



PROGRAM GUIDE

ANNE PENFOUND

Stories Alive – From Generation to Generation

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

STORIES ALIVE is a multicultural storytelling performance which encourages creativity and human connections by exploring the world through the oral tradition.

As students listen to stories, they become inquisitive about the world, its environment and people. They evaluate the stories and the performance and use this evaluation to make connections between the stories and events that take place in their own lives.

Anne's programs include stories, songs, and poems. You can select a program to support a specific curricular or thematic focus.

- *Wild Life Tales*: brings to life animal, bird and plant stories from many cultures.
- *Working Together, Creating Community*: these are tales that model how important it is to respect others, listen to each other and work together for the good of the community.
- *Tales of Peace and Justice*: It is easy to bring a complaint against your neighbor; differences can lead to arguments which can escalate to war. Understanding, tolerance and a willingness to listen to another point of view are vital skills in our society today
- *Stories from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales*: stories from the Celtic tradition featuring magic, strong women, fools, knights, kings and fairy folk that demonstrate the diversity and richness of the English language
- *World Tales*: travel the world with these tales. Mexico, Russia, Africa, Japan, China are some of the countries whose culture you will explore. Variants of the same tale can be found in many countries told and retold over thousands of years, passed on from one generation to another.

After listening to one of Anne's performances students will be encouraged to express their own voice by making eye contact, use gestures, rich language and vocal variation during their school presentations. Language, personal expression, reading, listening, evaluation skills are all part of the storytelling process. Oral storytelling is a valuable and effective tool which supports the academic curriculum.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Anne Penfound was born in the British Isles and came from the town of Guildford in Surrey. She grew up in an era when the milkman's delivery came by horse and cart and the Rag and Bone man trolled the streets inviting you to bring out your cast off treasures with his distinctive "Rag 'n bone, rag 'n bone" cry. Stories were a part of everyday life.

At the age of four her family moved to Barbados in the Caribbean where she experienced exotic fruits, Calypso music, flying fish and bustling markets full of wonderful smells and colorful characters. Stories came in the form poetry and song. Travels throughout Europe, Canada and the United States added to Anne's perspective and appreciation of world cultures. She brought up a family in Scotland where she and her children enjoyed stories of monsters in the loch and wild

haggis. In 1995 she moved with her husband to Portland, Oregon and a chance meeting with a professional storyteller sparked an interest she felt impelled to explore. An exciting journey began as she listened, learned and shared stories honoring and celebrating the art of the oral tradition.

Today Anne tells stories that reflect her experiences and joy of life, sharing folk and fairytales from around the world that show diverse cultures and life's lessons. She enjoys the humor in tall tales and personal anecdotes as well as the shiver from a good ghost story.

She has performed for and worked with young people throughout Oregon as a featured teller and workshop presenter at *Hearing Voices Storytelling Festival* in Washington County, at Portland's Leach Botanical Garden at their *Children's Nature Fair*, in schools for *Stories by the Sea Storytelling Festival*, Newport and in libraries in Multnomah County for *Tapestry of Tales*. She has been a featured teller at the *NW Folklife Festival* in Seattle. Anne is a performance artist with Mythobolus Mask Theatre, Portland Storytellers Guild and Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington.

Anne has studied with Eth Noh Tec at their Summer Institute in San Francisco, attended workshops with renowned storytellers Mary Gay Ducey, Jay O' Callahan, Elizabeth Ellis, Doug Lipman and Margaret Read MacDonald and is currently a student studying improvisation techniques at the Brody Theatre in Portland

ABOUT THE ART FORM

Storytelling in the Oral Tradition

Storytelling began long ago when survival was the main preoccupation of man. Individuals would tell of their prowess in the hunt, how strong they were, how skilled. As others began to listen the storyteller would enhance their story with gesture and exaggeration for the purpose of entertaining.

It was discovered that certain people had a gift for relating stories. They became designated as the storyteller for the tribe and were relieved of all other tribal duties to concentrate on their job as the record keeper and historian. They were the ones who passed the collective knowledge of the tribe on to others in the form of story.

As people began to trade with each other their stories went with them, often being assimilated into another culture. That is why we find similar stories occurring around the world. Gradually they were written down and many can be found in the folk and fairy-tales, myths and legends that we read today.

A storyteller in the oral tradition does not read a story nor do they learn it by rote. A storyteller has to feel an affinity for a particular story before they can tell it. They absorb the essence of the story as they read or listen to it and then they find their own words to best describe its message, pace and structure.

A story grows in the telling. An audience is essential to bring the story alive. As they listen each person creates a unique visual image that enhances their experience of the story. They respond to the teller and the tale with emotion, body language, vocal recognition and applause so the teller is invigorated and redoubles their effort to please, entertain, and pass the story on.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Children Tell Stories: Teaching and Using Storytelling in the Classroom Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss. Richard Owen, 2006.

Earth Care: World Folktales to Talk About Margaret Read MacDonald, August House, 1999.

Favorite Folktales from Around the World edited by Jane Yolen, Pantheon Books, 1986.

The Storytelling Classroom: Applications Across the Curriculum by Sherry Norfolk, Jane Stenson and Diane Williams. Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

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