



Nivesh and HHACH

Cordially invite you to the second edition of India's first International Storytellers Festival as part of the

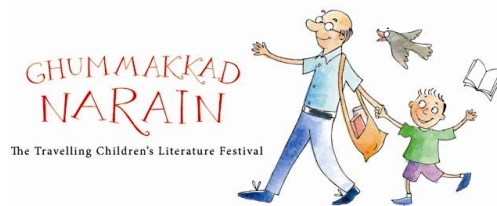
Ghumakkad Narain – the Travelling Literature Festival

At Stein Auditorium on 23rd and 29th and Amphitheatre on 24th and 25th, **India Habitat Centre**, Lodi Road, New Delhi

Sunday, 23rd September 2012, 7-8:30 pm – Michal Malinowski (Poland)
Monday, 24th September 2012, 7-8:30 pm – Joanne Blake (United Kingdom)
Tuesday, 25th September 2012, 7-8:30 pm – Xanthe Gresham (United Kingdom)
Saturday, 29th September 2012, 7-8:30 pm – Kesar-saga and Alha Udal (India)

At **Epicentre**, Gurgaon (NCR)

Sunday, 23rd September 2012, 7-8:30 pm – Joanne Blake (United Kingdom)
Wednesday, 26th September 2012, 7-8:30 pm – Xanthe Gresham (United Kingdom)
Thursday, 27th September 2012, 7-8:30 pm – Michal Malinowski (Poland)



Under the aegis of UNESCO New Delhi Office

Entry is free and on first-cum-first-serve basis. All are requested to please be seated in the hall 15 min before the start of the programme

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

THE PERFORMANCE:

MICHAL MALINOWSKI: Will perform exquisite traditional tales from Poland at the Epicentre, Gurgaon and stories about Jansuz Korczak at the IHC, Delhi

JOANNE BLAKE: Edgelands at IHC Delhi and Wise Fools at Epicentre, Gurgaon

XANTHE GRESHAM: Will perform The Simorgh and Baba Yaga and the Virgin at the India Habitat Centre and Snakes and Thunderbolts – The Gods and Goddesses of Mount Olympus, Stories from around the world at the Epicentre, Gurgaon

KESAR SAGA: Will perform episodes from the ancient epic of King Gesar, stories about valour and love

ALHA UDAL: Will perform stories of valour of the two brothers Alha and Udal

VIEWERS AGE GROUP: Adults, and Children above 7 years old

THE CONCEPT: Ghummakkad Narain - Narain is an elderly gentleman, extremely fond of books and travels around reading them out to children. Children like being with him as he makes reading a whole lot of fun. He is a store house of knowledge and has a unique way of sharing it – in the form of stories. He's loved both by children and the elderly, wherever he goes. His stories sometimes even attract animals that follow him around listening to his stories...

THE INSPIRATION: Thakur Vishva Narain Singh, a well known journalist and writer of Dehra Dun. 'Thakur saheb' as he was popularly known as was also the first Braille Editor of India at the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH) who literally brought light into the lives of the blind who had no means of learning for the lack of books available in Braille. He served the visually impaired by bringing out literature for the 10 million blind in the country in 10 regional languages in the Braille script. The books included fiction, non-fiction, literary works, academic journals and reference books, epics and regular news and infotainment magazines translated into Braille. He was also called the "Father of Braille Literature in India."

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Ghummakkad Narain is an annual travelling literature festival for children and youth, which takes place from 30 July to 29 September every year. This year the 'Peace Across Borders' Workshop was held from 27th July to 2nd August with young adults from Pakistan and India, the Children's Literature Festival was held in Dehra Dun from 25th to 27th August and International Storytelling festival in Delhi from 23 to 29 September 2012.



Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival

Venue Partners



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ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Kesar Saga: is the epic of King Gesar Geser Khan,. The epic enlists the stories of valour of the King. The epic is recorded in poetry and prose and is said to have been performed in China, Mongolia, Tibet, Ladakh and certain Central Asian Countries and including Baltistan. The storytelling form has since been on the decline and is currently said to only be performed in Mongolia and Ladakh. The singers and storytellers who preserve the Gesar epic tradition perform episodes of the vast oral narrative in alternating passages of prose and verse with numerous regional differences. Tibetan masters carry bronze mirrors and use facial expressions, sound effects and gestures to enhance their singing, while Mongolian performers are accompanied by fiddles and intersperse improvised, melodic singing with musical storytelling and oral narrative, Ladakhis use either simple singing techniques or sometimes use drama. The hundreds of myths, folktales, ballads and proverbs handed down as part of the tradition not only serve as a form of major entertainment in rural communities but also educate listeners in history, religion, custom, morality and science. A continuing inspiration for thangka painting, Tibetan opera and other art forms, the Gesar epic imbues audiences both young and old with a sense of cultural identity and historical continuity. The Mongolian art form was also nominated to the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, by China. The oral art form will be performed by the Ladakhi Arts Society.

Supported by the National Museum Institute



Michal Malinowski is a storyteller, writer and folklorist. He is the creator and director of The Storyteller Museum - a new type of museum based on interactive technology presenting oral traditions and intangible heritage from all over the world. He has performed his storytelling programs live on stage, at libraries, schools and on the radio. He has been a guest speaker at storytelling festivals and events in England, Spain, France, Italy, Burkina Faso, USA, Canada, Syria and Iran. In 2006, Malinowski was awarded a special prize by the Polish Minister of Culture for his contribution to the preservation and development of culture.

Supported by the Polish Institute



Joanne Blake Cave is a performance storyteller based in the UK, where she has been Storyteller-in-Residence at the Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton since 2010. In 2007 she was highly commended in the Young Storyteller of the Year Competition, and then with the creation of her two premier pieces, *We are Pathmakers* and *The Smiling Fox*, she has gone on to perform at festivals, theatres and art centres throughout Europe. Jo weaves together traditional tales, mythology, biography and autobiography, with a dynamic, expressive physicality. She is a warm and animated performer, and a keen interrogator of contemporary storytelling practice. She is an Associate Lecturer on the BA Acting degree course at the University of Northampton and is currently studying for her PhD in Performance Storytelling at the University of Chichester.

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Alha Udal: Alha and Udal were two warrior brothers whose tales of valour are sung all over the North in a very dramatic manner. Though it was sung in all of central India at one point, it is now hard to find artists practising it in India. The Merrut group who have kept the tradition alive will perform the oral storytelling art form. Alha is supposedly a courageous soldier from the Rajput clan who fought with Prithviraj Chauhan. And his stories of valour are captured in the Alha-Khand (poems) recited popularly in the Bundelkhand region (Central India). According to folklore Alha and Udal become immortal after blessings from the local goddess because of their valour and continue to be seen in the Bundelkhand area.

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Xanthe Gresham's work is highly energetic and distinctive and has captivated audiences all over the world. Since 1995 Xanthe has performed in countless schools, theatres, libraries, hospitals, barges, boats, parks and woodlands. She works in long-term partnership with the British Museum and has developed number of projects for the Victoria and Albert museums. Repertoire includes material from European, Russian, Celtic, Greek, Persian, Iraqi, Mesopotmian, Afghani, South American, Egyptian, Chinese, Indian and Sufi traditions. Xanthe fires up the children, she takes them on a magical world, opening up a Pandora's box, unlocking the imagination and bringing exhibits to life. With few props, exquisite timing, a few rhythmic repetitions and some participation.

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