

Anna O'Brien

Storyteller

anna@facetofacestorytellers.co.uk

07811 353 306

Passionate and energetic performer, story collector and workshop facilitator with 15 years' experience. Skilled community builder who relates effortlessly with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Projects:

- 'Tales from Heads' Successful artistic collaboration through Northfield Arts Forum with local film maker and contemporary dancer to capture and celebrate oral history of the local area. (Spring 2015)
- 'Stories from One Generation to Another', facilitating the sharing of stories from older people in the community to school children who then created mini plays based on those stories and performed them to the older people again. Successfully piloted with Karis Neighbour Scheme and Harborne Primary school. (Spring/Summer 2016)
- 'Our Stories Woven Together' story collecting and celebrating project with older people through Karis Neighbour Scheme (Summer 2017)
- Co-creating a story for the International Bomber Command Centre with their education department staff and volunteers (Spring 2018)
- Development of two storybooks for Birmingham Thinktank Science Museum exhibits using a co-creation process with families, staff and an illustrator. Training of staff to deliver the story themselves.
- Design and Delivery of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts' *ArtReach!* Programme; touring a Storytelling Theatre Show into over 60 primary and secondary schools

Training Delivery

- Training Staff in storytelling skills at Thinktank Birmingham, Coventry Transport Museum, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, The Herbert Art Gallery, Go Play Sandwell Council, (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)
- Training young people for the Traditional Arts Team's Young Storyteller of the Year Competition at secondary schools in Birmingham, Shropshire and Derbyshire, and at The University of Birmingham.
- Workshops for Professional Storytellers on 'Group Telling' for the Society for Storytelling
- Trained volunteers in effective communication skills with children within various church contexts

Performances

- Numerous Storytelling Performances in Schools and Libraries: Themed Story Sessions and Topic Starters including Pirates, Superheroes, Ancient Greeks, Tales from Around the World, and many others. Nursery, Primary and Secondary.

- Sensory Storytelling Sessions for autistic children and adopted and fostered children through Bournville Book Festival and Adoption UK.
- Commissioned Storytelling and theatrical performances in Art Galleries and Museums based on the exhibits. The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham Museum and Arts Galleries, The National Trust, The Herbert Art Gallery Coventry, The Hepworth, Derby Museum, The Harley Gallery as well as other historical sites.
- Artistic Collaboration with CBSO cellist in a commissioned performance for a mental wellbeing MIND conference.
- Devising and delivery of several Storywalks in parks and gardens around Birmingham commissioned by Bournville Book Fest (March 2015,2016,2017,2018,2019)
- Tour of Performance Storytelling Show 'Tongue & Groove' to 20 theatre venues in the UK including Midlands, Arts Centre, 'Festival at the Edge', Birmingham Book Festival, Arts Alive Touring, Live and Local rural touring, and at de Verhalenboot (Storytelling Boat), Zwolle, Holland.
- Tour of *The Firebird* to adult audiences in the 'Storytelling Café' Network around the East and West Midlands
- Performances in tents, woodlands and ancient buildings, on hilltops, around campfires, and in children's hospitals for Cheltenham Literature Festival, Swindon Literature Festival, Festival at the Edge, Beyond the Border Storytelling Festival, Whitby Folk Week, Isle of Wight Storytelling Festival, Lakeland Storytelling Festival, Society for Storytelling's 'Gathering', Storytelling Guild, Bournville Book Festival.
- Member of *National Youth Musical Theatre* (1993-1999) performing numerous productions including Edinburgh Fringe and Glyndebourne Opera House

Other Professional Work:

August 2003 to 2009 The Bridge Project: Support Worker

- Provided emotional and practical support for adults with mental health problems, addictions, emotional or behavioural difficulties.
- Designed and delivered the therapeutic creative program 'Creative Space'

September 2003 – July 2004 Helen O'Grady Drama Academy: Drama Teacher

- Teaching of varied drama curriculum including voice, movement, improvisation, and script work and direction of full-scale productions.
- Class management of large classes of children ranging from age 5 to 14.

Education

2000 – 2003 - BA hons Drama and Theatre Arts 2/1 (University of Birmingham)

More about Anna

I love gardening, ecological living, tea parties, singing, learning and playing with my children. As a leader within a Christian faith community I love helping people, especially those on the fringes, to find a sense of belonging and find their place in the bigger picture.