VOICE AND SPEECH TRAINERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Art of Storytelling
4 - 8 August, 2017
Singapore

Main Presenters

LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

VASTA ASIA
WWW.VASTA.ORG

Source of images and information on Singapore are from Singapore Tourism Board
Wesley Enoch

Is the Director of the Sydney Festival for 2017-2019. He has been a theatre director and writer for over 25 years specialising in Aboriginal Theatre and cultural stories. Wesley has been the Artistic Director of companies including Queensland Theatre Company 2010-15, Ilbijerri 2003-06 and Kooroomba Jdarr 1994-97, as well as the Festival of Pacific Arts – Australia 2008 and 2012. As a freelance director and writer Wesley has worked with virtually all the large theatre companies, arts centres and festivals in Australia and won multiple awards including The Patrick White Playwrighting Award, Helpmann Awards for best production and best new Australia work and Matilda Awards. He was a Resident director at Sydney Theatre Company 2000-01, Associate Artistic Director Company B Belvoir 2007-10 and a Director on the Opening Ceremony of the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Wesley was a Trustee of the Sydney Opera House 2006-13 and is currently the Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy Panel for the Australia Council, as well as a number of committees and Boards.
I Wayan Dibia

Born in Singapadu village of Gianyar, is an artist and scholar specializing in Balinese performing arts. Trained in a family of artists, he has studied various forms of classical Balinese dances from different masters on the island. From 1970, Dibia started to experiment with elements of traditional Balinese performing arts to create new works for a contemporary audience. His formal education and training includes Conservatory of Balinese Performing Arts (Kokar), Indonesia Dance Academy (ASTI) Denpasar. He joined the faculty of dance at the Indonesia Dance Academy in Denpasar in 1974, received a grant from the Asian Cultural Council New York in 1982 to do his MA in Dance, and from The Fulbright Hays in 1987 to pursue his Ph.D. in Southeast Asian Performing Arts, both at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has written a number of books and articles, both in English and Bahasa Indonesia. As a performing artist he has toured to Asia, Europe, Australia, and The United States of America. From 1997 to 2002 he served as the Director of STSI Denpasar. He is the founder of the performing arts center GEEKS. From Fall 2005 through Spring 2007 he was a visiting fellow of Balinese performing arts at The College of Holy Cross, Massachusetts. In 2011 he was invited as a consultant to the exhibition entitled “Bali Dances for The Gods” at the Horniman Museum in London (UK).
Leith McPherson

Is Head of Voice and Movement at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, Australia. She has worked as a voice, dialect and acting teacher at drama schools in Australia and the UK, and as a coach to theatre, film and television productions for the last twenty years. A graduate of the Voice Studies course at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Leith coaches leading film and theatre actors in the US, UK, South Africa, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Her film work includes movies by Fred Schepisi, Roland Joffe and Alex Proyas, and four years in New Zealand as Dialect Coach on the Hobbit trilogy of films directed by Sir Peter Jackson. Leith has worked as Voice and Dialect Coach on more than forty professional plays and musicals including shows for the Melbourne Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Opera Australia and the Royal Shakespeare Company, has assistant directed productions of Hamlet and Richard III at the MTC and is working as Associate Director on the 2017 Queensland Theatre production of Noises Off. A passionate teacher and mentor to training actors and voice coaches, Leith is also an award-winning voice over artist.
Petrine Kow is a Voice and Presentation Coach based in Singapore and works with clients as diverse as CEOs, wildlife experts, corporate executives, students, bus drivers and yoga teachers. She has been an actress and singer since 1998. Her diverse and comprehensive experience in all forms of media has put her in a unique position to understand the power of the voice and storytelling. She was the pioneer presenter of a live talk show on Singapore’s first news and talk station, Newsradio 938FM and was the co-host on the most listened-to morning show on Singapore’s top English language radio station, Class 95FM. She can be heard on thousands of advertisements for top brands such as L’Oreal, Ponds and BMW in Singapore and around Southeast Asian region. She is also the voice of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Singapore. As the resident Voice-Director at Singapore’s only Emmy Award-winning animation studio, she was responsible for casting and voice-directing several children’s animations produced for Nickelodeon. She directed the Golden Bell Award-winning animation LaMB on ANIMAX in 2008. She was nominated for a Life! Theatre award for Best Supporting Actress as Amy in Stephen Sondheim’s “Company”. She is a passionate advocate of storytelling and in 2014 co-founded Telling Stories Live, a social initiative that provides a platform for anyone to tell their stories in front of a live audience.
Kamini Ramachandran

Is a pioneer in the field of storytelling in Asia. A fellow of the Royal Society of Arts with a Bachelor’s degree in English Language & Literature (Hons) from the University of Reading, UK, and a Master’s degree in Arts Pedagogy & Practice from Goldsmith’s University of London, she is a highly sought after artist educator in the field. She teaches at LASALLE College of the Arts and directs the annual student showcase Stories Through The Mind’s Eye. She produced World Storytelling Day in Singapore since 2005. She is the creative force behind MoonShadow Stories, which spearheaded performance storytelling for adult audiences in Singapore. She has contributed extensively to the Asian Congress of Storytellers since 2003 and has played a central role in the Singapore International Storytelling Festival since its inauguration in 2006 becoming its Artistic Director from 2012 – 2014. She is a founding member of the Storytelling Association (Singapore) where she served as President from 2008 – 2012 and Vice President from 2012 – 2017. She has been featured at the Scottish International Storytelling Festival (2010), Federation of European Storytelling Conference (2013), Festivale Internazionale di Storytelling Roma in Italy (2013), Festival at the Edge in England (2013), Alden Biesen International Storytelling Festival in Belgium (2014) and Beyond the Border International Storytelling Festival in Wales, UK (2016). She has also been featured at the Sydney International Storytelling Conference (2012), Chennai Storytelling Festival (2013) and Georgetown Festival in Penang (2015), and will be at the inaugural Dubai International Storytelling Festival in early 2017. Described as “Singapore’s most mesmerizing storyteller” by Professor Tommy Koh at the International Summit of the Book she is one of today’s most unique voices in storytelling.
We’d love to hear from you! Our theme is the Art of Storytelling. Proposals are being accepted until February 15th, 2017. For more information visit our website: VASTA.org.