

2023

STORYTELLING BEYOND WORDS



Graduation Day
Storytelling
Presentations



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

School Of
Storytelling





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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.

Welcome

Welcome to the Storytelling Beyond Words graduation day!

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the adventure in which we have immersed ourselves over the last three months. Today we will be giving you a glimpse of the individual quests and questions that this year's group have spun together...yarns intertwined and woven into a fine tapestry of stories.

Our work concerns itself with embodied histories, handed down legacies and composting stories. We aim to become vessels worthy of carrying potent, gestating images that speak of change. Change often takes place painstakingly, inch by inch, but sometimes, beyond words, change happens as quantum leaps into new ways of being and insight.

And so, as contemporary storytellers, we hone our capacity to listen to the evolving stories of our times, and offer what we hear to you, our listeners, in hope that we can cultivate opportunities to open and hold spaces for conversations together.

In our collective striving, these stories will surely remind us of our failings of inclusivity, our collusion in wounding and exploiting of living beings and the earth, our softness, our brokenness and our fierceness. May we take courage when needed, to creatively disrupt the status quo, build bridges and mend that which is broken, one story at a time.

Thank you for lending us your hearts and ears today. May fresh thoughts and meaningful conversation be your reward, with words to delight you, and inspirations to carry out into the wider community.

Karmit and Roi

WELCOME TO THE OASIS CAFE

The presentations you will see today will open a window to the individual research projects, on personal, social or environmental themes on which the students chose to focus. 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 practising our stories, including the weekly opportunity to share them with a variety of audiences.

Supporting subjects included: social entrepreneurship, singing, movement, games and improvisation, connecting with nature and writing creatively.



A TWELVE WEEK TRAINING IN THE ART AND CRAFT OF STORYTELLING, AIMING TO PREPARE YOU TO



CARRY THE SPOKEN WORD & A LIVELY IMAGINATION INTO YOUR COMMUNITIES & PLACES OF WORK

'People talk a lot about life-changing experiences, and yet that is the only phrase that fits my journey with Storytelling Beyond Words. The quality and breadth of the 'teaching' (although much of it felt quite unlike any other teaching I've had), the fun and depth of the interactions with the other participants from all around the globe, and how the course worked its magic on so many levels and in so many ways, forcing me to challenge my perceptions about my own abilities. I am happier, more spacious and following my path so much more clearly since I undertook Storytelling Beyond Words. I loved it...'

James Pretlove SBW 2022.

'When I first read about the Storytelling Beyond Words course a few years ago, I sensed that whoever wrote the description really 'gets it', or gets me, somehow. I felt something was whispering to the soft, sensitive part of me that only a few very special people in my life know how to talk to. When I joined the course, that soft part of me was fully embraced, seen, and given plenty of room to thrive and have lots of fun. Hearing stories, and learning to craft and tell stories, opened me to a deeper sense of meaning in the world. I've done many weird and wonderful things over the years to heal myself, find community, and be creative, but Storytelling Beyond Words was by far the deepest, richest, and most fun of them all. Honestly, it was one of the best experiences of my life. Soulful, playful, down-to-earth, and deeply transformative. If something is whispering to you to join, I would say it's worth listening :)'

Loren Seaman SBW 2022



ROI GAL-OR - COURSE LEADER



Roi, co-founder of the School of Storytelling, Emerson College, has been teaching over the last 20 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 to 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

KARMIT EVENZUR - COURSE LEADER



Karmit's work history spans diverse experiences, interests and competencies from human ecology, the healing arts, and the arts and 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

ASHLEY RAMSDEN - SPEAKING POETRY/ MENTORING



Ashley 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.
www.ashleyramsdens.com

STELLA KASSIMATI - MYTHOLOGY/COACHING



Stella facilitates 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. She 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

PAUL MATTHEWS - WRITING CREATIVELY



Paul is internationally acclaimed both for his poetry readings and joyful, interactive workshops. His two books on the creative process, Sing Me the Creation and Words in Place have proved inspirational to teachers of children, adults and all who seek to develop their powers of imagination. He has travelled widely with his work and now, is expanding his activities in the UK and elsewhere.
www.paulmatthewspoetry.co.uk

Course Carriers

OLIVIA OLSEN - VOICE AND MOVEMENT



Olivia Olsen has worked for many years at Canada's National Voice Intensive. She helps 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. Olivia also teaches at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto and performs internationally.



NAAMAH PINKERFELD - SINGING

Naamah 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.

SARAH PERCEVAL - COACHING/MENTORING



Sarah spent 30 years as an actor in classical theatre, and as a performance storyteller specialising in stories from Bahá'í history, intercultural and interfaith themes. She has recorded a number of storytelling CDs, and toured with the UK's first ever interfaith storytelling troupe. She went on to be the 'Sage in Residence' at Eton, and currently also coaches for the Junior Lawyers Club.
www.sarahperceval.com

HANNAH MCDOWALL - SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Hannah started as a researcher, exploring how social enterprise is shaped by the marketplace. Since becoming a storyteller in 2012 she has worked to bring the potency of myth and story, growing the imaginative capacity of leaders and community members seeking to vision better futures. Her book Performance Storytelling: How to Build Your Career and Grow the Artform supports storytellers to grow their work.

HANNAH MOORE - COACHING



Hannah Moore is a storyteller, facilitator and arts practitioner with a background in using dance and theatre for community development. Alongside her work in restorative justice, she is keenly interested in how traditional and personal storytelling can be used for peace, reconciliation and actively humanising each other, and how exploring the imaginative realm together can restore and strengthen us.



GIOVANNA CONFORTO - COACHING

Giovanna is the creative director of the Italian Storytelling Center. She has taught, performed and consulted in Italy and abroad. Her collaborations include Uffizi Gallery, Florence; Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and the Global Science Opera.
www.italianstorytellingcenter.it/en

SBW 2023

20 May | Graduate Presentation's Programme

Storytelling Hut

9:00 - 9:40

RUTH TURNER
Mask or Mirror?

9:55 - 10:35

SIDDHARTH GUPTA
The Cave of Forgotten Dreams

TEA/COFFEE*

11:00 - 11:40

JENNY LYNNE SESSIONS AKA JENIX
A Pearl from the Wreckage

11:55 - 12:35

MIRELLA PRETTO
Unspoken

LUNCH

(For those who have
pre-booked)

14:00 - 14:40

ANNE CROSS
Mycelial Stories

14:55 - 15:35

FLORA IRMA GERBER
Re-Member-Sing

TEA/COFFEE*

16:00 - 16:40

SONJÁ DE SILVA
Volva and her Monsters' Destiny

SUPPER 18:15 (For those
who have pre-booked)

Ruskin Hall

NOA FREYLAFERT
Heart, Soup and Wolves

MELAINA FARANDA
Memory Keeper

RETTA BOWEN
Maiden Mother Crone

ANGELA ROWLAND
The Sacred Gift of Celebration

ELISE LORIMER
Woman on Fire

CHRISTINE SHEPHERD
The Heron and the Hummingbird

WILLIAM GRAHAM STEWART
Legend of the Lost Story

**Tea & Coffee
will be served
in Pixton Tea
Room*

Foundation Room

SWATI GAUTAM
A Forgotten Tale

DARREN THOMPSON
The Oak Tree and the Bear

CHRISTIN WENDEBAUM
Be Longing

ANNABELLE LANDGARTEN
The Rescue

LIOR YISRAELI
The Boy from Nowhere

LUCAS ROSATELLI
Primal Stories

KELSEY MALONEY
Set the Dam Waters Free

Welcome to Emerson College Campus





Mask or Mirror?

9.00 | Storytelling Hut

I left Scotland, my home for the first 22 years of my life, in search of ... of ... what...? Well, I suppose, myself really! I rode on my little motorbike to France and had lots of good adventures before heading to Germany, where I have spent the last 44 years. I have had many jobs in my life: cleaner, waitress, dental secretary, shop assistant and over 25 years in various branches of the whole food scene. However, I returned to my original profession - teaching - for the last 16 years of my working life, in a small Waldorf school in the far south of Germany. Now I'm retired and the journey to myself continues - I hope it never ends, actually.

Learning to tell stories and listening to them, whether folk tale, myth or biographical has become a great new revelatory path, where unknown or hidden aspects of myself have come to light. This path has confronted me again with my more uncomfortable feelings like anger, shame, loss and lack, but also led to a heightened compassion for myself and others. I'm excited about where it will take me next!

'She wears a mask, and her face grows to fit it.'

(adapted from **George Orwell**)

Helen's was the face that launched a thousand ships. The Virgin Mary wears the face of forgiveness and compassion. Mother Theresa's expressed humility. All paragons of womanhood. But what of the unloved faces of the feminine: anger, bawdiness, boldness or self-love?

The powerful myth of Amaterasu, the Japanese Goddess of the sun, inspired me, as someone who has striven to be a "good" woman, to explore these feelings that I normally do not express so freely. Many of us, as I do, wear masks in order to be accepted or loved, but if I wish to live more authentically, I need to unmask: to embrace and integrate my unloved sides.

With the lessons and blessings of Amaterasu, my intention is to look into the mirror and initiate a group conversation around the expression of our suppressed feelings and how we can practise more self-care and self-love.

Recommended age group: 16+

MASK OR MIRROR?

STORYTELLING HUT

RUTH TURNER

SAT. 20TH MAY 2023

9 AM



Soup, Heart & Wolves



Noa Freylafert, Ruskin Hall 9:00

Soup, Heart & Wolves

9.00 | Ruskin Hall

In Hebrew, the words Friendship (חֲבֵרִית) and Connection (חֲבִיר) come from an identical 3 letter root: ח.ב.ר.

Friendship would be translated literally as 'Connectedness'.

What is Friendship really about?

The encounter with another person touches me, changes me. It brings gifts, discoveries, and a knowing I didn't have before. It holds a mirror in front of me.

To experience this magic of encounter, I have to be open and willing. Can we approach each person, and every being, with this in mind? How would our world look then?

Come and share bread with me, and explore together, through stories, the magic of Friendship and Connection.



My name is Noa, I'm from Israel.

I believe that the biggest joy is to feel true, deep connection.

What does it mean for me?

I feel connected when I dance and move my body, when I knead the dough that will become bread, when I sing with others, when I weed and my hands are covered with dirt, when I have a conversation that opens my heart.

I feel connected the most when I'm being true to myself - who I truly am - then bring it out in the world, and see how it responds back.

SWATI GAUTAM - INDIA



A Forgotten Tale

9.00 | Foundation Room

I teach children in a residential school and they are all beloved to me. I am also a poet, storyteller, and the proudest mother of a 24-year-old strong, confident, and wise lawyer-daughter.

I live in India and am deeply connected to my rich cultural heritage and roots. There is so much beauty in my country, but it pains me to see the gender biases in my society. I have lived and struggled as a single woman all my life.

As mothers, wives and daughters - women in my country work tirelessly for their families, but their efforts are rarely recognised.

I believe in the transformative power of listening. I want to create space for the unheard stories of these women who are denied a voice; to give them strength and courage to face their life challenges.

Have you ever felt unseen, unheard and invisible?

Have you ever felt betrayed by someone you loved deeply?

This morning you are invited to hear the untold story of an invisible, unseen, but also enlightened soul who was left behind when her husband desired to achieve what he saw as truth.

I am going to tell you the story of a strong, compassionate woman who travelled paths parallel to those of her husband Buddha.

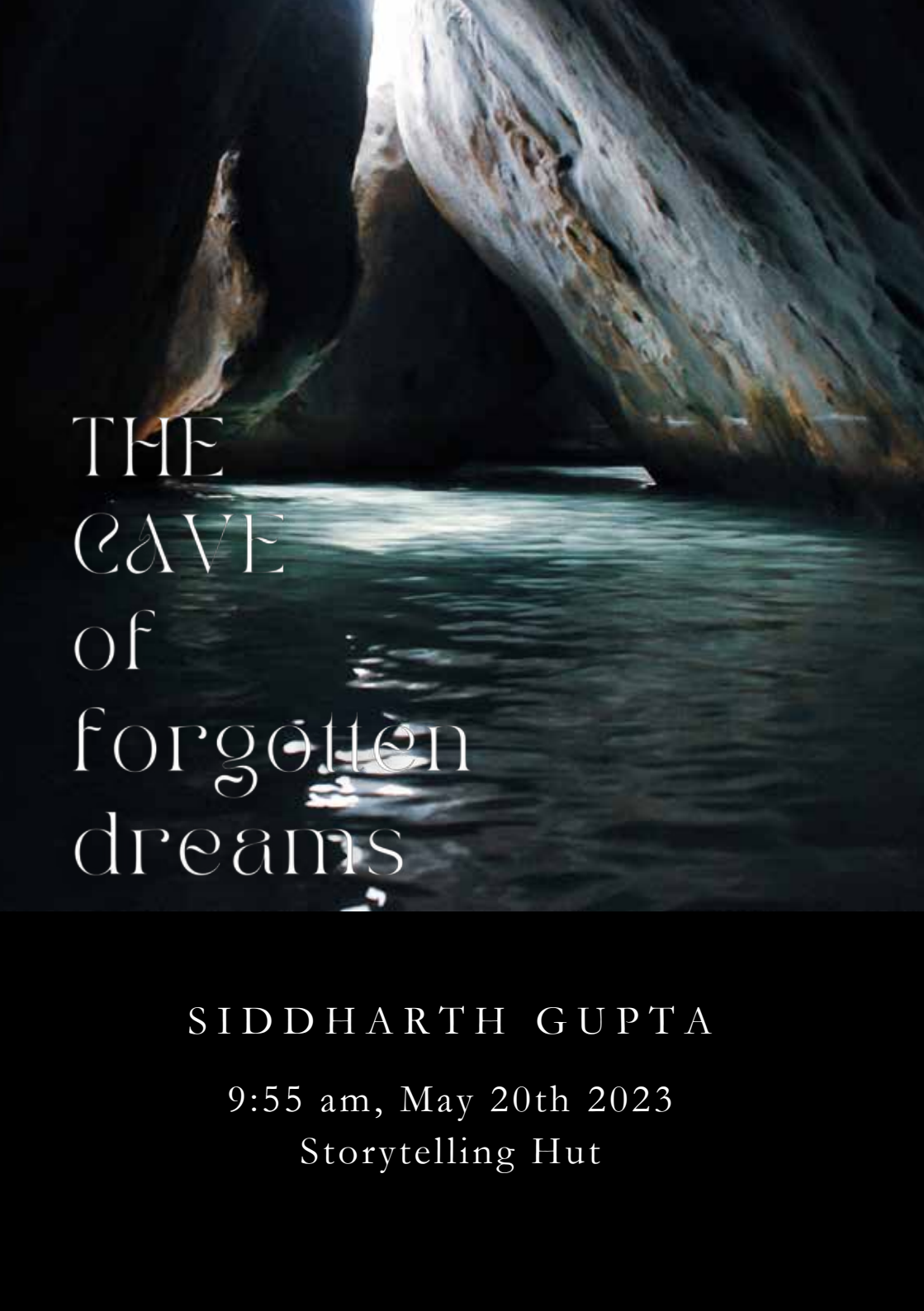
Let us witness Yashodhara, on her journey of loneliness and feelings of betrayal. And the strength and self-knowledge her experiences of being disregarded ultimately brought to her.

You are also invited to reflect on any inspirations you find in these stories that speak to your own experience of loneliness and betrayal.

9:00 A.M.
Foundation
Room

A Forgotten Tale

Swati Gautam



THE CAVE of forgotten dreams

SIDDHARTH GUPTA

9:55 am, May 20th 2023

Storytelling Hut

The Cave of Forgotten Dreams

9.55 | Storytelling Hut

'He cried the relief he felt at finally seeing the pattern, the way all the stories fit together—the old stories, the war stories, their stories—to become the story that was still being told'

- Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony

Welcome to my cave.

The cave is a place of retreat, of safety; of darkness, death and rebirth; of Fire; of dreams and dreaming. It's a place to re-member fragmented selves.

To truly feel at home we need a safe space for all parts of ourselves to come together. All the stories that are contained within ourselves, loved and unloved, must be invited.

Just like our physical home is where our family gathers, the cave is a gathering place for the family of stories we carry within us, personal and collective.

I invite you into my cave, where I will share parts of my journey, in the form of stories, poems, words and silence.

The sharing of stories is a ceremony, the medicine itself, both for the teller, and, hopefully, for the listener.

Suitable for 13+



I have been here before.

I studied in the first edition of this course 7 years ago. At that time I was involved in story work through the mediums of cinema and photography. I loved stories but felt they had become means to an end.

The course opened up parts of me I didn't know existed - wounded, scared, painful parts. The questions that arose in me then were : 'What is home?' What did it mean to 'belong' when I felt disconnected even from my own body?

The search for answers led me down unexpected rabbit holes, to confronting the stories I told myself, about myself.

That journey brought me back here, where I've spent my time cocooned, listening to the stories that have been living in me.

Simultaneously, I have gained clarity on my role as a story-bearer out into the world. In sharing my flawed ecstatic human-ness, I celebrate myself, and us.



Memory Keeper

9.55 | Ruskin Hall

Twenty-four years ago, I arrived in the UK to attend this course. Unable to make enough money as a relief teacher putting out (literal) classroom fires - I ended up flying to Majorca to work in a dog refuge and got an enviable tan before returning to Australia and quick succession of marriage, mortgage, and motherhood.

Now, as an author, teacher, and performer, with two great grown kids, over fifty books, published nationally and internationally, and numerous festivals under my belt - I finally arrived at Emerson!

Equal parts storyteller to writer, I am drawn to an alchemy shared between storytellers, storyhearers, and something mysteriously larger... I love to dwell in the homecoming of shared imagination in which we might linger together before drifting back to individual houses of square walls and doors.

Seven years ago, I had a powerful dream featuring a lyrebird. Astonished to be inhabited by a consciousness other than human, I was drawn into a quest. Who and what are these elusive forest dwellers, renowned for their superb mimicry? Are they merely mimics, or far more profound - memory keepers for millions of years?

Australia is my deep home and where my voice originated. I am also a tangle of inherited tales that took place elsewhere, rendering me - along with many others, whose ancestors' stories and bones lie in other countries - uncertain as to what I can claim as my own.

Styling itself on the lyrebird's collecting of ancient and contemporary sounds, this story combines a melange of voices: weaving rainforest dreams with poignant snippets and strands from my Sicilian and British families, and the bizarre wonder of my great-great grandmother's aviary.

Carefully nested within these stories of time and place, is an exploration of questions of identity, permission, and belonging. When does mimicry become authentic, how do we preserve memories, and who has the right to tell the stories of place?

Explore with me how we can be more like the lyrebird - seamlessly weaving our own stories, modern and historic, to deeply connect with the specific countries and people we love.



MEMORY KEEPER

MELAINA FARANDA
RUSKIN HALL 9.55AM



The Oak Tree & The Bear

Darren Thompson 

Foundation Room @ 100

The Oak Tree and the Bear

9.55 | Foundation Room

I asked a young teenager, my daughter, what would she do about climate change?

Her answer:

"Well, we've had 5 mass extinction events on Earth. Maybe there should be a 6th."

Words of wisdom or words of lost hope. Or both.

Deep down I wonder if, like her, everyone is waiting for the end of the world to come. Or are most of us hibernating in our cosy dens cosseted in a dreamworld of materialism & distraction.

A million years has passed since that first fire was sparked & kindled by an ancient ancestor. For warmth, safety or to cook food. Little did we know how perfect we would become at using our fragile atmosphere as a combustion chamber. Our apex of intelligence.

I am no angel. I have contributed to this problem, you have contributed to this problem, we have all contributed to this problem.

But what to do? Is there a 'North Star' to guide us lost travellers as we live out our lives on this pale blue dot?

I invite you to join me on a journey through time & place to discover gifts of wisdom through stories from our ancient & not so ancient ancestors. Maybe together we find hope.



Grandson, son, brother, father, husband, nephew, cousin, friend, human being, dog lover.

Storytelling was a calling for me. Hard to explain why. It just is. So I let it just be.

I've spent the last 2 decades of my life working in the solar energy sector; understanding, leading & facilitating the deployment of solar power on 4 continents. My most memorable & rewarding time was spent in remote rural villages, health centres & schools in Zambia. Making, what I felt, was a tangible difference to peoples' lives. Helping them to harness the free fuel of the sun rather than burning fossil fuel for light.

Storytelling has become a lost craft in modern times. But I believe that our modern times need it more than anytime in history. To connect, to share, to learn, to be amazed, to question, to cry, to laugh...to benefit community. Just like our ancestors knew all along but we forgot.

That's why I am here.



Pearl from the Wreckage

11.00 | Storytelling Hut

I reside in Brighton by the sea in Sussex. To the ocean my devotion. Life has taken me on a colourful pilgrimage to find my authentic voice to recognise my gifts, honour, embody and share them.

I am a creative catalyst for change and transformation, shamanic healer, author, poet, speaker and intuitive channel.

When facing death in 2009, with a severely fractured spine, I chose to recommit to life in a new way, becoming my own medicine and turning trauma to treasure. This is what I teach with passion, compassion, and gratitude.

Honouring the interconnect-edness of all life, I use the profound healing power of nature, and the glorious gift of humour, along with drum, voice, and sacred song to harmonise, discordant energies.

Having spent many years working closely with indigenous wisdom keepers from around the globe, I know without question that the wisdom of the elders and ancestors, underpin my own medicine ways and magic surrounds me.

From one grain of sand irritating the body of an oyster comes a pearl many layers deep.

As human beings our often beyond-words-dance-with-adversity, gifts us opportunity to discover meaning, purpose, power and presence.

I invite you to embark on a healing journey and share a telling with black jaguar, phoenix, raven and whale to bring you home to the pearl within yourself.

This pilgrimage will be woven with intent, gratitude, drum, poetry and song, recognising that Ceremony lives in the gaps and spaces between our tumbling words. As our roots grow stronger we can deepen connection between our hearts and minds and prosper.

May the pearls of wisdom and messages you gather from this experience inspire you to plant seeds for the future, nurture your inner flame and shine.

'It is time, it is time 'tis the hour

To celebrate the seeds we've sewn

It is time, it is time

'Tis the hour

To rejoice and then let go

Lift ourselves, lift ourselves higher Reclaim our sovereignty

Change our hearts change our minds Open hearted, Ambassadors of Unity'

- Jenny Lynne Sessions. 2022 (c)

www.becomeyourownmedicine.co.uk



Pearl from the Wreckage
Jenny Lynne Sessions aka Jen-ix

STORYTELLING HUT 11am

MAIDEN ~~MOTHER~~ CRONE

Retta Bowen
Ruskin Hall, 11am

Maiden ~~Mother~~ Crone

11.00 | Ruskin Hall

What does it mean to be a woman who is not a mother? How do I enter the next phase of life when I haven't achieved creative fulfilment in the expected ways? Aware of the fear I felt at each new stage in the passage of womanhood, I meet myself at moments of transformation in the body and psyche and allow my selves to speak back to one another: I need my maiden self to know that there are other ways to be a woman; my crone self to remind me that a woman's power to create knows no bounds.

I turn to Mary Magdalene, and the wisdom of her long-buried gospel, for inspiration: she knows how to be a wholly/holy embodied woman. Irrepressible, despite the silencing of centuries. Every recovered version of her gospel had the first six pages missing. What was so powerful that it had to be ripped out? So begins a humorous and loving quest to discover the magic of my own 'missing pages' - a woman's true creative potential and authority - and the remembering that every one of us carries within us a knowing that surpasses anything we can be taught.

Suitable for 12+



I am a child psychotherapist and breath worker, amongst other things. Six years ago, I headed excitedly to clown school in Canada. Phewee! I left London and my reluctant, martyrish ways of being, and my life changed forever. I embarked on a long - life-long, I hope - exploration of the body, breath, play, and the amazing medicines that we are fortunate enough to connect with these days. I see this as part of an ongoing calling to be more vital and free, to feel the interweaving in the world.

I am interested in how we awaken the innate, unconditioned parts of ourselves and remember who we truly are. That's my intention as a storyteller - to keep reminding myself and us that we are divine beings, necessary and worthy parts of a beautiful whole.



BE LONGING

When the sun and the moon meet

11.00 | Foundation Room

During encounters with people, both civilians and soldiers, from Palestine, Israel, Bosnia and Serbia, I experienced how sharing our stories can lead to understanding each other's perspectives. Where there was pain and hatred before, empathy grew. The narratives we tell about ourselves and the society we live in are powerful.

I am struck by how the re-framing of my personal stories empowers me rather than making me feel small.

Growing up as a white woman in the eastern part of Germany (the former GDR), I carry in my own identity bag the history of colonialism and fascism. My parents' experience of living in different political systems and having to adjust to them, informed my being. And yet, I have had the privilege to travel freely, the privilege of choices, and still do.

These experiences led me to study and be active in the fields of migration, conflict, wilderness education and coaching.

In the stories I tell, I'm curious to see—really see. We don't only need eyes for it. We need ears to listen and hearts to feel to fully receive. Open minds, free from judgement and comparison. Creating space in our hearts and thoughts to let what we see live inside us.

How do we become who we are?

What keeps our inner fire alive?

What do we speak out for?

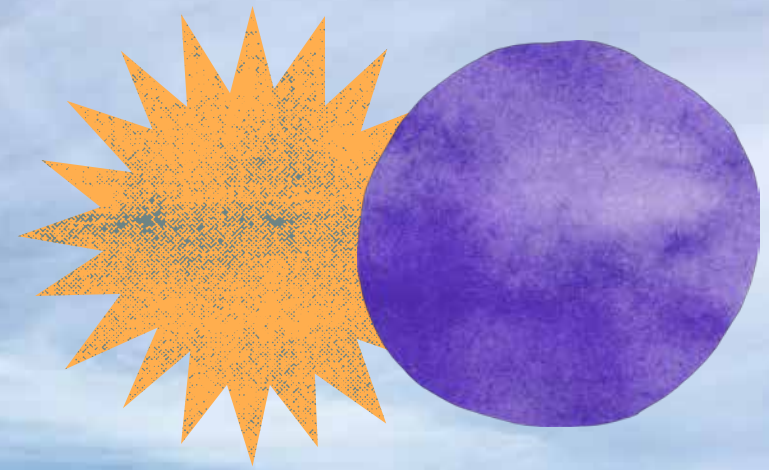
How can stories address the injustice in the world, and support us as a collective?

For me, all of these personal questions are part of the foundation for a vigorous society guided by foresight, love and empathy.

Come with me through a journey of stories to meet yourself again and again in different forms. A journey of exploration that invites you to read the signs with all your senses, navigating through uncharted waters to places where the sun and the moon might meet.

Where we will arrive, we shall find out when we meet.

Fear not. Nature will be our guide.



be longing

when the sun and the moon meet

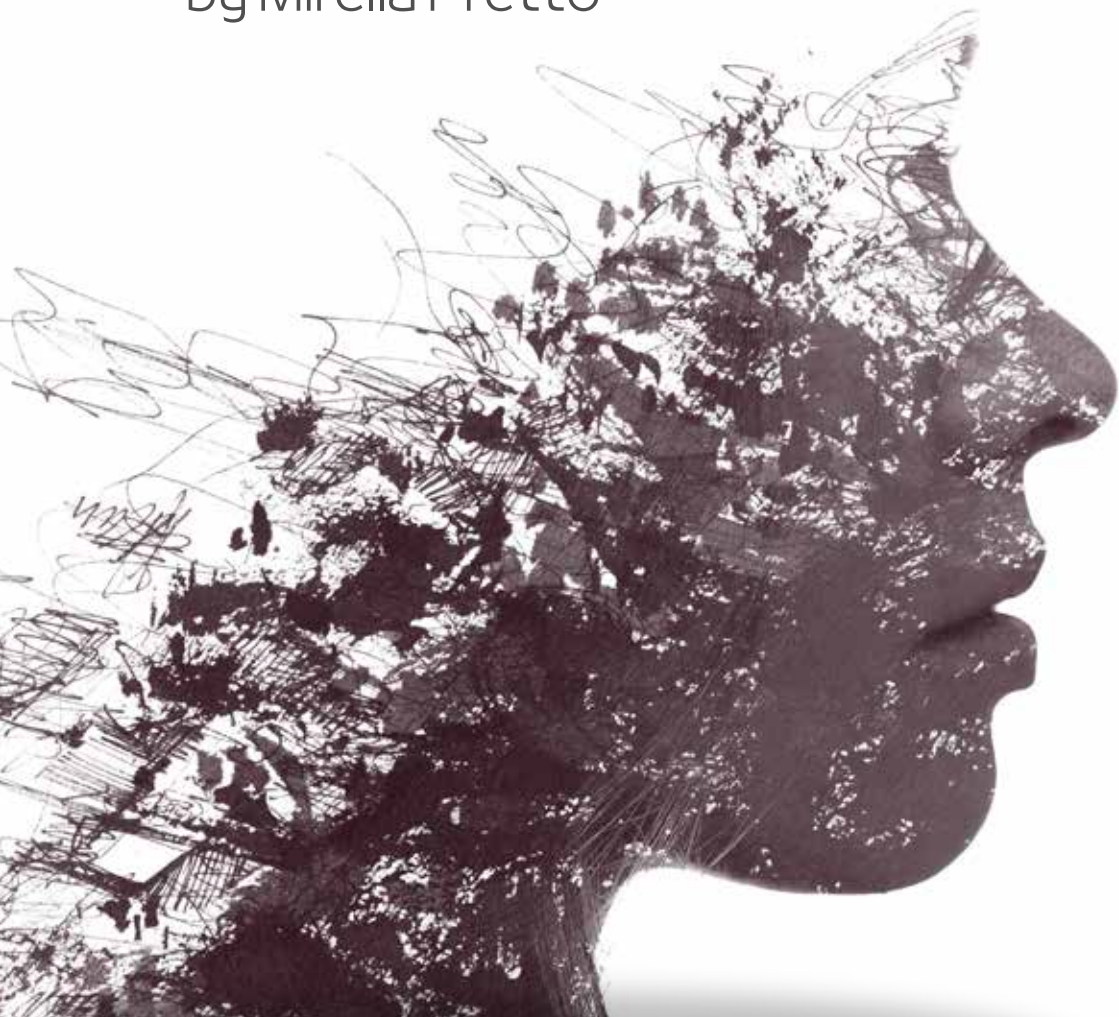


20th May | 11 am
foundation room

CHRISTIN WENDEBAUM

UNSPOKEN

by Mirella Pretto



UnSpoken

11.55 | Storytelling Hut



The first time I felt free after the stroke was when I was in a silent retreat for ten days. Silence, finally! And it had nothing to do with aphasia. I didn't have to talk. In fact, I had to stay in silence. That was easy for me. 😊 People there didn't know that I had this difficulty. What a relief!

But that was four years ago. Now, I am not afraid of speaking anymore, even if imperfectly.

So come with me as I share adventures from my life – my time in the ICU, how I relearned to speak, to move and, ultimately, how I learned to be me.

It's a biographical story full of humour from my worst days.

I hope it has the power to disrupt people's expectations and assumptions about what disability looks like. Within these stories are themes of losses, separation, self-finding and healing.

A combination of who I was, who I am, and who I am becoming.

I used to present myself like this: Mirella, Brazilian, 34, HR manager and business administration graduate.

But a stroke came along in November of 2017, and my sense of self was shattered. Trauma in my brain left me unable to communicate (aphasia), and unable to move on the right side of my body (hemiplegia).

In search of my new identity, I did a Masters in Neurosciences and Behaviour. I had always been interested in what drives peoples' behaviour, including my own. And that's when I found that stories can be a way of healing my brain and my soul.

My speech therapist said that I needed to search for a new adventure to improve my English skills. When I found this course, I told my sister about it, and she laughed for five minutes. I laughed with her.

Now, I'm here.



The Sacred Gift of Celebration

11.55 | Ruskin Hall

My deepest work is always inside myself and has been reflected in the relationships, places and communities I belong to. As a child I often felt I didn't belong, feeling on the edges of a circle, adapting myself to try and fit in, not feeling I'd be fully accepted for who I really was.

My wish is in any meeting we connect with our hearts, allowing us to access our true potential for dreaming a more beautiful world.

In my community work I witness extraordinarily talented and compassionate people who vision a different way of being, of belonging.

'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'

- Maya Angelou

What if we shift our minds to regenerating the currencies that make our life work to the currencies that come from nature as the original source. These are the currencies of food, water, love, relationship, currencies of being cared for, and the capacity to care.

"What if the way we respond to the current crisis is part of the crisis?"

In witnessing each other's potential, magic happens. We all want to be our true authentic self, isn't it exhausting trying to be someone else? All this is available to us now if we stop the eternal activities of the mind.

A place for deeper inquiry, "better" and different questions are welcome, shared and discussed and maybe this calls us to an action where we feel fully supported to gather others to make our world a better and fairer place.

The more something is shared, the greater its value becomes. The fundamental nature of gifts; they move, and their value increases with their passage. Objects will remain plentiful because they are treated as gifts. One's freely given gifts cannot be made into someone else's capital.

Let's give our attention to this moment.



THE SACRED GIFT OF CELEBRATION

ANGELA ROWLAND
11.55AM RUSKIN HALL



Annabelle Landgarten

Foundation Room 11:55am

The Rescue

11.55 | Foundation Room



It is the summer of 1929, Palestine.

There are Jews and Arabs, Arabs and Jews.

There are riots and murders.

The British Mandate is in control.

Our story begins in Jerusalem, at The King David Hotel and then moves to Mea Shearim, a religious Jewish neighborhood.

This piece explores what moves a religious Jewish woman to hide an Arab man.

When do we step out of our bubbles and comfort zones to protect other people?

How do we see the 'other'?

*'Whatever hope is yours,
Was my life also.'*

- Wilfred Owen, Strange meeting

Once upon a time in England I wanted to be an actress. I took a BA in Performance Arts (1979-1982).

Now I live in south Jerusalem. I am part of a theatre group called Theater -in-the- Rough. We perform Shakespeare in the summer in a public park in the heart of Jerusalem. In the winter months I have muddled along, making it up as I go along as a storyteller. People have always told me their stories and some of them I have told.

In 2020 I qualified as a Biodynamic Craniosacral practitioner. I had spent 20 months examining and exploring touch with curiosity. How it feels? What it does? And what stories arise out of the body.

On this course I have explored:

What does my storytelling serve?

How generous can I be with pause and silence?

Who wants to hear me? What do I want to share?

How do we meet each other?

ANNE CROSS - UK



Mycelial Stories

14.00 | Storytelling Hut

I have recently moved out of London to East Sussex looking for a new adventure. Stepping into a new chapter in my life I am curious about the legacy that my generation leaves my grandchildren, greatgrandchildren and seven times greatgrandchildren.

An eclectic career ~ from nursing to ministry to parenting to founding a community café to working with single homeless people ~ provides inspiration for rich stories.

For the next life chapter, I hope to share these stories, woven together with traditional and mythological stories.

'What If, through this course, I became free to share stories of active hope, the joyous endings of which were told by my grandchildren to their grandchildren in the joy of the next epoch of human consciousness.'....Anne, before the course began.

'it's 3:23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren
won't let me sleep
my great great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
what did you do while the planet was plundered?
what did you do when the earth was unraveling?'

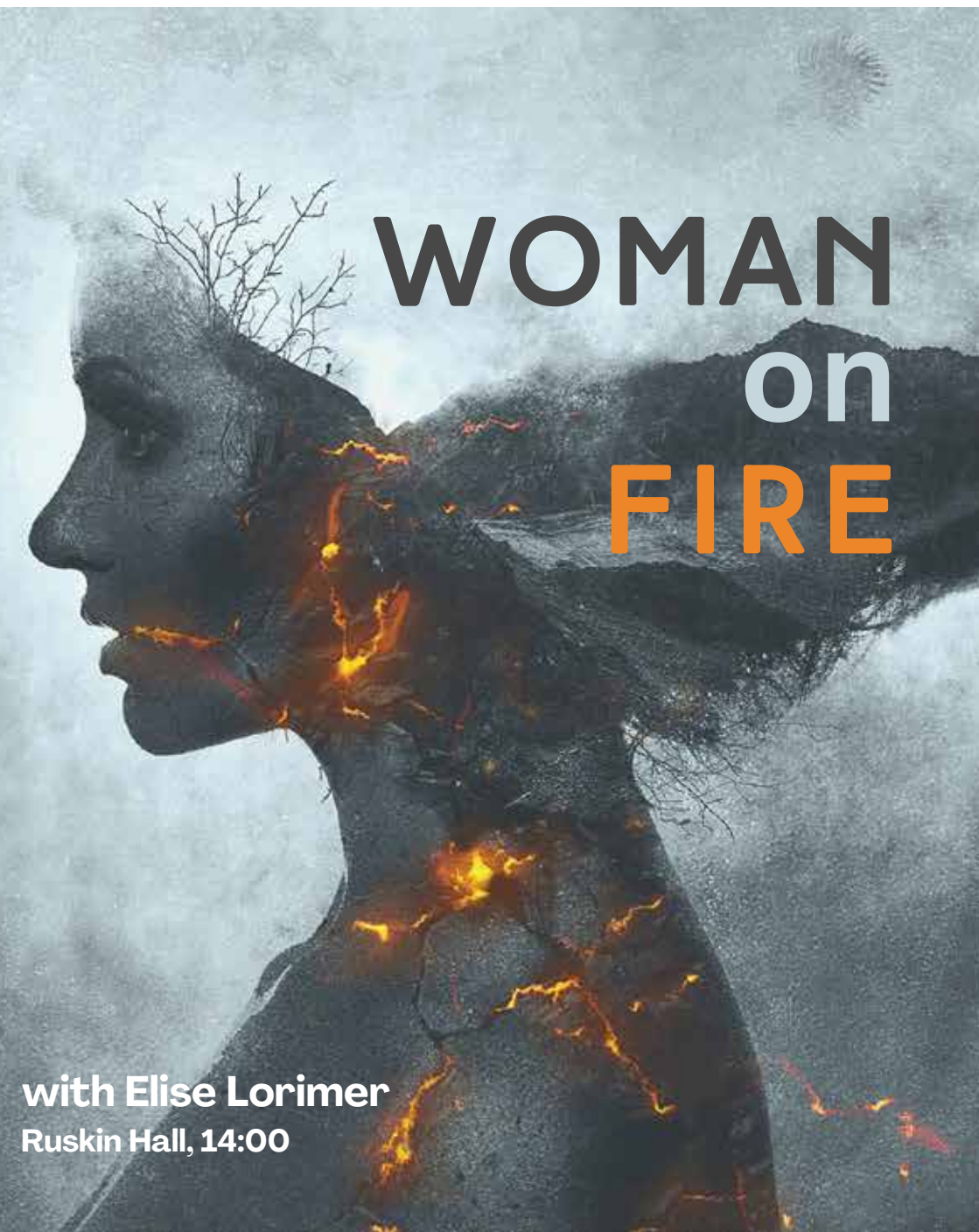
**from Hieroglyphic Stairway
by Drew Dellinger**

How to answer these questions from the future?
From the pyramid of patriarchy, through the circles of the collective, to the spontaneity of mycelial connectivity, I trace development of human and non-human consciousness in stories of my own life, community stories passed on and in the timeless weave of myth.

Like mycelial activity deep in the earth I believe that stories are connecting and nurturing, inspiring the collective consciousness to engage in the big questions with a surety that together, we have what we need.

mycelial
stories
anne cross

STORYTELLING HUT @ 14:00



WOMAN on FIRE

with Elise Lorimer
Ruskin Hall, 14:00

Woman On Fire

14.00 | Ruskin Hall



*I am on fire with love.
Does anyone need a light?
Bring me what you need to burn and let it go.*

—Rumi

When a woman reaches to claim her wild, wise ways, too often the pulsations at play in society strive to keep her down.

Not today.

This story is a renovation celebration.
A reclamation.
A calling home.

It's an untold story that burned bodies and fueled a life into being.

A burning of the strappings and trappings meant to contain, from deep within the heart of the flame.

A Divine fire, sparking Life into matter.

In turning towards it, her true home emerges from wild within.

Diving deep and exploring wide, I'm driven to create spaces where narratives can be rewritten and explored for a better future.

I'm an igniter - working with other creatives who strive to broaden and evolve us with this planet.

I know compelling stories can change us - stretching, challenging, and opening us up beyond the familiar. They drop us into *worlds of what's possible* and *lands of curiosity*, where awareness and new things grow.



The Boy from Nowhere

14.00 | Foundation Room

When I decided to join this course, I didn't really know what I was signing up for or what I was hoping to get out of it. It was a surprise for me that I chose to come back to an Anthroposophical setting after I left Waldorf education at 12, but I knew here is where I needed to be at this chapter of my life, ten years later.

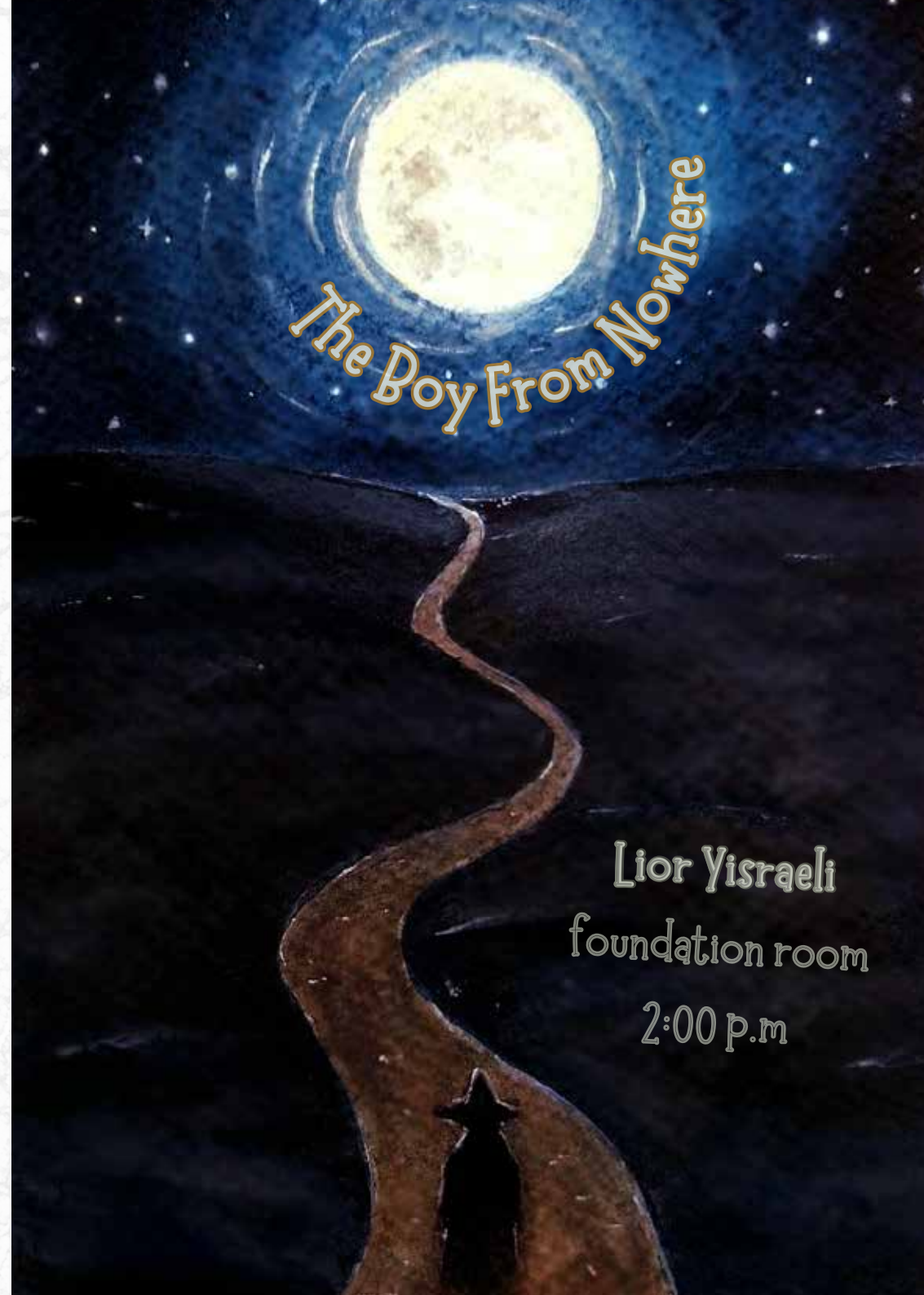
I also knew I love stories. I love immersing myself in movies or reading books that inspire my imagination. I love hearing them over a Shabbat dinner with family or just sitting with a group of friends. I believe there are many ways to tell a story and I love to express that through singing, art, and crafting worlds from fabrics and clay. Before coming here, I've never really told a story - not aloud anyway.

My story springs from where I stand today, as a (somewhat) adult, about to explore the world on my own. I wish to first explore myself, hear what I have to tell, voice my inner questions, and take part in what inspires me most: the craft and the telling of a story!

And so, this story will follow 'The Boy from Nowhere', as he wanders across Somewhere, listening to the various people and stories he meets along the way, all the while searching for his own story but plagued with questions and self-doubt.

The boy has always been a keen listener and observer, immersing himself and following the stories of others. But now when the road is no longer clear, he must learn to find his own voice through the world around him.

Join me in this telling, and perhaps revisit some of your own wandering and wonderings, in the journey of becoming you.





Re-Member-Sing

Flora Irma Gerber

Re Member Sing

14.55 | Storytelling Hut

*when the moon is blood-red...
...something deep and troubling is
happening at the very "heart" of the world...
...beyond atom and story...
...home lies in the direction that strays
away from the logic of fixed answers.*

**(Quotes from Bayo Akomolafe,
These Wilds Beyond Our Fences)**

Who might we encounter if we open our senses
to the vibrancy of the wild?
What if we need to get lost to find our way?
Who gets space to speak in our society?
How do we create space for unheard stories?
Whose stories remain in the ground and within
us?

Leave behind the streets and structures of the
familiar and join me on a journey into the woods.
Together we will trace lost voices and forgotten
stories to remember that we are here to listen
deeply as much as to sing our song.



Words in diverse shapes
have been my passion since
I learned to read and write.
When I was not reading, I
could be found building huts
in the forest with my best
friend, playing that we were
looking for a lost medicine
plant.

Again and again, I have
discovered homes in stories
shared by people and inside
pages, as well as at green
lakes, blue fjords, and orange
forests.

Now I am here to explore the
retelling of what it means to
be human not only *in* but *with*
this troubled world. I believe
this can be done by listening
to the voices found both in
the world's margins and in
the hidden places within
ourselves.



The Heron and the Hummingbird

14.55 | Ruskin Hall

Everyday I thank my mother for her wisdom and zest for life. Now in her absence I'm taking up the baton to share what I am learning about living in these times of polarity. I do this through the medium of deep rest, the practice of yoga nidra which I share in my community, a very small island called Guernsey, located in the English Channel.

I am the mother of Patrick and Jasmine who have now flown the nest, and partner to Rob. I greatly appreciate his support as I've been dipping my toes into the realm of storytelling. My hope is that this project can be the seed for deeper work around death and dying, what constitutes end of life care and how we might as a society grow our capacity for deeper human connection; where we can be with each other despite and with the tension of opposites.

'When women were birds, we knew otherwise. We knew our greatest freedom was in taking flight at night, when we could steal the heavenly darkness for ourselves, navigating through the intelligence of stars and the constellations of our own making in the delight and terror of our uncertainty.'

- Terry Tempest Williams

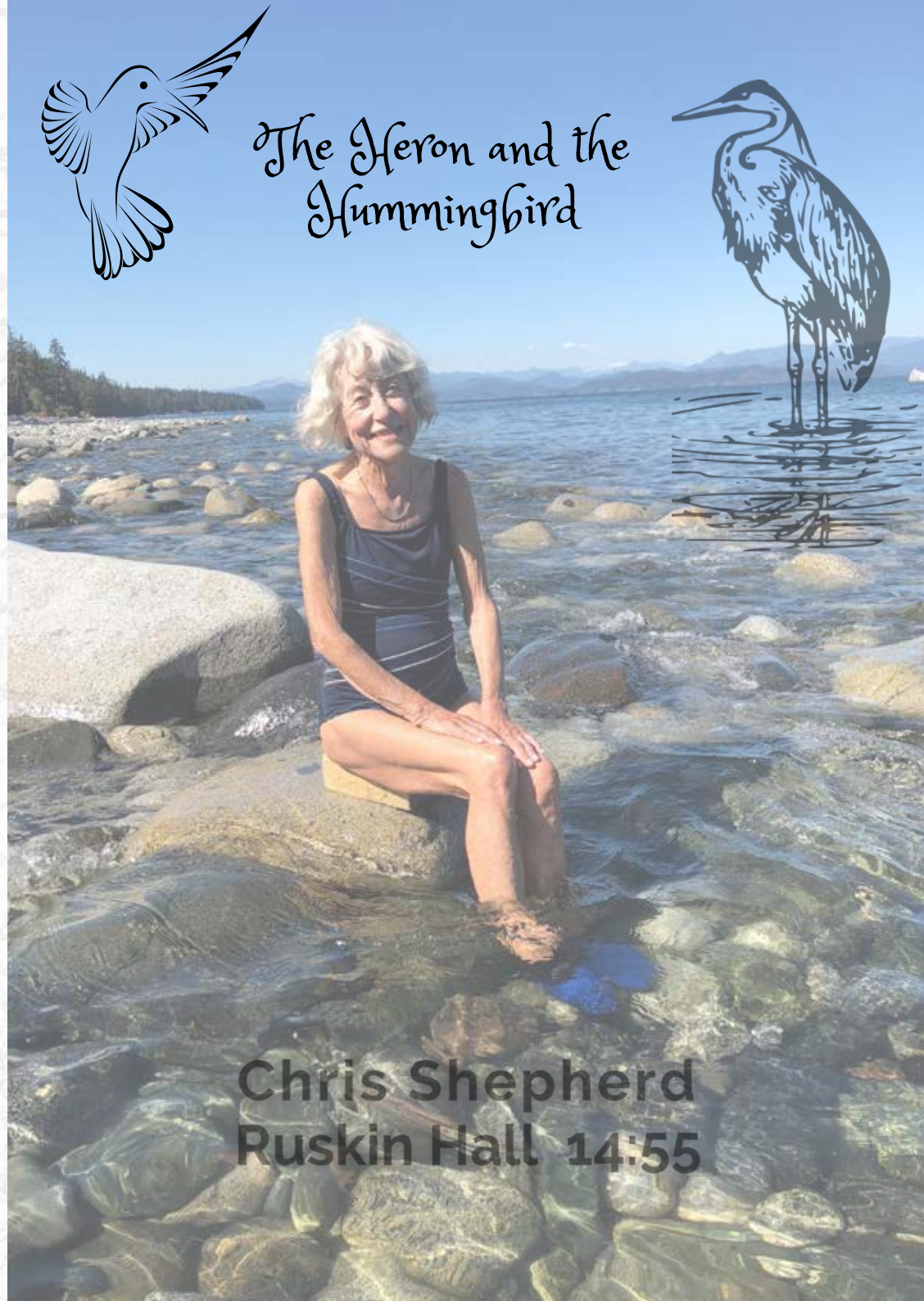
Thank you, Hummingbird and Heron for your whispered reminders – it's good to fly through the night AND it's also fine to rest among the flowers.

When my mother was told that her illness meant she had less than six months to live, she requested medical assistance in dying (legal in Canada). Her reasons were varied and complex. After a long stay in hospice she returned home to a full life – cooking, knitting, walking and good conversation. Spring had arrived and the cherry blossoms were bursting into bloom. Even so, the difficult moment arrived when we sat down over coffee and she consulted the calendar to choose her death day.

Join me as I share memories and unanswered questions from that time – the final weeks of a long life, well-lived. In honour of my mother, Inge – 20th February 1931 to 26th April 2021.



The Heron and the Hummingbird



Chris Shepherd
Ruskin Hall 14:55

Saturday 20 May - 2:55 pm
Foundation Room



by **Lucas Rosatelli**

Primal Stories

14.55 | Foundation Room



Stories of people.
Stories of before and after people.
Stories of my own and of other people.

Written and heard,
seen and told stories,

by people.

They connect and intersect,
here and now, before and after.

They are always an encounter,
at the times when they happened
and when they're told again.

Where light and dark meet,
Where life and death expand,
Where what separates and what connects us
coexist, as three.

I was born as the middle child of a couple of storytellers—my mother shared stories with words and my father through images. Together with my two brothers, I was surrounded by stories and through them I have observed the world and its unfoldings.

Today, after many stories, it's the stories of people that intrigue me the most— in what they do and dream, how they live and love, and why they stumble and fall. I see that every life has a unique shining thread that is weaving and being woven, joining with others in an eternal dance. These are the stories I want to hear and share now – stories of us.

In Brazil, where I come from, I work with underprivileged communities and social development organizations on projects and initiatives that help optimally develop their lives. Together, we strive to create new stories so they can better access their rights and live the life they want.

SONJA DE SILVA - FRANCE



Volva and Her Monsters' Destiny

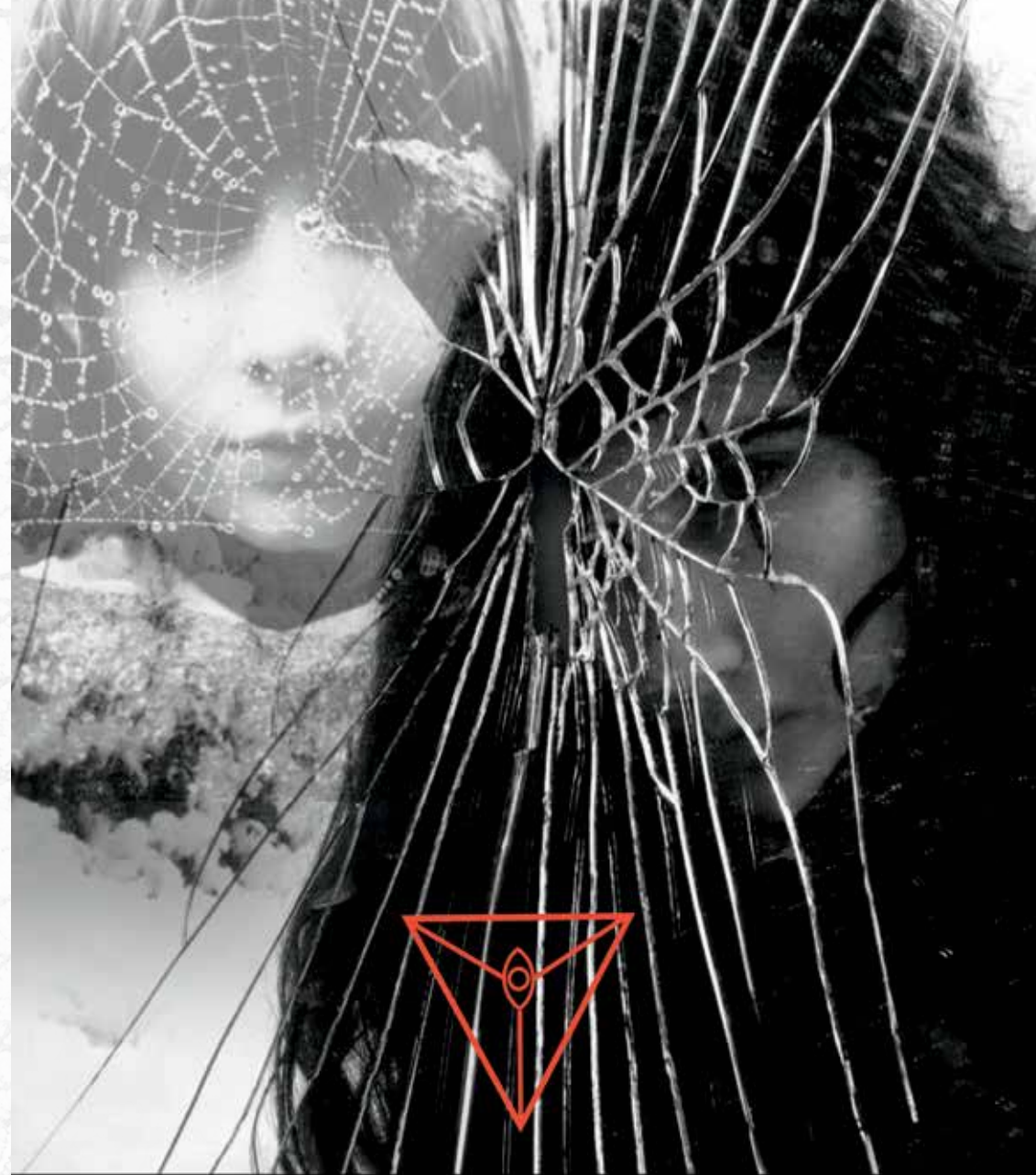
16.00 | Storytelling Hut

Mother of two furry and wild princesses, I have followed spider's threads, longing for a rich and meaningful life. These threads have led me to connect deeper with the faces of nature and ancestry. I have been experiencing the womb as a mythopoetic lens, a mirror pool reflecting the stars, that contains a myriad of facets I like to refer to as archetypes. During Covid times, I re-discovered myths and stories which led me to a seed project I like to call, "The Womb Lab:" A mythopoetic factory of multidisciplinary, collaborative art forms that can reveal and recognize different facets of our humanity which flow with the seasons and tides, reflecting the cycles and archetypes alive inside of us. I am currently seeking ways to manifest this dream into reality.

Let me take you on a journey back to the well of destiny, back to the wombcave of ancient memories. Back in the darkness and the roots of terror where disguised, long-forsaken monsters have been exiled from the fractured lines of our ancestral webs.

Aurora follows the threads of destiny to receive her legacy as a volva, a womb seeress. Guided by the sounds that summon her to undress the old story, she tracks the voices of deserted lineage creatures.

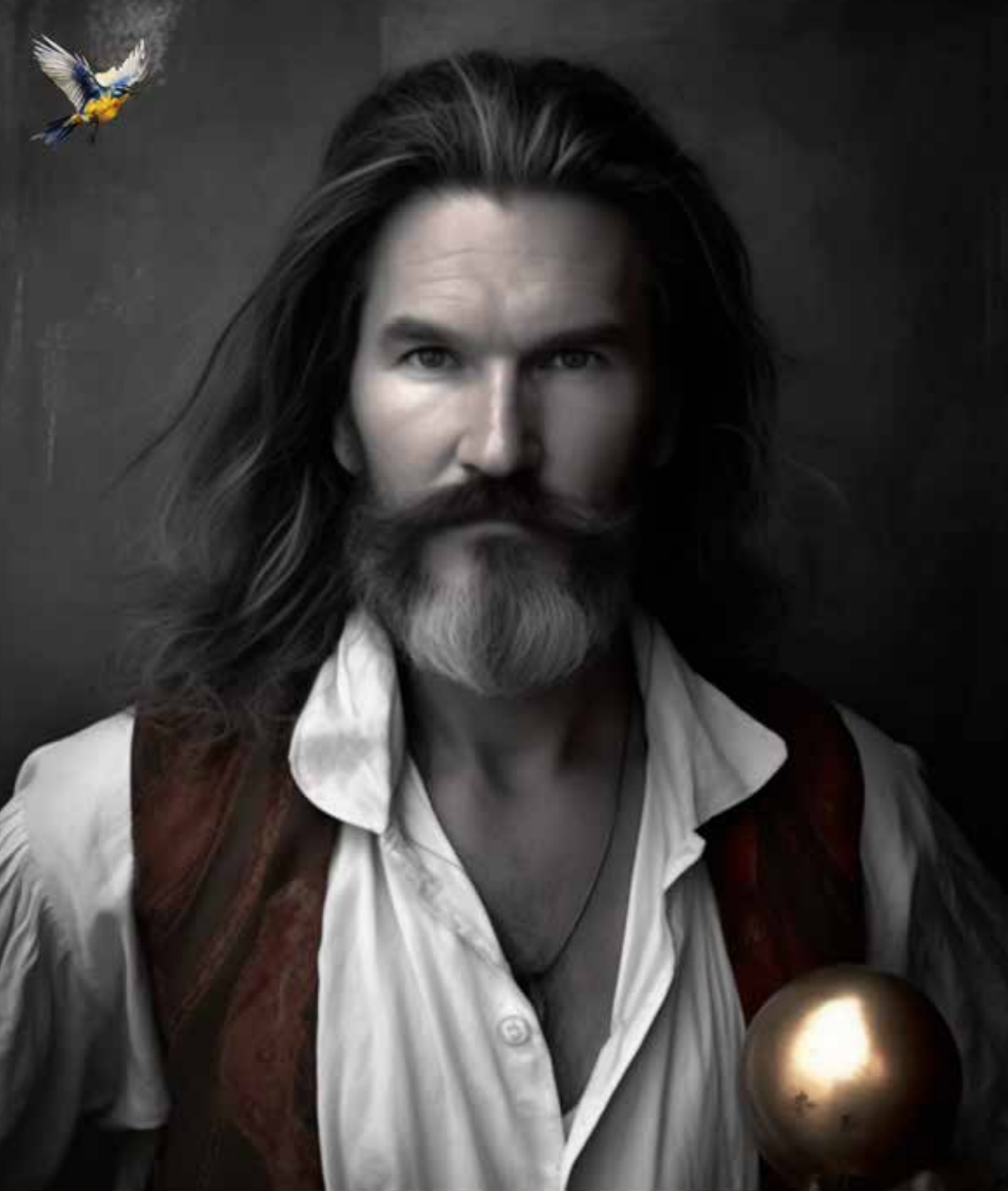
By witnessing herself, she feels down through the compost heap of her lineages's pain, breaking down the compounds into nutrients for a new story of sovereignty to emerge.



Volva and Her Monsters' Destiny

SONJA DE SILVA

Storytelling Hut 4pm



LEGEND OF THE LOST STORY

WILLIAM GRAHAM STEWART

RUSKIN HALL SATURDAY 20 MAY, 4 PM

Legend of the Lost Story

16.00 | Ruskin Hall

Legend of the Lost Story is a wonder tale from an ancient future.

Woven by an outcast magician who lives in the darkest hinterlands of the Imaginal, it has been told as a healing tale to the bereft and dislocated for millennia.

Combining images, scenes and characters from art and literature throughout the ages with the dreamscapes of the teller and the deep philosophical questions about the nature of being human as artificial intelligence accelerates its evolution, this legend invites you on a journey of initiation into the possibilities of a re-wilded imagination.

Are you game?



My work is the craft of WONDER:

that sensation we had so much more often as children

the amazement, the admiration, the aha-wow of the unfamiliar event

the awe of life's complexity and the warm messiness of human experience

The crafting of wonder requires us to consistently bring more imagination to everything we think, say and do, connecting to the heart and hands as we weave it into the world.

It requires us to be relentlessly curious, courageous, and creative, to walk the edges, dance with the unknown, fail, then fail better.

And it requires us to listen with humility, to be playful, to stay open to possibility and rejoice in this being human.



Set the Dam Waters Free

16.00 | Foundation Room

In my senior year of high school, my peers voted me *quietest mouse, most likely never to be seen again*. At the time I thought, "These people don't know me at all." Which was true, but they were also right; I never went back to that place.

I faced my fears straight on. Throughout my twenties and thirties, I dove into physical and emotional embodiment practices, coming home to myself in ways teenage Kelsey couldn't have dreamt. Fully embodying and trusting my voice was the next step and it has led me here.

When not immersed in storytelling, I am likely exploring the world by foot or bicycle, cuddling with my cat, listening to quiet things, or dancing. I am also an Open Floor International Movement Teacher. Through dance labs and embodied grief rituals, I invite participants to deepen their self-learning, expand their capacity for connection, and practice re-humanizing our relationships.

Never did like the word healer.

Healer of.. Healer of? Healer of:

Ghost, ghost stories. Dark stories. Persecuted, mutilated, slices down the body stories.

Hold it all alone, don't tell anybody stories.

Compassion and a little stretching to release those stories.

Sometimes, it's okay to get the fuck out of there stories.

Wasn't even my story stories.

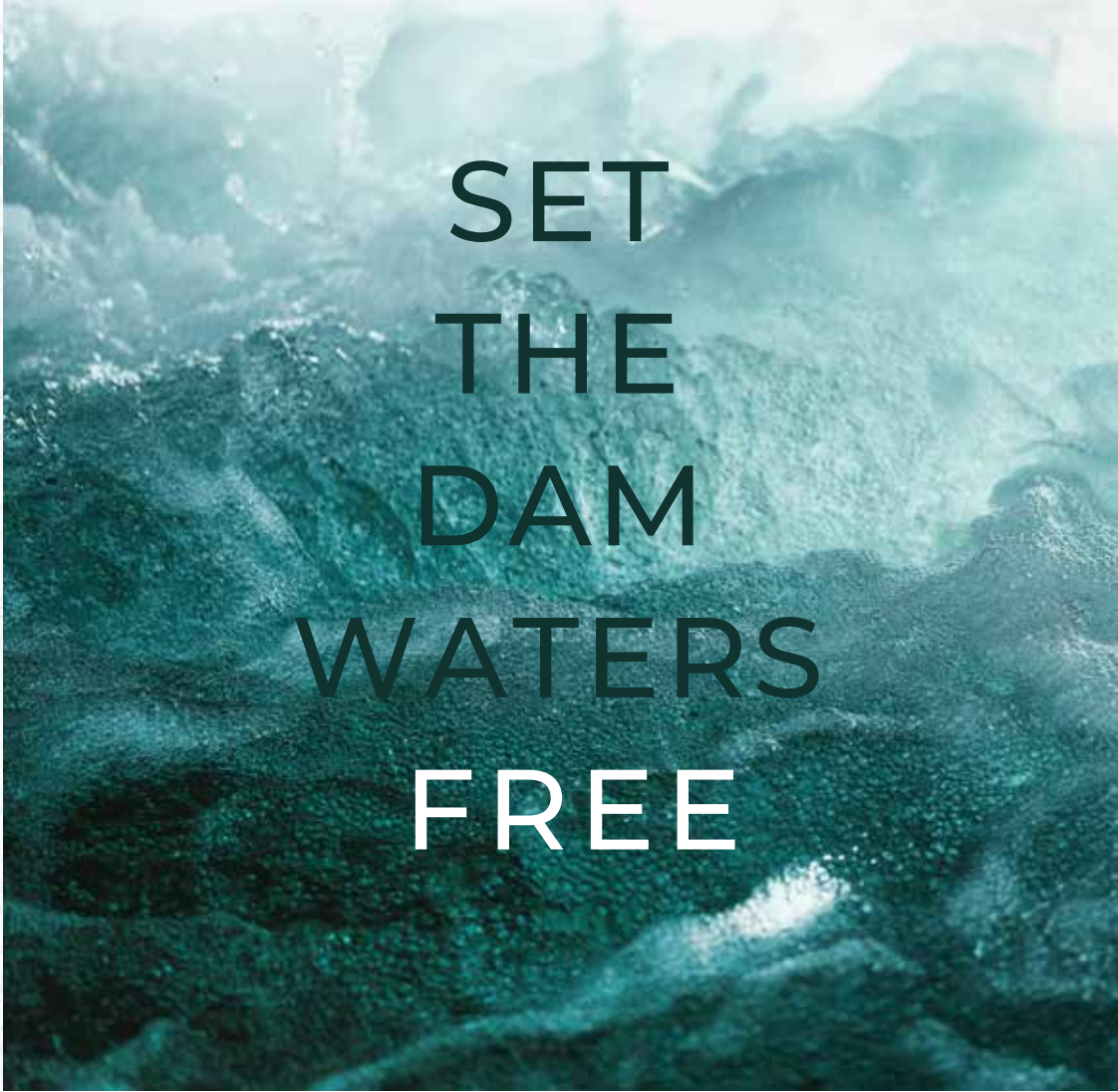
But I carry those stories.

Once upon a time, not very long ago, I traveled to England. One of the countries from which my great, great, great... grandmothers came. Though I didn't know it at first, I came here to find my way out of an inherited and ghost-ridden, teeny, tiny little box.

I couldn't have known what was about to unfold or the stories and characters I would discover along the way.

Join me in an exploration of intergenerational stories to set the dam waters free.

Age: 14+



SET
THE
DAM
WATERS
FREE

Kelsey
Maloney

Foundation
Room, 16:00



SBW Class of 2023



The School of Storytelling

DO YOU
S B W
C H E A R
2024
THE CALL?

The School of Storytelling, Emerson College, is the longest running international centre of its kind. Since 1994, we have been running courses and have welcomed over the years thousands of people from all cultures, backgrounds, genders, ages and experiences.

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.

Emerson College

Emerson College is an international centre for learning, discovery and transformation set in the heart of the beautiful Sussex countryside. Our campus is home to the School of Storytelling and other educational initiatives. We pioneer anthroposophic and holistic courses to nurture body, soul and spirit, and provide a spiritually, socially and ecologically conscious venue for conferences, courses, talks, performances, workshops and retreats.

Our 22-acre gardens are registered as a botanic garden with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). We use biodynamic gardening principles and prepare delicious organic meals with many ingredients fresh from the soil of our biodynamic vegetable garden.

The experience that greets you is deeply connected to the earth, to our roots in anthroposophy and to the contributions of people from all over the world who have come here over the last 60 years.

To find out more about Emerson visit www.emerson.org.uk

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Karmit Evenzur
and the stories
themselves**



[emerson.org.uk/
storytelling-beyond-words-2024](http://emerson.org.uk/storytelling-beyond-words-2024)

This year we were able to offer a full bursary to one participant and several partial bursaries thanks to generous donations. Next year we aspire to offer at least two full bursaries to those who would otherwise be unable to attend our programme.

**Your donation
will make it possible!**



You can scan this code to make a donation online.

**Thank you for donating to the
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BEYOND WORDS**

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