

Festival at the Edge 2021. Some highlights.

Age Guidance-

**A** - Aimed at children and families, nothing scary or gory.

**B** - Aimed at older children, might be a little scary for under 7's

**C** - 10+ Bit scary/gory

**D** - 12+ Mild swearing/ gore/ some adult themes

**E** - 16+ Adult themes: sexually explicit language/ explicit swearing/ gore

**F** - Aimed at adults, with no particularly sexual, swearing or scary content but may be complex.

Other specific age group or content (e.g. Under 5s)

## **Shonaleigh-**

**First Dog** (B) When one act changes the course of fate, even a dog must pay the price. This is the story of Dog's quest for a master – a journey through worlds and time for a ruby collar. Dog puts the dog in dogged, the scar in scared and the love in loyalty. The stories interconnect, revealing more and more of a magical, glorious world. Joyous, beautiful, sometimes hilarious and deeply moving – you won't want to miss this!

**The Song of Lilith** (E) The Song of Lilith belongs to the Cycle of Hillel, which is the first of twelve epic, latticed, interlinked cycles of stories passed down through generations of Jewish women. Lilith has always fascinated us. Is she demoness or goddess? Wronged woman or strong wife? The Song of Lilith reveals much about her true nature. From the beginning of time, Lilith has been dancing and crying on the shore, calling to all women. In this tale we hear how three women joined her dance... and went on to change the world.

**Workshop: The Memory Place of Story** A traditional journey in how to build a memory palace of story. This workshop will introduce you to some of the techniques skills and meditative techniques that Shonaleigh uses to remember and store her vast repertoire and give you an introduction on how to do the same for your own repertoire. Suitable for beginners to advanced. Max 20.

## **Colin Urwin-**

**The Madman's Window** (F) A selection of local legend and folklore from the Glens of Antrim. Seal people and faerie folk, shape-shifters and shipwrecks, curses and

enchantments, and animals with super-natural powers collide with the lives of ordinary Glens folk. Everything you would expect from Irish stories with more than a few unexpected twists and turns...

**A Kind of Love Song** (F) Ballads. A selection of ballads from my new album of the same name, together with the amazing stories behind some of the songs. For example 'Kindred Spirits' and the story of the native Choctaw tribe from Mississippi, forced off their land and onto the trail of tears, who, upon hearing of the Great Famine in Ireland collected \$176 dollars and donated it to the Irish Famine relief fund in 1847.

## **Jan Blake-**

**The Origin of Life & Death** (F) In the beginning, there was field covered dirt. Men & women, with brooms and sack, emerged from the trees surrounding the field, swept up and collected the dirt into sacks and melted into the darkness. The skies opened and a wooden great table landed in the field, followed by a great wooden stool, which arranged itself before the table. Woyengi, the Goddess Creator appeared and set about the business of creating living beings, including the powerful Oboyngba; healer, magician & rebellious spirit. Jan Blake shares tales of creation, extinction and the reasons behind both. With Percussive Accompaniment by John Pradere.

**A Cat's Tail** (A 3+) Birchwood venue.

Jan Blake tells traditional tales – of a clever cat who finds the best home, a family of diligent cats who reward their human helper, and a greedy cat that eats everything it sees. These are the type of stories children will lap up! With Percussive Accompaniment by John Pradere.

## **Kate Corkery-**

**Wonderful Water Women** (F) After the ravages of the past year we are all in need of replenishment.

What better source than water?

As Rumi wrote-

*It's good to leave each day behind*

*Like flowing water free of sadness*

*Yesterday is gone and its tale told*

*Today new seeds are growing*

From whispering brooks to deep silent wells, from still lakes, to rushing rivers and roaring seas women have personified the waters of Ireland. Drift away with Kate as

she navigates much loved stories steeped in beautiful landscape and filled with enchanting characters all in pursuit of something and all transformed by their quest.

Pride, passion, jealousy, loneliness, a thirst for knowledge, a wish for wisdom imbue these ancient tales with emotional truths that still move us today.

Take inspiration from tales well told of wonderful water women in times of old.

### **Big Bag of Animal Tales** (A under 7's and their families)

Guess what creatures lie hidden in the colourful patch work story bag?

.Kate has travelled far and wide weaving songs and stories for young children. Join her as she dips into her delightful collection of well loved characters, action songs, rhymes and tales that will entertain the whole family, especially the little ones. Lots of joining in and plenty of fun !

Check out [www.spudandyam.bandcamp.com](http://www.spudandyam.bandcamp.com) And 'Shukalaka Shake'- songs for a young child's day c/o [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

### **Simon Heywood-**

**Strange Majesty** (D) The famous tales of Arthur are only one small part of a long cycle of legends of the kings of ancient Britain: tales of heroes and villains, courage and cowardice, glory and crime, and triumph, tragedy and treason, stretching down generations, coming to a head in a final war between the Britons and the seaborne Saxon invaders. Award-winning writer and storyteller Simon Heywood combines music, song and storytelling to bring new life to a forgotten treasure-trove of tales, remembering the strange majesty of the kings of Albion, from Brutus to Belin, Locrin to Lear, Arthur, Merlin and Vortigern.

**South Yorkshire Folktales** (C/D) A storytelling tour round South Yorkshire, featuring old, new and little-known stories and legends. From the graves of the warriors in the shadow of the haunted stronghold of Conan, to the bone-crunching tale of the seventh picket, the southern end of the old West Riding is a patchwork of tales, some known the world over, some seemingly forgotten, some hardly told outside the places they happened. Ancient forests, proud industries, secret spies and scholars, blind fiddlers, urban crucibles of rebellion and revolution; outlaws, ghosts, wit and wonder from the valleys of the Don and the Dearne.

### **Mike O'Connor and Barbara Griggs-**

**Odysseus Dreaming** (D) Odysseus, the first and last hero, survived Troy.

He fought men, gods, storms and monsters. What will be his fate? Gods, prophets, dreams, can they be trusted? Only the storyteller knows.

Odysseus Dreaming is a stunning performance piece from Mike O'Connor and Barbara Griggs: powerful oral storytelling and achingly beautiful music and song. It is fast-moving, heart-warming and inspirational.

Odysseus Dreaming is the story of Odysseus, hero of the Iliad and the Odyssey, epics that are the foundation stones of Western literature. It is based on texts by Homer, Hesiod, Virgil, Dante and Tennyson. Yet Odysseus Dreaming it is not just those great tales, for Odysseus always seeks one more adventure. What is his destiny? This is the tale of tales, the ultimate story.

**Lost Tales of Cornwall (A)** Mike and Barbara have a unique knowledge of the fireside tales of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and also of the travelling storytellers that carried them from place to place. This concert is a magic time in which yards of hairy string gently guide us through a world of giants, piskies, knockers and spriggans, the dreaded Bucca, and even OLD NICK HIMSELF.

**Workshop: Music in the Words.** Mike and Barbara are probably the most successful team in the land when it comes to integrating words and music, both live and on TV. This workshop explores how to successfully integrate music and storytelling to best effect. It is suitable for any storyteller or any musician, you don't have to be an expert! Max 20.

## **Ruth Kirkpatrick-**

**Gems from a Precious Legacy (C)** I couldn't come all the way to FATE, and not tell you some stories and songs from the giants of Scottish storytelling who have handed down stories to me: Sheila Stewart, Stanley Robertson, Duncan Williamson and David Campbell .I bring you gems which you and I treasure from the 'Northern neebours'.

**North by Northeast with Colin Urwin (C)** A collaboration of traditional tales and folk song from Colin and Ruth Kirkpatrick, blending the Irish and Scottish traditions to present a heady and evocative set from two unique and hugely engaging artists.

**Workshop: What's this Hippy Crap? (F)** How to engage a reluctant audience. Ruth has over 35 years' experience in working with young people, helping them to tell stories. Join her as she shares some techniques, she has found to be successful over the years. Even with the most hesitant of listeners! (This will include oral and craft activities.) Max 20.

## Chris Lowe-

**Threes Or What Is There?** (A) Bring an object and it could be included in a story, that is spontaneous or otherwise. Chris will be using “What is There” in this daring show! You could be the object and find yourself in the story so be warned! Threes? Chris will try to link 3 randomly selected objects in an instant story! I said it was daring! It should be fun too! **NB** inanimate objects only unless it is you and you are allowed to be alive for the duration of the show or longer. Only “polite” objects please!

**The BrumJabi Brothers with Peter Chand** (C) Take an English Storyteller who tells folktales and legends from all over Britain. Mix him with a British Indian Storyteller from Punjabi origins. The result? The BrumJabi brothers! Expect silliness, faux wisdom, an odd dash of pathos, and a lot of fun! **Brum**- one originating from *Birmingham*. **Jabi**- abbreviation of *Punjabi* (one who originates from the Punjab)

**Workshop: Bag Books Multi-Sensory Storytelling.** Chris Lowe is the Midlands Regional Teller and Trainer for Bag Books, a charity that promotes multi-sensory storytelling for children and adults with profound and multiple learning difficulties. Have fun discovering how much a story can help those with special needs to enjoy a tale and make progress in their daily lives. Find out just how therapeutic spiders, bald heads and stinky stuff can be! Suitable for adults. Max 20.

## Debs Newbold-

**King Lear Retold** (D) Tell me my daughters, which of you...doth love us most?

An old king who is afraid to be old. A daughter abandoned for speaking out. Two sisters warped by ill-treatment. A kingdom in turmoil. When King Lear resigns his position he puts an outrageous question to his daughters. Their answers are not all that he expects. What he discovers about himself he does not wish to know.

With a passionate command of Shakespeare’s verse and startlingly powerful physicality, Debs catapults you into the world of Shakespeare’s greatest tragedy. Deeply felt and often piercingly funny, *King Lear Retold* channels all the power and grace of Shakespeare’s original text in a compelling, accessible, thoroughly modern performance.

“pulls down the spirit of Shakespeare” - StageTalk Magazine

**Dauntless: Grace O’Malley, Pirate Queen** (D). Debs Newbold gleefully delivers the boisterous, remarkable and inspirational story of her hero: Grainne ni Mhaille – Grace O’Malley – legendary Irish clan chief and queen of the sea. Stowing away

aboard her father's ship aged 8, Grace became a 16th century force of nature. A multilingual, seafaring weapons expert, leader of 2000 men, rebel, politician, kingmaker and slayer, prodigious lover, avenging hero and notorious pirate. Best of all, she was real. From the west of Ireland to the court of Elizabeth I, from wild youth to even wilder old age, Dauntless is an epic celebration of uproarious storytelling, high drama and one fascinating 16th century feminist. No knights in shining armour need apply.

## **Emily Hennessey-**

**The Good, the Bad & the Uglies** (D) Some say trolls should stay in the shadows, shut out, banished to the mind's edge-lands.

But what we do not face will haunt us.

Emily takes the dark path, lifts the stones in the forest, seeks what hides in the damp moss and gives shape to this mysterious, hairy creature.

It's time to Talk Troll... Emily was kidnapped by trolls as a baby, and brought up in the Swedish forest where she learned to cook porridge, steal gold and scare children; skills which are useful to her now as a storyteller. One of her many missions in life is to teach people about trolls who are sometimes just a little bit misunderstood. (Sometimes. Not always. Many WILL try to eat you.)

**The Three Swords** (B) A fast-paced Scandinavian folktale bursting with hilarity, wonder, magic... and some very hairy feet. In the lands where the midnight sun shimmers and the northern lights glow, a baby is stolen by an eagle with hungry chicks to feed.

Meanwhile, the stinking sea trolls have kidnapped the king and three talkative princesses await their soggy fate.

Will the glittering swords in the forest ever be found?

Will the princesses ever stop talking?

Will it all end happily ever after?

## **Taffy Thomas-**

**Ancestral Voices re-imagined** (all ages) In 1986 the Commonwealth institute asked Taffy to put together the UK component of their Ancestral Voices programme. He made storytelling integral to this programme of traditional performers by bringing Scots traveller Betsy Whyte to London for the first time.

Later Taffy developed this concept by introducing audiences to the ghosts of all the people behind him who added to his repertoire. Come and meet the likes of Seamus

Ennis, Ruth Tongue and John Campbell. This presentation at fate won a BASE award in 2013 for outstanding performance.

Ancestral Voices re-imagined features Taffy and singer/musician Mossy Christian, both are firmly rooted in an oral tradition, indeed 'tradition bearers'.

**The Magpies Nest** (all ages) A treasury of folk tales of birds taken from Taffy's award-winning book 'The Magpie's Nest'. Come and hear magical stories of how our feathered friends remind us, especially in lockdown, that nature is everywhere. There will be songs and tunes from Mossy Christian to enrich this programme of stories.

**Talk/ Performance/Q&A: The Art of the Tale Coat.** An interactive hour with Taffy and his Tale Coat. Learn about the ideas behind it's creation, the travels it has made and the special performances it has been involved with. Tales will be chosen from the coat and there will be time for Q & A and a book signing. The Tale Coat even has it's own tune composed for the occasion of its launch event by Mike O'Connor and played by Mossy. Suitable for all ages.

### **Daniel Morden-**

**Miss Fortune and others** (F) Come and hear an Italian folktale that has haunted Daniel for 25 years.

**Outrageous Fortune with Jan Blake** (D) Dan and Jan tell tales of luck and chance. Expect the unexpected!

### **Lisa Schneidau-**

**The Tangle of the Commons** (C) The Tangle of the Commons tells the story of the British landscape and our relationship with the wild things around us, seen and unseen. Who really owns this place – and what happens if humans push things too far?

Here are some of the old tales, laced with history, ecology and a hefty dose of the ridiculous, to provoke thought and inspiration about the land we usually take so much for granted. Through story, we will walk the islands of Britain with peasant farmers, dastardly robber kings, malevolent fairies and disgruntled wildlife, starting in the Dark Ages and watching our landscape change as we travel through history.

**The World Tree (8+)** The World Tree is a storytelling dedicated to our beloved ash trees, past, present and future. Here's a tangle of Norse myth, Irish legend and English folktale, where you can hear the latest about our tree pandemic, learn some juicy reptilian insults and discover what happened after the world really did end.

"...poetic and powerful."

"...both a fitting celebration and a lament of the loss of the trees... a small, but sincere act of giving back."

**Workshop: Rewilding Storytelling.** The climate and ecological crisis is upon us, and it demands powerful stories! This workshop will explore how to weave nature through your storytelling practice and how to pay as much attention to the non-human as to the human elements in story. We'll also talk about what makes an effective, inspiring environmental story. Suitable for 12+, storytellers with some experience.

## **Peter Chand-**

**Family Tree with Jan Blake (F)** Is the ancient spirit of the Sal Tree powerful enough to change the mind of an ambitious Rajah? What high price must the king pay when he offends the spirit of the JuJu tree? And how can the innocent mistake of a sister lead to dire consequences? Join famed storytellers Jan Blake and Peter Chand as they answer these questions. Including tales collected from family members, and as the roots of the trees themselves, the family journey of these two performers intertwines across continents, Empire, and this island.

**Lively Tales with Ruth Kirkpatrick (under 7's and their grown-ups)** A mixture of fantastic stories from around the world for young listeners. Includes lots of call and response, fun, and energetic shenanigans!

## **Charlotte Peters Rock –**

### **The Peaceful Weavers of Peterloo (12 +) Story & Song (Venue-The Glasshouse)**

Charlotte Peters Rock has written and produced this one-woman tour de force. A detailed retelling of the Peterloo massacre in Manchester in 1819 in which she has brought to life the people, their poverty and the government oppression suffered by starving hand-loom weavers. This is an absorbing recounting of a defining point in history, an important precursor of the Cato Street Conspiracy, which unfolds irresistibly...

## Childrens Highlights-

The wonderful **Sal Tonge** will be sharing stories and songs over the weekend for younger listeners with sets including *Sing a story with Sal, Stories From Here And There And the Places In Between, and gentle Bedtime Stories Friday and Saturday evening.*

The excellent **Family Panic** will be at FatE again with their amazing activities over the weekend for children of all ages. Sharing their various circus shows, as well as teaching ground-based circus skills, and their famous Punch & Judy show.

Making their first appearance at FatE will be **Black Cat Theatre** who will be leading the Opening Ceremony with a story brought to life by the tradition of Kathputli - Indian Marionettes, as well as a late-night shadow puppet performance of Hansel and Gretel.

### **The Story Museum with Little Shop of Stories (0-11years)**

Isy Mead from The Story Museum in Oxford will be serving up story treats for all the family with The Little Shop of Stories. Come and find the traditional oral stories hidden in the Story Sacks or share a picture-book together. Drop-in sessions Saturday & Sunday 13.00- 17.00.

**Please note:** This year many of the performances for younger children (under7's) will be in the Family Panic Tent. There will also be shows with an A rating which will be in the main marquees throughout the weekend and are suitable for all ages. Also look out for children's sessions in The Birchwood.

### **Other:**

**Story Rounds:** Come along with a traditional story, ten minutes or under and you will get the chance to share in a relaxed and encouraging FatE environment. Session led by an experienced MC (we will always try our best to ensure that everyone who wishes to tell gets the chance. However depending on the group size, this cannot always be guaranteed)

**Story Walks:** Explore the beautiful local surroundings onsite in the company of two featured artists. The walk lasts an hour, is not a strenuous one, however as we will be cutting across a field, good footwear is advised. Meet at The Glasshouse.

**Herb Walk with Roisin Reilly (BSc):** Explore the varied local plant life with medical herbalist Roisin. She has a passion for reconnecting people with the stories of plants, through folklore and unearthing our innate sacred thread to the plant kingdom. Sensible footwear advised. Meet at The Glasshouse.

**Bar sessions:** Informal jamming sessions. Bring an instrument and have some fun whilst enjoying a sip of something refreshing from our local bar-provider Hobsons Brewery.

**Bonfire:** Takes place in the Birchwood across the lane. The first hour is a programmed event with two featured artists and an MC. After that the space is opened up to the audience to share stories, songs, poems, or a tune or two. We ask that these are kept to under 15 minutes please, so as many people as possible can get the opportunity to share. The FatE etiquette is that the last people leaving the session ensures the fire is put out safely, or allowed to burn out before they leave.

**Fate summer games:** On Saturday at 13.00 everything will stop for an hour so we can all play! Bring your foam frisbees, board games, soft ball cricket sets, hula hoops and the like and bring a picnic, or grab something delicious from one of our onsite caterers. See you at the Village Area.

**Silent Disco: With Sal Tonge.** Saturday 12.00- 12.30 Village Area. Part gentle workout, part flash mob. Grab your headphones, put on your dancing shoes, and join the effervescent Sal Tonge for a groovy silent disco journey taking in some classic tunes! Advance sign up required in Box Office. Max 28.

All artist biographies and other festival information is available on our website- <https://www.festivalattheedge.org/artists/>

\*Please consider the environment before printing this sheet. This document should save and be viewable on most devices.

