING**

- Storyteller for KK Women & Children's Hospital's Children's Ward Entertainment Programme (Apr–May 2008)
- Storyteller for a Make-A-Wish Foundation (Singapore) event (17 Dec 2006)
- Storyteller at the Asian Women's Welfare Association's Before & After School Care Programme, Towner Road (Dec 2006–Apr 2007)

### **STORYTELLING: WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED**

- *Beyond Storytelling 101*, intermediate storytelling workshop for Associate Members of Storytelling Association (Singapore) (14, 18, 25 Jul & 11 Aug 2009; included private coaching sessions for participants from Sep to Oct 2009; culminated in paid performances (*Twists: Tales of Surprise and Suspense from Around the World*) by the participants at Classroom 2, The Substation, on 23 & 24 Oct 2009)
- *Beyond Storytelling 101*, intermediate storytelling workshop for Associate Members of Storytelling Association (Singapore) (5, 12, 26 May & 2 Jun 2008; included private coaching sessions for participants from Sep to Oct 2008; culminated in paid performances (*A Touch of Wisdom: Wisdom Tales from around the World*) by the participants at Classroom 2, The Substation, on 7 & 8 Nov 2008)
- *Timeless Tales: Bringing Yesterday's Stories into Today* (Asian Congress of Storytellers [1<sup>st</sup> Singapore International Storytelling Festival]/National Book Development Council of Singapore, 30 Aug 2006)
- *Treasured Tongues: How to Become a Teller with a Thousand Voices* (Asian Congress of Storytellers/National Book Development Council of Singapore, 11 Nov 2005)
- *Stimulating the Mind's Eye: How to Choose/Create Stories & Tell Them Effectively* (with Kamini Ramachandran, MoonShadow Stories/AWARE, 7 & 14 Jun 2005)
- *Stories in Art: Shoes That Tell Tales*, storytelling performance and craft workshop for children aged 5 to 7 (with Kamini Ramachandran, MoonShadow Stories/Singapore Art Museum, 31 May 2005)
- *Communicating to Youths Through Personal Stories* (The Salvation Army, 25 May 2005)

### **STORYTELLING: WORKSHOPS/SYMPIOSIUMS ATTENDED**

- Asian Congress of Storytellers 2009 (Singapore International Storytelling Festival 2009/National Book Development Council of Singapore, 11–12 Sep 2009); attended workshops by Ruth Kirkpatrick, Valentina Ortiz, Eth-Noh-Tec & Anna Jarrett
- 'The Listening Storyteller: Learning to Listen to Your Audience and Yourself': Ruth Kirkpatrick (Storytelling Association (Singapore) Master Class, 5 Sep 2009)
- 'Permission to Play: Using Community Coaching to Work with Story Development': Kevin Cordi (Storytelling Association (Singapore) Masterclass, 6 Sep 2008)
- 'How Storytelling can Influence the Literacy Development of Young Children': Dr Rebecca Isbell (Asian Storytelling Network, 19 Jun 2008)
- *Sharing Tales for a Kinder Planet: Peace Tales and Care for the Environment*: Margaret Read MacDonald (Asian Storytelling Network, 14 Apr 2007)
- *Storytelling Fun*: Ann Pellowski (Asian Storytelling Network, 11 Feb 2006)
- Asian Congress of Storytellers 2005 (National Book Development Council of Singapore, 11–12 Nov 2005)

- Asian Congress of Storytellers 2004 (National Book Development Council of Singapore, 25–26 Nov 2004); attended workshops conducted by Dr Wajuppa Tossa, Rangimoana Taylor and Diane des Las Casas
- *Storytelling Course* (National Book Development Council of Singapore & Asian Storytelling Network, May–Jun 2003)

### **STORYTELLING: PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE**

- Co-producer for MoonShadow Stories adult storytelling events, such as:
  - *Heart of Darkness* (Classroom 2, The Substation; 30 & 31 Oct 2009)
  - *The Untold: A Revealing Night of Indian Stories Collected by A.K. Ramanujan* (Classroom 2, The Substation; 26 & 27 Jun 2009)
  - *Happiness in Hard Times* (Classroom 2, The Substation; 3 & 4 Apr 2009)
  - *What's Love Got To Do With It?* (Classroom 2, The Substation; 13 & 14 Feb 2009)
  - *A Matter of Evil* (Classroom 2, The Substation; 31 Oct & 1 Nov 2008)
  - *Fracture* (The Random Room, The Substation; 4 & 5 Jul 2008)
  - *Charming* (The Random Room, The Substation; 23 & 24 May 2008)
  - *Witches, Sirens & Crones: Tales of Magickal Women* (The Substation, Classroom 2; 6 & 7 Oct 2006)
  - *A Woman Divine: Walking with the Goddesses* (The Substation, Classroom 2; 11 Feb 2006)
  - *The Unnatural* (The Substation, Classroom 2; 15–16 Oct 2005)
  - *Faeries for Adults* (The Substation, Classroom 2; 20–21 Aug 2005)
  - *Archipelago: Southeast Asian Island Stories and Music*; storytelling at the Armenian Church in celebration of Singapore's 40<sup>th</sup> National Day (MoonShadow Stories/The Substation; 12–13 Aug 2005)
  - *The Male Instinct* (The Substation, The Blue Room; 8–10 Jul 2005)
  - *A Spring Feast* (The Substation, The Blue Room; 13–15 May 2005)
  - *All About Hearts* (The Substation, The Blue Room; 25–27 Feb 2005)
  - *Strong Women* (The Substation, The Blue Room; 14–16 Jan 2005)
- Producer for graduating shows of Beyond Storytelling 101 workshops for Associate Members of Storytelling Association (Singapore)
  - *Twists: Tales of Surprise and Suspense from Around the World* (The Substation, Classroom 2; 23 & 24 Oct 2009)
  - *A Touch of Wisdom: Wisdom Tales from around the World* (The Substation, Classroom 2; 7 & 8 Nov 2008)
- Stage Manager for the following Asian Storytelling Network/Talespin adult storytelling events:
  - *Appetites Aplenty: An Evening of Tales to Get Your Juices Flowing* (10 & 11 Nov 2006)
  - *More than Meets the Eye: Tales that Tickle, Thrill and Terrify* (29 & 30 Nov 2005)