HEATHER FOREST

Storyteller
Author
Musician

Timeless Tales
Musically Told

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Heather Forest

Storytelling Concerts and Workshops

Heather Forest is a modern-day bard. Her storytelling performances are a fusion of poetry, prose, original melody, and the sung and spoken word. The comedy and pathos of point of view, the mysteries of womenfolk, the trickster, the fool, quests and journeys are threads on the storyteller’s colorful loom. Featured in storytelling festivals around the globe, Heather Forest brings elegance, wit, and the poet’s touch to classic tales from the treasury of world folklore.

Heather Forest creates a living fantasy. The audience was enchanted. Her considerable talents go far beyond the usual ideas of storytelling. This woman has a magic which flows out to touch her audience in their hearts.”

Town & Country News, Watertown, NY

“A true troubadour... even the narrative parts of her storytelling seem to be sung; her delivery is so precise and compelling, she just draws one into her spell. Her stories are lovely, magical things and her singing voice is true, simple, and unadorned.”

Martha’s Vineyard Times, MA

“Her stories seamlessly and effortlessly move from the musical song to the spoken word and back again creating anew the form of the minstrel storyteller that is most uncommon in our day.”

Open Hand Theatre, Syracuse, NY

For further Information contact:

STORY ARTS

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About the Artist
For the past forty years, Heather Forest has shared her repertoire of world tales told in an interweave of original music and the spoken and sung word with audiences of all ages in theatres, schools, literature conferences, and storytelling festivals throughout the United States and abroad. A multiple award-winning author and recording artist, she has published seven children's picture books, three folktale anthologies, eight audio recordings of storytelling and a popular educational web site Story Arts Online http://www.storyarts.org. A pioneer in the American storytelling revival, her storytelling has been featured ten times at the National Storytelling Festival, Tennessee. She has shared tales at The Museum of Modern Art, N.Y., the Discovery Theatre at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C., the Sidmouth International Folk Festival, England, Tales of Graz, Austria, the Glistening Waters Storytelling Festival, New Zealand, and at the Ljungby Storytelling Festival in Sweden.

Her recordings have won an American Library Association Notable Record Award, two Parent's Choice Gold Awards, and three Storytelling World Honor Awards. Ms. Forest is a recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award presented by the National Storytelling Network, U.S.A.

Highly original...wonderfully gifted.... She calls herself a storyteller, but obviously she is much more. She combines song, sound, and story, weaving a most remarkable spell...
Robert Sherman
Woody’s Children, WQXR-FM Radio NY

"To say that Heather Forest has a way with words would be a ludicrous understatement. Rather, she has HER way with words, stringing them together so they ring with a rhythmic beauty and create a picture so real that it can be traced with the fingers... Forest has an incredible emotive voice.... mesmerizing, compelling, clear, and strong.

The Milwaukee Journal, Wisconsin
Concert Programs

Heather Forest designs her concerts to suit the age of the audience, the setting and time of the telling. Drawing from her wide repertoire of folktales, fairytales, legends, and fables she crafts her programs with wit and artistry.

SONGSPINNER: Musical Tales from around the World
Folktales, fables and legends from around the world come to life in the imagination of the listener as Heather Forest spins her tales. Her unique minstrel style of storytelling blends vivid language, original music, and the sung and spoken word. This program, selected from Ms. Forest’s repertoire of world tales, celebrates stories that contain kernels of homespun wisdom passed down through the oral tradition. Although these stories span time and place and come from cultures around the globe they show us the commonality of human experience.

TALES OF WOMENFOLK: Old and New
This collection of stories told in song, poetry and prose, features multicultural folktales and biographical narratives of folkloric and contemporary heroines who, unlike the passive princess who waits to be saved by the prince, are courageous and resourceful and embody many facets of strength, from intelligence to wit to physical prowess to undaunted optimism. From comedy to drama, this wide pallet of tales is an entertaining and poignant celebration of modern femininity.

SING ME A STORY: Folktales and Fables for Young Listeners
This imaginative storytelling program for younger listeners and their families features lively musical folktales from around the world, sung and told with lots of audience participation, colorful characters and original folk music.

ANCIENT VOICES: Epic and Classic Tales
Heather Forest’s elegant prose, musicality and evocative drama offer listeners a fresh look at some of the oldest stories in the world. Pivotal episodes from both well-known and little-known classics such as Gilgamesh, Beowulf, and Gassire’s Lute are masterfully retold for modern listeners.

NATURE TALES: Stories and Songs Celebrating the Earth
This collection of folktales from around the world told with original folk music celebrates the delicate web of life and interconnectedness of all things in the environment. Since ancient times people in cultures around the world have told stories featuring nature in all its splendid diversity. Using her unique minstrel style of storytelling, blending music, vivid language, and the sung and spoken word, Heather Forest encourages listeners to preserve and protect the natural world.
HEATHER FOREST
Storytelling Workshops

Heather Forest, Ph.D. served as an adjunct professor of Oral Tradition at Southern Connecticut State University for fourteen years teaching graduate level courses in Folktale, Mythology and Storytelling Art and Technique. She has presented professional development and arts-based workshops throughout the United States and abroad. Workshops can be designed for educators, students, artists, administrators - for practitioners in diverse fields that require communication skills, creative thinking, and narrative competency.

STORYTELLING SKILLS WORKSHOP:
*The Magic of Words*

This interactive storytelling workshop offers insights into the inner workings of the art of storytelling. Participants will explore the basic tools of storytelling: voice, body, imagination and metaphor. Through demonstration, discussion, and playful improvisation, participants will explore a range of storytelling methods, story composition, character expressiveness, and inventive ways to liberate spontaneous, evocative, descriptive speech. We will examine practical methods to sequence, remember, and engagingly share a story. Participants will consider ways to effectively rehearse, self-assess, and improve their telling over time. Bringing literature to life, oral storytelling skills will also be applied to reading-out loud.

*Featured at the National Storytelling Conference 2019 and at Sharing the Fire Storytelling Conference 2019*

"An excellent session with lots of practical ideas ... She instills a great inspiration for one to try...I liked the way she modeled techniques and had us practice them”

Workshop Participant, University of Rochester, NY

STORYTELLING IN THE CLASSROOM:
*Listening, Literacy & Imagination*

Celebrating multicultural folktales, this workshop offers an overview of the diverse uses of storytelling in the classroom to encourage listening skills, oral language expression, reading, and creative writing. Through practical storytelling activities, this workshop examines ways that the oral tradition of storytelling can enhance language arts and social studies curriculum.

“What a great staff development workshop you presented! ... as a result of this workshop, our teachers have improved their language arts instruction. The techniques were put to use immediately and have invigorated the delivery of the curriculum ... you were able to integrate the pedagogical and historical background of the ancient art of storytelling with the practical methods teachers will use every day.”

- Early Childhood Director, Port Washington Schools, NY
LEADING with STORIES
This workshop explores storytelling as a core competency for artfully leading change. Through arts-based activities participants examine the power of metaphor to concisely and concretely convey a message, consider how carefully chosen words and evocative stories can impact meaning, and learn how to utilize storytelling to stimulate inventive thinking, clarify values, and motivate action.

“After five years of quarterly meetings and a range of national and state speakers, I have never seen the group of 50 child and family experts so captivated . . .”
- Executive Director, Early Years Institute, LI, NY

VOICE AS INSTRUMENT: RHYTHM, PATTERN AND MUSIC IN STORYTELLING
Through playful vocal improvisation, demonstration, and discussion, workshop participants will explore the natural rhythms of language, simple song making, and the creative potential of the voice as a nuanced instrument for speaking and singing. We will examine ways to include song and rhythm in story composition, sharpen character/narrator voicing, and use musical elements to engage audience participation. This vocal improvisation workshop does not require any prior musical training.

Featured at the National Storytelling Conference 2016 and at Sharing the Fire Storytelling Conference 2018

STORY TREASURES: BRINGING ANCIENT TALES to LIFE for MODERN LISTENERS
Through demonstration, discussion, and playful theatre improvisation activities, participants will build practical skills in selecting, researching and bringing ancient narratives to life for modern audiences. Participants will explore story sequencing, verbal improvisation, compositional forms, evocative description, and ways to develop dramatic dialogue. We will examine how ancient stories preserve and transmit cultural values, how universal, metaphorical themes emerge in classic tales, and how ancient tales transcend borders and can reflect the commonality of human experience.

Featured at the National Storytelling Conference 2017

STORYTELLING and SOCIAL CHANGE
This workshop explores the power of words and examines a wide range of multicultural folklore featuring themes of peace, justice, gender equality and the environment. Using traditional storytelling technique, oral history, rhetoric, and spoken word art forms to enrich interpersonal communication skills, the workshop encourages social awareness and supports the use of storytelling in community activism.

Featured at the National Storytelling Conference 2008
HEATHER FOREST
Performing Arts Credits

From her first appearance in the National Storytelling Festival in 1980 to the present, Heather Forest has been a featured main stage storyteller and workshop leader at storytelling festivals, theatres and literature conferences both nationally and internationally. Since 1974, Heather Forest has been an arts-in-education specialist presenting concerts and workshops for over 30,000 children each year in the Long Island, NY community.

Storytelling Festivals & Events

International
First Friday Fling, Grampian Storytelling Association, Aberdeen Scotland, (June, 2008)
Festival of Storytelling, Ljunby, Sweden, (June, 2007)
Sites & Stories, Israel (July, 2006)
Glistening Waters Storytelling Festival, New Zealand, (Oct., 2004)
Tales of Graz Festival, Graz, Austria (May, 2004, June 1992)
Storytellers on Tour, Ljubljana & Maribor (Slovenia) (May, 2004)
Sidmouth International Folk Festival, England (August, 2002)
Telebration, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Nov. 1999)
Kaleidoscope 6, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Oct. 1996)
Jakarta International School Storytelling Festival, Indonesia, (March, 1994)
Toronto Storytelling Festival, Toronto, Canada (Feb., 1994)
Alberta Teacher’s Convention, Calgary, Canada (Feb. 1993)
Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Scotland (August, 1980)

National
National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN  
Rocky Mountain Storytelling Festival, Castle Rock, CO (Sept. 2009)
Wake County Storytelling Festival (Sept. 2017)
Clearwater Folk Festival, Croton-on-Hudson, NY, (June, 2009)
Florida Storytelling Camp, Jacksonville Beach, FL (Mar, 2009)
St. Lewis Storytelling Festival, St. Louis, MO (May 2008)
Lehigh Valley Storytelling Festival, Bethlehem, PA (June, 2006)
Vernal Storytelling Festival, Vernal, UT (Sept. 2005)
Tampa Storytelling Festival, Tampa, FL (April, 2005)
Flying Leap Storytelling Festival, Solvang, CA (Feb. 2005)
Frisco Storytelling Festival, Frisco, TX (Oct., 2004)
Clearwater Folk Festival, Hudson River, NY (June, 2004, 1994)
Patchwork Festival, Rock Hill, SC (March, 2004)
Utah Storytelling Guild Conference, (Keynote) Weber, UT
  *The Magic of Words* (Feb. 2004)
Las Vegas Storytelling Festival, Las Vegas, NV (Oct., 2003, June, 1994)
Mt. Echoes Storytelling Festival, Ashville, NC (April, 2001)
Storyfest 2000, Mt. Kisco, NY (April, 2000)
Homestead Festival, Homestead, FL (Dec. 1999)
Blue Stem Festival, Springfield, IL (Nov., 1999)
Magnolia Storytelling Festival, Keneshaw, GA (June, 1999)
St. Louis Storytelling Festival, MO, (May, 1999, 1982)
O.O.P.P.S Festival, Ohio, (May, 1998)
Winter Tales Festival, Oklahoma City, OK (Feb., 1998)
Sierra Storytelling Festival, Nevada City, CA (July, 1997)
Riverwind Storytelling Festival, IL (Mar., 1996)
Corn Island Storytelling Festival, Louisville, KY (Sept., 1995, 1987)
Martha’s Vineyard Storytelling Festival, Martha’s Vineyard, MA (June, 1995)
Jackson Storyfest, Jackson, MI (May, 1995)
Bay Area Storytelling Festival, San Francisco, CA (May, 1995)
Northern Appalachian Storytelling Festival, Mansfield, PA (Sept., 1994)
Tell It in the Mountains Festival, Asheville, N.C. (Sept. 1993)
Stories Inc. Concert Series, Indianapolis, IN (Nov., 1991)
Families in Action Storytelling Festival, Simpsonville, SC (Oct. 1991)
Three Apple Storytelling Festival, Harvard, MA (Sept., 1991)
St. Augustine Storytelling Festival, St. Augustine, FL (May, 1991)
Connecticut Storytelling Festival, New London, CT (April, 1991)
Johnny cake Storytelling Festival, Peacedale, RI (Sept. 1990)
Storytellers in Concert, Boston, MA (Jan. 1990, June, 1983)
Olde Christmas Storytelling Festival, Atlanta, GA (Jan. 1990)
Live Oak Storytelling Festival, Charleston, SC (Oct., 1988)
T.A.L.E.S Festival, Los Angeles, CA (Mar., 1989)
Stone Soup Storytelling Festival, Woodruff, SC (April, 1988)
Miami Dade Public Library Storytelling Festival, Miami, FL (June, 1987)
Los Angeles Basin Storytelling Festival, Los Angeles, CA (Sept., 1986)
Northern Michigan Storytelling Festival, MI (June, 1986)
New York Storytelling Festival, NYC, NY (Feb., 1982)
Michigan Storytelling Festival, Flint, MI (June, 1981)

**Storytelling Conferences**

National Storytelling Conference, Kansas City, MO
  *The Voice as Instrument: Pattern, Rhythm, Metaphor and Music in Storytelling* (Workshop) (July 2016)
New York State Outdoor Education Conference, Brookhaven Laboratory, Brookhaven, NY
  *Narrating the Natural World Workshop* (Nov. 2012)

Power of Imagination Conference, Adelphi University/ Waldorf School, Garden City, NY
  *Storytelling in the Classroom* (workshop/concert) (March, 2011)
National Storytelling Conference, Gatlinburg, TN
*Storytelling Metaphor & Social Change* (Workshop) (August, 2008)

Sharing the Fire Conference, Nashua, NH
*The Magic of Words: Storytelling Performance and Composition Skills* (March 2019)
*Voice as Instrument: Pattern, Rhythm, and Music in Storytelling,* (March 2018)
*Storytelling and Social Change* (Keynote) (April, 2007)
*Page to Performance Workshop* (March, 1986)

National Storytelling Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI
National Concert, Workshop: *Storytelling and Creative Process* (July, 2001)

National Storytelling Conference, San Antonio, TX
*The Art of Working* (July 1992)

National Storytelling Congress, 3rd Annual- Keynote: *Storytelling is the Heart of the Arts*
Raleigh, NC (1989)

National Storytelling Institute, Gatlinburg, TN
*Magic in Stories* (July, 1986)

7th NAPPS Storytelling Conference, Washington College Academy, Jonesborough, TN
*The Art of Performing Stories* (June, 1984)

Theaters, Museums & Cultural Centers
Caldwell Theatre, Boca Raton, Florida, April, 2010
Chapin Theatre, Huntington, NY (Aug., 2009)
Open Hand Theatre, Syracuse, NY (Nov., 2008)
Basile Theatre, Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, IN (May, 2008)
Provincetown Playhouse, NYC, NY (March, 2008)
Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ (May, 2006)
Godfrey Daniels Coffeehouse, Bethlehem, PA (May, 2006)
Project Imagination, Orlando, FL (Nov., 2002)
The Arc Coffeehouse, Ann Arbor, MI (March, 2002, Feb., 1988)
Usdan Center for the Performing Arts (July, 2001)
Cincinnati Playhouse, OH (Nov. 2000)
Jewish Community Center, Houston, TX (Nov., 1999)
Spoleto Piccolo Festival, Charleston, SC (May, 1999)
Indianapolis Arts Center, Indianapolis, IN (April, 1999)
Thanksgiving Point Theatre, Salt Lake City, UT (Feb., 1999)
The Open Center, NYC, NY (Nov., 1996)
Quaystone Theatre, Marquette, MI (April, 1997)
Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA (Mar., 1995)
Museum of Modern Art, NYC, NY (Nov., 1994)
Congregation Shirat Hyam, Nantucket, MA (July, 1994)
Parrish Art Museum, South Hampton, NY (April, 1994)
Central PA Festival of the Arts, Schlow Library, State College, PA (July, 1993)
Indianapolis Children’s Museum, Indianapolis, IN (July, 1993)
Bix Jazz Festival, IL (July, 1990)
Kidsfare Theatre, Albany, NY (Dec., 1989)
Peoples’ Voice Café, NYC, NY (Sept. 1989)
Artsposure Festival, Raleigh, NC (April, 1988)
Paramount Theatre, Peekskill, NY (April, 1988)
Brooklyn Children’s Museum, Brooklyn, NY (Nov. 1987)
Davis Kidd Book Store, Nashville, TN (Oct. 1987)
Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, Brooklyn, NY (Feb., 1987)
Kennedy Douglass Center for the Arts, Florence, AL (April, 1986)
Milwaukee Arts Center, Milwaukee, WI (Aug., 1985, 1984)
Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, NY (Aug., 1984, 1983)
Smithsonian Institute, Discovery Theatre, Wash. D.C. (Jan., 1982)
McLean Arts Center, McLean, VA (Nov., 1981)
8th Step Coffeehouse, Albany, NY (Nov. 1980)

Universities- Guest Artist/Lecturer

East Tennessee State University, Storytelling Institute, Johnson City, TN (July, 2016)
Hofstra University, Literacy and Imagination Conference (Keynote), April, 2010
St. John’s University, (March, 2006)
C.W. Post Storytelling Conference (May, 2005)
Brown University, Providence RI (April, 2004)
Mercy College, NY (May, 2000)
St. Joseph’s College, Patchogue, NY (April, 1998)
CW Post Education Dept. Language Arts Institute, Brookville, NY (July, 1997)
University of Toledo, Children’s Literature Conference, Toledo, OH (June, 1995, 1989)
Kent State University, Once Upon a Time Conference, Cleveland, OH (Sept. 1993)
East Tennessee State University, Storytelling Institute, Johnson City, TN (July, 1993)
Bloomsburg University, 29th Annual Reading Conference, Bloomsburg, PA (May 1993)
University of Rochester, Storytelling Concert Series, Rochester, NY (Sept., 1992)
Adelphi University, Whole Language Conference, Garden City, NY (July, 1990)
University of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Storytelling Conference, Denver, CO (Mar., 1990)
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (Mar. 1990)
College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL (Sept., 1989)
University of Southern Maine Children's Literature Conference, ME (July, 1988)
St. John’s University, Storytelling Congress, Jamaica, NY (Feb.1988, Dec., 1981)
North Texas University Concert Series, Denton, TX (Feb., 1987)
University of Connecticut at Storrs, Confratute. (July, 1986)
Syracuse University, guest lecturer, Syracuse, NY (July, 1985, Nov., 1982)
Nassau Community College Folk Festival, Garden City, NY (Mar., 1985)
Queens College, Folklore Institute, Queens, NYC (July, 1984)
University of Northern Michigan, Storytelling Seminar, Marquette, MI (June, 1982)
Library, Reading, and Educational Conferences

Huntington Arts Council Journey Program, Workshop: Storytelling Connections to the Common Core, Huntington, NY (Oct. 2013)
Reading Specialists Council of Suffolk County, Workshop: Storytelling Connections to the Common Core, Dix Hills, NY (May 2013)
Parent Child Home Program National Conference, Keynote, Listening & Literacy, Huntington, NY (May 2009)
Loudoun County Library One Book/One County Project, Leesburg, VA (Sept., 2004)
15th Annual Adelphi University Literature Conference, Garden City, NY (July, 2004)
Garner Targets Reading Festival, Garner, NC (April, 2004)
Connecticut Educational Media Conference (keynote) Cromwell, CT (Nov., 2003)
De Moines Library System, IA (Nov., 2002)
E. Suffolk Reading Council (Keynote) Dix Hills, NY Listening and Literacy, (Nov., 2001)

Portland Library, Portland, Maine (June, 2000)
Novella Literature Festival, Charlotte, NC (Oct. 2000)
Brooklyn Library, Brooklyn, NY (April, 2000)
Allan County Library System, Fort Wayne, IN (April, 2000, June, 1991)
Indiana Library Conference, (April, 1999)
Cotsen Library Storytelling Tour, Aspen, CO (Mar., 1998)
California Reading Conference, San Diego, CA (Nov., 1997)
Indiana Library Federation, Indianapolis, IN (Keynote) (Sept., 1995)
Southern Indiana Educational Center, Jasper, IN (April, 1996)
Shepherd Memorial Library Concert Series, Greenville, NC (April, 1996)
Kansas Association of Teachers of English, (Keynote), KS (Oct. 1994)
Michigan Children’s Librarian’s Conference, Ann Arbor, MI (May, 1994)
Ericsonian Society, Healing Stories, NYC, NY (Mar., 1994)
Adelphi University Whole Language Conference, Garden City, NY (July, 1993, 1990)
Jewish Librarians Conference, NYC, NY (June, 1993)
South Eastern Regional International Reading Association Conference (Keynote) New Orleans, LA (Dec. 1992)
New York State Reading Association, Monticello, NY (Nov. 1992)
New Jersey Reading Association, Atlantic City, NJ (Nov., 1992)
Colorado International Reading Association Annual Conference (Keynote) (Feb., 1992)
Indianapolis Library System Tour, Indianapolis, IN (Nov., 1990)
Richmond Library System Tour, Richmond, VA (Nov., 1990)
Shenandoah Children’s Literature Conference (Keynote), Winchester, VA (July, 1990, Oct. 1988)
New York City Public Library, 80th Storytelling Symposium (Keynote) NYC, NY (May, 1989)
Illinois Regional Library System Tour, IL (March, 1989)
Maryland Library Association Annual Conference, (Keynote) MD (May, 1988)
Miami International Book Fair, Miami, FL (Nov., 1987)
New York State Council for Children Syracuse, (Keynote), Syracuse, NY (April, 1987)
Olean Public Library, Storytelling Odyssey Series, Olean, NY (Oct. 1986, 1982)
Detroit Public Library, Detroit, MI (Oct., 1985)
New Jersey International Reading Association Conference, Princeton, NJ (May, 1985)
Michigan Librarians Conference, Midland, MI (May 1984)
Dallas Library, Voices of Excellence Series, Dallas, TX (Mar., 1984)
Clever Gretchen Storytelling Conference, Syracuse, NY (Nov., 1982)
Michigan Reading Association, Gladstone, MI (Oct., 1981)

Artist in Residence Programs

Sites & Stories Expedition in Israel, Artist in Residence, Suffolk Association for Jewish Educational Services, LI, NY (July, 2006),
Storyteller in Residence, National Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, TN (June, 2004)
Florida Storytelling Camp, Leesburg, FL (March, 2000)
Storytelling Cruise in Caribbean, Artist-in Residence, Timpanogos Festival, Salt Lake City, UT (Oct., 1999)
Kellogg Foundation Expert-in-Residence, Battle Creek, MI (May, 1998)
Oklahoma Arts Institute, Oklahoma City, OK (March, 1997)
Penland School of Crafts, Storytelling Workshop, Penland, NC (Oct., 1980)

Most of a storytelling concert takes place in the imagination of the listener.

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