



To all who love adventures in storytelling ...

Acoustic Traditional is an independent non-profit organisation, led by young indigenous people, working towards the promotion of oral storytelling and tribal folklore, especially of mountain and forest communities. It aims to encourage the preservation of the various myths, legends and stories that have been an integral part of a tribal group, vis-à-vis their cultural, environmental, spiritual and scientific heritage and also to creatively engage mainstream communities, through storytelling, in view of building a collective that supports the need for such preservation. Started as an independent classroom project around 1999 in Nepal, it is now a vibrant group of committed individuals, storytellers and volunteers based in Bangalore with a chapter in Hyderabad.

The Confluence, Festival of Indigenous Storytellers, 2011, Bangalore - an initiative of Acoustic Traditional, an independent, non-profit working towards the conservation and promotion of tribal folktales, myths and legends and storytellers from mountain and forest communities of India - cordially invites you to a 3-day event on storytelling, where storytellers from various tribal communities of the country will be sharing some of their disappearing myths, legends and stories with a view to build a collective that supports the need for their preservation. The first and only such Forum in the country on tribal storytelling, the Confluence involves various activities, workshops, individuals and organisations to help enrich our understanding of tribal storytelling, vis-à-vis their cultural, spiritual and scientific linkages and importance, apart from the idea of keeping this ancient tradition alive.

Acoustic Traditional is in the second year of organising the Confluence. The first was held in Gangtok, Sikkim with the support of Culture and Heritage Department, Sikkim Government at the Wildlife and Forest Auditorium set against the picturesque backdrop of the Great Kancenzonga – the mythical birthplace for many tribal cultures in the region. The event brought around 10 storytellers, shamans and medicine-men and women from and outside the region.

Registration Details

Of the many and diverse indigenous cultures in the country, the Confluence, Festival of Indigenous Storytellers, 2011 nominated 10 storytellers this year to take part in the event, focussing on the forest and mountain-based communities of Karnataka and neighbouring region, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. They are storytellers with whom Acoustic Traditional has worked with or been associated previously. The only such event being organised in the country on tribal oral storytelling, the event brings in a remarkable glimpse of our ancient cultures, our sacred Spirits and our often forgotten societies with whom we invisibly share a heritage that simply cannot be expressed. **We welcome you to be a part of this unique Confluence of indigenous cultures between the 30th of September to 2nd of October, 2011 / Venue: Fire Flies Ashram, Bangalore.**

The Confluence is not developed as a mere storytelling event; rather it has been developed in view of engaging with individuals and organisations in ways that can enrich our understanding of oral storytelling in terms of tribal communities where *stories were not always performed to entertain. As such, it is preferred that you join us throughout the day for all the activities / workshops (perhaps even consider staying back) rather than come for a session or an activity alone.* The registration fee has thus been formatted in terms of your participation on a day-to-day basis and includes food costs as well. If you are staying back, you are required to confirm your accommodation separately, in advance, at the time of registration (accommodation costs as per the venue charges); you can pay for your accommodation on the same day when you attend the Confluence. A separate in-residence programme is also available in case you wish to be a part of all the activities being organised post dinner. Many myths and stories are considered sacred and meant to be retold at certain times of the day. This has been the tradition and the Confluence respects these traditions. As such, you may find some sessions/activities being organised at the end of the day or at night time or at certain hours, which is why being a part of the affairs the whole day makes sense.

This gathering of our *elusive* storytellers is an important milestone in terms of conserving an age-old tradition of sharing a community's collective experiences which have, until now, played a critical role in understanding and building a community's identity, ultimately helping us draw their relevance in our present contexts and challenges. For more information please visit www.acoustictraditional.org

Day One: 30th of September 2011 / Venue Fire Flies Ashram, Bangalore / Tentative Schedule

Days	Morning / Afternoon		Evening	Night (Residential programmes)
<p>30th September, 2011</p> <p>Registration: charges are Inclusive of evening tea/snacks.</p> <p>Note: All Registrations are on a per- day basis.</p>	<p>10am – 1pm</p> <p>Workshop: Acoustic Traditional and World Storytelling Institute: 'Open Forum and Introduction'</p> <p>For featured and open category storytellers only</p>	<p>1pm – 2pm Lunch</p> <p>2pm onwards</p> <p>Festival opens to all the registered participants</p> <p>3pm onwards</p> <p>Activity: The Great Hand Made Story Project</p> <p>An ongoing/parallel activity throughout the Confluence, you can be a part of this interesting Project which attempts to break yet another record.</p> <p><i>Join us whenever you feel free! See details below.</i></p>	<p><i>"Building the fire"</i></p> <p><i>6pm – 7:30pm</i></p> <p>As a tradition, the Confluence will begin with a participating shaman's (also medicine men/women) blessing which includes a ritual of thanking the Earth at the time of twilight. It's a sacred ceremony and one of the disappearing ones in the Himalayas. This year we have a <i>Limboo Fedungba</i> (spiritualist), nominated through the <i>All India Limboo Tribal Association</i>, who will be performing the sacred ceremony. You can witness this amazing tribal ritual and be a part of the enriching, once-in-a-lifetime, experience that it brings.</p>	<p>Dinner with music: 8pm</p> <p><i>"Into the sacred realms"</i></p> <p>9:30 pm onwards</p> <p><i>For in-residence participants only</i></p> <p>An integral part of forest / mountain communities, the night is an elusive territory of fascination and curiosity. This fun-based activity is an important part of the Confluence where it brings various elements of tribal living, beliefs and practices - key to their survival - into life. You may need to stay at the venue for attending this activity.</p> <p>As a part of this activity, we will be featuring stories from <i>Dafuk</i>, by Kama Choden - a young <i>Bhutia</i> storyteller, based on the legends of <i>Yeti or the Sokpa</i>. <i>Dafuk</i> is in West Sikkim where traditionally <i>Yeti</i> sightings have been common. In fact, there are some places where <i>Yeti</i> skulls have been supposedly found (as claimed by the communities living around the region)!</p>

Day two: 1st of October 2011 / Venue: Fire Flies Ashram, Bangalore / Tentative Schedule

Days	Morning / Afternoon		Evening	Night (Residential programmes)
<p>1st October 2011</p> <p>Registrations are inclusive of lunch and evening tea/snacks.</p> <p>The special storytelling workshop by Dr. Eric Miller workshop requires additional registration.</p> <p>Note: All Registrations are on a per- day basis.</p>	<p>8:30 am breakfast</p> <p>9am – 5pm Activity: The Great Hand-Made Story Project This parallel/ongoing activity is open to all! You can be a part of this breath-taking effort to promote a tribal (<i>Koya</i>) myth, whenever you are free.</p> <p>10am – 4pm Tribal tattoo exhibition: This dedicated space is about learning the world of symbolism in various ethnic cultures.</p>	<p>9:30 – 11:30 Exclusive Storytelling Workshop: 'Being a Storyteller' by Dr. Eric Miller, Director, <i>World Storytelling Institute</i>. Enrich your storytelling skills and learn the craft of tale telling. Separate registrations needed.</p> <p>11:30 – 12 "Remembering the Spirits" by Acoustic Traditional – A ritual based on seeking approval from the mountain Gods and Spirits to tell stories to the listeners using a soft hum, drums and bells.</p> <p>12pm – 1pm Storytelling Session: Soliga storyteller, Karnataka</p> <p>1pm – 2pm Lunch Break</p>	<p>2pm - 3pm Storytelling Session: Lepcha storyteller (NE Himalayas, Sikkim)</p> <p>3pm – 4pm Open storytelling Forum: In this section, any participating person or organisation can nominate a storyteller (including oneself in case of an individual). About two storytellers can participate in this section at a time.</p> <p>4pm – 4:45pm Tea / Snacks with activity included Activity: Rites of passage</p> <p>5:15pm – 6:15pm Storytelling Session: Meyeti storyteller, Manipur</p> <p>6:30pm – 7:30pm Storytelling Session, Rajkumar, Paniyar, Niligiris, Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>Dinner with music: 8pm</p> <p>8:30pm onwards Sacred Oral Myths: For in-residence participants only <i>Mundum</i> (by Mr. Dhan Haang Limboo, Darjeeling, NE Himalayas). <i>Mumdums</i> are <i>Limboo</i> myths that must be orally passed from one generation to another. Meant to be narrated only by the <i>Limboo</i> community spiritualists. It is a sacred practice and often narrated with the assistance of the Fedungba's student; the practice remains closed to members from other communities. Please do note that Mr. Dhan Haang Limboo wishes to conduct this sacred narrative on the basis of understanding the need for its preservation rather than entertaining his listeners. The sole effort of having this organised before an audience is to enrich our understanding of mythology from the community's point of view and to emphasize the need for its sustenance.</p>

Day Three: 2nd of October 2011 / Venue: Fire Flies Ashram, Bangalore / Tentative Schedule

Days	Morning / Afternoon	Evening / Night
<p>2nd October 2011</p> <p>Registrations are inclusive of lunch and evening tea/snacks</p>	<p>7:30am – 8:30 am (Breakfast)</p> <p>“Trance Healing” Workshop and Meditation</p> <p>No registrations needed for residential participants. For non-residential participants, you may need to reach early by 7am. The workshop focuses on the use of and states of shamanic trance to work with energies in and around us.</p> <p>11am onwards: The Great Hand-Made Story Project</p> <p>10am – 12pm</p> <p>Panel Discussion on The Relevance of tribal folklore, myths and legends in the modern world (and its challenges)</p> <p>If you are only attending this discussion, a separate registration is required. However, participants with basic, special and full-day registrations can attend this discussion without charge. This section aims at bringing together experts and independent researchers in view of enriching our perspectives on oral storytelling and helping draw its linkages to various aspects of sustainability, environment-conservation, spirituality, etc.</p> <p>11am – 12pm</p> <p>“Dream-states”</p> <p>Music-based activity on the use and understanding of dreams (as used by various tribal spiritualists) for many practical applications.</p>	<p>12pm – 1pm</p> <p>Storytelling session, Kuruba, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu</p> <p>2pm – 4 pm</p> <p>Storytelling session (Young storytellers category) Meyeti and Bhutia storytellers)</p> <p>This section features storytelling in the ‘<i>waan</i>’ narrative style (Manipur) and folktales from the <i>Bhutia</i> community (Eastern Himalayas).</p> <p>4:30 – 5:30</p> <p>Storytelling session by Nayaka storyteller from Godalur, Nilgiris</p> <p>6pm – 7pm</p> <p>“The Mountain Gods”</p> <p>Music-based ritual by <i>Salil Mukhia Koica Lo</i> with stories of the <i>Forest Shaman – the legendary Ban Jhankri</i></p> <p>7:15pm – 8pm</p> <p>Activity: Flying candles and closure of the Confluence.</p>

- a. Please note that the maximum number of participants for the full three-day residential programmes is only 50. For one night in-residence programmes, the maximum number of participants is 30 per day.
- b. The per-day registrations implied in the provided registration formats are inclusive of lunch and evening tea/snacks.
- c. We encourage you to stay back, if possible. Night-time storytelling is probably the best known form of storytelling! As a residential participant, you can interact freely with all our storytellers (for whom translators have been organised) and get a deeper and a more meaningful glimpse of their culture and storytelling practices. Besides, various fun activities are being organised around evening/night which are not only interesting but also very experiential in nature. Please do note, however, that you will be required to book your accommodation in advance. **Registration:** 3-day residential programme = Rs. 5,250/ (food and accommodation included for all days *on a twin sharing basis; single rooms are priced differently and as such you may need to get in touch with the venue administration for more details*; Registration for one night in residence = Rs. 1,900/ (food and accommodation included *on a twin sharing basis*). Please also note that the venue provides a different tariff on accommodation for foreign nationals.
- d. **A separate programme schedule is available for schools with a different registration format. Please do contact us if your school is interested in participating in this unique event. Please email us at acoustic.traditional@gmail.com for more details on how your school could participate.** For more information on Acoustic Traditional and the Confluence, please visit www.acoustictraditional.org
- e. The Building of the Great Hand-Made Story Project (attempt to break a world record yet again), being organised in Hyderabad between August and October 2011, is a part of Acoustic Traditional's creative engagement efforts to build interest in and support for oral tribal myths, legends, folktales and storytelling. The Project will lead into the national storytelling tour. *We built the longest digital painting (100meters long) last year in Sikkim, which is registered with the Limca Book of Records (2012 Edition).*

For further assistance in booking your participation, please contact Indian Stage Service: 080-42064969

IndianStage
www.indianstage.in

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