

## Concept of the Festival:

*Kathakar* -International Storytellers Festival aims to generate awareness on the traditional methods of storytelling in different parts of the world. Traditionally, folk tales, epics and community history were communicated orally with gestures and expressions to leave a lasting imprint on listener's mind. It was also a method to inculcate moral well being in humans. Earlier, the storyteller would sit under a tree and entertain the audience with his legendary tales.

IGNCA and Nivesh bring together a festival on the art of storytelling. Kathakar-International Storytellers Festival will be held from 5th to 7th February 2016 at the Amphitheatre, IGNCA. This is the third edition of the festival with Nivesh.

The performers this year are:

**PURAN BHAT** is a puppeteer from India, originally from Rajasthan, His group of puppeteer families settled in Delhi almost fifty years ago. He performs both traditional and modern forms of puppetry and is a founder of Aakaar Puppet Theatre.

**GANGACHARAN SINGH, KALICHARAN AND GROUP** 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. Gangacharn Singh, Kalicharan and Dayacharn 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.

**USHA VENKATARAMAN** is a professional storyteller with 18 years experience of performing traditional stories, folktales and myths for children and adults. Her repertoire is a rich trove of myths and stories from cultures around the world, Indian folk-tales and stories from Indian Mythology.

**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.' His style indicates an ancient craft of storytelling as a thoroughly modern artform, equally at home in sophisticated theatres or iron-age round-houses.

**EMILY HENNESSEY** came to storytelling while studying Drama & Theatre Studies at the University of Kent. A Swedish national, she is passionate about telling myths, epics, folktales and wonder tales from around the world and has a special interest in Norse Mythology.

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



Invitation

