



Emily Hennessey (U.K.)

EMILY HENNESSEY came to storytelling while studying Drama & Theatre Studies at the University of Kent. She is passionate about telling myths, epics, folktales and wonder tales from across the world. With a Swedish background, Emily has a particular interest in Norse Mythology (and sometimes tales involving hairy trolls with large ears).

Work and travel in India have also infused in Emily a great love of Hindu Mythology. Emily's work is often described as intelligently composed and beautifully performed, while her storytelling style is said to be warm, captivating and witty, delighting audiences of all ages.

In this festival, she will be sharing folk tales from the European region and Norse mythology.

GILES ABBOTT

Gill ABBOTT is the UK's only visually challenged professional storyteller. He became a storyteller as his answer to the sudden, but not total, blindness which left him unable to read print or see faces across a table. After beginning his career as a storyteller, Giles trained as a Voice Teacher and now, in addition to working internationally as a storyteller, teaches storytelling and vocal skills to teachers, parents and business people.



Giles' storytelling is characterized by his powerful, dramatic presence, his poetic use of language and a voice which is often described as sounding "like chocolate"!

In this, he will be presenting stories on monsters and men and also a folk tale from European region.



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
and

Nivesh
present

Kathakar

International Storytellers Festival

Date: 5th - 7th February 2016

Time: 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm



Please visit 'Svasti'—The IGNC shop run by HHEC
at C.V. Mess, Janpath, N. Delhi

website: www.ignca.gov.in; www.ghummakkadnarain.org
Email: igncakiladarsana@gmail.com;
nivesh.india@gmail.com
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RSVP: +91-11-23388155 (9.30 am to 5.30 pm)

Special shows for school children
from 9:00 am to 11:45 am

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Amphitheatre, C. V. Mess, Janpath,
New Delhi-110001

Kathakar

KATHAKAR the one who narrates a story has existed since times unknown. Traditionally, folktales, epics and community history were shared by storytellers through gestures and expressions, leaving a lasting imprint on the listeners' mind. The narratives were meant to educate, entertain and sometimes inculcate moral well-being. Traditionally, the storyteller would sit under a tree to enlighten the audience surrounding him with his legendary tales.

To promote and preserve storytelling traditions from different parts of the world, IGNCA and Nivesh bring together 'Kathakar-International Storytellers Festival' which is being held from 5th to 7th February 2016 at the amphitheatre of IGNCA. The event will have both national and international performers. The amphitheatre was chosen as the venue to bring alive ambience of a traditional Kathakar sitting under a tree and narrating a story. This is the third edition of the festival with Nivesh.

Following storytellers will be performing at the festival this year:

Puran Bhat (Rajasthan, India)

PURAN BHAT is a puppeteer from India, originally from Rajasthan, his group of puppeteer families settled in Delhi almost fifty years ago. They currently reside in Kathputli colony of Delhi. He performs both traditional and modern forms of puppetry. He founded Aakaar Puppet Theatre in the year 1988 and has since performed in number of schools, prestigious institutions and also collaborated with several national and international performers and institutions. The list of his associations include National School of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Aditi Exhibition, USA, The 3rd International Puppet Festival, Iran, Hong Kong Festival, Unima Puppet Festival, Japan, and Volksschule Rotkreuz, Germany.



Every year he conducts workshops for international students at Udaipur and has also performed solo in many countries of Europe and North America. Puran Bhat was felicitated with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2003. He has won several awards at international festivals.

In this festival, he will be performing with his group on 'Amar Singh Rathore'-the story is based on Emperor Amar Singh Rathore returning as winner from the battlefield and celebrating his win.



Gangacharan Singh, Kalicharan and Group Swang (Meerut, India)

SWANG/SAANG is a folk dance drama of Meerut region of western Uttar Pradesh. It incorporates suitable theatrics and mimicry accompanied by songs and dialogues. Sacred stories and folk tales are enacted by a group of six or twelve persons in an open area or an open air theatre surrounded by the audience. The themes are drawn from folk tales, lives of inspiring personalities, stories from Indian mythology, themes of morality, and in recent times, more current themes like health and hygiene, literacy, etc.

The two important styles of Swang are from Khari Tall and Bethi Tall. In the style belonging to Khari Tall, the language used is Khari Boli (Korvi) and in Bethi Tall, it is Brajbhasha.

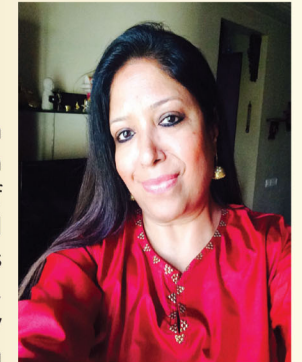
Gangacharan Singh, Kalicharan and Dayacharan are traditional performers of Swang from the Sikhera village of Meerut region while Balvant Singh and Anil Kumar belong to the Badjebra village of Meerut region, western Uttar Pradesh. They all belong to the Bhaat Community. Besides performing in Uttar Pradesh, the artists have

been performing in Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan. This art has been practiced in their families from several generations.

In this festival, the group will be sharing stories from Indian Mythology.

Usha Venkataraman (Mumbai, India)

USHA VENKATARAMAN is a professional storyteller with 18 years experience of performing traditional stories, folktales and myths for children and adults. Usha's interactive story sessions, filled with drama and music both educate and engage her audience. Her repertoire is a rich trove of myths and stories from cultures around the world, Indian folk-tales and stories from Indian Mythology. She also conducts workshops for corporates and trains teachers across India to use storytelling as a teaching tool. In this festival, she will be presenting stories from Indian mythology.



Tim Ralphs (U.K.)

TIM RALPHS is a child of the British storytelling revival who first rose to prominence in 2007 as part of The Traditional Arts Team's 'Young Storyteller of the Year.' He quickly established an international reputation as talented performer whose work is complex, intelligent, and endlessly energetic. Tim's telling showcases the ancient craft of storytelling as a thoroughly modern artform, equally at home in sophisticated theatres or iron-age round-houses.

In 2012, he won a British Award for Storytelling Excellence.

In this festival, he will be presenting folk tales from European region.

