

# 18. INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL



15-19 / 11 / 2023

Pass it on



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FESTIWALPOWIADANIA.PL

ORGANIZERS: "STUDNIA O. GROUP" ASSOCIATION, THE MAZOVIA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE  
VENUE: THE MAZOVIA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE IN WARSAW 12, ELEKTORALNA STREET



# INFORMATION

## ORGANIZERS:

"Studnia O. Group" Association  
The Mazovia Institute of Culture

## VENUE:

The Mazovia Institute of Culture  
in Warsaw / 12, Elektoralna Street

## PERFORMANCES (paid entrance)

– Auditorium

## ACCOMPANYING EVENTS (free entrance)

– Elektorska Room

## WORKSHOPS (registration)

– Workshop Room 1.14

## TICKETS:

Ticket sales at the Mazovia Institute of  
Culture directly or online:

[www.mik.waw.pl/repertuar/](http://www.mik.waw.pl/repertuar/)

Morning shows (Wednesday-Friday) – PLN 20

Other shows – PLN 30

Festival pass (Story Night not included) –

PLN 200 (directly in the ticket office or

by e-mail: [kasa@mik.waw.pl](mailto:kasa@mik.waw.pl))

Story Night – PLN 50

## ACCOMPANYING EVENTS – free entrance

Meetings, vernissage, film screening, perfor-  
mative lecture, opening and closing gala

## WORKSHOPS – registration required

(link to the registration form online)

## AVAILABILITY:



Selected performances and accompa-  
nying events interpreted into the Polish  
Sign Language (PSL)



Workshops and lecture with interpreta-  
tion into the Polish Sign Language (PSL)  
(up to 5 days before the event)



Film with audio description  
and subtitles in Polish



Selected performances with subtitles  
into Polish



Performances for children



All the performances in the Auditorium  
with a hearing loop

## Contact:

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Culture and National Heritage



# INTRODUCTION

The Studnia O. Group and the Mazovia  
Institute of Culture invite you to the  
eighteenth edition of the International  
Storytelling Festival from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>  
November 2023, in the seat of the  
Mazovia Institute of Culture at 12,  
Elektoralna Street. The theme of this  
year's edition is: **"Pass it on"**.

We want to focus on passing down stories,  
heritage, and the ethos of a storyteller.  
In what ways is art of storytelling present in  
the context of contemporary culture? What is  
the difference between the "art of storytelling"  
and "storytelling" as a communication tool?  
What connects those two professions? Where  
do contemporary storytellers look for sources  
of their stories? How do they develop their  
craft? In what contexts is the profession of the  
storyteller valid today? We have invited artists,  
who aside for their stage practice, are involved  
in reflecting on the art of storytelling. They are  
also long-time teachers of this profession.

The storyteller from **Toronto, Dan Yashinsky**,  
who nine years ago stole the hearts of the  
audience of the Warsaw Festival, will be  
accompanied by a celebrated dancer and  
choreographer Annemarie Cabri. She will  
dance the stories on stage. Dan Yashinsky will  
also share his *Storycare* practice, which can  
be used in hospitals and hospices, as well  
as in the local community. **Gigi Bigot from  
France**, calls herself "merchant of stories".  
In her one-of-a-kind performative lecture, using  
the symbolic language of fairytales, she will  
uncover her path as a storyteller and suggest  
the contexts in which you can tell stories today.  
**Halima Hamdane from Morocco** will share  
the secrets of the tradition of storytelling from  
the perspective of women and open the lid of  
the magic chest full of mysteries.

**Polina Tšerkassova**, who is a storyteller-  
musician, as well a researcher-anthropologist  
**from Estonia**, will charm us with the sounds  
of ethnic instruments. She will introduce the  
Festival audience to the tradition of storytelling  
from the Northern regions of the Baltic Sea  
which remain fairly unknown. We will also  
host the representative of the Turkish Ashiks:  
**Ozan Aşika Erol Şahiner** and the contemporary  
female successors of this art.

As for Polish performers, for the first time we  
will welcome a Deaf artist – **Adam Stoyanov**,  
a prominent representative of the culture  
of the Deaf. He is known for participating in  
theatre performances, in particular in "Rytuał  
miłosny" [Love Ritual], directed by Daniel  
Kotowski. Adam creates his own stories which  
he tells with eloquence and humor in the  
Polish Sign Language (this time they will be  
interpreted into Polish phonic language).  
For the first time, the representative of the  
tradition of folk storytelling will be present.  
**Irena Stopa from Jordanów**, shares her art  
with new generations.

In this year's poster the swallow carries a  
golden key in her beak. The knot is loose,  
the key will fall in a moment. Perhaps it will  
be found by a boy from a story by the Grimm  
Brothers? It will fit the lock of a certain magic  
chest. In a moment, it will turn the lock, the lid  
will spring open, and it is then "we will find out  
what kind of wonders were inside". Join us to  
celebrate the Festival's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday!

On behalf of the organizers –  
Beata Frankowska



# PROGRAM

## 15.11 / WEDNESDAY

10.00 am – 11.00 am 🗣️

**Between the World and the Afterworld / 7+**  
Katarzyna Jackowska-Enemu, Mateusz Szemraj  
PERFORMANCE

11.30 am – 12.30 pm 🗣️ 🗣️

**Between the World and the Afterworld / 7+**  
Katarzyna Jackowska-Enemu, Mateusz Szemraj  
PERFORMANCE / PSL

5.00 pm – 6.30 pm 🗣️ AD 🗣️

**Festive Opening of the Festival:**  
vernissage of the Festival posters  
exhibition "Eighteenth Birthday",  
screening of the film "Singers and their Tales"  
Free entrance / PSL / film with audio  
description and subtitles in Polish

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

**Master of Translation**

Agnieszka Aysen Kaim, Marta Maślanka  
PERFORMANCE

9.00 pm – 10.00 pm 🗣️

**Let me Speak!**

Halima Hamdane (Morocco/France)  
PERFORMANCE / FR / PL / subtitles

## 16.11 / THURSDAY

9.30 am – 10.30 am 🗣️

**Treasure from Dreams.**

**Jewish stories / 7+**

Ewelina Jarnutowska, Marta Maślanka  
PERFORMANCE

11.30 am – 12.30 pm 🗣️

**Lala. The story of a Miracle / 10+**

Beata Frankowska, Robert Lipka  
PERFORMANCE

5.00 pm – 6.30 pm

**The art of telling stories or storytelling?**

Discussion moderated by Anna Woźniak  
Free entrance

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm 🗣️

**The Phantom. A Natural History**

Małgorzata Litwinowicz, Jolanta Kossakowska  
PERFORMANCE

9.00 pm – 10.00 pm 🗣️

**Jean des Merveilles /**

**John the Miracle Maker**

Gigi Bigot (France)

PERFORMANCE / FR / PL

## 17.11 / FRIDAY

10.00 am – 11.00 am 🗣️

**The Lost Way. Tolkien Stories / 12+**

Łukasz Szykowski, Emilia Raiter

PERFORMANCE

12.00 – 2.00 pm 🗣️

**Introduction to Storycare Workshop**

Dan Yashinsky (Canada)

Free entrance / registration required

ENG / PL / PSL if needed

5.00 pm – 6.30 pm

**The Way of the Ashik, Turkish Singer**

**of Tales** – Meeting with Ozan Erol Şahiner  
(Turkey), moderated by Remek Mazur-Hanaj

Free entrance / TUR / PL

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

**How Heart Came into The World and**

**Other Danced Stories** – Dan Yashinsky,  
Annemarie Cabri (Canada), Sylwia Świątkowska

PERFORMANCE / ENG

9.00 pm – 10.00 pm 🗣️

**Songs of the Ashik: Tradition and**

**Avant-garde** – Ozan Erol Şahiner (Turkey)  
and guests

PERFORMANCE / TUR / PL / subtitles

# PROGRAM

## 18.11 / SATURDAY

10.00 am – 2.00 pm 🗣️

**Food for the Heart. Performative Lecture**  
**on the Symbolic Language of Fairytales**

Gigi Bigot (France)

FR / PL / PSL if needed

Free entrance / break

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm 🗣️

**Story and Music of the Seven Seas / 10+**

Polina Tšerkassova (Estonia)

PERFORMANCE / ENG / PL

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm 🗣️

**My Strange World**

Adam Stoyanov (Culture of the Deaf)

PERFORMANCE / PSL / PL

8.00 pm – midnight 🗣️

**Story Night**

PERFORMANCE

break / PL / ENG / FR / PSL (the first part)

🗣️ – Performances for children

AD – Audio description

🗣️ – Subtitles into Polish

🗣️ – Interpreted into the PSL

🗣️ – Interpreted into the PSL / if needed  
(up to 5 days before the event),  
contact: m.ptak@mik.waw.pl

🗣️ – All the performances in the  
Auditorium with a hearing loop

## 19.11 / SUNDAY

12.00 – 1.00 pm 🗣️

**The Lost Road. Tolkien Stories / 12+**

Łukasz Szykowski, Emilia Raiter

PERFORMANCE

12.00 – 2.00 pm 🗣️

**The Telling Bee Workshop**

Dan Yashinsky (Canada)

Free entrance / registration required

ENG / PL / PSL if needed

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm 🗣️

**Tales of the Enchanted Chest / 10+**

Halima Hamdane (Morocco/France),

Magda Lena Górka

PERFORMANCE / FR / AR / PL

4.30 pm – 6.00 pm

**Open Stage series: Weavers of Stories**

**Encounter of the Generations**

Moderated by Jarek Kaczmarek

Free entrance

6.30 pm – 7.30 pm

**How Babia Góra Healed the Peasant and**

**Other Tales** – Irena Stopa, Karolina Szeliga

(daughter), Szymon Szeliga (grandson)

PERFORMANCE

8.00 pm – 9.00 pm

**On Dreams and Dreaming**

Polina Tšerkassova (Estonia)

PERFORMANCE / ENG

9.00 pm – 9.30 pm

**Grand finale**

Closing ceremony of the Festival

Free entrance



# 15.11 / WEDNESDAY

10.00 am – 11.00 am 🎧

**Between the World and the Afterworld** / 7+

Katarzyna Jackowska-Enemuo: storytelling, singing, music (accordion, daf)

Mateusz Szemraj: music (saz, oud, dulcimer)

PERFORMANCE

11.30 am – 12.30 pm 🎧 🐾

PERFORMANCE / 7+ / PSL

We all know what the world is. Yet what is the afterworld? Where is it? There are so many responses how many stars there are in the sky. In this tradition, the afterworld is not some far away place. It is close by, even though it is invisible and separated from our world by a line as thin as the spider's thread. Dark water sources, old trees and dreams are gates to the afterworld. There are many creatures who are protecting those gates, they know how to enter through them and are our guides. Among these stories, there is a story about the Żmij, the guardian of the source and his three very strange questions. There is also a story about a boy who had to go past the third forest in the middle of the winter to get a special herb, which shines in the darkest night. What can happen when we feed the hungry and tired wanderer.



"Between the World and the Afterworld"

is a narrative performance with live music where there is place for listening quietly, singing together and guessing riddles.

It is based on the book of the same title by Katarzyna Jackowska-Enemuo.

The book was illustrated by Nika Jaworowska-Duchlińska and published by Albus in 2022.

It was awarded at the Bloggers' Contest Lokomotywa and in a series of podcasts for the II Program of the Polish Radio.

The book can be bought during the Festival.

5.00 pm – 6.30 pm 🐾 AD 🗣️

**Festive Opening of the Festival posters exhibition: "Eighteenth Birthday",**

screening of the film "Singers and their Tales"

Free entrance / PSL / film with audio description and subtitles in Polish

Can eighteen posters form a story which in each self is a visual story? The curator of the exhibition Milena Stryjewska from the Mazovia Institute of Culture was searching for connections between the images and themes of the different editions of the Festival.

She weaved themes, metaphors as well as artefacts symbolizing the different editions, such as the chair of the storyteller, a map showing the journey of a child refugee, the figure of Ariadna, a Ukrainian doll, projects of posters, folders. Join us for a joyous celebration of the Festival eighteenth birthday and to see the film from the last edition of the Festival "Singers and their Tales" by Ganna Yarovenko and Eugenia Kovalenko.

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

**Master of Translation**

Agnieszka Ayşen Kaim, Marta Maślanka

PERFORMANCE

The story is based on the life of the master – role model for translators and musicologists of all generations, Wojciech Bobowski vel Ali Ufka Bej, a 17<sup>th</sup> century captive of Polish origin, an outstanding Ottoman scholar, musicologist and translator. The story is built on the basis of excerpts of multilingual manuscripts, dispersed around the world, shreds of autobiographical notes on the pages of dictionaries used by the Master, accounts of the travelers who used his services. The performance is composed of scraps of biography of this "in between" figure, whose identity cannot be determined once and for all. The performance is a series



of micro stories, set in the background of historical events, with the soundtrack of Bobowski's compositions and other musical pieces from the era.

9.00 pm – 10.00 pm 🗣️

**Let me Speak!**

Halima Hamdane (Marocco/France)

PERFORMANCE / FR / PL / subtitles

The Moroccan storyteller and writer, who has been living in Paris for many years. She has been cultivating the family tradition and passion for oral literature and fairytales told to her by her grandmother. She writes and tells stories in Arabian and French, drawing from the North African wealth, the Middle Eastern repertoire and her own imagination. She performs at storytelling festivals all around the world. She leads workshops in creating stories. She develops the art of storytelling in the space of museums, in particular in the prestigious museum of non-European cultures the Quai Branly in Paris.

"Let me speak!" is a narrative performance on the basis of the novel by Halima Hamdane of the same title. It is a story of three generations of women in a certain Moroccan family at a moment when the chains of tradition are still holding the people back but slowly the time of liberation is coming.



Narration is from the point of view of a slave who at the same time is a governess, cook and guardian of the family secrets. Women tell what remains unsaid, they dress wounds and open cracks towards a better future.



# 16.11 / THURSDAY

9.30 am – 10.30 am 🎧

**Treasure from Dreams.**

**Jewish stories / 7+**

Ewelina Jarnutowska, Marta Maślanka  
**PERFORMANCE**

There are worlds where anything can happen. They seem ordinary but this is only an impression. These are worlds full of mystery, magic and wisdom. You can meet the invincible Hershel, the wise and good Rachel, unlucky Aberham and Isacc who had interesting dreams. Each of these worlds is a separate story. How to disempower the terrible goblins and save the spirit of Chanukah? Can you dream the way to the treasure? How to get rid of bad luck and pirates? What is the fastest, what is the greatest and what is most



expensive thing in the world? We can find answers to these questions in stories from Jewish culture.

Ewelina Jarnutowska is a storyteller, educator and cultural animator, she cooperates with the Polin Museum in Warsaw. She is passionate about storytelling. She prefers stories which are optimistic, slightly ironic, with a positive message. This is what she wants to share with people. She loves to get immersed in the world of storytelling as a listener and create magic worlds, inviting others into them. It will be her first performance at the Festival.

11.30 am – 12.30 pm 🎧

**Lala. The story of a Miracle / 10+**

Beata Frankowska – scenario and storytelling,  
Robert Lipka – music (accordion and singing)  
**PERFORMANCE**

Story based on the autobiography of the Holocaust survivor Roman Kent "Courage Was My Only Option" (Vatage Press, 2008) and a book for children "My Dog Lala" (Teachers Discovery, 2012). The storyteller Beata Frankowska came across the story of an extraordinary friendship of the boy and dog in difficult times thanks to Marian Turski who was a friend of the Roman Kent from school and the ghetto of Łódź. According to the author, "This is a story about children and their beloved dog but foremost about the way I understood the world as a child. The story of Lala is a story of a miracle." Thanks to the power of the story, we are transferred to prewar Łódź and experience joyful adventures with Romek, his siblings and Lala. When difficult time of war come, Lala



Photo: Marek Edelman Dialogue Center in Łódź

teaches Romek what is real love and about the experience of loss. When the family is in the ghetto, Lala gives the little boy hope and strength to survive.

Even though so many years have passed from those events, Lala still lives on in the family memory of the children and grandchildren of Roman Kent. Listen to her story so that she can also live in your hearts and bring you consolation and strength which we all need.

5.00 pm – 6.30 pm

**The art of telling stories or storytelling?**

Jarek Kaczmarek (Studnia O. Group)

Magdalena Petryniak (Story Seekers)

Michał Malinowski (Storyteller Museum)

Discussion: Agata Dzik (Fairy Tales from the Six Corners of the World)

Moderated by: Anna Woźniak

**Free entrance**

What is the difference between the "art of storytelling" and "storytelling" as a communication tool known in Poland? What connects these two professions? What goals do we set as professionals? Where do contemporary storytellers look for sources of stories? How do they develop their craft? In what contexts is the profession of the storyteller valid today? We will talk about the language and terms through which we describe events linked to storytelling and the confusion around it. We have invited



Photo: Aleksandra Rózga

artists, who aside for their stage practice, are involved in reflecting on the art of storytelling, long-time teachers of this profession, organizers of Polish festivals of storytelling as well as teachers of storytelling.

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

**The Phantom. A Natural History**

Małgorzata Litwinowicz – scenario and storytelling

Jolanta Kossakowska – music (selection, composition and performance)


**PERFORMANCE**

The story is based on the book by Łukasz Kozak of the same title. Following the author, we will learn about "phantomhood" as experience not a folk belief. We will recall older and newer stories of people who had such a double soul and life. The poet Adam Mickiewicz will appear as the demonic figure from Slavic beliefs known as the planetnik.



Photo: Aleksandra Rózga



9.00 pm - 10.00 pm 

*Jean des Merveilles* /  
John the Miracle Maker

Gigi Bigot (France)

PERFORMANCE / FR / PL / subtitles

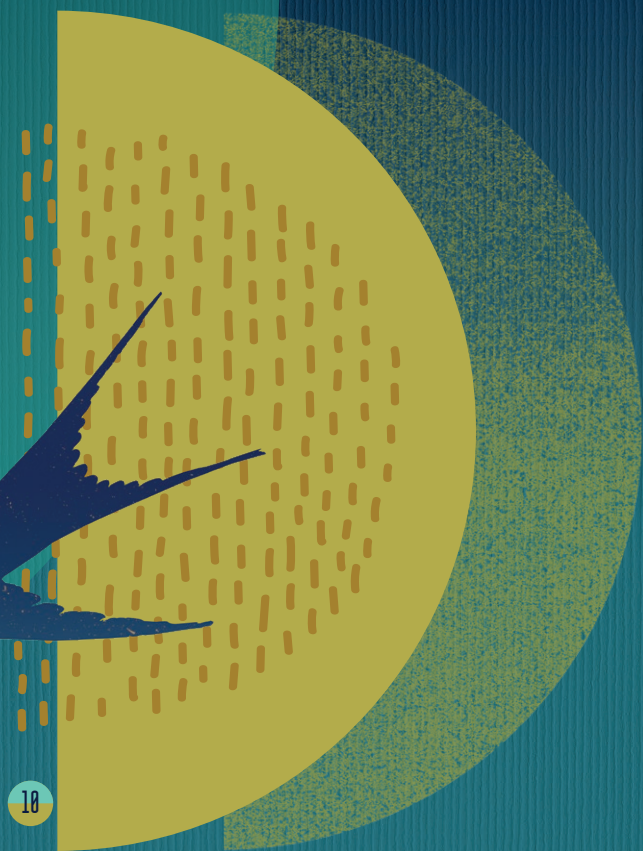
Gigi Bigot likes to present herself as a "merchant of stories". In her stories, with attentiveness and expertise of a jeweler maker she polishes the characters from noble materials. Whether real or made up, they always oppose injustice. She is an author of books and performances for adults and children. She runs workshops for storytellers, teachers and educators.

Jean de Merveilles is an adaptation of the novel by Swedish writer Selma Lagerlöf, laureate of the Nobel Prize, author of the *Wonderful Journey*. The main character tells everybody of the day in which the Sun gave the name to her daughter: Claire-Belle. When Claire-Belle reaches adulthood and leaves to work in an ill-famed city, her father convinces himself that her destiny must be wonderful. In between love and madness, between heaven and earth, between daughter and father, the story of Jean de Merveilles moves us because as Jean says: "If you don't feel the beating of your own heart nor with sadness nor of joy, it means you are not alive."




The interactive lecture by Gigi Bigot "Food for the Heart" about the symbolic language of the stories and dreams and its impact on our life.

Join us for a lecture with stories on the 18<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 am.



18

17.11 / FRIDAY

10.00 am - 11.00 am 

*The Lost Way. Tolkien Stories* / 12+

Łukasz Szyrkowski – storytelling, singing, gusle

Emilia Raiter – storytelling, harp, singing

PERFORMANCE

The second performance will take place on 19.11 at noon.

Alboin is as extraordinary as his name.

He spends his days lying on the shore of the Western Sea and keeps on seeking something behind the horizon. He grows up in the rhythm of learning languages, Greek, Latin, Welsh, old Icelandic, old English and many others.

He becomes a professor. His dreams are most amazing: about the sunken land – Atalant, Numenor. In those dreams, he hears long forgotten languages, which have not been heard for centuries, languages older than the world. "The Lost Way" is an unfinished story by



Photo: Paweł Ogrodzki

J. R. R. Tolkien with significant autobiographical themes. The professor tries to uncover the sources of his own work, sources of stories of which he does not feel creator of, rather a storyteller and explorer. A narrative-musical performance of multiple themes and languages.

12.00-2.00 pm 

*Introduction to Storycare Workshop*

Dan Yashinsky (Canada)

Free entrance / registration required

ENG / PL / PSL if needed

*Storycare*, is an approach to integrating storytelling into healthcare settings.

This workshop will teach participants ways to adapt storytelling, storylistening, and storykeeping to their work in hospitals, long-term care communities, and programs serving fragile populations. I developed "Storycare" in collaboration with social worker Melissa Tafler, head of Arts and Health at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, in Toronto. It has been used with psychiatry patients, as well as in palliative care and Alzheimer's programs. For further information, please visit [www.storycare.ca](http://www.storycare.ca).



Photo: Richard Boland

11

16.11 / THURSDAY

17.11 / FRIDAY



5.00 pm – 6.30 pm

**The Way of the Ashik, Turkish Singer of Tales** – Meeting with Ozan Erol Şahiner (Turkey), moderated by Remek Mazur-Hanaj  
Free entrance / TUR / PL

Aşık Erol Şahiner is a traditional singer from Erzurum, a city in Eastern Anatolia, which is the epicenter of epic singing in Turkey. He represents the Ashik tradition. A Turkish aşık means literally “in love”, a poet and singer “burning with love” just as mystic as earthly. Erol got a traditional education alongside the master, in particular he was an apprentice of



the Ashik Mevlüt İhsani. He has been a singer since his early childhood and plays a folk string instrument saz and has been creating poetry since the age of 15.

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

**How Heart Came Into The World and Other Danced Stories**

Dan Yashinsky (Canada) – storytelling  
Annemarie Cabri (Canada) – dance  
Sylvia Świątkowska – music  
PERFORMANCE / ENG

Annemarie and Dan have been collaborating on a series of intimate performances that bring together dance, storytelling, and music. This program features six short danced stories that share the theme of memory and transformation. Drawing on traditional folktale and legend, and using a dance vocabulary based on ballet, modern, and improvisational techniques, we take the listener beyond the text of the stories, asking them to listen with their full bodies. These performances have an element of participation and spontaneity, and audiences may even find themselves joining the dancer as part of their storylistening experience.




Photo: Taylor Long

„Telling Bee”. He tells stories in hospitals and other medical facilities. He is the author of: *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps – Storytelling for the Twenty-first Century* oraz *Swimming with Chaucer – A Storyteller’s Logbook*.

Annemarie Cabri is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher who currently works as the Senior Teaching Artist for the National Ballet of Canada. She toured extensively as a dancer with the Dutch National Ballet and Judith Marcuse Dance Company.

Sylvia Świątkowska is a violin and vielle player, composer, connected with the band Kapela ze Wsi Warszawa. She plays the following traditional instruments: suka biłgorajska and fidela płocka, using the so-called nail technique. She cooperates with numerous artists from Poland and abroad, co-creating projects at the intersection of styles and cultures. She took part in the first projects of the Studnia O. Group.

9.00 pm – 10.00 pm 

**Songs of the Ashik: Tradition and Avant-garde** – Ozan Erol Şahiner (Turkey) and guests  
MUSIC PERFORMANCE / TUR / PL / subtitles

Aşık Erol Şahiner is a traditional singer from Erzurum, a city in Eastern Anatolia, which is the center of epic singing in Turkey. He represents the Ashik tradition. A Turkish aşık means literally “in love”, a poet and singer “burning with love” as mystic as earthly. Erol got a traditional education alongside the master, in particular he was an apprentice of the Ashik Mevlüt İhsani. He has been a singer since his early childhood and plays a folk string instrument saz and has been creating poetry since the age of 15. He is a master of improvised dialogue of songs, called *atışma* and different forms of classic and folk epic called *divan* and the folk song *türkü*. He plays many concerts for Turkish communities around Europe but on an everyday basis he is connected to his region. He also plays the semah, i.e., songs from the Turkish culture connected to the religious minority of the Alevi.



This performance has been specially created for the Polish audience. The artist will be accompanied by two Turkish female singers. This is rare in the traditional culture but it does happen in contemporary times that a bit of avant-garde is needed so that here and now tradition can be passed on.





# 18.11 / SATURDAY

10.00 am – 2.00 pm 🐼

## Food for the Heart. Performative Lecture on the Symbolic Language of Fairytales

Gigi Bigot (France)

FR / PL / PSL if needed

Free entrance / break

Without stories the earth would be too small and the characters wouldn't have momentum, says Gigi Bigot. Stories are told so that everybody can reach for their own piece of the moon.

In the first part of the meeting, Gigi Bigot presents the results of her research on the symbolic language of the stories. Why are they powerful? What are their relations with the discursive language? What is the sense of telling stories? Is their poetic nature a refuge from reality or in fact enroots in the world? Can we give testimonies through stories? In order to respond to these questions, Gigi Bigot shares the experiences which were her milestones of becoming a professional



storyteller. She works for such NGOS as the ATD Fourth World in poor neighborhoods of Northern France.

In the second part after a tasty break of refreshments, Gigi Bigot will share excerpts from her stories, inviting other storytellers to co-create them. Stories will form a mosaic like stones form the path of life.

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm 🐼

## Story and Music of the Seven Seas / 10+

Polina Tšerkassova (Estonia)

PERFORMANCE / ENG / PL

Estonian storyteller Polina Tšerkassova, who lives by the shores of the Baltic Sea, will bring special stories from the depth of the seas and oceans. What kind of music do they play in the depths of the seas? What was the relation between the people and the seas in the old times and how it changed now?

Polina will tell both Estonian folk stories about the sea and the magical creatures who live underwater, as well as folk stories from other traditions and regions.



Photo: Dmitri Kotjuh

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm 🐼

## My Strange World

Adam Stoyanov (Culture of the Deaf)

PERFORMANCE

PSL / PL – Katarzyna Głozak

Adam Stoyanov has been deaf from his childhood. In everyday life he uses the Polish Sign Language which is his first langue (mother tongue). His whole family is deaf, including his grandparents and siblings. He is known for a highly developed, artistic signing, poetry performed in sign language and visual signing. He has been awarded many times in fields connected to acting and Polish Sign Language Arts. He acts in the performance directed by Wojtek Ziemilski, including the one man show "W tłumaczeniu" [In translation] and "Rytuał miłosny" [Love Ritual], directed by Daniel Kotowski. He is involved in the cultural activity of the Mazovia Section in the Polish Society of the Deaf in which he published many pieces in the sign language. He interprets Polish literature in the Sign Language thanks to an interpreter from phonic Polish. He cooperates also with the support of Culture Without Barriers Foundation which has published stories created by him in the Polish Sign Language



Photo: Damian Lemański

and the Academy of Deaf Youth Foundation. The performance "It's a Strange World" has been especially created for the festival. The Program includes stories by Adam Stoyanov, in particular the "World According to a Deaf Person" (a humorous story emphasizing the advantages and quirks of being a Deaf person) and "A Deaf Tourist" (Do the Deaf make faux pas while being abroad? Naturally yes! It can be even comical), "Cry" (a spooky story about an employee of the crematorium) or "Wake up!" (exhilarating story of an alcoholic who tries to change his life).

8.00 pm – midnight 🐼

## Story Night

PERFORMANCE / break

PL / ENG / FR / PSL (the first part)

Story Night is the most awaited event during the Festival. Although it is not easy to listen to stories for a few hours in a row, we all want this kind of immersion in the multitude of languages, styles, images and narrations. What will be the main thread of this year's Story Night and how will the "passing on" the stories look like? Will it inspire other storytellers to tell their stories? Will this be the golden key dropped by the flying swallow who opens the magic chest of stories? There will be plenty of music and dance which will connect us all in the night parade. The stories of the Festival guests will be in Polish, English, French, Arabic, Estonian and Polish Sign Language.





# 19.11 / SUNDAY

12.00 – 1.00 pm 🎭

## The Lost Road. Tolkien Stories / 12+

Łukasz Szykowski, Emilia Raiter

PERFORMANCE

See more: the description on the 17<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 am

"The Lost Road" is an unfinished story by J. R. R. Tolkien with significant autobiographical themes. The professor tries to explore the sources of his own work, sources of stories of which he does not feel creator of, rather a storyteller and an explorer.

A narrative-musical performance of multiple themes and languages.



Photo: Paweł Ogrodzki

12.00 – 2.00 pm 🐝

## The Telling Bee Workshop

Dan Yashinsky (Canada)

Free entrance / registration required

ENG / PL / PSL if needed

A *Telling Bee* is a storytelling approach Dan created in Toronto schools. In a *Telling Bee* children and school staff begin by listening to the storytellers (parents, grandparents, neighbours, friends) in their lives. They then - with permission - collect, retell, write, and publish these stories. Often a school will publish a book including stories from every member of the school, from kindergarten students to the teachers. In this workshop, participants will learn the techniques and exercises I use to introduce and lead a *Telling Bee*. The approach has been adapted by storytellers in many places inspired by honey bees, in English we say "quilting bee", "apple-picking bee", "barn-raising bee" to describe people working together to create something beautiful. In English we say "quilting bee", "apple-picking bee", "barn-raising bee" to describe people working together to create something



beautiful. In English we say "quilting bee", "apple-picking bee", "barn-raising bee" to describe people working together to create something beautiful. That's where the name Telling Bee comes from.

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm 🎭

## Tales of the Enchanted Chest / 10+

Halima Hamdane (Marocco/France),

Magda Lena Górska

PERFORMANCE / FR / AR / PL

Where do the most beautiful stories full of unexpected events and miracles? In the enchanted chest of our childhood. It is in us and is only waiting to be opened. With what key? What secret code? With what spell? The Polish-French storyteller Magda Lena Górska is calling the mistress of storytelling Halima Hamdane to help her. She will take us on a journey to a fairytale Marocco to the marketplace in Marrakesh, where cries in different languages are intertwined with the aroma of oriental spices and the melody of the snake charmers.



4.30 pm – 6.00 pm

## Open Stage series: Weavers of Stories Encounter of the Generations

Moderated by Jarek Kaczmarek

Free entrance

Weaver of stories is an informal group of storytellers from the Mazovian village Przytyk, who shares the passion of sharing stories. Weavers tell stories in patois and literary language, real life stories, they spin threads of stories from personal memories, weave stories, dance and sing. At the Festival they will create a circle of stories which will merge stories told by grandmothers and grand-daughters, fathers and sons. In the finale, words will grab us to dance to live music.



Photo: Paweł Ogrodzki



6.30 pm – 7.30 pm

**How Babia Góra Healed the Peasant and Other Tales** – Irena Stopa, Karolina Szeliga (daughter), Szymon Szeliga (grandson)  
PERFORMANCE

Listen to tales which Irena Stopa from Jordanów heard from her grandmother storyteller and passes them on to her daughter and grandson. As a little girl she would overhear how mountaineer musicians came to play, sing and tell stories. She was told that women had nothing to do there but Irena listened to everything attentively and memorized stories about the moon welcoming the new moon, stories about welcoming the deer during spring, stories about sleeping water about which the birds don't sing. As Irena Stopa says, you can hypnotize the audience with live speech, transport them to different worlds. It's important that the story refers to the place where it comes from.



Irena Stopa is known to a larger audience from the documentary series "Mountaineers", broadcasted on the TV channel Polsat Play. She also took part in the National Contest for a Story organized by the Faculty of Polish Studies of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, with the Section of Dialectology and Sociolinguistics of the Student Society of Linguistics. Two years ago she won the first place.

8.00 pm – 9.00 pm

**On Dreams and Dreaming**  
Polina Tšerkassova (Estonia)  
PERFORMANCE / ENG

Do we remember our childhood dreams? Do we dare to dream? The Estonian storyteller Polina Tšerkassova will share some folk stories about dreams and dreaming. What is it that guides us in life, and are the dreams we see while we sleep somehow real? Through folk stories from different traditions, Polina invites the audience to explore the world of dreams, relax and have a good rest, caressed by the sounds of gentle dreamy music that Polina plays on various traditional instruments.

Polina Tšerkassova is a storyteller, musician and a cultural anthropologist from Estonia. She grew up in a family where storytelling was part of the family life. She interweaves her stories with the sounds of musical instruments she got to know during her travels around the world. These include the African ngoni and mbira, the Persian sitar, flutes and bagpipes, the birbyne – the Lithuanian grandfather of



Photo: Dmitri Kotjuh

the clarinet, rebab – the Turkish grandmother of the cello, the Estonian lapharp kannel and many others. For Polina, sounds and music are a powerful medium in storytelling. She chooses an accompaniment, depending on the cultural context, such as Estonia, Scandinavia, Iran, Africa and Mexico. She collects her stories while working on the ground and reading books. She performs in Estonia and abroad. She has published four audiobooks with short stories and her own music. Polina Tšerkassova also lectures social and cultural anthropology at the Tallin University and the Estonian Academy of Art.

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