

PRESS RELEASE FOR THE STORY OASE FESTIVAL 2023

Imagine summer in the neighbourhood and being far away at the same time - this mixture will bring the STORY OASE FESTIVAL to Berlin for the first time in September 2023.

From September 8th till the 10th, the International Storytelling Festival invites you to enjoy the late summer on the “Kulturinsel” in Ernst-Thälmann-Park in the district Prenzlauer-Berg. At this time 15 international and local storytelling artists will perform their stories from all over the world. The stories will be told in German and English, with Spanish, Turkish and Lithuanian elements. With a summer drink in hand and Berlin as the backdrop, it's a wonderful way to dream away.

With their freely told stories, the storyteller create completely new worlds in the minds of the listeners. With one foot in the stories, the other in the here & now. Only through language, voice expressions and gestures the images come to life. We also call storytelling "cinema for the poor" because it needs neither stage sets nor props or technology to stimulate the audience's imagination. No prefabricated images control the audience's imagination, but the stories become vivid and alive IN the audience THROUGH the art of the storytellers.

The festival features: Juliana Marín Fryling (Colombia), Dougie Mackay (Scotland), Milda Varnauskaitė (Lithuania), Neslihan Arol (Turkey/ Berlin), Hamid Saneyi (Azerbaijan), Johanna Wollin (Berlin), Soogi Kang (Korea), Sylvia Freund (Austria), Wim Rooth (Netherlands), Varsha Venkatesh (India) and others.

Excerpts from the programme are the following:

Juliana Marín Fryling (aka Achira), is a travelling storyteller from Colombia and has been on the road for 2 years now: hitchhiking with ambulances, sleeping in cemeteries, sitting with shamans in the Amazon, losing all stories and being found by them again: “*Legendary Latin America!*”

Additionally Johanna Wollin, who grew up between two cultures and continents, weaves in “*Zwischen den Stühlen*” her search for identity with traditional stories from four countries and three continents, between cherries and eucalyptus, jasmine and currants, Andes and Alps, between home and foreign.

Moreover in the performance of “*Walking Wild*”, Dougie Mackay from Scotland tells about magical wolves, poets raised by deer and the magic that happens when we remember the wild part of human nature and start howling with the moon.

Where is the line between a friend and a stranger? That’s what Milda Varnauskaitė from Lithuania asks when “*The Neighbour with the Blue Beard*” shows up for dinner every day. Do we change when we meet the unknown?

The Story Oasis Festival is organised by Erzählkunst e.V. in cooperation with the german theatre called “Theater unterm Dach”. Erzählkunst e.V. promotes oral storytelling and, among other things, hosts a storytelling stage once a month in the centre for culture: “KulturMarktHalle”.

The admissions to all events are free, but donations are very welcome.