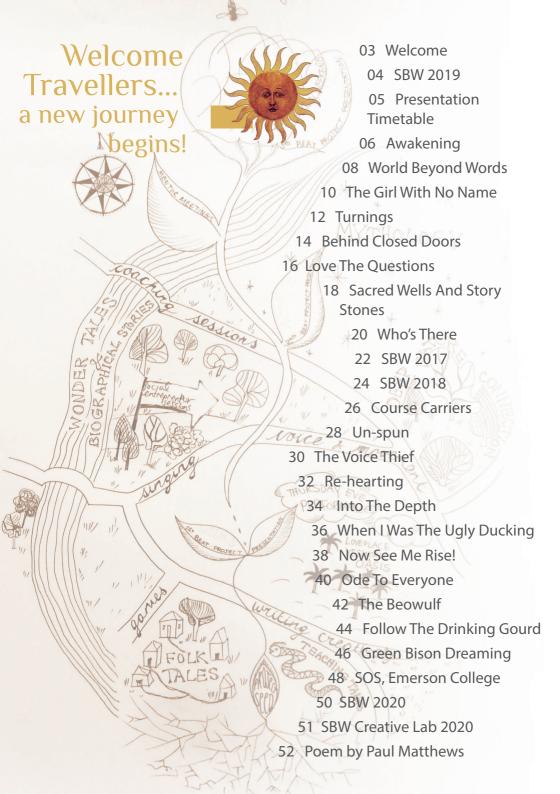


#### BEYOND WORDS 2019



Graduation Day Storytelling Presentations



### BEYOND WORDS



Dear Friends,

Stories invite you to shift your gaze beyond habitual perspectives and encounter the world looking through many eyes, human and non human.

The shiftiness of this imaginative faculty is powerful and can lead us in many directions. When accompanied with integrity and devoted observation, its very flexibility can help open our senses

to a wider field of possibilities. Imagination is the heart of all creativity and the hearth of any story-making, forever generating new forms, images and meanings for us to live by.

On this course, we train ourselves to be imagineurs; imagination entrepreneurs, contemporary storytellers who open spaces for truth speaking, deep listening and creative reflection that can lead to more conscious actions. If this is 'entertainment' let it be rooted in the origin of that word - to 'hold-together' - igniting social warmth and nurturing an embodied understanding of what moves between us.

We are deeply grateful to the group of storytellers who, journeying with us over these last three months, have explored with courage and imagination the highs and lows of these epic times we have been born into.

May this small token of our work together kindle some new thoughts, insights, re-membering and inspiration to us all.



Storytelling Beyond Words (SBW) is a 13 week training in the art and craft of storytelling, aiming to prepare students to carry the spoken word and a lively imagination into their communities and places of work. To entertain, educate, counsel, inspire or advocate change.

Long before television was ever imagined storytellers and bards, prophets and poets were called upon to tell their visions and, through a live encounter, provide images that could direct, entertain, provoke, heal and reconcile the communities in which they lived and worked.

The presentations you will see today, will open a window to the individual research projects, on personal, social or environmental themes the students chose to focus on. These projects were developed alongside journeying with the following modules:

The Oral Tradition: Building a repertoire as a storyteller, working with folk tales, teaching stories, wonder tales and ancient myths. As a group, we explored the relationship between stories old and new, their relevance to our lives, and which of them are asking us to be told today.

The Skills of the Storyteller: In-depth work on story structure, voice, gesture, movement, audience awareness, spontaneity and improvisation, authenticity and presence.

Autobiographical Storytelling: Working with meaningful experiences of our lives and shaping them into stories to inspire individuals and communities.

Visionary activism: Imagination, activated through work with stories, ritual, performance art and games, to enhance our potential to inspire, foster hope and bring into public consciousness the new narratives and visions we wish to share.

Coaching: In a supportive atmosphere with individual tutorials, feedback and work in small groups. Developing our own unique style of telling and finding what stories we individually wish to tell.

Social action: Learning to use story, strategy and structure to put a vision into action. Developing 'out of the box' solutions to issues and challenges we wish to address.

Deep listening in nature: Practices to tune in to the inter-relationships between all living systems and our evolving planet as a conscious entity full of life and stories.

Performances: Throughout the course there were plenty of opportunities for practicing our stories, including the weekly opportunity to share them with a variety of audiences.

Supporting subjects included: singing, movement, games and improvisation, connecting with nature, writing creatively and artistic craft work.

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Times	Storytelling Hut	Education Room
09.30 - 10.00	LEONORA MARIA MEIER-NIELSEN AWAKENING	LIN ZHU WORLD BEYOND WORDS
10.15 - 10.45	SUSANNAH PHILLIPSON THE GIRL WITH NO HANDS	CATHERINE JONES TURNINGS
	Break for Coffee	
11.15 - 11.45	JILL MCMILLEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND DRAWN BLINDS	FRANCHESCA STIMMING LOVE THE QUESTIONS
12.00 - 12.30	LIZ CRUZE SACRED WELLS AND STORY STONES	KENNETH GIBSON WHO'S THERE? ON THE MARGINS OF THE INVISIBLE
	Break for Lunch	
14.00 - 14.30	ANNE HUNTER UN-SPUN	OLLY PERRY THE VOICE THIEF
14.45 - 15.15	LIV RE-HEARTING	MARCUS PIBWORTH INTO THE DEPTH
	Break for Coffee	
15.45 - 16.15	YU SHOW WHEN I WAS THE UGLY DUCKLING	JULES FORD NOW SEE ME RISE!
16.30 - 17.00	GLO EINARSDOTTIR ODE TO EVERYONE	LINDSEY JACOBS THE BEOWULF A RETELLING FOR THE THIRD MILLENIUM
17.15 - 17.45	LISE NELSON FOLLOW THE DRINKIN' GOURD	KENNY HOSTE GREEN BISON DREAMING





9:30 in the storytelling hut by leonora Maria Meier-Nielsen

#### Awakening

Leonora Maria Meier-Nielsen, Denmark

We all have moments of awakening, points of no return.

One day I woke up. Everything on the outside was the same, but inside me everything had changed. I knew something needed to shift in the way I interacted with the world.

I believe that we sometimes need these "wakeup calls", especially in the world we live in today. I wonder whether it is something that can happen by itself, or if it is something we can create when it is needed?

*Is it possible to create a shift through playfulness?* 

Are we able to see things with new eyes, and meet each other in different ways?

Come play with me in the hut if you dare to share and dare to care.

I grew up in a big family. The kitchen was the heart of our home where friends and family would gather to tell stories, discuss the issues of the world, play music and listen to each other.

As a little girl I spent many nights in front of the fireplace in the kitchen while people were talking. Falling asleep listening to the melody of their voices, enjoying the togetherness and company.

In my life I have always loved bringing people together through stories and games. Over the last couple of years I have been on a journey to explore different cultures, communities, and people, as well as discover and challenge myself. As a child I had no idea about the complexity of the world, and how many people are suffering from the lack of connection, belonging and trust. Slowly I woke up from my childhood. I realized that not every story has a happy ending, but if we start to wake up and meet each other in different ways we might be able to change the end of the story.

#### World Beyond Words



Lin Zhu
Education Room 9.30-10am

#### World Beyond Words

Lin Zhu, China

Through many years of artistic training, I learned patience, trust, space and acceptance. when I apply these principles in my life, I understand human beings better. Everyone needs to be seen and to be heard. When I combine storytelling with the teaching of art, I try to encourage the development of children's imagination. Art allows this to happen in a world beyond words.

I am the daughter of a traditional Chinese mother. I am a mother of two lively teenage boys. I am the sculpture teacher in Fuyuan Steiner School in China. I am an explorer and an artist.I am now venturing into the world of storytelling.



# 

A wonder tale told by Susannah Phillipson

> 10:15 - 10:45 AM THE STORY HUT

#### The Girl with No Hands

Susannah Phillipson, England

This is the story of a woman who takes her hurt on a journey to majesty. Everything's in this story.

All of you.

Innocence and violence, fear and faith and love.

A map of your life and mine.

Let's unfold it here, between us.

I carry the violence of the past in my bones, from my life and lives before me. I am the invader and the invaded, the abuser and the abused.

I have a choice, we all do: heal the wounds, or pass them on.

I recently spent two years working at a London state school, with teenagers from all around the world. We planted a garden and made an album of music together. Speaking to me through their lyrics or with their hands in the mud, I heard them asking, "Who am I? And where do I belong?"

In order to help them, I needed to know the answer to those questions myself.

I find it hard to say that I am from England. For a while England seemed to me a symbol of consumerism and class division, with a backlog of colonial history. That is not what I belong to. So I left London, and set out on a journey to find out who I am and where I belong, following this land and Stories as my guides.

Now I'm ready to share, and explore this journey with you.



# Turnings

**Catherine Jones** 

10:15-10:45 Education Room

#### **Turnings**

Catherine Iones, USA

There is a moment when our children step into their own lives and we are called to step aside. If you have a mother, know a mother, dreamed of a mother, served as a mother or been a mother, you may find a place in this story. If you are a son or a daughter turning toward an independent life, you too may recognize the landscape described in this story. This re-telling of a classic wonder tale woven into a biographical story will uncover the often untold delightful and difficult journey of parent/child relationships.

This is my wisdom tale and I would like to share it with you.

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you......

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;

For even as he loves the arrow that flies, so

He loves also the bow that is stable.

Khalil Gibran

As a child, I wore pajamas to school and painted on walls.

In boarding school, I wore wool skirts and white starched blouses. I sat erect for hours in study hall. I learned to find my way, in both environments, sometimes not easily. I have lived and worked in many countries. I have held significant leadership positions and I have groveled on my knees in despair. I live an open-hearted life. I feel deeply. I laugh and dance, love and weep.

I am a human being who continues to experience life's twists and turns. Now I am turning to storytelling to offer what I can to a world in need.



# BEHIND CLOSED DOORS SONITE NAMARO ONA

a true story by
JILL MCMILLAN

Storytelling Hut @ 11.15AM

## Behind Closed Doors and Drawn Blinds

lill McMillan, UK

At 1.26pm on 24th November 1941, lone German U-Boat 124 fired two torpedoes at HMS Dunedin. She sank in minutes. Only half the crew managed to escape. For those who made it into the sea their ordeal had only just begun. There had been no time to report their position. No one knew she was lost. No one was coming to the rescue.

George Ritchie was 16 years old when he boarded Dunedin. He never came home. The father and brother he left behind carried on with their lives, but nothing would be the same again, either for them or for those who followed behind them.

This is the true story of three men and how war causes a ripple effect of trauma down family lines. It's a tale of tragedy, grief, stoicism, resilience, endurance and survival. It's the story of a 16-year boy who went into the Atlantic in 1941 and how the ripples of that ocean are still felt today.

From strategy consulting to leadership development to organisational change, my fascination with individual and collective narratives has led me to understand the power of story to change human behaviour and sometimes to even change the course of time.

As an executive coach, I have seen the impact of unresolved trauma and the damage it can do. I walk alongside leaders as they find the courage to write brave new stories in their lives and organisations. I work at edges because I believe that it's when we cross an edge that our story takes a turn for the better. We only get one life. What's the story you want to write with it?



My own story has unfolded in a series of surprising and sometimes miraculous twists, turns and sliding doors moments. If I hadn't been in South Carolina when a hurricane struck, I wouldn't have danced my way around Japan. If it wasn't for a proposal in Trinidad, I wouldn't have built a school in the Masai Mara. If I hadn't been hospitalised in Sierra Leone I would never have learned to walk again in Nicaragua. Each tangent has never failed to reveal to me another aspect of what it is to be human. I am learning to leap and trust that the net will appear, but never before I've stepped off the cliff.



FRANCHESCA STIMMING

How can we better understand ourselves?:

How do we create new narratives?

What is it that can make us feel deeply connected? With ourselves, with one another, with nature, with our desires...?

EDUCATION ROOM 11:15-11:45

#### Love the Questions

Frenchesca Stimming, Germany, USA

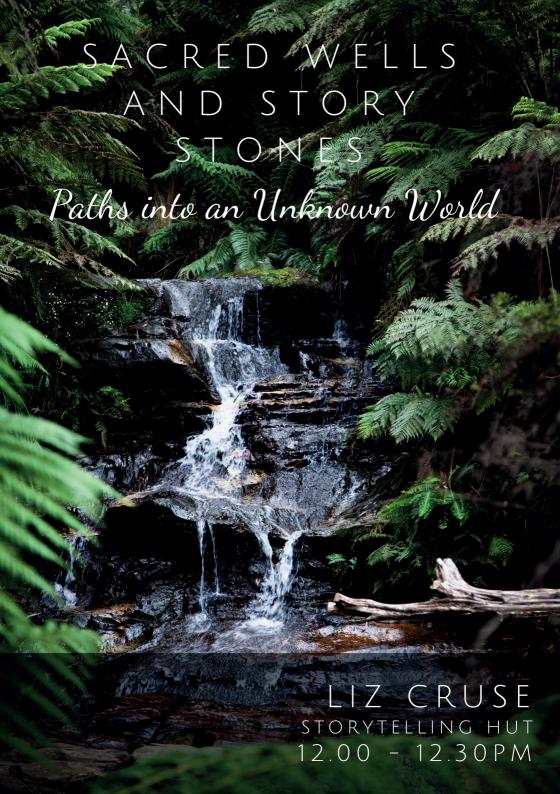
I have so many questions; the more I ask, the more I seem to find. Often I feel as though my questions go beyond words, and language becomes a barrier. What can we do when words don't arise easily and feel inadequate to capture the fullness of what is? Can we sit patiently, listening to the unknown? How can we better understand ourselves and the world in which we live?

Join me in an artistic exploration of these themes using poetry, dance and the magic of the great mystery.

"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given because you would not be able to live them. The point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then you will gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

Rainer Maria Rilke

My name is Franchesca Stimming. Growing up I lived in the Bay Area of California. For the last four years I have been traveling and exploring different parts of the world. Accompanying me along the way has been my love of writing, as well as a deep longing to know more; more about the world, more about people, more about the various ways people lead their lives, more about the ways we are in relation with one another. I want to know about the ways we communicate, the ways in which we show love, and the ways we connect. Right now I am exploring the unknown so that it may one day lead me to better understand how I can be of service to something greater than myself.



### Sacred Wells & Story Stones Paths into an Unknown World

Liz Cruze, UK

"The uncertainty of our times is no reason to be certain about hopelessness." Van-dana Shiva, scholar and activist

How can we meet the uncertainties of the future in an ecologically challenged world?

I am using stories to look for new ways of thinking to help us solve the problems our world faces. What must we give up? What is it possible for us to restore? How can we build resilient communities able to take action and survive threats?

My project is a container in which stories give rise to rituals and imaginative encounters. Out of these we can grow narratives that will shape the future.

Join me by a sacred well to experience the stones of story and the community born out of ritual. Together we can then begin to shape a new response to our troubled world and its endangered ecosystems.

I grew up in a country village in the 1950s and 1960s. Every day I walked to school through country lanes watching the seasons change. Aged seven, I discovered the Arthurian legends and aged eight, the Greek and Norse myths. The joy in stories and words born in me then has accompanied me through a life that has included teaching and training as well as a good deal of reading and studying.

My love of nature has made me into a committed environmentalist. Eventually, it led me to the nature-based spirituality of Druidry. My current quest as a storyteller is to bring together all these aspects of my life in service of our beleaguered planet and all its beings.

# Who's There?



## Who's There? On the Margins of the Invisible

Kenneth Gibson, UK

We all experience in our lives times when we are guided by 'invisible helpers'; times when we are in despair, grief or just in need of a helping hand. The Norwegian Wonder tale 'The Companion' tells the story of a young man who sets out to search for his dream princess. On the way, he ransoms a sinner who had been put into a block of ice. A short time thereafter, he meets a mysterious figure. This companion helps him through the hardships he must go through to win the princess. Alongside a summarised telling of this tale I will relate an experience I had with an 'invisible helper' during and after my time of living in Germany.

I am currently exploring life as a visual artist, storyteller, singer and clown. I began my professional life at the age of 16 as a merchant seaman. In my early 20s I joined the British Army and trained as a paratrooper. After living for 10 years in Germany I studied as a mature student at the Nottingham Trent University and gained my PhD in seventeenth century Apocalyptic Thought. I worked as lecturer at the University of Derby for 17 years and returned to Forest Row where I was generously sponsored, (by an individual who wishes to remain anonymous), to do the three month storytelling course.







Storytelling Beyond Words is truly so much more than learning how to tell stories. Not only have I got a sack full of storytelling tools when I now leave, but I've learned so much about myself and have grown so much on a personal level thanks to the magical and safe space that was held for me at International School the Storytelling. This is a space where the teachers walk their talk, embody the attitude of inclusion, creating a very safe space for growth, for daring to move out of one's own comfort zone. leading by example.

Synnove Froiland, Norway | SBW 2017

# SBW 2017

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Slow cook into wizardry. A journey into soul nourishing and depth. With our breath, intention, and imagination we have grown and reconnected to a way of being; ancient, mythic, and profound.

Heather Jane, UK | SBW 2017



Nga mihi, Greetings and congratulations to you, the graduates of this turning point course! Also to you the friends and family of the graduates. I was fortunate to be on the first Storytelling Beyond Words course in 2017 travelling from New Zealand with ideas, hopes, dreams and plans. I returned to my homeland renewed, encouraged and enabled to pursue my research project, Meeting the Other, which continues to this day and may well continue all my life. I carry the many gifts within me and am heartened and encouraged to walk 'to meet the other' and to endeavour to meet in peace every being I encounter in my life. Arohanui (great love)

Judith Frost-Evans, New Zealand | SBW 2017

People often say to me that they couldn't possibly stand in front of a group of people and tell a story and I find myself replying "Oh yes you can. There are skills, techniques that enable you to do this and supportive tutors to help you on your way." This is what I learnt in Storytelling Beyond Words in 2017.

As soon as I finished the course, I (who had never before told a story in public) offered my project, a performance about Indian myth, forests endangered by mining environmental and women defenders. to friends campaign on all of these issues. They immediately saw a purpose for the story and I have been performing it at events and meetings ever since.

I use what I have learned on the course in my work as a literacy teacher in school and community settings, to help others to find the confidence to speak in front of a group of people.

Kerima Mohideen, UK | SBW 2017











Storytelling Beyond Words was like planting a seed that has kept growing in me. When I came, I was already a professional storyteller in Indonesia, but this course took me to another journey beyond my previous storytelling experience. I have come to realize that storytelling is not just about telling-speaking, but also about listening.

It was my very first time living abroad, my first time sharing a house with people from different backgrounds, and my first experience of snow!

The journey with 17 other storvtellers was really beyond-words experience. After the course I was invited to teach storytelling many groups Indonesia. I was also invited to many places to tell stories. I was even invited to tell a bit of my to the President Indonesia, Now, I am also focusing on Imagine-Nation Indonesia, the project I presented on SBW 2018 graduation day. Visit our website: www.imagine-nation.id)

Rona Mentari, Indonesia | SBW 2018



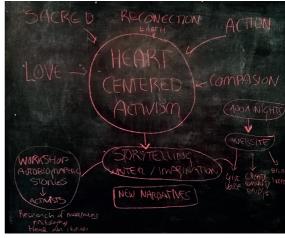
# SBW 2018

When I began the course I thought I would be learning mostly how perform. to Fortunately, Karmit and Roi were much smarter than that. Instead, I learned that to tell a story is really to open a door - a door to an enchanted, half-forgotten land where we can connect with each other, with our own wild hearts. with the places we live in and with the deeper life of this wonderful, awful world. I learned that through the door of story we can laugh, weep, fall in love, tell the taste iustice. truth. find redemption and take a few steps back towards life. All this in 13 weeks but of course we know that when you cross over into that other world, a day can last a lifetime

Susannah Gill, UK | SBW 2018







The course gave me the tools to live closer to my purpose and gifts. I discovered storytelling as a form of radical activism that grasps things from the roots - from a place of love, creativity and imagination.

Gloria Granell, Catalunia | SBW 2018



Roi Gal-Or (co-founder of the School of Storytelling, Emerson College), has taught over the last 18 years the art and craft of the storyteller to thousands of people around the world. His focus is on how stories can be of service of the environment, education, healing, peace and reconciliation, and on working with the imagination to inspire connection and social transformation. foster vision. possibility and personal development. www.roigalor.com

Olivia Olsen - (Voice and movement/Mentoring) has worked for many years at Canada's National Voice Intensive where in depth study of movement of voice focused into performance of

Shakespeare. This underpins many of the processes she now works with in helping people open and use their voice. She holds an MA in Voice from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and a Postgraduate Degree in Voice from York University

Toronto. As well as storytellers and actors, Olivia teaches business professionals at Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto and performs internationally.

Paul Matthews- (Writing creatively/Mentoring) is a published poet, internationally acclaimed both for his poetry readings and for the joyful and interactive workshops in Creative Writing that he offers. His two books on the creative process, 'Sing Me the

Creation' and 'Words in Place' have proved inspirational to teachers of children and adults alike, and to all who seek to develop their powers of imagination. He has travelled widely with his work and now, after stepping back from his full time work as lecturer, poet and gymnast at Emerson College he continues to expand his activities in the UK and elsewhere. (www.paulmatthewspoetry.co.uk)

Stella Kassimati - (Mythology/Coaching) is skilled in facilitating workshops that help people of all ages connect with the origins of modern life through Ancient Greece as the cradle of Western Civilisation, using her deep knowledge of Greek Myths, Gods and Goddesses. Stella is the founding Director of Friends of Amari, an international association contributing to the revival of the Valley and Village of Amari in Crete, through the art of storytelling. (www.friends-of-amari.org)

Karmit Even Zur's work history spans diverse experiences, interests and competences from human ecology, the healing arts, and the arts & crafts world. Her unique skill-set provides a deep perspective for transformational work, and in working with soul searching questions. Her work is deeply informed and nurtured by a European shamanic tradition. She is passionate about creating new narratives that combine ancient, nature based thinking with contemporary forms and needs.

www.earth-speaks.net



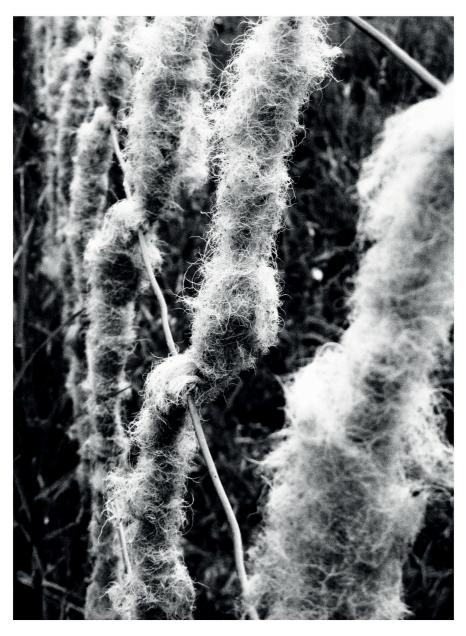
Giovana conforto- (Coaching/Mentoring) is the creative director of the Italian Storytelling Center. Giovanna is a world-known storyteller.

She has taught, performed and consulted in Italy and abroad. Her collaborations include Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and the Global Science Opera. As well as teaching at the School of Storytelling-Emerson College – UK she also teaches at the Master's on Arts Management at the IED University in Rome. (www.italianstorytellingcenter.it/en)

Ashley Ramsden - (Mentoring) established the School of Storytelling in 1994 under the umbrella of Emerson College. Ashley's unique methods of teaching voice and the skills of the storyteller have received international acclaim. He runs workshops, tours with his one-man-shows and is a speaker of sacred poetry. He has been touring recently with his wife Flora, focussing on T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets. (www.ashleyramsden.com)

Naamah Pinkerfeld Gal-Or (Singing) has been singing with our students and leading the Singing Forest Choir at Emerson College since 2008. She has led the Heart of the City Community Choir in London since 2010. She has taught singing to many groups and led choirs in inspiring venues including St Paul's Cathedral, the British Museum, London Zoo, and Chartres Cathedral in France.

Marisa Guthrie - (Business coaching/Social entrepreneurship skills) - works as a coach and mentor with entrepreneurs who run independent businesses / partnerships - to help them develop confidence in their brand so they can communicate what they do with authenticity.(www.businesscoachingsussex.co.uk)



un-spun

Tales from the spinning wheel Storytelling Hut

**Anne Hunter** 

# UN-SPUN Tales from the spinning wheel

Anne Hunter, UK

Now the myths are done

As the rain fell we spilt out

Our tales, loud in the damp air Back space, raw rage where

Once, when we were soft and new The sound was less than

The call of a fish

Wet days speak of the sea

Bring tide to land

Blood to sand

Door to key

I will swim through the lake

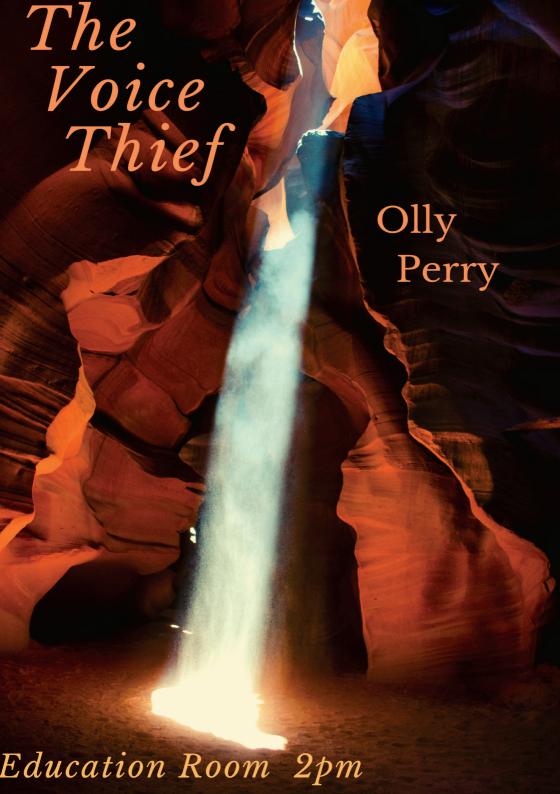
Like a swan.

Roller-skates, tricycles, bicycles — spinning wheels took me places as soon as my feet touched the ground. The love of self-propelled travel came from my father; from my mother a love of words, music, singing and home. My parents were makers; wood, cloth, wool, words, all materials waiting to be shaped into stories.

The landscape of my Lancashire child-hood was full of spinning history, local lore and legend: the witches of Pendle Hill, where George Fox had the vision that inspired the Quaker movement, Gandhi and the Cotton mills. My move to Scotland brought traveller tales, Celtic myths, Selkies and the Sidhe.

The inspiration of my late husband, storyteller Andy Hunter, led me to storytelling. It is stories and storytelling that take me forward in this ever spinning world.





## The Voice Thief Remembering the medicine of words

Olly Perry, UK

The Voice Thief is my allegorical tale about a man of power who has his voice stolen by a sorcerer. Losing this power, he travels deep into his own being, guided by help- ers to learn where the true power within words sits and how the voice can be used to heal when infused with the energy of love and understanding.

This is a story within a story intended to generate the change that we so urgently need. Words are power. When you have no voice, you have no power. Our world is riven by division: open any newspaper, listen to anyone in a position of authority, or read any advert and you can see how words create beliefs and manipulate people. Too often, words of love and connection are lost in the collective noise we create.

The balance of all life on the planet is at a crucial point. We have hard choices ahead. Words used wisely, consciously, and compassionately have the power to heal rifts and wounds and bring unity.

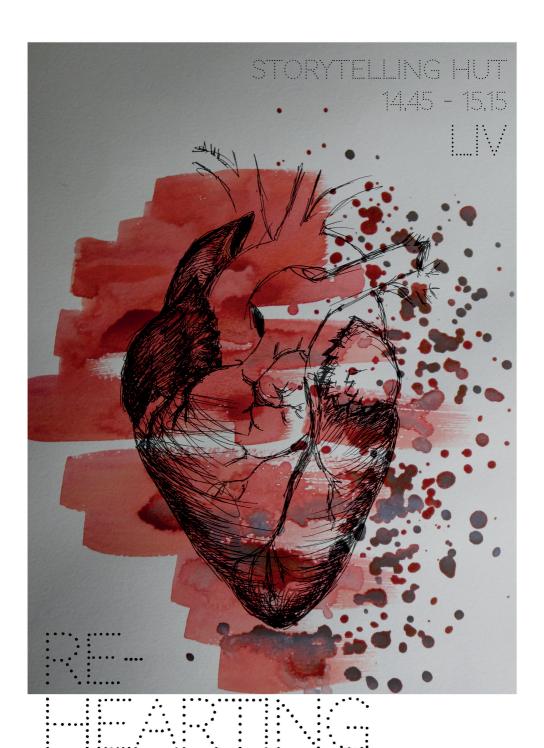
Language is alive, it's a gift, connecting us, and allowing us to share stories and songs and poems...it's a medicine.

My name is Olly Perry and I live in the mountains of central Portugal. From as early as I can remember, I loved magical stories and the images they created in my mind. So, after many years of wandering and wondering, I have finally found that what I really want to do with the rest of my life is to bring people together through storytelling.



At this point in a life that has embraced so many experiences, I've come to accept that I simply do not know anything. By learning to accept myself as I am, an explorer, looking for meaning along the highways and byways of life, and perfect in my imperfection, I've come to an understanding about my life path.

And so as a storyteller, this time with a purpose, I want to reclaim the power of words and align them with their true source, the creative power behind everything: love.



#### Re-Hearting

1 iv

#### I am Liv's heart

Multi-coloured

Multi-textured

Multi-dimensional

Faithfully, I have been expanding, contracting, expanding, contracting, loving and tearing, listening and raging, twisting and softening, holding and opening; connecting, for a lifetime...

... and all the while ... beating.

At last Liv is awakening, or perhaps re-awakening, and allowing me to be her guide.

Science tells us that my electromagnetic waves reach far beyond our physical bodies, connecting with, and affecting, hearts of others beyond our conscious awareness. It also shows that my heart intelligence is more than equal to that of the brain.

How would our lives be different if we opened the eyes of our hearts?

How would the world look if we allowed our hearts to be our courageous leaders?

Join me and leave your armour at the door. Let my stories flow through your heart's

Fragile or fierce, bursting or broken, longing or loving, I welcome you

I am Liv.

At 3, on stage in a nursery school nativity, 'Don't look at me!' was the only thing I shouted. It was too much. Too much to be seen. I felt as if I, little Liv, had stopped.

My heart didn't think so. It carried on beating. It took me to being a science teacher, dissecting other creatures' hearts, investigating their heart-strings and my own. As I approach 33, I am learning that being seen, being loved, doesn't break me, or my heart, only the armour around it. I am learning that this vital seat of blood and communication, independently powering and loving me from my core, holds world-changing wisdom in its walls.



So, I am daring to sit in my heart, daring to listen, daring to feel. Daring, to give it Voice.



#### Into the Depth

Marcus Pibworth, UK

How can we, as men, allow ourselves to be vulnerable? How can we learn to say how we really feel? To grow we must enter into the depths of our souls. But this is a wild and dangerous place.

In the past fairy tales, myths and stories of all sorts would have acted as maps for the soul, handed down from generation to generation, shining a light on the deeper meanings of the human experience and what it means to be a man. Rites of Passage and the wisdom of elders would have sat alongside these stories as beacons to help young men enter and return from their voyage into the unknown.

In recent years traditional roles of men have shifted dramatically. The journey from adolescence to adulthood leaves many young men feeling lost, angry and alone. With suicide remaining the biggest killer of young men in the UK, it is clear that something in our current views of what it means to be a man is not working.

Can the art and craft of storytelling once more be used to build new narratives around what it means to be a man? By combining a mix of traditional wonder tales and biographical stories from my own life "Into the Depth" is an exploration into how stories can be used to transform and heal ourselves by inviting us to safely sail into the turbulent waters of life and to be the guides that help us navigate our way back from the depths.

Before I came on this course I would have described myself as a storyteller, writer and podcaster, but that isn't who I am. Those are a few of the roles that I like to take on. Who am really?

A farmer's son from Milton Keynes? A man who lives in a van? A lost soul in search of meaning?

I've definitely been all of those things. I'm someone who has spent many years trying to get my head around what this mad, bizarre, beautiful world is all about. I'm someone with a thirst to get to know myself and a desire to drink cups of tea with as many people as I can. I'm someone who likes to sit in fields. I'm someone who laughs and cries. I'm some- one with a desire to get out

into the world to really see how people, in all their wonderful diversity, makes sense of this thing we call life.

I'm also a person who has struggled. In the summer of 2017 I decided to set out on a journey to better understand my own experiences with depression and anxiety. Since then I have been traveling around the country in my little red camper van collecting and sharing stories about how we deal with change and navigate the difficult bits that life throws our way, building my repertoire of stories and experiences along the way.

#### WHEN I WAS THE

# Ugly Duckling



### When I was the Ugly Duckling

Yu-Hsiu Huang, Taiwan

Have you ever felt like the ugly duckling, who cannot fit in or does not belong any- where?

Have you ever wished to be heard, seen and appreciated for who you are, without wearing a social mask?

How can we trust our unique qualities, and learn to love them as gifts?

We are the only person who can hold the hands of our younger, wounded self and bring them home.

My project is about creating safe social spaces, where people can feel comfortable to fully express themselves, meet and truly see each other in an honest and healthy way.

My name is Yu-Hsiu Huang.

I consider myself a world citizen who comes from the land of Taiwan.

During my childhood and as a teenager I always felt different and wondered where I truly belonged.

When I toured around eastern and western countries as part of a Waldorf international choir in high school, I lived as a singer and musician where I was surrounded by people from various countries and living with the same passions. This was the first time I experienced a sense of belonging and being seen.

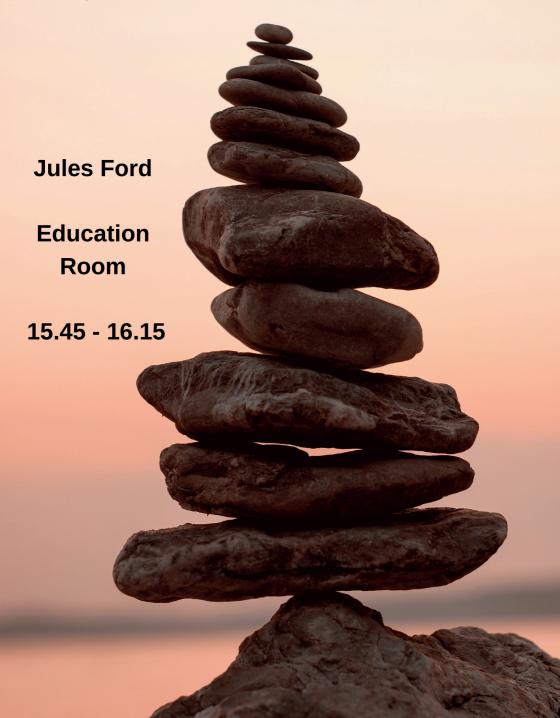


In my early twenties through living in an international youth program, I finally learned to be accepted for who I am. It was there I developed a love of meeting people and seeing the truth of the individual.

I am a lover of life. I am very curious about the world and how to communicate, connect with people and create communities.

Right now I am developing myself as a storyteller, to bring people from different ages and countries together, using the magic of stories to encourage individuals to realize their own uniqueness and gifts.

# Now See Me Rise!



### Now See Me Rise!

Inanna, Sumer Mesapotemia Jules Ford, South West England UK

They say it takes a village to raise a child. In the UK, there are 83,000 children and young people not able to live with their birth mothers at any one time, including 65,000 children in foster care. Many of the mothers who birthed these children experienced difficult childhoods themselves.

What support do these mothers need?

What if community grief rituals were part of that support?

What if story was once again, an accepted way of healing deep pain?

#### Inanna, Sumer Mesapotemia

Inanna was the first recorded Goddess - The Sumerian Queen of Heaven and Earth, circa 3000 B.C. When she descended into The Underworld, she was stripped of everything that she loved and valued. Yet through this journey, she was transformed and healed.

#### Jules Ford, South West England UK

I have had many roles in my life, but none more important than being a foster mother. Being alongside my foster son and his birth family for nearly two decades, has many times taken me to the edge of my edge. Bearing witness to their struggle, pain and grief whilst living it myself, has been one of the most dif-ficult experiences of my life... and yet the sweetest gift.

My foster son's happiest childhood memory is of being told stories. Passion for the healing power of story continues to burn ever brightly in my heart, and to guide my life and work



# ODE TO GLO EINARS

STORY 22.06.19 HUT 4.30-5PM

### Ode To Everyone

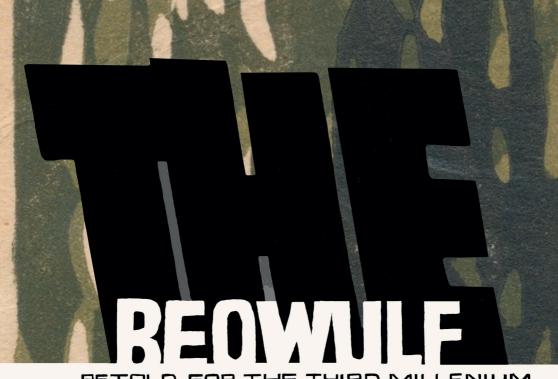
Gló Einarsdóttir

My name is Glo and I am 25 years old. I have completed a quarter of my journey of becoming a grandmother, an old grandmother like the one I had who never missed an opportunity to tell a good story. Her stories were about all kinds of people that she'd known and they'd all start with a long but crucial tracing of their family heritage story. Which then everytime, without fail would remind her of another good story about someone that knew that other someone. By the end I would have listened to a thousand and one stories of people I had never met and never would.

The most exciting moment for me though was when she would stay silent for a while, chuckling at the bits that were to remain untold to her grandchild.

As an aspiring grandmother, preparing myself to tell stories to the future children of the world, let me tell you stories of the people I have met along the way and the people I have yet to meet.





RETOLD FOR THE THIRD MILLENIUM





For twelve years, Hrothgar's kingdom is terrorised by the man-eating monster. Grendel.

Then a mighty warrior crosses the sea to save the Danes; his name is Beowulf, and he vows to kill Grendel with his bare hands.

But what if Grendel is not to blame? Who is the real monster?

At two thousand years old, *The Beowulf* is one of the oldest stories in the English language. You might call it the original horror story.

But stories can be changed...

## 4.30<sub>PM</sub> EDUCATION ROOM

#### **Lindsey Jacobs**

Poor, maddened Grendel lurking joyless in the dark -we all feel that way at times. Or maybe it's just me?

We read the great Anglo-Saxon epic, *Beowulf*, at school, in a Penguin paperback translation with truly terrifying pictures. I was the only one in class who felt sorry for the monsters.

Forty years later, nothing's changed. I'm still on the side of the monsters and misfits. I'll tell you a story any time, but I'll tell it slant, with twists and tricksters and little moments of sly surprise.

It's good to see things from a different perspective.

Lindsey Jacobs is a Steiner School teacher She lives in London



# GREEN BISON DREAMING



KENNY HOSTE

5.15 - 5.45 PM

EDUCATION ROOM

### Green Bison Dreaming

Kenny Hoste, Belgium, USA

Shaggy green fur, moist and unkempt. Righteous anger, ready for retribution and rampage. Boiling blood that sends shivers across the land.

This is the story of a glorious ancient force, dormant in the wild places of nature and the human soul.

It is stirring under the veneer of civilized etiquette and polite smiles.

It speaks to us in ancient tongues, whispering wild names we never knew were ours.

It is longing to burst through the concrete slab of everyday boring routine life in raw ecstasy.

It is ready to howl so loud it can be heard for miles around. Ready to defend what is sacred -- no matter what.

Ready to be remembered...

Then refusing to be forgotten again.

Kenny crawled into this life in the hot Sonoran desert of Arizona and was raised in the greyness of Belgian suburbia.

Creativity for him has always been both passion and survival. As a child he dreamt of becoming a comic book artist. Today his creativity flows out through visual art, writing, storytelling and drumming.

He's on a journey of living both the impossible wild madness of life as a modern human and the relentless blah of it all. Behind closed doors or when walking barefoot through the forest he does unspeakable things which one should not write about in biographical descriptions. He has wandered through differ- ent countries and social roles. He learned a lot and unlearned even more.





**Emerson College** is an international center for learning, discovery and transformation set in the heart of the

beautiful Sussex countryside. It is home to the School Of Storytelling and other educational initiatives, and pioneers courses in. The Creative Arts, in Care & Wellbeing and in Ecology.

The College provides holistic learning, designed to nurture body, soul and spirit in a spiritual social and ecological conscious environment.

The way we work at Emerson is inspired by Anthroposophy. From the way we grow our vegetables to our approach to color. From the way we conduct our meetings to the way we clean our floors. Even if people have no idea about the philosophy, they sense the special quality of the plants, the wildlife and the air that they are breathing. Our delicious organic meals are prepared with many ingredients fresh from the soil of our biodynamic vegetable garden.

To find our more about Emerson and the courses we offer visit...

www.emerson.org.uk

The School of Storytelling, Emerson College, is the longest running international center of its kind.

Since 1994, we continue to run courses and have welcomed over the years thousands of people from all cultures, backgrounds, genders, ages and experience.

With a huge variety of courses ranging from autobiographical storytelling, to working with story in education, health, and healing, contemporary performance, activism and environmental justice the School of storytelling is constantly evolving and exploring. Storytelling is how we make sense of the world, who we are, where we are going and how we communicate this to others, personally or professionally.

The art of storytelling is a powerful medium, with the ability to inspire change and development. Our belief systems are stories, every algorithm tells a story. The myths, legends, folk and fairy tales that every culture has left behind are all "the distilled essence of human experience." This new paradigm, exploring the new story emerging, and working with stories for the healthy development of individuals and communities is a running theme thorough the School's teaching practices.

Thank you for coming to celebrate with us. We hope you feel nourished by visiting this creative oasis. May you also take the warmth of this storytelling fire with you wherever you go.



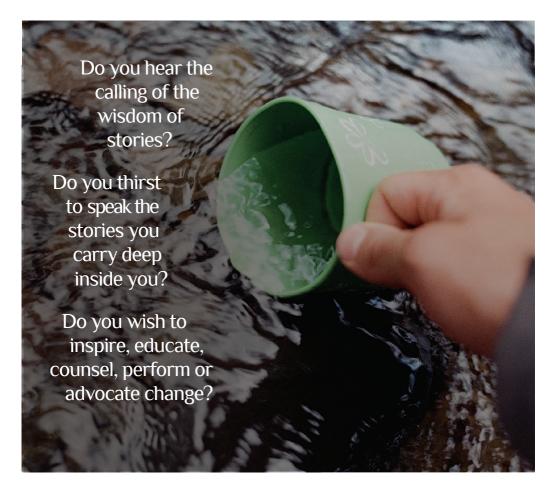
There is a place on the path towards forest row where I once saw a deer jump at my presence as I jumped at hers

This moment of startling recognition is one of the great gifts that we receive from stories; we come face to face with our own nature. Sometimes we catch sight of ourselves in the mirror for just the briefest moment, sometimes we are touched and it leaves a lasting impression.

One year on from Beyond Words and honestly, I am still a bit startled, but here are a few things I know for sure: Every story we told, and every story told before us, is embedded in the structural fabric of that storytelling hut, perhaps even holding it together || There are many small ears on campus, always listening, feathered and furred || Sincere growth is usually uncomfortable, but stories are soothing companions || Baba Yaga's house is less formidable when you go there with your friends || Those high field buttercups are as bright as the spring sun.

Lucy Carver, New Zealand | SBW 2018

'The listening place where you can find your voice'

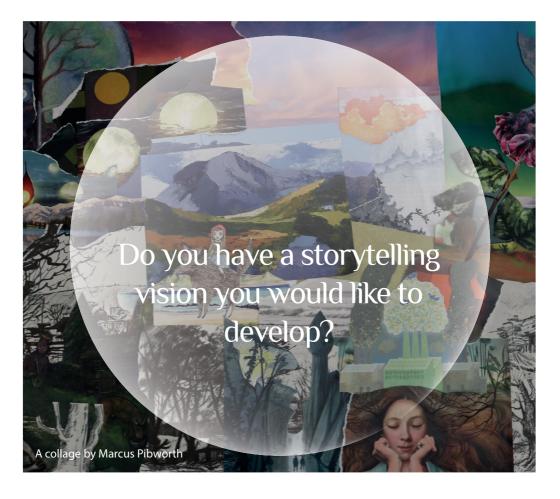


### STORYTELLING Beyond Words 2020

Led by Roi Gal-Or and Karmit Even-Zur

8th March to 3rd April 20th April to 19th June 13-WEEK STORYTELLING TRAINING TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

For more information contact: registrar@emerson.org.uk www.emerson.org.uk/storytelling-beyond-words



SBW creative lab is a residency program that offers storytellers and activists an ideal environment, nourishment and encouragement to work on developing their creative projects. Open by application to storytellers who are working on a specific performance or storytelling related project.

We will be offering creative input, mentoring, and coaching as well as guidance in developing strategy for publicity and promotion of the work. With Roi, Karmit and guest teachers.

### SBW Creative Lab

Sept 2020

A THREE-WEEK CREATIVE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME FOR PROFESSIONAL STORYTELLERS

For more information contact: roigalor@gmail.com

Whose word could be truthful enough for the Stone to accept it?

Who could have beauty enough to speak for the Rose?

Who could be innocent enough to utter what's at the heart of a Wolf or a Goldfish?

Whose word could be grounded in love enough to sound what is most deeply Human?

Paul Matthews

