

World Storytelling Day 2015

Celebrated on 21 March 2015
at Kathalaya, in Bangalore

"Saali Ka doola, Manchi ka boola!" croons a story teller as she waves a magical wand over the audience listening in rapt attention. The song is a magical song of wishes and the event is the World Storytelling Day celebrations held at Kathalaya-The House of Stories on 21 March 2015.

The audience comprising of the young, the very young and the not so young is transfixed as ten story tellers regale them with stories on the theme of the year-Wishes.

Wishes: some happy, some quirky, some desperate, some meaningful and some even wasted- the themes within the theme were varied and covered a wide variety of forms, be it the Indian tale or International folklore.

While Kalpana Subbaramappa wished for the sparrows to return as an ode to the recently celebrated World sparrows' day, Joydeepa kept throwing pickles into the ocean! Hussaini swayed with grass wishing for water and Sowmya had witches chasing her through the dessert!

"I could see the 5 year old in you!" exclaimed a parent to Mrs. Geeta Ramanujam who kept the audience glued to the seats as she transformed from Mini, the girl who was hung on a clothesline to the naughty Tutu trying to please his mom. As Sowmya played the flute to many a story, even the puppets seem to come to life.

All in all, the World storytelling day which is celebrated the world over on the day of the equinox and hence on 21st March this year in India reassured and reconfirmed that the wish to listen to a story well told, is still alive.

As Reynolds Price once wrote: A need to tell and hear stories is essential to the species, Homo sapiens – second in necessity apparently after nourishment and before love and shelter. Millions survive without love or home, almost none in silence; the opposite of silence leads quickly to narrative, and the sound of story is the dominant sound of our lives.

For more details about Kathalaya-The House of stories and Academy of Storytelling, please see www.kathalaya.org .

The following photos of the 21/3/2015 event are by Rashmi Hari :



The Storytellers



Geeta Ramanujam, Director of Kathalaya



Audience Members