

"TALES ON THE ISLAND"

THE INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL in SHARJAH (U.A.E.)
3rd edition

21st February - 16th March 2019
Al Noor Island - SHARJAH (U.A.E.)

A great multicultural celebration of traditions and the art of storytelling with live performances, workshops and music from all over the world.

Al Noor Island brings you a lineup of some of the best international storytellers to suit every taste.

Theme of the festival:
"A TREASURE OF WORDS"

PROGRAMME

INFO:

Special Opening EVENT: Thursday 21st February at 08:00 PM

General audience: Only Friday and Saturday

School field trips and groups bookings: Weekdays, from Sunday to Thursday



1st weekend: Let the Story begin!

Artists of the week:

Mariella Bertelli (Canada)

Halima Hamdan (Morocco)

Xanthe Gresham (UK)

Paola Balbi, Davide Bardi, Mattia di Pierro, Martina Pisciali (Italy)

Shereen Saif (India/ Dubai)

Lamy Tawfik (Egypt/Dubai)

Thursday - 21st February, 2019

SPECIAL OPENING EVENT!!!!

08:00 PM to 09.30 PM

The Treasure of Stories! Opening evening of the Festival

Where are treasures usually hidden? On an Island! What's so precious in the golden chest? Stories! Everlasting, unbreakable, their value is beyond price! Come and listen to your fill...you are welcome to take them away in your pockets, there will always be more for everyone. Precious stories from the heritage of the world oral tradition to celebrate the first evening of an amazing Festival.

Performed by: all artists of the week - Target audience-adults - Language: English and Arabic

09:30 PM-10:30 PM

Crick Crack! Make Me Laugh!

The fun carries on with more stories, music and songs. A programme of light stories with a deep meaning to wish you a great evening and a goodnight!

Performed by: all artists of the week / Target audience: adults / Language: English and Arabic

Friday - 22nd February, 2019

03.00 PM – 04:30 PM

Around The World in 80 Stories!

Travel from Morocco to Canada, from Italy to India, from England to Egypt and from all over the world to Al Noor Island, the island of stories! From there you'll be able to travel around the world and beyond, with your imagination led by the words of amazing storytellers. Enjoy the exchange of humanity's common currency: stories!

Performed by: all artists of the week - Target audience: all ages - Language: English and Arabic

Saturday - 23rd February, 2019

04:30 PM - 06:15 PM

Trick or story? Stories of Tricks, Tricksters and Riddles!

An afternoon of sheer fun with trickster stories from all over the world and tales of clever people and clever ideas! Come and hear how there is a solution for every problem!

*Performed by: Halima Hamdane, Xanthe Gresham, Mattia di Pierro, Mariella Bertelli
Language: English and Arabic / Target audience all ages*

08:00 PM - 09:30 PM

Don't Make Me Laugh, Juha!

A relaxing and interactive evening of stories and music on one of the funniest characters of the oral tradition of the Mediterranean and Arabic culture.

*Performed by: Halima Hamdane, Lamy Tawfik, Martina Pisciali, Davide Bardi / Language English and Arabic
Target audience: all ages*

09:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Wisdom, thy Name is Woman!

A celebration of stories with women protagonists from myth and folk tradition, performed by an all-female international cast of talented storytellers!

*Performed by Halima Hamdan, Paola Balbi, Xanthe Gresham, Mariella Bertelli, Shereen Saif
Language: English and Arabic / Target audience: Adults*

2nd weekend: and the story goes on...

Artists of the week:

Tuup (UK)

Fidaa Ataya (Palestine)

Mariella Bertelli (Canada)

Shereen Saif (India/Dubai)

Paola Balbi, Davide Bardi, Martina Pisciali, Mattia Di Pierro (Italy)

Friday - 1st March, 2019

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM

Tellers of Time

African, Caribbean and Indian tales. Stories with rhythm and dance.

Performed by Tuup / Language: English / Target audience: all ages

04:30 PM – 05:15 PM

Baby stories!

For the first time at the Festival - a programme entirely dedicated to the youngest audience!

A great opportunity of shared fun and an amazing bonding experience for parents and children!

Performed by Mariella Bertelli / Language: English, sounds, and body language!

Target audience 0-36 months babies and toddlers and their parents

05:30 PM - 06:15 PM

From the River to the Sea

Traditional Palestinian stories to discover the treasure of the oral literature, the wisdom and the enchantment of the mythical land between the river and the sea. Follow the voice of the Storyteller, she will lead you through an unforgettable journey, where the voice of the river will sing unforgettable tales.

Performed by Fidaa Ataya / Language: Arabic / Target audience: all ages

08:00 PM – 10:30 PM

Drumming Stories and Musical Tales

A jam session of stories, music, clapping, drumming and songs. Is it a Music gig or a Storytelling performance? We are not sure....but we are sure that this will be long enough to leave you satisfied and good enough to leave you wanting more!

Performed by: all artists of the week / Language: English and Arabic / Target audience: Adults

Saturday - 2nd March, 2019

04.30 PM - 06:15 PM

Great Stories of Little Animals

An entertaining programme for the whole family with traditional stories featuring animals. Fun, laughter and interaction spiced with wisdom, rhymes and old sayings.

Performed by Tuup, Shereen Saif, Davide Bardi, Martin Pisciali, Fydaa Ataya, Mariella Bertelli.

08:00 PM – 09:15 PM

Foolish Stories for Wise People and Wise Stories for Foolish People.

A timeless audience favourite! From Africa to the Arabian peninsula, from Spain to Italy, come and listen to the funny adventures of Juha and Hoja: laugh, share, get inspired!

Audience will be able to choose between following the performance in English or Arabic or get some of both, while walking round the Island.

Performed by: all artists of the week / Language: English and Arabic / Target audience: All ages

09:30 PM – 10:30 PM

The Goodnight Story Session

Stories of wishes, dreams and visions. Sit back, relax and be transported to a magic land by the soothing words of the storytellers.

Performed by: all artists of the week / Language: English and Arabic / Target audience: Adult

3rd week: And then it happens that...

Artists of the week:

Katie Knutson (U.S)

Germana De Ruvo, Paola Balbi, Davide Bardj, Martina Pisciali (Italy)

Lamya Tawfik (Egypt/ Dubai)

Shereen Saif (India/ Dubai)

Friday - 8th March, 2019

International Women's Day. Celebrating our foremothers with their stories!

04:30 PM – 06:15 PM

Was Her Name Cinderella?

Are you sure Cinderella was her name? Come and discover some of the lesser known tales of Cinderella's "sisters", found in oral traditions around the world. From Saudi Arabia to UAE , from ancient Egypt to America come stories of magic falcons and talking fishes, charming pots and flying fairies, endless variations of the myth of the poor girl with the wicked stepmother and mean stepsisters who was good enough to make her own fortune!

Performed by Paola Balbi, Lamya Tawfik, Germana De Ruvo. / Language English / Target audience: all ages

08:30 PM – 09:30 PM

In Her Honour: Stories of Strong Women! Special event for International Women's day

A storytelling concert to celebrate womanhood and all women, their strength, their wisdom, their resilience and their almost supernatural ability to laugh and carry on even in times of extreme duress and difficulty.

Dedicated to all women that are now facing a time of war, or have been forced to flee from their countries and homes: with the wish that they will succeed in their constant efforts to build peace in this world.

Performed by all artists of the week. / Language: English / Target audience: all ages

09:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Where There is a She, There is a Way!

A fun and entertaining performance to discover the clever problem-solving abilities of women in the stories of the Arabian peninsula and the Mediterranean oral heritage, with focus on Emirati tradition. Queens and fishwives, servants and Djinnns - a fascinating journey spiced with some tricks and mischief on the way. After the session everyone in the audience is welcome to share a story about or told them by their grandmothers and great-grandmothers!

Performed by all artists of the week. / Language: English / Target audience: all ages

Saturday - 9th March, 2019

04.30 PM – 06:15 P

The Story Treasure!

Stories of treasures found and lost, stories of precious things and precious advice!

Performed by all artists of the week / Target audience: all ages / Language: English and Arabic

08:00 PM - 09:30 PM

The Story Fortune Teller!

An interactive game between the storytellers and the audience. In which story does your fortune lie? Each card comes with a story. Pick yours and listen to the fortune that the wisdom of the past can bring to your life!

Performed by the artists picked by the audience with each chosen card! / Target audience: adults / Language: English

09:00 PM - 10.30 PM

Ever After

What if they didn't live happily ever after? What if they didn't live at all? Traditional stories are one of the most ancient kinds of meditation, as well as entertainment. They talk about life, but they try to explain death as well. For centuries stories taught us how to deal with life with lightness, humour, spirituality and common sense. So let's sit back and listen to our ancestor's advice "from the beginning to the end" A storytelling session about life and death...and everything in between.

Performed by the artists picked by the audience with each chosen card! / Target audience: adults / Language: English

4th weekend: And They Lived Happily Ever After!

Artists of the week:

Sarah Kassir (Lebanon)

Michael Harvey (Wales)

Katie Knutson (U.S.A)

Paola Balbi, Martina Pisciali, Germana De Ruvo (Italia)

Lamya Tawfik (Egypt/Dubai)

Friday - 15th March, 2019

04:30 PM - 05.30 PM

Good Luck or Bad Luck?

Funny and wise stories about good luck and opportunities, taken, given and built!

A storytelling concert to discover that there is no such thing as bad luck, but we all get the luck we deserve, and magic comes to those who help others.

Performed by all artists of the week / Target audience: All ages / Language: English and Arabic

05.30 PM - 06.30 PM

Kan Ya Makan - Once Upon a Time

Choose your artist, pick your language and enjoy a session of stories by an amazing teller either in English or Arabic. Hard choice if you speak both languages! You may as well choose to follow half and half!

Performed by your choice of artist between Sarah Kassir (Arabic) and Michael Harvey (English)

Target audience: all ages / Language: Arabic or English

08.00 PM - 08.30 PM

Drumming and music session

Improvised beats and clapping! Join the fun, bring along your instrument or just your voice and contribute to build this exciting music session. By storyteller and drummer Michael Harvey and guitarist Adam White: anyone wishing to do so is welcome to join with their instruments!

08.30 PM – 10:00 PM (or as long as the audience will like to listen!)

Shiver Down The Spine

Spooky stories and tales of mystery. Who is knocking at the door? What is the shadow behind you? From the Middle East to the Celtic world, from Italy to America...stories for a dark night!

Performed by all artists of the week / Target audience: adults / Language: Arabic and English

Saturday - 16th March, 2019

Celebration of World Storytelling Day 2019 on the given theme: Myths , epics and legends

04.30 PM - 05.30 PM

Long Story Short

A concentrated version of stories from different epics of the world adapted for all ages with poetry and rhythm.

Performed by all artists of the week. / Target audience: all ages / Language: Arabic and English

05.30 PM – 06.30 PM

Is The Story True?

Is the story true? Sometimes we will never know...all we know is that it is beautiful. A performance of legends from the four corners of the world. Apparitions, shape-shifters, places named after something that happened once upon a time!

Performed by all artists of the week / Target audience: all ages / Language: Arabic and English

08:00 PM onwards... GRAND FINALE

The Best of... Your Storytellers with Myths, Epics and Legends

Amazing storytellers perform a session of stories that will take your breath away! Laughter, tears, emotions from the most ancient "texts" of the oral literature! The performance will be blended with music, poetry and dance! Simply the best!